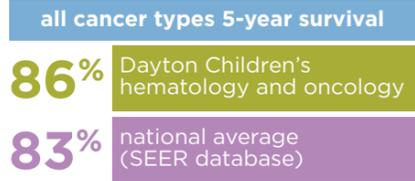


# by the numbers...

## ...Dayton Children's difference

Dayton Children's is a member of Children's Oncology Group (COG), a multi-center alliance with other leading pediatric cancer institutions, including Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Boston Children's Hospital. The Children's Oncology Group conducts studies designed to improve our understanding of childhood cancer, its treatment and its cure.

Dayton Children's pediatric cancer patient outcomes are consistent with the superior results of other top pediatric cancer institutions. Our most recent patient survival outcomes data is higher than SEER data (SEER collects data on cancer cases from various locations and sources throughout the United States) from the same time period.



## ...social media

**Dayton Children's Hospital**  
September 8 at 6:25 PM · 🌐

At 7-months old, baby Emma's grandmother felt a large, hard knot on her leg. Emma's mom, Ashley, immediately called their pediatrician for an appointment. Her pediatrician sent Emma's family to Dayton Children's south campus in Springboro to get an ultrasound for a closer look at the knot.

Emma's ultrasound results found lipofibromatosis - a rare, slow growing painless tumor. Emma was referred to Dr. Ayman El-Sheikh and the hematology/oncology team at Dayton Children's for treatment.

At 8-months-old, Emma had surgery with the pediatric surgery chief, Dr. Arturo Aranda, to remove the tumor on her leg. Following her surgery, Emma began and will continue to receive an ultrasound every three months until she is five-years old. But for now, two months after surgery, she is a happy baby that loves Baby Bum, light-up toys and the stuffed animals from the hospital's gift shop.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to care for my sweet girl," said Ashley. "It honestly has been the best experience, despite the circumstances."



395 15 Comments 17 Shares

**Dayton Children's Hospital**  
September 10 at 6:20 PM · 🌐

Brain cancer is the second most common type of cancer in children and accounts for about 15% of pediatric cancers.

Dayton Children's has been honored to receive funding from The [Gala of Hope Foundation](#) for many years to pursue new and improved treatment for pediatric brain cancer.

This week, Dayton Children's was honored to once again receive a grant from the Gala of Hope Foundation through a virtual check presentation. This grant, totaling \$214,000 will be used along with previously donated funds from the Foundation, to establish a lab that will reproduce tumors, which will be used to help define better treatment for brain cancer.

This generous donation was presented to the hospital at a special time as September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. This month sheds light on the realities of childhood cancer and highlights the continued need for research and a cure.



249 21 Comments 51 Shares

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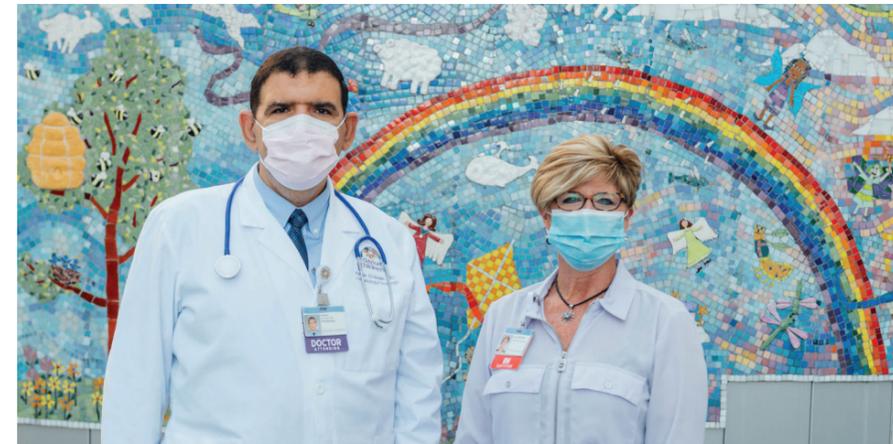


hematology/oncology



# quarterly update

focus: cancer first quarter • 2020



## bone and marrow transplant program

Thomas, 14, was diagnosed with leukemia in November 2018. He was referred to the Dayton Children's hematology/oncology team where he went through his first round of treatment. After more than a year of being cancer-free, Thomas relapsed in February 2020. In March, after finishing his first round of chemotherapy, his care team, comprised of Dr. Jordan Wright and Dr. Ayman El-Sheikh, recommended a bone marrow transplant.

Through a partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Dayton Children's was able to offer Thomas and his family a one program, two campus approach to his transplant. Nationwide Children's is ranked as one of the top ten children's hospitals for treating

childhood cancer according to U.S. News and World Report and is only an hour away from Dayton Children's main campus. The Dayton Children's team worked closely with Nationwide to create a personalized transplant plan for Thomas.

### The transplant process

Thomas didn't have to look far for his donor, his brother, Fred, was a match.

In April, Thomas and his family traveled to Nationwide for the bone marrow transplant. To make an already difficult situation even more complex, Thomas and his family had to navigate the new visitor restrictions and protocols in place to respond to COVID-19. Thomas spent a month in the hospital recovering while his parents took turns staying with him throughout the week.

The best part of the partnership between Nationwide and Dayton Children's is that all of Thomas' care returned close to home once the transplant procedure and recovery were complete. And, they had the help of Jani Rice, the bone marrow transplant coordinator at Dayton Children's, to help navigate their care.

"For any parent that goes through the transplant process, it's unknown territory. It's hard to talk to anyone that has gone through it and it can get very overwhelming with so many medications, tests and doctors," said Joni, Thomas' mom. "I don't know how we would have gotten through this without Jani. She always answers her phone, answers all my questions and reassures us. We couldn't do this without someone like Jani on our side."

Four months after his transplant, Thomas is doing great and his mom says that he is gradually improving. He's back home and sees his care team at Dayton Children's every two weeks to monitor his progress and recovery. The teams at Nationwide and Dayton Children's are optimistic about Thomas' future.

For more information about Dayton Children's bone and marrow transplant program, visit: <https://www.childrensdayton.org/bone-and-marrow-transplant-program>.



## Q&A with Jani Rice

Dayton Children's BMT patient coordinator

Nurse and bone marrow transplant patient coordinator Jani Rice plays a critical role on Dayton Children's oncology team. She serves as a bridge between Nationwide and Dayton Children's, and makes herself available for any and all questions that patients and families may have about the transplant process and their care. She answered a few questions about her role on the BMT team:

### How do BMT patients benefit from the partnership between Dayton Children's and Nationwide?

The biggest benefit patients have from this partnership is the continued open line of communication

between the two institutions. We have a weekly meeting to review all of our mutual patients. I have a very close relationship with the nurse coordinator at Nationwide and we talk or email almost every day or at least several times a week. I also try my best to call the parents during their admission for the stem cell transplant, again at least weekly and encourage them to call me whenever they need to while they are at Nationwide or even once they are discharged.

### What advice do you have for families that may be beginning the BMT process?

I make sure to introduce myself as early as possible in the process and let them know I am their go to person for any questions related to transplant. I make sure to let them

know they can call me for anything at all. I also tell them to write down any questions they have because this is a stressful time and often times they have difficulty remembering what questions they do have while talking to the medical team, but once they are gone the questions start coming. Writing the questions down helps them with remembering what to ask the next time.

### Do you stay in touch with families after they have been discharged?

Even after transplant when the patient is discharged to home, I am still the person they can contact for any post-transplant needs. Patients go home with many medications to manage, have dressing changes and feeding issues where home-care is involved, as well as other complicated needs so when in doubt, I am still the person they can call.

## Gala of Hope provides grant for pediatric brain cancer research, treatment

The Gala of Hope Foundation announced a milestone grant to Dayton Children's Hospital to continue their pursuit of new and improved treatment for pediatric brain cancer. This grant, totaling \$214,000, advances previously underwritten research into its next phase, bringing the Foundation's overall investment into this cutting-edge research to over \$400,000. The funding will help establish a lab that will reproduce tumors to better measure reaction to treatment and environmental factors, which should help define better treatment protocols.

"Brain cancers account for about 15% of pediatric cancers and are the second most common type of cancer in children," said Jeff Brock, Executive Director of the Foundation. "Dayton Children's has become a leader in brain cancer treatment and research as one of 16 research partners in an international consortium. Dayton Children's work is literally recognized around the world. We are so encouraged by the work of their world-class physicians and researchers. One day, Dayton — the city of innovation —



will help provide the ultimate answer for this disease."

Barbara Mills, president of the Gala of Hope Board of Directors, added, "When Gala joined with Dayton Children's in 2016 to initiate this research program, we knew great things would happen for our children, but in four years, this program has already left its mark on dozens who've beat this disease."

September is recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, shedding more light on the

realities of these devastating cancers and highlighting the continued need for a cure.

"We could not do any of the work we do without the generous support of the community," said Deborah Feldman, president and CEO of Dayton Children's. "We are so grateful to the Gala of Hope Foundation for their continued partnership and support as we continue our mission of the relentless pursuit of optimal health for every child within our reach."

## discovering cancer during a well-child visit



Emma Voss was just 7-months-old when her grandmother felt a large, hard knot on her leg. Her mom, Ashley, called their pediatrician Dr. Kathleen Gibbs with PriMed Springboro Pediatrics, to make an appointment to check it out. Dr. Gibbs looked at the knot and couldn't decipher what it might be. She brought in a second pediatrician with the practice to take a look, but she was also unsure what the knot was. The physicians suggested that Emma get an ultrasound at Dayton Children's Springboro campus to take a closer look.

The ultrasound results found that Emma had lipofibromatosis, a rare, slow growing painless tumor. Emma was referred to Dr. Ayman El-Sheikh, chief, division of hematology/oncology, and the and the hematology/oncology team at Dayton Children's for treatment.

Emma is the youngest patient that Dayton Children's has treated with lipofibromatosis and one of only 60 patients that has presented at the hospital with this condition.

At 8-months-old, Emma had surgery with Dr. Arturo Aranda, chief, division of pediatric surgery, to remove to remove the tumor on her leg.

Following her surgery, Emma will undergo an ultrasound every three months until she is five-years old. But for now, two months after surgery, she is a happy baby that loves Baby Bum, light-up toys and the stuffed animals from the Dayton Children's gift shop.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to care for my sweet girl," said Ashley. "It honestly has been the best experience, despite the circumstances."

## introducing: vascular anomalies clinic



The vascular anomalies clinic at Dayton Children's Hospital is comprised of specialists from:

- Hematology/oncology
- ENT
- Plastic surgery
- Pediatric surgery
- Interventional radiology

Our comprehensive, multidisciplinary team has expertise in the diagnosis, management and treatment of vascular anomalies, including hemangiomas and vascular tumors. The clinic sees patients on the third Tuesday of the month in the hematology/oncology outpatient clinic at Dayton Children's main campus.