

## Our philosophy – evidence-based medicine

When it comes to caring for our patients our goal is to use all information available to best diagnose and plan treatment.

Each case is reviewed with all options in mind. Our dedication to evidence-based practices help us provide our patients with cutting-edge treatments.

Our information comes from:

- Our peer-review process – every case in our department is reviewed by a team of radiation oncologists, physicists, and support services clinicians to ensure the safest, most appropriate and personalized treatment plan for every patient.
- Following National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines – used in more than 115 countries, these guidelines are developed by oncology doctors to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of oncology care
- Our participation in the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) – comprising 250 of the leading research institutions in the United States and Canada. This national cancer study research group is funded by the National Cancer Institute and has almost 30 years of experience in running clinical trials

## Our Treatments

### Radiation Oncology

Inova Joseph Viar and Bonnie Christ Cancer Center, part of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, is equipped with state of the art technology that can treat cancer conditions early and with unprecedented precision while reducing treatment times, improving outcomes and minimizing side effects.

Our equipment includes:

- Two Varian Linear Accelerators – TrueBeam and Trilogy
- GE LightSpeed CT/Simulator
- VariSource iX
- Zeiss INTRABEAM System

Technologies include:

- Stereotactic radiotherapy
- Stereotactic radiosurgery
- Intensity-modulated radiotherapy
- Image-guided radiation therapy
- Partial breast irradiation
- Intra-operative radiation therapy (IORT)
- High-dose rate brachytherapy
- Low-dose rate brachytherapy

### Medical Oncology

Provided in collaboration with our community-based medical oncologists, these services are for patients prescribed chemotherapy treatment, blood component therapy, hydration therapy, invasive and non-invasive procedures, education and counseling services. Patients are treated using different drug and infusion therapies for palliation and cure. The oncology pharmacist is available for consultation with physicians and patients 24/7.

## Our Support Services

### Dietary Services

A registered dietitian provides an initial assessment for all out-patient oncology patients with moderate to high nutritional risk. Our dietitians use the nationally-recognized Patient Generated-Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA) developed by Dr. Faith Ottery.

### Social Services

All patients are interviewed by a social worker to assess current support systems, economic resources and the patient's understanding of their medical situation. Services include individual and family psychosocial assessments, insurance pre-certifications, counseling, education, referrals, support groups and discharge planning. Patients also have access to Life with Cancer<sup>®</sup>, a resource that provides education, information and support, free of charge.

### Cancer Recovery and Exercise Program

Patients with a current or past diagnosis of cancer can participate in this eight-week exercise program that includes instruction and exercise from a team of registered nurses and exercise physiologists.

### Cancer Registry

For almost 30 years, our registry has been responsible for the collection, management and analysis of data on patients with malignant disease. The registry provides statistical reports that enable physicians to evaluate the success of specific cancer treatments. The information also aids in research on the epidemiology of cancer.

### Charity Care

Our Cancer Care Fund, part of the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation, provides patients with services not covered by insurance, such as transportation, prescription drugs and medical supplies. We also have an indigent drug program for self-pay patients that acquires drugs from the individual drug companies at no charge.

### Life with Cancer<sup>®</sup>

Our mission at Life with Cancer<sup>®</sup> is to enhance the quality of life of those affected by cancer by providing information, education, and support. This is done through the delivery of evidence-based programs for children, adults, and families affected by cancer, at no cost, and regardless of where treatment is received. We partner with medical professionals; certified yoga instructors, mediation and oncology fitness instructors, as well as registered dietitians and nutritionist. This support is provided through classes to help patients understand a variety of topics including lab values, fatigue, peripheral neuropathy and what to expect during chemotherapy. Disease specific support groups provide patients and caregivers with insight, understanding, and a connection to others with the same disease.

**Inova Joseph Viar and Bonnie  
Christ Cancer Center –  
Alexandria**

**4320 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304**

**703.504.7900**

**Hours: Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**After-hour and weekend emergencies  
are handled on an as-needed basis.**

## Our Expert Physician Team



### **Gopal K. Bajaj, MD**

*Chairman, Department of Radiation Oncology, Inova Fairfax Medical Campus*  
*Medical Director, Upper Aerodigestive and Thoracic Malignancy Program*

- MD, University of Kansas School of Medicine
- Residency, Johns Hopkins Hospital (Chief Resident)
- Former faculty, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital



### **Stella Hetelekidis, MD**

*Co-Director, Gynecologic Brachytherapy Program*

- Former Chairman, Department of Radiation Oncology, Inova Fairfax Medical Campus
- MD, University of Rochester Medical School
- Residency, Joint Center for Radiation Therapy, Harvard Medical School
- Former faculty at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Duke University and Harvard University



### **Susan Boylan, MD**

*Medical Director, Potomac Radiation Oncology Center, a service of Inova and Sentara Healthcare*

- MD, Georgetown University
- Residency, North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Wake Forest University
- Additional Board Certification Internal Medicine



### **Samir Kanani, MD**

*Medical Director, CyberKnife CNS Stereotactic Radiosurgery Program*

- MD, University of Texas Medical School at Galveston
- Residency, University of Maryland



### **Ashish K. Chawla, MD**

*Medical Director, Radiation Oncology, Inova Fair Oaks Hospital*

*Medical Director, Partial Breast Irradiation Program*

- MD, Thomas Jefferson University
- Residency, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School



### **Joseph Lee, MD, PhD**

*Co-Director, Gynecologic Brachytherapy Program*

- MD and PhD, University of Minnesota
- Residency, Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University in St. Louis / Barnes-Jewish Hospital



### **Kevin Choe, MD, PhD**

*Medical Director, CyberKnife Body Radiosurgery Program*

- MD and PhD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Residency, University of Chicago
- Former faculty, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center



### **Jason Sun, MD**

*Medical Director, Radiation Oncology Inova Alexandria Hospital*

- MD, Harvard Medical School
- Residency, University of Washington Medical Center (Chief Resident)



Inova's radiation oncology centers – part of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute – are the first facilities in the world to earn the prestigious Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEX) accreditation by the American Society for Radiation Oncology.



### **Lonika Majithia, MD**

*Clinical Director, Breast and Gynecologic Radiation Cancer Services*  
*Inova Alexandria Hospital*

- MD, University of New Mexico
- Residency, The Ohio State University (Chief Resident)

The APEX designation recognizes that Inova's radiation oncology facilities exemplify the highest standards of quality, safety and expert clinical care.

**Call 703.504.7900 for more information.**