

Sibley Memorial Hospital Foundation

YOUR IMPACT

Philanthropy In Action

July 2024

Monthly Update

Leigh Pilzer Honors Her Physician, Dr. Jeff Lin

Leigh Pilzer was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in August 2017. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Jeffrey Lin performed surgery, and then she met with Dr. Bruce Kressel to discuss further treatment. She underwent chemotherapy from September 2017 to December 2017. Leigh recalls: “Everyone I interacted with along the way at Sibley exhibited the highest levels of professionalism, knowledge, and empathy. Any concerns on my end were addressed quickly and respectfully. In addition, the infusion center provided a comfortable, calm, and private environment in which to undergo treatment. In all, I felt it was as smooth a cancer treatment experience as one could hope to have.”



Since then, she has continued to see Drs. Lin and Kressel for regular follow-ups. At an appointment in January 2019, Dr. Kressel told her about a new treatment option, a PARP inhibitor (poly [ADP-ribose] polymerase)- a protein that helps repair damaged DNA in both healthy cells and cancer cells, and he recommended that she take it. She later learned that Lynparza, the medication, had only been approved for patients in her position in the prior month. Says Leigh: “It brought home to me just how current the doctors at Sibley stay regarding advances in medicine, and how fortunate I am to have access to such a dedicated medical team.”

When asked why she chose to donate to Sibley, she responded: “I donated to Sibley to show my appreciation for the care I have received and for the doctors involved. I know that none of it comes cheaply, and I want to help Sibley to continue to offer top-notch care in state-of-the-art facilities, and to attract and retain world-class medical professionals.”

Additionally, Leigh is a musician, and she used her music to express her feelings about Sibley, and her doctors and treatment. Songs on her recently-released CD *Beatin' the Odds* were written in honor of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center and her doctors. “I am happy to report that now, more six years later, I am indeed beating the odds. Thanks to Drs. Lin and Kressel and all the nurses and techs involved with my surgery, treatment,

and on-going follow-ups, I am not only cancer-free but to date have not had a recurrence.”

We are grateful to you, Leigh, for your generous gift in recognition of your care and caregivers. To support Sibley physicians, contact Kristen Pruski at kpruski@jhmi.edu.

A link to the music inspired by Dr. Lin: [Lin | Leigh Pilzer \(bandcamp.com\)](https://www.bandcamp.com/album/lin-leigh-pilzer)



Staff Continue to Take Advantage of Sibley's Staff Certification Program

Veronica Amaya has been a part of the Sibley team since 2019 when she started as a Quality Specialist. A year later she was promoted to Patient Safety Specialist in the Patient Safety and Quality Department. During this time, she worked with multidisciplinary teams to improve patient safety and quality outcomes. In 2023, she transitioned to the Women's and Infants' Services Department as the Operations Manager, aiming to enhance operational efficiency within this vital service line. Achieving the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification highlights Veronica's commitment to excellence and ongoing professional development. Veronica expresses this sentiment: “This milestone

equips me with advanced project management skills, enabling me to streamline processes, manage resources more effectively, and drive impactful projects to improve the overall patient experience. Thanks to generous donors to the Sibley Foundation who support Sibley's staff certification program.”

Congratulations Veronica on your achievement! To support Sibley's Staff Certification program, contact Kristen Pruski at kpruski@jhmi.edu.

(Veronica is pictured at left with Kamelia Bayat, Administrative Director, Women and Infants Services & Behavioral Health)

Sibley Foundation Events Survey: We Want to Hear from YOU!

We want to offer you the most interesting, topical, and up-to-the-minute information about the progress and innovation that is happening at Sibley.

Please take a moment to fill out this online survey by clicking the button below to help us better serve you, our generous donor community.



Take the Survey!

**Young Professionals Board Soiree:
Save the Date, Get Involved!**



The annual Sibley Soirée hosted by the Young Professionals Board is Thursday, October 24th at the National Portrait Gallery.

The event will support expanded access to care within the Kimmel Cancer Center.

Sponsorships are available, and event tickets will be on sale in September.

Event

website: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/2024-sibley-soiree>

National Portrait Gallery
8th St. N.W. and F St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001
Thursday, October 24 from 7:00p.m.-10:00p.m.

For more information, contact Annie Williams at awill326@jhmi.edu.



Magnet Celebration

Sibley staff were treated to a barbecue picnic to celebrate the Magnet designation the hospital was awarded in June by the ANCC (American Nurses Credentialing Commission). The prestigious Magnet certification places Sibley among the top 10% of hospitals nationally and recognizes Sibley for its nursing excellence-- which ultimately ensures expert care for patients.



Attendees enjoyed food courtesy of Rockland's BBQ and bluegrass music. To support Sibley nurses, contact Kristen Pruski at kpruski@jhmi.edu.



Pickle Ball Philanthropy

Recently, the Sibley Foundation partnered with Paulette and Stanley Shulman, both of whom are Sibley patients, donors, and avid pickleball players, to host a pickleball tournament raising money for Gastrointestinal Cancer Research for the Kimmel Cancer Center at Sibley. The tournament, for players of all skill levels, was hosted by Dill Dinkers, North Bethesda and raised more than \$20,000, thanks to a generous

matching gift from the Shulmans.

Thank you to the Shulmans and fellow players for their gift!

Your Sibley Community: Events

Yoga for Cancer Survivors, Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Free

For Zoom link and other information please contact Pam Goetz, Oncology Survivorship Program Manager, at pgoetz4@jhmi.edu.

Support Group for Women with Bladder or Urothelial Cancer, 1st Thursday Monthly, 12 p.m., Free

Led by the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Sibley Memorial Hospital's Center for Patient and Family Services' program manager and genitourinary oncology social worker, this group is meant to help patients gain support and friendship by meeting others going through similar experiences. Space is limited; for Zoom link, please RSVP to Samantha Rockler, M.S.W. at srockle1@jhmi.edu.

**Support Sibley
Today!**



**SIBLEY MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL**
JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE

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