

SUMMER 2017

SPECTRUM HEALTH  
Foundation

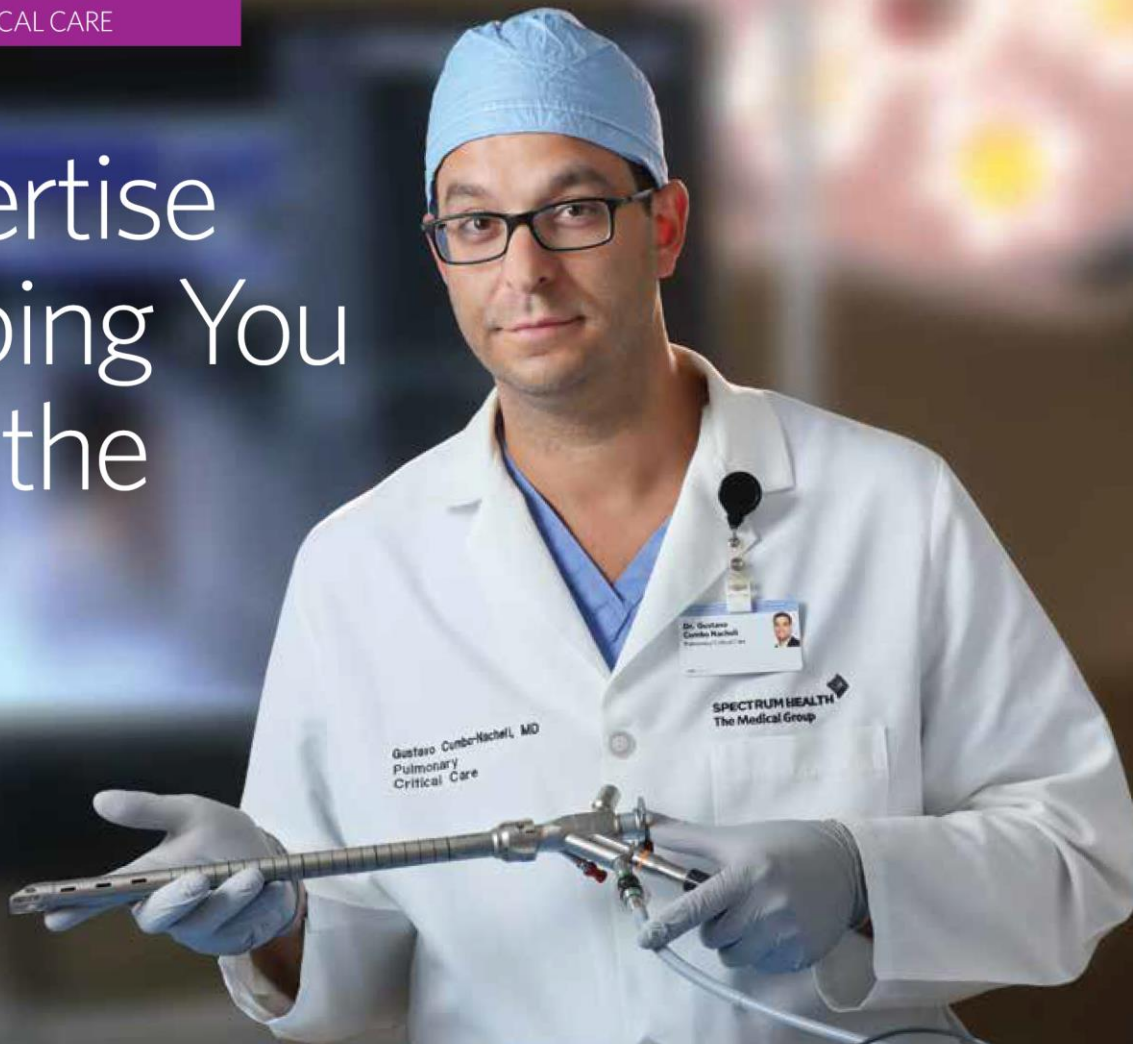
SPECTRUM HEALTH  
Helen DeVos  
children's hospital  
FOUNDATION

# Giving Matters

Spectrum Health Foundation & Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation Magazine



# Expertise Helping You Breathe



Jane and Ernie Sandona are celebrating 45 years of marriage with their two beautiful and successful daughters. They are active and never really think about retiring. And together they will walk the journey ahead. This winter, Jane came down with a cold and persistent cough she just couldn't kick. The convenient care clinic prescribed an antibiotic to no avail. She feared she had pneumonia and struggled to breathe.

On March 7, she came in to the Spectrum Health Emergency Room and preliminary tests showed it was more than pneumonia. "I wasn't expecting to hear the 'c' word," says Jane. "All of a sudden, my world was foggy and moving in slow motion, and I literally and figuratively couldn't breathe."

Gustavo Cumbo-Nacheli, MD, director of bronchoscopy and interventional pulmonology and the first American Association Board Certified Interventional

Pulmonologist at Spectrum Health, treated Jane. "Interventional pulmonology entails the ability to perform minimally invasive surgery in order to diagnose pulmonary conditions, and address airway abnormalities with various clinical scenarios as in patients with cancer or lung transplantation," says Dr. Gus. "Using state-of-the-art techniques that allow for interventions such as airway stenting and laser technology, we improve the quality of life for patients by helping them breathe more easily. This isn't available anywhere else in West Michigan." He knew he could help Jane.

Thanks to philanthropy and Dr. Gus' vision, the recently acquired rigid bronchoscope would successfully clear Jane's airway. "He came into my room with such confidence," says Jane. "I liked him immediately. He was straightforward. He said 'Jane, your lung is full of gunk, and we need to clear it out in order to get you

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# First Accredited Interventional Pulmonologist at Spectrum Health


Thanks to the leadership of cardiothoracic surgeon Geoffrey Lam, MD, and the only board-certified interventional pulmonologist in West Michigan, Gustavo Cumbo-Nacheli, MD (Dr. Gus), we are improving the way our patients live and providing the comfort of open airways to our patients struggling to breathe.

Interventional pulmonology entails diagnosing and treating conditions beyond regular pulmonology, including complications of lung transplants, congenital diseases and end-stage cancer treatment. Until recently, patients who needed such treatment had to travel to Detroit, Chicago or Cleveland.

"My vision is one of being able to provide our own community with leading-edge medical care, and the personnel, equipment and facilities exceeding even the highest standards," says Dr. Gus. "For the past several months, we have helped very sick patients in ways that we were not able to do before, by intervening aggressively and in a timely manner. Working side-by-side with Dr. Lam has proven to be a great starting point of hopefully many more to come."

The Foundation congratulates Dr. Gus on his achievement and his vision for developing "a Spectrum Health pulmonary service second to none!" Spectrum Health continues to advance the health and well-being of patients struggling to breathe.

For more information about this life-changing program and funding needs, please contact Tara Werkhoven at 616.391.2069 or [tara.werkhoven@spectrumhealth.org](mailto:tara.werkhoven@spectrumhealth.org).



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## Expertise Helping You Breathe continued

some relief. I'm going to use something that looks like an IV pole to clear an airway.' He scared me, but he has such passion and he reassured me this was the best way. I never doubted him."

The rigid bronchoscope cleared the entire airway, and she didn't require a stent. The next day she walked out of the intensive care unit and over to her regular private room in the Lettinga Inpatient Cancer Center. "I can't believe how good I feel. I walk to the food court without any oxygen," says Jane. "I'm delighted. No one should fear the rigid bronchoscope. I don't have to spend time and energy recovering from invasive surgery. This allows me to use all of my strength to fight my lung cancer, and we are ready to fight."