

Distance to top level cancer care: 0.0 miles

Jodie Bennett was dealing with a nasty cough in early 2009.



As a nurse and mother of two young children, it was slowing her down. She made a quick stop at a walk-in clinic to have her cough checked out. The doctor put her on an antibiotic.

“My cough progressively got

worse,” says Jodie. “After a few months, I came to Mercy for additional tests. They did a chest X-ray and saw some spots. They sent me to see Dr. Wiesenfeld at Oncology Associates.”

Dr. Martin Wiesenfeld, a medical oncologist, delivered the difficult news. Jodie had Stage 3, inoperable lung cancer. Scared and searching for options, Jodie sought a second opinion at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

“I went to Mayo thinking a surgeon there will tell me he can operate and take it out,” says Jodie. “I found out they couldn’t. They

offered me the exact same treatment plan I was offered by Dr. Wiesenfeld in Cedar Rapids. I knew that staying close to home would be so much more convenient. It’s jumping in the car and driving ten to 15 minutes versus driving five to six hours. It was an easy choice if I was going to receive the same treatment here.”

Jodie chose a treatment plan that put her in a clinical trial. She received chemotherapy at

Oncology Associates and radiation at Mercy Medical Center.

It is patients like Jodie that inspired Mercy and Oncology Associates to build upon their strengths and collaborate to bring a state-of-the-art destination cancer center to Cedar Rapids.

Dr. Wiesenfeld will serve as the medical director. “I’m pleased we’re going to provide a facility that puts radiation, medical oncology and other support services into one center. The

integration and coordination is vital to good care. It’ll allow patients to come to one place to get the treatment they need and it will respect their time. One facility allows us to bring many providers together and offer even better care.”

Jodie is now in remission. She feels confident she received the very best cancer care available while remaining close to home and her young family. She’s enthused about the added benefits of a new cancer center, with so many services offered—all in one location.

“When you’re going through cancer, chemo, radiation and all the things you go through physically and emotionally, it’ll be

nice to have services all in one place. Patients won’t have to drive all over to see experts and get answers,” says Jodie.

“It’s about providing people with the best care, in their home environment, with support systems nearby,” says Dr. Wiesenfeld. “And to be able to assure patients that the care they’re receiving here is the best care they can receive anywhere.”

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*Jodie Bennett
Cancer survivor*

A mother of two young children, Jodie Bennett was diagnosed with Stage 3, inoperable lung cancer about a year ago. She was thankful to receive the best treatment available close to home at Mercy’s Hall Radiation Center and from Dr. Martin Wiesenfeld, a medical oncologist at Oncology Associates and medical director for Mercy’s new cancer center.