



NORTH MEMORIAL HEALTH CANCER CENTER  
**2017 COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM  
ANNUAL REPORT**

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## Dr. Joseph Levine

Hematology/Oncology Medical Director, Program Chair

As the Medical Director of the North Memorial Health Cancer Center and chair of the Cancer Committee, it is my privilege to present the 2017 report of our program. In spite of the many recent advances in understanding the biology of cancer and its treatment, the cancer diagnosis is still frightening and life altering. It is a diagnosis that requires a multidisciplinary treatment approach to obtain successful outcomes, regardless of the specific goal of care. It is a diagnosis that requires a strong social support system to help people to stay steadfast during their times of physical and emotional struggle.

At the North Memorial Health Cancer Center, we are proud to offer cancer treatment and support services that are on the cutting edge of modern medicine. Our medical oncologists and nurse practitioners are skilled in the use of traditional chemotherapy, molecularly targeted therapy, and the novel immuno-oncology therapies. We offer expert services in surgical oncology, radiation oncology and palliative care. We are privileged to work with amazing primary care and subspecialty physicians across the North Memorial Health Care System who help us provide the comprehensive medical care needed for successful treatment outcomes. The North Memorial Health Cancer Center is also proud to offer services in financial counseling, social work and psychosocial support, and cancer survivorship to help ease the emotional burden of the diagnosis for customers and their families.

## Dr. Corinne Jordan

Cancer Liaison Physician

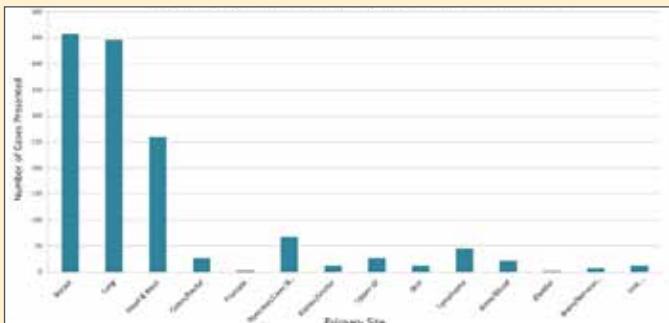
North Memorial Health has been accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer since 1987. COC accreditation is achieved by institutions that have established data-driven performance measures for the provision of quality care, and is recognized by the National Cancer Institute, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, National Quality Forum, American Cancer Society, and The Joint Commission.

North Memorial Health participates in the National Cancer Database, thereby the Oncology program is able to monitor and report outcomes, determine patterns of care, identify cancer disparities and address health equity, and focus on areas for quality improvement initiatives.

Our multidisciplinary oncology team is involved in the planning and coordination of cancer care. Our patients are offered clinical trials when available and programs work in collaboration with the local community to provide cancer prevention and screening events. The standards of care are verified by a national quality council, thereby ensuring quality cancer care that is available close to home for those we serve.



## Tumor Conference Presentations by Primary Site at North Memorial Health



## 3 TUMOR CONFERENCES PER WEEK

Our cancer center continues to host three weekly multidisciplinary tumor boards that are highly attended.



### CLINICAL GOAL:

Implemented Piccolo machine in the onsite lab to improve lab turnaround time resulting in reduced wait time by 1 hour.

*See next page for more details.*

### QUALITY:

- Established an annual review practice for treatment plans.
- Studied completeness and consistency of nursing documentations.

*See next page for more details.*

### PROGRAMMATIC GOAL:

Implemented EPIC staging modules.



Helped customers with the use of the Emergency Pharmacy Fund.

# \$600,000

Raised as the host of the North Memorial Health Gala.



# \$100,000

Raised as the host of the North Memorial Health Golf Event.



Upgraded the scheduling system.



Added a new physician, Dr. Robert Schneidewend.



# We Value Quality

## Accreditations from:

- Det Norske Verita (DNV)
- American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer

## Certified Services and Programs in:

- Surgery
- Radiology
- Breast
- OMFS
- Palliative Care

## Past Participants in:

- Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) through the American Society of Clinical Oncology

## Members of:

- The Association of Community Cancer Centers

## Studies of Quality and Improvement

Each year the Cancer Committee selects 4 goals to improve care delivery at North Memorial Health Cancer Center. 2017 goals included:

- **Clinical goal to improve lab draw to results released times.** Some lab tests impact if and how much of a treatment a customer can get, so we work hard to decrease customer wait time. With collaboration for the North Memorial Health laboratory team, the Cancer Center was able to implement the use of the Piccolo machine. This reduced time to results by an average of one hour.
- **Programmatic goal action was implementation and utilization of EPIC staging module.**
- **Standard 4.7, review management of current treatment plans.** A multidisciplinary team created a policy to ensure treatment plans were reviewed and updated on a regular schedule. Policy was approved and implemented in the Fall 2017. The goal of this was to establish of annual review practice for treatment plans used at the North Memorial Health Cancer Center.
- **Study completeness and consistency of chemotherapy infusion nursing documentation.** A templated infusion note was created in partnership with the North Memorial Health IT department. The result was improved and consistent nursing documentation.

## Wanting to help our customers achieve their best health

### Prevention

- **Radon Screening**

50 Participants from the annual Celebration of Life event were given education and free Radon Test Kits from the Minnesota Department of Health. The kits were numbered and tracked throughout the year.

- **Lung Awareness**

During November lung cancer awareness, a poster board display was placed on the atrium level of the Robbinsdale location of North Memorial Health Hospital. Information included smoking cessation offerings and populations effected, in an effort to prevent disease.

- **Breast Cancer Awareness**

During the month of October, a poster board display was placed at both the North Memorial Health Hospital (Robbinsdale) and Cancer Center. Information included, self-screening exam instructions, what populations are at risk, and phone numbers for questions.

### Screening

- **Head and Neck Screening Event**

During a wellness event host by the wellness team that partners with North Memorial Health, over 25 people were screened for oral cancer. Screening was completed by a nurse practitioner for the oral maxillofacial group. Three participants were admitted smokers and one participant received a referral to oral maxillofacial specialist for further examination.





**Dr. Deepak Kademan**  
Oral Surgeon

Vice Chief of Medical Staff, Medical Director, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Fellowship Director, Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Specializing in head and neck oncologic surgery including oral cavity, laryngeal, tracheal, thyroid and parotid tumors, microvascular reconstruction, orthognathic, obstructive sleep apnea, TMJ surgery, dentoalveolar procedures, implants, and craniomaxillofacial trauma.

The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) service at North Memorial Medical Center remains steadfast in the commitment to deliver on customer expectations; to deliver exceptional compassionate surgical care and exemplary customer service for every aspect of their healthcare journey. Our service strives to be leaders in the advancement of this surgical specialty through research, education and outreach activities. A diagnosis of head or neck cancer is a life-changing and frightening reality for many people. From diagnosis through treatment, we have established a multidisciplinary relationship allowing for seamless transition through all phases of care. We are privileged to practice among amazing colleagues since we cannot reach this goal alone. Together we remain dedicated to providing a holistic, comprehensive surgical service that exceeds all expectations.

### Head and Neck Cancer Support Group Dates

**Located at NMH Robbinsdale Medical Building, Suite 200**

**6:00-7:30pm**

**May 22nd:**

Current research in Head and Neck Cancer  
**Speaker:** Dr. Matthew Idle, 2nd year OMFS Fellow

**July 24th:**

Overcoming Dietary Challenges  
Speaker: Karen Palmer, Nutrition Educator Humphrey Cancer Center

**September 25th:**

Facing a New Normal  
Speaker: Greg Bodin, Pastoral Care NMMC

**November 20th:**

Annual OMFS Holiday Social



**Dr. Mark Solfelt**  
Thoracic Surgeon

Dr. Solfelt is a thoracic surgeon committed to providing the highest quality surgical care using innovation, skill and compassion. He strives to spend as much time as it takes to help customers and their families feel well-cared for and well-informed. His practice focuses solely on non-cardiac surgery including all aspects of lung surgery as well as diseases of the pleural space and chest.

By using minimally invasive surgery like robotic-assisted lung surgery, Dr. Solfelt has been instrumental in establishing North Memorial Health as a leading program in Minnesota. These innovations have allowed our customers to recover faster with minimal disability. He also helped to create a coordinated, team approach among all the specialists to bring efficiency and improved results to his customers.

A life-long Minnesotan, Dr. Solfelt loves all aspects of Minnesota life. He is married with three children and enjoys hiking, swimming and boating. His greatest avocation is music - he enjoys singing, song-writing and playing the piano. Most of his original songs focus on finding hope and faith in the midst of suffering.

Dr. Solfelt also serves on the board of directors for A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, a Minnesota-based national charity dedicated to research, raising awareness, and supporting those affected by lung cancer.

### Lung Cancer Support Groups

**Located at NMH Specialty Center, Suite 1135**

**May 22, 2018 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM**

**June 26, 2018 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM**

**July 24, 2018 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM**

**August 28, 2018 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM**

**September 25, 2018 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM**

**October 25, 2018 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM**

**November 27, 2018 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM**

**December 18, 2018 at 5:30 PM – 7 PM**

## Collaborative approaches to care

### Genetic Counseling

The North Memorial Health Cancer Center genetic counselors provide on-site services that include cancer risk assessment, genetic counseling and coordination of genetic testing. This includes both pre-test and posttest counseling. Services are provided by board-certified genetic counselors (American Board of Genetic Counseling or American Board of Medical Genetics). The genetic counselors receive specialized, ongoing training in cancer genetics that meet requirements of their professional certification.

Customers are referred from multiple providers both inside and outside North Memorial's health system. These include our own Oncologists/Hematologists, as well as other medical providers from primary care, gynecology, gastroenterology, and surgery. Customers can also be self-referred or referred by family members.

### Pharmacy

The North Memorial Health Cancer Center Pharmacy is in the heart of the infusion center. This offers a beneficial central location for all cancer patient needs. Our specially trained Oncologic Pharmacists are only a few steps away from customers receiving chemotherapy and always ready to answer questions and offer encouragement. In addition to providing on site prescription counseling and education, North Memorial Health Cancer Center Pharmacy offers retail medications eliminating the need for customers to stop at another location for over the counter medications to aid symptoms.

### Onsite Wellness

North Memorial Health Cancer Center believes in a holistic approach to helping treat cancer. We like to offer our customers acupuncture, fitness classes, massage, nutritional services, and support groups.



## North Memorial Health Breast Center

North Memorial Health Breast Center may seem like a spa with its warm décor, soft terry robes, relaxing music, aromatherapy, and soft spoken, caring team. While it is all those things, it is also a state of the art breast care center. North Memorial Health Breast Center has the digital equipment to aid breast cancer screening and diagnostic and surgical follow up.

Because we understand the busy lives of our customers, in 2016, North Memorial Health Breast Center and affiliated North Memorial Health Mammography locations, implemented the same day scheduling option for those wishing to drop by for a quick screening mammogram. This customer-centered change has been hugely popular by increasing convenience to breast cancer screening.

Knowing there are many obstacles which prevent our customers from getting an annual breast cancer screening mammogram done, North Memorial Health Breast Center and its affiliated North Memorial Health Mammography locations has partnered with Minnesota Department of Health's Sage Screening program. North Memorial Health Breast Center hosted a Sage Breast Screening Event to bring in low income women from our service area. Four customers either uninsured or under insured were able to receive complimentary cervical cancer screening exam, a mammogram and gain additional colon and uterine cancer prevention information. Additional Sage Breast Screening Events have been held at North Memorial Health's Blaine and Downtown Clinics, serving an additional 39 customers, collectively. Interpreters were on site and transportation was provided to customers.

## Radiation Therapy and Imaging

North Memorial Health Breast Center/North Memorial Health Cancer Center customers needing radiation therapy or follow up imaging exams enjoy the convenience of these services in the beautiful, sun soaked North Memorial Health Outpatient Center. Located a few steps down the hall from North Memorial Health Cancer Center, customers often schedule their appointments in the same day and same location. This convenience allows for efficient scheduling and often results in more restful days at home to recover.

## Physical and Occupational Therapy Program

Rehabilitation is a growing area in cancer care due to the increase in cancer survivorship — customers tend to do better when they are stronger. Because of the advancement in medical technology, treatment and benefits of early detection, more and more customers are utilizing services such as physical and occupational health as part of their cancer recovery plan.

North Memorial Health has programs in place to meet cancer recovery needs. Whether it is to restore mobility after surgery, improve cancer-related Fatigue (CRF) or reduce symptoms of lymphedema, care navigators will help facilitate a recovery schedule that works for you.

Most people don't think speech therapy is part of cancer treatment but, at times, there is a need for this service. North Memorial Health has a speech pathology department to evaluate and treat customers who may have conditions that cause difficulty with communication, thinking and swallowing.

Additionally, our cancer program offers exercise classes twice a week in the beautiful atrium in the North Memorial Health Outpatient Center. These very popular complimentary classes are open to cancer customers as a means of proactively combating fatigue that sometimes accompanies cancer treatment. They also aide in providing a community for our customers as they are on their cancer journey. Taught by specialized trainers and modified to appeal to all levels of mobility. A variety of age groups attend participate weekly.



### Palliative Care

Palliative care services are an essential component of cancer care. Palliative Care includes comprehensive care and management of the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual needs of all customers with serious illness including those with cancer. The goal of our Palliative Care program, here at North Memorial Health, is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

Customers identified with a need for Palliative care services will be referred to the Palliative Care team. This team will comprise a strategy to meet the needs of the patient and family as they work to live well with a diagnosis of cancer or other serious illness. The Palliative Care team will work to optimize quality of life by taking a team-based approach to care planning.

### Hospice

Terminal illness, dying and death are often the most challenging life experience that people face. North Memorial Health Hospice program offers medical care toward a different sort of goal, maintaining or improving quality of life for someone whose illness is unlikely to be cured. Service provided by this experienced, compassionate team include:

- Focusing on a patient's life goals
- Individualized grief counseling
- Providing care where the patient lives
- Assisting loved ones with care, planning, and grief
- Educating about illness and death
- Managing physical symptoms
- Offering emotional, relational, and spiritual support
- Reducing hospitalizations

### Grief and Loss Support Programs

North Memorial Health Hospice care offers monthly, quarterly and seasonal programs for those who are struggling with the loss of a loved one..



**Board Certified Hematology/  
Oncology Physicians**

**Board Certified Oncology  
Pharmacists**

**Board Certified Radiation  
Oncology**

**Board Certified Palliative Care  
Physician**

**Board Certified Nurse  
Practitioners**

**Cancer Registry**

**Chemotherapy Certified Nurses**

**Clinical Office Staff**

**Financial Counselor**

**Genetic Counselors**

**Licensed Practical Nurses**

**Medical Assistance**

**Oncology Certified Social Worker**

**Oncology Nurse Certified Nurse  
Coordinators**

**Pharmacy Technicians**

**Wellness Team**

# Comprehensive Cancer Providers

## Oncology Medical Director

Dr. Joseph Levine

## Oncology/Hematology

Dr. Kamalesh Bala  
Dr. Tulasi Gummadi  
Dr. Avanti Mehrotra  
Dr. Robert Schneidewend

## Radiation Oncology

Dr. Kurt Nisi

## Surgical Oncology

Dr. Corinne Jordan  
Dr. Jonathan Gipson

## Thoracic Surgical Oncology

Dr. Mark Solfelt

## Oral, Head and Neck Surgical Oncology

Dr. Deepak Kademanai

## Palliative Care

Dr. Joseph Sicora

## Oncology Nurse Practitioners

Toni Scherling, APRN, CNP  
Heather Penning, APRN, CNP  
Charina Wynia, APRN, CNP

## Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialists

Shirley Kern, APRN, CNS, AOCN  
Jean Pupkes, APRN-BC, AOCN

## Genetic Counselors

Joy Larsen Haidle, MS, LGC  
Katie Douglass, MS, LGC



# Cancer Committee Membership

**Cancer Committee Chairperson and Medical Oncology:**

Dr. Joseph Levine

**Cancer Liaison Physician and Surgical Representative:**

Dr. Dana Carlson  
(alt. Dr. Corinne Jordan)

**Cancer Program Administrator:**

Kate Sager, Director  
(alt. Kerri Keskitalo, RN)

**Diagnostic Radiology Provider:**

Dr. Peltola  
(alt. Dr. Nellie Bauer)

**Pathology Provider:**

Dr. Katie VanPatten  
(alt. Dr. Virginia Dale)

**Radiation Oncology Provider:**

Dr. Kurt Nisi  
(alt. Dr. John Kosiak)

**Quality Improvement Coordinator:**

Colleen Fuhrman, M.S.  
(alt. Jean Pupkes, APRN-BC, AOCN)

**Cancer Registry Quality Coordinator:**

Nancy Lobeck, CTR

**Community Outreach Coordinator:**

Shirley Kern, RN, AOCN  
(alt. Jean Pupkes)

**Clinical Research Representative:**

Gulnara Mamneva, RN  
(alt. Charlotte Coles)

**Psychosocial Services Coordinator:**

Jennifer Kreitz, LICSW, ACM  
(alt. Kayla Carlson)

**Oncology Nurse:**

Christine Jones, ANP-BC, MSN, PHN, RN  
(alt. Kathy Johnson, RN)

**Social Worker/Case Manager:**

Jennifer Kreitz, LICSW

**Cancer Conference Coordinator:**

Andrea Ronnebaum, RHIT

**Palliative Care Team Member:**

Dr. Jennifer Kuyava  
(alt. Dr. Joseph Sicora)

**Cancer Genetics Professional:**

Katie Douglass, MS, CGC  
(alt. Joy Larsen Hidle, MS, LGC)

**American Cancer Society Community Representative:**

Anne O'Keefe

**Oncology Clinical Nurse Navigator:**

Jean Pupkes, RN, MSN, APRN-BC,  
AOCN

**Rehabilitation Services:**

Terri Herme, Manager

**Cancer Program Pharmacist:**

Jeremy Whalen, PharmD  
(alt. Erin Kelley)

**Inpatient Oncology Nurse Practitioner:**

Christine Wiese

**Mental Health Practitioner:**

Benjamin Musburger, LAMFT

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE!

On Wednesday March 8th, more than 160 customers and their families attended the 2017 Celebration of Life event for Cancer Survivors. The corridors were brimming with organizations offering products, services and information aimed at supporting cancer customers. The food was delicious and the featured speaker, author Joan Kennedy and Fit2BeWell entrepreneur Julie Lother, was entertaining and inspirational! The guests of honor, however, were our customers and they are fabulous!!



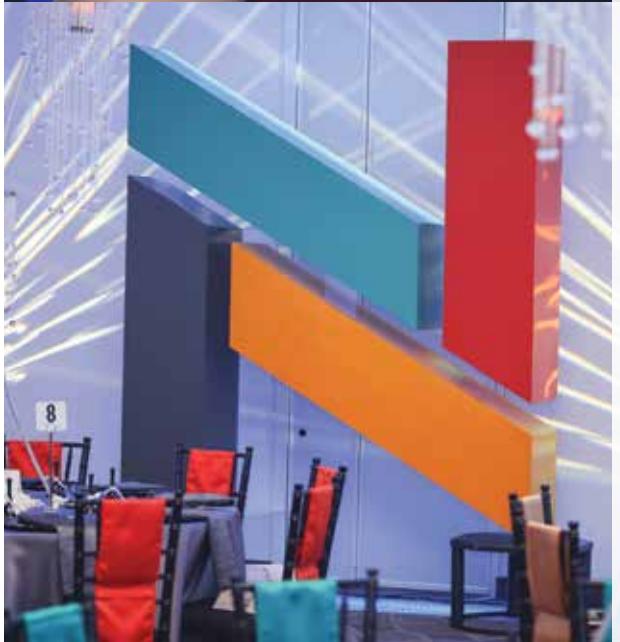
## ANNUAL GOLF EVENT

The North Memorial Golf event was held this year at Hazelton Golf Course. Participants played a round robin golf game of 18 holes. Over 200 golfers took part in an event that helped to raise \$130,000 towards advancing cancer care North Memorial Health Cancer Center. The event was a success due to the 60 sponsors and 25 volunteers.





## GALA EVENT



Each year North Memorial Health select a program to sponsor and highlight for their gala event. For 2016 and 2017, that program focus was Cancer Care. Over 600 people attended an evening hosted by Kari Noble and Kevin Croston, with over 50 sponsors and 35 volunteers. The evening had a live and silent auction, guest speakers, dinner, and dancing. By the end of the fabulous evening over \$600,000 was raised to improve cancer care and support the emergency pharmacy fund. \$25,000 went to Open Arms for North Memorial Health Cancer Center customers.





**North Memorial Health Cancer Center**

3435 West Broadway  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

[northmemorial.com](http://northmemorial.com)