THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER –
ARTHUR G. JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND RICHARD J. SOLOVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

TOWARD A CANCER-FREE WORLD

2019

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

The James

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR & THE CEO

2019 was a pivotal year for The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) as we took notable strides in our continuing pursuit of a cancer-free world.

Enclosed is our annual Accomplishments Report, which highlights our many achievements of 2019 that have collectively helped us improve the landscape of cancer research and patient care.

Perhaps foremost among our 2019 accomplishments was establishing the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology (PIIO), a comprehensive research initiative focused on harnessing the body's immune system to fight cancer at all levels. Launched last summer through a pledge of $102,265,000 from Pelotonia, an annual cycling event that raises money for cancer research at Ohio State, the PIIO is poised to extend our efforts in immuno-oncology, which is widely considered to be the next frontier in cancer treatment.

Other key initiatives that continued in 2019 include our collaboration with Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center to open central Ohio's first and only proton therapy center by 2023 at an outpatient cancer center to be built on the university's west campus, and two Pelotonia-funded statewide initiatives that separately take aim at preventing lung and endometrial (uterine) cancer.

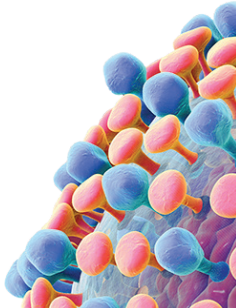
This report contains information about not only those initiatives but also our advances in research-based cancer care, our recruitment of stellar senior-level scientists, and some of the many honors, awards and achievements of our exemplary faculty and staff, whose daily efforts—bolstered by support from our devoted volunteers, donors and a caring community—help us offer hope to patients and families who turn to us for help.

We also have some very sad news. As this Accomplishments Report was being prepared for print, Clara D. Bloomfield, MD, longtime senior adviser to the OSUCCC – James, died following a recent fall at her home. Dr. Bloomfield was an internationally renowned medical scientist whose more than 50 years of research in hematologic malignancies, particularly acute myeloid leukemia, revolutionized science-based personalized treatment for patients. Her passing is a loss not only to our cancer program but to the world. You can read more about her career accomplishments on the OSUCCC – James website and in a future issue of our *Frontiers* magazine.

For now, we hope you will find our 2019 Accomplishments Report informative and inspiring.

**Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, FACS**
Director, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

**William B. Farrar, MD**
CEO, James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute



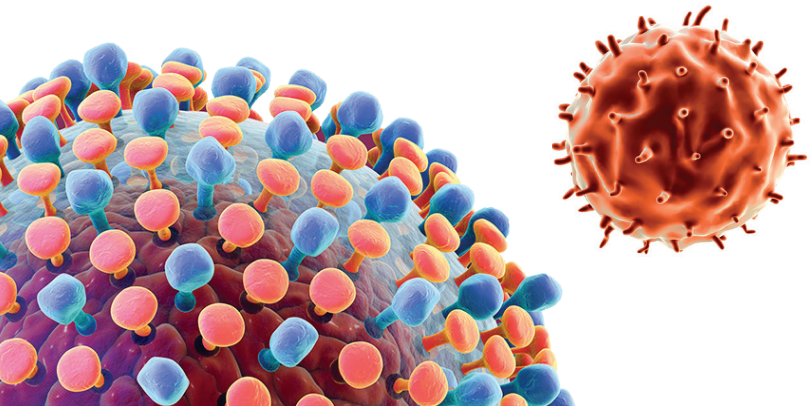
**Patient Care** – In 2019 the OSUCCC – James treated 101,642 patients for an average daily occupancy rate of 87.8% and an average daily census of 311.6 patients. In addition, the OSUCCC – James received 698,286 outpatient visits. To accommodate continuing growth in patient volume, The James hired 244 new faculty and staff in 2019.

**Clinical Trials** – Patients at the OSUCCC – James have access to hundreds of clinical trials that offer some of the most sophisticated treatments available anywhere, including some that are available nowhere else. In 2019 researchers at the OSUCCC – James opened 188 clinical trials to bring the total number of available trials to 602, of which approximately 475 are interventional. The 2019 accrual rate for interventional trials at the OSUCCC – James was 34%. The five-year average patient accrual to interventional clinical trials here is 17%—well above the national rate of about 3%—and the five-year average for non-interventional clinical trials is 46%.

**Total Cancer Care® Protocol** – Since 2014, the OSUCCC – James has enrolled more than 58,400 patients (including 10,108 in the past year) for a 93% accrual rate in a Total Cancer Care® (TCC) protocol for voluntarily sharing de-identified clinical data that helps move cancer research forward and personalizes cancer care. The TCC protocol helps clinicians understand differences among cancer patients and find ways to individualize prevention, detection and treatment.

**ORIEN Precision Medicine Collaboration** – The TCC protocol referenced above has been adopted by all 19 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, Florida. Through ORIEN, more than 282,000 TCC-consented patients from around the country have agreed to donate their clinical data for research to help scientists understand cancer at the molecular level, making ORIEN one of the world's largest precision medicine collaborations to address cancer.

**Research Grant Funding** – The OSUCCC – James has nearly 300 full or introductory cancer researchers (along with several affiliate researchers) who collectively represent 11 of the 15 colleges at Ohio State. Each researcher is in one of five multidisciplinary research programs: Cancer Control; Leukemia Research; Cancer Biology; Molecular Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention; or Translational Therapeutics. In fiscal year 2019, OSUCCC – James researchers received 42 new research grants totaling over $12.6 million from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), bringing the institution's annual total NCI grant funding to $44 million. The OSUCCC – James ranks 25th among cancer institutions in the United States for total NCI funding.



**Research Publications** – Medical scientists at the OSUCCC – James frequently publish cancer-related articles in prestigious scientific journals. Nearly 85% of the publications are collaborative among researchers within the five OSUCCC programs, and approximately 78% of the publications are multi-institutional. In 2019, cancer researchers at Ohio State authored or co-authored 968 journal articles, comments, reviews or letters, including 118 that appeared in journals with impact factors of 10 or higher. Here are a few examples of 2019 articles in top-rated journals (names in bold are OSUCCC members):

Herling CD, **Coombes KR**, Benner A, Bloehdorn J, Barron LL, Abrams ZB, Majewski T, Bondaruk JE, Bahlo J, Fischer K, Hallek M, Stilgenbauer S, Czerniak BA, **Oakes CC**, Ferrajoli A, Keating MJ, **Abruzzo LV**. Time-to-progression after front-line fludarabine, cyclophosphamide and rituximab chemoimmunotherapy for chronic lymphocytic leukemia: a retrospective, multicohort study. *The Lancet Oncology* 2019; 20:1576-1586. Impact Factor: 35.386

Arthur DW, Winter KA, Kuerer HM, Haffty B, Cuttino L, Todor DA, Anne PR, Anderson P, Woodward WA, McCormick B, Cheston S, Sahijdak WM, Canaday D, Brown DR, Currey A, Fisher CM, Jagsi R, Moughan J, **White JR**. Effectiveness of breast-conserving surgery and 3-dimensional conformal partial breast reirradiation for recurrence of breast cancer in the ipsilateral breast: The NRG Oncology/RTOG 1014 Phase 2 Clinical Trial. *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Oncology* 2019 November (Epub ahead of print). Impact Factor: 22.416

Smith MA, Choudhary GS, Pellagatti A, Choi K, Bolanos LC, Bhagat TD, Gordon-Mitchell S, Von Ahrens D, Pradhan K, Steeples V, Kim S, Steidl U, Walter M, Fraser IDC, Kulkarni A, Salomonis N, Komurov K, Boultwood J, Verma A, **Starczynowski DT**. U2AF1 mutations induce oncogenic IRAK4 isoforms and activate innate immune pathways in myeloid malignancies. *Nature Cell Biology* 2019;21:640-650. Impact Factor: 19.064

Sharman JP, Banerji V, Fogliatto LM, Herishanu Y, Munir T, Walewska R, Follows G, Karlsson K, Ghia P, Corbett G, Walker P, Egyed M, Jurczak W, Salles G, Janssens A, Cymbalista F, Wierda WG, Coutre S, Pagel JM, Skarbnik A, Kamdar M, **Woyach J**, Izumi R, Munugalavadla V, Patel P, Wang MH, Wong S, **Byrd JC**. ELEVATE TN: Phase III study of acalabrutinib combined with obinutuzumab (O) or alone vs. O plus chlorambucil (Clb) in patients with treatment-naive chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). *Blood* 2019;134:31. Impact Factor: 16.562

Chiang CL, Goswami S, Frissora FW, Xie Z, **Yan PS**, Bundschuh R, Walker LA, Huang X, Mani R, Mo XM, Baskar S, Rader C, **Phelps MA**, Marcucci G, **Byrd JC**, **Lee LJ**, **Muthusamy N**. ROR1-targeted delivery of miR-29b induces cell cycle arrest and therapeutic benefit *in vivo* in a CLL mouse model. *Blood* 2019;134:432-444. Impact Factor: 16.562

Giacopelli B, Zhao Q, Ruppert AS, Agyeman A, Weigel C, Wu YZ, Gerber MM, Rabe KG, Larson MC, Lu J, Blachly JS, Rogers KA, Wierda WG, Brown JR, Rai KR, Keating M, Rassenti LZ, Kipps TJ, Zenz T, Shanafelt TD, Kay NE, **Abruzzo LV**, **Coombes KR**, **Woyach JA**, **Byrd JC**, **Oakes CC**. Developmental subtypes assessed by DNA methylation-iPLEX forecast the natural history of chronic lymphocytic leukemia. *Blood* 2019;134:688-698. Impact Factor: 16.562

Tsai M, **Song MA**, McAndrew C, **Brasky TM**, Freudenheim JL, Mathé E, McElroy J, Reisinger SA, **Shields PG**, **Wewers MD**. Electronic versus combustible cigarette effects on inflammasome component release into human lung. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* 2019;199:922-925. Impact Factor: 15.239

Koenigs MB, Lefranc-Torres A, Bonilla-Velez J, Patel KB, Hayes DN, Glomski K, Busse PM, Chan AW, Clark JR, Deschler DG, Emerick KS, Hammon RJ, Wirth LJ, Lin DT, Mroz EA, Faquin WC, **Rocco JW**. Association of estrogen receptor alpha expression with survival in oropharyngeal cancer following chemoradiation therapy. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 2019 January (Epub ahead of print). Impact Factor: 11.238

Shukuya T, Yamada T, Koenig MJ, Xu J, Okimoto T, Li F, Amann JM, **Carbone DP**. The effect of LKB1 activity on the sensitivity to PI3K/mTOR inhibition in non-small cell lung cancer. *Journal of Thoracic Oncology* 2019 February (Epub ahead of print). Impact Factor: 10.336

Bekaii-Saab T, **Wesolowski R**, Ahn DH, Wu C, **Mortazavi A**, **Lustberg MB**, **Ramaswamy B**, **Fowler J**, Wei L, Overholser J, **Kaumaya PTP**. Phase 1 immunotherapy trial with two chimeric HER-2 B-cell peptide vaccines emulsified in montanide ISA 720VG and nor-MDP adjuvant in advanced solid tumors. *Clinical Cancer Research* 2019 February (Epub ahead of print). Impact Factor: 10.199

Bill M, Papaioannou D, Karunasiri M, Kohlschmidt J, Pepe F, Walker CJ, **Walker AE**, Brannan Z, Pathmanathan A, Zhang X, Mrózek K, LaRocco A, Volinia S, **Bloomfield CD**, **Garzon R**, **Dorrance AM**. Expression and functional relevance of long non-coding RNAs in acute myeloid leukemia stem cells. *Leukemia* 2019 March (Epub ahead of print). Impact Factor: 10.023

Mrózek K, Eisfeld AK, Kohlschmidt J, Carroll AJ, Walker CJ, Nicolet D, **Blachly JS**, Bill M, Papaioannou D, Wang ES, Uy GL, Kolitz JE, Powell BL, Blum W, Stone RM, **Byrd JC**, **Bloomfield CD**. Complex karyotype in *de novo* acute myeloid leukemia: typical and atypical subtypes differ molecularly and clinically. *Leukemia* 2019 February (Epub ahead of print). Impact Factor: 10.023

**Drug Development Institute (DDI)** – The DDI is a biotech-like institute embedded within the OSUCCC – James that employs a combination of targeted investments, strategic management and cutting-edge resources to drive projects from discovery to early-stage development of drugs for cancer therapy. Led by DDI Senior Director and Clinical Pharmacist **Jeff Patrick, PharmD**, the DDI is staffed by industry-trained scientists and employs a "dual-track" collaborative management process to ensure that all projects progress as efficiently as possible. Project activities are divided between the DDI and investigators, and are executed in parallel. The desired outcome is to advance projects to the point of partnership with industry to ensure that translational research performed at the OSUCCC – James can benefit patients.

The DDI advances research through its pipeline, pilot and regulatory funding programs. A pipeline of early-stage therapeutic projects now in development includes:

**Activated B Cells as a Therapeutic Cancer Vaccine Platform** – A novel B cell-based therapeutic cancer vaccine, with the potential to be personalized to an individual's tumor signature, is being developed for use in treating a variety of cancer types.

**DHODH Inhibitors for Treatment of Hematologic Malignancies** – Recent proof-of-concept research has rekindled interest in targeting cancers through inhibition of dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (DHODH). The Ohio State University, in collaboration with Hendrix College, is developing a series of DHODH inhibitors for treating hematologic malignancies, including acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

**Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulator (ER-β Agonist) as a New Approach to Targeting Cancer** – A novel series of selective non-steroidal estrogen receptor beta agonists is in development for treating cancer, precancerous conditions and potentially non-cancer indications.

**Mps1/TTK Kinase Inhibitor as a Treatment for Cancer** – Mps1 is a protein that regulates cell division, and its overexpression is associated with poor outcomes in multiple tumor types. This team is developing selective inhibitors of Mps1.

**Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor as a Target for Multiple Myeloma** – The aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) has been implicated as a sensor of environmental chemicals and as a critical regulator of B-cell development. This team is evaluating small molecule inhibitors of AHR to address the significant unmet need in myeloma.

**Selective RAL A GTPase Inhibitors as a Cancer Treatment** – The Ral A protein has been shown to be a critical node in the signaling pathways allowing growth of several types of cancer. This team is developing first-in-class, selective inhibitors of Ral A.

# PELOTONIA®

## Pelotonia-Funded Initiatives

Funds from Pelotonia, an annual grassroots cycling event that raises millions of dollars for cancer research at Ohio State, continued to help the OSUCCC – James change the landscape of cancer care in 2019 by supporting the establishment of the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology (PIIO). Pelotonia money also supported two previously established statewide initiatives that promote early detection and better outcomes for patients with lung and endometrial (uterine) cancers in Ohio.

### Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology Launched at Ohio State with $102,265,000 Investment

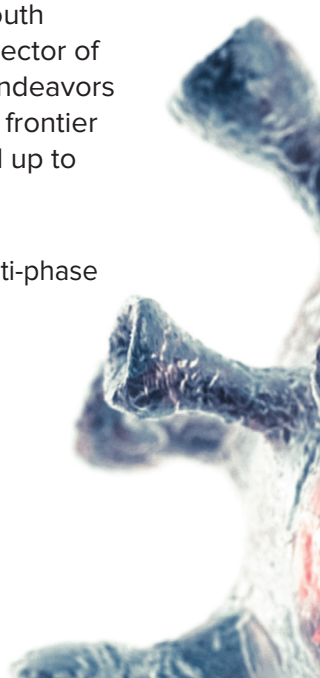
The OSUCCC – James in July 2019 announced formation of the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology (PIIO), a comprehensive bench-to-bedside research initiative focused on harnessing the body's immune system to fight cancer at all levels, from prevention to treatment and survivorship.

Pelotonia, a grassroots cycling event that has raised more than $207 million for cancer research initiatives at the OSUCCC – James, has pledged $102,265,000 over the next five years. The largest portion of the pledge—$65 million—will directly fund the PIIO. The remaining dollars will continue supporting such well-established initiatives as Pelotonia Fellowships, Idea Grants, statewide research initiatives and the purchase of equipment for cancer research. The OSUCCC – James is also supporting the PIIO with a $35 million commitment to expand and sustain modern research infrastructure.

Zihai Li, MD, PhD

**Zihai Li, MD, PhD**, a renowned physician-scientist and immunologist, was recruited to Ohio State from the Medical University of South Carolina Hollings Cancer Center in April 2019 as founding director of the PIIO. He will help Ohio State build on its already strong endeavors in immunotherapy, which is widely considered to be the next frontier in cancer treatment. The OSUCCC – James also plans to add up to 35 faculty over the next five years to work within the PIIO.

In addition, Li and other leaders at the OSUCCC – James are planning for multi-phase laboratory renovations to create advanced cellular lab facilities that will boost immuno-oncology research and lead to start-up initiatives and collaborations in immuno-oncology with other academic centers and industry partners.




Peter Shields, MD


Barbara Andersen, PhD


David Carbone, MD, PhD

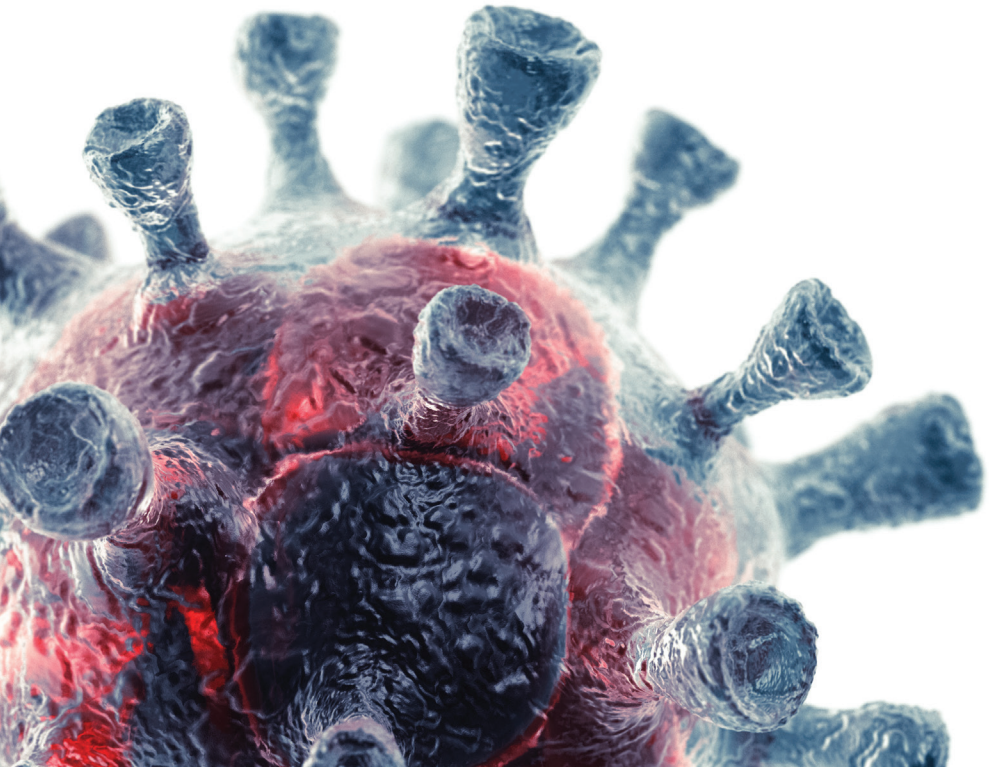

Mary Ellen Wewers, RN, PhD, MPH

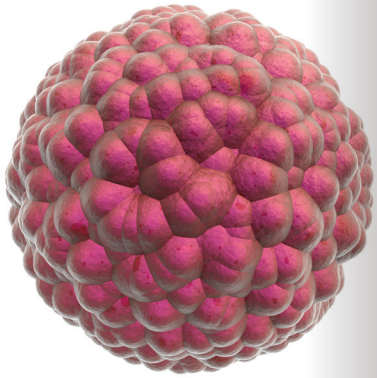
## OSUCCC – James Leads Statewide Initiative Against Lung Cancer

Recruitment continues 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**; **Mary Ellen Wewers**, **RN**, **PhD**, **MPH**; and **Barbara Andersen**, **PhD**, the initiative is called Beating Lung Cancer – In Ohio (BLC-IO) and is supported by $3 million from Pelotonia.

The initiative is drawing upon a network of 50 hospitals around Ohio that was established by an earlier Pelotonia-funded statewide project. BLC-IO has two aims: to assess 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 (assess the impact of centralized telephone counseling and provider support on smoker cessation). Patient recruitment began in 2017.

Project leaders anticipate that more than 2,000 newly diagnosed patients with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer will enroll in BLC-IO via the community hospital network. Each enrollee will receive free testing for more than 300 genes in their cancer specimens, and the physicians who treat them will receive expert support for interpreting test results and determining treatments. BLC-IO also will provide smoking-cessation support for up to three years to all participating patients and family members.






David Cohn, MD


Paul Goodfellow, PhD


Elaine Mardis, PhD


Heather Hampel, MS, LGC

## Genomics-Driven Statewide Endometrial Cancer Research Initiative Underway

A statewide clinical cancer research project called **Ohio Prevention and Treatment of Endometrial Cancer (OPTEC)**, which is supported by $1.56 million in Pelotonia funds, aims to recruit up to 1,000 women with endometrial cancer from nine participating medical institutions around Ohio and screen them for LS and other inherited genetic conditions linked to a risk of endometrial, colorectal, stomach and ovarian cancers.

This initiative originally called for recruiting 700 women, but that goal was reached four months ahead of schedule. Because the collaborating sites were eager to continue the study and partnership, an extension was granted to increase enrollment to 1,000.

The women's tumor samples are undergoing 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. Those whose tumors have defective DNA mismatch repair will be considered for immunotherapy clinical trials for endometrial cancer.

OPTEC is led by **David Cohn**, **MD**, and **Paul Goodfellow**, **PhD**, with multiple collaborators from the OSUCCC – James and Nationwide Children's Research Institute. OPTEC is conducting LS screening with a novel one-step genetic sequencing technique developed by Goodfellow and **Elaine Mardis**, **PhD**, a geneticist at Nationwide Children's Research Institute. Genomic profiling also will help identify patients who are most likely to benefit from new medical therapies, including immunotherapy drugs that target certain proteins.

In addition, OPTEC is supported by a five-year, multimillion grant that the National Cancer Institute awarded in July 2018 to principal investigators Goodfellow, Mardis and **Heather Hampel**, **MS**, **LGC**, for a study of "Combined NGS Tumor-Based Detection of Germline Lynch Syndrome Mutations and Prognostic Classification of Endometrial Cancers."

The grant is helping researchers develop low-cost and highly sensitive tumor-based DNA methods to identify women with inherited forms of endometrial cancer and, at the same time, test for genetic changes useful for treatment planning. Studying DNA specimens prepared in clinically approved laboratories will make it possible to rapidly translate research findings to tumor-based testing that can be applied to all endometrial cancer patients and thus improve cancer prevention and treatment.

# Prominent Research Studies

John C. Byrd, MD

## Ohio State-Developed Drug Receives FDA Approval for Treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Small Cell Lymphoma

On Nov. 21, 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of acalabrutinib for first-line therapy in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and small cell lymphoma (SCL). This was the first full approval of the targeted drug therapy, which was developed and tested at the OSUCCC – James in collaboration with Acerta Pharma. Acalabrutinib is a second-generation Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor, a newer class of drugs shown to improve the survival of patients with mantle cell lymphoma in addition to CLL and SCL. The foundational basic-science research, initial phase I clinical trial and numerous sequential phase II and III trials that led to FDA approval of acalabrutinib were performed by a team of researchers at the OSUCCC – James led by **John C. Byrd, MD**, Distinguished University Professor and co-leader of the Leukemia Research Program (see related item, below).

Jennifer Woyach, MD

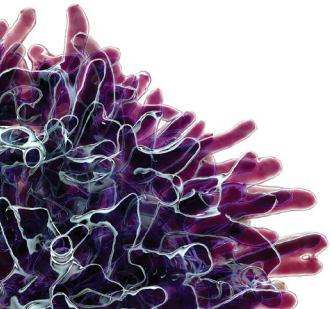
## Acalabrutinib Shows Good Tolerability & Efficacy in CLL Patients Intolerant to Ibrutinib

Patients with relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) who had to discontinue therapy with the drug ibrutinib because of adverse effects from treatment may benefit from a newer drug called acalabrutinib that showed promising results among patients in a multicenter clinical trial co-led by OSUCCC – James researchers. Published in the journal *Blood Advances*, the phase I/II study showed that acalabrutinb is tolerable and demonstrates clinical benefit for many patients with CLL who develop ibrutinib intolerance. Ibrutinib was the first drug designed to target the Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) protein that is essential to CLL cell survival and proliferation. This study was led by an Ohio State CLL team directed by **Jennifer Woyach, MD**, of the Leukemia Research Program.

Julia White, MD

## Partial Breast Irradiation Effective, Convenient Treatment Option for Low-Risk Breast Cancer

Partial breast irradiation produces similar long-term survival rates and risk for recurrence compared with whole breast irradiation for many women with low-risk, early-stage breast cancer, according to new data from a national clinical trial involving researchers at the OSUCCC – James. This randomized phase III study compared whole breast irradiation with partial breast irradiation in a large group of women with stage 0, 1 or 2 breast cancer. More than 4,200 patients were enrolled in the study as part of an NRG Oncology cooperative group clinical trial. **Julia White, MD**, head of breast radiation oncology and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, was co-principal investigator for the study.



Pravin Kaumaya, PhD

## Novel Anticancer Vaccine Shows Promise in Phase I Study

Promising results from an OSUCCC – James phase I clinical trial on a novel peptide vaccine suggest an important potential benefit of this vaccine and warrant its continuing development for treating patients with metastatic or recurrent solid tumors that overexpress the HER-2 protein. Led by principal investigator **Pravin Kaumaya, PhD**, a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, the trial demonstrates that the vaccine, called B-Vaxx, is well tolerated and can generate sustained anti-HER-2 immune response compared to humanized monoclonal antibodies, to which most patients develop resistance. The present study shows preliminary indication that peptide vaccination may avoid therapeutic resistance and offer a promising alternative to monoclonal antibody therapies such as Herceptin® and Perjeta®.

Erica Bell, PhD

Arnab Chakravarti, MD

## Trial Analyses Suggest Only 2 of 3 Low-Grade Glioma Subgroups May Benefit From Adding PCV Chemotherapy to Radiotherapy

A recent updated predictive analysis of the three World Health Organization (WHO)-defined molecular glioma subgroups based on isocitrate dehydrogenase 1/2 *(IDH)* mutation status and 1p/19q co-deletion status represented in the high-risk low-grade glioma treatment arms of the NRG-RTOG 9802 clinical trial indicates that both *IDH*-mutant subgroups could benefit from the addition of PCV chemotherapy to radiotherapy treatment. This data, included in an abstract of which researchers at the OSUCCC – James were lead authors, was delivered during a Best of ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) oral presentation at the ASCO Annual Meeting. **Erica Bell, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State, was first author. Department Chair **Arnab Chakravarti, MD**, was senior author. Both are in the OSUCCC – James Translational Therapeutics Program.

Peter Shields, MD

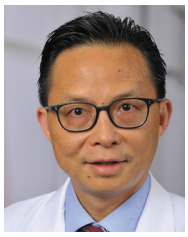
## Findings Strengthen Link Between Vitamin E Acetate and Vaping-Associated Lung Injuries

Research reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the OSUCCC – James strengthens prior findings on the link between vitamin E acetate and EVALI (E-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury). In this study, the CDC analyzed bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid from 51 EVALI patients in 16 states and compared it to BAL fluid from 99 healthy individuals. Vitamin E acetate, also found in product samples tested by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and state laboratories, was identified in BAL fluid from 48 of 51 EVALI patients but was not found in any BAL fluid from healthy people. OSUCCC Deputy Director **Peter Shields, MD**, says these findings support the conclusion that vitamin E acetate is a potential causative agent of EVALI.

Robert Baiocchi, MD, PhD

## Research Discovery Enters Phase I Clinical Testing

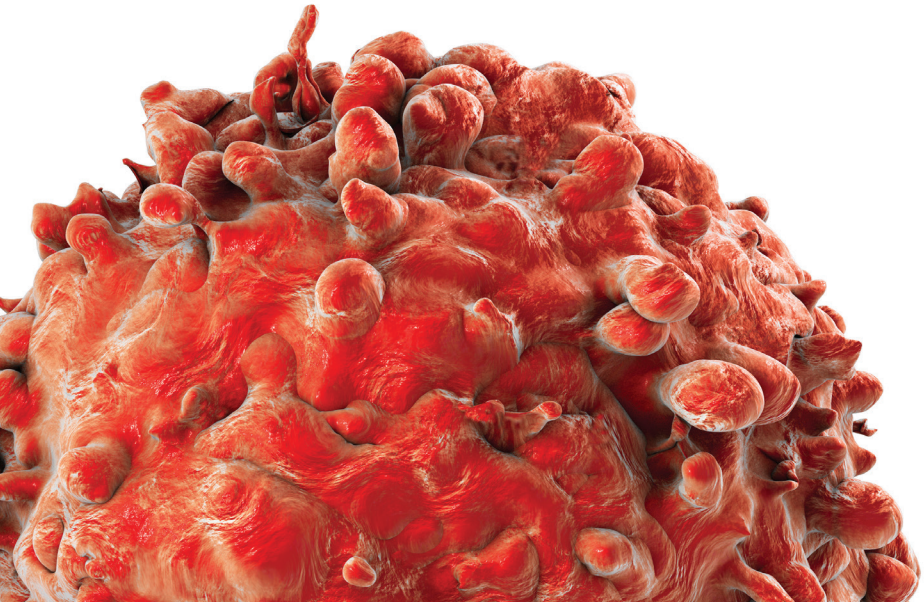
A new targeted oral therapy developed through research discoveries at the OSUCCC – James is being offered as an experimental treatment option for patients with certain advanced cancers, including lymphoma. The OSUCCC – James is one of four cancer centers participating in this national trial, sponsored by Prelude Therapeutics. Known only as PRT543 while in testing, this targeted treatment molecule is among the first in an emerging class of drugs called PRMT5 inhibitors. Led by **Robert Baiocchi, MD, PhD**, a professor in the Division of Hematology at Ohio State and member of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James, the research team was the first to discover PRMT5 as a cancer driver and the first to develop and report a series of novel molecules to selectively inhibit PRMT5. With support from the Drug Development Institute (DDI), a translational accelerator embedded within the OSUCCC – James, this entire portfolio of molecules was licensed to Prelude.

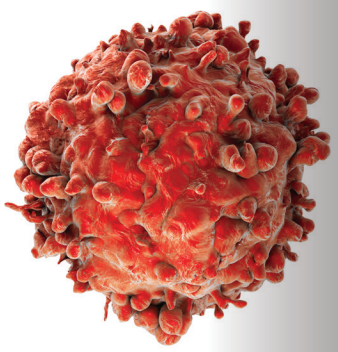


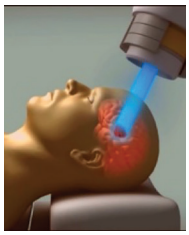
Yiping Yang, MD, PhD

## Discovery Helps Scientists Understand Why Targeted Immuno-Oncology Drugs Sometimes Fail

OSUCCC – James researchers reported a discovery that helps scientists understand why some tumors lack immune cell infiltration and are thus unresponsive to newer PD-1 targeted therapies. PD-1 is a checkpoint protein on T cells, a type of immune cell that helps the body recognize abnormal cells in the body. PD-1 normally acts as an “off switch” to keep T cells from attacking other cells. PD-1 inhibitors are in a class of drugs called monoclonal antibodies that are used to selectively block this protein and boost immune response to attack cancer cells. Previously reported data showed that a primary reason some cancer patients do not respond to PD-1 therapy is the inability of the fighter T cells (known as CD8 T cells) to invade the tumor microenvironment. Writing in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, **Yiping Yang, MD, PhD**, director of the Division of Hematology at Ohio State, and colleagues report on cellular mechanisms that limit the ability of CD8 T cells to infiltrate the tumor microenvironment.

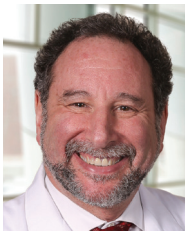






## Ohio State, Nationwide Children's Hospital Will Be First in Region to Offer 'Flash' Proton Therapy

A highly targeted form of proton therapy, known as "FLASH," will be investigated in clinical trial participants with certain newly diagnosed, recurrent or advanced cancers as part of central Ohio's first and only proton therapy center, a collaborative effort of the OSUCCC – James, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. According to preclinical data, FLASH therapy—the extremely fast application of very high radiation doses—could reduce what is typically 30 days of treatments into a single treatment that is delivered in less than a second. Scheduled to open in 2023 at an outpatient cancer center to be built on Ohio State's west campus, the proton therapy center will offer comprehensive radiation oncology treatment options for adults and children at a single location. Proton therapy is an advanced radiation treatment that uses protons (positively charged particles) instead of X-rays to kill cancer cells.



Peter Shields, MD

## Pilot Study Shows Even Short-Term Vaping Causes Inflammation in Non-Smokers

E-cigarette (e-cig) use is rising at concerning levels among both smokers and non-smokers, and new research data suggests that even short-term e-cig use can cause cellular inflammation in never-smoker adults. Researchers at the OSUCCC – James reported the first evidence of biological changes correlated with e-cig use in never-smokers in the journal *Cancer Prevention Research*. Using bronchoscopy to test for inflammation and smoking-related effects, the researchers reported a measurable increase in inflammation after four weeks of e-cig use (without nicotine or flavors). Although the change was small compared with a control group, the pilot data suggests that even short-term usage can result in inflammatory changes at a cellular level. Inflammation from smoking is an important driver of lung cancer and other respiratory diseases. **Peter Shields, MD**, deputy director of the OSUCCC, was senior author.

Blake Peterson, PhD

## College of Pharmacy & OSUCCC – James Collaborate to Support Cancer Drug Discovery

The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy (COP) and the OSUCCC – James initiated a 10-year partnership to expand drug discovery and development in cancer and cancer-related diseases. Through this agreement, the OSUCCC – James will invest approximately $15 million for renovations of more than 19,300 square feet of the COP Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy space. The OSUCCC – James also will allocate $3 million toward a Small Molecule Screening Facility that it will maintain as a shared resource with the COP. **Blake Peterson, PhD**, chair of the COP Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, and co-leader of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, serves as director.

Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD

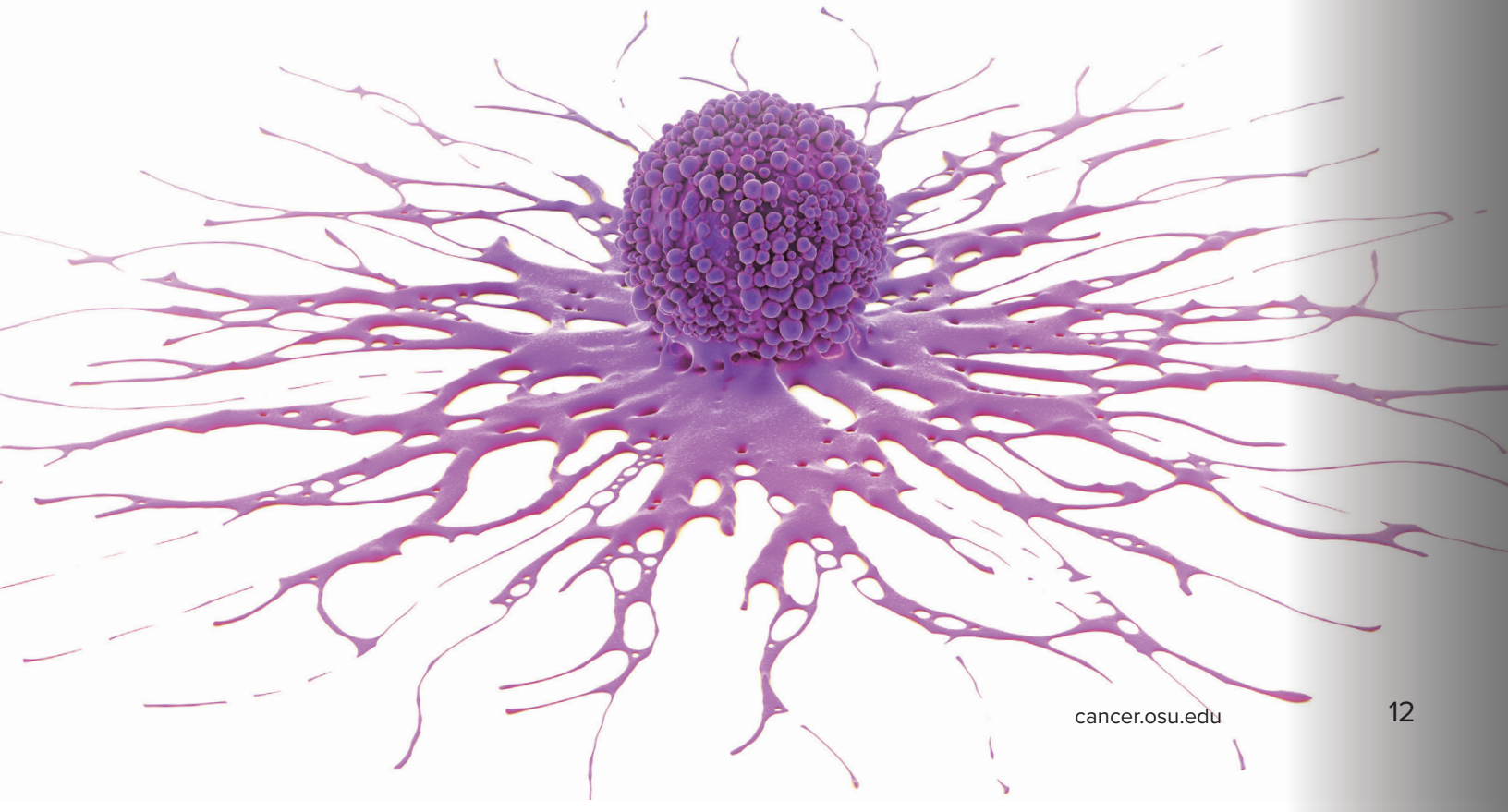
## Study Suggests New Strategy for Treating Advanced, Progressing Bile Duct Cancer

A study led by OSUCCC – James researchers shows how resistance to a promising targeted drug develops in patients with a rare, lethal cancer of the bile ducts called cholangiocarcinoma. Reported in the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, the study also suggests that adding another drug at the time of progression might re-sensitize tumor cells to the initial drug, called an *FGFR* inhibitor. While the majority of patients with *FGFR*-positive cholangiocarcinoma benefit from new *FGFR* inhibitors in clinical trials, most patients unfortunately develop cancers resistant to the drugs. Study leader **Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD**, says researchers believe this work is an important step in understanding drug resistance and improving the treatment of this and other cancers caused by abnormal *FGFR* gene mutations.

Zihai Li, MD, PhD

## Drivers of Immune Evasion, Cancer Progression Revealed by New Study

OSUCCC – James researchers led a study that has revealed how a clotting protein and blood platelets can promote cancer progression and suppress immune responses to cancer. The findings show how thrombin, a clotting protein in the blood, causes blood platelets to release transforming growth factor-beta 1 (TGF-b1), which is known for promoting disease progression in breast, prostate, colorectal and other cancers, and for suppressing immune-system responses to cancer. Also, TGF-b1 is a leading cause for the failure of immune therapies such as PD1 inhibitors in cancer patients. Principal investigator **Zihai Li, MD, PhD**, founding director of the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology at the OSUCCC – James, says this study may help explain how tumors resist immune therapies and become sensitive to therapeutic agents.

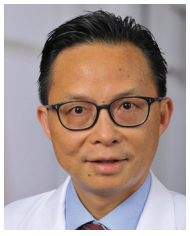


## Renowned Researchers Join OSUCCC – James Team

In 2019, several senior- and junior-level researchers were recruited to Ohio State's cancer program. The newcomers who are members of the comprehensive cancer center represent 11 of the 15 colleges at the university. Here are some of the senior recruits of the past year:

Zihai Li, MD, PhD

**Zihai Li, MD, PhD**, an oncologist and immunologist, was recruited from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) to become founding director of the new Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology (PIIO) at the OSUCCC – James, where he also is in the Translational Therapeutics Program. At MUSC, Li was a tenured professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and co-leader of the Cancer Immunology Program at the Hollings Cancer Center. With primary interests in the mechanisms of immune regulation in cancer, Li's research team has made seminal contributions to understanding the immunological properties of heat shock proteins in cancer immunotherapy and immune tolerance. His current interests focus on developing better immunotherapeutics against cancer by reprogramming the tumor microenvironment. (See related stories about Li on pages 5 and 12.)



Yiping Yang, MD, PhD

**Yiping Yang, MD, PhD**, an expert in cancer immunology and immunotherapy, was appointed as director of the Division of Hematology at Ohio State. Yang was recruited from Duke University, where he had served as co-director of the Hematologic Malignancies and Cell Therapies Program at the Duke Cancer Institute and as professor of medicine/immunology at the School of Medicine. A clinician and scientist, he specializes in the treatment of lymphoma, leukemia and virus-associated malignancies. In addition to his division leader role, Yang is in the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James and is a collaborator in the new PIIO.

Theodore Wagener, PhD

**Theodore Wagener, PhD**, was recruited from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center to Ohio State's College of Medicine, where he is an associate professor in the Division of Medical Oncology. He also co-leads the Cancer Control Program and directs the Center for Tobacco Research at the OSUCCC – James. Wagener's research focuses on tobacco regulatory science, with a specialized focus on evaluating the pharmacological effects and behavioral use patterns of cigarette and non-cigarette tobacco products, such as electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) and hookah. He also has expertise in developing and testing motivational enhancement-based smoking cessation and secondhand smoke reduction interventions for children of parents who smoke.

Eugene Oltz, PhD

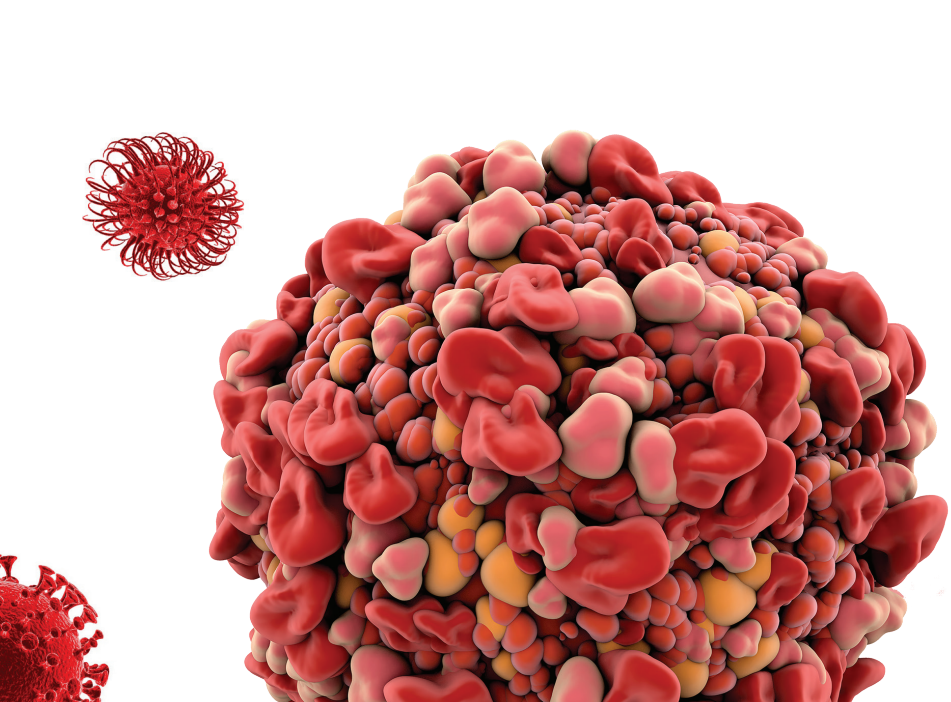
**Eugene Oltz, PhD,** joined Ohio State's College of Medicine as professor and chair of the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity. He also is in the Cancer Biology Program at the OSUCCC – James. Oltz was recruited from Washington University in St. Louis, where he served as professor and vice chair of the Department of Pathology and Immunology. A researcher and lecturer, Oltz focuses on genetic changes that occur in normal immune cells that lead to autoimmune diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease, or to immune-related tumors such as lymphoma. He has led NIH-funded programs for more than two decades and has held more than 20 federal grants as principal investigator.

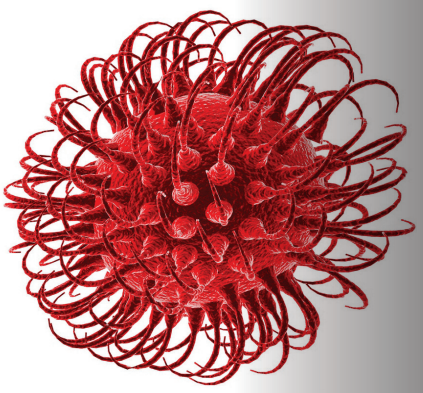
Blake Peterson, PhD

**Blake Peterson, PhD,** was recruited from the University of Kansas as professor and chair of the Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy in Ohio State's College of Pharmacy. He also co-leads the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James. Peterson's laboratory pursues interdisciplinary research in bio-organic/medicinal chemistry and chemical biology. His team creates and studies anticancer agents, antiviral agents, molecular probe, tools for target identification and systems for drug delivery.

Dongjun Chung, PhD

**Dongjun Chung, PhD**, was recruited to Ohio State from the Medical University of South Carolina as an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics (BMI) within the College of Medicine. Chung was jointly recruited by BMI and the PIIO at the OSUCCC – James. His research expertise includes statistical genetics, bioinformatics, machine learning and statistical computing. His research group has published several articles in scientific journals and has developed multiple statistical methods, software and Web interface in the areas of high-throughput sequencing, genome-wide association studies, cancer genomics and systems biology.





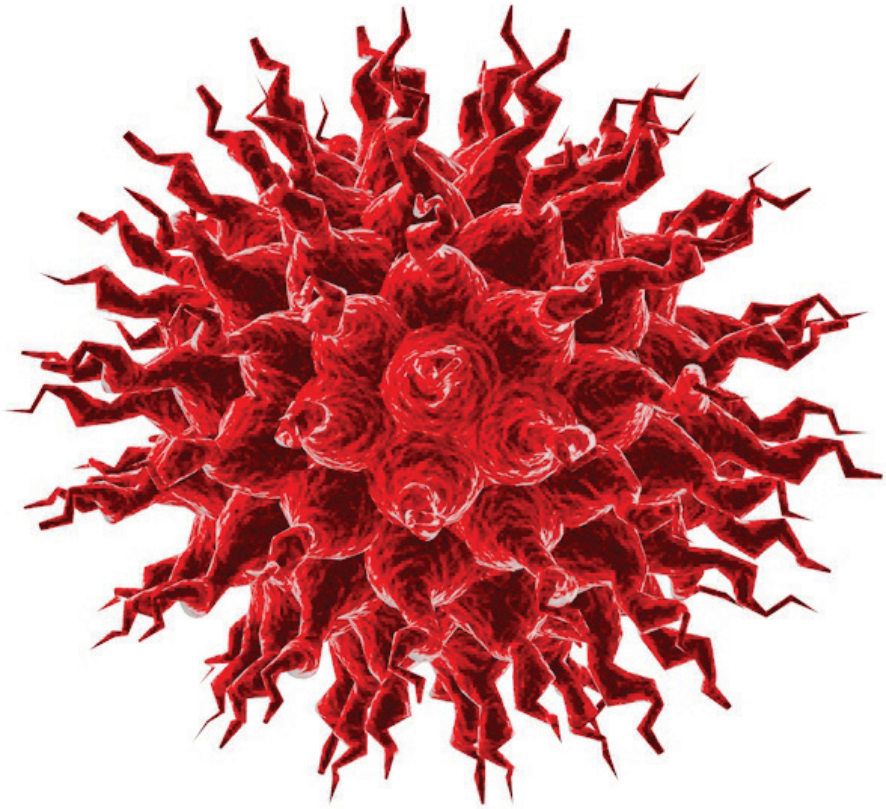


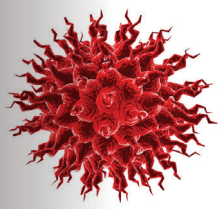
## OSUCCC – James Wins National Awards for Excellence in Patient Care

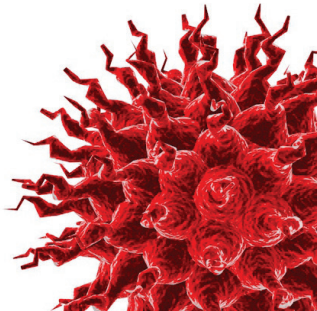
The OSUCCC – James earned two national awards for excellence in patient care delivery from Press Ganey, a healthcare performance improvement organization that works with more than 41,000 healthcare facilities to improve safety, quality and experience of care. 2019 was the *fourth consecutive year* The James has received the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award. The award recognizes healthcare organizations that have achieved the 95th percentile or above for performance in patient experience. The James also received the 2019 Press Ganey Pinnacle of Excellence Award, which is given to top-three performing organizations in each award category.

## The James and Breast Center Gain Full ACOS Re-Accreditation

Ohio State's cancer program received two prestigious re-accreditations after separate site surveys by components of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS). The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute earned a full three-year re-accreditation from the ACoS Commission on Cancer (ACoS-CoC), and the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center earned a full three-year re-accreditation from the ACoS National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (ACoS-NAPBC).









The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center –
Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute

## James MICU & SICU Earn Gold Beacon Awards for Excellence

The James Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) and Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) earned gold-level Beacon Awards for Excellence from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). Gold is the highest Beacon Award that can be achieved. The award honors individual units that distinguish themselves by improving every facet of patient care. Units that achieve this three-year, three-level award with gold, silver or bronze designations meet national criteria consistent with AACN Magnet® Recognition, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the National Quality Healthcare Award. This was the second Beacon Award for the SICU, which in 2016 received a silver award. The Blood and Marrow Transplantation Unit at The James earned a gold Beacon Award in 2018.

## The James is Nationally Ranked for 21st Consecutive Year

*U.S. News & World Report* listed the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute among America's Best Hospitals for cancer care for the 21st straight year, ranking it 20th in the nation for 2019-20—the same ranking the hospital received for 2018-19. The hospital has moved up 17 places on the *U.S. News* list over the past four years. It first appeared on the list in 1999, less than a decade after opening in 1990, and has remained there since.

## Advanced Practice Professional Fellowship Earns Re-Accreditation

The James Oncology & Critical Care Advanced Practice Professional (APP) Fellowship earned a three-year Accreditation with Distinction as a practice transition program from the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Practice Transition Accreditation Program® (PTAP). PTAP sets the global standard for fellowship programs that transition advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) into new practice settings. Accreditation with Distinction is the highest recognition awarded by the ANCC's accreditation program. Among those at The James who were heavily involved with achieving the recognition were **Robin Rosselet, Cindy Byrd, Kris Mathey, Michael Ailes** and **Denise Freeman.**

Elaine Fuchs, PhD

## Noted Cancer Expert Delivers Annual Block Lecture at The James

**Elaine Fuchs, PhD**, an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development at The Rockefeller University, presented "Stem Cells in Silence, Stress and Cancer" in November 2019 as the recipient of the 24th Annual Herbert and Maxine Block Memorial Lectureship Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer. The OSUCCC – James presents the $50,000 Block Lectureship Award each year to a prominent cancer researcher who then visits Ohio State to accept the honor and lecture about his or her work. Fuchs is renowned for her research in skin biology, its stem cells and associated genetic disorders, particularly cancers.

Rebecca Jackson, MD

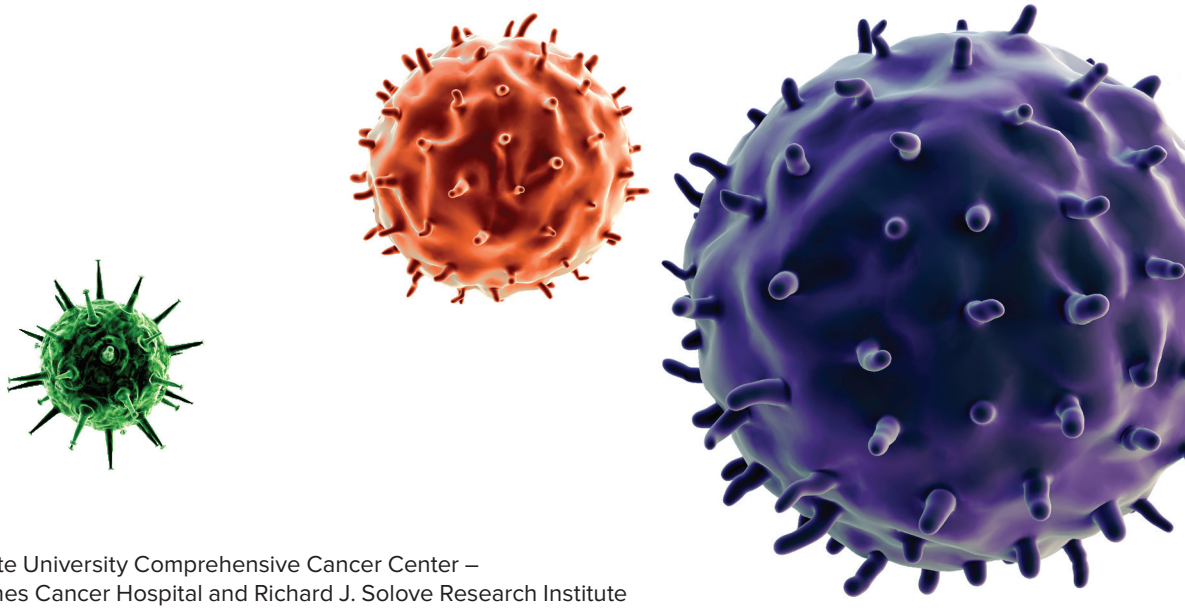
## Ohio State Researcher is PI for NIH Grant to Address Opioid Epidemic

**Rebecca Jackson, MD**, director of Ohio State's Center for Clinical and Translational Science and a member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James, is principal investigator (PI) for a $65.9 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grant to address the opioid epidemic. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the grant in April 2019 as part of more than $350 million committed to the HEALing Communities Study, a National Institute on Drug Abuse initiative. With Jackson as PI, the Ohio State College of Medicine will lead a consortium of academic, state and community partners that aims to reduce overdose deaths by 40% over three years. The project brings together experts from six universities—Ohio State, University of Cincinnati, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio University, University of Toledo and Wright State University—and leaders from state agencies and community organizations.

Electra Paskett, PhD, MSPH

## Cervical Cancer Prevention is Focus of $11 Million NCI Grant

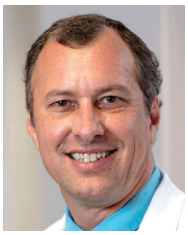
A major public health initiative aimed at preventing cervical cancer in at-risk Appalachian families in Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia is underway with support from an $11 million National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant to the OSUCCC – James. Ohio State's cancer program is collaborating with 10 health systems throughout Appalachian Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia to conduct this research in partnership with the University of Kentucky, West Virginia University and the University of Virginia. Led by **Electra Paskett, PhD, MSPH**, associate director for population sciences and leader of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James, this initiative builds on a history of collaborative research and community partnerships. It will focus on reducing the burden of cervical cancer in at-risk Appalachian communities by targeting primary causes of this disease: tobacco smoking, human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and lack of cervical cancer screening.



Timothy Cripe, MD, PhD

Elaine Mardis, PhD

Kevin Cassady, MD



Dean Lee, MD, PhD

## Childhood Cancer Research Team at Nationwide Children's Hospital Awarded $10.2 Million Moonshot Grant

The NCI awarded a $10.2 million Cancer Moonshot grant to researchers at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) in support of multiple ongoing projects led by the Pediatric Ohio-New York Cancer (Peds-ONC) Immunotherapy Center, which includes collaborators at Ohio State, the New York College of Medicine and the University of Minnesota. The multiyear grant will fund an immunotherapy project led by **Timothy Cripe, MD, PhD**, and **Elaine Mardis, PhD**, along with a viral oncology project led by **Kevin Cassady, MD**, and a natural killer (NK) cell efficacy project led by **Dean Lee, MD, PhD**. (The four are shown above from left.) Cripe, Mardis and Cassady are in the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, and Lee is in the Leukemia Research Program.

Electra Paskett, PhD, MSPH

## Grant Aims to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening, Follow-Up Care in Appalachia

Cancer control researchers at the OSUCCC – James and the University of Kentucky aim to increase colorectal cancer screening and follow-up care among underserved individuals in Appalachia through a multi-institutional $5.7 million grant from the National Cancer Institute. Co-led by **Electra Paskett, PhD, MSPH**, of the OSUCCC – James, and Mark Dignan, PhD, MPH, of the University of Kentucky, this study will involve public health partners throughout Appalachia, a geographically unique and underserved area of the United States that spans 32 counties in Ohio and 54 counties in Kentucky. The five-year study will help community health centers and communities select strategies and implement a multi-level intervention to assure higher rates of guideline-recommended colorectal cancer screening, follow-up and referral-to-care among patients of ages 50-74 in their communities and the larger counties.

Carolyn Presley, MD, MPH

Colleen Spees, PhD, MEd, RDN

## Study to Test Medically Tailored Meals for Patients With Lung Cancer

**Carolyn Presley, MD, MPH**, and **Colleen Spees, PhD, MEd, RDN**, received a three-year, $2.3 million grant funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation to conduct a randomized clinical trial evaluating the impact of nutritional counseling and medically tailored meals for patients with lung cancer. The intervention aims to reduce malnutrition and treatment-related toxicity in patients and to improve patient-reported outcomes. The study will take place at the OSUCCC – James, Tufts Medical Center, Fox Chase Cancer Center and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Presley, assistant professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James, is site principal investigator (PI). Spees, associate professor in the Division of Medical Dietetics & Health Sciences at Ohio State, and a member of the Molecular Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention Program at the OSUCCC – James, is the study PI.

Anil Parwani, MD, PhD, MBA

## $3.6 Million Cooperative Human Tissue Network Grant Renewed

The NCI awarded a five-year, $3.6 million renewal grant titled “Appalachian and Great Lakes Research Biospecimen Resource (AGL-RBR) of the Cooperative Human Tissue Network (CHTN)” to principal investigator **Anil Parwani, MD, PhD, MBA**, a professor, vice chair and director of the Division of Anatomic Pathology in the Department of Pathology at Ohio State. Parwani, a member of the Molecular Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention Program at the OSUCCC – James, says the CHTN grant functions in a regional consortium as the CHTN Midwestern Division with Case Western Reserve University and the University of Pittsburgh to provide human biospecimens to qualified and funded basic and translational researchers.

Vinay Puduvalli, MBBS

Deepa Sampath, PhD

## NCI Grant Will Help Assess New Treatment for Deadly Brain Tumor

The NCI awarded a five-year grant of nearly $2.83 million to help a research team at the OSUCCC – James conduct a clinical trial that will assess a potential new treatment for patients with glioblastoma, a lethal primary brain tumor with limited treatment options. The grant was awarded to a team led by co-principal investigators **Vinay Puduvalli, MBBS**, professor and director of the Division of Neuro-Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, and **Deepa Sampath, PhD**, assistant professor in the Division of Hematology at Ohio State and member of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James.

Bhuvaneswari Ramaswamy, MD

## NCI Grant Will Help Researchers Learn How Breastfeeding Protects Against Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

The NCI awarded a $2.2 million, five-year grant to help OSUCCC – James researchers led by principal investigator **Bhuvaneswari Ramaswamy, MD,** address cancer disparity by defining the molecular link between breastfeeding and triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC). Ramaswamy, associate professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, and her colleagues state in their project abstract that African-American women with breast cancer face higher mortality rates due to a greater incidence of aggressive TNBC. The scientists say population studies have linked reduced rates of breastfeeding among black women to this higher TNBC, but the mechanism for this circumstance is unknown. Ramaswamy's team proposes to define molecular changes that occur in the breasts after pregnancy, determine how a lack of breastfeeding leads to increased risk of TNBC and provide a treatment option for mothers who can't breastfeed.

Todd Monroe, PhD, RN-BC

## Study Will Examine Pain Sensitivity in Patients With Cancer, Alzheimer's

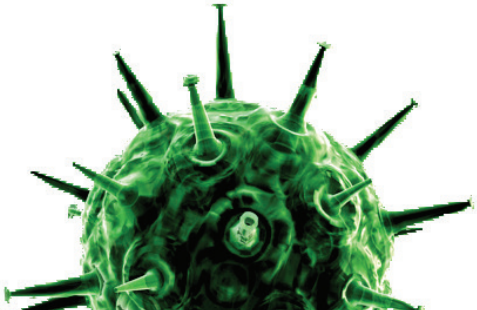
**Todd Monroe, PhD, RN-BC**, associate professor in The Ohio State University College of Nursing, will help lead a multisite, five-year, $5 million grant project awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Aging (NIA) to advance research on patients with Alzheimer's disease and cancer, and their sensitivity to pain. Titled "Pain Sensitivity and Unpleasantness in People with Alzheimer's Disease and Cancer," the study will be performed in partnership with Ronald Cowan, MD, PhD, professor of psychiatry and behavioral health at Vanderbilt University. The research builds on studies by Monroe and colleagues over the past decade.

Deliang Guo, PhD

Arnab Chakravarti, MD

## $2 Million Grant Will Help Ohio State Researchers Study Glioblastoma

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke awarded a $2 million, five-year grant to help Ohio State researchers study glioblastoma, an incurable brain cancer with a median survival of only 15 months. Principal investigators are **Deliang Guo, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State, and Department of Radiation Oncology Professor and Chair **Arnab Chakravarti, MD**. Both are in the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James. Researchers hope to reveal the role lipid droplets play in the disease, its method of molecular regulation and its therapeutic potential, with the ultimate goal of devising treatment approaches.



Ramesh Ganju, PhD

## Grant Awarded to Pursue Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Targeted Therapy

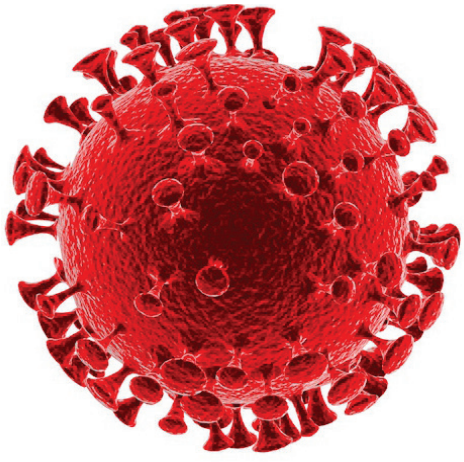
The U.S. Department of Defense awarded a three-year, $1.17 million grant to help OSUCCC – James researchers develop a cell-surface molecule called RAGE (receptor for advanced glycation end products) as a biomarker and therapeutic target for triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC). Principal investigator is **Ramesh Ganju, PhD** (shown), a professor in the Department of Pathology at Ohio State and a member of the Cancer Biology Program at the OSUCCC – James. Ganju and co-investigators **Bhuvaneswari Ramaswamy, MD**, of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, and **Dinesh Ahirwar, PhD**, a research scientist in the Department of Pathology at Ohio State, have shown that RAGE is expressed in a panel of aggressive breast cancer cell lines, TNBC and metastatic patient samples. They want to better understand its mechanisms so they can develop targeted therapies.

William Carson, MD

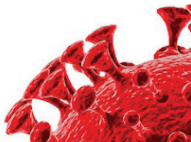
John C. Byrd, MD

## NCI Renews K-12 Training Grants in Oncology & Immunology

The NCI renewed a K-12 Training in Oncology Grant through June 2024 for **William Carson, MD**, and **John C. Byrd, MD**. The grant, which included first-year funding of $809,498, supports mentoring and training of junior faculty investigators in laboratory and/or clinical translational cancer research. The K-12 program at the OSUCCC – James "continues its focus on early drug development, but now also extends to cancer prevention, control and survivorship research." In addition, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) renewed a $1.4 million T32 Tumor Immunology Training Grant for Carson. This grant, which extends through August 2024, will provide continued funding to train postdoctoral researchers for careers in immunologic research. Carson is a professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology at Ohio State and associate director for clinical research at the OSUCCC – James. Byrd is a Distinguished University Professor in the Division of Hematology at Ohio State and senior director for cancer experimental therapeutics at the OSUCCC – James, where he also co-leads the Leukemia Research Program.







William B. Farrar, MD

## Farrar Becomes CEO of The James

**William B. Farrar, MD**, a renowned surgical oncologist who had served as interim CEO of The James since November 2017, became permanent CEO in August 2019. Farrar has a long and successful history with Ohio State, serving on The James medical staff since the hospital opened in July 1990. The late Arthur G. James, MD, for whom the hospital is named, mentored and later worked alongside Farrar. Over the years Farrar has held a number of leadership positions, including director of the Division of Surgical Oncology at Ohio State for 28 years and director of medical affairs at The James for 22 years. He also holds the Dr. Arthur G. and Mildred C. James – Richard J. Solove Chair in Surgical Oncology and directs the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center.

Claire Verschraegen, MD

## Verschraegen Named Woman Oncologist of the Year

**Claire Verschraegen, MD**, professor and director of the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and associate director for translational research at the OSUCCC – James, was named 2019 Woman Oncologist of the Year at the first-ever Leadership Empowerment and Development (LEAD) 2020 Conference: Enriching Experiences for Women in Hematology and Oncology held in Santa Monica, California. More than 100 women from across the nation attended the conference, which focused on addressing challenges women face in the hematology/oncology field, and on identifying strategies for women to advance into leadership roles. A conference report about Verschraegen's award states that she "is committed to advancing women in medicine and promotes programs to enhance gender equity and parity in promotion and leadership."

Carolyn Presley, MD

## Presley Receives New Investigator Award From American Geriatrics Society

**Carolyn Presley, MD**, assistant professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James, received the 2019 Health in Aging Foundation New Investigator Award from the American Geriatrics Society. The award recognizes individuals committed to a career in aging research. A thoracic and geriatric oncologist, Presley specializes in treating older adults with advanced lung cancer. Her research focuses on optimizing functional status and minimizing treatment burdens for these patients.

Clara Lee, MD, MPP

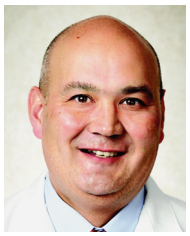
## Lee Garners Prestigious Mid-Career Award

The Society of University Surgeons (SUS) bestowed its Mid-Career Award on **Clara Lee, MD, MPP**, associate professor in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Ohio State and a member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James. Given to one person annually, this prestigious award supports Lee's research on the implementation of breast reconstruction decision support in diverse practice settings.

Lanla Conteh, MD, MPH

## Conteh Named National '40 Under 40 Leader in Minority Health'

The National Minority Quality Forum recognized **Lanla Conteh, MD, MPH**, assistant professor in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Ohio State, as a 2019 40 Under 40 Leader in Minority Health. Representing the next generation of thought leaders in reducing health disparities, only 40 outstanding individuals are selected nationally each year for this honor. Conditions that Conteh treats as a physician include hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver cancer.



Russell Lonser, MD

## Lonser Elected as Director on American Board of Neurological Surgery

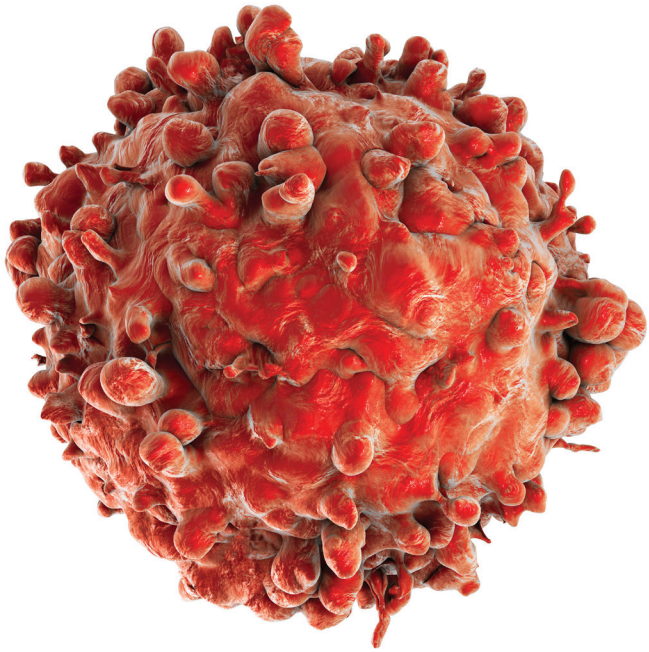
The American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) elected **Russell Lonser, MD**, professor and chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Ohio State, as an ABNS director. The ABNS consists of 15 directors and officers elected from among practicing neurosurgeons certified by the board. Directors are elected to a single six-year term after receiving nominations from five other national neurosurgical societies. As a neurosurgeon, Lonser provides treatment for several cancers, including brain, oropharyngeal, head and neck, pituitary and spinal malignancies.

Michael Knopp, MD, PhD

Chadwick Wright, MD, PhD

## Knopp & Wright Re-Elected to ACNM Board of Directors

The American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) re-elected **Michael Knopp, MD, PhD**, and **Chadwick Wright, MD, PhD**, to its board of directors. The ACNM enhances the practice of nuclear medicine through the study, education and improvement of clinical practice. Knopp is a professor, Distinguished University Scholar and Novartis Chair of Imaging Research in the Department of Radiology at Ohio State. Wright is an assistant professor in the Department of Radiology. Knopp also is in the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James.



Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD

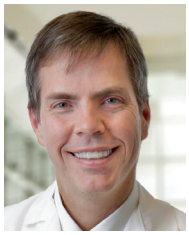
## Roychowdhury Profiled in 'Best of the AACR Journals'

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) profiled **Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD**, associate professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, in *The Best of the AACR Journals* collection for co-authoring one of the most-cited articles published in 2017 across the AACR journals. Roychowdhury was corresponding author for "Akt Activation Mediates Acquired Resistance to Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor Inhibitor BGJ393" in the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.

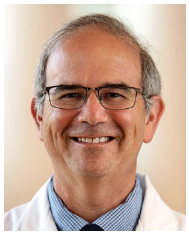
Kathleen Hintenlang, PhD

## Hintenlang Selected for 2019 Class of ASTRO Fellows

**Kathleen Hintenlang, PhD**, a medical physicist in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State, was among 26 distinguished members of the American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) selected to receive the ASTRO Fellow (FASTRO) designation. The 2019 class of Fellows was recognized during ASTRO's Annual Meeting. The Fellows program recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of radiation oncology and to ASTRO through research, education, patient care and service. ASTRO is the world's largest radiation oncology society.



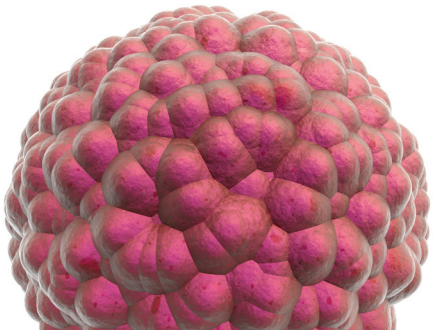
John C. Byrd, MD



Matthew Ringel, MD

## Byrd & Ringel Elected to Association of American Physicians

**John C. Byrd, MD**, senior adviser for cancer experimental therapeutics and co-leader of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James, and **Matthew Ringel, MD**, co-leader of the Cancer Biology Program at the OSUCCC – James, were elected as members of the Association of American Physicians (AAP). Byrd is a Distinguished University Professor in the Division of Hematology and holds the D. Warren Brown Designated Chair in Leukemia Research. Ringel is professor and director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. He also holds the Ralph W. Kurtz Chair in Hormonology. The AAP is an honorific, elected society of America's leading physician-scientists.



Julia White, MD

## White Presents on a Top-Rated Clinical Trial at ASTRO Annual Meeting

**Julia White, MD**, a professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, was co-principal investigator for a national clinical trial that the American Society for Radiation Oncology highlighted as a top-rated study at its 2019 annual meeting. At the plenary session, White presented an abstract titled "Cosmetic Outcome From Post-Lumpectomy Whole-Breast Irradiation Versus Partial-Breast Irradiation on the NRG Oncology/NSABP B39-RTOG 0413 Phase III Clinical Trial."

Ricardo Carrau, MD

## Carrau Elected as Board President for North American Skull Base Society

**Ricardo Carrau, MD,** professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Ohio State, was elected to serve as the 2019-20 president of the board of directors of the North American Skull Base Society (NASBS), a professional medical society that facilitates global communication among individuals pursuing clinical and research excellence in skull-base surgery. Carrau is an otolaryngologist – head and neck surgeon at The James who has many clinical and research interests.

Katherine Walsh, MD

## Walsh Accepted Into ASCO Education Scholars Program

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) accepted **Katherine Walsh, MD,** associate professor in the Division of Hematology at Ohio State, into the 2019-20 class of the Education Scholars Program. ASCO selects only 12 individuals per annual application cycle to advance medical education within their institution and the medical community as a whole.

Ann-Kathrin Eisfeld, MD

## Eisfeld Honored as AACR 'NextGen Star for 2019'

**Ann-Kathrin Eisfeld, MD**, a hematology/oncology fellow in the Physician Scientist Training Program at Ohio State, was honored as one of 15 NextGen Stars for 2019 at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The NextGen Stars program represents one of the highest honors for young investigators at the AACR—increasing the visibility of early-career scientists and supporting their professional development and advancement. Eisfeld has published several first-author and co-author manuscripts investigating the molecular landscape of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) under the mentorship of **Clara D. Bloomfield, MD**.

Joel Mayerson, MD

## Mayerson Inducted as President of Musculoskeletal Tumor Society

**Joel Mayerson, MD**, a professor in the Department of Orthopaedics at Ohio State and medical director of Perioperative Services and the Sarcoma Service Line at The James, was inducted to a one-year term as president of the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society (MSTS) at the 2019 MSTS annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. He had previously served as president-elect for a year. The MSTS is the premier source of research, education and advocacy for patients with musculoskeletal cancers.

Lynne Abruzzo, MD, PhD

## Abruzzo Appointed to NCI Scientific Board

The NCI appointed **Lynne Abruzzo, MD, PhD**, professor in the Department of Pathology at Ohio State and member of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James, to its Board of Scientific Counselors – Clinical Sciences and Epidemiology. Members of this board review and evaluate the NCI's intramural research programs in clinical sciences and epidemiology, including the performance and productivity of tenured and tenure-track principal investigators, senior scientists and senior clinicians in the NCI's Center for Cancer Research and Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics.

Darrell Gray II, MD, MPH

## Gray Lands 2019 SCOBY MVP Award From American College of Gastroenterology

**Darrell Gray II, MD, MPH**, assistant professor in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Ohio State, received the 2019 SCOBY MVP award from the American College of Gastroenterology for his Provider and Community Engagement (PACE) Program for Health Equity in Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Prevention. PACE provides CRC education, prevention and screening for underserved populations in Columbus, Ohio. Gray is in the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James.

Lisa Blackburn, MS, APRN-CNS, AOCNS

## Blackburn Selected for ONS Excellence in Advanced Clinical Practice Award

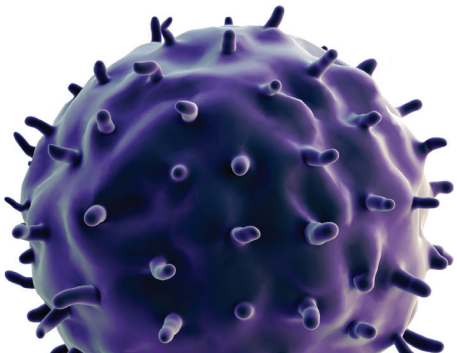
**Lisa Blackburn, MS, APRN-CNS, AOCNS**, of the OSUCCC – James, was selected in 2019 to receive the 2020 Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Excellence in Advanced Clinical Practice Award. To be eligible, nurses must be active ONS members who are recognized as an expert in the field of oncology nursing at the local, regional and/or national level and who serve as a role model for other nurses and/or APNs. Blackburn will receive the award at the ONS 45th Annual Congress on April 30 in San Antonio, Texas.

Doreen Agnese, MD

## Agnese, Grignol Honored as 'Exceptional Women of Medicine'

**Doreen Agnese, MD**, professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology, and **Valerie Grignol, MD**, assistant professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology, were selected as two of Castle Connolly's Exceptional Women in Medicine for 2019. This acknowledgment is based on their outstanding accomplishments and dedication to the field of medicine. Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. is a healthcare research and information company.

Valerie Grignol, MD



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# JOIN THE GREATEST TEAM EVER

Join us **Aug. 7-9, 2020**, for the 12th annual Pelotonia, the legendary three-day experience of cycling, entertainment and volunteerism where 100% of participant-raised dollars benefit cancer research at the OSUCCC – James thanks to the event's major funding partners. Last year's Pelotonia pushed the event's 11-year total to more than $207 million and involved over 7,400 riders from 39 states and 11 countries.

**Register to ride, virtual ride or volunteer at pelotonia.org.**

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