

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Simulation Center to Develop and Train Next Generation of Oncology Nurses

The Ning Zhao & Ge Li Simulation Center offers a safe, hands-on learning environment for nurses.

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On May 5, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute opened the [Ning Zhao & Ge Li Simulation Center](#), one of the only simulation centers in the country devoted exclusively to ambulatory oncology care.

The simulation center offers a safe, hands-on learning environment where nurses practice and refine key technical skills while navigating challenging and complex patient scenarios. The center's clinical spaces, cutting-edge equipment and training setting provides evidence-based education that enhances patient safety, outcomes and the overall patient experience.

The new simulation center is designed and led by oncology nurse experts, supporting Dana-Farber's global leadership in oncology nursing education and commitment to providing world-class care to individuals with cancer.

Simulation training has been incorporated at Dana-Farber to respond to the tremendous growth in patient volume and the evolving field of oncology, particularly around new cancer drugs and innovative therapies.

"Nurses touch patients at every point of their care and treatment," said Anne Gross, Ph.D., senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer and the Ning Zhao Chair of Nursing at Dana-Farber. "This center is yet another way that Dana-Farber is demonstrating equal commitment to excellent patient experience and the scientific discoveries we are advancing every day."

The center environment closely mirrors Dana-Farber clinical spaces, complete with a vital sign bay, phlebotomy area, pharmacy and compounding space, medication preparation room and infusion rooms. Interdisciplinary scenarios elevate team communication, workflow and ultimately patient care.

In July 2023, a \$10 million gift from the Ge Li & Ning Zhao Family Foundation created the simulation center as part of the [Ning Zhao & Ge Li Family Initiative in Nursing](#). The historic gift was

inspired by Dr. Li in honor of the life and legacy of his wife, Dr. Zhao, a visionary scientist, business leader and philanthropist who succumbed to her 20-year battle with cancer at age 56 in 2023.

The simulation center is the brainchild of Jeanine Rundquist, executive director of Dana-Farber's Center for Clinical and Professional Development. Rundquist noted that because nursing schools don't provide specialized or extensive oncology nursing education, specialized simulation oncology education is critical for Dana-Farber nurses.

"In addition to reducing barriers to entering the field of oncology nursing, the center supports Dana-Farber's renowned commitment to professional development, retention and career advancement," Rundquist said. "We appreciate this important resource for ensuring the best possible experience for patients with cancer locally and across the globe."

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