

IUSCC PINK

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Dear Friends,
Behind every great doctor, there is an amazing team of people that support them in the care of their patients; some you meet and others you do not. These people include nurses, research associates, clinical research specialists, medical assistants, medical administrative assistants, and insurance coordinators.



Pictured are a few of IUSCC's many wonderful nurses. From Left to Right: Anita Rush-Taylor RN, Vivian Murphy RN, Barbara Thompson RN, Danielle Latinovich RN, LaTrice Vaughn RN, Suzanne Lemler RN, Lynne Oliver RN, Carol Huntley RN, Christy Brown RN, and Sarah Dutkevich RN.

At the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center, we utilize a multidisciplinary approach to patient care. We bring together various specialties to make things easier for the patient and more importantly assist the patient in her recovery. Our team uses cutting edge science and medicine. As nurses focused on breast cancer, we help to make it all happen. We are your partners on the journey to wellness.

Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.

-Vincent Van Gogh

In this issue of IUSCC Pink, the focus will be on the Breast Care and Research nurses, why we do what we do, our niches, and what makes us passionate about breast cancer care. We come from many different nursing backgrounds: surgery, bone marrow transplant, the armed services, inpatient oncology, and the pharmaceutical industry just to name a few. We cover

different aspects of the patient's cancer journey but EVERY one of us has cure and quality of life as our goal.

As you read about us, you will come to know that we are active in ancillary organizations and programs which support breast cancer and cancer care. Surprisingly, despite working in different areas of breast care and research we are a very cohesive group. We are not just co-workers but friends who support each other professionally and personally. Many of us attend and participate in breast cancer fundraising events as a group. In regards to our patients, we frequently come together to troubleshoot problems, celebrate milestones and cry at losses. All of us would agree that this makes it easier to help our patients get through their journey with breast cancer.

-Sarah Dutkevich, RN, Carol Huntley, RN & LaTrice Vaughn, RN

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Nurse-Kind, Professional, Thoughtful, Patient, Strong,

I absolutely believe in and love breast cancer research. I remember being the lead research nurse assigned to a clinical trial using a new compound. The new compound did not have a name but was known as the AVF2119g study. Two of the first centers conducting the clinical trial in the world for breast cancer patients were Rush Presbyterian Hospital in Illinois and here at Indiana University.

One of our first patients to receive the drug was waiting in a room, after having her scans, to know the affects of the treatments on her cancer. The patient and I had been in contact with each other almost daily. The side effects from this treatment had been minimal to none.

I reported her side effects to Dr. Sledge, while we walked to the radiology department to view her scans. We were looking to evaluate the large lung nodule seen prior to starting AVF2119g. The radiologist placed the comparative films on the view box. There it was, what I called a miraculous change. As Dr. Sledge and the radiologist explained in medical terms what they were seeing, I could see Dr. Sledge was elated. So elated that we actually start giving each other "five" ("High five" hadn't come out yet) and we started moving our feet to our own tune and dance. Yes, Dr. Sledge dances (lol). I had the rhythm and he had the heart of excitement. We went to give the patient the good news.

Dr. Sledge now tells the story of how at that moment he knew the compound was going to be a great drug that would help many of our patients. This compound would later become FDA approved in combination with a chemotherapy drug for advanced breast cancer; now known as Avastin (Bevacizumab). Today, it is a drug

being used in a 4950 patient international clinical trial in high risk early stage breast cancer. We hope to see even better results from this drug in the near future.

I've been in oncology nursing my whole career. The medical advancements, the emotional highs, the medical set backs and emotional lows are why I do what I do. I look forward to the days where we are all dancing to the success of a cure for this disease.

-LaTrice Vaughn, RN

My nursing career has included practice in many different areas including the obstetrics intensive care unit, the operating rooms, general gastrointestinal procedures and ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography), all at IU Hospital. This diverse nursing experience was excellent preparation for my present role in Oncology. I am pleased to be the Breast Surgical Oncology Nurse Coordinator for Drs. Monet Bowling and Erika Rager. My role is to facilitate their patient's through presentation, evaluation, diagnosis, surgical intervention and post surgical follow up. The surgical oncology area of nursing practice is very exciting and rewarding. I continue to learn something new every day about the strengths of my patients.

In my spare time I enjoy crocheting and knitting chemo caps for the Complete Life Program. I started making caps a few years before starting in my current position and to date have crocheted over one hundred caps. This is my personal therapy to reduce stress and help others. I try to always use "funky" yarns so the caps are fun to wear.

-Lynne Oliver, RN



B A B Y G I R L

Erin Grace Miller

Born 2/24/2009 to Birthmother Alicia

6 pounds 6 oz

19 inches

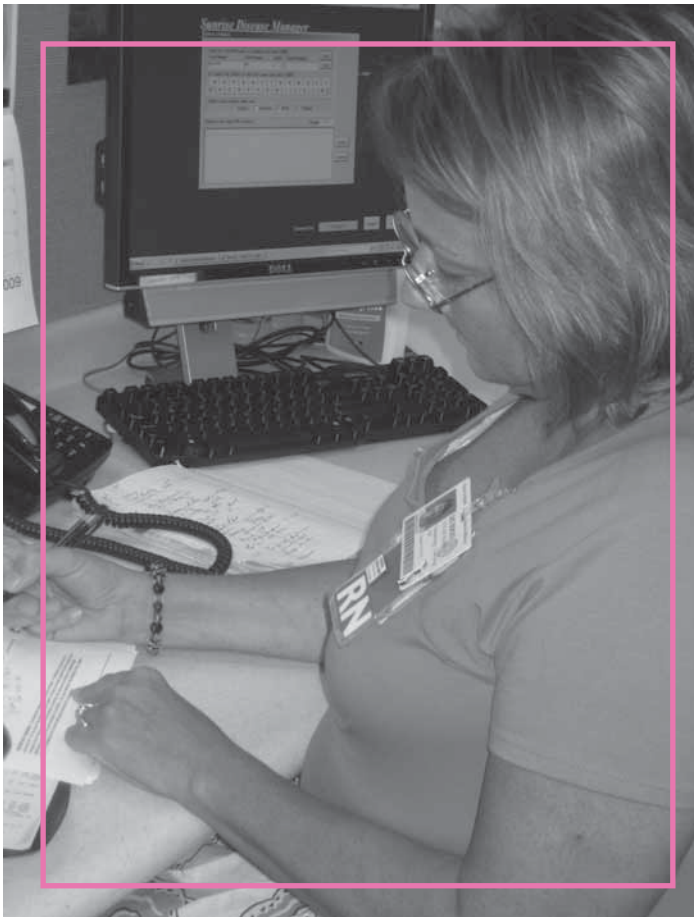
Welcomed home by adoptive family Jeff, Kathy and big brother Kael on 2/26/2009

Knowledgeable, *Understanding*, Watchful, *Skilled*, Gentle,

Life is interesting, how its path leads us towards our destination. Either by choice, accident or plain stupidity, I have found my way to where I am today. I owe my career choice of oncology nursing to the inspiration of two wonderful nurses at Union Hospital years ago. Thank you, Miss Mackey and Eva B.!

Since I tend to resist change, I have been with Indiana University since 1983 in one oncology position or another. I started fresh out of nursing school on the inpatient gynecological oncology unit. After five years and two children I made the move to straight days, Monday through Friday! I'm lucky to have continued finding the best jobs. I've been the clinic nurse, chemo nurse, breast cancer/chemo nurse at 86th Street, general oncology traveling nurse one day a week to Lafayette with Dr Oliverrez and later Dr Harb, breast and GI oncology nurse at the Springmill office and now I'm back

downtown at IUSCC. I am a breast cancer nurse coordinator with Drs. George Sledge and Anna Maria Storniolo. I've worked with the best people in all settings. It's been a wonderful experience. Don't look for things to change any time soon. I love what I am doing!



Vivian charting during a busy day in clinic.

Along this journey too many wonderful people have touched me and changed me into who I am today. One woman in particular stirred

a passion in me I didn't realize was there. That woman, Sharon Bassett, became my patient, friend, and now my guardian angel. Her family and friends have adopted me and I them. I watched as Sharon turned her nine-year breast cancer experience into one that, even in her pass-

Along this journey too many wonderful people have touched me and changed me into who I am today.

ing, has continued to touch and benefit many women and their families. She began her own fund, now foundation, as she continued the multiple chemotherapy treatments. We would talk and laugh as I gave her chemo. The foundation began to take shape as she sat in the chemo chair. Her motto was sharing, caring, helping and believing, as she provided "a hand to hold on to". What a wonderful lesson she has taught me!

I would have never met Sharon if she had not had breast cancer. The same is true for so many other wonderful patients that have touched my life. I have seen the difficulties, challenges, and sacrifices that change lives forever. I can't stop myself from becoming involved. "Sharon, I promised you I would take care of you, and I still do in your memory." I continue to help plan and decorate for the annual Sharon L. Bassett Foundation Parrot Party each summer, recruit, and match foundation friends with breast cancer survivors for Pay It Forward, at the anniversary of her birthday. In the past seven years, her foundation has raised somewhere around a million dollars. Wow! Sharon would have loved spending all that money by giving it away to other breast cancer survivors, so that's what we'll do.

I love being involved in the pink passion of breast cancer awareness. Every year you can count on me to organize the Sister Sledge Team for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. You will also see me at the Komen Tissue Bank events, the IWIN Pink Pajama Party, and the Pink Connection Fashion Show. Isn't it obvious what my favorite color is? PINK!!!! The brighter the better!

-Vivian Murphy, RN

Sympathetic, Good, Poised, Comforting, Enduring, Sweet



AT LAST.....

How does that song go? Being a nurse practitioner with the Breast Care and Research Team at IU Simon Cancer Center is the ultimate opportunity in my nursing career. My path has taken various

turns and the journey has been fulfilling and mind-provoking, but being a part of the breast team is incredible! Working with a talented group of physicians at the top of their field for care and research, professional staff, and courageous patients, their families and friends, is an awesome experience.

Years ago, I realized I like interacting directly with patients and their families. Collaboration with physicians and congeniality with colleagues and staff is also very important. As the age-old saying goes—I want to make a difference. Every day offers me new challenges as I meet someone new or see someone again and listen to her story. I'm very fortunate to be a part of this amazing team!

-Karen Nichols, NP-C

I feel honored to say that I am a part of the IU Simon Cancer Center Breast Research Team. I am very blessed to be able to take care of some of the most charming, intelligent, and courageous women on the planet! My patients will drive as long as it takes to be on a clinical trial that enables them to get a drug that may help them and other women that come after them. Since becoming a research nurse, I've talked to breast cancer survivors, their husbands, and their brothers from Colorado, New York, Georgia, Ohio, Brazil (South America), and Poland. What a thrill to know that I am working at a first class, cutting-edge facility with the best oncologists and surgeons in this field.

In addition, I felt like I was personally making a difference in my community when I partici-

ipated in Race for the Cure this year and saw individuals walking in celebration of women that we had treated at the IU Simon Cancer Center. To see my patients and their families at that event celebrating their life was something I will treasure.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the process of finding a cure for breast cancer. I am proud to be a part of such a fantastic team of health care providers and I count it a blessing to walk my patients through the process of their treatment.

-Christy Brown, RN

I am very blessed to be able to take care of some of the most charming, intelligent, and courageous women on the planet!

-Suzanne F. Smith, IUSCC Patient

There are some things very special about IUSCC nurses. I can't say enough about how good all my cancer nurses were. They were all so positive, friendly, helpful and optimistic. Not only that, but they seemed to practice the "art of nursing" in addition to the "science of nursing." This means they were experts at making patients feel more comfortable, anticipating their needs and being thoughtful. They seemed to always do the best they could in all things but especially in getting the patient's spirits and attitude up. They knew that the better the patient's attitude, is the better the patient's outcome will be. They were always calm—there were no emergencies with them, which relieved a lot of my anxiety about my cancer. Perhaps one of the most comforting characteristics of all was their "selfless listening." All of them seemed to have a "compassionate ear" and believed that healing was possible and that a cancer diagnosis was not just a death sentence. Though my experience with cancer ranks low in terms of things I'd like to experience in life, my time with the healing nurses ranks high. I can't thank you enough for my healing and my being in my 7th year of breast cancer survivorship.

I owe it all to you!

Devoted, Compassionate, Alert, Crucial, Hopeful, Calm

Many times through my career as an oncology nurse friends and family have said to me, "I don't know how you take care of those patients (cancer survivors) it must be depressing, they are all so sick and then they die". My reply to them is that there are days when it is depressing, when you find out one of your patient has progression of their disease or when we put someone who has become a good friend in hospice because you don't have any further treatment options. But most days it is invigorating! Over the years my friends and patients that are cancer survivors have shown me that even when the outlook is bleak, life can be good. There is always a silver lining out there: a child graduating from high school or college, getting married, the first grandchild or the tenth, the trip you always wanted to take to Alaska or the reunion with your extended family. I have learned from them that life may be short and you should live it to the fullest, whether you have two weeks or thirty years to live.

I have been in oncology since 1983 when I went to work on the Urology Unit at Winona Hospital and we started admitting oncology patients to our unit. At some point in the next couple of years they decided oncology and urology couldn't be together because one was considered medical and the other surgical. When we separated the units, I went with oncology patients; I always say oncology found me.

Over the years and still today I have had cancer survivors say to me "I wish they would find a cure" or "I didn't know I would be this sick". I can talk with them about how far we have come: in managing the side effects, in the increase in cure rates compared to when I first was an oncology nurse, and in how even if they become metastatic they can live with their diseases for years. With the strides we have made in oncology in my career to date, I know we will see a lot more advances before I retire and maybe even a cure!

One of the most rewarding things I have done in oncology (outside of work) has been helping start Camp Bluebird. While I was working on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Methodist Hospital someone gave my

name to Health Promotions as a nurse that would enjoy camping. We started Camp Bluebird in the fall of 1993 with nine campers and eight counselors, this past April we had sixty-two campers and eight counselors. Being the "Camp Nurse" I have had campers come to camp with end of life issues, in need of IV infusions and narcotics, and thirty year survivors! When I helped start Camp Bluebird it was great going and seeing survivors outside of my work environment living life to the fullest no matter what limitations they might have related to disease and/ or treatment. Over the years many of the campers have become good friends and we support each other in good times and bad.

-Barbara Thompson, RN



Camp Bluebird

Join other Hoosiers learning to live with their cancer diagnosis by participating in educational, emotional, physical and spiritual activities. Camp is a weekend twice a year (April and September) for cancer survivors to get together for fun, education, crafts, support groups formal and informal, exercising, and a lot of fun. If you are interested in attending Camp Bluebird the next Camp is September 25, 26, and 27. Brochures will be available starting in mid-August. You can call Alexis Smith for a brochure at 317-962-8288.

Open-minded, Respectful, Active, Committed, Dependable,

I have been a research nurse for seven years, but have been working with the breast oncology team for about five years. I am considered the adopted one in the family since I actually work for someone else in a completely different division on campus. I work for David Flockhart, MD, PhD, who is the chief of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology. We specialize in differences in response to drug treatment that exist on the basis of age, gender, genetics or ethnic origin. Our division looks at drugs that are FDA-approved and researches how individual genetic makeup determines how we each respond to medications. Research is discovering new ways to use genetics to guide taking medication, even for drugs that have been available for many years. We have done a lot of cool research that has impacted how the world takes medication. One example is our research with Tamoxifen. Tamoxifen is a type of hormonal therapy that is often given to women who have had a history of hormonal positive breast cancer. About half a million women in the United States alone are currently on it. Tamoxifen is used to prevent future breast cancer in women who have had it, or just in patients who are at high risk for getting it. In one of our studies conducted here, we learned that the antidepressants Paxil and Prozac (paroxetine and fluoxetine) block the overall effects of Tamoxifen. These drugs are widely prescribed to treat depression, but also used to treat hot flashes in women taking Tamoxifen. In simplest terms, these antidepressants decrease the effectiveness of Tamoxifen and they should not be taken together. As the result of our research, the FDA is currently in process of changing the Tamoxifen labeling to warn users that Paxil and Tamoxifen should not be given together. It's amazing that after 20-plus years, after a drug's approval, we can still find out vital information about it and how we should prescribe it. Research is constantly changing how we prescribe medication and our work is a big part of that. It is really cool to be a part of all this!



(Left to Right) Suzanne with Connie Rufenbarger patient advocate

During my time here, I have also had the unique opportunity to start up a process that has turned into a large and very exciting program here at Indiana University. Increasing interest in genetic variations among individuals has necessitated the recruitment of subjects at low risk for cancer to serve as controls to those who have had breast cancer. In order to make valid comparisons, large numbers of subjects with and without a personal history of cancer are required. While subjects with cancer can be recruited from clinics as they come in to see their physicians, recruitment of controls is challenging. In 2005, Bryan Schneider, MD, an oncology fellow at the time, had a research project comparing a large number of samples of both women with history of breast cancer and women without such a history (also known as controls). This project became the impetus for creating a model for addressing the challenge of obtaining a large number of samples in a short period of time. In addition to the project, Indiana University had a tissue collection bank in which after the research samples were used, the rest would be stored in the bank for future research. The goal was to obtain 500 women

with history of breast cancer and 500 controls for the study. We estimated total accrual would take months or years to complete. To minimize need for resources and to optimize time, Dr. Schneider, myself and an advocate from the Catherine Peachey Fund, coordinated to obtain subjects for the trial in a single day. We recruited approximately 160 volunteers and on Saturday, April 16, 2005, we collected a total of 855 subjects during the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Amazing! Subjects who participated in the study completed a five page questionnaire and gave one sample of blood. To our knowledge, this was the first time such an efficient way of collecting samples was ever done. With detailed logistical planning and concerted effort by a committed group of volunteers, we demonstrated that it is feasible to obtain biologic samples from a large group of breast cancer survivors and controls within several hours rather than months or years. My contribution was this event in April 2005 and

Responsible, Expressive, Inspiring, Caring, Advocates, Warm

since then, this simple project has continued to grow and is now a national tissue bank. In 2007, the Susan G. Komen Foundation became interested in the tissue bank and funded Indiana University with a \$1 million grant to continue growth and operation of the tissue bank. The bank is now known as the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Tissue Bank, and is managed under the direction of Anna Maria Storniolo, MD and Susan Clare, MD. This is a national tissue bank in which other institutions and researchers from all over the world can request to use samples for their own research. In addition to the over 5,000 blood samples obtained, the bank has expanded to collecting breast tissue. Over 500 women thus far have consented for a biopsy to be taken of their breast and used for research. Now we have ways to look at both normal tissue and tumor tissue to research what is different and common to expand research and someday find a cure. How cool is that? I love my job!

-Suzanne Lemler, RN



I have been a nurse for over 32 years and have always been drawn to the oncology patients. I first started working with children right out of nursing school and have over the years been involved with

all ages as well as all aspects of nursing.

I came to radiation oncology in 1998 because it was one aspect I had never been involved with. I first worked as a clinic nurse then in nursing management and from there became involved in research. This has been very different from my previous years of nursing, but one that I truly love being involved with. It is awesome to be able to offer patients treatment that in the past wasn't available to them.

I have always felt that the oncology population is a very special group of people. They have taught me to never take anything for granted and to live each day as if it was your last. That is not always easy to do, but at least it

makes me think about it! It is a very humbling lesson and I owe that to all my patients that have taken a negative situation and turned it into a positive experience. They have shown me what really matters in life.

-Kathy Tudor, RN, CCRP

Volunteers NEEDED

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Tissue Bank at IU Simon Cancer Center needs your help.

They will be collecting blood samples from thousands of women at the **Evansville Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure** on September 19, 2009.

Requirements: Be willing to attend a 45 minute training session during the week of the Race and work a four-hour shift on Saturday September 19, 2009

Volunteers Needed:

- ✕ **Consenters**-Must take the IU Human Subjects Test and complete a nonaffiliated investigator form.
- ✕ **Questionnaire Assistant** - Medical/Pharmaceutical knowledge needed to assist donors with completing questions.
- ✕ **Phlebotomists** - Must be a nurse, medical assistant or certified phlebotomist.
- ✕ **Lab Techs**-Experience with spinning and aliquoting blood required.
- ✕ **Other general volunteers needed**-to greet donors and run supplies.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information visit

www.komentissuebank.iu.edu.

SUSAN G.
Komen
FOR THE
cure

TISSUE BANK AT THE
IU SIMON CANCER CENTER

Constant, Vigilant, Essential, Thoughtful, Engaging,



(Left to Right) Carol Huntley speaking with an IUSCC Breast Cancer Survivor and Karen Krutzinger

My position as Breast Surgical Oncology Coordinator for Drs. Robert Goulet and Susan Clare brings together my two favorite areas of medicine, oncology and surgery. I began my nursing career on an inpatient Oncology Unit and then made a transition to the operating room. Several years later, I was very fortunate to be informed about the opening for my current position. I was extremely excited to know the different aspects of my two previous positions fused into this one. As for most people, I have been personally touched by beloved family and friends who have had breast cancer. This fuels my passion for surgical oncology nursing along with the dedication given by everyone one of our team members. Out of the office I enjoy volunteering for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at IU Simon Cancer Center. It has been wonderful to see how this one of a kind event has grown over the past few years. Overall, I feel privileged to work at a great cancer center and alongside professionals who give the utmost care to their patients.

-Carol Huntley, RN

My focus as one of the nurses in the Breast Care and Research Center is two-fold. One role is to provide the surgical patients with pre and post undergarments related to their particular surgery. The second role is to help patients with breast symmetry and balance after surgery, during the transition time if they are having chemotherapy, radiation therapy and/or delayed reconstructive surgery, and then ongoing as their needs

arise. This program is one of the many that Clarian Women's Services provides.

I have been involved with this program since January 2006. A wonderful friend and nursing mentor introduced me to this role. What a blessing it has been on so many levels. I know it sounds so cliché, but I truly hope I give back as much as I have been so blessed to receive in this role. The patients and their families are such personal inspirations of hope, fortitude, living and coping day to day with complicated disease and so often complicated and stressful lives. The physicians, nurses, medical assistants, support teams, administrative teams, and staff on the clinical units at all of the Clarian hospital sites that I service are such dedicated, compassionate, and caring individuals. They quickly have become cherished friends, not just professional colleagues and coworkers. I am so fortunate to work in an environment where the latest and greatest of research is being conducted and implemented. I am in awe every day of all of the exciting new treatments, surgical and medical, that are available for breast cancer. It is my goal to bring to the patients and the clinical community that same "latest and greatest research" in the area of breast forms, breast symmetry and balance, and pre and post operative undergarments. Another cliché.... however true....I have one of the best jobs in the world!

-Karen Kreutzinger, RN

I am in awe everyday of all of the exciting new treatments, surgical and medical, that are available for breast cancer.

When I met Cheryl, no one had addressed the changes in her body image since having her mastectomy. I did what to me seemed like such a simple thing when I met her for the first time, I helped her get prosthetic bras. It was a simple nursing gesture.

She stopped by one day crying and thanked me. She said the highlight of her week was the time when her 8 year old grandson hit a home run, she stood up and cheered with both arms flailing wide and screaming at the top of her lungs.

I don't know who cried harder that day, me or her!

-Darlene Christmon, RN

Positive, Considerate, Loyal, Observant, Inspirational,

To Darlene Christmon, RN,

I don't know if you remember me but I will never forget you. You made such a positive difference in my life.

I had cancer in my left breast in 1999. I was left terribly uneven after a lumpectomy, axillary dissection, and radiation. My right unaffected breast is about 50% larger than the left. After completing surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation I was thankful to be alive. I thought my problem was just something I would have to live with (my cross to bear). The important thing was living! However, I had no idea how much the asymmetry would impact my life. I looked so abnormal in my clothes that through the years, strangers would ask me if I had a mastectomy and why didn't I wear a prosthesis. Some asked me why the surgeon left me that way. When I wore a blouse with buttons they would shift to under my right arm as I walked. I held my left shoulder up higher to try to compensate. After 10 years of this, my left shoulder is an inch and a quarter higher than my right.

I started buying large loose tops and began unconsciously rounding my shoulders. Then I began eating comfort food and gaining weight. It affected my self esteem in many aspects of my life. The most problematic aspect was my bras. I have tried just about every brand and style on the market but of course they don't fit me correctly. Because of the size and weight difference in my breast, the right strap always fell down to my elbow. This in turn caused my breast to slip out of the bra and cause the band to rise and cut into my right nipple painfully. Literally dozens of times daily, I had to reach under my clothes to put my breast back in the bra whether I was in the privacy of my home or in public. This was embarrassing to my family and humiliating to me.

I had an appointment with Dr. George Sledge in May 2008 and heard two patients discussing Nurse Darlene and how great she was. When my May 2009 appointment came due, I made up my mind to approach you. I asked if I could speak to you after my appointment. You didn't forget about me. You came in the exam room, took one look at me and "Yes, I see your problem." I was speechless and in tears that someone recognized and validated my problem. You made an appointment for me at a fitter. I now have post mastectomy bras that make me look equal and normal. I stand up straight, take pride again in my appearance, and am losing

weight. I can wear dresses, blouses and sweaters without looking odd. After putting my bra on in the morning, I have never had to touch the strap or adjust my right breast in any way.

I told you dealing with cancer was horrible but the place that I was at wasn't very good either. You said part of surviving is living well. I think it must be wonderful to make such a positive difference in someone's life and want you to know I appreciate you more than words can convey. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. God bless you, dear Darlene, I believe you are an angel sent from God. Thank you so very much for making my life better.

Sincerely,

-Cheryl Duckett, IUSCC Patient

Featured Web Site



Young Survival Coalition (YSC) is the premier international organization dedicated to the critical issues unique to young women and breast cancer. YSC works with survivors, caregivers and the medical, research, advocacy and legislative communities to increase the quality and quantity of life for women diagnosed with breast cancer ages 40 and under.

Unlike their post-menopausal counterparts, young women diagnosed with breast cancer face higher mortality rates, fertility issues and the possibility and ramifications of early menopause. The YSC seeks to change the face of breast cancer by: advocating to increase the number of studies about young women and breast cancer; educating young women about the importance of breast self-examination and early detection; and being a point of contact for other young women with breast cancer.

The Indianapolis YSC affiliate is active in the community with many events and monthly meetings. For more information visit their web site at www.youngsurvival.org/indianapolis or call 317.776.1766.

Significant, *Helpful*, Attentive, *Nice*, Considerate,

My story dates back to an internship that I did in St Louis, MO at what was then called Barnes Hospital in Summer 1988. I was a float student, which meant that I could end up on ANY of the 20 plus floors in that massive hospital. I worked the evening shift, but often picked up a night shift double to get the next day off. I will never forget the night I took care of one particular patient, I'll call him George.

On my initial mid-night rounds during vital signs and assessment, George asked me if I would come back after I finished my rounds. I said sure and came back about an hour and a half later. George had end stage oat cell lung cancer. He had so much trouble breathing that, even with oxygen, he had to sit up in bed and lay over the bedside table to rest. Even then, he wasn't able to rest very well due to the copious secretions that he had to spit out because they were too thick to swallow. When I came into the room, George offered me a seat on his bed across the bedside table from him. He asked me, "Are you a believer." I replied, "Yes, I am." I was so excited that I would get to pray with him. He took my hands, asked my full name and began to pray for me. I stopped him and said, "Wait a minute, I'm supposed to be praying for you." He smiled, patted my hands and said, "Honey, I've had my time. You need the prayers now to do what you need to do." Previously, I had planned to be a labor/delivery nurse. I never was. I started as an oncology nurse in June 1989 and I've NEVER regretted a single moment. Thanks to George, I found my calling.

-Sarah Dutkevitch, RN

My journey to becoming a research nurse in the Breast Care and Research Center here at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center started in my teens when I had the opportunity to participate in the "Candy Stripe" program at Riverview Hospital in Noblesville, IN. Our high school nurse, Ritabeth Baker, RN, was the sponsor of the group and one of my rotations was on the maternity unit where I met and worked

under Janet Harlan, who later came to IU in the oncology program, first in bone marrow transplant, then in breast oncology.



(Left to Right) Sarah Dutkevitch, Julia Whitaker, Anita Rush-Taylor, Casey Allen, Dr. Patricia Kennedy, Lori King, Debbie Putt, Dr. Anna Maria Storniolo, and Lacey Dobrolecki at a Mary Ellen's Tissue Bank Event.

My first personal experience with cancer was about the same time as my "candy striping" when my paternal grandfather dealt with

rectal cancer. It was then that I found out

that breast cancer and lung cancer were part of my family history and later, ovarian and prostate cancer.

I decided to go to college for nursing at Ball State and was selected for the Army Student Nurse Scholarship Program and stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center after graduation. When I was selected as staff for Ward 8 ("VIP unit for 3-star generals and above, high ranking government officials, and foreign dignitaries") I met Captain Kathy Youngblood, a dynamo nurse who loved oncology and showed me the difference nursing makes in the cancer experience. I have been fortunate to work with patients and their families in Washington, D.C., Ohio, Alabama, New Jersey, back to Ohio, and finally home to Indiana where I was lucky enough to work with Janet, again, here at IU!

While in Ohio the second time, I started working with clinical trials in a community practice setting. I loved the science and challenges of this kind of nursing. I've had the opportunity to work with investigative medications that have become the standard of care, like Gleevec for chronic myelogenous leukemia, Herceptin for adjuvant breast cancer treatment, and Avastin and Tykerb for metastatic breast cancer. The admiration and inspiration that I experience daily as I work with the study participants and their families is a privilege. Their willingness to work with us on the clinical trials is key to continued progress in treating breast cancer as well as developing prevention strategies.

Helpful, Practiced-Nurse

Outside of IU I volunteer with Cancer Service of Hamilton County and Casting for Recovery. Cancer Service of

The admiration and inspiration that I experience daily as I work with the study participants and their families is a privilege.

Hamilton County raises and distributes funds for Hamilton County

residents that need financial assistance while undergoing treatment for cancer. Casting for Recovery is a week-end retreat for breast cancer survivors to learn the sport of fly-fishing, while promoting physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. I volunteer as one of two medical facilitators while learning to fly-fish. At our alumni reunion in June I caught my first bass!

The atmosphere of IU teamwork makes this a wonderful place to come to everyday with excitement inside about who will I see, what advances will we make, what questions will get answered, and what new questions will be asked? Thank you for sharing your lives with us.

-Anita Rush-Taylor, RN



Casting for Recovery is a national non-profit support and educational program for women who have or have had breast cancer.

We provide an opportunity for women whose lives have been profoundly affected by the disease to gather in a beautiful, natural setting and learn fly-fishing, "a sport for life." Just as



importantly, we offer an opportunity to meet new friends and have fun.

Our weekend retreats incorporate counseling, educational services and the sport of fly-fishing to promote mental and physical healing.

Weekend retreats are no cost to women who live in Indiana in all stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery. Retreats are held in spring and fall at the Wooded Glen Retreat Center, Henryville, IN. For more information or to submit your name for a chance to participate visit www.castingforrecovery.org.

Celebrating Life 2009

Our 3rd Annual Breast Cancer Update 2009: Celebrating Life is coming up! We greatly enjoy this evening with our patients to share information and honor them. Mark your calendar for a celebration of life for our breast cancer survivors and their families hosted by the Indiana University Breast Care and Research Center.

Celebrating Life will provide up-to-date information on breast cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivor issues.

The interactive program will feature Indiana University's Breast Care and Research Center faculty and women who have experienced breast cancer.

Mark your calendars

When: August 31, 2009 6:15-8:30 p.m.

IUPUI Campus Center 420 University Blvd. Indianapolis, IN 46202

Invitations have been mailed out to central Indiana patients if you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend, RSVP online at www.cancer.iu.edu/programs/breast/iuccpink/

To volunteer to help with this event or for more information, contact Casey Allen, Breast Cancer Clinical Research Coordinator at (317) 274-0594 or calallen@iupui.edu.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT BREAST CANCER?

Sign up to receive the *IUSCC Pink* Newsletter

Name: _____ *E-mail: _____

Street: _____ City/Zip: _____

*Newsletters will be sent by e-mail when applicable.

Return to Casey Allen at:

Walther Hall (Building R3) - Room C246
980 W. Walnut St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5126



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

MELVIN AND BREN SIMON
CANCER CENTER

Or send an e-mail to calallen@iupui.edu with the above information.

Do you have a story idea or just something to say about a story you've read in *IUSCC Pink*? Tell us about it! Would you like to share a personal experience? Contact us via e-mail calallen@iupui.edu, call 317-274-0594 or send mail to the address above.

Past editions of *IUSCC Pink* can be viewed at the IU Simon Cancer Center Web site, cancer.iu.edu, by selecting breast cancer in the cancer type section (<http://cancer.iu.edu/programs/breast/iuccpink/>).