

## Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



**Carolyn Blasdel**  
*Knight Cancer Institute*

**Linda Strahm submitted the following letter describing the outstanding care and dedication shown by Carolyn to this patient.**

I would like to tell you about a recent, and very positive, experience with OHSU and specifically Carolyn, Brian's nurse practitioner. I have continued on various clinical trials at OHSU since my early involvement with Gleevec. Unfortunately, my leukemia has continued to mutate but the care from Brian and his staff has truly been exemplary. Eight weeks ago I started a new clinical trial for Ponatinib that required trips to Portland every two weeks. For this trial I have been seeing Michael Mauro due to conflict of interest possibilities but Brian and Carolyn are still my primary team. On my way out to Portland from Wisconsin last week, I developed severe abdominal pain and had to be helped off the airplane. I left the airport originally heading to the Arlington Club to see if the pain would pass, but decided on the way, that I should head directly to OHSU. I called Carolyn, told her that I was in trouble, and she dropped everything she was doing and met me as soon as I got to the clinic about 1:30 in the afternoon. Carolyn immediately knew what was wrong, acute pancreatitis, and stuck by my side until I was formally diagnosed. I found out later that she stayed at work until the wee hours of the morning to get ready for Brian's clinic the next day. Her continued follow through that night and over the next several days were also outstanding. She is a huge part of Brian's team and a truly special caregiver who deserves recognition for her dedication and self-sacrifice for patient benefit. You should be proud to have people like Carolyn on your staff. I know that I will always want her in my corner as long as I am battling Leukemia.

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