

EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE AWARD

Dr. Kerry Pulver has been in practice for 32 years as a community hospital oncologist. He has been employed with Saint Alphonsus Health System since 2002 where he has served as the Oncology Research Medical Director and a clinic physician in Boise, Caldwell and Emmett.

As director, Dr. Pulver's research office is a workstation in the research office, allowing him to work directly alongside and interact with research staff. He is an active participant in training new staff, spending time teaching them not only about research, but about medical oncology in a way that enhances their clinical trial knowledge. Actively engaged in daily operations of the research department, Dr. Pulver participates in interviewing and hiring, editing policies, contributing his expertise during sponsor visits, and leading research meetings. His long-standing membership on the Saint Alphonsus Institutional Review Board and Michigan Cancer Research Consortium Institutional Review Board give him a broader view of oncology research and how science and technology are shaping patient care. In 2009 when the program started, only 14 oncology patients enrolled in a clinical trial at a single site. Under his leadership, the oncology research program has grown exponentially, with 164 new patients enrolling annually in clinical trials across multiple sites in the community.

Dr. Pulver advocates for participation in clinical trials for all qualified patients, but particularly those who may have limited cancer treatment options outside of research. His dedication to serving patients in smaller communities is due, in part, because research opportunities are rare in more rural areas. Dr. Pulver's clinical expertise guides the research evaluation process and allows Saint Alphonsus to use resources efficiently while making the most crucial research available for patients and the communities served.

More than just his research focus, Dr. Pulver has touched the lives of countless patients and others with whom he has worked. He provides an outstanding example of what oncology care should be. He is board certified in Medical Oncology and Hematology. His depth of clinical oncology knowledge is extensive, and he's been a mentor to several clinicians. He has an excellent ability to teach and guide others. His calm demeanor and skilled, mellow bedside manner consistently inspire confidence and yields praise from his patients. He demonstrates not only a wide clinical knowledge base which he uses in his care of patients, but is also understanding and kind. He advocates for the patient and those who assist in their care. He strives to ensure that the team he works with provides the best care possible for his patients. He has provided care for patients in several clinical sites including Boise, Caldwell and Emmett. His leadership skills are apparent in every aspect of what he does and accomplishes.

Dr. Pulver has been a leader in promoting and improving quality in the cancer program at Saint Alphonsus. He has been instrumental in the Cancer Center's achievement of certification with the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative and with its accreditation with the American Academy of General Surgery's Commission on Cancer, making it one of only four accredited cancer programs in Idaho. Dr. Pulver has served on countless committees and councils in the hospital system and most recently as a member of the Saint Alphonsus Medical Group's Leadership Council.

A cancer diagnosis is life changing and devastating. Yet, Dr. Pulver provides a safe place of comfort and trust to his patients and their families. Throughout his career at Saint Alphonsus, his patient satisfaction scores have ranked in the top percentile nationally. Dr. Pulver's compassion and dignity toward each and every patient is a testament to his work and the mission and core values of Saint Alphonsus. In the words of his patients, "He is a very caring man and I appreciate his honesty in our talks" and "I would highly recommend Dr. Pulver for any

and all oncology treatment. He attends to all questions in a timely manner — first class staff and cannot compliment him enough for my care!"

In addition to providing outstanding care to patients, he is also very engaged with staff. He often brings his "world famous" jambalaya to the clinic, delivers farm fresh eggs from his sister's chickens, and has hilarious family stories to share (ask him how his son prepared for a suspected tsunami in Hawaii several years ago). His engagement with staff has helped to create the inviting culture within the Cancer Program.