

An important message from the President & CEO

To all Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center employees,

I am sure you are aware that our organization has been receiving negative media coverage in recent days. I want to address this issue directly and assure you that we take it seriously. Some of you may be disconcerted by the allegations that you have been reading about our organization. Please remember, these are allegations of an individual who has filed a lawsuit against Roswell Park. The media is able to quote from her litigation complaint without regard to whether there is any proof or evidence supporting her allegations. Our advisors have told us we should not respond to these allegations in the media; that the courtroom is the place for Roswell Park to defend itself.

To be clear, all large organizations have employment-related lawsuits from time to time. We are no different from them in this respect, contrary to what was indicated. We deny all allegations of wrongdoing made by the former employee and we intend to vigorously defend against this lawsuit. We are confident that the Court will ultimately rule in our favor, but that takes time. Beyond that, playing this out in the media in response to every story and allegation is not an effective way to defend Roswell Park. We will let our Court papers and the actual evidence do the talking at the appropriate time.

I know this process and the negative media can be frustrating. I ask you to consider whether what you are hearing in these media reports is an accurate depiction of the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center you know. I do not believe that it is even close. Each and every day you prove these inaccurate depictions wrong by the way you serve our patients and community.

I am proud to serve as the President & CEO of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, and I couldn't be more grateful for what each of you bring to our organization each day. Contrary to some of the reporting, Roswell has cutting-edge technology and resources, a passionate and dedicated team of employees, and a genuine commitment to providing the best and highest quality of care possible.

In due course, we will reach out to media to provide them with accurate information about our organization, to address the questions they have raised, and to point out to them where their stories have been inaccurate or misleading. We are committed to transparency, accountability and accuracy, and we will do everything in our power to retain the trust of our community.

Let us continue to work together to ensure that Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center reflects the best of who we are.

Candace S. Johnson, PhD
President, CEO and M&T Bank Presidential Chair in Leadership