

## Cancer Hospital Embraces Chiropractic Care

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I was excited to find out that my friend, classmate and colleague from Philadelphia had been appointed Medical Director of Chiropractic Services at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America<sup>1</sup>. Dr. Jeffrey Sklar showed me around the hospital during recent trip to the USA.



Astoundingly, I was encountered with not only state of the art medical treatment of cancer, but the pleasant experience of *hope* in the hallways. It was refreshing meeting naturopaths, massage therapists and rehabilitation coordinators all working together with oncologists. I know of no similar establishment in this country. It's hard enough in my own district to get a medical doctor to refer based upon patient request or need.

The feeling was that this institution was more meant for living than dying, much as

we know that the latter can factor into this disease process. It fills a gap in the evolving paradigm for the care of the whole person. It also fills in a gap in the marketplace for people who understand a greater need to feel *well*, and not just relying on a third party reporting the absence of disease.

I am unaware after this brief visit if efficacy trials have been affected or outcomes have been improved, but certainly if there is a feeling that all bases are being covered for the benefit of the suffering, then a certain degree of success is assured. Even if it is for loved ones.

Chiropractic was openly advertised as an option in the hallways, which is exciting.

“Care that never quits.” and “Patient Empowered Medicine”, are slogans you just don't see in average public hospitals, or indeed around the treatment of disease in Australia.

I was also amazed at the following sign:



It was a reminder, if anything, that the patient is in control.

Cancer Treatment Centers of America is an impressive model that our profession should be observing closely.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cancercenter.com/complementary-alternative-medicine/chiropractic-care.cfm>