

***The Mission of Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY is to provide the highest level of quality care in a healing environment for the mind, body and spirit of patients dealing with cancer and blood disorders.***



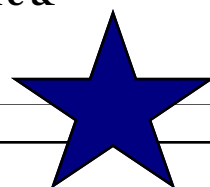
**Breast Care  
Partners**

Your Care. Our Priority.

## National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) accredits Breast Care Partners!

In late 2013, Breast Care Partners, LLC was formed. The intention was to create a breast program that would become accredited by the prestigious National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC). The goal was to enrich the continuity of breast care in our community and ensure a cohesive approach to the management of breast cancer as well as benign breast disease. Unlike most other programs in the US, our program is one “without walls”. It is a program comprised of independent community medical practices and two of our local hospitals. The LLC members are Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY, CNY Surgical Group, Crouse Radiology Associates, St. Joseph’s Breast Care and Surgery, St. Joseph’s Imaging, Crouse Health and St. Joseph’s Health. (more on page 2)

- **Breast Care Partners and HOA—An NAPBC accredited program!**
- **CancerConnects**
- **HOA Patient Portal**
- **For the Mind, Body & Spirit - Services for our patients**
- **2015 HOA Spirit Award!**
- **Health Navigation of CNY**
- **We’re not miles away ... Just miles ahead!**
- **Integrative Medicine and Wellness Programs**
- **Special Gifts to HOA and our patients**
- **Medicare & Medicaid**



### Quote for the Quarters

“Don’t wait for the perfect moment, take the moment and make it perfect.”

— Zoey Sayward

## Our NAPBC Accredited Breast Program!



*The Mission of Breast Care Partners is to provide an organized, comprehensive, multidisciplinary team approach to breast care to improve clinical outcomes for all patients.*

When a patient enters the Breast Care Partners program, a certified Nurse Navigator is assigned to guide them through an individualized evaluation and treatment course. Our multidisciplinary team meets weekly to discuss patient cases and develop treatment recommendations. The collaboration of all specialists, combined with the guidance of the Nurse Navigators ensures the best possible outcomes for patients while meeting national care standards.

### **Receiving care through this comprehensive program assures that the patient receives:**

- ♦ A multidisciplinary team approach to breast care
- ♦ Certified Nurse Navigation services
- ♦ Ongoing monitoring of care
- ♦ Data collection and monitoring of national standards to ensure best practices
- ♦ Participation in clinical research if desired and applicable
- ♦ Identifying and counseling high-risk patients
- ♦ Genetic Counseling and Testing

### **Benefits of Our Program**

- ♦ Guidance through the healthcare system
- ♦ Guidance with healthcare services for further diagnosis and treatment
- ♦ Questions welcomed and addressed
- ♦ Assistance with additional information and local resources that will assist the journey

For more information please visit [www.BreastCarePartners.com](http://www.BreastCarePartners.com)



**CancerConnects** is pleased to continue their work to facilitate connections for everyone throughout Central New York who has been diagnosed with cancer. If you are interested in connecting with a cancer survivor mentor or if you're interested in becoming a mentor to cancer patients, please contact CancerConnects.

**[www.cancerconnects.org](http://www.cancerconnects.org) or (315) 634-5004**

Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY has made it easy for you to communicate with us through our [online Patient Portal](#)

We currently have more than **6,000 patients** successfully utilizing their portal!

## Log In To Check Out Our Exciting New Look!

### PORTAL NEWS



Messages

**View Your Messages**



Pay Bills

**Pay Your Bill Online**



Ask a Question

**Ask Your Health Care Team a Question**

- ♦ **Ask a Nurse**
- ♦ **Ask a Question about an appointment**
- ♦ **Request Medical Records**
- ♦ **Ask a question about your bill**
- ♦ **Request a Prescription Renewal**
- ♦ **Ask the Coag Clinic**
- ♦ **Ask a Social Worker**
- ♦ **Ask a Dietitian**

Once you're registered, you can enjoy these features through our website. Go to [www.hoacny.com](http://www.hoacny.com) and click on **"Patient Portal"**

**Need Assistance?**

Click on the "Orange" banner on the bottom of the page.

**Chat for tech support!**



## For the Mind and Spirit

**More Support for our Patients \* Free to All !!**

### Support Group for Recurrent & Metastatic Disease

This support group is dedicated to providing guidance to those cancer patients with recurrent and metastatic disease. The unique aspects of this journey are explored with patients who are experiencing similar challenges. This group meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 4-5:30 pm at Brittonfield in the 3rd floor conference room and is facilitated by Gussie Sorensen, LCSW-R and Beth Connelly, NP.



- ◆ **Brain Tumor Family Retreat**
- ◆ **Women & Men's Oncology Programs**

**315-434-9477**

**[www.campgooddays.org](http://www.campgooddays.org)**

### Look Good... Feel Better

Cosmetology professionals will help you with make-up application, dry skin, discolored nails, choice and care of a wig, scarves, turbans and hats. Please call and register for sessions in East Syracuse & Cayuga, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida and St. Lawrence Counties.

### American Cancer Society

6725 Lyons St., East Syracuse

**Call 1-800-227-2345**



**Breast Care Partners**  
Your Care. Our Priority.

### Moving Forward

Moving Forward is a monthly support group seminar for newly diagnosed breast cancer.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from 4-5 pm at our Brittonfield office—third floor.

Each session is led by an expert in their specialty. Topics include Lymphedema, Nutrition, Coping Mechanisms (Journaling/ Tangeling/ Social Work/ Cancer Connects), Breast Reconstruction, Exercise and more!

4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 8/3, 9/7, 10/5, & 11/2



### Healing Harmonies

The mission of Healing Harmonies is to create partnerships between the musicians and local healthcare and wellness providers, with the intent to bring live music with therapeutic benefits to patients, their families, and healthcare staff in CNY. Music has been recognized to have immense benefits for patients through stress and anxiety reduction, lessening the side effects of chemotherapy, and reducing the amount of pain medication needed before and after surgical procedures. We are pleased to offer this to our patients.

### Auburn / Cayuga County Support Group

This support group, facilitated by Kathy Bennett, RN meets the last week of each month from 7-9 pm at Auburn Community Hospital, 3rd Floor Conference Room. All patients & caregivers are welcome. For exact dates please contact Kathy Bennett at (315) 246-1931

## 2015 Hematology-Oncology Spirit Award Recipient Kerry Ahern, NP, MSN, AOCNP



Maryann Roefaro (HOA's CEO), Kerry Ahern, NP, MSN, AOCNP and Dr. Anthony Scalzo.

The Spirit Award is an award from Hematology-Oncology Associates that is given annually to an employee who consistently demonstrates an exemplary team spirit, passion for excellence and commitment to our mission. It is a great honor because it is an award that is given by the employees of HOA through a nomination process. Kerry is the Nurse Manager of Radiation and CT Services. She is also our Radiation Nurse Practitioner. She has been at HOA for 5 years and says, "I absolutely love it. Working with patients and my colleagues brings me joy! The atmosphere at HOA inspires me to be positive and a better person. I feel blessed to be here and to have received this award." Congratulate Kerry if you see her—we are so thankful to have her at HOA!

## Health Navigation of CNY

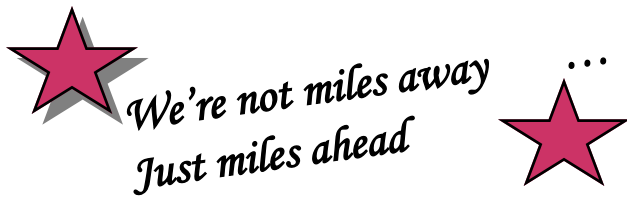
Carrie Scholz, a patient advocate with over 30 years of professional social work experience has started a new company called, Health Navigation of CNY. Carrie has experience in medical social work, community mental health programming and patient advocacy. For over 12 years she worked with voluntary health organizations providing patient education and support, treatment option research, and education about clinical trials. Her areas of experience and expertise include medical social work, oncology and ALS.

Carrie is a 25 year cancer survivor, as well as a family caregiver. She identified a great need in our community and has worked diligently to start this program. Her personal journey seeds her work and passion for helping individuals gain a sense of control through their healthcare experience.

Health Navigation of CNY helps individuals get organized for their medical appointments, research their diagnosis and formulate questions for healthcare providers. They can help prioritize treatment goals and allow people to feel more in control of their care. To get a personalized assessment and develop a navigation plan designed to improve outcomes, visit their website or contact Carrie.

[www.HealthNavigationofCNY.com](http://www.HealthNavigationofCNY.com)    [CarrieScholz@HealthNavigationofCNY.com](mailto:CarrieScholz@HealthNavigationofCNY.com)





# The Wellness Center

A beautiful and healing atmosphere is provided as a haven of opportunity for the mind, body and spirit. Check out the Wellness Center's schedule of classes and services on the web!

[www.hoacny.com](http://www.hoacny.com) — Wellness Center  
(315)234– HOPE

## Hematology-Oncology Associates Comprehensive Outpatient Treatment and Support Services

- ◇ Chemotherapy and Radiation
- ◇ Clinical Research
- ◇ CyberKnife®
- ◇ Clinical Laboratory
- ◇ Pharmacy & Patient Rx Center
- ◇ CT and Other Diagnostic Testing
- ◇ Patient and Family Counseling and Support Group Services
- ◇ Nutritional Counseling
- ◇ Integrative/Complementary Therapy
- ◇ Cancer Rehabilitation / Survivorship
- ◇ Community Educational Programs

### ***Amenities***

- ◇ State of the Art Facilities    ◇ Imaging Services
- ◇ Boutique at Brittonfield    ◇ Flat Screen TV's
- ◇ Patient Internet Access    ◇ Free Parking
- ◇ Patient Education Area    ◇ Electronic Medical Record



Special thanks to one of our patients, **Mr. Malcolm Bancroft!** Mr. Bancroft made this gift for the HOA physicians and staff. He admitted that it took him about 70 hours to make but he said all of us at HOA are well worth it! It has been placed on the Fire Place Mantle at our OH Site as a reminder of what a privilege and honor it is to serve our patients. The inscription reads:

**"New Life"**

**What you people of**

**HOACNY give your patients everyday**

**THANK YOU!!**

**NO—Thank YOU Malcolm Bancroft!!**

## Integrative Medicine /Wellness Programs 315-234-HOPE

**Integrative or Complementary Therapies** are services that support your current medical treatment and are never intended to replace it. They are for patients who are seeking wellness or well being of not only the physical body, but of the mind, body and spirit.

Massage \* Reiki \* Healing Touch \* Yoga \* CranioSacral Therapy \* Foot Reflexology  
Light Therapy \* Meditation \* Acupuncture \* Tai-Chi \* Zumba \* and more

*Offered at our Brittonfield Office &/or The Wellness Center at Medical Center West*

*Please visit our website or call 315-234-4673 for details or to set up an appointment*

## Here's something wonderful!



The Auburn crew is very grateful to a very special fundraiser, Aimee Newton, “31 Consultant” and organizer of these donations! Pictured above—back row, standing are Lexi, Kathy B and Dr. Angelie Roman. Second row, kneeling are Billie Fish, Aimee Newton, Nikki Landphere and Aimee’s children, Zoyee and Peyton Newton. Aimee developed a Facebook drive asking

her customers if they would be willing to donate money to buy the tote bags for cancer patients and then she used her commission to buy the contents of the bags. She had an overwhelming response and 60 people signed up for the challenge. Anyone buying a bag could put a tag on it, noting that it was given in honor or memory of a loved one. The bags are a huge hit—patients love them and everyone is grateful to Aimee Newton for her enthusiasm, commitment and compassion for our cancer patients. Thanks Aimee!

## Important Information

### Medicare and Medicaid Dual Eligibility—The Fight and Plight of New York State Oncology Practices.

If a person has Medicare as their primary insurance and Medicaid as their secondary insurance, that is termed dual-eligibility. You may know that Medicare pays 80% of services rendered and Medicaid historically has paid the remaining 20%. A new Medicaid policy took effect in July of 2015 that will substantially reduce payments made by Medicaid, thereby no longer covering the 20% balance.

The Medicaid payment cuts for critical cancer treatments such as the administration of chemotherapy and other vital services are excessive, unrealistic and unsustainable. These cuts will force practices across the state to send dual-eligible patients to hospitals for treatments, as the losses will not be sustainable for private, community based cancer practices. This process will interrupt care, increase wait times and may require patients to travel longer distances. In many parts of NYS, the hospitals do not have the capacity for these patients.

Perhaps more important to the Dept. of Health, Governor, State Senate and Assembly and policymakers tasked with producing a balanced state budget is the fact that this change will cost the taxpayers of NY more money than it can save. The result of the cuts will shift cancer care into higher cost hospital settings. Studies have consistently demonstrated that hospital cancer care is 153% more expensive than care delivered in the community setting. This policy change is short sighted and will result in the following:

- ♦ Community Cancer clinics will close
- ♦ Patient care will be impacted
- ♦ Medicaid and Medicare will end up paying more money for the same services when patients are routed to more expensive hospital settings

To add insult to injury, Medicaid has gone back to July of 2015 and has taken refunds for services rendered. This has caused an accounting nightmare for all practices. HOA has over 900 dual-eligible patients. We will fight with all our might to stop these cuts! We have no intention of sending our patients elsewhere and will make every effort to swallow the losses until a resolution can be obtained and the state pays attention to that which is important to people and makes economic sense. We thank Senator John DeFrancisco for championing this cause. He has put forth great effort to educate lawmakers and attempt to effectuate change.

Please get involved and **call the Director of Medicaid, Jason**

**Helgersen at 518-474-3018** and tell them to **STOP THE CANCER CUTS**, especially for the most vulnerable population of our community—the elderly! Thank you.