



**Genome readers honor genetic counselors  
who interpret complexity with compassion.**

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L TO R:  
MARVIN, FAITH

# Faith Callif-Daley Wellspring of Knowledge

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**Faith Callif-Daley**  
MS, CGC

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Nominated by  
Marvin Miller, MD

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Photograph by  
Chris Langer

Dayton Children's Hospital  
Dayton, Ohio

**I nominate Faith Callif-Daley** for her efforts in beginning and maintaining an outstanding Cancer Genetics Program in the metropolitan Dayton area that has been managed through the Department of Medical Genetics at Dayton Children’s Hospital.

In 1993, I had the opportunity to hire this talented and energetic genetic counselor. In 1994, when the clinical use of genetic testing for breast, ovarian, and colon cancers was in its infancy, Faith had the vision to recognize that providing this service to the Dayton community might be a promising venture.

Indeed she was right. She initiated the steps to collaborate with various oncology services in Dayton, and soon we were offering state-of-the-art cancer genetic services for families and individuals with possible familial cancer syndromes. Her cancer counseling activities have alleviated the anxiety of many, and her practical and scientifically based recommendations, based on current medical practices for cancer screening, surveillance, prevention, and treatment, have been a benefit to thousands of families.

Over the past 22 years, I have had the privilege to sit in on some of Faith’s sessions and have signed off on all of her letters. I do not sit in on these sessions because Faith needs assistance — it is entirely for insurance billing reasons. In fact, when I sit in on her sessions, I typically learn one or two new facts. I am indebted to Faith for

teaching me cancer genetics over these 22 years.

I am only too aware of what goes into these encounters. The one- to two-hour sessions that Faith provides are done with great personal care and sensitivity. Faith is masterful at assembling all of the necessary information, providing this to the patient in understandable language, navigating the challenging insurance issues, and finalizing a plan of action that is acceptable to the patient and referring physician.

The results of these encounters sometimes lead to genetic testing that can unlock the reason there have been so many individuals with cancer in a particular family. Armed with this new information, at-risk individuals in these families can be empowered to get testing to find out if they are at greater risk for developing cancer because they carry the disease mutation.

Clearly, the high-quality Cancer Genetics Program that Faith has established over the past two decades has improved the health and well-being of many in our region and beyond. Relatives of our patients in far-off places often benefit from this information as well.

This year Faith will personally evaluate about 500 individuals and families who are referred because of a personal or family history of cancer. Her letters are exemplary, as she packs an enormous amount of critical information into a clear and easy-to-read

document that includes their history, a computer-generated pedigree, test results, and recommendations. These valuable recommendations are based on Faith’s current review of these disorders, which she constantly updates. Anyone who operates in the world of the modern electronic record who wants to see a model medical document should review one of Faith’s patient letters — the quality of her letters is unsurpassed by any I have ever read.

Several years ago, Faith began a support group for individuals (mostly women) who have had a positive BRCA test result. This group has had immense success in helping individuals with positive BRCA test results face and deal with the challenges that this diagnosis brings.

Faith has proven herself to be a role model for other healthcare providers. Her fellow genetic counselors and I seek advice from her in matters related to familial cancer syndromes. Her knowledge of these disorders is vast and current.

Faith’s assistance to patients and families with familial cancer syndromes is truly exceptional. The world, and specifically the greater Dayton area, is truly a better place as a result of her efforts. Thousands of individuals have benefited from her tireless work. 🙏

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