

November 15, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this year Salem Health announced a collaboration with Providence Health & Services and Samaritan Health Services to enhance gynecologic oncology care to patients in the mid-valley and surrounding areas.

This new collaboration means our gynecologic oncology services with OHSU will end on December 13, 2023.

Please be assured we will continue to provide our community with *high quality local care* in the Salem Health Gynecologic Oncology Clinic. Our priority is the health and well-being of our shared patients.

We're excited to introduce our new team of Gynecologic Oncology providers:



**Christopher Darus, MD**

**Medical School:** Wright State University School of Medicine  
**Residency:** University of Colorado Health Sciences Center  
**Fellowship:** University of Virginia  
**Certifications:** American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Gynecologic Oncology

Dr. Darus has been the medical director of the gynecologic oncology program at Providence Cancer Institute since 2020 and serves as the physician champion for the new collaboration at Salem Health. He will begin seeing patients for clinic visits in December to support the transition until Drs. Buras and Takimoto arrive.



**Andrea Buras, MD**

**Medical School:** Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University School of Medicine and Science  
**Residency:** Michigan State University, Sparrow Hospital  
**Fellowship:** University of South Florida and Moffitt Cancer Center  
**Certifications:** American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Buras will start at Salem Health in February 2024. She comes to us from Michigan where she has practiced for two years after completing her gynecologic oncology fellowship training.



**Erica Takimoto, DO**

**Medical School:** Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine  
**Residency:** St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center  
**Fellowship:** Florida Hospital Cancer Institute  
**Certifications:** American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology in Gynecologic Oncology

Dr. Takimoto has been practicing gynecologic oncology care in Kentucky for seven years following her fellowship training. She will join us at Salem Health in January 2024.



**Stefanie Eller, PA**

**Medical Training:** University of Washington  
**Certification:** National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

Stefanie has been a Physician Assistant in the Salem Health Gynecologic Oncology Clinic since June 2020 and looks forward to partnering with the new physician team and continuing to care for our patients.

**What does this mean for you as a referring provider?**

- There is a 4-6 week window where patients who need surgery in that timeframe will not be able to receive it at Salem Health.
- You may still send your referrals to our clinic and Dr. Darus will be reviewing and triaging each case based on the individual situation.
- Dr. Darus will be providing consultations at Salem Health and taking patients to surgery at Providence as appropriate during this short time.
- Patients will have the option of where they receive their care that may include Providence, Legacy, OHSU, or Willamette Valley Cancer Institute in Eugene.
- We will begin surgery again at Salem Health as soon as the first permanent provider starts with us in January.
- Patients are being made aware of their option to follow their current OHSU physician to Portland for their ongoing care.

**Why is Salem Health making this change?**

Our goal is to increase access to care that is close to home and provide a care team geographically dedicated to patients in our community. We are looking forward to more local coverage by Dr. Buras and Dr. Takimoto, which will strengthen collaboration between specialties to best support our gynecologic oncology patients.

**What if I want to discuss my patient with a Gyn Onc provider?**

Dr. Darus and Stefanie Eller are available to discuss patient cases with you. Please call our office at 503-814-1434 and our staff will help connect you.

**What if I have other questions or concerns?**

Please reach out to Andi Petrone and Dr. Nancy Reyes for any concerns related to this transition. We all have a shared goal of ensuring patients have access to this specialty care close to home and that every patient receives the care they need during this transition.

We would like to thank the OHSU physicians for the outstanding care they have provided to all of our Salem-area patients over the years. We look forward to welcoming our new provider team to Salem Health and continuing to provide the highest quality Gynecologic Oncology services for our community.

Sincerely,



Matt Boles, MD  
Executive VP Surgical Services & Medical Affairs  
Salem Health  
503-814-9387  
matthew.boles@salemhealth.org



Andi Petrone  
Director, Oncology Service Line  
Salem Health  
503-814-1445  
andrea.petrone@salemhealth.org