

OSF HealthCare Cancer Institute | A Lifesaving Legacy (Broadcast)

INTRO:

ROUGHLY 70-THOUSAND PATIENT INTERACTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE OSF HEALTHCARE CANCER INSTITUTE... AND THE PEORIA... ILLINOIS TREATMENT CENTER HAS ONLY BEEN OPEN FOR ONE YEAR. PEOPLE COME FROM THE PEORIA REGION – AND EVEN HOURS AWAY FROM SURROUNDING STATES FOR THE BEST IN CANCER CARE.

TAKE VO

LEADING-EDGE CANCER TREATMENTS LIKE PROTON BEAM THERAPY... BRACHYTHERAPY... GENETIC COUNSELING AND DIETETICS ARE ALL OFFERED WITHIN THE OSF CANCER INSTITUTE... PROVIDING PATIENTS WITH A ONE-STOP-SHOP DURING THEIR CANCER JOURNEY.

ONE OF THE NEW PIECES OF TECHNOLOGY USED IS THE INTUITIVE ION ROBOT... WHICH ALLOWS CARE TEAMS TO GET EARLY ANSWERS AND ADVANCE CARE FOR LUNG CANCER PATIENTS.

HIPEC PROCEDURES ARE NOW OFFERED HERE AS WELL... WHERE SURGICAL ONCOLOGISTS REMOVE TUMORS FROM THE ABDOMEN USING HEATED CHEMOTHERAPY.

TOM COX – THE VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS AT THE OSF CANCER INSTITUTE – CREDITS THE INSTITUTE'S FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS TO THE CULTURE OF THOSE WHO WORK THERE. THE GOAL... HE SAYS... IS TO OFFER CANCER SUPPORT SERVICES ACROSS THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF LIFE.

TAKE SOT | TOM COX | VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS | OSF HEALTHCARE CANCER INSTITUTE

"The Mission Partners that work in this building have completely bought in to the idea that we all are advocates for cancer patients. We're always asking patients what they need, to see if we can help them," Cox says. "If we hear there's an issue with travel, or they're having trouble keeping food down, or if their children are not coping very well (with a loved one's cancer diagnosis), we know there are resources in the building, and we try very hard to line up those resources. You can feel it when you walk through the building."

VO TAG

RINGING THE BELL AFTER BEATING CANCER IS A GREAT FEELING... BUT THE JOURNEY DOESN'T END THERE. THE OSF CANCER INSTITUTE HAS NURSES... EXERCISE SPECIALISTS AND DIETITIANS WHO CAN HELP GET YOU BACK TO YOUR BEST LIFE AFTER CANCER. COX SAYS MORE WORLD-CLASS MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS CONTINUE TO COME TO PEORIA TO PROVIDE PATIENT CARE. A BREAST SURGEON WAS RECENTLY BROUGHT IN... AND A COLORECTAL SURGEON WILL BE STARTING SOON.

ADDITIONAL INFO/SOUNDBITES

Additionally, the fourth floor of the building will be built out soon. Cox says this will give much-needed space for the surgical oncology and medical research teams. Research-focused medical oncologists are currently being recruited as well.

Leaving OSF Cancer Institute healthier, and more aware

Patients who leave OSF Cancer Institute don't just leave the building as healthier people; their awareness continues and will benefit other people. Cox admits a cancer diagnosis is not an easy thing to go through, and that the support from the OSF care team doesn't stop when you walk out the door.

Grateful for community support

Cox says he's been humbled throughout the years of working in oncology by the incredible commitment of the community and region to the OSF Cancer Institute.

"It is overwhelming to me, the philanthropic spirit of our community and extended community," Cox says. "I take that as, they've made a big commitment to us, and we're making a big commitment back. We're going to bring things to central Illinois that have not been here before. We are going to support you and your family members throughout your life and keep you as healthy, relative to cancer, as we possibly can."

Looking to the future

Cox says the OSF Cancer Institute is looking to bring more pediatric cancer support services to the building, the work collaboratively alongside the adult services.

The team is creating both a lung lesion clinic and a lung multidisciplinary clinic, which aims to reduce the time from finding a cancerous lesion to treatment. The lesion clinic is expected to open in late spring.

The OSF Cancer Institute intake team has been created with oncology nurses who will answer patients' questions on the very same day, to see if services are right for you.

Cox adds that OSF is planning to put together an early detection hotline as a resource for the community to know if or when they should be screened for cancer.

To learn more about the OSF HealthCare Cancer Institute, [visit its website](#) to view the services offered and find contact information to get connected.