

impactCancer

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



Patient Satisfaction: Scores Help The James Ensure Optimal Cancer Care

Hope Hollow: Sharing Hope and Comfort When
They are Needed Most [Page 6](#)

An Inspirational Welcome—and a Call to Serve with Compassion—
for New James Employees [Page 8](#)

Nischal Chennuru: 13-Year-Old Raises Funds,
Inspires Others [Page 13](#)

The James



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Contents

impactCancer

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Also in this issue

- 14 Community Partners
- 15 Upcoming Events

3

Grateful Patient
 Grateful Couple
 Donates to Advance
 Research for Head
 and Neck Cancer

4

Patient Satisfaction:
 Scores Help
 The James Ensure
 Optimal Cancer Care

6

Hope Hollow:
 Sharing Hope and
 Comfort When They
 Are Needed Most

8

**An Inspirational
 Welcome—and a
 Call to Serve with
 Compassion—
 for New James
 Employees**

10

Doctors' Day:
 Saying "Thanks"
 to Those Who
 Save Lives

11

**Get Tough, Be
 Strong and Go:**
 James Ambassador
 and Survivor
 Nancy Rapoport

12

**\$5 Million
 Donation to Fund
 Neuro Research**
 Cancer Drug
 Development
 at Ohio State

13

Nischal Chennuru:
 13-Year-Old Raises
 Funds, Inspires
 Others

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from a Grateful Patient

Grateful Couple Donates to Advance Research for Head and Neck Cancer

Over 27 years ago, Ed Merrell received oral cancer treatment at Ohio State. This year, Ed and his wife, Bobbi, made a \$500,000 estate gift to The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) in support of head and neck cancer research.

“I owe my life to them. What more can I say?” says Ed, now 72, explaining his decision to give back to the place where he underwent a total glossectomy, neck dissection and major reconstruction followed by radiation therapy.

Not a smoker nor much of a drinker, Ed didn’t display any of the typical oral cancer risk factors.

“It was a two-and-a-half-year odyssey trying to figure out what was wrong with me,” Ed remembers. Headaches, earaches, neck aches and occasionally blood in his mouth sent him to four different ENTs without a diagnosis before he arrived at the office of David R. Kelly, MD, then assistant professor at Ohio State. Dr. Kelly discovered an octopus-type growth at the base of Ed’s tongue, and a biopsy confirmed a diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue.

Dr. Kelly performed Ed’s surgery, including a reconstructive chest flap procedure, in which he clipped Ed’s left pectoral muscle, bringing it up through his throat to fill the floor of his mouth and serve as a new tongue.

The years that followed were spent in various therapies—relearning to swallow, eat, drink and speak without his tongue and to move his left arm, which was impaired due to the clipped pectoral muscle and the neck dissection. A prosthodontist at Ohio State created two specially fitted oral prosthetics for him—one for eating and one for talking.

Ed says he’s thankful that today he eats and drinks anything he wants, but it was a long road. The most difficult thing was relearning to swallow liquid, especially water because of its low viscosity, he says. It took months of practice in front of a mirror, choking and coughing, but he finally taught himself to swallow water.

With time, he also relearned to eat solid food—using swizzle sticks. His oral prosthetic device serves as a platform for the food to sit on. Ed uses the swizzle stick to push the food around and then to move it to the back of his mouth when he’s ready to swallow.



Bobbi and Ed Merrell

As part of the reconstruction, Dr. Kelly had placed part of the tip of his original tongue on the pectoral muscle, so Ed can still taste food. And surprisingly, Ed notes, the radiation didn’t destroy his saliva glands.

Despite these tremendous challenges, Ed has overcome many of his handicaps and been successful. He still runs his own company doing real estate appraisal in the eminent domain arena. He regularly travels throughout the state appraising properties for public projects. He’s called upon for depositions and to testify in court as an expert witness—a communication feat that once would have seemed impossible for him.

Today, Ed and Bobbi are passionate Buckeyes. Ed sits on the board of the Joan Levy Bisesi Fund for Head and Neck Oncology Research, an endowment fund for research at the OSUCCC – James. He’s also a dedicated member of Ohio State’s head and neck cancer support group, where he serves as an inspiration to other patients and survivors.

As for his estate gift, Ed says he’s been thinking about it for many years. “I’m very fortunate that I may be the poster boy for what happens when everything goes right,” Ed says. “I’m so thankful for Ohio State. They gave me an education (class of 1965), then they saved my life. The money I’m giving will be used for head and neck cancer research. I have the greatest respect for these people who are working to solve the cancer problem, and I’m happy to do anything I can to facilitate that.”

Patient Satisfaction: Scores Help The James Ensure Optimal Cancer Care

There's nothing quite like a good night's sleep, especially if you're in a hospital recovering from illness or surgery.

But the nature of a hospital stay—with patients by necessity being monitored, tested and attended to at all hours—can make it difficult for patients to sleep well. One way caregivers can help is by keeping inpatient units as quiet as possible at night, but that too can be challenging.

Because The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) strives to serve patients through a conceptual framework called Relationship-Based Care—

which has a central focus on relationships with patients and families—the hospital has made changes that have led to quieter nights, much to the satisfaction of patients.

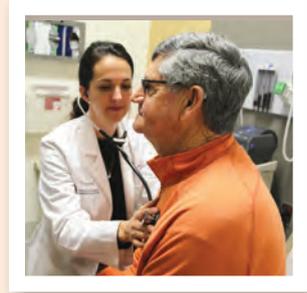
The changes stem from a 2014 patient-satisfaction survey that asked, “How often was the area around your room quiet at night?” When survey results showed an opportunity for improvement, The James quickly reacted. “Evidence-based research proves the positive effects of a quiet environment on health and healing, so we needed to make fast adjustments,” says Kris Kipp, MSN, RN, executive director of patient services and chief nursing officer at the OSUCCC – James.





“Regularly measuring and monitoring our patient and family experience is critically important to ensuring that we deliver the best holistic cancer care.

— Jeff Walker, MBA, senior executive director for the OSUCCC – James



“Work groups and councils implemented interventions to provide a quieter environment and improve sleep quality for patients,” Kipp says. Interventions included dimming unit lights, decreasing volume on electronic devices when possible, and establishing a Restful Nights Program in which trained volunteers visit patients and offer eye masks, ear plugs, neck pillows, lotions, reading materials and blankets.

Consequently, James patient-satisfaction scores in the “Quiet” category rose significantly. After the new James opened in December 2014, the scores soared even higher.

“The design of the clinical work space and private patient rooms in the new James has aided in creating the physical healing environment necessary for our patients,” Kipp says.

The James has continued to score well in the “Quiet” category. Wendy Grainger, MHSA, CPHQ, senior data manager for James Cancer Program Analytics, reports that the hospital’s “Quiet” scores for March 2016 (the latest month for which scores were available at this writing) placed it in the 93rd percentile nationally for the month.

This successful intervention denotes the importance of using patient-satisfaction scores to gauge how well The James serves inpatients and outpatients alike.

“Regularly measuring and monitoring our patient and family experience is critically important to ensuring that we deliver the best holistic cancer care,” says Jeff Walker, MBA, senior executive director for the OSUCCC – James. “We value all responses from those we serve.”

“Our patients are largely very pleased with the treatment they receive here,” OSUCCC Director and James CEO Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, reported when delivering his annual “State of the Cancer Program” Address in November 2015. “Inpatient satisfaction scores for 2015 were in the 95th percentile nationally, while outpatient satisfaction scores averaged 96.4 percent.”

Each month Grainger reports The James’ latest available Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Overall Rating for inpatient care (which includes several scoring domains), along with the hospital’s patient-satisfaction scores for Ambulatory Surgery, Outpatient Oncology, Mammography, Emergency Department and Outpatient Services (Non-Mammography).

Grainger recently reported that the hospital’s latest patient-satisfaction scores, for March 2016, were very high. Here are highlights:

INPATIENT SATISFACTION – The James’ HCAHPS Overall Rating finished March, Quarter 3 and fiscal year-to-date 2016 (FYTD16) with scores well above the hospital’s established targets, placing The James in the 98th percentile nationwide for March and in the 97th percentile for FYTD16. Within these scores, she reported, the “Discharge” domain ended March, Quarter 3 and FYTD16 with top box scores all above target, placing the James in the 99th percentile nationally for both the month and FYTD.

AMBULATORY SURGERY – This area had a strong March, remaining in the top decile with a mean score of 97.1 (91st percentile) and coming in at the target of 97 for Quarter 3. The FYTD score is 96.6 (80th percentile).

OUTPATIENT ONCOLOGY SATISFACTION – The Outpatient Oncology Overall Assessment mean score for March was the best of this fiscal year, finishing at 95.8 (83rd percentile). The FYTD mean score was 95.3 (79th percentile), somewhat below the target of 96.3. “Chemotherapy” again finished in the top decile nationally with a March mean score of 94.2 (91st percentile).

MAMMOGRAPHY OVERALL SATISFACTION – Mammography finished March, Quarter 3 and FYTD16 with mean scores well above the target of 96.3, placing Mammography in the 99th percentile nationally for both March and FYTD 16.

“Our scores in both the inpatient and outpatient settings are among the best in the nation,” Walker says. “While we are very proud of this, we can and try to always do better.”

He admits that not all survey responses are favorable and that scores sometimes drop.

“It is wonderful to get cards and letters from patients or family members letting us know that we did a good job, but we appreciate equally those comments where we may not have been at our best,” Walker says. “We take such comments very seriously, share them and use them to help identify and correct problems going forward. By using this direct feedback to take action, we can continuously improve on the patient and family experience at The James.”

Hope Hollow:

Sharing Hope and Comfort When They're Needed Most



“When you’re on a journey with cancer, hope becomes pretty crucial. We’re a part of that journey for some families, and we want our presence and support to provide people hope. People did it for me, and it’s a privilege to be able to do it for others.”

— Jane Jacquemin-Clark

Some couples seek leisure in their retirement: rounds of golf, quiet evenings to themselves. Not Kevin Clark and Jane Jacquemin-Clark, who have chosen a life of service to others.

Like too many people, Jane’s life has been marked by cancer. First, Jane lost her mother to pancreatic cancer when she was just 10, followed by the loss of a beloved aunt, also to pancreatic cancer. And then her own cancers: an aggressive medullary thyroid malignancy caught early by chance, followed by a bout with breast cancer. Despite these challenges, or perhaps because of them, the Clarks yearned for a way to express their gratitude for the blessings in Jane’s life, and for the friends, family and healthcare professionals who helped them along the way. So the Clarks founded Hope Hollow, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit that provides complimentary lodging, hospitality and support for families traveling to Columbus for cancer treatments.

The Clarks host dozens of families each year in an inviting 4,600-square-foot home in northwest Columbus, which they restored just for this purpose. Hope Hollow also provides hundreds of hotel stays each year for families identified by oncology social workers at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), as well as a host of other services that meet families’ basic needs.

While offering a comfortable place to stay is Hope Hollow’s core mission, the Clarks’ vision has grown. On any given day, they can be spotted delivering care packages with goodies like coffee, pastries and groceries; gathering gas cards for families who must travel to and from Columbus; dropping off Ensure and bladder control products for those in need—all while caring for the physical and emotional needs of families who stay in their home. It’s hands-on work that once led Jane to make a woman’s beloved homemade soup recipe down to the exact dicing of the potatoes so that the woman’s daughter, sick from lymphoma, could eat.

“When you’re on a journey with cancer,” says Jane, “hope becomes pretty crucial. We’re a part of that journey for some families, and we want our presence and support to provide people hope. People did it for me, and it’s a privilege to be able to do it for others.”



Jenny Turner and her husband Chris have stayed at Hope Hollow a number of times during her treatment for breast cancer at the OSUCCC – James. Not only did the stays help the couple save to afford a nice Christmas for their two children regardless of financial stresses from Jenny’s illness, but the Clarks were there to provide unexpected emotional support when a scan found two masses in other organs (which would turn out to be benign) the day before she was to begin chemotherapy. “It was the most devastating moment I’d had,” recalls Jenny. “And I had known Jane for all of 24 hours, but she was able to get me through that. She hugged me and held me and was just the most comforting person. It was like having family here that couldn’t come from back home.”

Hope Hollow is funded by the generosity of individuals and businesses who want to help. Bishop Watterson High School, for example, dedicated proceeds from an extra performance of *Bye-Bye Birdie* to Hope Hollow this past spring. “Often money comes in right when it’s needed,” says Kevin. “Whenever we reach a hurdle, it gets resolved by something bigger than us.”

To learn more about Hope Hollow or to make a donation, visit hopehollow.com.



Jenny Turner (left) pictured here with Jane Jacquemin-Clark, is just one of many Hope Hollow visitors who have become close friends of the Clarks.

An Inspirational Welcome— and a Call to Serve with Compassion— for New James Employees

When new employees join The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), a wealth of services are provided to help welcome and acclimate them to the team. But for many, the most personal and inspiring greeting comes directly from the CEO of The James and Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, Michael A. Caligiuri, MD.

Caligiuri attends the twice monthly orientation sessions when his schedule permits, making it a priority to personally meet new OSUCCC – James team members and to share what he feels are the key values for providing exceptional service for patients and families. To Caligiuri, that includes compassion, research, quality and efficiency.

Compassion, he notes, is critical at a time when many people are experiencing the most difficult health challenges of their lives. Patients have just heard those words—“You have cancer”—and all of a sudden their whole world is turned upside down. Caligiuri urges new staff members to simply say “hello” to those they pass in the hallway and stand next to on the elevators. “Talking or simply saying hello to a patient and their family members can bring great comfort.; The James is not about doom and gloom place, we are a place for help and hope. And if you ever see me walking down the hall not smiling or saying hello, you can go ahead and kick me in the rear,” he jokes.

Being an academic cancer center with a strong focus on research sets the OSUCCC – James apart. “If it wasn’t for



research, cancer care would be stagnant,” Caligiuri tells new staff members. He uses examples from football and other relatable metaphors to explain the impact new treatments discovered at the OSUCCC – James have on various cancers. He often asks those in the room to raise their hands if they know someone who is in the hospital dying of AIDS. When no one raises their hand, he tells the group, “That’s what we’re going to do with cancer, keep people out of the hospital and living their life.”

Producing high-quality work in an efficient manner is also of great importance at the OSUCCC – James. “We’re such a large institution, so any time we can improve upon our processes and become more efficient, we’ll be better in the long run and more effective.” For example, says Caligiuri, having streamlined processes for submitting grant requests to the National Institutes of Health and other sponsors increases the institution’s chances of securing research funding—and moving closer toward finding a cure.

Time and again, says Andrew Wessels, administrative liaison to human resources, new staff members point to Caligiuri’s remarks as one of the most satisfying elements of orientation. “People say that having the CEO stop by to talk to the new employees is huge. They’ll say ‘I’ve worked for other organizations and may have never even seen the CEO.’ But having Dr. Caligiuri there says we’re all playing an important part in creating a cancer-free world.”

MICHAEL A. CALIGIURI, MD: 2016-2017 PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

The members of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) have elected Michael Caligiuri, MD, as their president-elect for 2016-2017. He officially became president-elect at the AACR Annual Meeting in New Orleans this past April and will assume the presidency in April 2017 at the Annual Meeting. Caligiuri is director of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and CEO of the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. He holds the John L. Marakas Nationwide Insurance Enterprise Foundation chair in cancer research and is a professor in The Ohio State University College of Medicine Departments of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics and Internal Medicine.

Caligiuri is a renowned physician-scientist, known for his work in immunology that is focused on human natural killer cells and their modulation for the treatment of leukemia, myeloma, and glioblastoma. Well over 1,500 cancer patients have been treated on clinical protocols that have emanated from the Caligiuri laboratory. He will work collaboratively with the AACR board of directors and the AACR membership, which includes more than 35,000 members in 104 countries, to further the association's mission to prevent and cure cancer through research, education, communication, and collaboration.

"For nearly a century, AACR has been an unwavering catalyst for advancing cancer research in meaningful ways: fostering collaboration among scientists and physicians, accelerating the dissemination of cancer discoveries and supporting the education and training of young cancer researchers. I am humbled and tremendously honored to be elected by my peers to serve as AACR president-elect," says Caligiuri. "This is an especially exciting time as we all work to forge new and innovative models of collaboration between academia, industry, the government and the community – something I am certain AACR can play a pivotal role in facilitating."

"We are delighted that Dr. Caligiuri has been elected to serve as the 2016-2017 AACR president-elect and our 2017-18 President," said Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), chief executive officer of the AACR. "He is a distinguished physician-scientist and highly esteemed leader, and his dedication to accelerating the pace of discovery and its translation to the clinic will be invaluable as he leads the association toward its goal of preventing and curing all cancers."

Caligiuri has been actively involved with the AACR since 1990, serving as member and more recently chairperson of the Publications Committee since 1993 and a member of the Clinical and Translational Cancer Research Committee. He was elected by the membership to the AACR board of directors (2013-2016) and served as a member of the faculty for the Scientist–Survivor Program at the AACR Annual Meeting (2003-2009). He also served as a member of the faculty for the educational workshop, Methods in Clinical Cancer Research (2003-2007).

Additionally, he is president of the Society of Natural Immunity, chair of the Institute of Medicine's National Cancer Policy Forum, and a member or chair of the external boards for 12 of the nation's cancer centers. He is a past president

of the Association for American Cancer Institutes, as well as a former councilor and executive committee member of the American Society of Hematology, past member of the board of scientific advisors and the board of scientific counselors of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and past vice chair of the scientific advisory board of the Cure for Lymphoma Foundation.

Caligiuri joined the faculty at Ohio State in 1997. He served on the faculty as a professor and medical oncologist specializing in hematologic malignancies at Roswell Park Cancer Institute from 1990-1997. He has been recognized with myriad honors and awards throughout his career, including the Director's Service Award and the MERIT Award from the National Cancer Institute, the John Wayne Clinical Research Award from the Society of Surgical Oncologists, and the Emil J Freireich Award in Clinical Cancer Research from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American College of Physicians, and the Alpha Omega Honor Medical Society, as well as an elected member of the Association of American Physicians and the American Society for Clinical Investigation.



Doctors' Day:

Saying "Thanks" to those who Save Lives

March 30 was National Doctors' Day, and patients shared their appreciation through notes of thanks and philanthropic support to those who treated them during their cancer journey. These are just a few quotes from the hundreds of notes that came in to support the caregivers at Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

To: Dr. Megan Merrill
From: Mark F.

"You may never exactly comprehend the very special difference you made in my life as I faced the prospect of living with cancer. Your empathy, medical knowledge and your wonderful communication skills combined to make a very powerful impact on my outlook. As my treatment progressed and I became acquainted with the staff in the department, it also became clear what a positive influence you have been on them. Thank you for all that you do."

To: Dr. Byrd

From: Tim B.

"I cannot thank you enough for my care with CLL. You have provided me the opportunity to meet my first grandchild, soon to walk my daughter down the wedding aisle, and in July, meet my second grandchild. Your bedside manner is reassuring and compassionate. I am so fortunate that you are at Ohio State and are also my physician."

To: Dr. Dukagjin Blakaj
From: Stephen P.

"Dr. Blakaj led the radiation team that treated me for metastatic prostate cancer that had spread to my spine. I cannot thank him and the nurses/techs in Radiation Oncology enough for all they did for me before and during my treatments there. I am blessed with an amazing medical team at the OSUCCC – James. They work together with each other and with me... caring, compassionate professionals each and every one."

To: Dr. Don Benson, Jr.
From: Georgia D.

"... I emailed Dr. Benson to see if he could see my father in for a second opinion consultation and he graciously did, even on a non-clinical day. Dr. Benson spent almost two hours educating us about Multiple Myeloma, discussing treatment options and answering our endless questions. He was personable, thorough and down to earth. He did not rush us through the appointment and showed genuine compassion and interest in my father's quality of life. That day, we left with hope and a recommendation for treatment. My father slept uninterrupted for the first night in weeks. As a result [of Dr. Benson's recommended course of treatment], my father went into remission for almost 8 years when the average patient is usually in remission for 32 months. Dr. Benson, we want you to know how much we appreciate your unwavering commitment and compassion for all those afflicted with this disease."

“Get Tough, Be Strong and Go”: James Ambassador and Survivor Nancy Rapport

This past May 15 was a celebration for Nancy Rapport, as she watched her daughter Emily graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Davidson College.

It was a much different May 15 than the one she experienced in 2000—the day she received her breast cancer diagnosis, terrified of leaving behind her two young children. “Emily’s graduation is the reframing of May 15 for me,” says Rapport, whose tendency to find the positive makes her an excellent school counselor, certified professional coach and volunteer/advocate for The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

And while others often look to her for advice and strength, Rapport found the encouragement she needed through a cancer support group also attended by Stefanie Spielman. It was the first time Rapport and Spielman, both Canton natives born only one week apart, had met, but their shared experience brought them close together.

Her friendship with Spielman inspired Rapport to become involved with the OSUCCC – James, first as a committee member of Stefanie’s Champions, then as a volunteer at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center, and now as a member of the James Ambassadors Society. She also rides in Pelotonia as a member of the Stefanie’s Team of Hope peloton.

Almost defiantly, Rapport does not spend as much time training for the ride as she acknowledges she should. “The way I justify it is that you don’t get a chance to train when you get hit with a cancer diagnosis. You don’t get a chance to prepare and get yourself ready—you just have to get tough, be strong and go.”

When the route is difficult, she reviews a notecard with the names of everyone who contributed to her journey. “I think about each person who made my ride successful, and I think about the people who aren’t able to ride or aren’t with us any longer.”



Top: Stefanie Spielman (left) and Nancy Rapport; Bottom: Shannon Peterson (Stefanie’s Team of Hope Captain) and Nancy at a James Ambassadors Society event.

She rides for Spielman and the other friends she has lost along the way, but also for her father, who died of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in 1991. “I marvel because he had cancer before people talked about cancer. He totally minimized it. If he had his diagnosis ten years later then I think his story would have ended so differently.”

It is that optimism for the future that buoys her support for the OSUCCC – James. “I want The James to continue to thrive and make breakthroughs that create better options for people with cancer. I had better options than my dad did, and I want my children to have better options than I did.”



Visit go.osu.edu/NancyRapport to watch an exclusive video of Nancy’s speech to James Ambassadors.

\$5 Million Donation to Fund Cancer Drug Development and Neuro Research at Ohio State



The Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation is donating \$5 million over five years to fund both brain and human performance research at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Ohio State Athletics, along with cancer drug development at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

The donation to The Ohio State University Foundation will support two research areas. The first will establish the Human Performance Innovation Initiative to build on existing research collaborations with the Ohio State Neurological Institute, Ohio State Athletics and the United States Air Force Research Laboratory. The center will use current and new generation neural sensor and neuroscience technologies, as well as big data neuro analytics, to improve overall body health and performance.

“This gift by the Mangurian Foundation will catalyze and accelerate our research collaborations, such as the groundbreaking findings published recently in the journal *Nature* featuring a brain implant that allows quadriplegic patient Ian Burkhardt to regain functional hand movement, and our inaugural Global Brain Health and Performance Summit. Our research focuses on the use of wearable sensor and analytic technology to quantify and further understand the role of anxiety, stress, sleep and immune function in athletic and military performance and patient care,” says Ali Rezai, MD, CEO of the Ohio State Neurological Institute. “These studies will advance our understanding of brain health for the general population, military, athletics and patients.”

The second research area will support the Drug Development Institute and strategic cancer research initiatives at the OSUCCC – James to accelerate anticancer drug discoveries from identification to development to inclusion in clinical trials.

“In order to make progress in cancer treatment, we must accelerate our efforts to develop new drugs, with more efficiency and in strategic partnership with the pharmaceutical and research/development community. We are so thankful to the continued support from the Mangurian Foundation because it will help ensure the most promising anticancer agents advance into phase I clinical trials for patients in need of new treatment options,” says Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center and CEO of the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

Harry and Dorothy Mangurian established the Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation in 1999 to provide support to medical, educational and environmental organizations nationally and internationally. Harry Mangurian was a Florida businessman, horse breeder and former owner of the Boston Celtics who was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome that became acute myeloid leukemia. He died in 2008 at age 82.

In 2010, the Mangurian Foundation donated \$2 million to Ohio State, split between the Wexner Medical Center and the Fisher College of Business to fund leukemia and dementia research at the medical center and to establish a professorship at the business school.

“A portion of this gift is a continuance of the previous commitment made by our board to the Drug Development Institute at the OSUCCC – James; the other segment is to support the impressive and groundbreaking research being conducted at the Neurological Institute. Both of these endeavors reflect the visionary leadership that is Ohio State,” says Stephen Mehallis, president of the Mangurian Foundation and an Ohio State graduate who has worked for Mangurian since 1972.

“As to the Drug Development Institute, its attraction to us is not only that it involves bringing the campuswide talent of 15 colleges together in a unified effort, but that it also lays the groundwork to realize the benefits of commercialization for those drugs developed. Likewise, the Neurological Institute is leading a collaboration of the Department of Athletics and the Air Force Research Laboratory to employ new technologies in neuroscience and brain health,” says Mehallis.

Nischal Chennuru:

13-Year-Old Raises Funds, Inspires Others

Nischal Chennuru may be just 13 years old, but he's already making a big impact.

The Powell, Ohio, native raised \$7,500 for The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) by running a 10K last October.

He did so to honor the memory of his grandmother, Suneetha Parlapalli, who died of breast cancer in 2009. While Nischal doesn't have many memories of his grandmother—she lived in Texas and died when he was quite young—her experience led him to develop an awareness of breast cancer and a keen appreciation for the research needed to eradicate it. “I didn't understand breast cancer at the time,” says Nischal. “But as I got older, I learned a lot more and wanted to make a contribution so that other people could get better.”

The busy soon-to-be eighth grader at the Wellington School, who travels the country as a nationally ranked fencer initiated a massive fundraising campaign. He created a website and encouraged friends and family to give online, reaching out to more than 100 people through phone and email. The funds he collected will be used to support the geriatric breast cancer research of Ewa Mrozek, MD, medical oncologist at the OSUCCC – James.

His parents are rightfully proud. “Our biggest priority is that we don't want him to take things for granted,” says his father, Ashok Chennuru, vice president of payment innovation technology at Anthem. “It's one thing to do well in school and get good grades, but he also needs a sense of purpose and to do something meaningful.”

Nischal's mother, Sudhathi Chennuru, is an oncologist who completed part of her fellowship at the OSUCCC – James. She is impressed that her son's fundraising is producing a ripple effect among his friends and classmates. “He has already been giving ideas and inspiring his friends to raise money. This will help our young generations continue to care for our community.”



Above: Erika Beasley, assistant director of development at the OSUCCC – James, presents Nischal with a certificate of appreciation for his efforts. Left: Nischal's parents, Ashok and Sudhathi Chennuru, and Nischal present a check to Michael A. Caligiuri, MD.



Another person inspired by her son's

generosity? Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center and CEO of The James. Caligiuri, who describes him as “amazing and inspirational,” gave Nischal—who is interested in a career in bioinformatics and medicine—a personal tour of his research laboratory. It was an experience Nischal and his father describe as “very impressive.”

“We saw proteins, cancer cells, PhD students and even a Rhodes Scholar working in the lab,” recalls Nischal. Given his desire to work in the rapidly developing field of bioinformatics, the laboratory is an environment that he will likely become accustomed to. Says Nischal, “Bioinformatics will allow me to take technology and make medicine better.” With his care for others and dedication to cancer research, his friends at the OSUCCC – James would say he is already making medicine better.

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 614-293-2120, communitypartnerevents@osumc.edu, or visit go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners.

Jill Vanuch Dance for Breast Cancer

The 7th annual Jill Vanuch Dance for Breast Cancer was held on April 30, 2016, in Springfield, Ohio, in honor and memory of Jill Vanuch, who died of breast cancer last July. The dance sold out with over 500 attendees and raised over \$24,000 for the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research at the OSUCCC – James. Jill organized the first dance in 2009 to give back and help others who are battling breast cancer. She had an amazing idea to hold a female-only dance to honor women, breast cancer patients, survivors, families and friends, and most importantly to celebrate life. Jill always carried a card with balloons that read, “Celebrate life,” which served as this year’s theme.

“This disease affects so many women and families,” her husband, Joe, said. “There’s nobody who doesn’t have somebody affected by breast cancer. We’re going to celebrate Jill’s life.”



Move MMORE 5K

Move MMORE 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk held its 9th annual event on Saturday, June 4, 2016, at Wolfe Park in Bexley, Ohio. Over 850 guests enjoyed the beautiful trails and activities to support research for multiple myeloma, a rare blood cancer. The event included team photos, music and guest speakers. Also, the top three finishers overall and in age groups received prizes. The event raised over \$60,000 to benefit multiple myeloma research at the OSUCCC – James. Please visit www.mmore.org to learn more.



Jack Roth 5K Rock & Run/Walk

On June 5, 2016, the Jack Roth 5K Rock & Run/Walk was held at Bexley High School. This annual event was created in 2006 in memory of Jack Roth, who was diagnosed with lung cancer and died after a 9-month battle at the age of 57. The 11th annual event hosted over 500 participants. Over the past decade, the Jack Roth 5K Rock & Run/Walk has become a family tradition for Bexley residents. The family-friendly event includes face painting, bounce houses, balloon making, track dash for the kids, music, and a marketplace featuring local and national food, retail, and health and wellness vendors. Proceeds from the run benefit the Jack Roth Fund at the OSUCCC – James. The fund was created to promote the vital research and treatment necessary to combat lung cancer and to support Camp Netaim, a program in Israel for children with special need. This year the event raised over \$55,000; to date, it has raised over \$500,000! Please visit www.jackrothfund.com to learn more.



Upcoming EVENTS

CARDS TO CURE CANCER

August 20, 2016
Encore Columbus
7520 High Cross Blvd.
Columbus, OH
cardstocurecancer.com

Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

CULTIVATING A CURE, OHIO AGRICULTURE: CONNECTING FOR ISSUES AND A CURE

Sunday, August 21, 2016
Watts Family Farm
Alexandria, OH
ofbf.org

Benefiting the Breast Cancer and Novel Therapies Research Fund, Cooperatives for a Cure Fund and The Lee Discretionary Fund

MICHELLE COLE POKER RUN

August 27, 2016 | 10 a.m.
Wet Spot
109 N. Water Street
Caledonia, OH
stoneym4@gmail.com

Benefiting the Acute Myeloid Leukemia Fund

CLUNGER BEATS 5000 (JAMES 5K RACE SERIES)

August 28, 2016 | 10 a.m.
Ohio Stadium
411 Woody Hayes Drive
Columbus, OH
CLungerbeats5000.com

Benefiting Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) research

CHIX WITH STIX

September 9, 2016
Raymond Memorial Golf Course
3860 Trabue Road
Columbus, OH
Facebook: [Chix With Stix - Columbus, Ohio](#)

Benefiting the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research

33RD HERBERT J. BLOCK MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 12, 2016
Scioto Country Club
2196 Riverside Drive
Columbus, OH
BlockMemorialFund.com

Benefiting Ohio State's commitment to understanding, preventing and curing cancer

STEF'S CELEBRATE LIFE TAILGATE

September 17, 2016
1919 Cambridge Blvd.
Upper Arlington, OH
stefscelibratelifetailgate.org

Benefiting new equipment at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center

STEPS FOR SARCOMA (JAMES 5K RACE SERIES)

September 18, 2016
Chemical Abstracts Service
2540 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43202
StepsforSarcomaevent.com

Benefiting the Steps for Sarcoma Walk/Run fund

RUNWAY TO AWEARNESS FASHION SHOW

September 22, 2016 | 6-9 p.m.
Ivory Room
2 Miranova Place
Columbus, OH
patdinunzio.org

Benefiting the Patricia Dinunzio Ovarian Cancer Endowment Fund and the DiNunzio Nursing Scholarship Program

SCOONIE'S CORNHOLE FOR CANCER

September 24, 2016
Bogey Inn
6013 Glick Road
Dublin, OH
BuckeyeCornhole4Cancer.com

Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

WICKED OHIO WARRIORS (W.O.W.)

September 30 – October 1, 2016
Dillion State Park
5265 Dillion Hills Drive
Nashport, OH
Facebook: [Wicked Ohio Warriors take on Ragnar Relay Series](#)

Benefiting the Ovarian Cancer Research & Education Fund

ST. MARYS TAILGATE FOR CANCER

October 14-15, 2016
Eagles Parking Lot
404 E. Spring Street
St. Marys, Ohio
tailgateforcancer.com

Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

MAC AND CHEESE FESTIVAL

October 14, 2016 | 4-11 p.m.
Easton Square, Easton Town Center
160 Easton Town Center
Columbus, OH 43219
CbusMacAndCheese.org

Benefiting Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer research

COLUMBUS DONUT RUN (JAMES 5K RACE SERIES)

October 30, 2016
Genoa Park
Columbus, OH
Joansfoundation.org/donutrun

Benefiting head and neck cancer research

10TH ANNIVERSARY BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER

February 25 – March 2, 2017
BuckeyeCruise.com

Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research



To see all community events that benefit the OSUCCC – James, please visit go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners.

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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MAC & CHEESE Festival

OCT 14 | 4-10 PM EASTON TOWN SQUARE

benefiting
adolescent & young adult cancer research

@
The James
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER



enjoy an array of **mac and cheese tastings** from the **best columbus restaurants** with **live entertainment & more!**

Learn more at
CbusMacAndCheese.org



EASTON.
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



OSUCCC – James NextGen Ambassadors Society