

LIVING BEYOND BREAST CANCER

Speakers

Kaia Verich

Kaia Verich has over 20 years of oncology nursing experience at M Health Fairview. Her previous roles include inpatient nursing experience at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, nursing education for the medical oncology, surgical oncology, and blood and marrow transplant units at UMMC, and in quality improvement for the cancer care service line. She has been working in the cancer survivorship program for the last five years. Her passion lies in creating exceptional care experiences for patients and their caregivers.

Ashley Clark

Ashley Clark is a fulltime Oncology Case Manager/Breast Navigator at M Health Fairview in Wyoming, MN. She has been in the position for 7 years. She helps educate patients on their diagnosis and treatment (chemotherapy) if needed, triage symptoms and coordinate their care from diagnosis to survivorship and beyond. She is the “go to” person for any questions and concerns and cherishes the relationships she has built with each patient. Prior to being a Case Manager, she worked on an Oncology/Medical unit as an inpatient nurse.



Damé Idossa

Dr. Damé Idossa is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and a Breast Oncologist in the division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Idossa is a native of Ethiopia and immigrated to Minnesota at the age of 8. Dr. Idossa is a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion and has a long-standing commitment to serving vulnerable populations. Her research interests focus on disparities in cancer care, breast cancer in young women and increasing access to clinical trials.

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Carrie Macoskey, OT

Carrie Macoskey is an Occupational therapist with 32 years of experience. She has been a certified lymphedema therapist and has worked with Fairview for 25 years. She has an interest in exercise after breast cancer treatment and lymphedema. Carrie previously worked at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City and Jackson-Madison County Medical Center in Jackson, TN. She is a Vodder Certified Lymphedema Therapist since 1999 and a member of Lymphology Association of North America since 2001.



Ellen LaFontaine, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C

Ellen LaFontaine, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C, is a clinical social worker who supports adult cancer patients at M Health Fairview Cancer Centers in Burnsville and Edina. She is a member of the Association of Oncology Social Work and engages locally with our Minnesota cancer community through membership with the following organizations: Gilda's Club Twin Cities Medical Advisory Board, Minnesota Cancer Alliance's Cancer Health Equity Network, and American Cancer Society's Caregiver Coalition. She has a particular interest in interventions that support the coping of the entire family.



Tara Rick, PhD, PA-C

Dr. Tara Rick is a Research Associate in Cancer Survivorship at the University of Minnesota. She is a member of the Screening, Prevention, Etiology and Cancer Survivorship Program within the Masonic Cancer Center and member of the Scientific Network on Female Sexual Health and Cancer. She is a long-term Physician Assistant in Hematology/Oncology at M Health Fairview with a special focus on the effect of cancer and its treatment on the sexual health of cancer survivors.

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Julie Moore, PT

Julie Moore has been a physical therapist with Fairview, and now MHealth Fairview, since 2009. She completed training to become a certified lymphedema therapist in 2015 and has taken multiple continuing education courses focused on breast cancer related lymphedema, breast cancer rehabilitation and strengthening after breast cancer. Julie's last 6 years of practice have been spent specifically in the lymphedema and breast cancer rehabilitation programs.

Julie was accepted to the MHealth Fairview Clinical Specialist Program in March 2023 and created a breast cancer care competency to be used throughout the system to educate therapists on comprehensive treatment of the whole person to maximize quality of life and wellness during and after breast cancer care. Julie practices at the MHealth Fairview Rehab Services location in St. Paul on University Ave and Sports and PT location at Highland Bridge (also in St. Paul).



Janelle Melgeorge Anderson, MEd, RD, LD

Janelle Melgeorge Anderson is a registered and licensed dietitian. She received her Bachelor degree in Dietetics from the College of Saint Benedict and her Master degree from the University of Minnesota. She has completed a certificate of training in Adult Weight Management from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Cardiovascular Health & Well Being practice group and the Oncology Nutrition practice group. She is the outpatient dietitian at M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital and specializes in oncology, cardiac, eating disorders and weight management.

When not working, Janelle enjoys traveling, baking cookies, and running. She has completed thirteen marathons and one ultra marathon.