

BEAM

RADIATION ONCOLOGY
NEWS AND INFORMATION
FROM BEAUMONT

SPRING 2021



SPECIAL EDITION: PEDIATRIC PROTON THERAPY PROGRAM

Table of Contents

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR	2	Inspiration for the Hand Tree.....	7
MEET THE TEAM - SPOTLIGHTS	3-4	Child Life Specialist	8
Rohan Deraniyagala, M.D.....	3	CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT	9
Awards and Achievements	3	Pediatric Oncology Care at Beaumont Children's.	9
Weili Zheng, Ph.D. DABR	4	UPDATE SPOTLIGHT	10
Radiation Oncology Faculty List	4	Development of Virtual Reality Goggle (VRG).	10
ROLE IN PROTON THERAPY	5	CMN Grant.....	10
Physical Therapist: Cynthia R. Tan.....	5	PATIENT & FAMILY CENTERED CARE.....	11
Pediatric Nurse Navigator: Beverly Robertson	5	A Journey for Inez.	11
SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS	6-8	PHILANTHROPY CORNER	12
Keeping the Pediatric Patient's Attention Focused.	6		

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Beaumont

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of the Beaumont Beam. Beam publications highlight clinical advances, exciting research and important news and information about Beaumont's state-of-the-art Radiation Oncology program.

This current edition provides an in depth look at Radiation Oncology's advanced technology, highly skilled staff, specialized services and programs as well as ongoing research studies, all centered on how we care for pediatric patients in the Proton Center.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleague,

It is life-changing for a family when a child is diagnosed with cancer and our experienced team at Beaumont Proton Therapy Center can help to ease the burden. From our knowledgeable nurse navigator to our highly trained physicians to our close cooperation with pediatric medical oncology, the pediatric cancer journey is efficient, caring and supportive. Survival of pediatric cancer patients has risen dramatically in recent years; therefore, it is important to treat their cancer with the most effective therapy available with the lowest chance for long lasting side effects. Proton therapy can do both. But it is also important to understand and address how this diagnosis and treatment will affect the child's life now and in the future.

At Beaumont's Proton Therapy Center, we have a team of pediatric specialists who understand these concerns. From the moment your child's consultation is scheduled our nurse navigator is collecting information about your child to determine which specialists should be involved in the initial consultation. Often our child life specialist will meet our very young patients on their first visit to allow for the physician and clinical team to determine if anesthesia during treatments will be necessary.

We also evaluate if physical therapy or dietary specialists may be needed because maintaining the ability to eat a healthy diet and remaining strong can make a difference if a child is to stay in school throughout their treatments. A child's mental state also plays a part in their recovery and when children are treated in a positive and caring environment, they are more relaxed and respond better to treatment. In addition, our nurse navigator provides hands on care for you and your child by getting answers to difficult questions, assisting with scheduling issues for treatment and providing support for parents as they navigate this difficult time.

We opened our Proton Therapy Center in Michigan in June of 2017 and since then have treated hundreds of patients with innovative proton therapy. Our patients have come from Michigan and throughout the United States and Canada.

Our pediatric patients are special to us and I am proud of the distinct specialized care we provide to each of them. This edition of The Beam will focus on that care and some of the individuals who provide it.

*Craig Stevens, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair of Radiation Oncology, Beaumont Health
Professor, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine*



MEET THE TEAM – SPOTLIGHTS

Rohan Deraniyagala, M.D.

Dr. Rohan Deraniyagala is a Michigan native who grew up in Canton, MI. He graduated from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor magna cum laude with a degree in computer science. He then earned a medical degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. Dr. Deraniyagala completed his residency in radiation oncology at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL and went on to complete a fellowship in proton therapy at the University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville, FL.



Dr. Deraniyagala joined Beaumont Health as an assistant professor in radiation oncology in 2016. Since that time he was appointed as service chief of head & neck radiotherapy and clinical director for Beaumont Proton Center. While specializing in head & neck cancer, Dr. Deraniyagala is also our lead proton physician for pediatric oncology. He has multiple peer-reviewed

“Proton therapy is exceptionally important for childhood malignancies, our goal is to focus on the medical complexities of each child while tending to the psychosocial needs of the family.”

publications and national presentations in multiple areas of oncology. His specific interests from a research standpoint are focused on artificial intelligence, adaptive radiation therapy and arc proton therapy.

Dr. Deraniyagala is often described by his patients and colleagues alike as compassionate, thorough, detail oriented, kind and empathetic. He leads by example through his daily leadership, passion and commitment to the pediatric oncology proton team. “I am proud to be part of this clinical team. Our dedicated nurses, dosimetrists, therapists, physicists and pediatric specialists are a delight to work with. They bring their “A” game every day to treat patients at one of the busiest proton centers in the world”.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Beaumont, Royal Oak’s Cancer Program has been Honored

for excellence and ranks #2 for cancer care in Michigan by the U.S. News & World Report and earned high performing honors in Cancer, Colon Cancer Surgery and Lung Cancer Surgery.

Congratulations to Dr. Kate Gowans,

Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Beaumont, Royal Oak,

Honoree at the 2020 Esteemed Women of Michigan virtual event benefiting the Dr. Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic. Dr. Gowans is recognized for serving as an example of how working together can solve problems and meet the needs of the community in an elevating and inspiring way. Dr. Gowans joined Beaumont in 2013 and is an assistant professor of Pediatrics at OUWB School of Medicine. In 2015, she received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Pediatric Residency Program.



MEET THE TEAM – SPOTLIGHTS

Weili Zheng, Ph.D. DABR

Dr. Zheng obtained a Ph.D. in Medical Imaging from the National University of Singapore in 2007, focusing on stroke MR imaging and modeling cerebral vasculature. Following her Ph.D., Dr. Zheng has made significant contributions to MR Imaging techniques in Alzheimer's disease, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and cancer treatments. In addition, she has published more than 20 journal papers and served as a distinguished reviewer for several renowned journals such as Radiology, MRM, and Medical Physics.



As an imaging expert, Dr. Zheng strives to integrate novel imaging techniques into proton therapy to increase the accuracy of target delineation to reduce radiation toxicity and evaluate the tumor response in the studies of advanced proton treatment strategies.

Inspired by her oncologist collaborators, Dr. Zheng found exciting opportunities to apply advanced MR imaging techniques in radiation oncology to improve cancer patient care. Dr. Zheng started her career in Medical Physics in 2014 as an MR Imaging scientist in the Radiation Oncology department at Henry Ford Hospital. There, she developed advanced MR bone imaging methods for treatment planning, especially for brain tumors and prostate cancer, and contributed as one of the key personnel in a successful NIH RO1 grant application on the "Development of Anatomical Patient Models to Facilitate MR-only Treatment Planning" in 2016.

Dr. Zheng received her therapeutic medical physics residency training at the world's first hospital-based proton therapy center at Loma Linda University Medical Center in 2016-2018. After her residency, Dr. Zheng joined Beaumont Proton Center as a staff medical physicist and was certified by the American Board of Radiology in 2019. As a proton physicist, Dr. Zheng commits to ensuring the safety and quality assurance of treatment machines and procedures, the accuracy of patient treatment plans and charts and provides support during special treatment procedures.

BEAUMONT RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Peter Y. Chen, M.D.

Prakash Chinnaiyan, M.D.

Rohan Deraniyagala, M.D.

Joshua T. Dilworth, M.D., Ph.D.

Inga S. Grills, M.D.

Thomas M. Guerrero, M.D., Ph.D.

Gregory S. Gustafson, M.D.

Maha Saada Jawad, M.D.

Daniel J. Krauss, M.D.

Kuei Lee, M.D., Ph.D., MPH

Sirisha R. Nandalur, M.D.

Thomas Quinn, M.D.

John M. Robertson, M.D.

Zachary Seymour, M.D.

Craig W. Stevens, M.D., Ph.D.

Jannifer S. Stromberg, M.D.

Andrew Thompson, M.D.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST: Role in Proton Therapy

Cynthia R. Tan, MPT, CLT-LANA

The role of the physical therapist at the Beaumont Proton Therapy Center is to work together with the patient, their family and the multidisciplinary clinical team to educate the patient and family and assist them in staying as active and strong as possible during and after their radiation treatment. Physical therapy is recommended to help improve the patient's ability to endure their radiation treatment if the following limitations are identified:

- decrease in balance
- poor coordination
- decrease in strength
- decrease in range of motion
- poor gait
- decreased endurance
- difficulty with activities of daily living

This begins with the physical therapist's introductory visit during the early phase of proton therapy treatment. At this time the physical therapist screens the patient and their family for any existing limitations or problems that are noted at home by the patient or the family.

Once a physical therapy treatment plan is established the physical therapist continues to treat, observe and work with other members of the team to promote a patient and family centered approach.



Early Intervention Outcomes

Studies show when physical therapy is provided as an early intervention, accompanied by patient and family education, the patient is more likely to maintain their strength and endurance before, during and after their course of Proton Therapy treatment.

Role in Proton Therapy: PEDIATRIC NURSE NAVIGATOR

Beverly Robertson, RN, BSN

The Beaumont Health Proton Center is incredibly lucky to have Nurse Navigator, Beverly Robertson, RN, BSN to help guide our pediatric population and their families through the challenging and difficult waters of proton radiation treatment. Oftentimes, families are completely overwhelmed as they deal with their child's diagnosis, treatment options, and financial concerns. Beverly's work with the pediatric population varies with each patient as referrals can come from within the Beaumont network or outside of Beaumont Health. She seamlessly obtains medical records and imaging while working closely with parents to schedule appointments for each child in a timely manner. She collaborates with the Pediatric Oncologists, Pediatric Neurosurgeons, Social Workers,

"Beverly is a passionate, seasoned nurse who prides herself on building trust and open communication between patients and their parents."

Child Life Specialist, and anesthesia team as needed. Bev adds a personal touch for her patients with the individualized, special pediatric bags that are given out. During their initial visit, each patient chooses a special "themed" bag containing a matching stuffed animal, a comfortable handcrafted blanket and a set of coloring book and crayons to give them the opportunity to express their feelings through art. It is in this unique way the start of a special, and often long-lasting bond is created between nurse, patient and family.



SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Keeping the Pediatric Patient's Attention Focused

Kareen Houghtaling, Radiation Therapist

Radiation treatment can be a scary experience for all patients let alone children.

Here at Beaumont Proton Therapy Center we have come up with creative solutions to ease our littlest patients into their therapy regimen. What better way to arrive at treatment than in a new Tesla? Children that are old enough can pull up to our treatment room via our "power wheels" Tesla. Or for our younger ones and patients not feeling up to driving, they can be brought to treatment in our Proton Therapy [Radio Flyer/ Little Tykes] wagon. Both options provide a playful distraction to daily treatments and foster a sense of trust between our kids and our therapists.

When the child arrives to the treatment room, they have the option to select an ambiance. This ambiance can be an image that is projected onto our maze hall wall with a corresponding color light and music show or they can select their own music with their favorite color to illuminate the room. It gives our smallest patients a sense of control over a situation that may feel overwhelming and maybe a little something to look forward to every day.

Of utmost importance is making sure our patients hold still throughout their treatments. This can be a daunting task even for our adult patients, much less our wee ones.

Our very youngest patients often require anesthesia so that they remain still during treatments. But for others, if able, we try distraction techniques in order to avoid anesthesia. We have adapted several distraction techniques that include playing music, listening to a favorite audio book, podcasts or Disney musicals. We are also in the process of developing an iPad that can be viewed in the treatment room. What a great distraction a favorite movie, television show or YouTube channel will be.

The goal of these efforts is to provide the most comfortable experience for our children as possible.



Our younger patients have the option to drive a Tesla to their therapy regimen.



Choosing an ambiance image for the treatment room gives the patient a sense of control.



SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Inspiration for the Hand Tree

Interview with Peter Cirenese, BS R.T.(T.), CMD



Pete Cirenese has been with Beaumont for 15 years and is the Chief Dosimetrist for Radiation Oncology at the Beaumont Royal Oak and Troy campuses. Pete works with the radiology oncology team to design individualized treatment plans for radiation and proton patients. For many years he has created a variety of artwork forms to help children emotionally manage their radiation treatments.

***Dosimetrist:** is a medical professional who is certified to develop radiotherapy treatment plans and to calculate and deliver doses of radiation to cancer patients.*

Q. What inspired you to create art for Radiation Oncology and Proton Therapy pediatric patients?

Inspiration is in the art itself and when you combine art with medical science it can be a great aide in the healing process. It seems like most kids love some sort of art, especially when they have a chance to add and help in its creation. Over the years I've created different types of artwork to help children emotionally manage their radiation treatments. The Hand Tree in our Proton Therapy Center is just that, art that kids can be a part of.

Q. Tell us about the hand tree project?

I was first approached with the idea by our chief therapist and her fellow colleagues. They asked if I could paint a giant tree onto which our pediatric patients, upon finishing their treatments add their handprint (leaves) and initials. I said yes right away because I love to draw, paint and put smiles on children's faces.

Pete has created special masks for individual patients to help them feel more comfortable during their radiation treatments.



Q. How did you design the hand tree?

I started by looking at many different pictures of trees, their style, lighting, and size. I let my imagination run. I took ideas from many different pictures and added my own touch. After the tree was created, I wanted to add something cool that kids could relate to. What better than a teddy bear. This fits perfectly with Beaumont's mascot, Beau the Beaumont bear. I wanted a playful bear, so I thought of the bear swinging on a swing from the tree. I always loved old fashion pictures and movies with kids playing outside and swinging on a swing under a tree in summer or fall time. The summer theme led me to think of butterflies. There I incorporated the butterfly and gold ribbon which is symbolic for pediatric cancer awareness. Finally, I always loved 3-dimensional art, so I added leaves to the canvas to give it a more realistic look.

Q. What is your intention for the hand tree?

I hope this work of art, created by me and our kids, will stand the test of time and inspire me to create additional works of art with the help of the children. I would like to do a hot air balloon theme or under water theme next. I would love to see these hang on our walls for years to come. Maybe someday, when these pediatric patients grow to become adults, they can share their story with family and friends and how they beat cancer. Maybe some will become employees here at Beaumont and look back at how they helped to create something special out of a dark time in their lives.

"If you can dream it you can do it." ~ Walt Disney

Pete believes in this statement in which art and your imagination can put smiles in people's lives. A child's imagination along with any art form, can make a story come to life, and the world a better place.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Child Life Specialist

Lisa Kristoff, CCLS, CEIM

Child life specialists typically work with patients age infancy through late adolescence.

My name is Lisa Kristoff and I am the new Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) for Proton Therapy. I have worked at Beaumont for almost five years and have been a CCLS for nine years. As a hospital based CCLS, my role is unique in that it services a variety of areas within the hospital as well as different members of the family. One of my main objectives is to help reduce the negative impact that medical experiences can have on children and families and there are many ways I'm able to work with families in the Proton Center to help accomplish this goal.

I often meet with the patient and family at their consultation, this is an opportunity where I can build rapport and make a connection with the patient and family, while also assessing what interventions could be done to create a positive experience for the patient. One way of doing this is by providing procedural preparation where a child will have an opportunity to learn more about Proton therapy in a developmentally appropriate way, in this setting they're able to manipulate medical equipment to become more familiarized and help decrease their anxiety. This also allows the patient and family to ask questions and help correct any misconceptions.

From there we can discuss and practice a few coping and distraction techniques to utilize throughout therapy and try to reduce the need for anesthesia.

Throughout my interactions, I begin to learn the child's likes and interests and can engage in developmentally appropriate play to help keep a child comfortable. We form a routine where the patient and family become comfortable with staff and the process of getting Proton therapy.

We had a 5-year-old girl who finished treatment and when she first came to us she was very nervous if anyone came near her port line. I was able to engage in developmentally appropriate play to build rapport and promote some distraction while the nurses attached her line. We would continue this play and diversion as she was being sedated for her treatment. The Proton Center's multidisciplinary staff all worked well to help make sure this patient and family were comfortable and by the end of her treatment she was assisting the nurses herself.

A CCLS: holds a bachelor's degree in child development as well as a certification in child life and provides evidence-based, developmentally appropriate interventions including therapeutic play, preparation and education to reduce fear and anxiety for children and their families.

We often have young proton patients who at first are fearful of staff and once they develop a routine through discovery and play, they're able to engage more and more with the medical staff. It's satisfying and heart-warming to come to work every day knowing you and your coworkers have another opportunity to make a difference in a child's life.



CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT

Pediatric Oncology Care at Beaumont Children's

Kate Gowans, M.D.

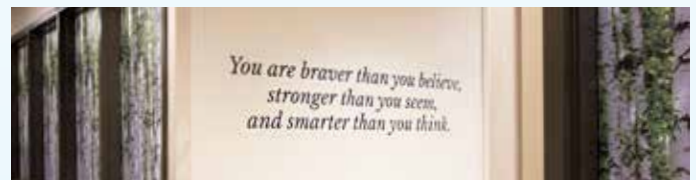
Royal Oak's Pediatric Hematology Clinic offers a nature themed and calming atmosphere. For over four decades, children, adolescents and young adults have been receiving advanced care at Beaumont for childhood cancer diagnoses. In just the past three years however, their care has been elevated to new and exciting heights.

Our team works closely and seamlessly with the team of caregivers in the Proton Therapy Center. As many patients come to Beaumont from other institutions, we also work closely with referring oncology teams to support patients who will receive only a portion of their chemotherapy at Beaumont. This requires diligent communication and sharing of information, so that patients can move smoothly between institutions without interruptions in their treatment plan. We acknowledge that it is difficult for patients and parents to place their trust into a new team when cancer treatment has already begun and we take extra care to make visiting families feel a warm welcome.

The Skandalaris Family Center for Children with Cancer & Blood Disorders opened in October 2017. Offering a nature themed and calming atmosphere, it is conveniently located directly above the Proton Therapy Center where children may receive proton beam therapy as part of their cancer treatment. This beautiful new space is fully staffed with each unique type of professional whose input and experience are critical to the best patient and family experience and the best possible outcomes.



Our center participates in clinical trials supported by Children's Oncology Group, with over 4,000 visits in 2019. Collaborative medical care is provided by three board certified pediatric oncologists, a pediatric oncology certified nurse practitioner and four pediatric oncology certified RNs. The team is made complete with a dedicated social worker, a certified child life specialist and a hospital teacher/educational liaison, each of whom supports the patient and family in a critical way during their medical journey and beyond.



Unique features of the Beaumont Children's Pediatric/Adolescent Oncology program include the Gilbert Family Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) Program and the Craine Family Pediatric/Adolescent Integrative Wellness Program. The AYA program addresses special circumstances of patients aged 15-26, including psychosocial, financial and educational needs, while the integrative wellness program provides access to consultation with a naturopathic doctor specializing in oncology, as well as complementary therapies to optimize wellness, including massage therapy, aromatherapy and acupuncture. Finally, our Virtual Reality program offers the use of VR goggles to diminish nausea and anxiety and to promote relaxation during chemotherapy treatments.



UPDATE SPOTLIGHT

Development of Virtual Reality Goggle (VRG)

Assisted proton beam therapy technique in omission of anesthesia for pediatric patients

Xuanfeng Ding, Ph.D., Medical Physicist Proton Beam

VRG are being explored as a distraction device to help the pediatric patient remain as still as possible during their proton beam therapy.

Radiation therapy is an important component of cancer treatment in many pediatric patients. Proton beam therapy, an advanced radiotherapy technique, takes advantage of a unique proton physical characteristic, referred to as the "Bragg peak", to deliver the radiation dose to the cancer target while significantly sparing surrounding tissues. Setup errors or motion during the beam delivery could result in missing the tumor or increased radiation to normal tissues or both which might lead to an increased risk of tumor recurrence or a higher rate of side effects. Thus, keeping the patient in the same position during treatment is critical to ensure the treatment delivery accuracy and clinical outcome.

It is a challenge for many patients to hold still during proton therapy treatments and this can be significantly more so in children. In order to keep a child immobilized in the treatment position, general anesthesia for each treatment fraction is often required throughout the treatment course which could be as many as 10 to 30 treatments daily for 2 to 6 weeks. To minimize the need for general anesthesia and its associated side effects, while also ensuring the treatment accuracy, we plan to explore the feasibility of using Virtual Reality Goggles (VRG). This project is led by Daniel Hamstra, M.D., Ph.D. and me and is funded through **Children's Miracle Network**.



The VRG study requires the pediatric patient wearing the goggles to select a favorite video stream before entering the treatment room. They will then lay on the treatment couch with goggles on throughout the treatment fraction. We hypothesize that the VRG is able to create an immersive kid friendly environment and relieve the stress/anxieties during the treatment. The study will focus on the feasibility, safety, and compatibility of integrating VRG with the rotational proton gantry and treatment delivery. The results may lead to the future research, health care cost reduction and improvement in quality of life associated with reduced anesthesia needs. The study will start enrolling pediatric patient with this new integrated technique once review board approval is received.



CMN Grant Funds Pediatric Table and Chairs for Proton Therapy Center

Several years ago, the mother of one of our pediatric patients commented that our waiting area was not particularly child friendly. Knowing that is an important space for kids to feel comfortable, it didn't take us long to build a kid friendly area creating a Michigan woodland theme. We also reached out to the **Children's Miracle Network** for grant funding to purchase a child-sized table and four fun animal themed chairs. We are very proud of this space and our collaboration with CMN. The kids LOVE IT!



PATIENT & FAMILY CENTERED CARE

A Journey for Inez

Parents grateful for daughter's Proton Therapy team

Every parent wants what's best for their child, especially during a pandemic. That's why Lance and Gabriela Glupker, of Grand Rapids, chose proton therapy to treat their 5-year-old daughter Inez's malignant brain tumor.

The decision to begin proton radiation treatments at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, 150 miles away, was not difficult after learning how it works and its benefits. Proton therapy uses positively charged atomic particles, traveling up to two-thirds the speed of light, to fight cancer. Lance explained on his daughter's Facebook page, "See Inez Fight," it was the best course of action available.

Dr. Daniel Hamstra, a pediatric radiation oncologist at Beaumont's Proton Therapy Center and Inez's physician, said, "Proton technology really benefits patients like Inez. Unlike traditional X-rays that continue to exit through the surrounding tissue, protons get to where they need to go and then abruptly stop. The amount of healthy brain being exposed to unnecessary radiation is considerably reduced. This minimizes long-term side effects and complications associated with radiation, including neurocognitive deficits, endocrine abnormalities and vision loss. By reducing radiation exposure, proton therapy also decreases the chances of developing secondary cancers later in life."

This past September, one month after Inez's 5th birthday, she began her proton radiation at Beaumont. She also received chemotherapy every morning in the Children's Skandalaris Family Center for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders.

Proton radiation, along with the latest imaging technology, targeted Inez's tumor cells. Compared to traditional X-ray radiation, a scanning beam of proton radiation with online image guidance offers greater precision to destroy cells, sparing adjacent healthy tissue with fewer side effects. Intensity Modulated Proton Therapy, which combines Pencil Beam Scanning and 3D Cone Beam CT, can target a tumor within less than a millimeter, "painting" the radiation dose, one spot at a time.



"It was a very intense six weeks at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. She received chemotherapy every morning at 8 a.m. upstairs in Pediatric Oncology, followed by proton therapy. Considering the circumstances, it was a very good experience. She enjoyed every morning. Inez looked forward to visiting with her nurses, technicians and doctor," her father Lance recalled.

"I would recommend the Proton Therapy Center and its caring staff," Lance went on to say.

In a Facebook post:

"We would like to thank the staff at Beaumont Hospital for using the gifts and talents given by God to make a difficult situation bearable."

Inez continues to receive care and periodic chemotherapy from her medical team at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids. She and her family recently received good news about the results of an MRI.

Her family posted on Facebook Jan. 21:

"Our oncologist called this afternoon with the results of Inez's MRI from yesterday. Everything looks great once again. There is no sign of the cancer on her spine or brain. Thank you for continued prayers."

It's been a long, and at times, trying road for Inez and her family since the brain tumor diagnosis, Lance and Gabriela recently said, "God has been very good to us, and we look forward to the future."

PHILANTHROPY CORNER



Beaumont's Pediatric Radiation Oncology Department is partially dependent on philanthropy and the support of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals at the Beaumont Health Foundation to fund research and technology innovation.



BEAUMONT HEALTH FOUNDATION

Beaumont's Radiation Oncology Department is partially dependent on philanthropy to support its research and technology innovation.

We thank you for your support and generosity.

If you are interested in making a contribution to either The Children's Miracle Network or the Beaumont Health Foundation, please contact the Beaumont Health Foundation at **947-522-0100** or at beaumonthealthfoundation@beaumont.org.

You may also make a contribution online at beaumont.org/giving by clicking on the **Give Now** button and specifying that your gift go to Radiation Oncology. One hundred percent of your gift will go directly to support radiation oncology research and program support.

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