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Tell me about this new collaboration

At Illinois CancerCare, we're very good at what we do. It's a tradition of serving patients first, and we treat medical oncology and hematology types of conditions. But there's a lot that we can't do by ourselves and we need large health systems like OSF to help us build a bigger program where cancer patients not just in Peoria, but everywhere in the region, in communities that we both serve, that they get the best care possible and that their cancer journey is as smooth as possible. :38

A partnership with a health system like OSF allows us as the medical oncologists and the blood specialists to really deliver the best care possible and that's really what this speaks to what we're building an excellent cancer program here in central Illinois :23

You will be part of the new OSF Cancer Institute. What does this newest ILCC clinic location mean for patients?

We hope to be able to do these multidisciplinary clinics where we see patients together, and then if one of our patients needs to go and have an infusion or a treatment that day, we're going to go ahead and make that happen at our clinic on the third floor, so the patients that it will serve will be those who obviously are geographically close in terms of residents to that clinic. This is going to be another location where we can help to package the care. But then our goal is to deliver that care as close to their home as possible. :43

Does this collaboration help bolster central Illinois as a go-to place for cancer treatment services?

If you're in a community based practice or if you're outside of a large city and academic centers, the care is fragmented, because it's hard to get all the specialists to come together and to deliver that care and to get a whole health system to align itself especially when you're dealing with cancer. And so, this is exciting because I think this is our first step. And it's a commitment from OSF to essentially deliver an academic level oncology experience to patients that live outside of a big city. :43

What makes this so unique?

The unique feature is that we have come up with a way to align ourselves at an administrative level and really implement what our vision for medical oncology and hematology patients should be for patients in central Illinois that we serve. That is kudos to OSF ministry for opening that avenue for us to sit at the small table and help make those decisions that are going to drive this forward. :32