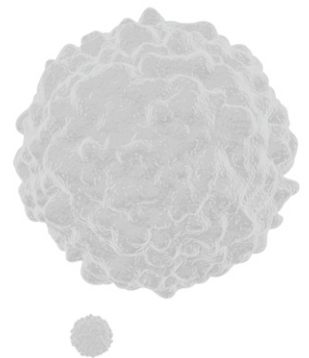
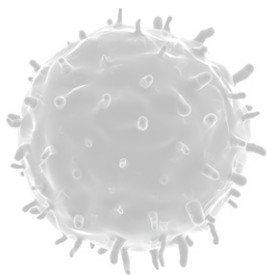


# TOWARD A CANCER-FREE WORLD

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT



## The James



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

Welcome to the 2017 Accomplishments Report of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

2017 marked the end of an era for Ohio State's cancer program as our longtime OSUCCC Director and James CEO, Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, stepped down in November to embark on a new career opportunity in California. Our senior executive director and COO, Jeff Walker, has also left our program for another opportunity. While we are saddened by their departures, we also are honored to have been chosen to guide the cancer program with the knowledge that our exemplary faculty and staff remain steadfast in pursuing our shared vision of a cancer-free world.

And we have a superb base for continued growth. Under our departed leaders, the OSUCCC – James enjoyed record financial performance, earned the highest possible descriptor of "exceptional" during our two most recent National Cancer Institute (NCI) site visits, received patient-satisfaction scores that rank among the nation's highest, and gained a reputation as one of the most translational cancer hospitals in the country as we convert discoveries into innovative cancer care and prevention strategies.

Our more than 340 cancer researchers, who collectively represent 11 of the 15 colleges at Ohio State, generate \$90 million in research funding each year, including \$54 million in NCI funding. Our researchers annually produce about 1,000 publications in prestigious scientific journals, and 89 percent of those involve collaborative studies.

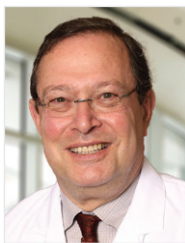
This report highlights our many achievements of 2017, including: peer-reviewed research studies that have furthered global knowledge of cancer; large grants we received for cancer research; success in recruiting brilliant scientists to our cancer program; prominent awards we received; far-reaching initiatives and projects that we launched and are leading; and the continuing success of Pelotonia, an annual grassroots cycling event that raises millions of dollars for cancer research at Ohio State.

Buoyed by the realization that there is no routine cancer because each case is biologically unique, our dedicated faculty, staff and volunteers will continue to help the OSUCCC – James evolve as a transformational cancer hospital that provides research-based and compassionate care for all who turn to us for help.



**William Farrar, MD**

Interim CEO, James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute



**Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD**

Director, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center



## OSUCCC – James Leads Statewide Initiative Against Lung Cancer

Recruitment is underway for a statewide clinical research initiative taking aim at lung cancer, the No. 1 cancer killer among men and women in the United States. Led by **Peter Shields, MD**, **David Carbone, MD, PhD**, **Barbara Andersen, PhD**, and **Mary Ellen Wewers, RN, PhD, MPH**, the initiative is called **Beating Lung Cancer – In Ohio** (BLC – IO) and is supported by \$3 million from **Pelotonia**, an annual grassroots cycling event that raises money for cancer research at Ohio State. The initiative will draw upon a network of 50 hospitals around Ohio that was established by an earlier statewide project—the Ohio Colorectal Cancer Prevention Initiative—which was also led by the OSUCCC – James and funded by Pelotonia. BLC – IO has two aims: to evaluate the impact of advanced gene testing and expert advice on lung cancer treatment and patient survival; and to improve smoking-cessation rates among smokers with lung cancer and their family members. Patient recruitment began in March 2017 and will extend over a three-year period.

**PELOTONIA®**



*Peter Shields, MD*



*David Carbone, MD, PhD*



*Mary Ellen Wewers, RN, PhD, MPH*

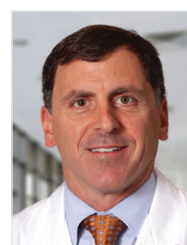


*Barbara Andersen, PhD*

## Genomics-Driven Statewide Endometrial Cancer Research Initiative Launched

The OSUCCC – James launched a third statewide clinical cancer research project—the **Ohio Prevention and Treatment of Endometrial Cancer** (OPTEC) initiative—that is supported by funding from Pelotonia, an annual grassroots cycling event that raises money for cancer research at Ohio State. Building off the community-hospital network that was developed during the OSUCCC – James' first statewide Pelotonia-funded project (Ohio Colorectal Cancer Prevention Initiative), OPTEC will recruit up to 700 Ohio women with endometrial (uterine) cancer who will be screened for Lynch syndrome (LS) and other inherited genetic conditions linked to greater risk of endometrial, colorectal, stomach and ovarian cancers. Their tumor samples will undergo molecular profiling to identify targeted treatments personalized to each patient's tumor characteristics. Patients identified with LS and their at-risk family members will be educated about the importance of genetic testing and cancer-prevention strategies based on their increased risk for LS-associated cancers. OPTEC, supported by \$1 million in Pelotonia funds, is led by **David Cohn, MD**, and **Paul Goodfellow, PhD**, with collaborators from the OSUCCC – James and Nationwide Children's Research Institute.

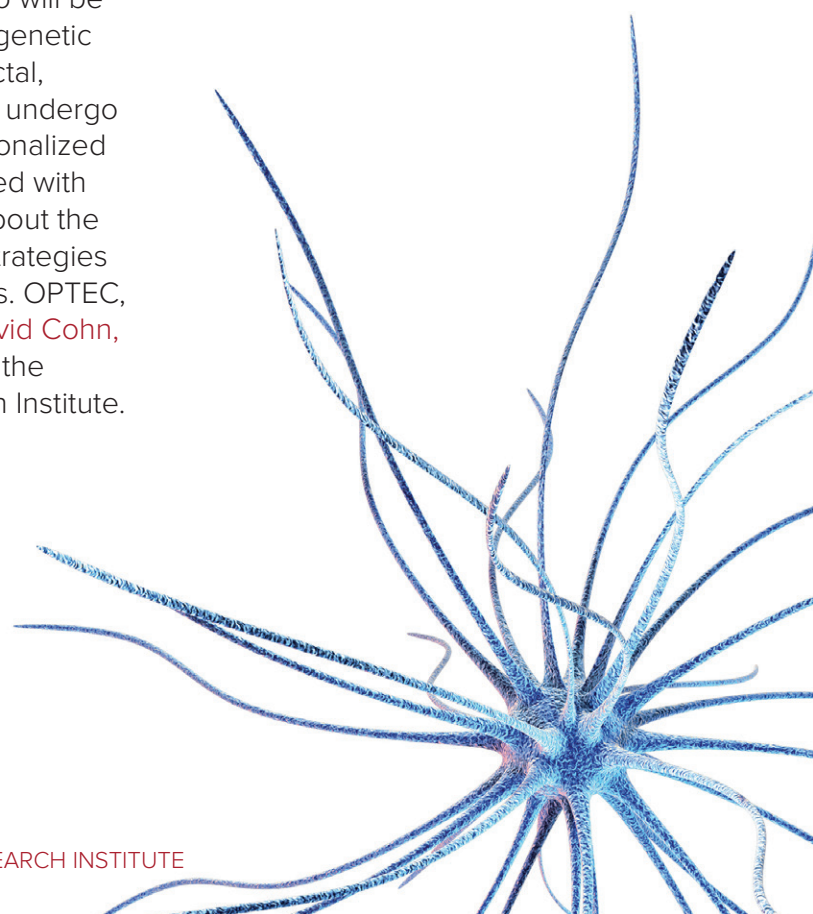
**PELOTONIA®**



*David Cohn, MD*



*Paul Goodfellow, PhD*

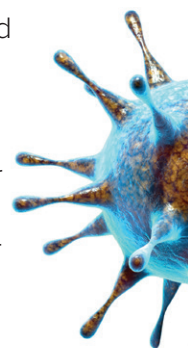




Clara D.  
Bloomfield, MD

## Advances Prompt Release of New Recommendations for Diagnosis Management of Adult AML

An international panel of experts released updated evidence-based and expert-opinion-based recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in adults. The recommendations were issued by the **European LeukemiaNet** (ELN) and published in the journal **Blood**. The paper's senior author was **Clara D. Bloomfield, MD**, a Distinguished University Professor at Ohio State who also serves as cancer scholar and senior adviser for the OSUCCC – James. Bloomfield, who chaired the panel, says these guidelines are an important update of the current and widely used recommendations for managing patients with AML, for constructing clinical trials and for predicting outcomes of AML patients. The guidelines replaced the 2010 ELN recommendations. **Read more**



Arnab Chakravarti,  
MD



Erica Bell, PhD

## New Prognostic Classification May Help Clinical Decision-Making in Glioblastoma

Research led by scientists at the OSUCCC – James showed that taking molecular variables into account will improve the prognostic classification of the lethal brain cancer called glioblastoma (GBM). Published in the journal **JAMA Oncology**, the study found that adding significant molecular biomarkers to the existing GBM classification system improves the prognostic classification of GBM patients who have been treated with radiation and the drug temozolomide. **Arnab Chakravarti, MD**, professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State, was principal investigator. **Erica Bell, PhD**, a researcher at the OSUCCC – James, was first author. In a separate study, the same team of researchers found that MGMT promoter methylation status—molecular information gathered at a DNA level—can help predict overall survival for patients with a rare brain cancer called anaplastic astrocytoma. MGMT is a DNA repair gene and a biomarker in grade 4 glioblastoma brain tumors. This study, presented at the American Society of Radiation Oncology annual meeting, sought to determine the number of patients with positive MGMT promoter methylation status and its significance in predicting survival outcomes for anaplastic astrocytomas. **Read more**



Timothy Cripe,  
MD, PhD

## 2 Investigational Antitumor Agents Work Better Together Against MPNST and Neuroblastoma

Two investigational agents—aurora A kinase inhibitor (alisertib) and HSV1716, a virus derived from HSV-1 and attenuated by the deletion of RL1—have shown some antitumor efficacy in early clinical trials as monotherapies. However, a study published in early 2017 in the journal **Oncotarget** demonstrated that the combined use of the agents results in significantly increased antitumor efficacy in models of malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor (MPNST) and neuroblastoma. Researchers investigated this combination in MPNST and neuroblastoma because these difficult-to-treat



sarcomas have shown susceptibility to these agents individually. Senior author was **Timothy Cripe, MD, PhD**, professor of Pediatrics at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James.

### Study Reveals How Cancer Cells May Develop Resistance to FGFR Inhibitors

OSUCCC – James researchers identified a mechanism by which cancer cells develop resistance to a class of drugs called fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR) inhibitors. Published in the journal ***Molecular Cancer Therapeutics***, their study also found that the use of a second inhibitor may boost the effectiveness of these drugs by preventing resistance; researchers recommend that clinical trials be designed to include a second inhibitor. FGFR inhibitors are a family of targeted agents designed to inhibit the action of the fibroblast growth factor receptor, which is often overexpressed in lung, bladder, biliary and breast cancers. Principal investigator was **Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD**, assistant professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James. **Read more**



Sameek  
Roychowdhury,  
MD, PhD

### Rise in Lung Adenocarcinoma Linked to ‘Light Cigarette’ Use

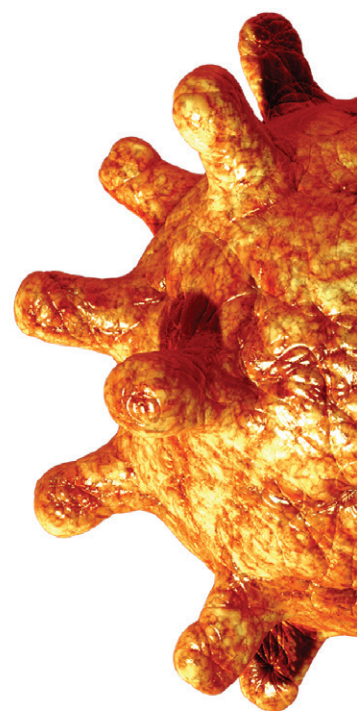
A study by researchers at the OSUCCC – James and other universities/cancer centers showed that so-called “light” cigarettes have no health benefits to smokers and have likely contributed to the rise of adenocarcinoma, the most common lung cancer. Researchers examined why adenocarcinoma has increased over the years rather than decreased as more smokers have quit. Study results confirmed there is no health benefit to high-ventilation (light) cigarettes—long marketed by the tobacco industry as a “healthier” option—and that these cigarettes have caused more harm. Ventilation holes in cigarette filters were introduced 50 years ago and were critical to claims for low-tar cigarettes. Data suggests a clear relationship between the addition of ventilation holes to cigarettes and increasing rates of lung adenocarcinoma, says **Peter Shields, MD**, deputy director of the OSUCCC and a lung medical oncologist. **Min-Ae Song, PhD**, assistant professor in the College of Public Health at Ohio State, was first author on the study. **Read more**



Peter Shields, MD

### Researchers Study Strawberries for Fighting Oral Cancer in Heavy Smokers

Can cigarette smoke and the saliva of heavy smokers influence the metabolism of cancer-inhibiting chemicals found in strawberries and the expression of genes associated with oral cancer risk? A pilot study at the OSUCCC – James hypothesized that they can, and initial data revealed some intriguing differences in the oral microenvironment of smokers versus non-smokers. The researchers





Ann-Kathrin Eisfeld,  
MD



Clara D.  
Bloomfield, MD

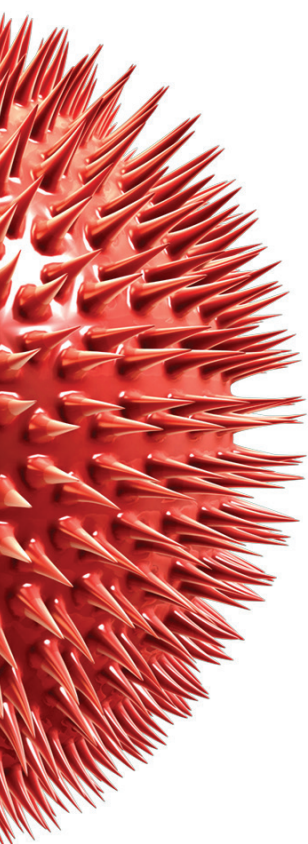
reported their findings at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) 2017 Annual Meeting. [Jennifer Ahn-Jarvis, PhD](#), a postdoctoral fellow in The Ohio State University College of Dentistry, was first author of this multidisciplinary study. [Read more](#)

### Large AML Study Correlates Gene Mutations With 34 Disease Subgroups

A study of adults with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) correlated 80 cancer-related gene mutations with five subtypes of AML, which are defined by the presence of chromosomal abnormalities. Led by researchers at the OSUCCC – James, the study involved 1,603 newly diagnosed adult AML patients treated on Cancer and Leukemia Group B/Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology trials in centers across the United States. Researchers combined the cytogenetic abnormalities that define 34 AML subgroups with the mutation status of the 80 cancer-related genes to produce a summary of mutations associated with each cytogenetic group. [Ann-Kathrin Eisfeld, MD](#), of the Internal Medicine/Physician-Scientist Training Program at Ohio State, was first author of the study, published in the journal *Leukemia*. [Clara D. Bloomfield, MD](#), a Distinguished University Professor who also serves as cancer scholar and senior adviser to the OSUCCC – James, was senior author. [Read more](#)

### Study Examines Landscape of Genome-Wide Age-Related DNA Methylation in Breast Tissue

Age-related DNA methylation (aDNAm) may be an important pathway for increased cancer risk with age, according to an OSUCCC – James study that provided the first comprehensive report of changes in DNA methylation with age in normal breast tissues of women without a history of breast cancer. DNA methylation is a natural process through which cells deregulate (turn off) unneeded genes. Properly regulated methylation is critical to normal development, but aberrant methylation contributes to cancer by silencing tumor-suppressor genes that normally prevent improper cell division. In this study, breast tissues from a cross-sectional group of 121 cancer-free women were examined for genome-wide DNA methylation, and mRNA expression was assayed by microarray technology. Analysis of covariance was used to identify altered methylation at 1,214 aDNAm, almost all of which were increased methylation. Writing in the journal *Oncotarget*, the researchers say their results are consistent with the hypothesis that the relationship of aging to breast cancer may be explained in part by age-related changes in DNA methylation and gene expression in normal tissues before cancer develops, warranting further study. OSUCCC Deputy Director [Peter Shields, MD](#), was principal investigator. [Min-Ae Song, PhD](#), assistant professor in the College of Public Health, was first author.



## Over Half of Breast Cancer Patients Pursue Reconstructive Surgery Without Understanding of Risks

More than half of breast cancer patients (57 percent) undergoing mastectomy lack the medical knowledge to make a high-quality decision about reconstructive surgery that aligns with their personal goals, suggesting a trend toward overtreatment, according to a study at the OSUCCC – James. The study defined “high-quality” decisions as those that demonstrated adequate medical knowledge of treatment choices—including associated risks—and that also matched the patient’s goals and preferences for choosing whether to pursue reconstructive surgery. Researchers reported their findings in the journal **JAMA Surgery**. **Clara Lee, MD, MPP**, associate professor in the Department of Plastic Surgery at Ohio State and member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James, was principal investigator. **Read more**



Clara Lee, MD,  
MPP

## First Study of Oncolytic HSV-1 in Children and Young Adults With Cancer Indicates Safety and Tolerability

An oncolytic (cancer-killing) herpes simplex virus-1 called HSV1716 has been studied in adults via injection into the brain and superficial tumors. In 2017, a team of researchers at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center completed the first phase I trial of the virus in the pediatric population, published online in the journal **Clinical Cancer Research**. Children with relapsed or refractory solid tumors have poor outcomes and significant toxicities from available therapies, so researchers and clinicians are looking to novel treatment strategies, including oncolytic virotherapy. In this phase I study, researchers observed that intratumoral HSV1716 is safe and well-tolerated in children and young adults with late-stage, aggressive cancer. **Timothy Cripe, MD, PhD**, professor of Pediatrics at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, was senior author on the study. **Read more**



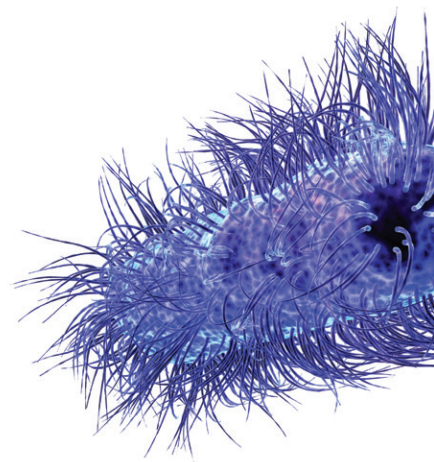
Timothy Cripe,  
MD, PhD

## Digital Pathology Could Improve Accuracy, Timeliness of Cancer Diagnosis

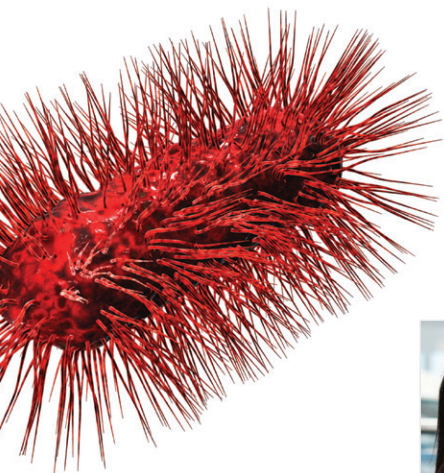
In April 2017 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved digital pathology for use in primary cancer diagnosis, opening the door for clinical pathology services to undergo important changes that will make it easier to share cases for expert review and use sophisticated quantitative algorithms to accurately stage and grade cancer. The OSUCCC – James is implementing a long-term digital pathology workflow solution for the cancer program as well as the overall health system at Ohio State. All new patient pathology slides will be digitized along with the past seven years of pathology slides processed at the hospital. The digital pathology service is led by **Anil Parwani, MD, PhD, MBA**, director of digital pathology and vice chair/director of anatomic pathology in the Department of Pathology at Ohio State. **Read more**



Anil Parwani,  
MD, PhD, MBA







David Carbone,  
MD, PhD

## First-Line Immunotherapy Treatment Can Improve Survival for Subset of Lung Cancer

Findings from a phase III clinical trial for advanced lung cancer patients could help oncologists better predict which patients are likely to receive the most benefit from immunotherapy as a first-line treatment based on the unique molecular characteristics of their tumor, according to a study reported by a global team led by **David Carbone, MD, PhD**, director of the Thoracic Oncology Center at the OSUCCC – James. Researchers compared the effectiveness of the immunotherapy drug nivolumab with standard-of-care chemotherapy in 541 patients with previously untreated or recurrent non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that expressed PDL-1 antibodies. Patients were randomized to receive either immunotherapy or standard-of-care chemotherapy. Study findings were reported in the ***New England Journal of Medicine***. [Read more](#)



Maryam Lustberg  
MD, MPH

## Walking Gait & Balance Negatively Impacted After Chemotherapy Treatment

A single chemotherapy treatment can have a negative impact on walking gait and balance, putting patients at an increasing risk for falls, according to a study involving breast cancer patients that was conducted by researchers at the OSUCCC – James. Up to 60 percent of patients experience chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN), or nerve damage that impacts feeling in the hands or feet; however, when and to what extent this damage impacts functional abilities has been largely unknown. This study was the first to objectively measure the functional abilities of cancer patients during and after taxane-based chemotherapy. **Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH**, associate professor of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and medical director of survivorship at the OSUCCC – James, was senior author of the study, published in the journal ***Breast Cancer Research and Treatment***. [Read more](#)



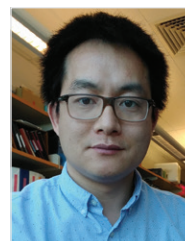
Manisha Shah, MD

## Targeted Therapies Show Initial Effectiveness in Subset of Papillary Thyroid Cancer

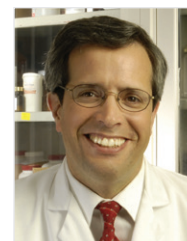
Two immunotherapy drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treating melanoma also show promise for treating a rare but aggressive form of papillary thyroid cancer (PTC). Up to 44 percent of PTC patients have a *B-raf* gene mutation that can be targeted by cancer drugs. In a randomized, phase II, multicenter clinical study led by **Manisha Shah, MD**, a professor of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, investigators tested the effectiveness of the targeted therapy drug dabrafenib given alone and in combination with trametinib to treat a subset of advanced PTC patients with *B-raf* mutations. Researchers presented their **findings** at the American Association of Clinical Oncology 2017 annual meeting. [Read more](#)

## Study Reveals New Mechanism of ‘Natural Killer Cell’ Activation

Researchers discovered a mechanism that enables a certain type of immune cell to recognize and kill viral-infected cells. Findings from the multi-institutional study, led by scientists at the OSUCCC – James, could have important implications for vaccines against infectious diseases, understanding and treating autoimmune diseases, preventing some infusion reactions and improving immune therapy for cancer. Published in the journal *Immunity*, the study focuses on immune cells called natural killer (NK) cells. It identified a previously unknown role of the lower half of an antibody called immunoglobulin G (found on NK cells) in immune responses, opening possibilities for its involvement in cancer immunotherapy. **HongSheng Dai, PhD**, a research scientist at the OSUCCC – James, was first author and co-corresponding author. Former OSUCCC Director and James CEO **Michael A. Caligiuri, MD**, was principal investigator. **Read more**



*HongSheng Dai,  
PhD*



*Michael A.  
Caligiuri, MD*

## Researchers Validate Clinical Test for Fusion Genes

An assay that identifies an abnormality in cancer cells has been developed and validated by researchers at the OSUCCC – James. Known as OSU-SpARKFuse (Ohio State University-Spanning Actionable RNA Kinase Fusions), the assay detects a genetic change called gene fusions in solid tumors. The assay and its validation were published in *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*. Gene fusions occur when parts of two different genes join, possibly becoming a driver of cancer-cell and tumor growth. Whereas current methods for detecting fusions require previous knowledge of both genes involved, OSU-SpARKFuse detects fusions when only one of the genes is known, allowing for discovery of novel fusions. **Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD**, assistant professor of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, was principal investigator. **Read more**



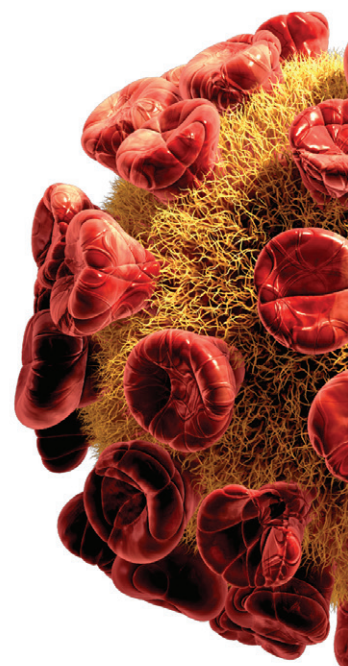
*Sameek  
Roychowdhury,  
MD, PhD*

## Study Identifies miR122 Target Sites in Liver Cancer and Links a Gene to Patient Survival

A study of a molecule that regulates liver cell metabolism and suppresses liver cancer development showed that the molecule interacts with thousands of genes in liver cells, and that when levels of the molecule go down, as often happens during liver cancer development, the activity of certain cancer-promoting genes goes up. The findings could help doctors better predict survival in liver cancer patients and determine whether the molecule—microRNA-122 (miR-122)—should be developed as an anticancer drug. Reported in the journal *Molecular Cell*, the study was led by researchers at the OSUCCC – James and at Rockefeller University’s Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Co-principal investigator was **Kalpana Ghoshal, PhD**, associate professor of Pathology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James. **Read more**



*Kalpana  
Ghoshal, PhD*





Theodore  
Brasky, PhD

## Long-Term, High-Dose B6-B12 Use Associated With Increased Lung Cancer Risk Among Men

Research suggests long-term, high-dose supplementation with vitamins B6 and B12—long touted by the vitamin industry for increasing energy and improving metabolism—is associated with a two- to four-fold increased lung cancer risk in men relative to non-users. Risk was further elevated in male smokers taking more than 20 milligrams of B6 or 55 micrograms of B12 a day for 10 years. Epidemiologists from the OSUCCC – James, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and National Taiwan University reported the findings in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. For this study, Theodore Brasky, PhD, research assistant professor and member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James, and colleagues analyzed data from more than 77,000 patient participants in the VITamins And Lifestyle (VITAL) cohort study. [Read more](#)



Vinay Puduvalli,  
MD

## Onalespib Could be Effective Treatment for Glioblastoma

The targeted therapy onalespib has shown effectiveness in preclinical studies of glioblastoma by OSUCCC – James researchers. Onalespib inhibits a molecule called HSP90 that helps newly made protein molecules fold into their final functional form. Many receptor and DNA-damage-response proteins require HSP90 to achieve their functional conformation. In cancer cells, HSP90 can be expressed up to 10 times higher than in normal cells. In this study, onalespib blocked HSP90 activity and reduced the expression of cell-survival proteins such as AKT and endothelial growth factor receptor in glioma cell lines and in glioma stem cells obtained from patient tumors. This reduced the survival and proliferation of the cells. Findings appeared in the journal *Clinical Cancer Research*. Vinay Puduvalli, MD, professor and director of the Division of Neuro-Oncology at Ohio State and member of the OSUCCC – James, was principal investigator. [Read more](#)



Samantha  
Jaglowski, MD,  
MPH

## CAR-T Immunotherapy Approved for Certain Lymphoma Patients

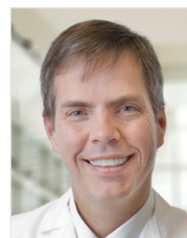
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a breakthrough cancer therapy known as CAR-T for use in adults with advanced lymphoma. The therapy, which was also approved for a rare type of treatment-resistant childhood leukemia, uses a patient's white blood cells, which are modified in a lab and re-trained to recognize specific biomarkers on the surface of the cell, and then to target and kill only those cancerous cells. Samantha Jaglowski, MD, MPH, assistant professor of Hematology at Ohio State and member of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James, tested the therapy in clinical trials and describes this as truly a “living therapy”: A patient's own cells being reinfused and set to work fighting cancer, a prime example of personalized medicine. The OSUCCC – James was the first cancer center in Ohio to offer CAR-T therapy and is the only Ohio center approved to administer it with two drugs, Yescarta and Kymriah. Cleveland Clinic is



approved for using Yescarta; Nationwide Children's Hospital and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center are approved for using Kymriah. Clinical trials are available at all four locations, as well as Case Western Reserve University. **Read more**

## OSUCCC – James Researchers Report on Advances in CLL Treatment at ASH

At the 2017 annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), OSUCCC – James scientists reported on advances in the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) involving the drug acalabrutinib as a single agent and in dual- and triple-agent combinations. Acalabrutinib is a second-generation Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor, a newer class of drugs shown to improve the survival of patients with CLL and mantle cell lymphoma. All preclinical research and the first phase I study of the drug were completed by researchers led by **John C. Byrd, MD**, Distinguished University Professor at Ohio State and co-leader of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James. Studies involving acalabrutinib in **dual-** and **triple-**agent combinations at Ohio State were led by **Jennifer Woyach, MD**, and **Kerry Rogers, MD**, assistant professors of Hematology and members of the Leukemia Research Program.



*John C. Byrd, MD*



*Jennifer Woyach, MD*



*Kerry Rogers, MD*

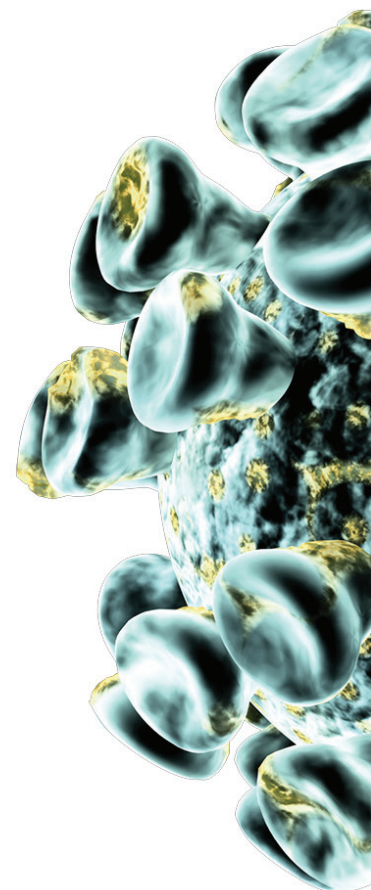
## Researchers Turn to Technology to Improve Bladder Cancer Identification

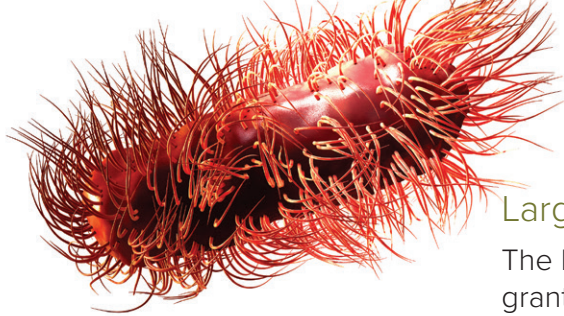
Accurately calculating the stage of bladder cancer in a patient is vital in determining treatment options. If the cancer has spread deep into the four layers of the bladder, then a radical cystectomy (bladder removal) may be the best option. If it is still in the early stages, a less invasive treatment with fewer long-term side effects could be used. Inadequate staging of bladder cancer has long been a problem, but **Cheryl Lee, MD**, professor and chair of the Department of Urology at Ohio State and a bladder cancer expert at the OSUCCC – James, and colleagues, along with members of the Department of Biomedical Informatics, will utilize digital pathology and advanced computer analytics to better analyze tissue samples from a patient's bladder cancer and more accurately determine the stage of the cancer.

**Read more**



*Cheryl Lee, MD*





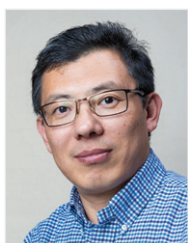
## Large NCI Grants Boost Ohio State Cancer Research

The National Cancer Institute in 2017 awarded a number of large grants to teams of Ohio State researchers for innovative studies that support the OSUCCC – James vision of creating a cancer-free world. Here is a sampling of studies supported by NCI grants of more than \$1 million:

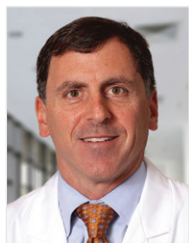


Peter Shields, MD

- A \$12.7 million, five-year Program Progress Grant to OSUCCC Deputy Director Peter Shields, MD, and Dorothy Hatsumaki, PhD, of the University of Minnesota, for a series of comprehensive, systematic and integrated projects on the relative toxicity, addictiveness and appeal of unventilated vs. ventilated filter cigarettes. These projects will help the FDA determine whether it should pursue regulation of filter ventilation, which is thought to have led to public health harm. Shields also is principal investigator for a two-year, \$1.36 million U01 grant to study the potential lung toxicity for inhaling electronic cigarette (e-cigs) aerosols relative to smoking. The FDA has gained regulatory control over e-cigs and needs data to determine how to regulate their designs and constituents.



Qi-En Wang, PhD

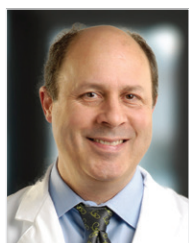


David Cohn, MD

- \$2.33 million to help a team led by principal investigator (PI) Qi-En Wang, PhD, and Co-PI David Cohn, MD, find ways to avert epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC) recurrence and chemotherapy resistance, two contributing factors to high mortality rates among patients with this disease. Wang, an assistant professor in the Department of Radiology at Ohio State and member of the Molecular Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention Program at the OSUCCC – James, says evidence increasingly shows that EOCs contain subpopulations of cancer stem cells with enhanced tumorigenicity and chemoresistance.



Rosa Lapalombella, PhD



Robert Baiocchi, MD, PhD

- \$2.3 million for a team led by principal investigators (PIs) Rosa Lapalombella, PhD (corresponding PI), Robert Baiocchi, MD, PhD, and John C. Byrd, MD, all of the Division of Hematology and of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James, for a study of “Targeted Therapies for Richter’s Transformation.” In their **abstract**, the investigators describe Richter’s Transformation (RT) as an aggressive blood cancer that arises when chronic lymphocytic leukemia makes the transition to a high-grade lymphoma. They seek to develop biomarkers for predicting RT development and to discover targeted therapeutic strategies for clinical trials.



John C. Byrd, MD



Richard Fishel, PhD

- \$1.87 million for a team led by PI Richard Fishel, PhD, professor in the Department of Cancer Biology and Genetics at Ohio State and member of the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James, for a study titled “Mismatch Repair and Carcinogenesis.” In their **abstract**, the investigators state that defects in the human mismatch repair (MMR) genes are the cause of Lynch syndrome as well as 10-40 percent of sporadic colorectal, gastric, endometrial, ovarian and upper urinary tract tumors. Unrepaired errors in MMR-deficient cells lead to increased mutations that drive tumorigenesis. The team wants to quantify the MMR progressions that lead to cancer and drug resistance.

- \$1.77 million for a team led by PI **Leah Pyter, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Ohio State and member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James, for a study titled “Gut-Brain Interactions Underlying Chemotherapy-Induced Behavioral Comorbidities.” In their **abstract**, the investigators state that very little is known about the potential role of the gut microbiome in the enduring and prevalent consequences of chemotherapy on the brain and behavior (e.g., cognitive impairments). Their overall objective is to determine the role of microbiome-brain interactions in chemotherapy-related cognitive problems.
- \$1.75 million for a team led by PIs **Susheela Tridandapani, PhD**, professor in the Division of Hematology, and **Jon Butchar, PhD**, research assistant professor in the Division of Hematology, for a study titled “Myeloid Cell-Derived Granzyme B as an Inducible Enhancer of Cancer Immunotherapy.” Both are members of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James. In their **abstract**, the investigators state that their long-term objective is to understand the molecular details of Fcγ receptor (FcγR) function, with the goal of improving monoclonal antibody therapy for cancer.



*Leah Pyter, PhD*



*Susheela Tridandapani, PhD*



*Jon Butchar, PhD*

## Researcher Lands Grant Aimed at Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) awarded a \$1.89 million, five-year grant to **Ann Scheck McAlearney, ScD, MS**, professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Family Medicine at Ohio State, for a study on providing hospitals with evidence-based tools for reducing and preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAI). The grant, titled “Searching for Management Approaches to Reduce HAI Transmission (SMART),” will enable McAlearney, who is a member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James, and colleagues to develop a generalizable management practice SMART toolkit for use by hospitals and health systems nationwide. **Read more**



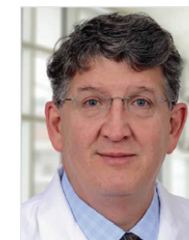
*Ann Scheck McAlearney, ScD, MS*

## Radiation Oncologist Earns NIH Career Development Program Award

**Darrion Mitchell, MD, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State, earned an NIH K12 Clinical Scientist Career Development Program Award for his research titled “The Role of DEK in the Radiation Response and Outcome for HPV-Negative Head and Neck Cancer.” His co-mentors are **James Rocco, MD, PhD**, professor and chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery; and **Arnab Chakravarti, MD**, professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology.



*Darrion Mitchell, MD, PhD*



*James Rocco, MD, PhD*



*Arnab Chakravarti, MD*



## Prominent Researchers Join OSUCCC – James Team

Among the many brilliant researchers who were recruited to Ohio State's cancer team in 2017 were these talented individuals:



*Kellie Archer, PhD*

Kellie Archer, PhD, is a professor and chair of the Division of Biostatistics in the College of Public Health. She also is a member of the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James. Her primary research has been the development of statistical methods and computational algorithms for analyzing genomic data. She came to Ohio State from Virginia Commonwealth University.



*Valerie Grignol, MD*

Valerie Grignol, MD, is a surgical oncologist in the College of Medicine, Department of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology. She joined the Ohio State medical faculty after completing her fellowship training in surgical oncology here. Grignol treats patients suffering from breast cancer and sarcoma. Her research focuses on clinical trials and outcomes for sarcoma patients.



*Edmund Folefac, MBCHB*

Edmund Folefac, MBCHB, is an assistant professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology. He specializes in genitourinary cancers, melanomas and lung cancers. His research focuses on smoking cessation in the context of preventing lung cancer, and on screening, healthcare efficiency, cancer and aging, and personalized medicine.



*Lang Li, PhD*

Lang Li, PhD, was appointed as professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics in Ohio State's College of Medicine. He also is in the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James. Li came to Ohio State from Indiana University School of Medicine, where he directed the Center for Computational Biology and Informatics. Li uses biomedical informatics and systems pharmacology to evaluate drug efficacies and adverse drug events.



*Javier Gonzalez, MD*

Javier Gonzalez, MD, an assistant professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Neurological Surgery, is a neurologist with fellowship training in neuro-oncology and a clinical and research interest in neuro-immunology. He came to Ohio State from West Virginia University, where he started a Multiple Sclerosis Center, headed the neuro-oncology disease team and was in charge of clinical development and the research initiative for those areas.



*Wayne Miles, PhD*

Wayne Miles, PhD, is an assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Molecular Genetics, and a member of the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James. His research focuses on understanding how loss of the retinoblastoma 1 (*RB1*) tumor-suppressor gene changes the transcriptome and proteome of cancer cells. He came to Ohio State from Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and Harvard Medical School.



Jeffrey Patrick,  
PharmD

Jeffrey Patrick, PharmD, was named director of the OSUCCC – James Drug Development Institute (DDI). The **DDI** identifies promising anticancer agents discovered by OSUCCC – James researchers and propels those agents through pharmaceutical development. The goal is to partner with industry to deliver new therapies to patients. Patrick came to Ohio State from New Haven Pharmaceuticals in Connecticut, where he served as chief scientific officer.



Hiral Shah, MD

Hiral Shah, MD, is an assistant professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology, where she specializes in treating patients with melanoma and other cutaneous malignancies. Her research focuses on early-phase clinical trials using immunotherapy for treatment of cutaneous malignancies. She also works to identify predictive biomarkers in melanoma patients who develop brain metastasis.



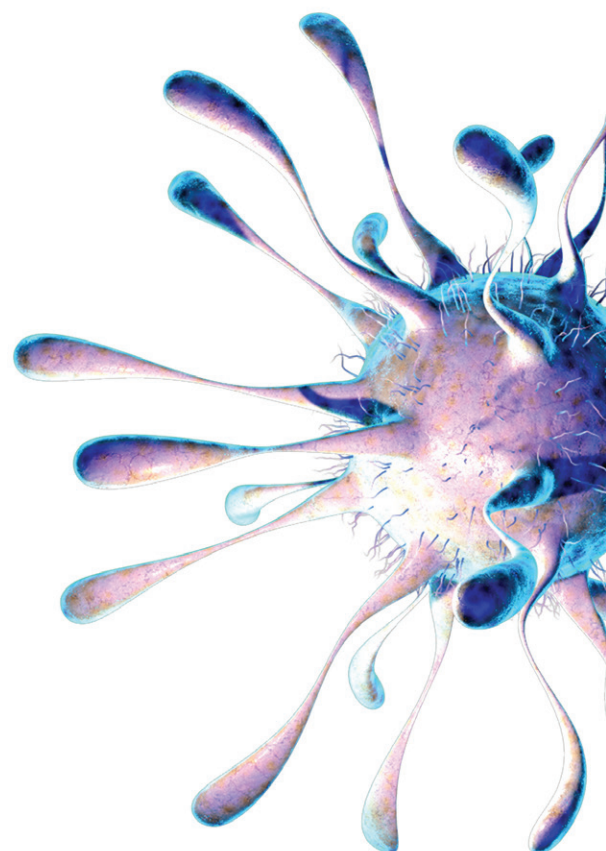
Jeffrey  
VanDeusen, MD,  
PhD

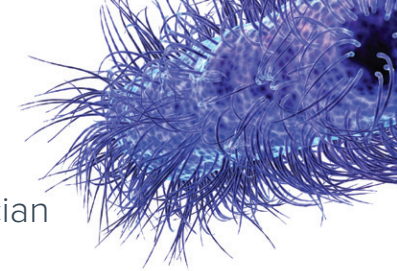
Jeffrey VanDeusen, MD, PhD, a medical oncologist with a focus on breast malignancies, is an assistant professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology. He also serves as associate director for community network relations at the OSUCCC – James. Before coming to Ohio State, he was medical director of the Adena Cancer Center in Chillicothe, Ohio.



Claire  
Verschraegen, MD

Claire Verschraegen, MD, was appointed professor and director of the Division of Medical Oncology in Ohio State's College of Medicine, and as associate director for translational research at the OSUCCC – James. She also holds the Diane Nye and Michael Rayden Chair in Innovative Cancer Research. As division director, Verschraegen oversees more than 50 faculty members who provide subspecialized care and/or conduct research for many forms of cancer. She came to Ohio State from the University of Vermont.





Clara D.  
Bloomfield, MD

## Bloomfield Awarded as Outstanding Clinician Scientist

Clara D. Bloomfield, MD, a Distinguished University Professor at Ohio State who also serves as cancer scholar and senior adviser to the OSUCCC – James, received the 2017 Robert A. Kyle Award for Outstanding Clinician-Scientist. The Mayo Clinic’s Division of Hematology presents the award to recognize outstanding contributions in the diagnosis and treatment of hematologic cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma. The award recognizes Bloomfield for more than three decades of research in the field of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). She has more than 600 published articles and is internationally renowned for her work in the cytogenetics of adult acute leukemia, for the molecular genetics of AML and for contributions to the treatment of AML, particularly in older patients. [Read more](#)



Albert de la  
Chapelle, MD,  
PhD

## De La Chapelle Gains Lifetime Achievement Award

Albert de la Chapelle, MD, PhD, a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Cancer Biology and Genetics at Ohio State, received a lifetime achievement award from the **Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Colorectal Cancer** (CGA-ICC). De la Chapelle, who also is in the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James, received the award during the annual meeting of the CGA-ICC, which was established to improve understanding of inherited colorectal cancer and the clinical management of affected families, particularly those living in the Americas. “Dr. de la Chapelle is a giant in the field of genetics and specifically in colorectal cancer genetics,” said 2017 CGA President Sonia Kupfer, MD. [Read more](#)



John C. Byrd, MD

## Byrd Receives ‘Return of the Child Award’ From LLS

John C. Byrd, MD, a Distinguished University Professor at Ohio State and co-leader of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James, received the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s (LLS) prestigious Return of the Child Award. According to the LLS, this national award was established in 1986 to honor an individual whose career has been dedicated to blood cancer research and whose leadership—nationally and internationally—within the oncology and biomedical communities has helped develop treatments for blood cancers and thereby improved survival rates. The LLS says Byrd was chosen for his work on developing the drug ibrutinib and his leadership in LLS’s Beat AML (acute myeloid leukemia) initiative. Byrd and his colleagues’ studies of ibrutinib played a key role in its approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treating certain patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Byrd is a professor of Medicine, of Medicinal Chemistry and of Veterinary Biosciences at Ohio State.



## Janis is President of American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Jeffrey Janis, MD, professor and executive vice chair of the Department of Plastic Surgery in Ohio State's College of Medicine, is president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), the world's largest organization of board-certified plastic surgeons and the foremost authority on cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. Janis is serving a one-year term that began at the ASPS annual meeting in October 2017. He specializes in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery of the breasts, chest wall reconstruction, complex abdominal wall reconstruction, body contouring, lower extremity reconstruction and surgical treatment of migraines. [Read more](#)



*Jeffrey Janis, MD*

## LLS Names DeMarco 2017 Central Ohio Woman of the Year

Larissa DeMarco, BSN, RN, OCN, was named 2017 Central Ohio Woman of the Year at the Grand Finale Celebration of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual Man & Woman of the Year competition. DeMarco, primary nurse with Farrukh Awan, MBBS, in the Fifth Floor Hematology Oncology Clinic at The James, raised \$58,763 during the national 10-week campaign, which generates funds to help find cures for blood cancer. According to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), the campaign involves individuals who use their leadership abilities and resources to conduct their own fundraising campaigns to support LLS research and to provide education and support services for patients and families.



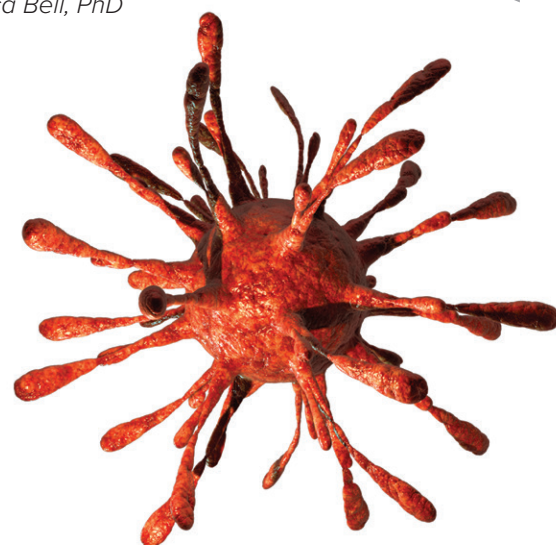
*Larissa DeMarco,  
BSN, RN, OCN*

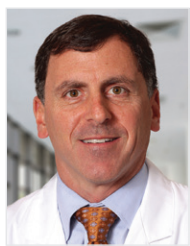
## Bell Wins ASTRO Senior Investigator Research Award

Erica Bell, PhD, assistant professor-clinical in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, received the 2017 American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) Senior Investigator Basic/Translational Research Award. Bell played an integral role in the laboratory of Arnab Chakravarti, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, in identifying MGMT promoter methylation as a key mediator of outcome and treatment resistance in anaplastic astrocytomas (a type of grade III brain tumor) based on prospective National Cancer Institute cooperative group studies (RTOG/NRG). This was judged to be one of the most noteworthy basic/translational research findings by ASTRO for its 2017 annual meeting.



*Erica Bell, PhD*





David Cohn, MD



David O'Malley, MD



Floor Backes, MD



John Hays, MD, PhD

## OSUCCC – James Gynecologic Oncology Physicians Gain NCI Appointments

Four members of the gynecologic oncology team at the OSUCCC – James were appointed to National Cancer Institute (NCI) steering committee/task force roles in 2017:

David Cohn, MD, professor and director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, was appointed to the Uterine Task Force representing NRG Oncology. Cohn also represents NRG Oncology on the NCI's Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR) Steering Committee in his role as chair of NRG Oncology's CCDR Committee.

David O'Malley, MD, associate professor in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, was appointed to the Ovarian Task Force representing NRG Oncology.

Floor Backes, MD, assistant professor in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, was appointed to the Uterine Task Force representing Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG).

John Hays, MD, PhD, assistant professor in the Division of Medical Oncology, was appointed to the Ovarian Task Force representing SWOG.



Pravin Kaumaya, PhD



Electra Paskett, PhD, MSPH

## Cancer Program Expertise Highlighted for World Cancer Day

Cancer expertise at the OSUCCC – James was strongly represented for World Cancer Day (Feb. 4, 2017) in a special edition of *The Conversation U.S.*, a publication that bills itself as an independent source of news and views from the academic and research community that is delivered directly to the public.

The special edition contained **eight cancer-related articles**, two of which were written by researchers at the OSUCCC – James:

- **Immunotherapy: Training the Body to Fight Cancer**, was co-authored by Pravin Kaumaya, PhD, professor in the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and of Microbiology at Ohio State, and a member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James;
- **We Have a Vaccine for Six Cancers; Why Are Less Than Half of Kids Getting It?** was authored by Electra Paskett, PhD, MSPH, professor of Epidemiology and of Public Health who directs the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control at Ohio State, and who also serves as associate director for population sciences at the OSUCCC – James, where she leads the Cancer Control Program.



## Williams Earns ACS Scholar Award

Terence Williams, MD, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James, received an American Cancer Society (ACS) Scholar Award of \$792,000 for four years to support his study of the underlying mechanisms of *KRAS*-mediated radioresistance. Arnab Chakravarti, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, says Williams' grant application received the best score in the country.



*Terence Williams,  
MD, PhD*

## Fishel & Wu Elected as Fellows in AAAS

Two cancer researchers at the OSUCCC – James were elected as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in recognition of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. Richard Fishel, PhD, professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Cancer Biology and Genetics, and member of the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James, was elected for the invention of medical devices used in the treatment of many illnesses. Li Wu, PhD, professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Biosciences, and in the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Microbiology, is in the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James. He was elected for contributions to molecular virology, particularly for mechanisms of HIV replication and virus interactions with host cells.



*Richard Fishel,  
PhD*



*Li Wu, PhD*

## Ramaswamy & Lustberg Recognized as Exemplary Oncologists

Bhuvaneswari Ramaswamy, MD, and Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH, associate professors in the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State, were among 27 top breast oncologists across the nation to be recognized by *Forbes* as exemplary physicians in the field of oncology. Ramaswamy specializes in breast cancer at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center and is in the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James. She serves as section chief for breast medical oncology within the Division of Medical Oncology, and as director of the Medical Oncology Fellowship Program in Breast Cancer for Ohio State's College of Medicine. Lustberg also specializes in breast cancer at the Spielman Center, and she is a member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James. In addition, she is medical director of survivorship for the OSUCCC – James and director for breast cancer survivorship at the Spielman Center.



*Bhuvaneswari  
Ramaswamy, MD*



*Maryam Lustberg  
MD, MPH*





*Krista La Perle,  
DVM, PhD*

## La Perle is President of American College of Veterinary Pathologists

Krista La Perle, DVM, PhD, a professor in Ohio State's College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Biosciences, became president of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) at the ACVP 2017 Annual Meeting after serving for a year as president-elect. La Perle also is director of the Comparative Pathology & Mouse Phenotyping Shared Resource for the OSUCCC – James, a role in which she provides pathology support to scientists using animal models to study disease. She has served as co-investigator on numerous extramural grants and as author or co-author on over 80 peer-reviewed publications and six book chapters.



*Darwin Conwell,  
MD, MS*

## Conwell is 2017 Recipient of Minority Digestive Health Care Award

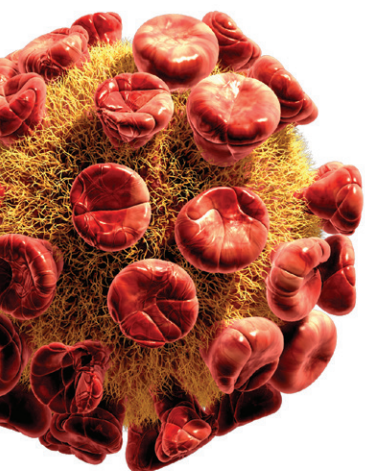
Darwin Conwell, MD, MS, professor and director of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Ohio State, received the 2017 Minority Digestive Health Care Award from the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG). The award recognizes an ACG member whose work in clinical investigation or clinical practice has improved the digestive health of minorities or other underserved populations in the United States. The Division has received national recognition/awards for innovative programs in colon cancer screening, community engagement and education. Conwell also is principal investigator of The Ohio State Pancreas Disorders Network and a member of the NIDDK/NCI U01 Chronic Pancreatitis, Diabetes and Pancreas Cancer Consortium.



*John C. Grecula,  
MD, FACR*

## Grecula Inducted as Fellow in American College of Radiology

John C. Grecula, MD, FACR, professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology (ACR) in Washington, D.C. The ACR considers recognition as a fellow to be one of the highest honors it can bestow on a radiologist, radiation oncologist or medical physicist. Approximately 10 percent of ACR members achieve this distinction. Grecula also serves as co-chair for the Publications Committee of the ALLIANCE for Clinical Trials in Oncology and as a grant reviewer for the American Cancer Society and NASA. He is an elected board member of the International Society of Intraoperative Radiation Therapy.



## Cancer Genetics Expert Receives Block Lectureship Award

The OSUCCC – James presented the 22nd Herbert and Maxine Block Memorial Lectureship Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer to **Mary-Claire King, PhD**, the American Cancer Society Professor of Medicine and Genome Sciences at the University of Washington. King, who also is an affiliate member of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, was the first to show that breast cancer is inherited in some families, as the result of mutations in the gene that she named *BRCA1*. The OSUCCC – James presents the \$25,000 Block Lectureship Award to internationally prominent scientists who then visit Ohio State to accept the honor and lecture about their research. One of the largest prizes given by an academic institution in the field of cancer, the award is supported by proceeds from the annual Herbert J. Block Memorial Tournament, a golf outing sponsored by the Block family of Columbus. [Read more](#)



*Mary-Claire King, PhD*

## SICU Wins Beacon Award for Excellence

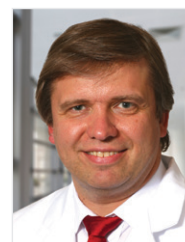
The Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) at the OSUCCC – James received national recognition for exceptional patient care and professional nursing practice with a three-year, silver level **Beacon Award for Excellence** from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The SICU is a 12-bed unit providing 24-hour comprehensive care to a variety of surgical cancer patients with complex medical needs. “Our James SICU staff work as a team to provide patients with a positive, comforting environment. This recognition demonstrates their focus on relationship-based care,” says **Kris Kipp, MSN, RN**, executive director of patient services and chief nursing officer for the OSUCCC – James.



*Kris Kipp, MSN, RN*

## Researchers Elected to National Roles in Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging

**Michael V. Knopp, MD, PhD**, professor and vice chair of research in the Department of Radiology at Ohio State, was elected to a two-year term as president-elect of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging’s (SNMMI) Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Center of Excellence. The PET Center of Excellence is dedicated to the development and utilization of PET and PET/CT in detecting and managing disease. Knopp also directs the Wright Center of Innovation in Biomedical Imaging at Ohio State. In addition, **Chadwick Wright, MD, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Radiology, was elected to a three-year term as a board member of the PET Center of Excellence. Knopp and Wright are in the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James.



*Michael V. Knopp, MD, PhD*



*Chadwick Wright, MD, PhD*



*Kathleen M.  
Hintenlang, PhD*

### Hintenlang Chosen as Fellow in AAPM

Kathleen M. Hintenlang, PhD, a medical physicist in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State, was elected as a Fellow in the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM). Election to Fellowship in AAPM signifies that the honored recipient has demonstrated excellence in leadership to the profession, service to the Association, research and scholarly works, and teaching and mentoring. Hintenlang received her Fellow award at the AAPM annual meeting in Denver, Colo. The AAPM is an organization of 8,500 medical physicists in 93 countries.



*Elizabeth Arthur,  
MS, RN, AOCNP*

### Arthur Receives Research Trainee Award

Elizabeth Arthur, MS, RN, AOCNP, received the inaugural Research Trainee Award at the 2017 Conference of The Scientific Network on Female Sexual Health and Cancer, which was held at the University of California Davis near Sacramento. The award supports the professional development of new investigators in this field. Arthur was recognized for research focusing on developing a measure of self-efficacy for women to communicate with a partner about sex and intimacy, to manage post-cancer treatment and to assess content validity of the scale. Her abstract was ranked highest by a panel of judges. In addition, Arthur was appointed to a two-year term as an associate editor on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Oncology Nursing Forum*, a bimonthly publication of the Oncology Nursing Society.



*Karen Hock, PT,  
MS, CLT-LANA*

### Hock Elected to LANA® Board of Directors

Karen Hock, PT, MS, CLT-LANA, a physical therapist and manager of the Ambulatory Oncology Rehabilitation Program at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center, was elected to the Lymphology Association of North America® (LANA®) Board of Directors. Her term on this multidisciplinary board—which includes physicians, nurses and therapists—will extend until the end of the LANA® 2019 annual fall board of directors meeting. LANA® is a non-profit corporation specializing in the certification of healthcare professionals who diagnose and/or treat lymphedema and related disorders.



## Rosselet Appointed to OA Journal of Nursing Editorial Board

Robin Rosselet, DNP, RN, CNP, AOCN, director of advanced practice providers at the OSUCCC – James, was appointed to the editorial board for *OA Journal of Nursing*, an open-access, peer-reviewed, international online journal that publishes premier papers on all areas of advanced nursing research. According to its website, the journal publishes articles on geriatric nursing, pediatric nursing, oncology nursing, fertility nursing, disaster nursing, midwifery, diabetes nursing, nursing management and all other related areas.



*Robin Rosselet,  
DNP, RN, CNP,  
AOCN*

## The James Gains Full Accreditation After Joint Commission Survey

The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute earned a full three-year accreditation from the Joint Commission following a five-day survey of the hospital that resulted in numerous accolades and relatively few findings. Joint Commission surveyors consistently expressed how impressed they were with the teamwork, passion, leadership and commitment to excellence they observed. They also were complimentary about the hospital's culture of Relationship-Based Care and placing the care of patients, families and staff as the top priority. Nancy Colburn, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, director of the Department of Accreditation and Compliance at The James, says High Points/Best Practice comments from surveyors included: "Radiation Oncology top notch in the nation"; "Pharmacy is state-of-the-art"; and "Amazing inclusion of the patient's voice."



*Nancy Colburn,  
MSN, RN, NEA-BC*





## OSUCCC – James Earns Press Ganey Award for Second Year

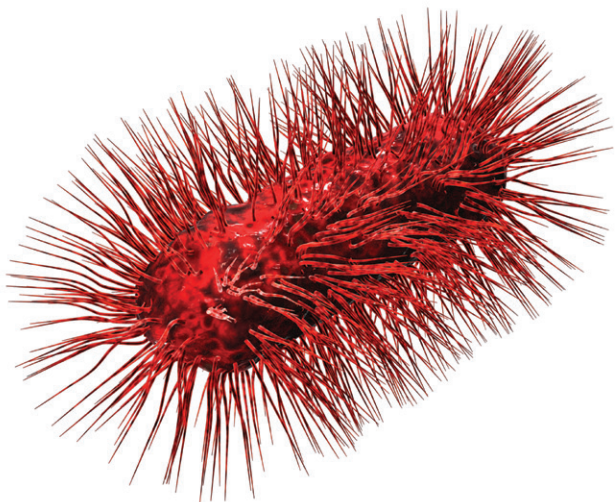
In recognition of exceptional patient care by dedicated clinical staff, the OSUCCC – James was named a 2017 Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey for the second consecutive year. The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award honors top-performing healthcare organizations that have consistently achieved the 95th percentile or above for inpatient care experience performance excellence as measured by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid’s Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS). Presented annually, the award is a nationally recognized symbol of achievement in health care. [Read more](#)

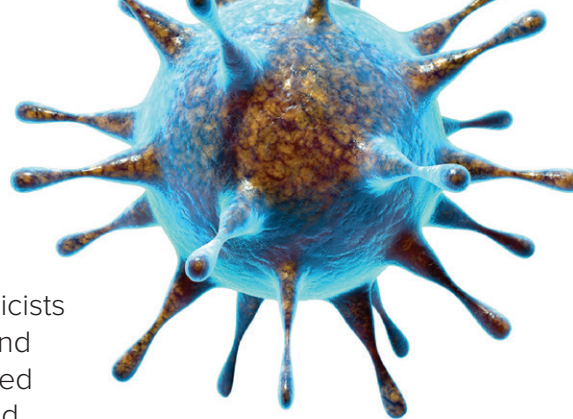
## Pfizer Inc. Designates OSUCCC as INSPIRE Site

Pfizer Inc., a pharmaceutical corporation based in New York City, has designated The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center as an INSPIRE site, part of the company’s Investigator Networks, Site Partnerships and Infrastructure for Research Excellence (INSPIRE) program. Meryl Pascua of Pfizer Clinical Sciences and Operations – Global Product Development stated in a letter that INSPIRE-designated sites are highly productive and effective entities that are given early access to Pfizer portfolio and advanced information regarding Pfizer-sponsored clinical trials. The designation was awarded after a site visit and evaluation that gauged experience in conducting clinical trials, site expertise aligned with Pfizer’s pipeline, site infrastructure and resources, and high-recruitment reliability.

## OSUCCC – James Hosts 2017 Graft Versus Host Disease National Symposium

The OSUCCC – James hosted the 2017 Graft Versus Host Disease (GvHD) National Symposium on Oct. 13 at The Grand Event Center in Columbus, Ohio. The symposium—designed to raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of GvHD, review cutting-edge approaches to prevention and treatment, and promote research into its causes—featured a scientifically rigorous track for physicians and practitioners, along with a survivor track on challenges faced by blood and marrow transplant (BMT) recipients and families. The keynote address, **“Biomarkers in Graft Versus Host Disease: Acute and Chronic,”** was delivered by James Ferrara, MD, professor of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at The Mount Sinai Hospital.





## National Symposium Focused on Innovations in Immobilization and Patient Setup

Radiation therapists, medical dosimetrists and medical physicists from across the nation, along with students in those fields and residents in radiation oncology and medical physics, attended a symposium on the state of radiotherapy immobilization and patient setup on May 19-20 at Ohio State. The symposium addressed several clinical treatment sites/modalities, including breast, head and neck, stereotactic radiosurgery and stereotactic body radiotherapy. It also included a session for participants to present solutions, ideas and workflows in patient immobilization and setup.

## Robotic Surgery Conference Held at The James

The Ohio State University Center for Advanced Robotic Surgery presented **“Taking It to the Next Level: Strategies for a Successful Robotic Surgery Program”** on May 20 at the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. The conference included lectures and hands-on breakout sessions that provided surgeons, perioperative nurses and allied health professionals with strategies for managing a successful robotic surgery program across multiple specialties from a pre-, intra- and post-operative perspective. Emphasis was placed on improving communication, efficiency and patient safety.

## James Patient Participation Tops 24,000 in Total Cancer Care® Protocol

More than 24,000 patients at the OSUCCC – James are voluntarily participating in the Total Cancer Care® (TCC) protocol for sharing clinical data that helps move cancer research forward and personalizes cancer care. The TCC protocol helps clinicians understand the differences between cancer patients and find ways to individualize prevention, detection and treatment. The TCC protocol has been adopted by all 17 member institutions across the nation that constitute the **Oncology Research Information Exchange Network (ORIEN)**, a research collaboration that was co-founded and is co-anchored by the OSUCCC – James and Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla.

ORIEN members implement a common protocol (TCC) and share de-identified clinical data from consenting patients to support research and help match patients to clinical trials. Through ORIEN, thousands of TCC-consented patients across the United States have agreed to donate their clinical data for research to help scientists understand cancer at the molecular level, making ORIEN the world’s largest precision medicine collaboration to address cancer. Some 94 percent of patients at the OSUCCC – James who have been approached about joining the TCC protocol have consented to participate, and more than 200,000 patients are participating nationwide.





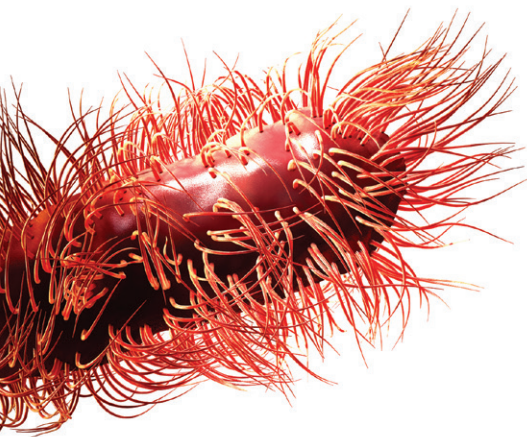
## The James Wins Top Award in OHA Hospital Occupational Safety Campaign

The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute was named a group winner in the Statewide Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) 2017 Hospital Occupational Safety Campaign.

In a letter to James leaders, OHA President and CEO Mike Abrams reported that the hospital earned the top award in its cohort for having the lowest total recordable incident rate and the most effective occupational safety program.

Abrams stated that hospitals participating in the campaign are group-based on the total number of hours worked by all employees. The OHA uses work-related illness and injury information to calculate comparable employee injury data for the hospitals in each group.

“OHA has led the campaign for more than 60 years to promote workplace safety and recognize successful occupational health programs,” Abrams wrote. “Your hospital’s superior safety record is an excellent example for all hospitals across the state.”



Create a cancer-free world with us [give.osu.edu/James](https://give.osu.edu/James).

To learn more visit us at [cancer.osu.edu](https://cancer.osu.edu) or connect with us on social media.



If you would like additional information from the OSUCCC – James, visit <https://cancer.osu.edu/email-signup>.

## Anatomy of an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Why the OSUCCC is Rated ‘Exceptional’

The Ohio State University is one of only 49 institutions designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) as a Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC), a prestigious designation that includes substantial NCI grant funding.

The designation, which must be competitively renewed every five years, follows a rigorous external peer-review process by cancer center experts from across the country.

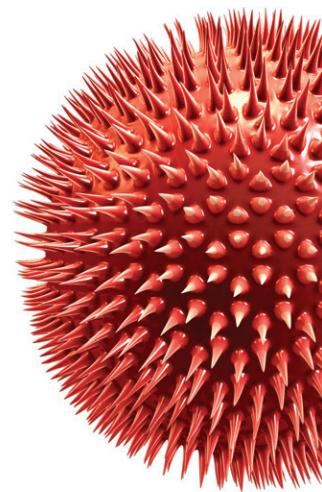
“To receive the designation and grant funding, Ohio State and the OSUCCC must demonstrate that we have established an infrastructure to propel cancer research at the university and that we have made substantial impact,” says Peter Shields, MD, deputy director of the OSUCCC. “CCC grants are not entitlements, and it is not uncommon for a university to go on probation and even lose its grant because it has drifted from the mission of the NCI and has lost strategic vision or university support.”

Shields says many universities apply for a CCC designation and do not receive it, even with substantial research investments.

“Essentially,” he explains, “the NCI wants the university to support cancer research with vision, break down traditional university research silos, support the best science and show that we are making advances in the war against cancer. Our vision at the OSUCCC is to create a cancer-free world.”

After each of the OSUCCC’s last two site reviews, including the most recent one three years ago, the NCI rated the center as “exceptional,” the highest ranking. “This placed us among an elite few comprehensive cancer centers,” Shields says, noting that, to achieve this rating for a second consecutive time, the OSUCCC had to improve on the NCI’s Six Essential Characteristics:

- **Organizational Capabilities:** Shields says reviewers recognized the organizational structure of the OSUCCC within Ohio State as a model for cancer centers to foster research across the university. They also found that the OSUCCC had improved on such hard metrics as external funding, clinical trial enrollment, team science through publications and grants, provision of shared resources, and impact of publications.
- **Transdisciplinary Collaboration and Coordination:** “Scientific impact comes through team science,” Shields says. “We showed reviewers that our research—fueled by partnerships among scientists in 11 of the 15 colleges at Ohio State—propels drug discovery, drug treatments and FDA approval; influences national and international policies; develops methods for cancer prevention and control; and promotes national agendas for cancer research.”
- **Institutional Commitment:** Shields says reviewers found hard evidence of Ohio State’s commitment to its cancer program in the 2014 opening of a transformational new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, in a reporting structure that fosters research across the university, and in funding assistance to implement a bold strategic plan.
- **Physical Space:** Reviewers noted the presence of new clinical space and autonomy over sophisticated research laboratories.
- **Cancer Focus:** The OSUCCC has about \$54 million a year in NCI research grants, Shields says, noting that it also annually places over 3,000 patients and healthy volunteers on clinical trials.
- **Center Director:** “The leadership we enjoyed under (former OSUCCC Director and James CEO) Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, was obvious,” Shields says. “He left a thriving cancer center for new hands to control as we continue moving forward.”





## Pelotonia 17 Raises Record \$26.2 Million for Cancer Research

Riders, virtual riders and donors in Pelotonia 17, the ninth installment of the annual grassroots cycling event that generates money for cancer research at Ohio State, raised a record \$26.2 million, bringing the event's nine-year fundraising total to \$157 million. Donors from all 50 states and more than 60 countries contributed to the funds raised by the event's 282 pelotons (riding groups). "The Pelotonia movement is proof that true social impact depends on a community of people working together," says Pelotonia President and CEO Doug Ulman. "In 2017, our community rallied for our cause in an unprecedented fashion—breaking fundraising and participation records and living up to their name as the Greatest Team Ever."



## Save the Date!

We hope you can join us for the 10th annual Pelotonia, which is scheduled to take place Aug. 3-5, 2018. Register to ride at [pelotonia.org](http://pelotonia.org).

## The James



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

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