

## Partners In Care - Precision Medicine

In January 2018, The University of Arizona Cancer Center at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center (Cancer Center) launched a Precision Medicine Oncology Program through a partnership with the Precision Medicine Alliance (PMA), LLC—a joint venture between Dignity Health and Catholic Health Initiatives. The PMA Precision Medicine Oncology Program, which was piloted with the Cancer Center, is enabling a higher level of patient care by building genomics-guided information solutions and services for our providers and staff. By creating a central hub of patient clinical and genomic information, the PMA provides decision support work streams and patient-specific opportunities that enhance the work of the Cancer Center's dedicated physicians.

“The clinical and administrative teams of the Cancer Center were the best partners the PMA could have asked for in our first market roll-out. Nothing worthwhile is easy in medicine. Knowing how innovation fits into care and seeing the promise of a future state, being generous with knowledge, and coaching PMA toward success all made for a successful collaboration,” stated Damon Hostin, PMA CEO. “Their belief in our vision and their trust in our team is so deeply appreciated. There will be over a dozen other sites for the PMA; however, the immunotherapy team at the Cancer Center (Marcia Gruber-Page, Shilpa Vasireddy, Drs. Jue Wang, Panos Savvides and Debra Wong) were the brave first.”

The program, and its supportive IT platform, integrates many clinical, pathological, and tumor molecular data elements to allow for a comprehensive, centralized, and longitudinal view of a patient's record. The centralization of this data ultimately allows for improved efficiencies in various work streams, including decision support, outcomes analysis, financial assistance navigation, and trial matching, among others. These improved work streams will provide better support to Cancer Center providers and improved care for the patients they serve.

Davie Boulton and wife Sandy (center) celebrate a win against prostate cancer with his caregiving team at the Cancer Center, including (left to right) Chanella Roy, RN, Jue Wang, MD, and Adrianna Alvarez, MA.

## Prostate Cancer Patient's Future Looks Bright, Thanks to New Precision Medicine Oncology Program

When Davie Earl Boulton, 57, Glendale, was diagnosed with an aggressive, basketball-sized prostate tumor, his doctors said he would not survive. But today, nearly two years later, Davie's tumor is gone—thanks to Jue Wang, MD, and the Precision Medicine Oncology Program at The University of Arizona Cancer Center at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center (Cancer Center).

Created by Precision Medicine Alliance, LLC, (PMA), the Precision Medicine Oncology Program uses genetic profiling to identify the most effective treatment for a particular cancer. PMA chose the Cancer Center as the first site of its new program because of the center's integrative, research-driven approach to cancer care.

After receiving his diagnosis, Davie went to the Cancer Center for a second opinion, where a multidisciplinary team determined that he would likely benefit from a precision medicine approach. “We analyzed the DNA of his tumor and detected a weakness in his cancer, which was very aggressive,” says Dr. Wang, a genitourinary oncologist at the Cancer Center.

Based on that analysis, Davie received medicine specifically formulated to take advantage of his tumor's genetic weakness. With precision medical treatment, Davie's tumor disappeared, and he regained his health and quality of life.

Outcomes such as Davie's are not typical for men with aggressive prostate cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, one in nine men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime, making it the second most common cancer in men. While most prostate tumors grow slowly and remain localized for years, some are aggressive and invasive—and can be fatal.

By taking some of the guesswork out of diagnosing and treating prostate tumors and other cancers, the Precision Medicine Oncology Program is raising the standard of patient care and improving patient outcomes. “I feel the best I've ever felt,” says Davie. “Dr. Wang and the team at St. Joseph's Cancer Center are phenomenal.”



Prostate cancer-survivor Davie Earl Boulton gets back in the game, thanks to cancer specialist, Jue Wang, MD, FACP.

In a world where meaningful connections can feel less valued and lives can seem more isolated, we are working together to unleash the healing power of humanity.

