

***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.***

## Heartfelt Gratitude Santo M. DiFino, MD



- **Retirement Wishes for Dr. Santo DiFino**

- **Welcome Dr. Anita Pudusseri**

- **For the Mind, Body & Spirit - Services for our patients**

- **Breast Care Partners Update!**

- **CancerConnects**

- **We're not miles away ... Just miles ahead!**

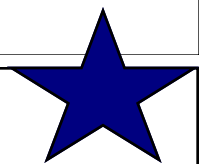
- **Integrative Medicine and Wellness Programs**

- **Community Counts**

- **With Gratitude—a special donation for patients!**

- **Insurance Update and Information for 2019!**

**Quote for  
the Quarter**



"You must learn a new way to think before you can master a new way to be."

Marianne Williamson

## Best Wishes and Tons of Love to Dr. DiFino



In 1982 Dr. Santo M. DiFino and Dr. John J. Gullo incorporated to create Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY, P.C. (HOA). Today, 36 years, 285 employees and 18 doctors later, HOA is the first choice in cancer care and blood disorders for 2 out of 3 adults in Central New York! A provider and employer of choice, HOA maintains a culture dedicated to excellence in patient care and an unwavering spirit of hope and love.

These qualities that are deeply embedded in the hearts of our physicians and staff all started with a dream. Dr. Gullo retired a few years ago and Dr. DiFino has stopped seeing patients but officially retires at the end of 2018. It's hard to believe that we are letting him go—but we are thrilled for the new chapter of his life that will be dedicated to his family and fun. With five grandchildren, he will be sharing his wisdom and love in a different way. We will forever be grateful to him, as our spirit of hope was born from his

passion to give patients what they needed and wanted. He has touched everyone in our practice and his voice of reason and wisdom will carry on at HOA in his absence. Through the years he ensured our practice was a leader in cutting edge treatments and technology, clinical research, comprehensive on-site services and value added programs that facilitated the cancer journey for patients in our community.

A cancer survivor himself, it was exciting to see that he and his wife Debbie made the cover of *COPING with cancer*, a magazine that featured National Cancer Survivors Day. A breast and prostate cancer survivor, Dr. DiFino knows only too well of the trials and tribulations of that journey. We will miss his jokes, laughter and smiles but he has left an indelible mark on all of us. We know you will join us in wishing Dr. DiFino the happiest and healthiest of days for a super retirement.

Thank you **SMD**, for the brilliance, unwavering commitment and love that you so freely gave to all your patients, the physicians and employees of Hematology-Oncology Associates of Central New York!





## Welcome Dr. Anita Pudusseri



Hematology-Oncology Associates is thrilled to introduce the newest addition to our family of physicians, Dr. Anita Pudusseri. Dr. Pudusseri will be relocating from Boston, where she completed her fellowship in Medical Oncology and Hematology at Boston University Medical Center. A native of Rochester, NY, we feel so fortunate that she will be calling Syracuse home.

Dr. Pudusseri began her college career at Siena College in Loudonville, NY when she graduated Cum Laude. From there she attended the University of Pennsylvania in a Post-Baccalaureate program in Pre-Health Specialized Studies in Philadelphia. She continued her education and received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, NY. Dr. Pudusseri was the Chief Resident in the Department of Medicine at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York

City, where she also completed her Internal Medicine Residency.

We are confident that Dr. Pudusseri will be a great addition to our staff. In 2014, she was the recipient of the *Shining Star Employee Award* at Lenox Hill Hospital. We are thrilled that she will be our shining star as of November 2018!

## More Good-byes to Dr. DiFino!



Dr. DiFino with his last patient!

October 17, 2018



## 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 Tuesday 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 Katie Cazzolli, NP.

### 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.*

lookgoodfeelbetter.org

(800)-395-5665



For more information call  
315/313-6645 or email:  
breastcarepartners@gmail.com

#### Our mission:

To provide an organized, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, team approach to breast care that is now considered best practice to improve clinical and psychological outcomes for all patients.

#### How we work:

When a patient enters the program, a certified breast care nurse navigator is assigned to help guide them through their individualized evaluation, and treatment course.

Our multidisciplinary team comes together weekly, to discuss patient cases and develop treatment recommendations, for each person.

The collaboration of all the specialists, combined with the shepherding of our nurse navigators ensures the best possible outcomes that meet national care standards.



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

315-434-9477

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



### 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*





4-5 p.m.

**Taking Good Care of Yourself  
During the Holidays**

Presented by Kate Flannery, LMSW

5-6 p.m.

**Holiday Celebration**

Refreshments and Merriment

For more information  
call/text 315/559-6803  
or email

breastcarepartners@gmail.com

Pre-registration is appreciated!

**Meeting location:**

Hematology-Oncology Associates of  
CNY 3rd floor  
5008 Brittonfield Parkway  
East Syracuse, NY 13057  
Free Parking

## Holiday - Themed Support Group Wednesday, Nov. 14 All Cancer Patients Invited



Breast Care Partners is Certified by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program developed by the American College of Surgeons to ensure the highest level of dedication to quality and successful outcomes in breast health. A partnership with Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY, St. Joseph's Health, Crouse Health, St. Joseph's Imaging, CRA Imaging, CNY Surgical Associates and St. Joseph's Breast Care Surgeons.



**Like us on  
Facebook**

@breastcarepartners

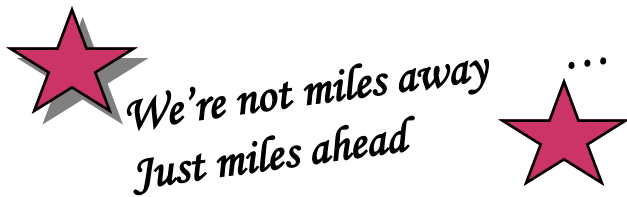
# CANCER CONNECTS

*...for the journey*

- ♦ Mentoring Program
- ♦ Financial Assistance for Cancer Patients
- ♦ Vouchers for free Complementary/ Integrative Wellness services
- ♦ Connections to facilitate the cancer journey

**CancerConnects** is pleased to continue our 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**



# 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 TVs
- ◇ Patient Internet Access    ◇ Free Parking
- ◇ Patient Education Area    ◇ Electronic Medical Record

[www.hoacny.com](http://www.hoacny.com)

Community oncology care refers to cancer care that is rendered in private physician offices like Hematology-Oncology Associates. The cost of care is 35-45% less in community settings than in hospital based settings, with higher patient satisfaction rates in community practices.

- ◆ **Get Informed** about the current challenges facing community cancer practices.
- ◆ **Get Educated** about the impact of reform on patient care in community settings and the role you can play to let our government know you value our independence and separation from hospitals and large health systems.
- ◆ **Get Involved** in a cause that increases awareness of the important role community oncology like HOA plays in cancer care, and play a role in its sustained viability. We need your help!

[www.communitycountsadvocacy.org](http://www.communitycountsadvocacy.org)

For studies/reports visit the reading room at: [www.communityoncology.org](http://www.communityoncology.org)

## 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 \* Meditation \* Acupuncture \* Tai-Chi \* Zumba \* and more

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

*Please call Anne, 315-234-4673 or check out our website for more information  
[www.hoacny.com/our-services/wellness-center](http://www.hoacny.com/our-services/wellness-center)*

## With Gratitude



Aimee Newton is an extremely generous “31” Sales Consultant that organizes a donation for our Auburn patients each year. Pictured from left to right: Zoyee Newton, Kathy Chehovich, Moria Curry, Sue Curry, Alison Rudick, and Aimee Newton. Once again, thanks a million!

## It's that time of year again: Preparing for 2019

### Things you should know

Starting in November, when you check in at our front desk, team members will ask you to update your demographics and make any changes to your account or preferences that you would like us to acknowledge. These changes may include changes in address, phone numbers, consents to notify you or your family and friends, and any insurance changes that may have taken place. Please be sure to let us know about any of these important changes to your account.

We are making every effort to be proactive with yearly updates while trying to reduce check-in wait times for the New Year.

When checking in, please do not stand uncomfortably. Please take a number ticket and our team will assist you in the order of your arrival.

### We are excited to announce

Text notifications are now being offered at HOA. If you would prefer a text reminder of your upcoming appointments, please stop by the front desk for assistance.

### New Year - New start

As the New Year approaches, on January 1, 2019 most insurance plans restart your benefits including your patient responsibility.

If you have any financial or insurance concerns, please ask to speak with one of our Patient Advocates. They are here to assist with any questions you may have. Financial assistance through foundations, drug assistance programs or additional insurance coverage options may be available to you. We are here to help! Please stop in or call 315-472-7504 extension 1076 for Dara or 1077 for Brooke.

**Thank you for your continued support and cooperation!**