



UIC Department of Medicine

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Dr. Marla Barkoff was awarded the UI CARE Individual Award for going far beyond what is required of a physician. Dr. Barkoff was recognized by a patient who is also an employee. Read the full article at the link below.

CARE Individual Awards 2016 | University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System

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Marla Barkoff

MD - Endocrinology

Not only am I staff here, but I am a patient. I seek my care here because we have some incredible providers. There are more who I probably should be recognizing besides Dr. Barkoff, but she has gone so far beyond what is required of a physician that I cannot live with myself without acknowledging her. I had a biopsy done in November that came back with results that were not favorable. My PMD, who is great by the way, recommend that I see Endocrinology immediately to discuss next steps. If anyone reading this is a health care provider, you know we make the WORST patients possible because we have seen many bad outcomes. The day I got my results, I called the Access number, like every other patient. The next appointments weren't until 2 months out. I was terrified. I wanted follow up as soon as possible. As I was on the phone with an Access person, an opening appeared on Dr. Barkoff's schedule. Since I was just across the street, I was able to be on time for that open position. I really think it was fate since I was able to see her the same day as I got my results. Even though the Wellness center was not able to process me in the regular manner, I was seen by Dr. Barkoff that day. She got to see me at my worst as I had just found out the results from my PMD over the phone. The results were not in the computer. Not knowing was scarier than knowing what I was dealing with. When I met Dr. Barkoff, I was astounded by her kindness and concern. As she looked for the results, she was not able to find anything in the computer as well. She responded "that's okay, I know all the pathologists. Let me make a call". So it wasn't just one call, but multiple calls with me in the room until she found the pathologist. He was currently testing my biopsy cells to see if I had the worst type of result and would not have that final result until 4 pm that day. So I finally knew where I was and she was able to give me an HONEST plan with my care. I started with "I don't want to jump the gun, but would you do the surgery if I need it?". She responded "you are not jumping the gun because you are already there." Her honesty was amazing. She was able to walk through all my options and partnered with me and my care. She gave me the scoring system and explained what everything meant. She even told me about the new Endocrinology practice guidelines that just changed 2 weeks ago that would impact my care. She was AMAZING. I can't believe how lucky I was to have met her. She asked if it was ok to contact me and told me how to contact her. She asked that I update her

every 1-2 days. Because my husband was not with me at the time, he had many questions (ones he didn't want to ask me). She told me to give him the phone and she would answer all his questions. Please keep in mind that this was after hours (around 8 pm) just to make sure we were all doing okay. She remembered the day before my surgery to wish me luck, she called the day after. She has always been kind, compassionate, caring and wonderful. I always let anyone know who was thinking about seeing an endocrinologist that I know "the best one ever"!!

Please recognize her, though I know she does not do this for the recognition. But I want UI Health to know what an amazing asset that they have within their institution.

[Click here to see CARE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS 2016 page.](#)