

Oak Valley Health Joins Princess Margaret Cancer Care Network: Advancing Cancer Care Across Canada

Markham, ON (November 8, 2023) - The Cancer Centre at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital has joined the Princess Margaret (PM) Cancer Care Network. This partnership marks a significant milestone, positioning Oak Valley Health as the fourth cancer centre in Canada to become part of the PM Cancer Care Network.

Together, they aim to bring expertise and access to a comprehensive range of cancer services, clinical trials, and ground-breaking research to the vibrant Markham, Stouffville, and surrounding communities.

The partnership will also break down barriers to provide seamless access to cutting-edge clinical trials, advanced molecular testing and profiling, and the invaluable opportunity for second opinions at Oak Valley Health.

Dr. Keith Stewart, Vice President of Cancer at UHN and Director of the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, said: "This partnership represents a transformative bond between our institutions, revolutionizing our approach to patient care. We are thrilled to establish collaboration for clinical trials, molecular testing, and knowledge exchange that will benefit the patients of Oak Valley Health."

The Cancer Centre at Oak Valley Health is a growing program with 14 systemic therapy chairs, supported by five medical oncologists, two malignant haematologists and three nurse practitioners, as well as a strong inter-professional team. The clinic has seen an 11-14% per cent annual increase in patient volumes, with growth across most care bundles. Oak Valley Health prides itself on its partnerships with regional and tertiary centers, which supports ongoing academic excellence, quality, and safety for patients and families. Oak Valley Health supports timely access to care for all of our patients close to home and with a family and patient-centered approach.

"This partnership gives Oak Valley Health the opportunity to collaborate and share the expertise and resources of a renowned cancer centre, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, while allowing our patients to receive care close to home," says Terri Stuart-McEwan, Vice President, Clinical Programs and Chief Nurse Executive at Oak Valley Health. "This partnership is about an integrated approach to improving cancer care, patient outcomes, and experiences."

Dr. Andrea Bezjak, a radiation oncologist and Medical Director of the Princess Margaret Cancer Care Network, encapsulated the partnership's vision, stating, "Our aim is to address currently unmet needs of patients through facilitating collaborative care and research. This partnership is not a substitute

nor replacement to existing initiatives and relationships but moves forward the Ontario Health mandate at a local level."

"With the additional supports that will come from this partnership, we will have more resources for multidisciplinary care, improved ease to participate in and refer for clinical trials, and have the opportunity to work closely with some of the brightest cancer experts in the world," says Dr. Mateya Trinka, a medical oncologist and oncology lead at Oak Valley Health. "This is an excellent opportunity for our cancer centre, hospital, and communities."

Both the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and Oak Valley Health are cancer centres aligned with the provincial priorities outlined by Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario). This partnership heralds a future dedicated to innovation and excellence in cancer care for Markham and surrounding communities.

The existing members of the Network, including Southlake Regional Health Centre, Grand River Hospital, and Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, stand as testament to the value of the Princess Margaret Cancer Care Network.

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About Oak Valley Health

Oak Valley Health is one of Ontario's leading community health care organizations. Across our two hospitals, Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) and Uxbridge Hospital (UXB), as well as our Reactivation Care Centre (RCC), we provide high quality, patient-centred care to more than 468,000 patients each year. We offer diagnostic and emergency services and deliver clinical programs in acute care medicine and surgery, addictions and mental health, and childbirth and children's services. We are proud to be part of the Eastern York Region North Durham Ontario Health Team (EYRND OHT). Our 586 professional staff (including physicians, midwives, and dentists) over 3,000 staff and over 930 volunteers serve patients and families with an honoured to care mindset and are focused on delivering an extraordinary patient experience to the residents of Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge, and beyond.

About Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Princess Margaret Cancer Centre has achieved an international reputation as a global leader in the fight against cancer and delivering personalized cancer medicine. The Princess Margaret, one of the top five international cancer research centres, is a member of the University Health Network, which also includes Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and the Michener Institute for Education at UHN. All are research hospitals affiliated with the University of Toronto. For more information: www.theprincessmargaret.ca



About The Princess Margaret Cancer Care Network

The Princess Margaret Cancer Care Network is a collective of local, regional, and national partners committed to facilitating collaborative clinical care, accelerating the adoption of new technologies, engaging more patients in research through improved access to clinical trials and advancing innovations which improve patient outcomes and provide confidence and comfort that the best care can be achieved close to home. In parallel, we will work together to deliver seamless, efficient, and timely navigation to access specialized care at Princess Margaret, when, and if, the need arises. For healthcare providers within the partner institutions, there will be significant in-person and virtual networking, learning, and best practice sharing opportunities. To learn more about the Network visit www.pmcancercarenetwork.ca.