

# impact Cancer

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



*Funding for this program has been provided  
by the family and friends of Heather Pick and  
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## The Heather Pick Music Fund Sharing the Healing Power of Music Page 10

Christie Currie: A Letter of Gratitude to Cancer Page 4

The Goldberg Prize: Recognizing the Unsung  
Heroes of Caregiving Page 13

Steven and Patricia Gabbe: Living and Giving in Tandem Page 14

## The James



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

# Welcome



The beat goes on—but stronger and faster than ever—for Ohio State’s cancer program nearly a year after we opened our transformational new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

This issue of *impactCancer* reflects the frenetic pace of our diverse endeavors and the continuous support we receive from a generous community that is helping us pursue our shared vision of creating a cancer-free world.

Herein you’ll find stories about our world-class Radiation Oncology Department, the importance of clinical trials that are yielding new therapies and saving lives, testimonials from grateful patients who have benefited from our science-based cancer care, multimillion dollar “Outstanding Investigator” grant awards from the National Cancer Institute to two of our most distinguished researchers, a new prize that we extend to our unsung heroes of caregiving, a pair of Ohio State physicians who are “living and giving in tandem” to our cancer program, and our cover story about the Heather Pick Music Fund, which brings a well-known newscaster’s legacy full circle for helping others.

As always, I thank you for your continuing support of our cancer program and hope you will find this issue both informative and inspiring.

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

## One day to create more tomorrows.

On **December 1, 2015**, the global community will come together to continue the generous spirit of Thanksgiving. We will not shop for others or try to score the best deals; we will unite to give back in hopes of changing lives.

This **#GivingTuesday** we ask that you give your support of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

**Your gift will help create a cancer-free world and help create more tomorrows for cancer patients.**



4

Christie Currie

A Letter of Gratitude to Cancer



14

Steven and Patricia Gabbe

Living and Giving in Tandem

18

Courage, Conquer & Cure

for Breast Cancer

5

Sue Zurface

'Queen of the Mountain' Defies All Odds

10

The Heather Pick Music Fund

Sharing the Healing Power of Music

6

OSUCCC – James Radiation Oncology

One of the World's Premier Programs

12

Croce and Byrd Receive NCI "Outstanding Investigator Awards"



8

Clinical Trials

Yielding New Therapies and Saving Lives

13

The Goldberg Prize

Recognizing the Unsung Heroes of Caregiving

## Also in this issue

- 16 Community Partners
- 19 Upcoming Events

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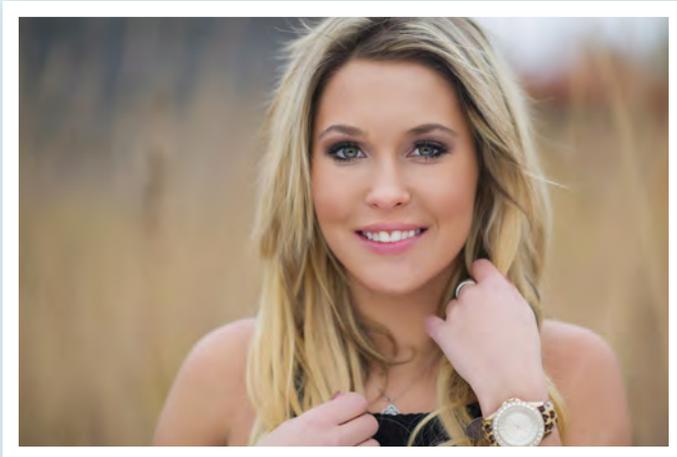
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## from Grateful Patients

### Christie Currie: A Letter of Gratitude to Cancer



Upper Arlington native Christie Currie is now a student at Miami University but has already learned some tough life lessons in her 18 years. In the fifth grade, Christie had a small bump removed from the left side of her neck. It was classified as pleomorphic adenoma—a benign salivary gland tumor—and she was instructed not to worry. However, an MRI four years later revealed two more tumors in her jaw and neck. Doctors considered it a very rare occurrence: Her pleomorphic adenoma had returned, and this time it was cancerous. She embarked on a journey that consisted of 10 reconstructive surgeries and a bone graft at Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center –James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), where she recalls multiple doctors and nurses shaping her experience.

“Everyone at The James had an impact,” says Christie. “The doctors made me feel confident and comfortable. I didn’t feel like I was surrounded by sadness. At The James, I felt the energy and positivity. I couldn’t imagine being anywhere else.”

Christie was determined to not let cancer prevent her from living a normal life. With the care she received at the OSUCCC – James, her motto was “no excuses” as she continued to earn top grades at school. In these letters, Christie reflects on the lessons she has learned from battling cancer.

To Cancer,

You, my friend, are ruthless, merciless and frustrating. You have left corners of me broken that will never again be the same, but I still thank you for teaching me lessons I never knew I needed to learn. Thank you for making me look at small moments as giant ones. Thank you for teaching me to live and love as big as I possibly can. Thank you for introducing me to many new amazing people and giving me a greater appreciation for the people I already had. Thank you for teaching me that it’s OK to accept the help of others. Thank you for making me face my fears of death, mutilation and loss of self, because in doing this I found a new self. Thank you for teaching me how to find silver linings in the darkest of moments. Thank you for teaching me how to let go of fallacious beliefs, pettiness and small-minded thinking, and for giving me the opportunity to disconnect myself from unnecessary stress. Thank you for helping me to find my true potential; through all of the havoc that you caused, I still was able to hold myself to high educational standards. Thank you for showing me that gratitude should come out of every experience. Thank you for giving me a new perspective on life. Thank you for teaching me that I am stronger than you.

To My Doctors at The James,

Thank you for contributing to the presence of a world-class cancer hospital in my backyard. Thank you for your intelligence and for your unyielding determination to find answers. Thank you for spending hours on the phone with doctors halfway across the country. Thank you for reading every medical document you could get your hands on about my kind of cancer. Thank you for fixing me when I was broken. Thank you for recognizing that I am not my cancer and for genuinely learning who I am as a person. Thank you for putting me back together better than ever. Thank you for making time in your busy schedules for me every time I get anxious or scared. Thank you for listening to all of my fears. Thank you for giving me hope. Thank you for looking in my eyes, holding my hand and telling me it will be OK each time the anesthesia slowly takes me away. Thank you for fighting for me when I couldn’t fight for myself. Thank you for giving me my future.

## Sue Zurface: 'Queen of the Mountain' Defies All Odds

"Queen of the Mountain" is the title given to the woman who achieves the fastest time climbing in a cycling road race competition. Accomplished cyclist Sue Zurface strives to win this title whenever she competes.

This year, Sue's cycling career is thriving. After placing seventh in the 2015 Ohio Spring Racing Series, she geared up to participate in her third Pelotonia, the annual grassroots bicycle tour that raises millions of dollars for cancer research at Ohio State. Her Pelotonia motto is "180 miles – no excuses." No obstacle, not even cancer, will keep her from persevering. "Illness is not an excuse to stop living," Sue says.

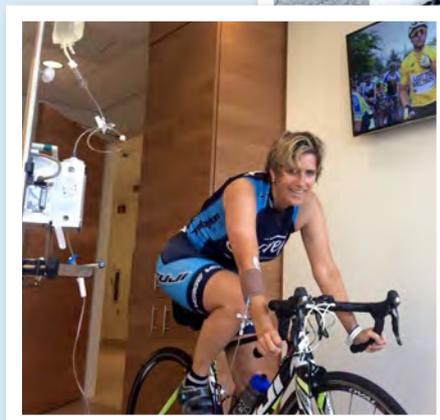
Diagnosed in January 2013 with stage 1 chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), Sue coped the best way she knew how: continuing her cycling passion by riding in her first Pelotonia. "The physical activity and the cycling have truly saved my life by keeping me healthy," she says.

Sue's cancer is incurable and can be managed only through cell therapy or a stem cell transplant. She is participating in a clinical trial under the guidance of John C. Byrd, MD, professor and director of the Division of Hematology at The Ohio State University and co-leader of the Leukemia Research Program at Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James). The trial is designed to help develop multi-targeted therapies that will lead to better patient outcomes.

Sue first became involved in Pelotonia after talking to her doctors at the OSUCCC – James. With only four weeks left before Pelotonia 13, she quickly became dedicated to the cause. Raising her first \$2,200 in two weeks, Sue realized how much philanthropy can bring people together.

While riding for the first time, she connected with people who helped her push through the pain. Her "angel" in this ride was a man whose wife had a brain tumor. Every time Sue lost her pace, he motivated her to keep cycling. Even more inspiring was Sue's goal to push through her treatments and ride in Pelotonia again in 2015.

"My doctors at The James have never limited me from riding my bike," she says. "Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, so take the adventures as they come."



*Sue Zurface has not let cancer treatments keep her from the things she loves, including cycling.*

She is grateful for the support from the staff of the OSUCCC – James as she follows her passion for cycling. Pelotonia is one of her favorite events because of its goal to end cancer. She loves the fact that no money raised by riders is put into overhead; every dollar is given directly to the OSUCCC – James in support of cancer research.

"Cancer is a part of every single person's life. Everyone knows someone who has been affected by this disease. Pelotonia is a fabulous way to give back," Sue says.

She is building a legacy not only for her family and friends, but for the entire cycling community and all who are battling cancer. Pelotonia is one of many cycling events that give her confidence to overcome obstacles and become stronger. She encourages everyone to participate, including the healthy, the survivors and those who need a reason to keep fighting.

"Everyone is fighting a battle," Sue says. "Stay on the bike, keep moving forward and be kind to everyone, because you don't know what the person next to you is handling. We are all in this together."

# OSUCCC – James Radiation Oncology

## One of the World’s Premier Programs

The Department of Radiation Oncology at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) is bustling with opportunity since moving to the new James late last year.

The department is one of just a few in the country to be located above ground in a facility rather than being housed on the first floor or basement, thanks to a \$100 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources Administration. News of the grant came just as architects of the new James were finalizing plans for the new facility. The money supported new technologies that enabled the department to be located on the second floor. Patients and their families thus enjoy a generous amount of natural light and comfortable lounges. Comfort is an important aspect that has been shown to improve patient outcomes.

The move to the new James quadrupled the amount of space available for the department; the new hospital has 100,000 square feet dedicated to radiation oncology—an important

addition given the influx of new patients the department is treating. Approximately two out of three patients will require radiation. Along with a patient’s medical oncologist and surgeon, the radiation oncologist is a critical part of the cancer care team.

Says Julie Sussi, chief administrative officer for the department, “Radiation oncology has experienced very high growth over the last six years. We are getting patients from all across the state, now more than ever since the opening of the new hospital.” The move to the new hospital and the \$100 million grant also nearly doubled the department’s capacity for patient treatment, increasing the number of linear accelerators that deliver radiation to patients from four to seven.

Patient satisfaction surveys—already high before the move—increased an additional point following the transition to the new space. “Patients who come to this department usually have a good experience,” says Sussi. “They generally are here five days a week for up to seven weeks, so they develop strong relationships with our staff. There is a lot of connection, and it’s a huge part of their care.”

*The Varian TrueBeam® Linear Accelerator – This state-of-the-art system safely combines real-time imaging, precision radiation delivery and sophisticated RapidArc technology to target tumors anywhere in the body.*





“Radiation oncology has experienced very high growth over the last six years. We are getting patients from all across the state, now more than ever since the opening of the new hospital.”

— Julie Sussi, Radiation Oncology Chief Administrative Officer

A new partnership with Varian® Medical Systems, the world’s leader in radiation oncology equipment and software, has established Ohio State as one of just two international training sites for radiation oncology globally. “Through this program, Ohio State will be the first to adopt the most advanced radiation units,” says Arnab Chakravarti, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State and director of the Brain Tumor Program at the OSUCCC – James. “We’ll be training people from all over the world to treat patients in the most effective, personalized approach possible.”

### Philanthropy fuels research opportunities

Just as federal grant dollars have had a huge impact on the department’s ability to procure state-of-the-art technology, philanthropy from the community has had an enormous impact on the patient experience—particularly for pediatric patients who come from Nationwide Children’s Hospital for radiation treatments.

Now the department looks to the community to support research opportunities that could lead to cures or life-extending treatment protocols. Researchers in the department, for example, are studying the role of the *IDH1* gene in patients with grade two glioblastoma brain cancer. Patients with the wild type—or most common—form of the gene, have been shown to have worse outcomes when chemotherapy is used with radiation treatment, while those with the mutant form of *IDH1* have better outcomes when both therapies are utilized. Further support from donors can help researchers identify how *IDH1* mutations can lead to therapies that target pathways in these very aggressive tumors, making them more sensitive to radiation and leading to better patient outcomes.

Ohio State’s radiation oncology researchers are also collaborating with scientists in Europe to study the effects of salvage radiotherapy on men whose prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels have increased following radical prostatectomy. By characterizing the role microRNAs play in PSA increases, researchers are uncovering new information that may help to determine which men benefit from prostatectomy in the first place—as well as which therapies may benefit them down the road.

Philanthropic giving to the department will make these and other breakthroughs happen. For more information about how to make a difference through giving to the Department of Radiation Oncology, contact the OSUCCC – James Office of Development at (614) 293-3745.

## What is radiation therapy?

- Radiation therapy is used two ways: to cure cancer by destroying tumors locally or reducing the risk of recurrence, or to reduce symptoms by shrinking tumors or alleviating pain
- Radiation therapy works by damaging the DNA within cancer cells and destroying their ability to reproduce
- When the damaged cancer cells are destroyed by radiation, the body naturally eliminates them
- Normal cells can be affected by radiation, but they are able to repair themselves
- Two-thirds of cancer patients receive radiation therapy as part of their treatment plan



# Clinical Trials: Yielding New Therapies and Saving Lives

Some people may view clinical trials as just another form of research, but everyone at Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) knows these studies are imperative for improving patient care.

“Clinical trials do involve research on selected groups of patients, but the ultimate aim is to improve cancer care by demonstrating the safety and effectiveness of new treatments, examining treatment strategies and looking at problems associated with existing therapies so refinements can be made,” says OSUCCC Director and James CEO Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, pointing out that patients in these studies often have no other therapeutic options and are receiving the very latest experimental treatments. “Simply stated, clinical trials are patient care.

“The importance of these studies cannot be overstated,” he continues, noting that hundreds of such studies are under way at the OSUCCC – James at any given time, including several that are available nowhere else. “Every cancer therapy in standard use today stems from a past clinical trial.”

One ongoing trial at Ohio State that represents the potential widespread benefit of these studies is called a “basket trial” because it involves patients with different cancer types that have common gene alterations.

This phase II trial, led by principal investigator Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD, a specialist in translational genomics at the OSUCCC – James, is applying basic science knowledge and tools to help researchers develop better precision cancer drugs that molecularly target alterations observed in each patient's genes.

“Precision cancer medicine is about looking at the genetic features and molecular changes acquired by each patient's cancer that have allowed it to grow and spread, and then tailoring the therapy,” explains Roychowdhury, director of precision cancer medicine.

Specifically, this clinical trial will determine how well a drug called ponatinib hydrochloride works in treating patients with cancer that has metastasized (spread) to other parts of the body, has not responded to previous therapy, and has one of several alterations, or mutations, in its DNA sequence.

“Ponatinib hydrochloride may stop the growth of cancer cells by blocking some of the enzymes needed for cell growth,” says Roychowdhury, a member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James. “It is not yet known whether a patient's genetic alterations affect how well this drug works.”

Roychowdhury says there is “a seamless integration between this clinical trial and laboratory study to determine how cancers become resistant to therapy and why some patients respond to therapy and others do not, with a key connection of research tumor samples before and after treatment.”

The investigators are using a “team science” approach to 1) study gene and protein alterations via collaboration between the basic science labs of Roychowdhury and co-investigator John Hays, MD, PhD, also of the Translational Therapeutics Program, and 2) complete the clinical trial via collaboration between Roychowdhury and scientists at the University of Michigan, where Roychowdhury was a clinical lecturer in hematology/oncology before being recruited to Ohio State in 2012.

“The importance of these studies cannot be overstated.  
Every cancer therapy in standard use today stems from a past clinical trial.”

— Michael A. Caligiuri, MD

## Donn Young: A Life Saved by a Clinical Trial

Of all the surprises that Donn Young, PhD, might have imagined receiving for his 60th birthday, a diagnosis of metastatic prostate cancer wasn't one of them.

But that's what he got. Just a few days before, during a pre-operation work-up for routine back surgery, he had requested a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test, which can detect prostate cancer. “It was just on a whim,” Young recalls. “I had no symptoms, but it had been a few years since I'd had a PSA.”

Levels in healthy men are usually less than four; Young's came back at 78, and a repeat test showed them at 90. As a biostatistician who had designed and managed clinical trials with the cancer program at Ohio State for more than three decades, Young says he had “worked with enough research data and crunched enough numbers” relating to prostate cancer and PSAs to know that something was terribly wrong.

On Dec. 5, 2006 – the day he turned 60 – Young had a prostate biopsy that confirmed cancer with bone metastasis (spread) to several vertebrae, his right shoulder and hip, and a couple of ribs. “Having your prostate biopsied instead of blowing out candles is no fun,” he says, adding that the results were even worse, since there is no known cure for his advanced illness.

Young turned to the OSUCCC – James, where Steven Clinton, MD, PhD, who directs the Prostate and Genitourinary Oncology Clinic, enrolled him in a clinical trial that involves a pair of drugs—one that stops the body's production of testosterone and androgen, and another that blocks those hormones from binding to tumor cells. The trial was designed to determine whether an intermittently administered regimen of this therapy is as effective as continuous therapy in promoting overall survival.

“This was an equivalency rather than a curative trial,” Young explains, noting that the study opened in 1995 and accrued patients until October 2008. “So it's taken all these years to find out whether the intermittent regimen is as good as what the standard of care was when the trial started.”



The median survival time for men on this trial is 34 months. Now almost nine years later, Donn is still cancer-free.

“So far, so good,” he says, “but the reality is that at some point this cancer always escapes hormonal control. My hope is that, through this therapy, I can buy a number of years until they can find out why and devise a targeted therapy.”

He knows the only way to make that kind of progress against his and other forms of cancer is for more people to enroll in science-based therapeutic clinical trials that can turn discoveries into innovative treatments.

“I never have been much of a worrier or a negative person,” he says. “I just take each day as it comes and have fun doing what I want to do. It's always a matter of what you make of life rather than how long you live – but I hope to live a long, long time.”

This performance is brought to the  
OSUCCC – James thanks to the

# Heather Pick Music Program

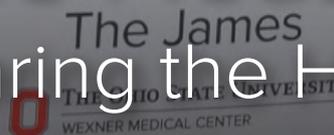


*Funding for this program has been provided by the family and friends of Heather Pick and by our generous community partners to honor Heather's legacy and mission to nurture the spirit through music.*

*To learn more about the program and how you can support these efforts, visit:*

*[osu.edu/HeatherPickMusicProgram](http://osu.edu/HeatherPickMusicProgram)*

## The Heather Pick Music Fund: Sharing the Healing Power of Music



Heather Pick was more than the beloved morning and noon news anchor for WBNS 10-TV whom viewers in central Ohio came to know and care about. She was a mother of two, a wife, a sister and a daughter, as well as a wonderful singer and songwriter. In her last years before dying of breast cancer at age 38, she worked with Mark Puskarich, founder of the Christmas to Cure Cancer and Blues for a Cure events, to encourage giving to cancer research.



Through the Heather Pick Music Program Fund at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute, Pick continues to inspire through music. The fund brings professional musicians representing genres as varied as classical, bluegrass,

barbershop quartet, jazz and more to the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute to play for patients and families. For those unable to leave their rooms to experience the music live, remote camera equipment purchased through the fund allows patients to watch the performances in real time, with previous performances saved on a DVR channel that enables on-demand viewing.

A conversation Puskarich had with David Schuller, MD, then-vice president of medical center expansion and outreach, helped to shape the vision for the fund. Recalls Puskarich, “Music was one of the ways that Dr. Schuller wanted to differentiate the new hospital from other cancer hospitals in the world. There is scientific evidence that music helps people heal faster, get off drugs faster and get out of the hospital faster. Music can help your attitude and outlook and can inspire you.”

Pick would have supported the fund’s mission wholeheartedly, given her longtime connection to music. As one of seven children in Platteville, Wisconsin, she and her family grew up singing and playing music together. Her husband, Joe Cygan, also has musical talents, serving as lead singer and guitarist in the local pop-punk-rock quintet Hot Pink Racers. Formed in 2010 with four friends and co-workers, the band devotes its music to raising awareness for breast cancer causes.

In 2006, at Puskarich’s request, Pick recorded a cover of *Santa Baby* for the annual *A Christmas to Cure Cancer* compilation that was in heavy rotation on central Ohio radio stations. In 2007, the year before her death, Pick made a full-length CD titled *Circle of Support*, recorded partially in Nashville in a studio run by a friend of Puskarich, with the rest recorded, mixed and mastered by Puskarich in Ohio. In the title song penned by Pick and co-written by Dave Clo, she tells her friends and loved ones, “You’re my circle of support, I can’t do this without you...I know my circle starts with you.”



The experience of recording with Pick was memorable, says Puskarich. “She wasn’t feeling the best—you could tell just by looking at her, but not by anything she would say. She always asked about everyone else, was always putting everyone else first. Here I am asking someone who’s a wife, a mother, has a demanding job, and is going through cancer treatments, ‘Do you have time to go to Nashville and record a CD?’ And she said, ‘Yes, let’s do that.’”

The result is a CD that friends and strangers say lifts their spirits during tough times. “Her voice takes you to that other side that tells you you are going to be okay,” says WBNS anchor and close friend of Pick’s, Angela An. “That is the spirit behind Heather’s CD, and it’s what the Heather Pick Music Program does for patients and families. It focuses on the music that your spirit will dance to.”

Pick would have been very proud of the fund’s work, says An, who seven years later still deeply misses her friend and colleague. “Heather never complained. Even when going through treatment, she would be in the makeup room, chipper and smiling, asking how you were doing. She became our litmus test: If you were having a bad day, she offered great perspective on what was important in life.”



(Above) David Schuller, MD, Stefanie Spielman, Heather Pick and Mark Puskarich at the 2007 *A Christmas to Cure Cancer* event. (Left) Heather Pick and husband Joe sing a duet.

The Heather Pick Music Program is primarily funded through proceeds from *A Christmas to Cure Cancer*, the annual concert held at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, as well as musician Sean Carney’s *Blues for a Cure*. This

year’s Christmas concert will take place Friday, Dec. 4, 2015, from 6-9 p.m. at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. In addition to ticket sales and live and silent auctions during the event, the sale of *A Christmas to Cure Cancer* CD also generates support for Pick’s Fund. To purchase tickets or learn more, please visit [achristmastocurecancer.org](http://achristmastocurecancer.org). To donate, visit [go.osu.edu/HeatherPickMusicProgram](http://go.osu.edu/HeatherPickMusicProgram).

(Opposite page) Angela An and Mark Puskarich celebrating the launch of the Heather Pick Music Program outside of The James.

# Croce and Byrd Receive NCI ‘Outstanding Investigator Awards’

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has issued a pair of Outstanding Investigator Awards (R35) to help two of the most prominent cancer researchers at The Ohio State University further their groundbreaking work in cancer genetics and leukemia therapy. The prestigious multimillion-dollar awards, which provide long-term support for experienced investigators with outstanding records of productivity who propose to conduct exceptional research, will go to Carlo Croce, MD, and John C. Byrd, MD.

Croce, a Distinguished University Professor who chairs the Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics at Ohio State, will receive \$924,000 annually for seven years, or nearly \$6.5 million overall, for “Cancer Gene Discovery to Identify Targetable Targets.” Croce also directs the human cancer genetics program and holds the John W. Wolfe Chair in Human Cancer Genetics at Ohio State. In addition, he is a member of Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

Byrd, a professor and director of the Division of Hematology at Ohio State, will receive \$911,328 annually for seven years, or nearly \$6.4 million, for “Targeted Therapy for Leukemia.” Byrd also holds the D. Warren Brown Designated Chair in Leukemia Research at Ohio State and co-leads the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James.

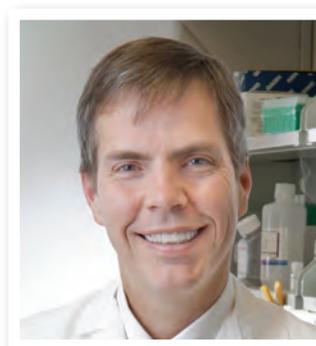
Croce and Byrd are the first two investigators at Ohio State to receive an R35 award while employed by the university. Croce received two Outstanding Investigator Awards while working at another institution before he came to Ohio State in 2004.

The NCI states that these awards provide extended funding stability that allows investigators “to take greater risks, be more adventurous in their lines of inquiry, or take the time to develop new techniques. The research projects should break new ground or extend previous discoveries toward new directions or applications that may lead to a breakthrough that will advance biomedical, behavioral or clinical cancer research.”

Croce’s grant will enable him and his lab team to continue their work in identifying genetic and genomic alterations that



*Carlo Croce, MD*



*John C. Byrd, MD*

cause human cancer in order to develop targeted treatments for biologically different tumors.

Croce is one of the most cited scientists in the world, having published more than 1,000 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals. During his long career, he has made many important discoveries in cancer genetics and has identified and characterized many cancer genes.

Byrd’s grant will enable him and his lab colleagues to integrate targeted therapy with immune therapy to produce curative therapies for patients with CLL, the most common form of adult leukemia and a disease that is currently incurable. His grant application abstract explains that his lab focuses on basic and translational biologic questions to develop immunologic and targeted therapies for various hematologic malignancies.

“I envision the greatest impact from my research will come from integrating therapeutics that target tumor survival pathways with agents that reverse immune tolerance to facilitate long-term remissions or cure,” Byrd writes, noting that his work to date has resulted in FDA approval of two agents for CLL therapy that prolong survival.

He states that his team’s work with the drug ibrutinib “dispels a commonly held paradigm that it is not possible to develop a general disease-targeted therapy when a specific genetic aberration is not present. My hypothesis is that general disease-targeted therapy requires a dual tumor-targeted and immunologic modulation.” Byrd intends to develop this concept and extend it to other blood cancers as well.

# The Goldberg Prize: Recognizing the Unsung Heroes of Caregiving

At The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), caregivers are an important part of the healthcare team. Thanks to a gift from Lynda and Richard Goldberg, MD, exceptional caregivers are now being honored for their achievements through the Dr. Richard and Lynda Goldberg Family Prize.

“We talk about our high-tech approaches, our robots and our special research, which are all extremely important, but making people feel cared for is just as important,” says Richard, physician-in-chief at the OSUCCC – James and the Klotz Family Chair of Cancer Research. “That’s what we are trying to incent and reward with this.”

Lynda, program director for policies and research at the OSUCCC – James, adds that the “unsung heroes” who provide exemplary care are the reason the prize was created.



*(From left) Award Recipient Deborah Hurley, NMTCB, ARRT(N), Lynda and Richard Goldberg, MD, Award Recipient Payal Desai, MD, and Award Recipient Amber Thompson, BSN, RN, at the 2015 Goldberg Prize Award Ceremony.*

Each year, the prize will be awarded to a physician, a nurse and a staff member at the OSUCCC – James. The inaugural recipients were recently announced and include:

- **Payal Desai, MD**, assistant professor of clinical medicine, director of sickle cell research, Division of Hematology. “Dr. Desai’s impact on sickle cell disease management at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and the OSUCCC – James cannot be overstated,” wrote nominator Eric H. Kraut, MD. “She has contributed in both inpatient and outpatient care and achieved this in the face of both political hurdles and the prejudices seen against difficult patient populations.”
- **Amber Thompson, BSN, RN**, Neuroendocrine Tumor Clinic. Nominator Manisha Shah, MD, wrote, “Due to these [neuroendocrine] cancers typically being slow growing, Amber has developed good, positive relationships with these patients over the past 10 years. They in turn trust Amber tremendously and speak positively on her compassion, her care, her knowledge, and her commitment to them and their cancer journey.”
- **Deborah Hurley, NMTCB, ARRT(N)**, lead imaging technologist, PET/CT imaging, nuclear medicine, Department of Radiology. Wrote co-nominator Stephen Povoski, MD, “Deb always puts the patient first, makes sure that all patients are managed in a very expedient fashion, and goes out of her way to make the impossible happen when a PET/CT is needed ASAP. Deb never says ‘no,’ and instead says, ‘We’ll get it done for you.’ Simply outstanding!”

Award winners were formally acknowledged at a reception held June 22, 2015. Winners also received a cash prize to connect them with continuing educational opportunities to support their outstanding work.

Pointing out that an award for caregiving is unique, Dr. Goldberg says, “The Goldberg Prize recognizes people for doing exactly what they went into health care to do to begin with: caring for patients and their families. And what’s better than that?”

# Steven and Patricia Gabbe:

## Living and Giving in Tandem



“When we were planning the new James and meeting with architects, I said the building had to be a beacon of hope. I wanted people who come even in the middle of the night to see a place where there is hope for them and their families.”

— Steven Gabbe, MD

Steven and Patricia Temple Gabbe, both MDs, are the type of couple who lovingly hang on one another’s every word. They share an affection for their four children and two grandchildren, as well as a passion for promoting maternal and child health and healthy birth outcomes—Patricia as clinical professor of pediatrics at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, and Steven as professor of obstetrics and gynecology after serving for seven years as senior vice president for health sciences and CEO of the Wexner Medical Center.

The Gabbes also share a strong affinity for cancer research, riding together on a tandem bicycle each year in support of Pelotonia, the annual grassroots bicycle tour that raises money for cancer research at Ohio State.

Both Patricia and Steven have seen more than their share of the pain cancer causes in their work as physicians, but also personally. A number of close friends and family members have experienced cancer, including Steven’s grandmother and mother and Patricia’s close friend and father. Every year after completing Pelotonia, says Steven, he and Patricia feel great, “but we also cry, because there is someone we have lost each year.”

Their personal giving decisions are made together as well, and when it came time to make a gift to the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, “There was never any question,” says Patricia.

Adds Steven, whose tenure as CEO included the planning and building of the new James, “As we went around to talk to other donors, it was so important to show that we had also demonstrated our commitment.”

Their half-million-dollar gift was honored with the naming of the Steven and Patricia Gabbe Conference Room, a fitting tribute to their contributions. “We’re both teachers, educators,” says Steven. “We wanted to support a space where knowledge would be exchanged and new knowledge would be shared.”

“It’s just a beautiful, open space,” says Patricia.

Even the artwork adorning the wall of the conference room—a series of 45 small paintings of Ohio birds by

artist Paul Hamilton, lined up in three rows—evidences the Gabbes' personal touch. They had spotted the pieces at Hammond Harkins Galleries as art was being acquired for the new James. Steven recalls phoning David Schuller, MD, then-vice president of medical center expansion and outreach, and saying, "We need these birds." The Gabbes had no idea that the paintings would end up in the conference room bearing their name.

It is these unique touches that make the new James so special. Says Patricia, "I think people who have cancer should walk into the building and feel uplifted and honored, that the people here really care about them."

"When we were planning the new James and meeting with the architects, I said the building had to be a beacon of hope," says Steven. "I don't know that they appreciated that patients, families, nurses, physicians and staff would be coming here 24/7. I wanted people who come even in the middle of the night to see a place where there is hope for them and their families."

Although the Gabbes have studied and worked at other academic medical centers with exceptional cancer programs,



they firmly believe the new James is where the cures for cancer will be discovered. "The big difference here is the sense of family and community," says Steven. "I didn't get that at the other cancer centers where I've worked. What makes this so special is how people feel a part of The James. Everyone is really focused on the mission of curing cancer and providing the best care they can."

Care for others is evident in how the Gabbes live and give. They keep very full schedules with their work at Ohio State, the seventh edition of the obstetrics textbook Steven is editing, Patricia's Moms2B program that helps mothers in high-risk neighborhoods deliver full-term healthy babies, Steven's work with Partners Achieving Community Transformation to introduce a healthcare workforce curriculum into the near Eastside public schools, their membership on the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Taskforce, co-chairing fundraising for the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center Ohio Collaborative, and other important causes.

Caring for one another is an important theme, too. When riding a tandem bike, "The captain rides in front and the stoker in the back," explains Steven, who rides in the captain's seat. "They say that the number one job of the captain is to keep the stoker happy. And, I try to apply that to our day-to-day lives."

Adds Patricia, "And so far we've stayed safe thanks to his captaining."

PATRICIA & STEVEN GABBE  
Conference Room



# 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 614-293-4927, [communitypartnerevents@osumc.edu](mailto:communitypartnerevents@osumc.edu), or visit [go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners](http://go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners).

## Jug Run – Ride for a Cure Poker Run

The 3rd annual Jug Run – Ride for a Cure Poker Run was held in Adena, Ohio, on Saturday, June 13, at the American Legion Post. The event was created in honor and memory of Frank “Jug” Sawko. He battled five years of multiple myeloma, a rare bone marrow cancer, and was treated at the OSUCCC – James. His family and friends wanted to do something to heighten awareness and raise funds while honoring Jug’s love of Harley Davidson motorcycles, so they created the Jug Run. A great time was had by all who attended the event with an amazing turnout of family, friends, supporters and bikers. The day included the poker run, dinner, silent auction, raffle ticket sales and T-shirt sales. This year’s event raised over \$10,000 to benefit the Cancer Strategic Support Fund at the OSUCCC – James. To date, the Jug Run-Ride for a Cure Poker Run has raised over \$23,000 for the OSUCCC – James.



## Anne’s Army 5K

Another 5K is in the books for Anne’s Army! On June 20, runners and walkers gathered in Wooster, Ohio, to participate in the 5th annual 5K. The event supports the Anne M. Wolf Fund for Breast Cancer Research at the OSUCCC – James. Despite the rain, runners and walkers gathered at the starting line to show their support. This year, the event raised \$23,000. Since the inaugural event in 2011, the Anne M. Wolf Foundation has donated over \$150,000 to the OSUCCC – James for triple-negative breast cancer. To learn more about this event, visit [www.annesarmy.org](http://www.annesarmy.org)



## Fight Like Jenn Memorial Celebration

On Saturday, Aug. 1, family and friends laced up their bowling shoes to strike out cervical cancer at the 2nd annual Fight Like Jenn Memorial Celebration to honor Jenn Fulton. Jenn was diagnosed with cervical cancer and died just weeks later at the age of 30. She loved to bowl and was heavily involved in bowling leagues, helped run brackets in tournaments, and met some of her best friends through bowling. So it was decided to create a bowling event in her memory. The goal of Fight Like Jenn is to spread awareness of cervical cancer and to raise funds while having fun. The family-friendly event included a bowling tournament with brackets and jackpots, face painting and balloon animals for the kids, gift card raffles, 50/50 drawings, silent auction items, karaoke and more. This year, Fight Like Jenn raised \$8,000 to benefit Gynecologic Oncology Cervical Cancer Research at the OSUCCC – James. For more information, please visit [www.fightlikejennfulton.com](http://www.fightlikejennfulton.com)



## FORE Cancer Research Golf Outing

The 9th Annual FORE Cancer Research Golf Outing raised over \$100,000 to support cancer research initiatives directed by Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center and CEO of the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. The event was held on Monday, Aug. 3, at The Lakes Golf & Country Club in Westerville, Ohio. Each year the group funds a specific cancer project. In nine years it has funded projects for skin cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, sarcoma and, this year, gynecologic oncology. Mark Thomas, tournament chairman, created the event in memory of his aunt who died of ovarian cancer in 2006. To date, the event has raised more than \$1 million for cancer research at the OSUCCC – James. For more information, please visit [www.forecancerresearch.org](http://www.forecancerresearch.org)



# Survivor Moms Band Together to Promote Courage, Conquer & Cure for Breast Cancer

Jodi Brown and Angie Abel were both diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 32, but that's not all they have in common.

Says Abel, "We are both married with two sons, live in Canal Winchester and share the same birthday." Both women were also successfully treated at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James)—Abel with a bi-lateral mastectomy, reconstruction and chemotherapy, and Brown with a bi-lateral mastectomy, chemotherapy, radiation and Herceptin.

Now, after bonding over their shared experiences, they also share a passion for raising funds to help find a cure for breast cancer. In 2012, the two self-described "survivor moms" founded the Courage, Conquer & Cure 5K, which has raised over \$100,000 to benefit the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research at the OSUCCC – James.

The race—now a part of the James 5K Race Series that includes five annual running events—takes place in the Columbus suburb of Canal Winchester. The most recent event, held Oct. 3, brought together 636 runners and walkers of all levels who



Jodi Brown (left) and Angie Abel (right) present a check from the proceeds of the 2014 Courage, Conquer and Cure event to Maddie Spielman.

seek to eradicate breast cancer. Tracy Townsend of WBNS-10TV served as this year's emcee, as she has the past two years. Athletes and guests enjoyed local magician and comedian David McCreary and the sounds of musical entertainer Bad Influence. Canal Winchester Mayor Mike Ebert was also on hand to cheer on race participants and welcome them to his historic town.

Since the inaugural Courage, Conquer & Cure, the event has acknowledged a "survivor mom" who battles breast cancer through an award named for Janet Downs, the 2012 honoree who passed on in January 2013, leaving a husband and two young sons. The award is an important part of the race's mission, says Abel.

"It is the goal of Courage, Conquer & Cure not only to raise funds for breast cancer, but to inspire breast cancer survivors to thrive during their treatments and to treasure every moment in life," she says. "Jodi and I look forward to one day celebrating a cure for breast cancer, and we love that 100 percent of the funds donated from Courage, Conquer & Cure to the Spielman

Fund go directly toward breast cancer research. Our ongoing survivorship keeps us motivated each year to continue our hard work toward this mission."





# Upcoming EVENTS

## **A CHRISTMAS TO CURE CANCER**

**December 4, 2015**

**Columbus Zoo and Aquarium  
4850 West Powell Road  
Powell, Ohio 43065**

[www.achristmastocurecancer.org](http://www.achristmastocurecancer.org)

What started in 1997 as a love of Christmas music and a love between friends has grown into something much bigger than just a way to preserve talents and have some fun. The music has become what is now A Christmas to Cure Cancer, an organization working to raise funds for cancer research through benefit concerts and the distribution of Christmas CDs around the central Ohio area.

*Benefiting the Heather Pick Music Fund*

## **RAISE A RACKET**

**January 23, 2016**

**Wickertree Tennis and Fitness Club  
5760 Maple Canyon Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43229**

[www.thecrawfordcrew.com](http://www.thecrawfordcrew.com)

This annual tennis event features drills with tennis pros, music, food, drinks, silent and live auctions, and a raffle. The goal is to raise money for patient assistance, education, research and outreach programs for cervical and other gynecological cancers.

*Benefiting the Diane Crawford Cervical Cancer Research, Education and Outreach Fund*

## **CELEBRATE MMORE GALA**

**February 6, 2016**

**Hilton at Easton  
3900 Chagrin Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43219**

[www.mmore.org](http://www.mmore.org)

A black tie evening featuring inspiring speakers, live and silent auctions, dinner and dancing will be held at the Hilton Easton. Over 800 guests attend this annual event to raise funds and awareness for Multiple Myeloma Research. MMORE has raised over \$1.2M for the OSUCCC – James with their signature fundraising event and community events.

*Benefiting Multiple Myeloma Research at the OSUCCC – James*

## **BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER**

**February 20-25, 2016**

**Departing from Ft. Lauderdale, FL with stops at Labadee (Royal Caribbean's private island) and Ocho Rios, Jamaica**

[www.BuckeyeCruise.com](http://www.BuckeyeCruise.com)

A floating Buckeye Nation! Join Coach Urban & Shelley Meyer and more than 30 former Buckeye greats for the annual Buckeye Cruise for Cancer. Enjoy autograph sessions, College Football Preview with ESPN personalities, a one-of-a-kind auction, Buckeye Family Feud and much more!

*Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research*

## **STEP UP FOR STEFANIE'S CHAMPIONS WALK/RUN**

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**Stefanie Spielman  
Comprehensive Breast Center  
1145 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43212**

[www.go.osu.edu/StepUp](http://www.go.osu.edu/StepUp)

Join Event Chair Chris Spielman for the inaugural *Step Up for Stefanie's Champions* 4-mile run/1-mile walk to celebrate the champions in the lives of cancer survivors.

*Benefiting the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research*

## **15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR LIFE**

**May 14, 2016**

**Smith & Wollensky  
Easton Town Center  
4145 The Strand West  
Columbus, Ohio 43218**

[www.go.osu.edu/CelebrationForLife](http://www.go.osu.edu/CelebrationForLife)

Celebration for Life is an annual festive and fun event chaired by Judy and Steve Tuckerman to benefit The James Fund for Life, an annual fund that was established by Abigail and Les Wexner. More than \$15.3 million has been raised for The James Fund for Life since it was established in 2002.

*Benefiting the James Fund for Life*



To see all community events that benefit the OSUCCC – James, please visit [go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners](http://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](http://cancer.osu.edu/waystogive)



## The James



OSUCCC – James Development  
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Join Event Chair, Chris Spielman, for the inaugural

*step up for*  
**Stefanie's CHAMPIONS**

4-mile run / 1-mile walk

*celebrating the champions in the lives of cancer survivors*

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center  
1145 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH

Register today at: **SpielmanFund.com**

*Step Up for Stefanie's Champions* is a walk/run benefiting the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research at Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

For more information or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, please call 614-293-3752 or visit **SpielmanFund.com**.