

A miracle drug for Mike

An update on your investment in life-giving
research for patients with cancer.

A photograph of a middle-aged man with short, light brown hair, wearing a blue zip-up sweatshirt with a Patagonia logo. He is sitting in a dark brown armchair, looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle smile. The background is a bright window with a blurred view of trees and a floor lamp with a white shade.

You've helped thousands
of patients like Mike enroll
in clinical trials.

After allergic reactions to multiple chemotherapy drugs, a failed bone marrow transplant and damage to his lungs and kidneys from experimental drugs, Mike Hunter thought he had only weeks to live.

He'd been battling multiple myeloma since 2015, but as treatment after treatment failed, he'd run out of options. Then in late 2018 he was hospitalized with a tumor pressing on his spine.

Still, Mike didn't give up. Neither did his care team at the Swedish Cancer Institute (SCI).

As Mike lay in the hospital, his oncologist, William Bensinger, M.D., heard about a new trial with the potential to help. Within a week, Mike was enrolled and had his first dose of an experimental drug called CC-93269.

Within a month Mike and his wife, Sheryl, received news they hadn't dared to hope for: Mike was in remission. "It's amazing to see him go from dying in front of me to being able to have a life," says Sheryl.

For many patients like Mike, clinical trials are the only option after standard treatments fail. Thanks to your support, they can turn to us for leading-edge care. In fact, for several years now SCI has been a leader in clinical trial participation among health care institutions in the Puget Sound region.

In particular, our recent efforts to collect genetic material from our patients and their cancer have allowed us to treat them based on what has worked for others with a similar genetic makeup. It's the difference between fighting an infection with a broad-spectrum antibiotic and one that's proven to work on that strain of bacteria.

In other cases, where patients' cancer hasn't responded to standard therapies, your generosity has sped up and simplified the process of giving them access to drugs that wouldn't typically be used for their cancer. We're participating in the Targeted Agent Profiling



Mike has more time to spend with Sheryl, thanks to you.

Utilization Registry—an ongoing study led by the Association of Clinical Oncology—that matches patients with a drug based on the genetic mutation driving their cancer, rather than the type of cancer they have.

As of January, more than 3,000 of our patients were enrolled in 640 trials.

These days, Mike is still recovering from the toll his cancer took on his body, but he's gone from being in a wheelchair to walking up to a mile at a time. "Regardless of what happens, I've had a year and a half of good, quality life, and you can't put a figure on that," says Mike. "I'm so thankful for all the effort Swedish put in to get me on this trial. Without them I wouldn't be here."

Art and music for the soul

While our physicians treat the body, our art and music therapists focus on the mind. Thanks

to you, our patients can process the complex emotions of treatment or survivorship.

Music therapist Betsy Hartman helps patients reduce stress and anxiety or improve their sleep through singing, song writing, playing instruments or just listening. She even composes and records custom tracks for patients to listen to in the waiting room before appointments. "I'm always looking to meet the patient where they're at," Betsy says.

And art therapists Bonnie Walchuk and Kim McAndrews help patients work through their emotions as they paint, draw or sculpt. Rather than analyzing what they see in their patient's work, the therapists let them share their own meaning. "There's not a lot of talking when one's creating art," says Kim. "The patient will do some processing and creating of some imagery, and I will sit there and support them."

From one-on-one sessions to Art & Wellness groups, you help our patients, survivors and their caregivers find emotional relief.

Continue your support for patients with cancer

You've given our patients access to innovative, life-saving treatments. Now you can continue to provide compassionate care through these programs that address other challenges they face.

SUPPORTIVE CARE SERVICES



A gift to supportive care services not only allows patients to process their emotions through art and music therapy, but it also helps them access more general support through our social work program.

PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY



Patients who have a psychiatric illness are nearly twice as likely to die from their cancer as those who don't. Our psychosocial oncology program, led by Shamim Nejad, M.D., provides specialized, holistic care for these especially vulnerable patients.

PATIENT ARTWORK, REPRODUCED WITH CONSENT



Art and music therapy by the numbers

In 2019 you helped our patients participate in ...

1,514
ART THERAPY SESSIONS
51% MORE THAN IN 2018

1,393
MUSIC THERAPY SESSIONS
40% MORE THAN IN 2018



You make life-giving
research possible.

Thank you for investing in the health and well-being of our community.

To learn more about cancer care at Swedish,
please contact:

Swedish Medical Center Foundation

747 Broadway

Seattle, WA 98122

206-386-2738

foundation@swedish.org

swedishfoundation.org

