

impactCancer

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

PELOTONIA'17
\$26,229,637



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Comfort to Patients Page 14

The James



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Welcome

The incredible support that Ohio State's cancer program receives from our community and far beyond is never more apparent than at the annual check celebration for Pelotonia, our grassroots bicycle tour that raises millions of dollars for research at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

At the Nov. 16 check celebration for Pelotonia 17, we learned that riders, virtual riders and donors raised a record \$26.2 million, boosting Pelotonia's nine-year total to \$157 million—every dollar of which directly benefits cancer research, thanks to the event's major funding partners. Donors from all 50 states and more than 60 countries contributed to the funding total for Pelotonia 17, which drew 8,022 riders and more than 3,000 volunteers.

This issue of *impactCancer* contains both a Pelotonia 17 recap and a story about four pieces of sophisticated scientific equipment purchased with Pelotonia dollars to help our researchers conduct cutting-edge cancer research. Pelotonia will observe its 10th anniversary in 2018; we extend our deepest gratitude to all who have contributed over the years to this amazingly successful endeavor.

Also herein you'll find stories about a pair of generous donors who have stepped forward in a big way to benefit our cause against cancer, along with a profile of a grateful patient who participated in a clinical trial at the OSUCCC – James and is cancer-free despite once thinking he had less than a year to live following a metastatic cancer diagnosis.

We hope that in perusing this issue you will feel the excitement being generated by the combined efforts of our cancer program and the community as we work together to create a cancer-free world.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. E. Pollock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD

Director, The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William B. Farrar, MD". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

William Farrar, MD

Interim CEO, James Cancer Hospital
and Solove Research Institute

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Alum's Generosity Will Benefit Cancer Researchers and Patients for Years to Come

When alumnus Paul Bigley discovered an opportunity at Ohio State to support two of his passions—engineering and cancer research—he didn't hesitate to give back to the place that has meant so much to him over his lifetime.

The retired chemical engineer (BS '61) recently made a generous donation to support cancer research conducted by Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Professor Jessica Winter. The gift will help purchase equipment and train the next generation of cancer researchers.

"I'm just grateful for everything Ohio State has done for me," Bigley says simply.

The encouragement he received as a Buckeye engineering student was especially impactful. School was difficult for him at times, Bigley says, as he struggled to balance family obligations with his studies. But the support he felt from university administration, and one individual in particular, pushed him to succeed.

"Joe Koffolt is a champion to me," Bigley says of the former chemical engineering department chair. "I did struggle a little bit getting through school, but he was on my side all the way."

Bigley says the greatest gift Ohio State has given him is the health of his daughter, Terri, a cancer survivor who was treated at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James). Bigley was so impressed with the skill of Terri's surgical oncologist, Jeffrey Fowler, MD, and the care she received that he made an additional contribution to support robotic surgery at the OSUCCC – James. And when he realized there was a way to support both chemical engineering and cancer research simultaneously by contributing to Professor Winter, he jumped at the chance to show his gratitude.



Above: Paul Bigley with his daughter, Terri. Left: Jeffrey Fowler, MD, with Paul and Terri Bigley



"I'm just trying to give back to Ohio State what they gave Terri," he says. "And I'm so impressed with all of

the advancements happening at the university—how much people have progressed and what they're learning now. It's just unbelievable."

Bigley says he was "in awe" of Winter's work especially. A cancer survivor herself, Winter focuses her research on developing new diagnostics and therapies for one of the deadliest cancers: glioma.

"I am confident that I would not be alive without the research of prior generations. This generous donation allows me to pay it forward and make whatever small impact I can to very simply: stop cancer," says Winter.

Leadership Announcement

DRS. POLLOCK AND FARRAR NAMED AS NEW LEADERS OF OSUCCC AND THE JAMES

Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD, has been named director of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC), and **William Farrar, MD**, has been named interim CEO of the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

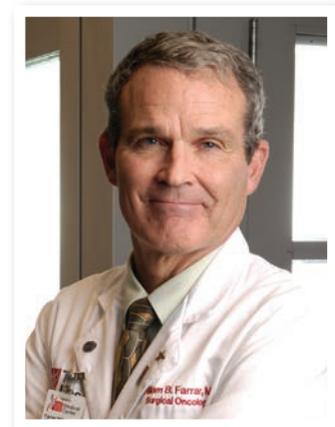
Ohio State University President Michael V. Drake, MD, announced their appointments to fill vacancies created when former OSUCCC Director and James CEO Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, stepped down from both positions in November. Caligiuri, who had been OSUCCC director since 2003 and James CEO since 2008, joined City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California, as president and physician-in-chief.

Pollock, who also has served as director of the Division of Surgical Oncology at Ohio State and is in the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, was recruited to the university in 2013 from MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he had worked for 31 years. Because of his new role as CCC director, he will no longer direct the Division of Surgical Oncology.

Farrar, a surgical oncologist who serves as director of the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center and director of medical credentialing at the OSUCCC – James, has been on The James medical staff since the hospital opened in 1990. He was mentored by the late Arthur G. James, MD, for whom the hospital is named. Farrar also is in the Molecular Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention Program at the OSUCCC – James.



Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD

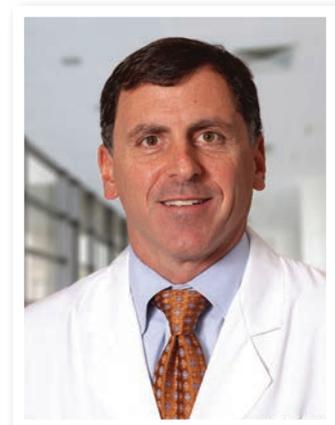


William Farrar, MD

COHN APPOINTED TO NEW LEADERSHIP ROLE

David Cohn, MD, professor and director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Ohio State, has been named director of medical affairs at the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, replacing **William Farrar, MD**, in this capacity. Farrar is interim CEO of The James and director of the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center.

Cohn is only the third medical affairs director at The James in the nearly three decades since the hospital opened. He is a gynecologic oncologist and a member of the OSUCCC – James Translational Therapeutics Program. As director of medical affairs, he will be responsible for ensuring that The James medical staff remains focused on delivering the highest quality and safest clinical care to patients. In this role, he will report to The James CEO.



David Cohn, MD

2017 Pelotonia Sets Fundraising Record

Gives Hope to Riders and Supporters

Pelotonia started in 2009 as a bold, seemingly crazy idea. Today, you can't leave your house without seeing one of Pelotonia's signature green arrows and "One Goal" taglines on yard signs, arrow magnets and T-shirts.

For the OSUCCC – James, Pelotonia is a signature event that funds lifesaving cancer research. For riders, sponsors, donors, volunteers and virtual riders, it's a passion. It's how survivors, families and friends come together to honor loved ones who have died and to stand against a disease that claimed nearly 700,000 lives in 2017, according to American Cancer Society projections.

In Pelotonia 17, riders, virtual riders, donors and volunteers raised \$26,229,637—bringing Pelotonia's grand fundraising total to \$157 million—a tremendous boon for cancer research at the OSUCCC – James. Every dollar raised goes directly to research, thanks to the event's major sponsors.

The 2017 Pelotonia Opening Ceremony evidenced just how far the event has come, drawing former Vice President Joe Biden and former Second Lady Jill Biden to speak about the significance of the ride. The Bidens' son, Beau, died of

brain cancer in 2015 while Vice President Biden was still in office. In his opening remarks, he was optimistic about the future of cancer research, saying, "There's not one single time in American history we've set our minds to something that we have not been able to solve." Biden closed by saying, "I promise you: We will beat this disease."



Dollars raised through Pelotonia support the people who conduct cancer research at the OSUCCC – James and the equipment they need to do their jobs. Since it began, Pelotonia has funded 108 Idea Grants for a rich array of studies by teams of faculty researchers. It has also funded 440 student fellowships through a program that trains undergraduate, graduate, medical and postdoctoral students

to become independent cancer researchers. Students from any discipline can be accepted into the program, where they receive stipends and the opportunity to work in the cancer laboratories of faculty mentors.

While funding research is a powerful incentive for supporting Pelotonia, the stories behind Pelotonia's riders are equally inspiring. The Pelotonia 17 Check Celebration placed a spotlight on riders like Aaron Conley, a long-time cyclist who rode in Pelotonia for the first time in 2014, less than three months after completing six months of intensive chemotherapy to treat his colon cancer.





“It really hit me during Pelotonia (in 2014) that I was finally feeling OK and was strong again, and I was alive, and I was surrounded by all these other people who were supporting cancer research.”

— Aaron Conley



“It really hit me during Pelotonia (in 2014) that I was finally feeling OK and was strong again, and I was alive, and I was surrounded by all these other people who were supporting cancer research,” says Conley, who subsequently became director of foundation relations at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He concluded his story with great news: “Today I saw my oncologist, and now I’m four years cancer-free.”

First-year rider Sherry Wang also rode in Pelotonia 17— just two weeks after her final chemotherapy treatment for ovarian cancer. Wang said that on her first training ride she could barely pedal a mile, but a few weeks later, with the encouragement of her fellow Pelotonia riders, “who kept telling me, ‘You can do it,’ I was able to ride 25 miles.” She raised more than \$13,000.

For Jay and Mary Knecht, who received the Pelotonia MVPs of Hope Award during the celebration, the ride is a way to remember their daughter and to bring hope to other families. Myah Sue was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor shortly after her fourth birthday and passed away several months later. Jay decided to ride in Pelotonia, and Mary came to watch. She was so inspired that she became a volunteer and then a lead volunteer. Pelotonia is an important part of their lives.

On his Pelotonia profile page, Jay wrote, “There isn’t anything I can do to bring Myah back, but I can ride in her memory and do the things that are in my power to prevent this from happening to another family.”



For the Knechts and others who have suffered because of cancer, Pelotonia—once a seemingly crazy idea—provides hope and direction for helping the OSUCCC – James create a cancer-free world.



Instruments of Discovery

4 Pieces of Equipment Pelotonia Dollars Have Purchased

Conducting cutting-edge cancer research is complex and requires sophisticated equipment for ready use by the talented researchers who strive to turn laboratory discoveries into treatments.

That's where Pelotonia dollars make a big impact. Some of the money raised by riders, virtual riders and donors in this annual bicycle tour is allotted to help purchase the latest instruments and technology to assist the more than 330 researchers at the OSUCCC – James. Here's a look at four of the instruments purchased during the past few years with Pelotonia funding support.

Helios Mass Cytometer – Pelotonia assisted in the purchase of this instrument, which paved the way for recruiting **Gregory Behbehani, MD, PhD**, from Stanford University, to build a research program in the field of mass cytometry.

“The Helios mass cytometer allows us to look at one cell at a time and use lots of measures to see exactly what type of cell this is and combine it with measurements of how the cell behaves,” Behbehani says. “When you put these together, you get a complex, rich picture of the cancer, and we can discover how it responds to standard treatment or novel treatment.”

Orbitrap Fusion™ and Quantiva™ Mass Spectrometers – These instruments aid in the understanding of cancer cell biology. They detect abnormal proteins shed by tumor cells via urine, blood or saliva—proteins that originate in the tumor or the tumor microenvironment. **Michael Freitas, PhD**, is an analytical chemist who specializes in protein characterization using mass spectrometers. His work depends on the capability of the instruments he uses.



Helios Mass Cytometer

“Sometimes you have very few cells to work with,” Freitas says. “Developments in mass spectrometry are improving the sensitivity of instruments to see less material. They can also look at more proteins in a given time. We get more data and more insight because of Pelotonia.”

The Sciclone® NGS (Next Generation Sequencing) Workstation – This robotic device prepares batches of cancer cells for genome sequencing. As opposed to having a technician prepare samples in test tubes with a single pipette,

the Sciclone NGS does the pipetting en masse, preparing up to 96 samples at once to create consistency and free up lab personnel for other work. Genome sequencing is vital to determining how cancer hijacks normal cell functions; this device makes that preparation faster and easier.

Rees Enterprise Environmental Monitoring System – This system can be regarded as a quiet workhorse of cancer research—technology that works around the clock and, if all goes well, is rarely heard from by the researchers and lab supervisors who rely on it. It may not analyze cells or diagnose cancer, but it does its part for cancer research by monitoring the freezers that store samples of DNA, plasma and serum, which would be useless if they thawed.

The Rees system monitors multiple locations, ensuring ongoing monitoring in all situations. **Heather Hampel, MS, LGC**, director of Biospecimen Services at the OSUCCC – James, and others receive an alert via phone call, text or email if the temperature drops below an acceptable level. This allows them to act quickly to protect the stored samples.

Sally Millett Honors Son

With Gift to Head and Neck Cancer Research

When a rare form of cancer took Sally Millett's son, Doug, at the age of 49, she wanted to do something special to honor his life.

"He was larger than life," Sally says.

A successful hedge-fund portfolio manager, Doug was diagnosed in 2012 with adenoid cystic carcinoma, an orphan cancer that most commonly first appears in a person's salivary glands. By the time doctors diagnosed Doug's cancer, it had spread to other parts of his body. He died a mere 15 months later.



"In order for young scientists to complete their important work, they need funding that often is not otherwise available to them. I think Doug would be proud of the work happening now in his name."

— Sally Millett

Doug became famous among Wall Street brokers for betting against Enron in the early 2000s and by all accounts, was the kind of man people remember.

After he died, Sally wanted to ensure his legacy would have a long and powerful impact. She set up a fund in Doug's memory that invests in early scientific research into cures and drug development for head and neck cancers. The OSUCCC – James is known for breakthrough discoveries, but those discoveries take time, people and money.

Sally Millett, who retired from an academic medical center in Georgia, knows that research funding is challenging. The National Institutes of Health generally funds only research that is well underway, with promising early results and well-documented successes.

Sally's family has strong ties to higher education and to Ohio: Her former husband, Allan R. Millett, is a professor emeritus at Ohio State. His father, John D. Millett, was the 16th president of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, which is also the alma mater of her son Mike, Doug's brother.

The Milletts raised Doug and his brother, Mike, in Upper Arlington, where Doug was a standout linebacker for the Upper Arlington High School football team. Doug went on to play college football at Yale. A memorial plaque stands in his honor on the Upper Arlington High School campus.

"Columbus was very special to Doug," Sally says. "And I wanted to honor him in Columbus."

The Douglas Tyler Millett Endowed Fund for Research in Head and Neck Cancer supports a postdoctoral or medical fellow of The Ohio State University College of Medicine in his or her research of preventing, diagnosing and treating head, neck and throat cancers.

At the OSUCCC – James, early research has led to promising treatments for head and neck cancer caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), immunotherapy treatments for a variety of cancers and early drugs to fight blood cancers. The Millett Endowed Fund will help advance that type of work for head and neck cancer patients thanks to Sally's philanthropic gift.

"In order for young scientists to complete their important work, they need funding that often is not otherwise available to them," Sally says. "I think Doug would be proud of the work happening now in his name."



To support the fund visit go.osu.edu/millettfund

Ramaswamy and Lustberg Named on *Forbes*' 'Physician Honor Roll'

Bhuvanewari Ramaswamy, MD, and Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH, associate professors in the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State, are among 27 breast oncologists across the nation being recognized by *Forbes* as exemplary physicians in the field of oncology. Many individuals on the list have served in leadership roles, contributed a wealth of clinical research to advance the practice, and served on community boards and national organizations.



Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH

Ramaswamy specializes in breast cancer at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center and is in the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James.



Bhuvanewari Ramaswamy, MD

She serves as academic chief of the Division of Medical Oncology's Breast Oncology Section, and as director of the Medical Oncology Fellowship Program in Breast Cancer for Ohio State's College of Medicine. Lustberg also specializes in breast cancer at the Spielman Center, and she is a member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC – James. In addition, she is medical director of survivorship for the OSUCCC – James and director for breast cancer survivorship at the Spielman Center. The *Forbes* list was generated via a partnership with Grand Rounds, a San Francisco-based organization whose mission is to connect patients with the highest-quality care available to them.

OSUCCC – JAMES RECEIVES PRESS GANEY GUARDIAN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James)—the third-largest cancer hospital in the nation—has been named a 2017 Guardian of Excellence Award® winner by Press Ganey for the second consecutive year.

The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes top-performing healthcare organizations that have consistently achieved the 95th percentile or above for inpatient care experience performance excellence as measured by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid's Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS).

Presented annually, the award is a nationally recognized symbol of achievement in health care. It honors clients who consistently

sustained performance in the top 5 percent of all Press Ganey clients for each reporting period during the course of one year.

"This award recognizes excellence in achieving patient satisfaction. To earn it two years in a row shows the emphasis that OSUCCC – James staff place on our relationship-based care model and improving the patient experience," says William Farrar, MD, interim CEO of The James.

"We are proud to partner with the OSUCCC – James," says Patrick T. Ryan, CEO of Press Ganey. "This award is a testament to the organization's leadership in delivering patient-centered care. By achieving and sustaining this level of excellence, the OSUCCC – James continues to demonstrate its commitment to reducing patient suffering and advancing the overall quality of health care."

from a Grateful Patient

Creating New, More Hopeful Statistics: Terry Keegan's Story

Terry Keegan writes many names on the back of his jersey when he rides in Pelotonia, the annual grassroots bicycle tour that raises money for cancer research at The Ohio State University, including Kami Atiyeh, Tiffany Elsea and Amanda Hettinga.

The women aren't cancer patients, but staff members at the OSUCCC – James, part of the care team whose compassion and dedication impressed Keegan and his family during his cancer ordeal that began over six years ago when he discovered a pea-sized bump on the side of his neck.

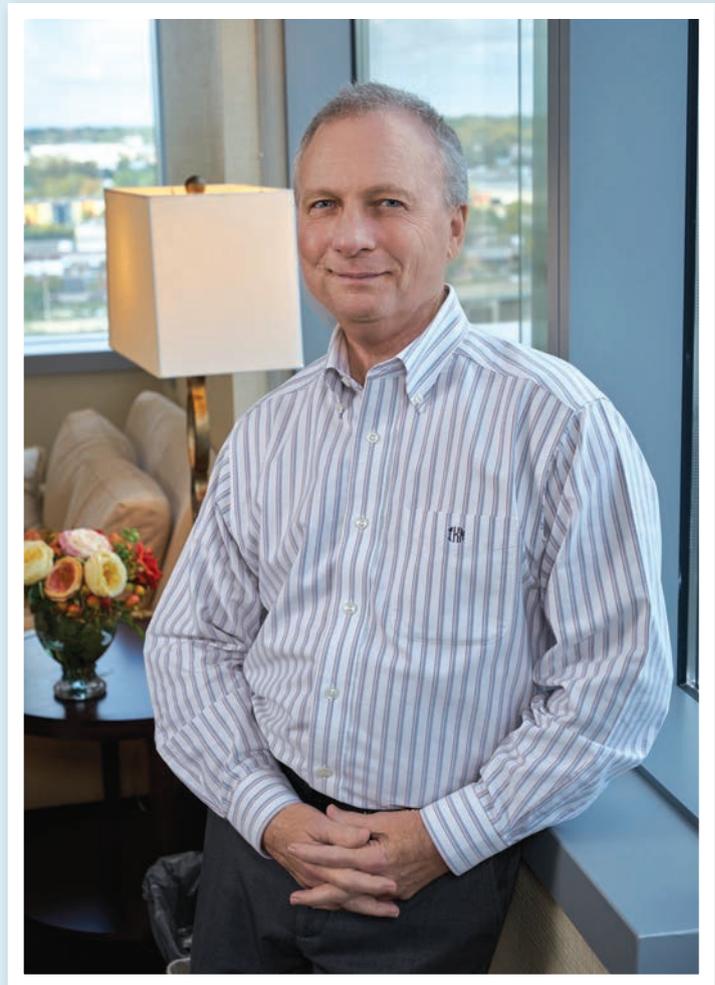
From the beginning, Keegan's cancer defied the statistics. He didn't smoke and rarely drank alcohol, the prime risk factors for developing squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck. His cancer was initially declared highly treatable, and Matthew Old, MD, removed the tumor at the base of his tongue, along with 63 lymph nodes.

A new lump in his neck a year later came with a scarier prognosis. Despite seven weeks of radiation and chemotherapy, a PET scan a year and a half later showed the cancer had spread to his right lung. "I remember seeing Dr. Old's face when he saw three spots lit up on the lung, and he gave me the possibility of the metastatic diagnosis, which was later confirmed," Keegan says.

"These clinical trials are working. We're creating new statistics that people can use, and the new statistics offer hope."

— Terry Keegan

The historical grim statistics meant that Keegan likely had 12 to 18 months left with Donna, his wife of more than 35 years, and their two sons, Terence and Ryan. A longtime engineer who had painstakingly tracked all of his treatment regimens on spreadsheets, Keegan understood statistics well. But fortunately for him, the OSUCCC – James had a clinical trial with a new immunotherapy drug that would help him to defy the odds. In March 2015, he started a two-year clinical trial on a drug from Bristol-Myers Squibb called Opdivo®.



"Within the first two treatments, the tumor started to shrink. By Christmas of 2015, the cancerous tumor and lymph nodes were gone," says Keegan. "To this day, I have no evidence of the disease." Now that the clinical trial has ended, he takes a maintenance dosage of Opdivo "just to be safe" and to provide more data to the research efforts.

Keegan does his part to raise money for research, riding in Pelotonia the past five years, and he couldn't be more vocal about the importance of supporting the OSUCCC – James. After all, he knows firsthand how critical these advancements are to people's lives. "These clinical trials are working," says Keegan. "We're creating new statistics that people can use, and the new statistics offer hope."

Are There Cancer Clues in Your Family Tree?

Look for These High-Risk Red Flags

The impacts of lifestyle choices on cancer risk are familiar to many people. But our genetic makeups are all our own.

“If any of your close relatives has cancer, it can raise your chances of developing the disease,” says **Heather Hampel, MS, LGC**, associate director of the Division of Human Genetics at the OSUCCC – James.

Seeking out your family’s cancer history can let you know if some extra steps—like genetic testing and/or earlier or more frequent cancer screening—may lead to lifesaving intervention. Here are four things that can help you make sure you’re getting the right details.

1. Recognize the red flags of hereditary cancer risk

Most people, unfortunately, have at least one relative who has or had cancer, but the details may indicate an increased risk for the whole family, according to Hampel. “If you have a family history of early-onset cancer (diagnosed before age 50), relatives with more than one cancer (not counting metastases), or three relatives on the same side of your family with the same or related cancers (breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreas or colon, uterine, ovarian, and stomach), you should consider having a cancer genetics evaluation to determine whether your family might have a hereditary cancer susceptibility.”

2. Even “minor” genes can cause major issues

When it comes to cancer, any rise in risk is well worth identifying. Make sure you don’t disregard cases in your family even if they seem less likely to be strongly hereditary based on the red flags listed above. “There may be minor genes shared in families that slightly increase cancer risks when combined with shared environmental risk factors—living in the same places, eating similar diets, having similar lifestyles.



3. Details, details, details!

Every bit of knowledge can be important in determining if you can follow the general population cancer screening and prevention guidelines, or if you might need a little bit extra. Make sure to ask your relatives for any details they can remember, no matter how small. “Some people need to start their cancer screening tests earlier and/or repeat them more frequently based on their family history of cancer,” Hampel says.

4. Start the conversation

Even among relatives, cancer can be a sad and scary subject. Strongly consider taking on the role of discussion-starter via phone, email, social media or in person—holiday gatherings can be great opportunities—to make sure vital health information isn’t left unshared. A little conversation now can lead to a happier and healthier family for generations to come.



A Legacy of Caring and “Awareness” That Survives

In the nearly five years between her ovarian cancer diagnosis and her passing in June 2014, Patricia DiNunzio spent an immense amount of time at Ohio State’s JamesCare Gynecologic Oncology office at Mill Run.

Patricia wasn’t the type to sit quietly with a book in the waiting area or chemotherapy room, recalls her sister, Anamarie Rayburn, who often accompanied her to appointments. “She’d walk around and say hello to everyone, and if they were struggling to pay for their medications, she’d say, ‘Anamarie, get their insurance company on the phone.’ I really came to see her as the mayor of the infusion room.”

Patricia was a fierce advocate for her own care, keeping up with the latest advancements in research and experimental treatments and prompting her oncologist, Larry Copeland, MD, to sometimes joke, “Where did you get your medical degree again?”

Like many women diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Patricia’s



Above: Members of Patricia DiNunzio’s family with event emcee (second from left) at the Runway to Awareness Fashion Show. L to R: John DiNunzio, NBC4’s Matt Barnes, Anamarie Rayburn and Beverly DiNunzio

symptoms were a mystery to doctors for a year and a half before her diagnosis, which came after the cancer had metastasized. Early ovarian

cancer often causes no symptoms. The most common symptoms, such as bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, trouble eating or feeling full quickly, and urinary symptoms such as always feeling like you have to go or an increase in frequency of urination, are often symptoms of other, noncancerous conditions, making diagnosis difficult. By the time a patient is diagnosed, the cancer has usually spread.





The JamesCare Gynecologic Oncology space at Mill Run was renovated thanks to the Patricia A. DiNunzio Ovarian Cancer Fund.

Fueled by her passion for helping others and her drive to empower women to become their own healthcare advocates, she founded the Patricia A. DiNunzio Ovarian Cancer Fund in 2010. Patricia threw herself into fundraising, creating the Runway to Awareness Fashion Show that blended her zest for fashion with a desire to raise money for the fund's mission: to provide new gynecologic cancer patient education, increase community awareness for signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, and create nursing scholarships for degree advancements.

Even now, several years after her death, Patricia's legacy of caring for others with gynecologic cancers lives on through efforts led by her sister Anamarie and brother John DiNunzio. "It's a labor of love," says Anamarie. "I don't think about the time I'm putting into it; I think about how I can make things better."

Make things better, indeed. Recently, the DiNunzio Ovarian Cancer Fund enabled significant upgrades for JamesCare at Mill Run, including a remodeled break room that offers a peaceful respite for staff, while providing easier access to the patient care area. The fund also purchased 32-inch flat-screen televisions for each chemotherapy chair, as well as a

blanket warmer to provide comfort at a time when patients need it most. Says Krista Moore, nurse manager at Mill Run, "Our patients and staff are so grateful for everything the DiNunzio Fund has done. Many of our staff members knew Pat well and have remained close with her family."

With the comfort and needs of patients firmly in mind, the DiNunzio Fund also connects patients to Reiki and other holistic treatments from Urban Zen; provides nursing scholarships and professional development opportunities for staff; has funded research by Ohio State's Jeffrey Fowler, MD, on provider "burnout" in obstetrics and gynecologic cancers; and continues the tradition Patricia began of providing comfort bags to new patients containing must-have items for surviving grueling treatments.

To raise money for the fund, Anamarie and John continue to grow and evolve the Runway to Awareness Fashion Show, presented each year by Upper Arlington-based designer boutique Leál. In its first year, the show raised \$12,000. Now heading into its eighth year, the show raises more than \$50,000 annually. The most recent show included runway looks modeled by OSUCCC – James oncologists—a new feature that delighted audience members, including ovarian cancer survivors whose attendance was made possible by a generous donor. It's a gesture Anamarie and John know their sister, who cared so deeply for other patients, would have loved.

"Pat always cared so much about patients' comfort," says Anamarie. "She wanted to leave a legacy. And she has."

Community Partners

The OSUCCC – James Community Partners Program consists of corporations, individuals and community groups that 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. To learn more, please contact The James Development Office at 614-293-2120, communitypartnerevents@osumc.edu, or visit go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners.

Joan Andrews Hays “Help Cure Bile Duct Cancer”

Benefiting the Joan Andrews Hays Bile Duct Cancer Research Fund – *Raised over \$16,000*

The Joan Andrews Hays Foundation held its third annual event to take a grand slam at bile duct cancer, with the Help Cure Bile Duct Cancer Tennis Fundraiser on Sept. 10 at Worthington Hills Country Club. Guests participated in tennis drills with the pros, played pickleball and ran drills

with the Ohio State women’s tennis team.

Attendees enjoyed musical acts by Blue

Cats, and Brutus Buckeye dropped by for a surprise visit. Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD, spoke about the importance of community support, research, clinical trials and treatment for cholangiocarcinoma—bile duct cancer.

Joan Andrews Hays died of bile duct cancer at the age of 60. Joan was full of life and brought a smile to those who crossed her path. She was an avid tennis player, so it was only fitting that this tennis event was formed in her name. Marie Andrews, Joan’s mother, created the Joan Andrews Hays Bile Duct Cancer Research Fund at the OSUCCC – James.

To date, the foundation’s activities have raised over \$100,000 for the fund.



Papa John’s Charity Challenge

Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research – *Raised more than \$70,000*

The inaugural Papa John’s Charity Challenge, presented by Byers Imports, was held on Aug. 28 at the Medallion Club. The day kicked off with lunch on the plaza, followed by a program featuring an update from the OSUCCC – James, the Papa John’s Goal Patrol James Unity Event and the national anthem, sung by the Columbus Blue Jackets’ Leo Welsh. Honorary Survivor Jamie Fichner sent golfers off to the course for an 18-hole golf scramble.

Golfers enjoyed dinner and a live auction with Cameron Fontana of ABC6/Fox28 as the auctioneer. Papa John’s Charity Challenge co-founders Charles Burris and Mike Zimmer shared remarks.





A Christmas to Cure Cancer

Benefiting the Heather Pick Music Program – *Raised more than \$90,000*

The 16th annual A Christmas to Cure Cancer was held on Dec. 1 at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Guests enjoyed a festive evening of live entertainment, delicious food catered by Smith & Wollensky, a silent and live auction and the holiday lights at the Columbus Zoo.

A Christmas to Cure Cancer was founded by Mark Puskarich. The evening was hosted by WBNS-10TV's Angela An.

Beat Michigan! Beat Cancer! 5K and Fun Run

Benefiting the Ovarian Cancer Research and Education in Gynecology Fund – *Raised over \$31,000*

The first Beat Michigan! Beat Cancer! 5K and Fun Run benefiting ovarian cancer research was organized in 2009 by Barrington Elementary School fourth graders Molly O'Connor and Dante Landolfi. Molly's mother and Dante's grandmother died of ovarian cancer, and the two students wanted to raise funds and awareness for research. With the support of their two elementary classes, they brought together nearly 900 runners and raised approximately \$23,000 for ovarian cancer research at the OSUCCC – James.

Molly and Dante—now seniors at Upper Arlington High School—brought the race back this year for their Senior Capstone project with the help of current fourth graders at Barrington Elementary School, who served on the 5K committee. Students hosted ovarian cancer educational workshops, secured race sponsors and donations, and made items—such as teal buckeye necklaces—to sell at the race.

The 2017 Beat Michigan! Beat Cancer! 5K was held on Nov. 4, 2017, at the Jones Middle School track. A pep rally to kick off the 5K featured David Cohn, MD, professor and director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Ohio State and director of medical affairs at the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.



Research Turning the Tide in the Effort to End Cervical Cancer

About 13,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2018, and a little more than 4,000 will die of this disease, according to the American Cancer Society. While each of these numbers is down dramatically compared to statistics from 50 years ago, they are “still too high,” according to **Ritu Salani, MD**, an associate professor in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at the OSUCCC – James.

Salani is determined to reduce the number of cervical cancer diagnoses and deaths even further through education, vaccination and research.

She recently completed the first phase of a clinical trial that shows great promise in treating women whose cervical cancer has returned and who would otherwise have very poor prognoses.

Prevention and early diagnosis are important because approximately 35 percent of the women diagnosed and treated for cervical cancer will develop “a recurrent or persistent disease,” Salani says. “The prognosis is they’ll only have 18 months to 24 months.”

Research is another key to beating cervical cancer. Salani and the OSUCCC – James are part of a recently completed phase I clinical trial that utilized a more targeted treatment for patients who experience a recurrence. “Chemotherapy has been the recommended treatment, but there’s limited success as the cancer often finds a way to grow,” Salani said.

To help the chemotherapy do its job more effectively, this new clinical trial also treated patients with a PARP inhibitor. PARP is an enzyme found in cells that has many functions, including the repair of DNA damage. By inhibiting—or blocking—the PARP in the cervical cancer cells from doing



Ritu Salani, MD

its job, “The cancer cells can’t repair themselves, and they will die,” Salani says.

This clinical trial was a national effort organized by the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) Foundation, an independent and international nonprofit organization, of which Salani is a member.

“We had 29 patients with evaluable disease on the study, and we had a 75 percent clinical benefit rate, which exceeds the current standards,” Salani says.

The next step is to find funding for a larger, phase II clinical trial. Salani is optimistic that the incidence and death rate from cervical cancer will continue to decline. Reaching this goal motivates her.

“What drives me is my patients and their families—that’s why I do this,” she says. “We’re making an impact on this disease, and we’re on the cusp of some big breakthroughs.”



Upcoming EVENTS

ALPHA TAU OMEGA CASINO NIGHT

March 2, 2018

7:30 p.m.

Ohio Union Archie M. Griffin

Grand Ballroom

alphatauomegaosu.com

Proceeds benefit the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

The second-largest fundraiser by Ohio State students, this fun casino night is hosted by the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity at The Ohio State University. Last year's event, with Urban and Shelley Meyer in attendance, hit its best fundraising year yet, with over \$55,000 raised!

HEAD FOR THE CURE 5K COLUMBUS

April 15, 2018

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Genoa Park

headforthecure.org

Jenna Heilman

jenna@headforthecure.org

Proceeds benefit the Neuro-Oncology Novel Therapies and Research Fund

The inaugural Columbus Head for the Cure 5K will be hosted by the Head for the Cure Foundation, which raises funds for brain cancer research as well as awareness and hope for the brain cancer community.

BREATH OF HOPE GALA

April 21, 2018

6:30 – 10:30 p.m.

L Brands

Three Limited Parkway

Columbus, OH 43230

breathofhopeohio.com

Wendy Hauswirth

wendy@breathofhopeohio.com

Proceeds benefit the Blue Beautiful Skies Fund for Lung Cancer Research

This annual event includes dinner, live and silent auctions, and inspirational survivor stories. David Carbone, MD, PhD, and his colleagues will share news about the statewide initiative, "Beating Lung Cancer in Ohio." Help celebrate survivors and bring hope to lung cancer patients.

THE JACK ROTH ROCK 'N RUN/WALK

June 10, 2018

9 a.m.

Bexley High School

jackrothfund.org

Proceeds benefit the Jack Roth Memorial Fund, promoting the vital research and treatment necessary to combat lung cancer through the OSUCCC – James

The course will take runners and walkers through central Bexley's beautiful neighborhoods. The event will include a fun-filled morning with food, music, awards and prizes! The food, fun and fitness marketplace will feature local food and health and wellness vendors. Kids' activities include face painting, balloon making, glitter tattoos, braid bar and bounce house.

HOLMES COUNTY WALKS FOR THE OSUCCC – JAMES

June 15, 2018

6 – 11 p.m.

Harvest Ridge

8990 Township 301

Millersburg, OH 44654

Julie Sponaugie

porchladylady34@aol.com

Proceeds benefit the OSUCCC – James

This will be a walkathon-style event featuring food, games for kids, a live DJ, survivor dinner and team fundraising.

18TH ANNUAL GEORGE R. TUCKETT MEMORIAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

June 16, 2018

8 a.m.

Westchester Golf Course

6300 Bent Grass Blvd.

Canal Winchester, OH 43110

Matt Wolfe

wolfem6@gmail.com

Proceeds benefit the Cancer Strategic Support Fund

This 18th annual golf outing is held to raise money for cancer research in honor of George and Beth Tuckett. Proceeds are raised through team registration, sponsorship, silent auction, raffle and donations.



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

Create a Cancer-Free World With Us
Give.osu.edu/James

The James



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Join us! *step up for*
Stefanie's CHAMPIONS

4-MILE OR 1-MILE WALK/RUN

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Join Chris Spielman and the Spielman family for the 3rd annual walk/run celebrating the champions in the lives of cancer survivors!
Location: Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center

Register today by visiting

go.osu.edu/stepup