Dr. Richard Van Etten, director of UC Irvine’s Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, holds frozen leukemia cells used by researchers working on new treatments.

Targeted therapies and immunotherapies show promise to cure cancers or reduce their effects, he says.

Richard Van Etten, director of the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at UC Irvine, highlighted some of the cutting-edge research into new treatments during a recent lecture at Newport Beach Central Library.

Two main branches of study—targeted therapies and immunotherapies—are showing a lot of promise and are likely the future of cancer treatment, he said.

“The future is already here; it’s coming very, very fast,” Van Etten said. “We’re taking cancers that are previously incurable and we’re curing them. We’re taking other cancers and turning them into chronic diseases patients can live with.”

Nevertheless, Van Etten said, cancer is on track to overtake cardiovascular disease as the No. 1 killer in the U.S. Treatment of more than 150 forms of cancer is expected to cost the U.S. $434 billion by 2020.

“Cancer is very, very big business,” Van Etten said. “The cancer industry is huge and growing. We’re in a great position to make an impact.”

Van Etten said researchers at UC Irvine Health and across the globe are studying new ways to attack cancer cells directly.

Among Dr. Proctor’s feats as CEO of St. Joseph Health was forging a partnership with Hoag Hospital.

Deborah Proctor will end 10-year tenure as health care industry undergoes broad changes and increasing financial pressure.

Deborah Proctor, CEO of St. Joseph Health, will step down at the end of this year after a decade in which she oversaw St. Joseph’s growth into a $6 billion medical delivery system that has become a major pillar of hospital and physician care in Orange County and beyond.

She will leave the Catholic nonprofit health system in a fortified position to confront the headwinds buffeting the hospital industry. All hospitals are under financial pressure in an era of new payment models that stress the quality of patient care rather than the volume of services provided. And they face fines for medical errors and readmissions that are deemed above normal.

St. Joseph owns 16 hospitals in California, Texas and New Mexico—including three in Orange County—and has numerous affiliated doctor groups.

Proctor, 63, is the first woman who is not a nun to head the health system since it was formed in 1920 after a flu epidemic. She joined the hospital group as CEO in 2005, and later shepherded it to a powerhouse affiliation with one of the most profitable hospitals in the county, Hoag Hospital.

“It’s been a period of rapid change. I imagine it’s a really tough and increasingly competitive environment,” said Mireille Jacobson, director of the Center for Health Care Management at the University of Southern California.

St. Joseph CEO announces plans to leave post
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Women may experience a combination of things they don’t always associate with a heart attack. Maybe we need to do a better job of explaining and describing to the public what a heart attack looks like and feels like." — Sarah Laskar, Associate Professor of Cardiology, St. John’s University Health, The School of Medicine and Dentistry, St. John’s University.

CANCER: UCI explores new treatments

Though the role is very small, people without ADHD may have a higher risk of developing hypogonadism disorder, possibly because of lower levels of testosterone, the study showed.

Researchers at UCI Health have shown ADHS group died early. Researchers have already published last week in the British medical journal The Lancet.

The mean for developing children who have ADHD and are without the condition, researchers collected evidence that ADHD is a true disorder and should be recognized as such. The symptoms include impulsivity, hyperactivity and difficulty maintaining attention.

Researchers found that hyperactivity-related disorders are responsible for 34% of early death, study shows

Therapists that more closely target malignant cells while sparing healthy cells are the focus of many cancer researchers, said Dr. Richard Van Etten of UCI Irvine.

Source: Health Day News

DID YOU KNOW?

ADHD can boost chances of early death, study shows

The mean developmental disorder affects about 6.1 million children aged 4 to 17, and often continues into adulthood. The symptoms include impulsivity, hyperactivity and difficulty maintaining attention.

Researchers found that hyperactivity-related disorders are responsible for 34% of early death, study shows

Therapists that more closely target malignant cells while sparing healthy cells are the focus of many cancer researchers, said Dr. Richard Van Etten of UCI Irvine.

Source: Health Day News

PROCTOR: St. Joseph Health CEO to quit

"Through Deborah’s leadership, St. Joseph is very well positioned," said Dr. Mitch Silver, a health care consultant with Deloitte LLP. "A very close relationship and integration with Hoag was a really smart move. Proctor’s 43-year career in the health care industry began in cardiac-vascular care and marketing. She said the fall in time with the “white-knight” philosophy of the hospital went so far as to match her teacher. Directing St. Joseph Hospital, which then formed a partnership with Children’s Hospital of Orange County.

"I was amused when I began to work at St. Joseph, that people talked about faith, how we would operate. The patients were still very religious, but the mode had changed. It really shaped my whole career," she said.

Proctor said she doesn’t want to devote more time to her four children and five grandchildren. "I was going to need to make this change at the best time for years, and the timing seemed to be the appropriate time," she said. "The system is in a really good, positive place right now."

Proctor’s replacement is expected to be named this week.

"It’s a really tough envi-

ORANGE COUNTY REPORTER

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