



CURE 4 THE KIDS  
FOUNDATION

A Division of Roseman University of Health Sciences

# Pediatric Oncology Care Southern Nevada

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CMO, Cure 4 The Kids Foundation

Interim Chair of Pediatrics, Summerlin Hospital Medical Center

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# Objectives

- Provide a better understanding of pediatric cancer services currently available in Southern Nevada
- Provide a better understanding of specific factors that might dictate referrals outside the state.
- Provide a better understanding of advances available to provide treatment locally

# Cure 4 The Kids Foundation

- Non-profit organization whose mission and vision in short: is to advance cures and provide access to quality medical care for patients with complex diseases with a focus on pediatric hematology and oncology
- At our facility, we provide outpatient care. We collaborate with hospitals to direct inpatient care for patients with oncologic disorders, as well as hematology and rheumatology
- Summerlin and Sunrise Hospital
  - There is no longer comprehensive Pediatric Hematology/Oncology services at St. Rose Siena nor University Medical Center (UMC)

# Cure 4 The Kids

## Staff and Services

- Approximately 90 employees
- Non-oncologic services include bone marrow failure syndromes, congenital cytopenias, hemophilia, thrombophilia, metabolic genetic diagnostics and infusions, rheumatology, sickle cell disease, etc.
- Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Services
- Long-Term Follow-Up, Sickle Cell, Bleeding and Clotting Disorders
  - Medical, Nursing, Social Work, Education, Physical Therapy, Behavioral Health
- Tumor Board
  - On-site: Oncology, Rad-Onc, Peds Surg, Peds Path, UCLA Peds Nsg (remote)
  - Remote: UCLA Musculoskeletal Tumor Board

# Behavioral Health

- Board-Certified Pediatric Neuropsychology
  - Neuropsych testing
- Psychology, Registered Play Therapist
  - Anxiety, familial stress
- Child Life Specialist
  - Decrease stress at appointments, at first meeting/sharing of diagnosis/prior to starting therapy
- MSW
  - Assist with financial toxicities that is often a source of stress

# Physicians and NP's

- Abdul-Rashid, Nik M.D.
  - Completed Fellowship at Montefiore, Albert Einstein College of Medicine NY
  - Practicing in Southern Nevada over 10 years, Joined us 2014
  - Director of Sickle Cell Disease Program
    - Part of the Pacific Sickle Cell Regional Collaborative
- Alhushki, Waseem M.D.
  - Completed Fellowship at CHLA
  - Joined us 2013
  - Lead Clinician for LTFU
- Ayyanar, Kanyalakshmi M.D.
  - Completed Fellowship at Montefiore, Albert Einstein College of Medicine NY.
  - Joined us in 2015
  - Former Director of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at the University of Louisville, KY.  
Director of Oncology

# Physicians and NP's

- Joseph Lasky III
  - Completed Fellowship at UCLA
  - Joined us in 2017
  - Former Director of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at UCLA and Chief of Harbor-UCLA Division of Pediatric Hematology Oncology. Director of Bleeding and Clotting Disorders Comprehensive Clinic
- Berg, Angela DNP, APRN, CPNP
  - Achieved DNP from University of Utah
  - Director of Specialty Services and Pediatric Palliative Care Program
- Buitrago, Jennifer APRN
  - Achieved APRN from UCLA
  - Interim Chief Nursing Officer

# Patients

- Approximately 35,000 patient visits per year
- Almost 4,000 new patients seen per year
- 100-120 new oncology patients seen per year
  - Leukemia & Lymphoma, Brain Tumors, Solid Tumors (non-brain)
  - Losing some ability to enumerate due to Pediatric Neurosurgery
- Patient and programmatic support:
  - Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of Nevada, Agassi Foundation, Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels, American Cancer Society, Andy Beldy's Electric Studio, Chris Angel, Clark County School District, Critical Care Comics, Domskey Glass, Gwen Stefani, Hyundai Hope on Wheels, Justin Avila, Kelly Fertitta, Kya's Smiles, Make A Wish Foundation, NCCF, Summerlin Hospital Medical Center, Tyler Robinson Foundation, vegas Wish, and many others
- Over half-million dollars per year through our Charity Care Program and write-offs
  - Despite being non-for-profit, less than 2% of Cure 4 The Kids Foundation financial expenditures are through philanthropy



# Cure 4 The Kids

- The Joint Commission accredited
- Almost 40,000 sq ft
- Direct patient activity on top floor
- 15 patient rooms
- 18 Infusion recliners with at least one chair for accompanying family member
- 2 Private suites for long infusions for isolation patients
- 3 procedure rooms
  - Sedation for BM asp and bx, LP, IT meds, Joint asp, Skin biopsies

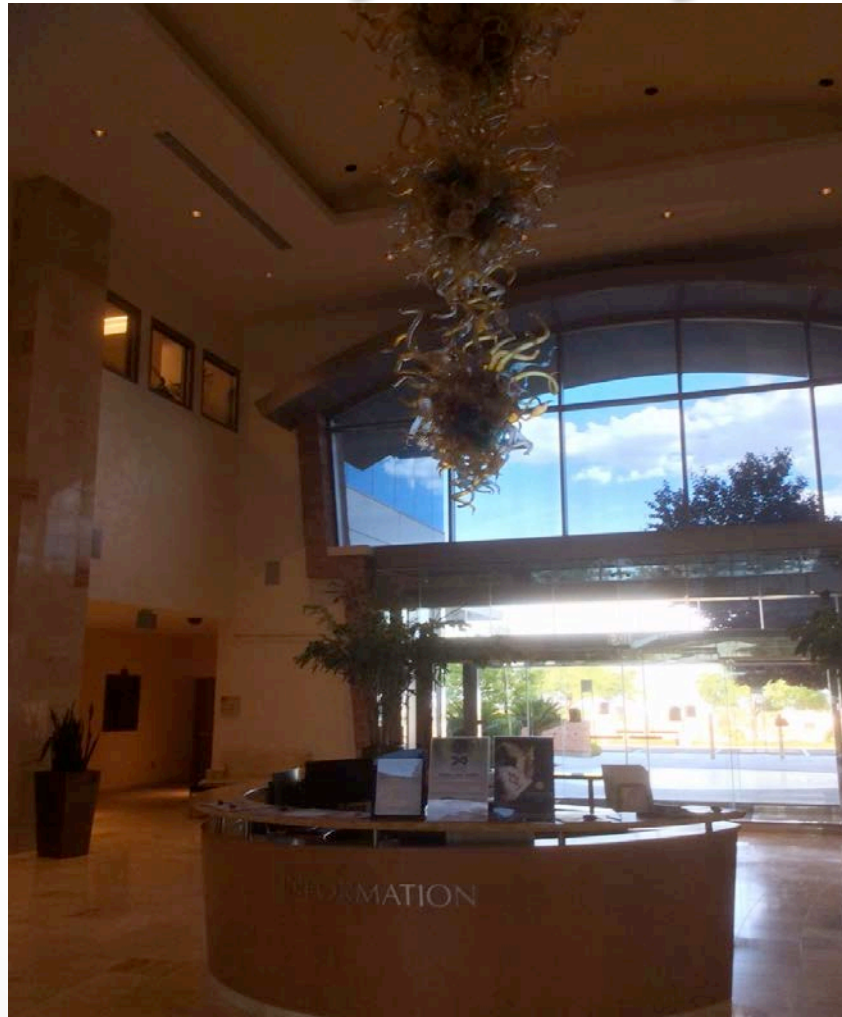
# Upcoming at Cure 4 the Kids

- Further building our patient navigation program
- Classroom and curricula
- FACT accreditation for HSCT
  - Auto's, then allo's
  - To include cellular therapies, as this will be part of upfront therapy in COG trial for HR B ALL
- Allogeneic HSCT LTFU Clinic
- Subspecialists in multidisciplinary clinics

# Cure 4 The Kids Foundation Clinic

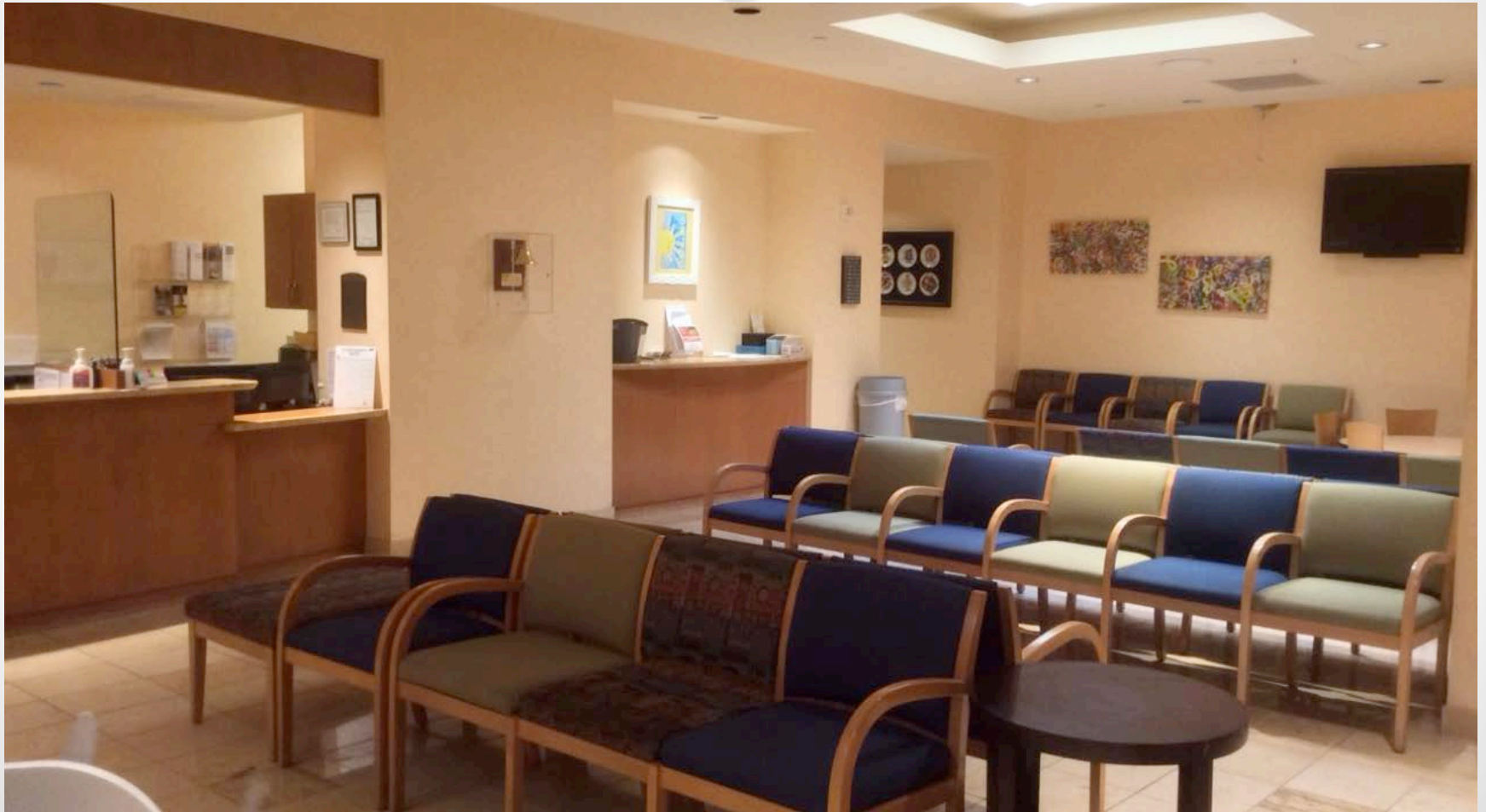


# Entry Way

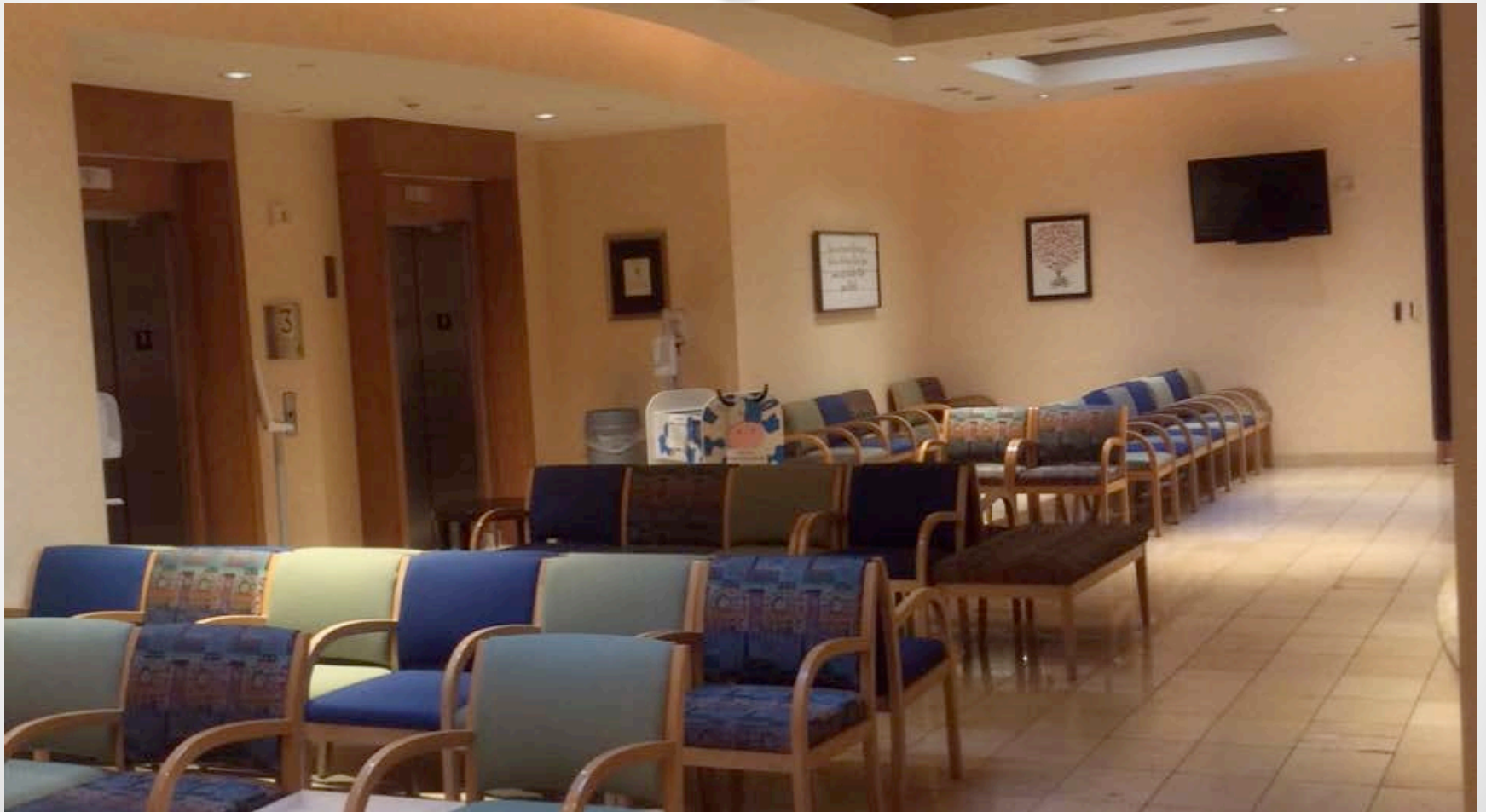




# Waiting Room



# Waiting Room



# Exam Rooms





# Infusion Suite





# Infusion Pod



# Infusion Pod



# View from Infusion Suite



# Lab Space





# Isolation Room



# Procedure Room



# Checkout



# Summerlin Hospital Medical Center

- Inpatient partner: Only hospital who would believe in us
- Great collaboration to build what our community needs
- 17 bed inpatient unit isolated for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
- Entire unit is HEPA filtered
- Inpatient chemotherapy, immunotherapy, COG studies, outpatient blood product transfusions, F&N, etc
- High-Dose Chemotherapy with Autologous Stem Cell Rescue (aka. HD-chemo w/ASCR, autologous transplant)
  - Some insurances sending patients out-of-state despite local services
    - They appreciate the differences between allo and auto, but do not make the distinction
  - Develop Pediatric AYA Program



# Current Obstacles

- Lacking Comprehensive Oncologic Services
- Pediatric Neurosurgery
  - Primary Children's Utah Neurosciences Program will have a Pediatric Neurosurgeon with support at Sunrise Hospital
- Pediatric Orthopedic Oncology
  - Great collaboration with UCLA
    - Can have a patient started on chemo as soon as or faster than at their center
  - Outpatient follow-up clinic at Cure 4 The Kids a few times per year
  - Access to their MSK Tumor Board and specialists as needed
- Pediatric HSCT: Cellular therapies, including gene therapy
- MIBG Therapy
- COG Phase I trials (nearest CHOC)

# Other Inpatient Obstacles

- Pediatric Neurology at Summerlin Hospital
  - Awaiting credentialing
- Pediatric ENT Oncology gap at Summerlin and Sunrise Hospitals
  - Cervical Node biopsies have not been an issue

# Other Obstacles

- Collaborative efforts with outside hospitals
  - We have developed great collaborative teams
- Insurances often contract based on their costs
  - Main issue has been poor communication
  - Insurances should review their costs as some programs do not transfer patients back to our program or may be very delayed
    - We're fine if care is provided, but it is a hardship on the patient and their family
- Local hospital with adult neurosurgery performing tumor resections on children down to pre-school ages
- Insurance actions
  - Often will provide authorization, then not reimburse. Thus we need to wait for LOA's to be completed by administration of hospital and insurance

# Education

- UNLV pediatric residents
  - Unsure how long this will continue
- Summerlin Hospital FP residents
- Touro DO students
- Roseman University
  - Ongoing RN student rotation
  - Develop onsite clinical dentistry program and teaching rotation. Feasibility evaluation is ongoing for clinical, as well as teaching program
  - Develop Pharmacist training rotation
  - We will participate in upcoming Medical School
- UNLV pediatric dentistry
- UNLV pediatric psychology
- RN new graduate program
- Intermittent external medical student and resident rotations
  - Possible collaboration for general oncology rotation for fellows
- MA externship

# Research

- Cooperative Group (bulk), Industry-Initiated, Investigator-Initiated
- Co-PI for NCORP, NCI Community Oncology Research Program
  - Housed at Southern Nevada Cancer Research Foundation
  - One of original members from 1983 CCOP program
  - One of 46 grants awarded in 23 states
  - Operational grant to have cancer research trials available for our community
  - Alliance, CALGB, GOG, ECOG, SWOG, and of course our beloved COG (Children's Oncology Group)
    - Over 100 studies open
      - Multiple sites in Las Vegas
    - 1 site in Kingman, Arizona
    - 1 site in Arroyo Grande, California
    - 2 sites in Washington. Bellevue and Renton
    - Some studies open at Carson Tahoe, Renown, and St. Mary's

# Research

- COG
  - Standard of care for Pediatric Oncology care in the US
  - In Southern Nevada, these are Only at Cure 4 The Kids Foundation, Summerlin, and Sunrise
    - Some studies are closing at UMC
- Industry-Initiated trials for hemophilia, oncology, pediatric thromboses, rare disease registries, sickle cell disease
- Investigator-Initiated trials in leukemia, behavioral health responses to cancer therapy, needs human resources
- Our Physicians serve on UNLV and Roseman IRB's

# In The End

- Busy Pediatric Hematology/Oncology group pushing to improve medical technology for the future, while caring for those of the present
- We need more hours in the day and/or manpower
- Eager and enthusiastic to collaborate with others, but bring the expertise to our communities



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Thank you  
Questions or Comments?







