



CONNECTING

# Care and Our Community

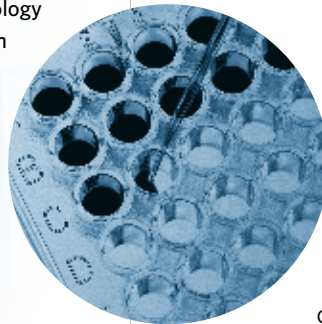
In the search for breakthroughs, City of Hope researchers never lose sight of their primary goal: to help people overcome serious disease or prevent it altogether. This quest links basic science with patient care. It motivates everything that City of Hope faculty and staff do every day — from developing more effective therapies to supporting patients and their families throughout their medical journeys.

## BILLER PATIENT AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OPENS DOORS

The Sheri & Les Biller Patient and Family Resource Center opened its welcoming space to patients and their loved ones in 2008, symbolizing City of Hope's historic commitment to compassionate care. The center strives to offer unmatched services that address all aspects of a patient's psychological, emotional and spiritual life, at a time when such support is vital.

Working as an integrated team, experts in psychiatry, psychology, clinical social work, education, spiritual care, pain management, palliative care and related specialties offer patients and families practical support in a warm, caring environment. They design programs based on published research on the needs of patients and families. And they continually improve these programs so that City of Hope can set new standards for whole-patient care.

Science and technology support the mission of excellent patient care.



## FORMALIZING SUPPORTIVE CARE

To further the science of compassionate care and integrate related specialties, City of Hope established a Department of Supportive Care Medicine in 2008. Palliative care expert Jay R. Thomas, M.D., Ph.D., was recruited to lead the new department. A highly regarded biochemist and internist, Thomas has extensive research experience in controlling pain and reducing complications of cancer and its treatment. He is the first holder of the new Arthur M. Coppola



The Biller Patient and Family Resource Center empowers through education and understanding.

Family Chair in Supportive Care Medicine, endowed by a \$2.5 million gift from philanthropist Arthur M. Coppola.

Through the new department, City of Hope is gaining new insights into “the science of caring” that can be shared with the entire medical community.

#### REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

City of Hope connects to the community at large through

education and outreach. The San Gabriel Valley HIV/AIDS Summit, cosponsored by Assemblyman Anthony Portantino and hosted by City of Hope, brings together top physicians, health advocates and community service providers to raise awareness about the risk of HIV/AIDS, and to identify a path for action. Also in collaboration with Portantino, City of Hope is providing expert testimony and support to establish a California Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program, which could offer new hope to people with leukemia and other blood diseases.

Many minorities face a higher risk of life-threatening illnesses such as cancer and diabetes. In response, City of Hope established the Center for Community Alliance for Research and Education (CCARE), which works collaboratively with community-based health organizations. In 2008, the center sponsored conferences, health fairs, classes and studies to bring the benefits of cancer prevention, research and training to African-Americans, Latinos, Chinese-Americans and other populations at risk.

#### FROM PATIENT TO SURVIVOR

Patients’ needs do not end after treatment. Even when cancer is cured, related health issues may arise years

later. As the number of cancer survivors grows, the need to understand and address potential “late effects” of cancer is growing as well.

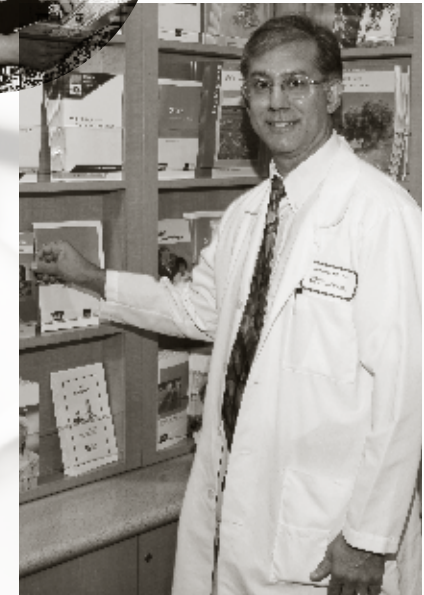
City of Hope connects to cancer survivors by studying and treating late effects. In the Department of Population Sciences’ Center for Cancer Survivorship, researchers monitor survivors of pediatric cancers throughout adulthood. Led by Smita Bhatia, M.D., M.P.H., City of Hope is helping set the nation’s standards for monitoring these survivors. In 2008, the center opened the Prostate Cancer Survivorship Clinic, the first such clinic for adult cancers; more are planned.

### EVIDENCE-BASED NURSING

City of Hope nurses are deeply involved in administering clinical trials and advanced care, giving them unique perspectives and expertise. At the same time, City of Hope nurses are renowned for their commitment to compassionate care.

For decades, City of Hope’s Division of Nursing Research and Education has led the nation in advancing nursing, with a focus on patient quality of life and symptom management. Now, a new initiative gives nurses formal training in elements of clinical research that can improve patient care at the bedside.

“Evidence-based Practice Nurse Champions,” funded by a grant from UniHealth Foundation, encourages nurses to find new ways to improve care. It trains them to delve into the scientific literature to find proven ways to solve problems. It also encourages them to carry out their own research in areas such as palliative care, applying systematic observations, developing and testing theories, and presenting results to the medical community. City of Hope received the new program enthusiastically. The program will expand in 2009 to include nurses from other hospitals. ■



Nurses, top left, perform their own research to improve care for patients. Palliative care physicians such as Jay Thomas attend to all aspects of care, including spiritual and emotional well-being.