

impactCancer

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



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The James



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Welcome



The work we do at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute continues to astound me. Our researchers and physicians work tirelessly to provide the best care possible and find new and improved treatments for our patients.

And we know we are not alone in these efforts. Much of our work is supported and funded by generous philanthropic donors who make their gifts in appreciation of the care that they or their loved ones have received at the OSUCCC – James. These grateful patients and their gifts are crucial to our continued success.

I've had the opportunity to meet many of them, and in this edition of *impactCancer*, I'm excited to share a few of their stories. You'll read about people like Judy Hileman, who traveled from Kansas to The James to receive treatment for her cancer, and Charles Ruma, whose company Virginia Homes, uses the proceeds from a unique "Home for Hope" to benefit The James.

Whether you are grateful for The James as a patient, relative or community member, know that our researchers and physicians are just as grateful for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Caligiuri".

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD

Director, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center
CEO, James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

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impactCancer is published three times each year by the Development and Marketing departments of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

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Cancer Program News

Teknos Named Chair of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery



Ted Teknos, MD

Ted Teknos, MD, a professor and surgical oncologist at Ohio State since 2008, has been named chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in the College of Medicine. Teknos is a member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James and also holds the David E. Schuller, MD, and Carole Schuller Chair in Otolaryngology. His research interests include angiogenesis, refinements in microvascular reconstructive surgery, development of novel therapeutics, and identification of serum and tissue markers for this disease. He has been co-chair of the Task Force on Recurrent and Metastatic Disease for the National Cancer Institute’s Head and Neck Cancer Steering Committee since 2007 and serves as the Medical Director of the OSUCCC – James Campaign. He also has received grants from the National Cancer Institute, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and the American Cancer Society to support his research on improving outcomes of patients with head and neck cancer.

Large External Grants Will Bolster Research at the OSUCCC – James

Researchers at the OSUCCC – James recently received from entities within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a number of large grants totaling several million dollars that will support ongoing efforts to create a cancer-free world. Grant awards include:

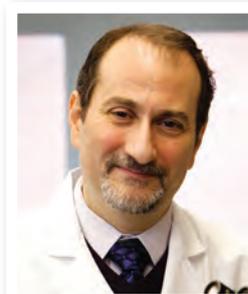
- *“Breast Cancer Survivors Cardiovascular Risks: Treatment and Behavioral Influences”* (Principal Investigator [PI] Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, PhD) – A five-year, \$4.3 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) (CA186720) to follow up on preliminary data suggesting that chemotherapy treatment and depression can enhance cardiovascular risk in breast cancer survivors.
- *“Collaborative Human Tissue Network”* (PI Leona W. Ayers, MD) – A five-year, \$4.2 million NCI grant to organize the resources and experience of Ohio Comprehensive Cancer Centers in consortium to make available pathology remnant biomaterials for basic and early translational cancer research through the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Collaborative Human Tissue Network (CHTN).
- *“ITSC for Leukemia: Novel Molecular Strategies for NCTN: Individualized Therapies”* (PI Guido Marcucci, MD, and Clara D. Bloomfield, MD) – A five-year, \$3.5 million NCI grant to form an Integrated Translational Science Center for Leukemia to support new ideas from outstanding investigators with the goal of revolutionizing leukemia treatment.



Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, PhD



Leona W. Ayers, MD



Guido Marcucci, MD



Clara D. Bloomfield, MD

OCCPI: Pelotonia-Funded Research Already Saving Lives of At-Risk Family Members

James McDaniel's colon cancer diagnosis came as no surprise.

His father, uncle and grandfather all succumbed to the disease in their mid-40s. Age 48 at the time of his diagnosis, McDaniel says, "I'd been expecting it."

A vice president of the mortgage division at Huntington and father of three daughters McDaniel had been cleared during his cancer screening at age 44 and told to come back for another screening in five years—but that was prior to the discovery that he had Lynch syndrome, the most common form of inherited colorectal and uterine cancer. Lynch syndrome not only put him at increased risk for cancer but would also impact his daughters' health if they too had inherited the disease.

Thankfully, the Ohio Colorectal Cancer Prevention Initiative (OCCPI) was there for McDaniel and his family. Powered by funding from Pelotonia—

the three-day annual bicycling event that has raised over \$61 million for cancer research at Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center –James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James)—the OCCPI provided the cancer genetic counseling the McDaniel family needed based on cutting-edge research.

The OCCPI offers free genetic counseling and testing for the at-risk family members of colorectal cancer patients. Researchers work to determine whether a gene mutation or "mistake"



Top: James McDaniel and daughter Erika, who was the only one of James' daughters to test positive for Lynch Syndrome. Bottom: In June, Heather Hampel, MS, CGC, traveled to the McDaniel family reunion to test family members for Lynch Syndrome.

has caused a person to get cancer; if a genetic cause is found, the OCCPI can offer predictive testing for their at-risk relatives. This critical, life-saving service is made possible through the generosity of Pelotonia riders, volunteers and sponsors.

Heather Hampel, MS, CGC, professor at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and genetic counselor at the OSUCCC – James, explains the significance of this work for affected family members: "These are people who haven't had cancer yet, and we can tell them whether they're at risk or not. They

can get the appropriate screening and keep from getting cancer. This is a very preventable cancer, and genetic testing can save lives."

The work of the OCCPI is estimated to save nearly 1,000 years of life for Ohioans. Says Hampel, "We absolutely could not even be doing this without Pelotonia."

McDaniel, who is now cancer free, concurs. "If it wasn't for Pelotonia sponsoring the genetic testing for free, my

daughters may not have found out whether they also carry the gene." McDaniel's eldest daughter was confirmed to have Lynch syndrome and will now receive the preventive care and screenings she needs; his other two daughters tested negative for the disease. This past June, Hampel traveled to Jay's family reunion and tested 20 of his relatives for Lynch Syndrome so that even more lives could be saved.

"For my daughter to know the diagnosis and for her to be treated early—that really means a lot to me," McDaniel says.

Maintaining Momentum: Pelotonia Idea Grants Help Discoveries Happen

Cancer research is a process. A researcher or physician-scientist makes an observation in the laboratory or clinic, then asks, “Why did that happen?” Or, “How can we improve that?” He or she will gather with colleagues and develop a hypothesis that answers the question. Then they will conduct experiments to test their hypothesis.

That’s how discoveries are made. It’s how we build a cancer-free world. That is, if the researchers have financial support for their work.

Federal funding for cancer research has fallen annually since 2006. Grants are fewer in number, smaller in amount and more difficult to obtain. Furthermore, the more novel the idea, the more difficult it is to compete for funding—big ideas hold great promise but often lack the data needed to compete for scarce dollars. It’s a paradox: Exciting ideas need data to obtain funding, but funding is needed to obtain the data.

Idea Grants funded by Pelotonia break that cycle at the OSUCCC – James. In fiscal 2014, 20 Pelotonia Idea Grants have been awarded to innovative projects developed by OSUCCC – James investigators. Three of those projects are described here (to read about the other Idea Grants, visit <http://cancer.osu.edu/pelotonia>).

Loneliness and Breast Cancer Development and Progression

Breast cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States and worldwide. Studies have shown that women with weak social networks have worse treatment outcomes than women with strong social support.

A Pelotonia Idea Grant has been awarded to a team of OSUCCC – James researchers to test their hypothesis explaining how this happens.

The study, which focuses on a gene that normally protects the body against cancer, is led by OSUCCC – James breast-oncologist Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH, director of Breast Cancer Survivorship at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center; Courtney DeVries, PhD,

professor of Neuroscience and of Psychology who specializes in links between social behavior and health; and Cynthia Timmers, PhD, director of the Solid Tumor Translational Science Shared Resource at the OSUCCC – James.

This gene, called *PTEN*, is often inactivated in breast cancer.

“Results from these studies could lead to a phase I clinical trial in liver cancer patients of two experimental drugs in combination with miR-122 for treating a human cancer.”

— Kalpana Ghoshal, PhD

In mice, reducing the activity of this gene by 20 percent makes the animals more susceptible to cancer development. Animal studies by the OSUCCC – James researchers suggest that social isolation can reduce *PTEN* activity by 50 percent.

The researchers hypothesize that levels of a hormone called oxytocin, which is released during

social interaction, drop when mice are socially isolated. That reduces the activity of the *PTEN* gene in mammary tissue and makes mice more susceptible to cancer development.

Their Pelotonia Idea Grant will help the researchers learn whether a similar association exists between social isolation and *PTEN* activity in humans. The study will recruit 100 women undergoing breast biopsy at The Spielman Center.

The researchers will establish the women’s social networks using questionnaires and test the breast tissue for *PTEN* activity. They also will test whether *PTEN* levels in skin reflect the gene’s levels in breast tissue. If so, it might mean that a simple skin sample can be used to gauge *PTEN* activity in breast tissue in future clinical trials.

“This study could help us understand individual differences in breast-cancer susceptibility and progression, which could lead to new diagnostic, therapeutic and prognostic tools for breast cancer prevention and treatment,” Lustberg says.

She notes that the results might also apply to endometrial, thyroid, prostate, brain, pancreatic and colon cancers, which are also influenced by *PTEN*.

The Right Therapy For the Right Glioblastoma Patient

Glioblastoma (GBM) is the most common and lethal form of brain cancer in the United States. Even with aggressive therapy, patients survive only 15 months on average.



Recent research has shown that molecular changes in some GBM tumors correlate with treatment outcomes. It raised the hope that treating the disease with drugs targeting these changes would extend patients' lives.

But the drugs have not helped as expected, in part because new methods are needed to accurately identify GBM progression and the molecular targets that identify patients for personalized therapy.

A Pelotonia Idea Grant is helping a team of OSUCCC – James physicians and researchers in neuro-oncology, neurosurgery, neuropathology and engineering to pool their expertise and help develop those techniques.

The research team includes neuropathologist Jose Otero, MD, PhD; biomedical Informatics and image analysis specialist Metin Gurcan, PhD; director of Neuro-oncology at Ohio State and the OSUCCC – James Vinay Puduvali, MD; neurosurgeon Brad Elder, MD; and associate professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Jessica Winter, PhD.

They are developing strategies to improve diagnostic accuracy of GBM, including innovative digitized-image-analysis techniques that distinguish false tumor progression from true progression.

“We are harnessing technology to improve the treatment of an intractable and deadly form of cancer,” says Elder. “Our study is building a new approach to tissue analysis that has great potential for use in clinical trials and possibly with other types of tumors.”

“Targeted therapy for cancer will be the standard treatment of the future, and it will lead to the control and, eventually, to the cure of cancers,” says Puduvali. “However, efforts at consistently identifying the targets—there may be more than one in a single tumor cell—has hit a roadblock because currently available tests lack the precision to accurately detect such targets,” he adds. “Our study will bring a next-generation technology to the fight against cancer and a new level of accuracy to the detection of cancer targets.”

The Pelotonia-funded study will also generate critical data needed to apply for external grant funding, and it will ultimately help develop new techniques to personalize the therapy and guide the management of GBM patients.

Targeting Oncogenes for New Liver Cancer Therapies

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the most prevalent form of liver cancer. Worldwide, it caused an estimated 746,000 deaths in 2012, making it the second-leading cause of cancer death. The disease is usually associated with hepatitis, fibrosis, cirrhosis and other liver diseases.

Liver cancer mortality is high because the disease lacks effective therapy. “The liver works to clean toxins from the blood, making it challenging to develop drugs that can penetrate the liver and reach cancerous cells,” says Kalpana Ghoshal, PhD, associate professor of Pathology. Ghoshal was awarded a Pelotonia Idea Grant to investigate a strategy for treating HCC.

Research by Ghoshal and others has shown that a molecule called microRNA-122 (miR-122) is critical for normal liver function and that it protects against cancer. Cancerous liver cells often stop producing this molecule, an event that is associated with poor prognosis, tumor recurrence and metastasis.

Animal studies by Ghoshal have shown that restoring miR-122 in liver cancer cells causes the malignant cells to die. Normally, miR-122 suppresses the activity, or expression, of two genes that play an important role in cell proliferation. When liver cells lose miR-122, those two genes become much more active, contributing to tumor growth.

Ghoshal is investigating whether use of a targeted drug to block either of the two cancer-promoting genes, plus a drug that restores miR-122 levels, will inhibit liver cancer growth and offer a potentially effective therapy for the disease.

“Results from these studies could lead to a phase I clinical trial in liver cancer patients of two experimental drugs in combination with miR-122 for treating a human cancer,” Ghoshal says.

Made with Love:

James Stitching Sisters Sew Care and Comfort Into Each Quilt

Since The James Stitching Sisters was founded nine years ago, an army of quilters has sewn and distributed over 8,000 quilts for patients at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James)—each stitched together with love.

Founded by Joanne Lester, a volunteer at the OSUCCC – James and senior researcher in the Department of Psychology at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center, The James Stitching Sisters had a noble goal: to provide handmade quilts that are stitched—not tied—for breast cancer patients receiving chemotherapy. Over the years, the effort has expanded to include quilts for Ohio State’s University Hospital East, women receiving chemotherapy for gynecologic cancers, children receiving radiation therapy, the thoracic cancer survivorship clinic, walker bags for patients at the Martha Morehouse Medical Plaza, and diversity-enhancement projects at Ohio State’s University Hospital East.

Initially a small group of quilters met in Lester’s basement, but as the group attracted more volunteers, they were able to secure an office space in Dublin, Ohio—donated initially by Frank Kass, and now, following the sale of the building in 2007, by Nationwide Realty Investors. The sewing center serves as headquarters for the volunteers, who gather year-round to make quilts that are “stitched together with loving stitches, not perfection,” says Lester.

The quilters have formed strong bonds, including supporting their own members who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Hundreds gathered for the organization’s 10th annual Quilt Day, a day of quilting, socializing and fun door prizes donated from a variety of businesses. Still more volunteers work on quilts from their homes or with quilt guilds throughout the state. Last year, volunteers donated over 18,000 hours; this year the group surpassed the 20,000-hour milestone.

“We couldn’t do this without donations,” says Lester. Every contribution is crucial, from the operational grants awarded by the William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C.



Volunteers gather multiple times each year to create the thousands of quilts for patients in cancer treatment.

Davis Foundation, and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, to the gifts from individuals and the in-kind donations of fabric from businesses like Craft Americana/Connecting Threads and Longaberger®, and the donated office space from Nationwide Realty Investors.

Despite the hard work that goes into the quilts, Lester notes that the volunteers

receive “way more than what we give.” She cites the many thank-you notes and words of appreciation from patients who have received both physical and emotional warmth from the quilts.

Wrote a patient recently who is in the midst of treatment for breast cancer at the OSUCCC – James: “Ladies, I am so grateful for your generous gift. Your time and effort involved in making my gift are appreciated with a sincere heart. It is truly a beautiful gift, mainly due to the fact that it was sewn with LOVE.” For Lester and the hundreds of quilters who make up The James Stitching Sisters, messages like this make it easy to keep stitching.

A Home for Hope: Game-changing Diagnosis Ignites a Passion for Hope

For Charles Ruma, CEO of Virginia Homes and testicular cancer survivor, cancer was a game changer.

“When you’re a 36-year-old seemingly healthy person and you hear the words, ‘You have cancer,’ that’s a curve ball you don’t expect,” says Ruma, now 43. A self-described hospitalphobe, Ruma’s diagnosis forced him to make peace with the idea of waiting rooms, doctors and treatments.

Thankfully, he chose to be treated at Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center –James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), where he received top-notch care from Kamal Pohar, MD, and the rest of the cancer team.

“From the first moment I walked into The James, I knew I was in the right place,” Ruma says. “With the high level of knowledge and expertise there, I knew I was going to have great care and the best outcome possible. And I was there so frequently that it became a comfortable place to be.”

Indeed, comfort is important to the man who oversees the building of state-of-the-art homes. Not one to sit back and watch as others pursue an end to cancer, Ruma came up with an idea that would meld his passion for home building with his desire to eradicate cancer: the Home for Hope.

Virginia Homes, with donations from suppliers, built the first Home for Hope in 2011 in Dublin’s Tartan West development. The home, outfitted with air and water filtration systems meant to reduce contaminants, and other amenities to promote a healthy environment, raised approximately \$65,000 for cancer research at auction. The knowledge Ruma and his colleagues amassed during the building of the first Home for Hope now influences every home the company builds, as they choose products with low volatile organic compounds and other options to reduce exposure to chemicals.

Virginia Homes is now building a second Home for Hope in Dublin’s highly sought-after Wellington Reserve neighborhood. Rather than being sold at auction, this high-end home will be sold under contract—a move Ruma hopes



will entice buyers who can customize the home to their tastes while doubling the amount of money raised for cutting-edge research at the OSUCCC – James.

“Cancer is going to be cured at The James,” says Ruma, who is now co-chair of the James Ambassadors Society and a member of the James Foundation Board. “It’s just a matter of time and resources, and private dollars are very important to the fight. That’s where we come in. We can’t create more time, but we can create more resources.”

Spielman Fund:

Enabling Life-Changing Breast Cancer Research

Former Ohio State Buckeye and NFL linebacker Chris Spielman met with recipients of grants from the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research on July 22 to learn about their research and how it is helping advance the fight against breast cancer, the disease that his late wife Stefanie, the fund's namesake, battled many years before passing away in 2009.

The Spielman Fund has raised more than \$15 million for breast cancer research at the OSUCCC – James.

Researchers from Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute shared their findings with Spielman, who listened and asked questions, evidencing his signature attention to detail to the issue that has become a cornerstone of his life's work.

All three projects look toward potential targeted therapies for triple negative breast cancers—a particularly aggressive type of breast cancer that can be challenging to treat. With Ohio State's atmosphere of collaboration and generous funding from the Spielman Fund, this research has the potential to make a worldwide impact on the disease.

- **Robert Brueggemeier, PhD**, is leading an early-stage drug discovery collaboration between pharmacy and molecular genetics. Now in the proof of concept stage, this project is investigating breast cancer cell growth and MPS1, a protein often found to be elevated in breast cancer patients—especially those for whom other treatments have failed. Findings from this Spielman-funded study are enabling the publication of a research paper and proposals to National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense to continue the drug's development.
- **Ramesh Ganju, PhD**, is working to develop a therapy against triple negative and metastatic breast cancer that targets both the tumor and the areas surrounding tumors. Early findings have shown great promise, as tumors in mice receiving this therapy have shown significantly reduced growth and spread. Thanks to funding from the Spielman Fund and a Pelotonia Idea Grant, Ganju recently secured funding from the National Cancer Institute that will enable new discoveries.



Chris Spielman (left) toured multiple labs during his visit and spoke with many researchers including lab technician Mitchell Fasching, Pelotonia Research Fellow Joseph Marquardt, Robert Brueggemeier, PhD, and Harold Fisk, PhD.

- **Erin Macrae, MD**, is biopsying patients' breast cancer tumors to examine genetic alterations and provide new treatment options based on her findings. Part of her research involves monitoring whether doctors pursue those alternative treatment options for patients. Supported in part by the Spielman Fund, this project has positioned Ohio State as leader of a nationwide study and netted a career development award for Macrae, providing three-years of support to continue her research.

Spielman praised the researchers' accomplishments, saying, "When I am out speaking with folks fighting this disease, I want to be able to give them a reason to hope. You are doing that right here at The James, and I really appreciate it."

Family Matters:

A Family Honors Their Patriarch's Memory by Funding Leukemia Research

When D. Warren Brown passed away in 1997 following a brief battle with leukemia, his family knew they wanted to do something to commemorate his life and the stellar care he received from Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

Brown had been the second-generation leader of the Marion, Ohio-based family business, Wyandot Inc., initially a grain popcorn processor that Brown helped build into the large-scale snack company it is today. Always passionate about philanthropy and giving back to the Marion community, Brown and his wife Jan had started the D. Warren Brown Family Foundation to help manage their charitable giving in 1995, about 18 months before Warren was diagnosed with leukemia.

When Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of the OSUCCC and CEO of The James, requested the foundation's help to recruit a top physician specializing in leukemia research, the trustees knew they had found the right opportunity to honor Brown's memory.

The foundation, run by Jan, Brown's son Doug, daughter Kathy Shepherd, and close friends and business associates Joe Donithen and Jim Wyland, created the D. Warren Brown Professorship of Leukemia Research in 2001, which helped recruit John C. Byrd, MD, to the OSUCCC – James that year. Byrd, whom Dr. Caligiuri has called a "rock star" in his field, has made significant research advances, including FDA-approved drugs to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), has become a dear friend of the Brown family.



John C. Byrd, MD (left) with (back row) Doug Brown, Karen Brown and Brad Shepherd, and (front row) Jan Brown, Jim Wyland and Kathy Shepherd at a recent celebration with the Brown Family Foundation.

"My father never met John Byrd," says Doug. "But he would be a big fan of his passion and work ethic. It's been remarkable watching Byrd and his research team succeed; my dad would be humbled to know that his name and family were in some way tied to him."

The Brown family has been so pleased with their connection to Byrd that, in 2010, they increased their gift to elevate the professorship in the family patriarch's name to a chair—one of the

highest honors bestowed upon an academic physician. Now, Byrd holds the D. Warren Brown Chair of Leukemia Research. "We are so grateful that Dr. Byrd is at The James and we have been blessed to see his progress," says Jan, who describes the family's excitement over Byrd's drug advances like "walking on the moon."

The D. Warren Brown Foundation plans to keep Brown's tradition of philanthropy alive with his young family members as well—inviting children and grandchildren to serve as trustees and make charitable decisions on behalf of the family once they turn 24. Brown and Jan's daughter Lindsay, and Kathy's son Bradley, will join the foundation as trustees later this year.

This family connection, explains Kathy, would have been important to her father. "Now that the kids are getting older—graduating college and getting jobs—we want to pass the giving spirit down to them. I think my dad would have been happy about that."

Keith and Julie Brooks:

Investing in The James to Make the World a Better Place

It was a childhood friendship of Julie Althoff Brooks that began the long relationship that she and her husband Keith are so committed to today. As a young adult, Julie's best friend lost her father, Herbie Block, to cancer. Months after his death, his wife and their large, young family decided, along with the input of a few friends, to start The Herbert J. Block Tournament. That was 1983. Some thirty-one years later, The Herbert J. Block Memorial Golf Tournament is still going strong, and so is Julie and Keith's commitment to the OSUCCC – James. To date, the one-day tournament – held annually at various prestigious country clubs in Columbus – has raised over \$4.8 million. What started as a simple golf outing has become one of the most sought-after tee times in town.

Julie and Keith have supported the tournament in many ways over the past 31 years. From the beginning they have held fundraising events in their home, sponsored beverage carts and sold raffle tickets; anything they could to raise money and awareness to fight cancer. Today, while still helping to coordinate tournament details, their shared passion is the OSUCCC – James. After last year's successful 30th anniversary of the tournament, they increased their annual gift and have made a five-year commitment to the Block Memorial Tournament and The James. It was a decision that came easily, given their faith in the OSUCCC – James and the groundbreaking research and compassionate patient care that takes place at Ohio State. The Brookses serve as ambassadors for The James, encouraging everyone who will listen to give what they can. "There is not a gift too small if given from your heart," Julie says. "There are many ways to give."

One striking aspect of the OSUCCC – James that has been important to the Brooks couple is the unparalleled commitment to excellence from everyone within the institution. This commitment is seen through all avenues: the compassionate and kind care of the physicians, the people who keep the facilities clean, the researchers working on genetic sequencing, and the construction workers pouring the pavement at the site of the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, opening in December of this year.



"The James reflects the best of what Columbus is – friendly, compassionate and devoted to what is important. Having this world-class institution in central Ohio is something to be really proud of in our city. It is a true privilege to be a part of The James family, and anyone can make a difference, whether through dollars, volunteerism or an act of kindness," says Julie.

In the early 1990s, basketball coach Gary Williams was the honorary chair for the Block Memorial Tournament. Keith and Julie distinctly remember his words: "It is not if cancer will touch you, it is when cancer touches you." On Jan. 20, 2014, this battle became even more personal. Julie's sister was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer, which was especially shocking for their family since she did not have risk factors typically associated with the disease. Through this very personal and painful experience, Julie has learned even more about the OSUCCC – James and all of which it is capable. And the exceptional care shown to her sister and family will continue to inspire her and Keith, who hope in turn to inspire many others.

"We can assure you that The James is a wonderful place to invest your dollars," says Keith. "And it is an investment – an investment in mankind. It's about making the world a better place, and we have found the return to be tenfold."

from a Grateful Patient

Judy Hileman: Traveling Any Distance for Research and Care

Judy Hileman, a Kansas native with a PhD in nursing who had been a nurse for 50 years and a nurse educator for about half of that time, had endured two grueling and unsuccessful chemotherapy regimens in her home state since being diagnosed in June 2012 with chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL). The diagnosis itself – which she received on her 70th birthday – had come as a shock to Hileman, who says she had been “healthy as a horse” all her life.

“It resulted in a couple days of stark terror as we (her husband Phil and she) read everything we could find on the Internet and got an appointment with the oncologist who had treated my mom, who had CLL when she was 91,” Hileman recalls.

After a six-month regimen of chemotherapy brought no improvement, her oncologist sent her to Kansas University Cancer Center (KUCC), where she was placed on a second regimen that also failed.

“The second chemo not only didn’t work, but my bone marrow was worse – 95 percent involved after two months,” Hileman says, noting that her doctors determined her cancer cells contained genetic mutations that made her resistant to standard chemo.

Concluding that she needed something other than standard treatment, her KUCC and local oncologists conducted a computer search for clinical trials around the nation for which she might qualify. After considering their options, the Hilemans decided to pursue a study at Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) that was testing the effectiveness of a promising experimental drug called ibrutinib as a targeted agent for patients with CLL/SLL who have not responded to, or who have relapsed after, standard treatment.



“She considered it an honor. If it causes one more person to gain access to a successful clinical trial, it was worth all her effort. It gave us ten wonderful months which I will cherish.”

— Phil Hileman

Principal investigator Kami Maddocks, MD, says ibrutinib inhibits a certain protein that is believed to help blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma live and grow. “By inhibiting or ‘blocking’ the activity of this protein,” Maddocks says, “it is possible that ibrutinib may kill the cancer cells or stop them from growing.”

After visiting The James for preliminary screenings, Hileman began the trial in July 2013, staying with her husband Phil in their motor home at a nearby campground since regular clinic visits at The James were required for the first five weeks.

“We were immediately impressed with The James,” she says. “Everyone was so informed and caring, from the registration folks to the nursing assistants, nurses and our primary caregivers – Dr. Jeff Jones and certified nurse practitioner (CNP) Mollie Moran. I have never seen a team that works together as well as The James.”

The Hilemans were equally impressed by the trial results. “All the symptoms were gone in four days, and I lost five pounds of tumor mass the first week. After eight weeks, scans showed a reduction in all of my affected lymph nodes by more than 50 percent, and a mass in my lower back, which had never responded to either of the first two chemos, was gone,” she recounts.

By 15 weeks, her lab tests had begun to normalize and she had her energy back, enabling her to resume her “normal life including taking care of the house, cooking, tending gardens, and volunteering at our grandkids’ schools.”

Hileman returned to the James every 3 months for a check-up while continuing on the trial. Unfortunately, on July 7, Judy succumbed to a secondary blood cancer. Her husband, Phil, believes that Judy would still want to share her clinical trial experience as, “She considered it an honor. If it causes one more person to gain access to a successful clinical trial, it was worth all her effort. It gave us ten wonderful months which I will cherish.

OSUCCC – James Clinical Research Update

Groundbreaking cancer research at the OSUCCC – James translates into innovative clinical care that precisely targets the unique biologic causes of each patient's individual cancer.

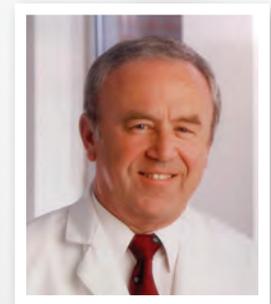
Research is more often in the public spotlight, but clinical care is equally important. Here, we offer highlights of clinical research accomplishments within Ohio State's cancer program:

■ The OSUCCC – James has been awarded and holds three separate grant contracts with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) totaling millions of dollars for NCI-related collaborative work designed to improve clinical care and patient outcomes across the country. These include:

- A grant establishing Ohio State as an NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Lead Academic Participating Site. Richard Goldberg, MD, physician-in-chief at the OSUCCC – James, is principal investigator (PI). The NCTN develops and conducts state-of-the-art cancer treatment and advanced imaging clinical trials, especially large multi-institutional trials evaluating new cancer therapies and related clinical approaches for adult and pediatric patients. The grant supports OSUCCC – James participation in the NCI-funded clinical oncology cooperative groups.
- A grant for conducting phase I clinical trials on novel anticancer agents (new drugs and drug combinations) as part of an NCI Experimental Therapeutics-Clinical Trials Network (ET-CTN) that supports the NCTN. Michael Grever, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Ohio State and co-leader of the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James, is PI for the grant. The OSUCCC – James works with other network members to define the drug development plan and conduct clinical trials for these novel anticancer agents.



Richard Goldberg, MD



Michael Grever, MD

- A grant for conducting phase II clinical trials to test novel anticancer agents in new indications. Miguel Villalona, MD, professor and director of the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and a member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, is PI for the grant, which enables the OSUCCC – James to conduct phase II studies as the lead institution in a consortium that includes three other cancer centers as collaborators.

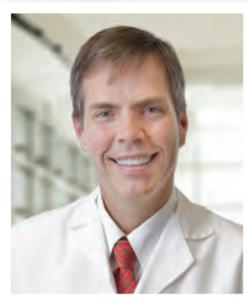


Miguel Villalona, MD

- On Feb. 12, 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration expanded the approved use of the drug ibrutinib to certain patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Much of the clinical and basic-science research that led to this approval was conducted at the OSUCCC – James.

Ibrutinib is the first drug designed to target a protein essential for CLL-cell survival and proliferation. CLL, the most common form of chronic leukemia, is currently incurable.

The Ohio State work was co-led by John C. Byrd, MD, who directs the Division of Hematology at Ohio State and co-leads the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James, and by Amy Johnson, PhD. Other contributing team members include: Jennifer Woyach, MD; Amy Stark, MAS; Susan Geyer, PhD; Jeffrey Jones, MD, MPH; Joseph Flynn, DO, MPH; Kami Maddocks, MD; Leslie Andritsos, MD; Samantha Jaglowski, MD, MPH; and Kristie Blum, MD.



John C. Byrd, MD

Byrd says his team's clinical studies consistently suggested that ibrutinib is a highly active oral therapeutic that produces a high rate of lasting remissions with acceptable side effects in CLL patients who have relapsed or whose cancer has resisted standard treatment. "Patient responses can last for many months," he adds, "in part because patients are willing to remain on the drug since side effects are tolerable."

Also, in November 2013 the FDA granted accelerated approval for using ibrutinib to treat certain patients with mantle cell lymphoma. This approval was based on results from a multi-institutional clinical study co-led by Kristie Blum, MD, of the OSUCCC – James.

- In 2013, the NCI awarded a prestigious five-year, \$11.3 million Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant to help a team of researchers and clinicians at the OSUCCC – James improve the lives of patients with thyroid disease. The PI is Matthew Ringel, MD, who directs the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism at Ohio State and co-leads both the Thyroid Cancer Unit and the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James.



Matthew Ringel, MD

The SPORE grant, which also involves researchers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, supports four interactive projects that seek to identify genetically at-risk individuals and thus allow for early diagnosis and prediction of tumor behavior, development of approaches to minimize side effects of treatments, and development of better biomarkers and treatment options for metastatic disease.

- The OSUCCC – James is partnering with Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla., to form what is likely the largest collaboration of its kind to accelerate cancer research discoveries that can translate to more effective clinical care.

The Oncology Research Information Exchange Network (ORIEN) will hasten the development and delivery of more precise cancer treatments, diagnostic tools and prevention strategies through secure research sharing among the nation's top cancer centers and institutions.

The partnership will launch with more than 100,000 consented patients who have agreed to donate their tissue and clinical data for research that will help scientists better understand cancer at the molecular level.

ORIEN will use a single protocol, called Total Cancer Care®, to create a collaborative "rapid-learning" environment that will share de-identified patient data to hasten the development of targeted treatments and more quickly match eligible patients to clinical trials.



Community Partners

The OSUCCC – James Community Partners Program consists of corporations, individuals and community groups who raise funds in support of our vision to create a cancer-free world. From corporate initiatives to local events, our more than 400 Community Partners bring in significant dollars to further research, education and patient care at the OSUCCC – James. To learn more, please contact The James Development Office at 614-685-5967, communitypartnerevents@osumc.edu, or visit go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners.

Raise a Racket

Raise a Racket 2014 was a BIG HIT on January 25. With 240 people in attendance, over \$20,000 was raised for Cervical Cancer Research. The night was kicked off with a speech from David Cohn, MD, Director of Gynecologic Cancer Research and the Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program at the OSUCCC – James. The rest of the evening was filled with tennis, food, drinks, music and fun! Please visit thecrawfordcrew.org to learn more about event founder Diane Crawford's vision and mission to beat cervical cancer.



Alpha Tau Omega Casino Night

Alpha Tau Omega's 10th annual Casino Night on February 8 was a formal affair, featuring a variety of casino style games such as blackjack, roulette and craps. Guests played games with a set amount of fake money and turned in their "winnings" for raffle tickets to try and win prizes. They also enjoyed food, drinks and a silent auction, and they heard speeches from former head football coach Jim Tressel and Electra Paskett, PhD, MSPH, from the OSUCCC – James. The evening generated over \$40,000 for the Tressel Family Fund for Cancer Prevention Research at the OSUCCC – James, bringing the event's total funds raised to over \$230,000 over the past 10 years. Visit alphatauomegasosu.com to learn more.



CelebrateMMORE Gala

Over 600 guests and supporters showed up on a chilly February evening to CelebrateMMORE's 2014 Gala and raised \$210,000 for the MMORE Multiple Myeloma Research Fund! Thanks to the generosity of the CelebrateMMORE Gala sponsors, 100 percent of all donations from guests –including ticket purchases, winning auction bids and Fund-A-Need pledges – will support Multiple Myeloma Research at the OSUCCC – James. The night included a fabulous dinner, a speaking program featuring Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of the OSUCCC and CEO of The James, silent and live auctions, and music to dance the night away! MMORE has raised over \$1 million for the OSUCCC – James with this signature fundraising event as well as community events. Save the date for next year's CelebrateMMORE Gala on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015! For more information, please visit mmore.org.



Spagio Dishes Up the Stars

An evening featuring award-winning cuisine created by five-star chefs from around the world, outstanding wines from premier vineyards and a raffle of exciting items was a huge success at the March 3 Spagio Dishes Up the Stars event! Guests tasted this fine cuisine to raise over \$67,000 for the OSUCCC – James. Spagio and Spagio Wine Lounge were the hosts of this one-of-a-kind event. A special thank you goes to local famed chef, Hubert Seifert, his wife Helga, and daughter Nicole Dinsmoor, as well as James supporter Bob Marotta, for their commitment to bringing this event to the OSUCCC – James.

Bowling for the Boyz

The 4th annual Bowling for the Boyz event on April 12 raised more than \$8,000 in support of Jay Holdgreve's Testicular Cancer Research Fund. Jay is a testicular cancer survivor and has made it his mission to raise awareness and money to support testicular cancer research at the OSUCCC – James. Jay started his own organization called TCARE (Testicular Cancer Awareness Research and Education) and recently hit a huge milestone of raising \$50,000! Jay's fund, The Jay Holdgreve Endowment Fund for Testicular Cancer Research, is now a fund at the OSUCCC – James.



Riley Creek Pharmacy Purse Bingo

"BINGO!" was shouted many times the night of April 24 as 200 players gathered to raise money in support of the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research at the OSUCCC – James. Through the donations of local businesses, designer purses were purchased and used as prizes for the Riley Creek Pharmacy's first annual Purse Bingo night! There were 20 rounds of Bingo played, and a purse prize was awarded at the end of each round. More than \$7,000 was raised that evening. Riley Creek chose to support the Spielman Fund because several people from their community have been affected by breast cancer. One of their guests was nominated for a Stefanie's Champions award one year ago, so it is a fund that is close to their hearts. Please visit the Riley Creek Pharmacy page on Facebook for additional information.



Celebration for Life

On May 17 at Smith & Wollensky Restaurant in Easton Town Center, nearly 200 guests attended the 13th annual Celebration for Life fundraising dinner to benefit The James Fund for Life, an annual fund at Ohio State that is chaired by Abigail and Les Wexner and raises money to purchase leading-edge technology used in the fight against cancer. Together, The James Fund for Life and the Celebration for Life dinner this year raised more than \$1.4 million. Proceeds from this year's dinner will benefit the Technology Acquisition Fund at the OSUCCC – James. Since 2002, more than \$14.1 million has been raised by Celebration for Life and James Fund for Life supporters.

Sweet on The James:

A Dedicated Volunteer Bakes Thousands of Cookies for Construction Crew

When she married into an Italian-American family with a long tradition of excellent cooking, Sharon DeAscentis worked to hone her baking skills. Baking would be her niche, she thought, among women like her husband's Italian grandmother, whose made-from-scratch pastas intimidated her.

DeAscentis never could have imagined that, decades later, she would be baking thousands of cookies each year in an industrial-outfitted kitchen in her basement—including thousands of cookies for the construction workers building the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

"People say to me, 'Have you lost your mind?'" DeAscentis jokes, recalling the elaborate process of baking and hand wrapping thousands of cookies. Sometimes her daughter, niece, or grandchildren assisted; other times, friends of the OSUCCC – James helped, such as Carol Schuller, wife of David Schuller, MD, vice president for the medical center expansion.

The idea of baking cookies for the construction workers at the new James came from Schuller, who was aware of DeAscentis' baking skills and approached her with the thought in 2012. A huge admirer of Dr. Schuller and his passion for creating a new, state-of-the-art cancer hospital, DeAscentis could not resist his request.

While initially she baked 1,500 cookies to feed a crew of several hundred construction workers, an increase in the number of workers has required DeAscentis to bake more cookies—most recently a total of 2,100. A knee replacement this past January did not slow her down; to avoid the numerous trips back and forth to the oven, she made 80 coffee cakes for the workers instead.

Despite the tremendous workload, DeAscentis takes great satisfaction in baking for the construction crew. "Their work on this amazing building," she says, "is so very important to helping defeat cancer." Since she first met Ladonna



David Schuller, MD, and Sharon DeAscentis, distribute the thousands of cookies that she has baked for construction workers at The James.



Solove, wife of the late Richard J. Solove, for whom the Solove Research Institute is named, DeAscentis has been an ardent supporter of the OSUCCC – James. She has volunteered for the past nine years at Hope's Boutique, the full-service, nonprofit retail boutique housed at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center.

Says DeAscentis, "Each time I volunteer at Hope's Boutique I come in and say, 'I'm amazed to be around women who are so strong. And somehow, despite the challenges they're facing, they have the courage to carry on.'"



Upcoming EVENTS

HERBIE FUZZ 5K

August 16, 2014
Covington High School
807 Chestnut St.
Covington, OH 45318

*Benefits the Acute Myeloid
Leukemia Fund*

FRIENDS OF WOODY DILLION GOLF OUTING

August 23, 2014
London Country Club
1199 Spring Valley Road
London, OH 43140

www.friendsofwoody.org
*Benefits the Prostate Cancer
Prevention Fund*

ROCK AND ROLL OVER BRAIN CANCER

August 23, 2014
The Bogey Bar and Grill
6013 Glick Road
Dublin, OH 43017

*Benefits the Lisa B. Landes Brain
Cancer Fund*

CLUNGER BEATS 5000 5K RUN/ WALK – JAMES RACE SERIES

August 31, 2014
Ohio Stadium
411 Woody Hayes Drive
Columbus, OH 43210

www.clungerbeats5000.com
*Benefits the Cory Lunger Cancer
Research Fund*

ST. MARYS TAILGATE FOR CANCER

September 5-6, 2014
Fraternal Order of Eagles 767
404 E. Spring St.
St. Marys, OH 45885

www.tailgateforcancer.com
*Benefits the Urban and Shelley Meyer
Cancer Research Fund*

STEF'S CELEBRATE LIFE TAILGATE

September 13, 2014
Matt and Claire Hamilton's Lawn
1919 Cambridge Blvd.
Upper Arlington, OH 43212

www.stefscelibratelifetailgate.org
*Benefiting the Stefanie Spielman Fund
for Breast Cancer Research*

STEPS FOR SARCOMA – JAMES RACE SERIES

September 14, 2014
Wendys International
4288 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Dublin, OH 43017

www.osu.edu/stepsforsarcoma/
*Benefits the Steps for Sarcoma
Walk/Run Fund*

HERBERT J. BLOCK MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

September 15, 2014
Scioto Country Club
2196 Riverside Drive
Columbus, OH 43221

www.BlockMemorialFund.com
*Benefits research and care at the
OSUCCC – James*

JAKE ZELLER MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

September 27, 2014
Sleepy Hollow Golf Course
6029 State Route 101 East
Clyde, OH 43410

www.sleepyhollowclyde.com
*Benefits the Neuro-oncology
Research Fund*

COURAGE CONQUER AND CURE – JAMES RACE SERIES

October 4, 2014
Downtown Canal Winchester
36 S. High St.

Canal Winchester, OH 43110
www.courageconquerandcure.com
*Benefits the Stefanie Spielman Fund
for Breast Cancer Research*

BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER

February 20-24, 2014
www.BuckeyeCruise.com
*Benefits the Urban and Shelley Meyer
Fund for Cancer Research*



For more information on
upcoming events benefiting work
at the OSUCCC – James, visit
[cancer.osu.edu WaysToGive](http://cancer.osu.edu/WaysToGive).

Read *impactCancer* online and find out more about the inspiring philanthropy happening at the OSUCCC – James by visiting

cancer.osu.edu/waystogive



The James



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There is no routine cancer.

Just like no two people are exactly the same, neither are their cancers. Each patient's cancer is fueled by different, unique elements that help cancer cells develop, survive, invade, and grow.

That's why researchers and oncologists at The James study the unique genetic makeup of each patient's cancer. As they discover what drives a patient's cancer, they develop and deliver the most advanced targeted treatments, leading to better outcomes, faster responses, fewer side effects and more hope.

To learn more, visit cancer.osu.edu.

The James

