

MEETING VETERANS WHERE THEY ARE

NOP

**VA NATIONAL ONCOLOGY
PROGRAM GUIDE** | 2025

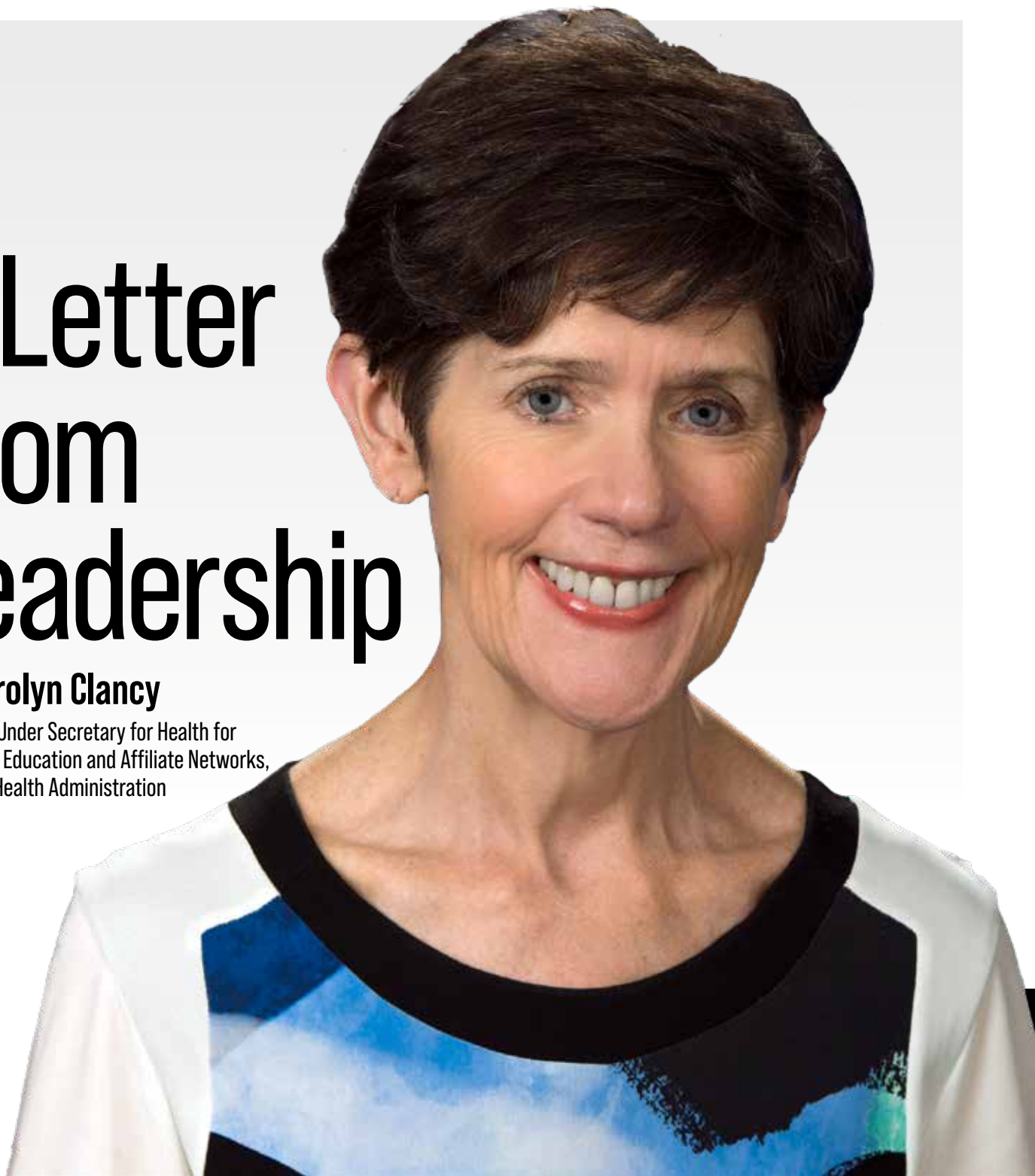




A Letter From Leadership

Dr. Carolyn Clancy

Assistant Under Secretary for Health for
Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks,
Veterans Health Administration



Dear Teammates,

We are curing cancer every day at VA. We're doing this by providing Veterans with exceptional, compassionate cancer care that reflects the unique needs and experiences of those who served our nation. We're building a future where every Veteran has access to the world-class oncology care they deserve. It's a future driven by our commitment to research, innovation, and putting Veterans first. I invite you to explore how we're making this vision a reality.

Connect: Evolving Support

One of our most powerful resources is our dedication to research as an integral part of a learning and innovative health care organization. By fostering and translating groundbreaking research across the VA health care enterprise, we ensure that every aspect of cancer care—from prevention and early detection to treatment and survivorship—is informed by the latest findings and evidence-based best practices. This commitment fuels our understanding of how to care for Veterans every day

Listen: Expanding Access

Cancer is personal. Every Veteran's journey is unique, complex, and challenging, even with the most common cancers. That's why we listen closely to Veterans, making their voices central to care decisions. Understanding their perspectives drives VA's patient-centered approach, ensuring every decision we make is guided by the voices of those we serve. VA providers and researchers work every day to make sure that Veterans' needs and priorities are central to our cancer care models, enabling a responsive, respectful, and deeply supported cancer care experience.

Care: Embracing Technology

That learning doesn't stop with just research, but extends into making high-quality cancer care even more accessible for Veterans. Innovation in care delivery models means we can bring care closer to Veterans' homes, and sometimes, even into their homes. Through strategic partnerships and advanced telehealth options, VA is breaking down barriers to care access, reducing travel burdens, and improving outcomes for Veterans nationwide. These efforts underscore our dedication to meeting Veterans where they are, both physically and emotionally, to provide the best possible care.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carolyn Clancy

Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Discovery, Education
and Affiliate Networks, Veterans Health Administration

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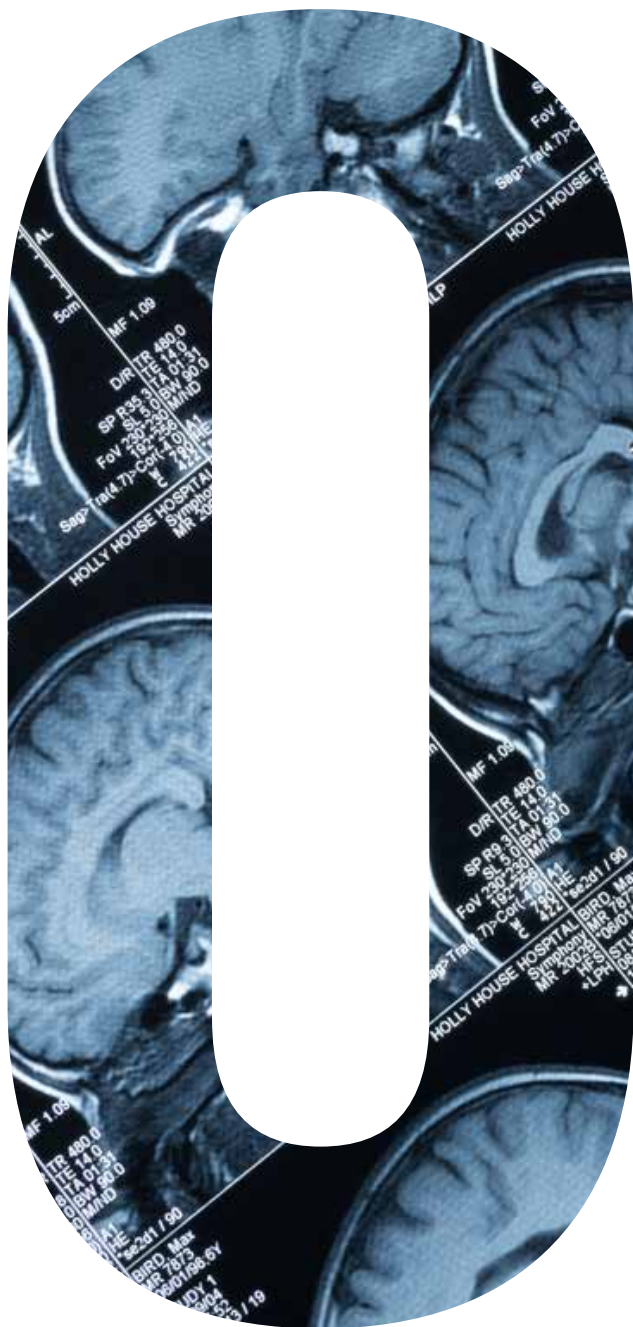
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A black and white photograph of two women walking on a paved path outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing light-colored scrubs and has her hair in a ponytail. The woman on the right is wearing a dark t-shirt and dark pants. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background is a modern building with large glass windows. The image is overlaid with a large green word and some white lines.

Connect

EVOLVING SUPPORT

SETH KING

US AIR FORCE
VETERAN &
CANCER SURVIVOR



U.S. Air Force Veteran Seth King's journey exemplifies his resilience. After serving over seven years, including deployments to Prince Sultan Air Base, Diego Garcia,

and Korea, King transitioned to civilian life, only to face an unexpected battle—Hodgkin's lymphoma. During a routine physical in 2010, a doctor discovered a golf ball-sized lump in



King's neck. The Samuel S. Stratton VA Medical Center quickly confirmed his diagnosis, and King went through six rounds of chemotherapy and radiation. **"The VA team was incredible,"** King says. **"Any question I had, they had answers or got me the help I needed."**

In 2014, King's cancer returned. His oncologist coordinated a complex stem cell transplant, connecting Seth with a VA facility

in Seattle, where he underwent months of intensive chemotherapy and recovery. **"VA didn't just treat my cancer; they supported every part of my life, from travel arrangements to compassionate care,"** King recalls of his interconnected care.

Though King is now in remission, he continues to face health challenges linked to his treatment. A recent health scare—a suspected recur-

"My care at VA has transformed the way I approach my cancer journey. It's no longer just about battling the disease; it's about feeling truly supported. VA gave me a team that cares for me as a person, not just as a patient. Now, I face every treatment with hope, knowing they're fighting with me every step of the way."

rence of cancer—brought him back to VA for urgent evaluation. Thanks to swift action and coordinated follow-ups between his oncologist, primary care provider, and diagnostic teams, he was reassured the issue was unrelated to his previous diagnosis. **"It's moments like that when you realize how every part of your care at VA connects,"** he says. **"They never leave anything unresolved."**

King's care wasn't limited to his physical health. At one of the lowest points in his life, he found himself without stable housing. The interconnected web of VA support services became his lifeline. His primary care physician

noticed his struggles and referred him to the VA social services network. Within weeks, King was connected with a housing specialist who worked tirelessly to find him stable accommodation. This stability allowed King to focus on his recovery, both physically and mentally.

"VA's care is about the whole person," Seth explains.

"They saw me—not just as a cancer patient, but as someone who needed help in every area of life. They didn't just treat my illness; they gave me my life back."



VA is not only the best place for Veterans to receive their cancer care but is also a leader in health care innovation. Innovative cancer treatments of tomorrow rely on cancer clinical trials conducted today. However, Veterans do not always have access to clinical trials. For example, even when Veterans are eligible, it may be difficult to participate because of the distance between where Veterans live and where trials take place.

6

Cancer DCTs
Facilitated
by NOP

113

VETERANS ENROLLED
IN DCTs



DCTs

Decentralized Clinical Trials

Decentralized clinical trials (DCTs) are research studies that are done remotely. Many or all parts of a DCT can occur close to home, making participation easier and



more accessible. Because Veterans who live in rural areas are less likely to take part in cancer clinical trials, DCTs are an important new option.

Over the past four years, 113 Veterans have enrolled in DCTs, with the following demographic breakdown:

White/African American 80%/17%; Male/Female 89%/11%; Urban/Rural 69%/29%

Clinical trials help doctors learn more about the best way to treat Veterans, improve the quality of life of Veterans, and provide Veterans with the latest care options. By removing barriers to Veteran participation, DCTs allow Veterans from across the United States receive cutting-edge, high-quality cancer care, and also help advance medical knowledge.



CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH NAVIGATION

It can be confusing and challenging for cancer patients to obtain a new cancer diagnosis, receive treatment, and manage the related side effects and stresses. When Veterans and their cancer providers are thinking about cancer treatment as part of a clinical trial, things can get even more complicated. That's where the VA's Cancer Clinical Trials Navigation (CTN) program comes in. This initiative connects Veterans to essential clinical trials tailored to their specific needs, offering new treatment possibilities and the opportunity to be part of the latest advances in cancer care. Through dedicated nurse navigators, Veterans and their cancer providers receive personalized guidance, from identifying the most suitable clinical trials to coordinating logistics and addressing any questions they may have.

Clinical trials play a crucial role in advancing treatment options and can sometimes offer access to breakthrough therapies that are not

yet widely available. Since its inception, VA's Cancer Clinical Trials Navigation team has conducted over 115 clinical trial searches across 28 states. This impressive reach highlights VA's commitment to connecting Veterans with vital treatment resources. By streamlining the pathway to research participation, the program ensures Veterans are active partners in their care and connected to pioneering treatments that may improve quality of life and outcomes.

This program does more than just connect Veterans to trials; it opens doors to hope, partnership, and a support system that prioritizes the individual health needs of each Veteran. VA's Cancer Clinical Trials Navigation program exemplifies the belief that every Veteran should have access to the highest standard of care, helping Veterans move forward with confidence in their health journey.

Breast

And

Gynecologic

System of

Excellence

“

I'm proud to be providing the highest cancer care quality for women Veterans while tailoring our services to their needs.

”

— Dr. Haley Moss
MD, MBA, Director, BGSoE

Breast and Gynecologic System of Excellence (BGSoE)

Connecting Women Veterans: A New Era in Cancer Care

As the fastest-growing demographic in VA, women Veterans are at the forefront of a transformative approach to cancer care. The Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence (BGSoE) connects Veterans who have breast and/or gynecologic cancers with patient-centered, compassionate and cutting-edge cancer care across the entire care continuum.

Launched in 2020, BGSoE recognized that most VA facilities do not have specialists in breast and gynecologic cancers. Cancer diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, and survivorship care is often fragmented between VA facilities and community sites, leaving Veterans without a specialist in the VA system directing the care. Now in its fourth year, the program consistently delivers the care these Veterans need across the nation. To date, BGSoE has served 931 Veterans, with 93 VA facilities participating in the program.

The heart of BGSoE is a multidisciplinary team of experts in medical oncology, gynecologic oncology, radiation oncology, breast surgery, clinical oncology pharmacy, oncology nursing, and care coordinators. This comprehensive approach ensures that Veterans receive well-coordinated, timely, and evidence-based care, whether at a VA facility or through community partners.

BGSoE launched a high-risk clinic for Veterans at elevated risk of breast cancer due to family history, genetic mutations, or abnormal breast biopsies. This proactive approach helps with early detection and options to reduce the risk of cancer for Veterans at the highest risk of developing breast cancer.

Partnerships with national leaders in cancer research and patient care, including the National Cancer Institute and prominent universities, augment BGSoE's capabilities. These collaborations enable care delivery via VA's National TeleOncology (NTO) and decentralized clinical trials nationwide.

In 2023, BGSoE launched the groundbreaking research effort called the Center for Oncology Outcomes Review and Gender Equity (COURAGE). It aims to close knowledge gaps in women's cancer care, address sex and gender disparities, and improve outcomes for all Veterans.



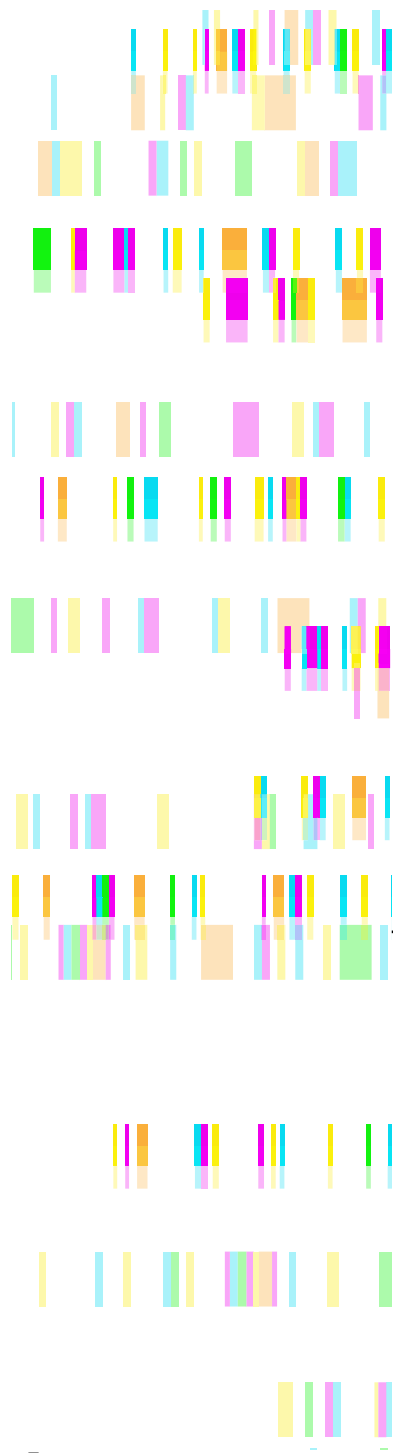
emotional well-being during the cancer journey.

In a further effort to strengthen cancer care for women Veterans, especially in rural areas, BGSoE supported the launch of the VA Specialist Cancer Advisory Network (VSCAN) pilot, an evidence-based treatment scan program addressing challenges in receiving community oncology care. VSCAN introduces an additional review layer where an NTO oncologist evaluates community care oncologists' treatment recommendations, ensuring appropriate care and facilitating necessary discussions.



Through BGSoE, VA is ensuring that every Veteran with breast and/or gynecologic cancer, receives the highest quality cancer care and support throughout their journey.

BGSoE



COMPREHENSIVE GENETICS SERVICE

Putting the Pieces Together

Some Veterans may be at higher risk of developing cancer because of inherited genetic changes passed down from parents to children. Genetic counseling and testing can help clarify an individual Veteran's risk, potentially guiding testing, monitoring, and treatment.

VA's Comprehensive Genetics Service (CGS) offers Veterans and their providers a comprehensive understanding of their genetic predispositions to different diseases, including cancer. Moreover, CGS helps Veterans navigate the emotional and logistical implications of their genetic information. Within CGS, Clinical Cancer Genetics Service (CCGS) provides genetic counseling and testing for Veterans with cancer. Medical Genetics Service (MGS), another service within CGS, focuses on genetic counseling and testing for inherited conditions unrelated to cancer, including inherited heart conditions and metabolic disorders.

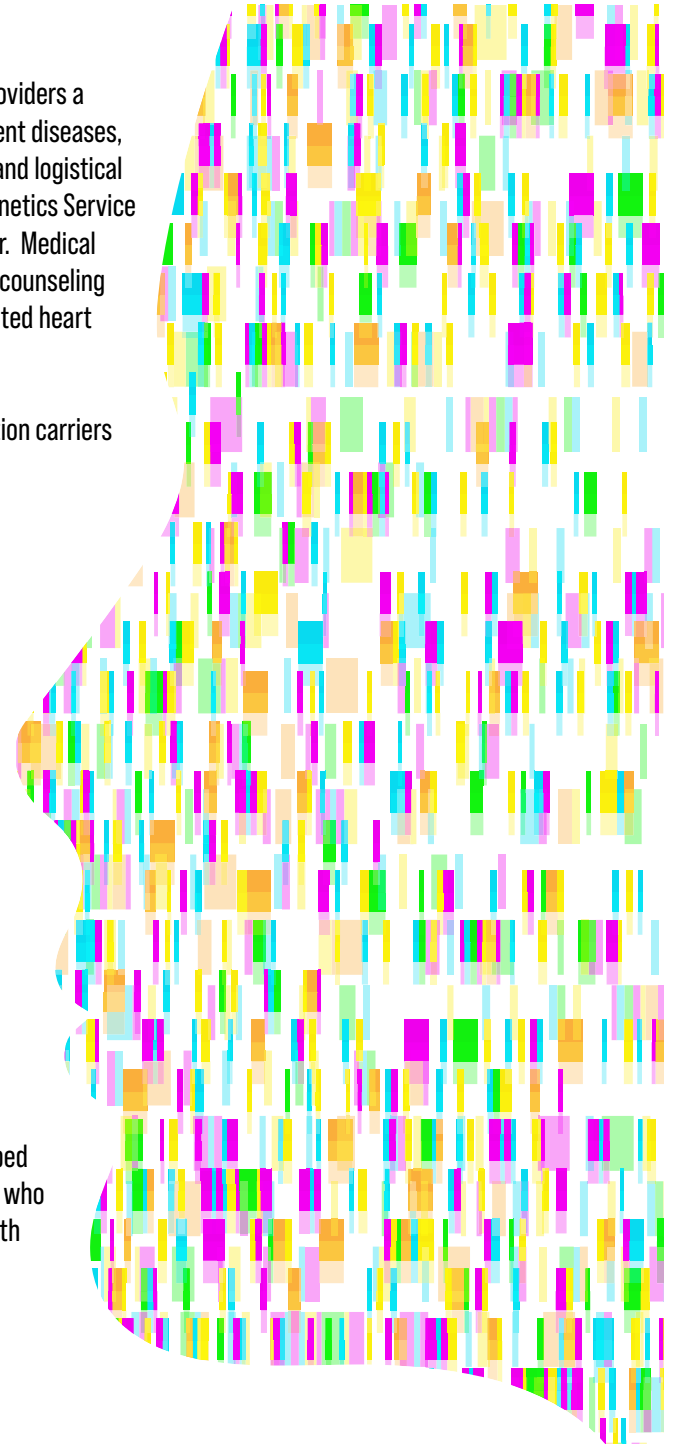
CGS offers clinic appointments for high-risk individuals, including mutation carriers and Veterans at the highest risk due to personal or family histories.

“
By the end of FY2025, CGS
will increase point-of-care
testing by 25%.

— Dr. Menendez

Director, VA's Comprehensive Genetics Service

This provides consistent support for Veterans over time, allowing new and updated information about the mutations to be shared. With CGS' dedication to providing exceptional care and education for Veterans, Veterans can feel confident knowing their prevention, surveillance and treatment plans are tailored to their specific and evolving needs. Equipped with their genetic information, Veterans can then support their families who may also be at increased risk for certain inherited cancers or other health







Listen

EXPANDING ACCESS

A portrait of Annette Negron, a woman with short brown hair, smiling and wearing a teal zip-up jacket over a black shirt. The background is a solid brown color. The text 'ANNETTE' is written vertically in large white letters on the left side of the image. The text 'US AIR FORCE VETERAN & CANCER SURVIVOR' is written in white on the right side, with 'CANCER SURVIVOR' underlined. The name 'NEGRO' is written in large green letters on the right side, partially overlapping the woman's jacket.

ANNETTE

US AIR FORCE VETERAN
& CANCER SURVIVOR

NEGRO

Annette Negron spent 20 years serving her country in the US Air Force but after being diagnosed with sarcoma, a type of cancer that occurs in the bones and soft

tissues, she was scared. Thankfully her VA care team was there to listen and guide her.

In February of 2023, while working at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System (VASNHCS), Negron went to the emergency department thinking she had appendicitis. Instead, she found out she had a 10cm cancerous mass between her liver and kidney. She turned to VA, where a team of providers not only helped her through the shock of the diagnosis and planning her care, but also listened to her about what she needed to feel more like herself.

After biopsies showed that her cancer had advanced to stage 4, Negron felt overwhelmed, but her care team was there providing robust care coordination, setting

up 26 rounds of radiation treatment through community providers and chemotherapy at the VASNHCS. Her team at VA communicated closely with the radiation oncology team, ensuring that Negron was not only getting the care she needed but knew the right questions to ask.

“If it wasn’t for the (VA) staff, it would be way harder,” Negron says. “They’re friendly, professional, and we all know why I’m there, but it’s not woe is me ... I prefer to stay within VA. I feel that they have an idea, they know how to deal with this population.”

“I feel more comfortable at VA because I know it’s for the Veterans.”

Despite being hundreds of miles apart, Negron receives care from Dr. Manali Patel, staff Oncologist, at the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System through VA’s National TeleOncology program (NTO). Because of the distance, Negron believed the process would be complicated, but she discovered that Dr. Patel and the entire team were always available to listen and answer her questions,

ensuring she understands exactly what her options are.

Now, with her medications established, Negron is feeling better.

“I have more good days than bad days now. Sometimes I forget I have cancer until I walk by a mirror.”



**NPOP has helped guide
more than 78,000
Veterans through their
cancer care journey.**

National Precision Oncology Program

Listening at the Molecular Level

Over 55,000 new cancer diagnoses occur annually at VA, and every one of them is different. VA's National Precision Oncology Program (NPOP) knows this and uses advanced molecular screening technology and genomic insights to provide personalized cancer treatments.

By “listening” to what each Veterans’ genomic profile tells oncologists, VA can more accurately determine a Veteran’s cancer prognosis and the best course of treatment.

This innovative work uses advanced genomic sequencing techniques to analyze the genetic makeup of cancer tumors and inherited or germline mutations. Through this analysis of specific genetic mutations and alterations, oncologists tailor treatments that target each Veterans’ specific tumor. If an inherited genetic mutation is identified, Veterans’

treatments and surveillance plans will reflect this. Since its launch in 2016, NPOP has expanded to all 131 VA Medical Centers that offer cancer treatment across the country while continuing to increase the types of cancers tested, including lung cancers, metastatic prostate cancer, all pancreatic cancers, advanced cholangiocarcinoma, advanced bladder cancer, and other advanced solid tumors and rare cancers.





Close to Me Care Delivery

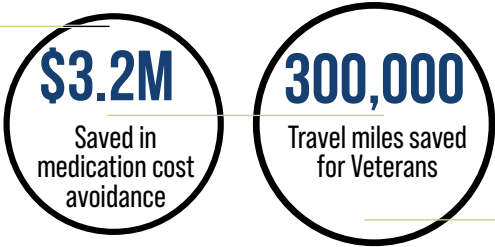
VA's Close to Me Care Delivery Models are a visionary initiative bridging the gap between Veterans and accessible health care. Close to Me deploys innovative solutions bringing anti-cancer therapy services closer to Veterans' homes, ensuring that Veterans have easy access to the care they need, where they need it. These new clinic options have revolutionized VA cancer care delivery by establishing a network of community-based outpatient clinics serviced by traveling or stationary care teams of nurses and providers. This expansion means that Veterans can access more than just primary care at their local clinics, including cancer care treatments, provider visits, and specialist consultations via telehealth, further optimizing VA clinics. Initially launched in 2021, Close to Me has expanded to treat over 1,500 Veterans at 29 VA locations, with more slated to open in 2024 and 2025.

The Close to Me program has been a game-changer for me. I no longer have to worry about long trips to VA for my treatments.

— Glenn D. Spivey, Army Veteran

Impacting Veterans for the Better

Close to Me often reduces the need for lengthy travel to distant VA facilities, so Veterans and caregivers have more time to go about their daily lives and focus on healing. Since 2021, the program has saved over 300,000 traveled miles for Veterans undergoing cancer treatment and their caregivers.



\$3.2M

Saved in
medication cost
avoidance

300,000

Travel miles saved
for Veterans

By decentralizing care and promoting convenient access, Close to Me not only boasts high patient satisfaction but also has recorded a 99% treatment adherence rate among its patients, with zero medical emergencies. Additionally, the program has saved VA over \$3.2 million in Medication Cost Avoidance as of FY2024. Close to Me embodies VA's mission to provide accessible, personalized, and high-quality health care for Veterans.

Raising Awareness

Close to Me plays a key role within the National Oncology Program (NOP)'s efforts to provide cutting edge cancer care to Veterans, and its results are gaining widespread awareness. In April 2024, VA featured Close to Me in VA's monthly press conference, highlighting NOP Executive Director Dr. Michael Kelley and Andrea Stone, Associate Chief Nurse of Specialty Care at the Minneapolis VA and their efforts to bring cancer care closer to where Veterans live through the Close to Me program.

Cancer Care At Home

LUNG CANCER SCREENING

VA has increased the number of Veterans screened for lung cancer by 77% in the past two years.

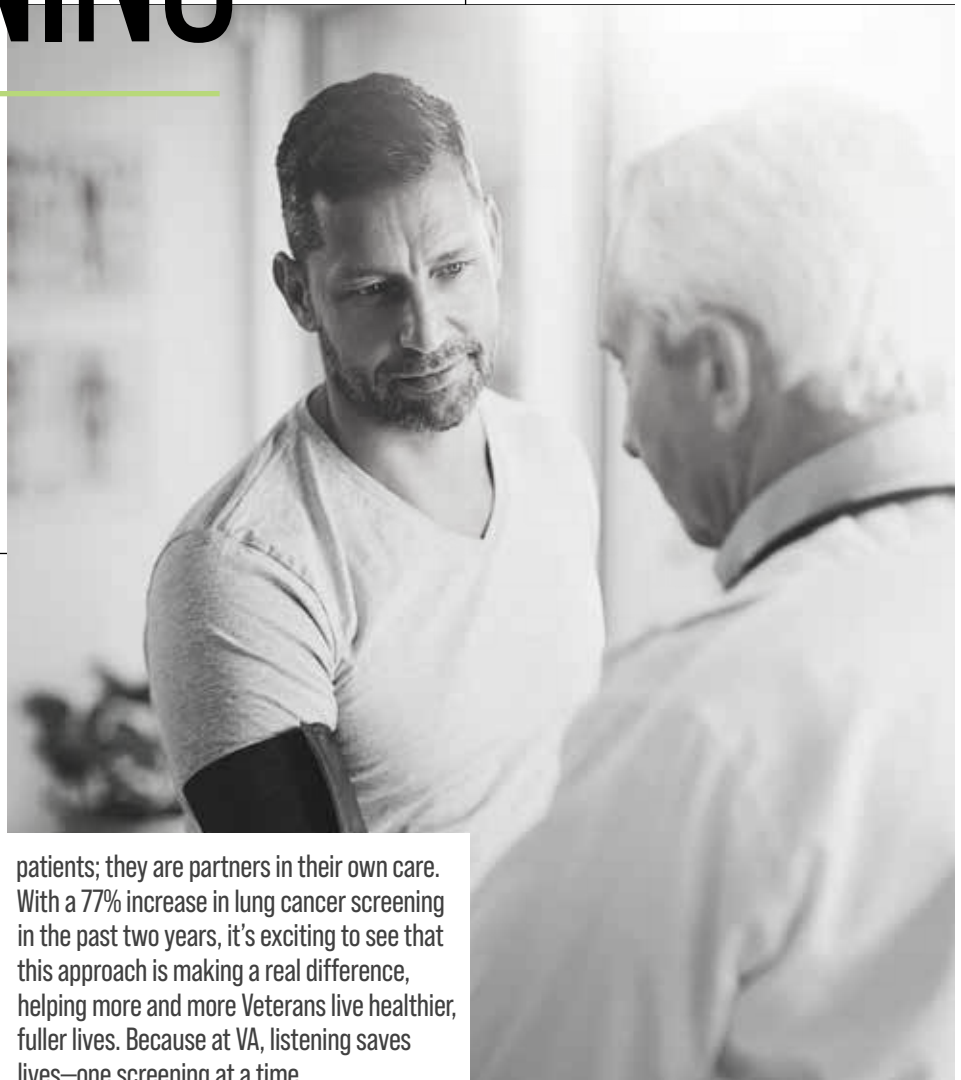
Listening to What Matters

At VA, one simple question can change everything: “Have you ever used cigarettes?”

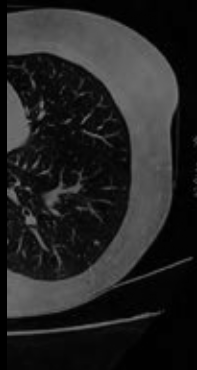
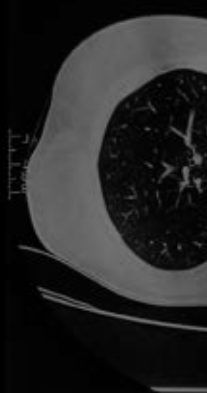
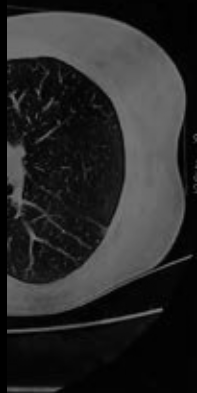
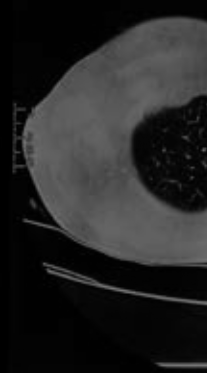
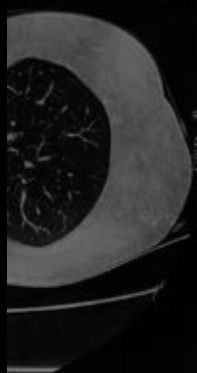
For Veterans, this question opens the door to life-saving lung cancer screening through the Lung Precision Oncology Program (LPOP). By focusing on early detection, LPOP meets Veterans where they are—helping identify lung cancer when it’s most treatable. Screening is key because early detection of lung cancer significantly improves survival rates.

This program isn’t just about technology or tests; it’s about connection. Each Veteran’s story, lifestyle, and health goals are heard and considered in their personalized care plans and screening recommendations.

Lung cancer screening through LPOP gives Veterans the gift of time—time to make informed decisions, time to connect with their care team, and time to explore options for survivorship. The program’s dedicated nurse navigators and lung cancer diagnostic and treatment teams offer Veterans one-on-one engagement, supporting them through every step of the process. Veterans aren’t just



patients; they are partners in their own care. With a 77% increase in lung cancer screening in the past two years, it’s exciting to see that this approach is making a real difference, helping more and more Veterans live healthier, fuller lives. Because at VA, listening saves lives—one screening at a time.







The background is a dark, high-contrast photograph. It features a stethoscope in the foreground, its chest piece resting on a surface. In the background, a computer keyboard is visible, with some keys highlighted by light. The overall aesthetic is professional and technological. The word 'Care' is written in a large, bold, green sans-serif font, centered horizontally. Below it, the words 'EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY' are written in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font. The text is framed by thin white lines: a vertical line to the left of 'Care', a horizontal line above 'Care', a horizontal line below 'Care', and a vertical line to the right of 'Care'.

Care

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

US ARMY VETERAN
CANCER SURVIVOR

DOUGLAS

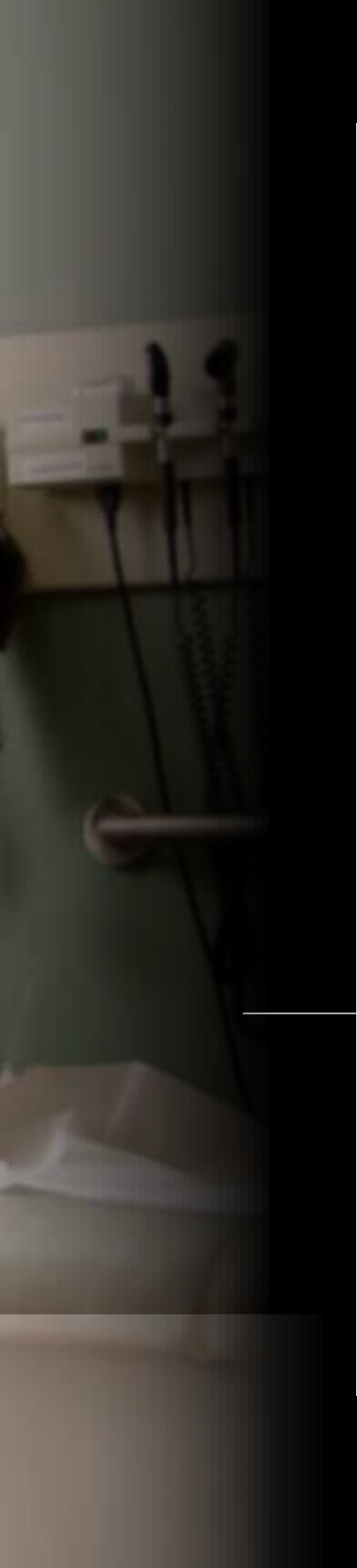
CROSS



**Strengthened by VA Care and Support
in the Face of Breast Cancer**

For U.S. Army Veteran Robyn Chaney, a breast cancer diagnosis was more than just a medical battle—it was a deeply personal

journey rooted in family history and shaped by gratitude for VA's support. Chaney served stateside as a rough terrain vehicle operator from 1975 to 1976, and while she didn't initially



rely on VA care, her mother's history of breast, ovarian, and uterine cancer urged her to stay vigilant with her own health. By 37, she was undergoing annual mammograms, determined to stay one step ahead.

Chaney's vigilance proved vital, supported by efforts like the MAMMO Act and the MISSION Act to expand access to breast cancer screening. In March 2023, a routine mammogram revealed dense breast tissue, which led to further testing. **"It's nerve-wracking, waiting for those results,"** Chaney shared, recalling weeks filled with anxious prayers

and family support. After an ultrasound, MRI, and biopsy, she was diagnosed with Stage I breast cancer—a moment she describes as both shocking and grounding.

"Even with my medical background, it's different when it's you. Cancer changes everything."

From that moment, VA's community care moved quickly, and she felt the strength of her support network. She underwent a lumpectomy and partial mastectomy uncovering a 2-millimeter tumor, and a follow-up biopsy confirmed her cancer had not spread, sparing her from chemotherapy. Chaney em-

"Stick with your screening program and if something feels wrong, get it checked. VA is there to help you—just stick to it."

phasizes the crucial role of her dedicated VA cancer care coordinator, Sarah Collins, who she says facilitated the myriad treatment appointments in an accelerated timeframe. Collins became her lifeline, checking in after every procedure, keeping paperwork organized, and providing updates.

"Sarah was my rock. She made the process less overwhelming, making

sure I was cared for at every step."

Chaney reflects on her experience with new-found perspective and advises fellow Veterans: **"Stick with your screening program and if something feels wrong, get it checked. VA is there to help you—just stick to it."**

Clinical Pathways

VA's Clinical Pathways represent a new standard in personalized cancer treatment, connecting Veterans to the best, research-based care available.

Clinical Pathways are comprehensive, evidence-based guides that empower VA clinicians to provide targeted, efficient cancer care tailored to each Veteran. Updated quarterly, these pathways incorporate the latest research and safety standards to focus on effective treatments while reducing unnecessary toxicity. Designed to streamline

care planning, Clinical Pathways enable VA teams across the country to coordinate seamlessly, ensuring that every Veteran receives consistent, specialized care regardless of location.

By leveraging VA's expansive network of oncology experts, these pathways guide treatment decisions and help address regional disparities in cancer care, offering Veterans and their families' peace of mind.

Since their launch, Clinical Pathways have significantly enhanced care delivery across the VA network, supporting 308 providers at 71 sites in making informed, evidence-based decisions. Covering both common and rare cancers, with lung cancer pathways now aiding over 8,000 Veterans annually, these tools are a testament to VA's commitment to accessible, cutting-edge cancer care.

57

Published
Pathways

7

Integrated into
CPRS



National TeleOncology

Reducing Barriers to Care

According to an American Society of Clinical Oncology workforce report, 66% of rural counties have no oncologist. Veterans in these counties may face serious issues accessing care. VA has responded by prioritizing access for Veterans to top-rated physicians and cancer care specialists nationwide through National TeleOncology (NTO).

Working with VA medical facility partners, NTO delivers diagnostics and treatment for medical oncology — including rehabilitation and palliative care — regardless of where Veterans live. Using a “hub-and-spoke” model, with the main hub based in the Durham VA Health Care System, VA care coordinators and cancer specialists around the country work through NTO from their local VA Medical Center, providing care virtually to selected spoke sites around the nation.

Expanding NTO's Innovation

NTO is making a tangible difference in the lives of Veterans. Of the thousands who received cancer care through NTO in 2023, nearly 50% lived in rural areas, where access to oncologists may be limited. VA cared for its 6500th Veteran through NTO in 2024, a 100% increase since 2022. Additionally, in 2024, NTO grew to 37 specialized oncologists, most of whom are also associated with National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers. NTO has expanded to 104 locations, and now includes genetic counseling for Veterans. From 2020 to 2024, VA invested over \$30 million in the expansion of NTO and its ancillary services, including the Comprehensive Genetics Service, which facilitates genetic counseling through NTO.

VA has invested over \$30 million in the expansion of VA's National TeleOncology and its ancillary services, including the Comprehensive Genetics Service.

— Gina McWhirter, MSN, MBA,
Director, VA National TeleOncology

Research Centers

Cancer Clinical Research Network

There are over 50,000 Veterans diagnosed with cancer annually with prostate, lung, bladder, and colorectal cancer being the most common non-skin cancers in VA. To ensure that all Veterans have access to systematic and equitable care and research, VA is building an integrated oncology system of excellence that ultimately will encompass all types of cancer. Toward this end, the VA Office of Research and Development in partnership with the National Oncology Program recently established the Cancer Clinical Research Network. This network includes six clinical-research hub sites located in separate Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISN) with the goal of establishing at least one hub site in each of the 18 VISNs. The hub sites will serve as centers of expertise and will be central to oncology clinical care and research within the VISN.

Hub sites will engage with other VA medical centers in their VISNs as active partners to form a “hub and spoke” model like that used for lung cancer research and care. The integrated VA network of health care systems will expand access to oncology care and clinical trials and foster Veteran participation in research. Additionally, this system brings together existing efforts (including networks focused on cancers of the prostate, genitourinary system, lung, and gastrointestinal system) into a coordinated structure that will synergize and leverage investments, support collaboration, and democratize best care practices, while continually building and enhancing a learning health care system that focuses on evidence-based cancer care.



The Cancer Clinical Research Network established six clinical-research hub sites in FY24, with the goal of establishing at least one hub site in each VISN across the country.

The new cancer clinical research hub sites are in:

- **Boston / West Haven**
- **Connecticut (VISN1)**
- **Kansas City**
- **Missouri/St Louis (VISN15)**
- **Madison, Wisconsin**
- **(VISN12), Minneapolis**
- **(VISN23)**
- **Philadelphia (VISN4)**
- **Washington D.C. (VISN5), with others to be identified later.**



The Future of Veteran-Centered Cancer Care

As we look ahead, we envision VA cancer care transformed by our mission to connect, listen, and care through the power of technology, implementation of clinical pathways, and care delivery innovation. Our vision is not just about treating cancer. It's about revolutionizing the entire cancer care experience for Veterans.

Connect: We're building a future where Veterans are seamlessly connected to a personalized network of expertise. Through telehealth platforms like National TeleOncology (NTO), we're breaking down geographical barriers, enabling Veterans to access world-class oncology specialists regardless of their location.

Listen: Our commitment to listening drives personalized cancer care. By prioritizing patient feedback, taking cues from genetic testing, and understanding Veteran preferences, we continuously refine and tailor treatment plans. This deep level of understanding will enable us to anticipate needs and address concerns proactively, ensuring that every Veteran feels truly heard and supported throughout their cancer journey.

Care: VA's future care is technologically empowered and Veteran-centered. We're pioneering cutting-edge technologies like AI-powered cancer detection while focusing on patients' holistic well-being through peer support programs, concierge-style clinical trial matching, and bringing treatments into Veterans' homes.

Our innovative programs like Close to Me are how we extend cancer care beyond VA hospitals, bringing VA-led treatment to community clinics and even Veterans' homes. The latest at-home infusion initiative, though in its early stages, promises to revolutionize care delivery by reducing travel burdens and increasing

accessibility. As we thoughtfully expand, we expect it to become a cornerstone of our patient-centered approach: meeting Veterans' needs wherever they are.

As we embrace these advancements, the Veteran remains at the center of our focus. Every innovation, connection, and decision is guided by our goal to improve outcomes, quality of life, and the overall cancer care experience for those who have served our nation.

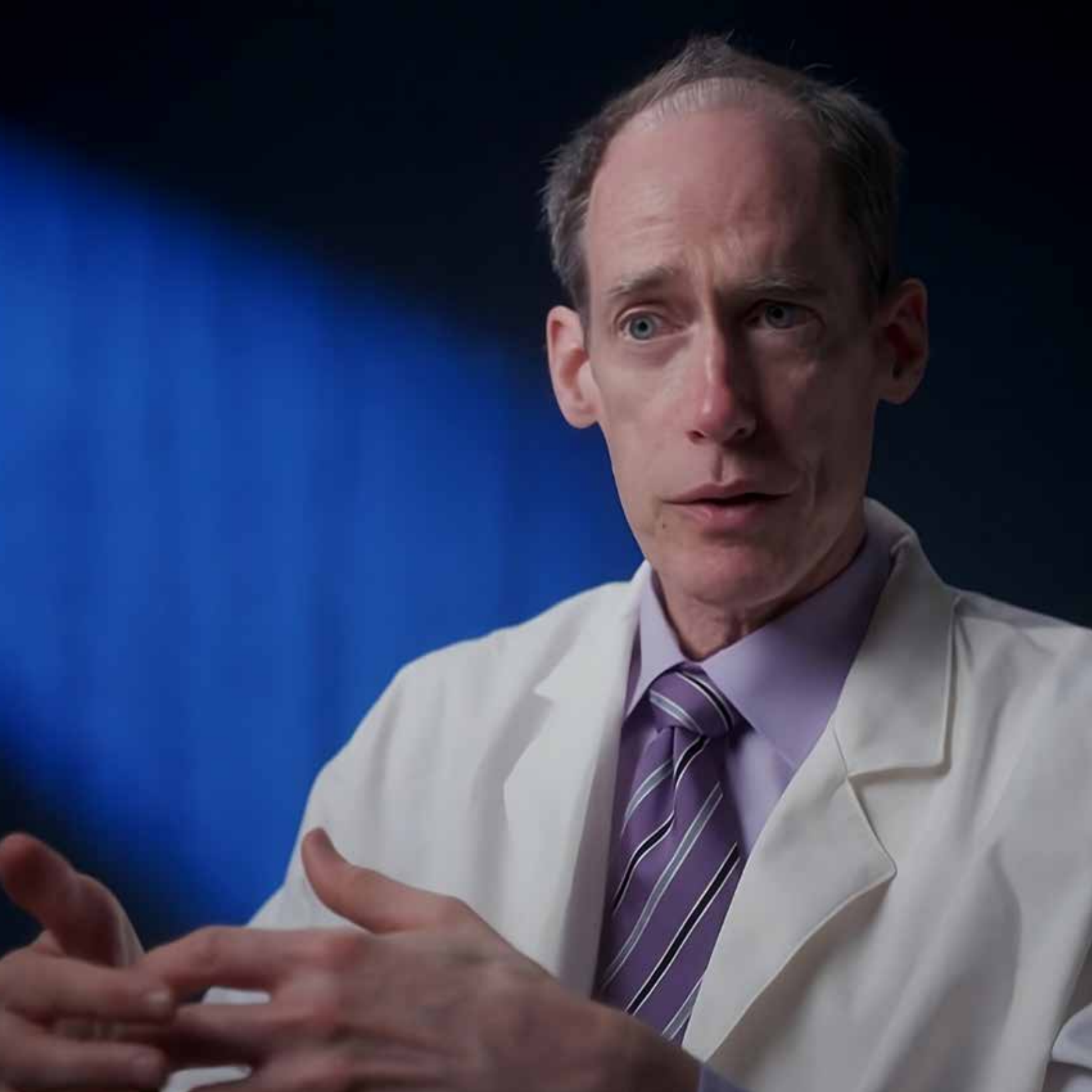
This is the future of VA cancer care – connected, responsive, technologically advanced, and deeply personal. Together, we're actively building this future, one Veteran at a time.



The future of care at VA is technologically empowered and Veteran-centered.

— **Dr. Michael Kelly**
VHA Executive Director
National Oncology Program





For more information about VA's cancer care, please visit
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