



Life as we know it is disrupted when cancer invades and turns the world upside down. That is why the people of Southern Illinois deserve the best cancer care possible. This includes state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, medical experts who are the top in their fields and compassionate treatment options close to home.

The SIH Cancer Institute is proud to bring all of this and more to the people of Southern Illinois.

One example of this outstanding care is the incredible story of Darci and Hope.



YOU

Have the Power to Change the Life of a Cancer Patient in Southern Illinois.

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Thank you for your support!

JOIN US

On a Journey of Hope & Healing!

SIH Foundation

SIH Cancer Institute



*Comprehensive Cancer Care
Close to Home*

The SIH Cancer Institute has experienced overwhelming growth in key essential areas. Infusion and Lab services have more than doubled their number of visits with the availability of new chemotherapy, immunotherapy and biotherapy. Furthermore, the number of new consultations has grown by over 50%.



Survivors!

Darci & Hope Gagnon
Carbondale, IL

Darci Gagnon woke up one morning from a dream she couldn't forget. She dreamt she had a baby girl named Hope.

What a strange dream, she thought to herself. She and her husband already had two older kids — and they weren't planning on having more. Plus, the couple was facing a difficult reality: Darci, who was only 35, had recently been diagnosed with an aggressive form of hormone-driven breast cancer.

She was scheduled a few weeks later for a double mastectomy. Just as she was about to be wheeled into surgery, her anesthesiologist came back to the room and said something both she and her husband would never forget: "Did you know your pregnancy test came back positive? Is that possible?"

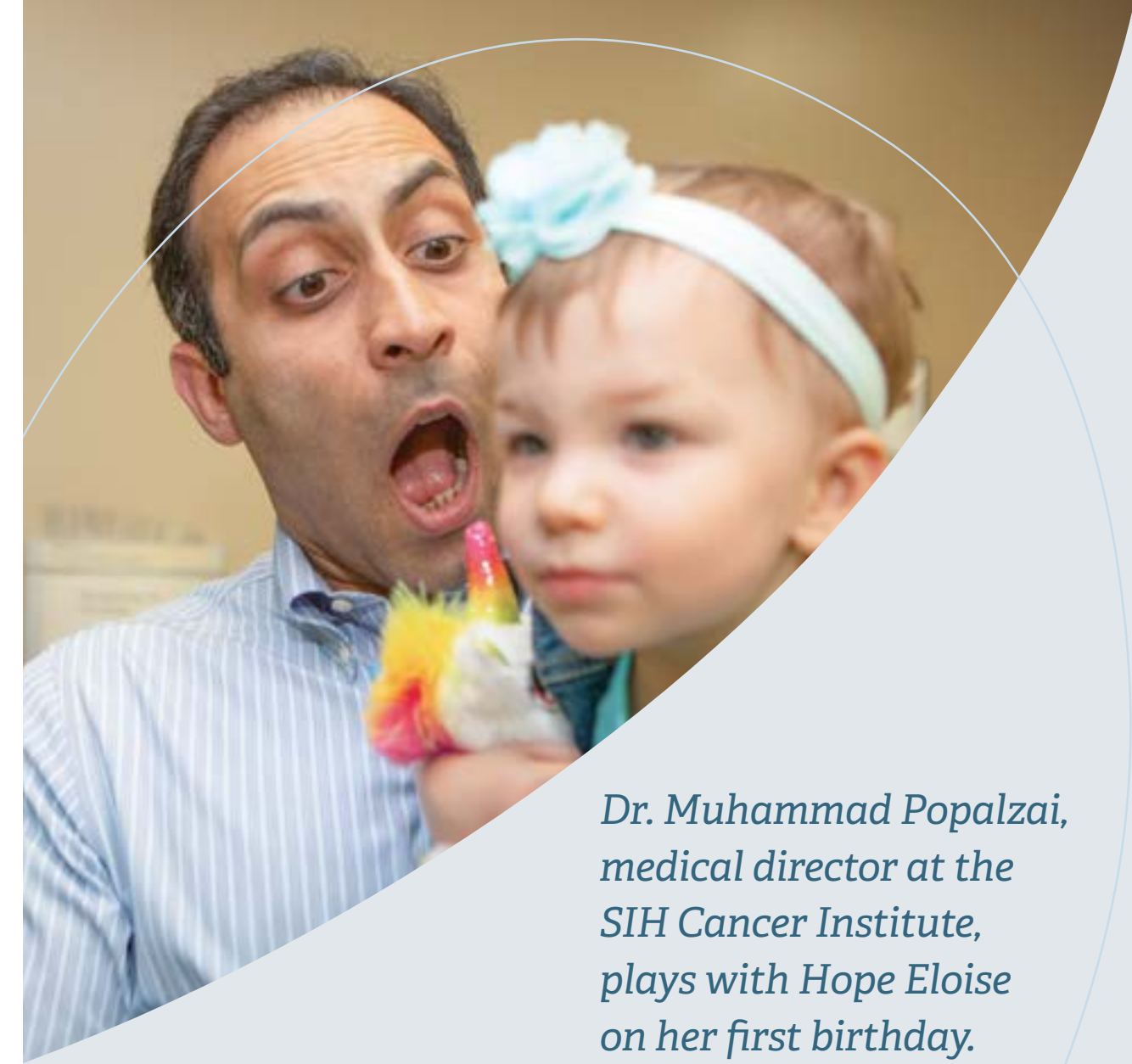
They were both stunned. It had taken them almost five years to get pregnant with their first child. Now, Darci was four weeks pregnant. "Hearing this news was more shocking and terrifying than finding out I had cancer," Darci says. "Now there were two of us. I was fighting for two lives, and I was going to do whatever I needed to do to protect my baby."

Dr. Muhammad Popalzai, medical director at the SIH Cancer Institute, knows first-hand that cancer isn't a one-time issue. Especially for Darci, he knew she would need multiple appointments, surgeries and support.

"Since we're a small community, we can offer true emotional and social support to all our patients, which is different than what you may get at a hospital in a bigger city," Dr. Popalzai says. "Everybody who works at the SIH Cancer Institute knows their patients."

From January to May, Darci had six rounds of chemotherapy and various other procedures. Dr. Popalzai made sure the type and timing of the treatments were helping mom-to-be, but not hurting the growing baby.

At 35 weeks, she gave birth on Father's Day and named her daughter Hope, inspired by her dream. Hope Eloise met the requirements of a full-term baby and the family went home together, happy and healthy, two days later.



Dr. Muhammad Popalzai, medical director at the SIH Cancer Institute, plays with Hope Eloise on her first birthday.

Hope celebrated her first birthday at the SIH Cancer Institute this past June with the people her mother and father consider among their closest friends and family!

Cancer does not stop to take a break and neither can we! We give our best effort to provide the most outstanding services possible to the people of Southern Illinois. Your gift can directly support one of our SIH Patient & Community Support Funds:

- Cancer Care Patient Support Fund
- Coach Kill Fund

Or you may choose to support our ongoing efforts to expand the SIH Cancer Institute by donating to the SIH Cancer Institute Fund.

Please visit www.sih.net/foundation for more information about the SIH Foundation or ways you can support the SIH Cancer Institute and people in need in Southern Illinois.

Thank you for your support!



Kassi Peterson, Oncology LPN, celebrating with Hope Eloise on her birthday.