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



Genomic study

points to new treatment approaches
for advanced small-cell lung cancer

The James



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

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04



**Survivor encourages others
to get timely cancer screenings**

06



**Genomic study points to new
treatment approaches for
advanced small-cell lung cancer**

12



**Recognizing the JEGS
Foundation and Coughlin
family generosity**

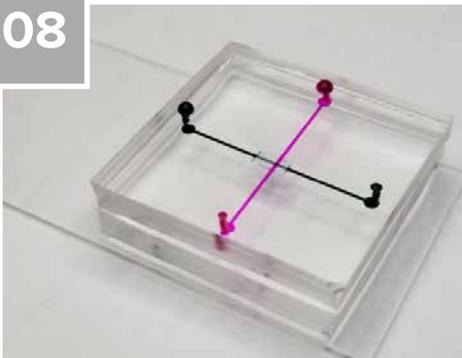
13



**'A source of hope': President Biden
touts support for cancer doctors
and researchers**



08



Cancer engineering: Improving cancer diagnostics through microfluidics

10



Newly established professorship will advance cancer research

11



\$10 million gift supports new myeloma research center

16



An immunotherapy clinical trial saved my life

Recurring Features

At The James 2

Community Partners 14

Upcoming Events 17

AT THE JAMES



Marcos J. de Lima, MD

Ohio State recruits top oncologist to expand cell therapy program, lead bone marrow transplant services

The OSUCCC – James has recruited Marcos J. de Lima, MD, to lead its Blood and Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapy programs, two key leadership positions within central Ohio’s only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer center and largest freestanding hospital.

Effective April 1, de Lima has joined an already robust, leading blood cancer team that includes more than 67 hematologists and researchers working in subspecialized, cross-functional clinical care and research teams in the Division of Hematology at Ohio State’s College of Medicine.

Prior to joining the OSUCCC – James, de Lima served as co-leader of the Hematopoietic and Immune Cancer Biology Program at Case Comprehensive Cancer Center and director of the Hematologic Malignancies and Stem Cell Transplant Program at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center. He brings more than two decades of experience in developing and conducting studies in stem cell transplantation and cells of the immune system to the OSUCCC – James.

“I firmly believe that Ohio State has it all: forward-thinking leadership, resources, commitment and willingness to bring forth new treatments to patients. My vision to create a multidisciplinary engine of cellular therapy development and production has found a home,” says de Lima, who will serve as a professor in the Division of Hematology at Ohio State and as a member of the OSUCCC – James Leukemia Research Program.

An internationally respected expert in cellular therapy and stem cell transplant, de Lima is a critical recruit who will help the OSUCCC – James expand its existing cellular therapy program for the treatment of cancer as well as applications in other diseases.

Study suggests common drug could be used to prevent certain skin cancers

An oral drug currently used in the clinical setting to treat neuromuscular diseases could also help prevent a common form of skin cancer caused by damage from ultraviolet-B (UVB) radiation from the sun, according to new data published by researchers at the OSUCCC – James.

The results were reported in *Cancer Prevention Research*, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research. **Sujit Basu, MD, PhD**, a researcher with the OSUCCC – James Translational Therapeutics Research Program and a professor of pathology at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, was senior author of the study.

Previous peer-reviewed, published studies have shown that dopamine receptors play a role in the development of cancerous tumors; however, their role in precancerous lesions is unknown.

In this new study, OSUCCC – James researchers report data showing that the neurotransmitter/neurohormone dopamine, by activating its D2 receptors, can stop the development and progression of certain UVB-induced precancerous squamous skin cancers. Researchers also describe the molecular sequence of events that leads to cancer suppression.

“Our study suggests that a commonly used drug that activates specific dopamine receptors could help reduce squamous cell skin cancer recurrence and possibly even prevent the disease entirely. This is especially exciting because this is a drug that is already readily used in clinical settings and is relatively inexpensive. We are excited to continue momentum in this area of research,” says Basu.

The OSUCCC – James is working on plans to begin further testing in a phase I experimental clinical trial.

Ohio State launches fourth statewide cancer research initiative

Turning the PAGE on Breast Cancer in Ohio is focused on increasing breast cancer education, facilitating access to genetic counseling, and ensuring appropriate screening, follow-up for abnormalities and treatment for Black women who are at an increased risk for breast cancer in 12 Ohio counties. Participating counties were selected based on having the highest rates of breast cancer mortality among Black women and include Franklin, Fairfield, Clark, Butler, Hamilton, Lake, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Trumbull, Summit, Stark and Mahoning. **Electra Paskett, PhD, MSPH**, and **Heather Hampel, MS, LGC**, serve as principal investigators of the study.

“Studies confirm that in the United States, Black women are 42% more likely to die of breast cancer than white women—and on average, Black women develop more aggressive breast cancer and die at younger ages than white women,” says Paskett, who serves as co-leader of the OSUCCC – James Cancer Control Research Program.

“We are working to identify and directly break down those barriers to help women who are at the highest risk of developing breast cancer,” Paskett adds. “Our goal is to help these women both understand their risk and get the medical guidance they need.”

Learn more at endbreastcancerohio.org.



Turning The Page
On Breast Cancer



SURVIVOR

encourages others to get



Nancy Rudd (right) was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. She credits her trust in the safety of health care facilities with saving her life by giving her the confidence to keep her annual mammogram appointment.

A college professor and mother of three, Nancy Rudd is a no-nonsense woman. And her message is clear when it comes to encouraging others to get timely cancer screenings.

Nancy can personally speak to the power of early detection. She was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer on a screening mammogram in November 2020. She was no stranger to screening mammography, though; it had been a regular part of Nancy's life since she was 34 years old, when she was diagnosed with a fibrocystic condition of the breast.

"Sometimes I think fear holds us in place and causes us to avoid taking actions that scare us. When it comes to preventive cancer screening, that just simply isn't acceptable. Decades of research show that early detection saves lives, and there are scientifically backed tests to find cancers early. What a gift! As a breast cancer survivor, I want everyone to hear my direct message: Just do it! Push the fear aside and be proactive with your cancer screening, because early detection saves lives."

She says she is incredibly grateful that her cancer was caught in its earliest stages, when it was most treatable. She underwent a lumpectomy of the right breast, followed by five treatments of prone, accelerated partial-breast irradiation (APBI) to reduce the risk of recurrence. APBI is an option for women with certain types of early-stage breast cancer and offers the benefit of highly focused therapy in a shorter time.

encourage people in her life to get timely cancer screenings—breast, colon, prostate, skin and lung, if applicable.

"Early detection saves lives, and I feel so very fortunate to have benefited from this in my own life," she adds.

Nancy stays busy as a professor emeritus in The Ohio State University Department of Human Sciences. She teaches part time in the freshman seminar program in Ohio State's College of Arts & Sciences, and she conducts research on human behavior specifically related to culture, body image and personal

disease, based on smoking history. It is so important that people continue to get timely cancer screenings to improve chances of detecting cancer in its earliest—if not precancerous—stages," says David E. Cohn, MD, MBA, a gynecologic oncologist and chief medical officer at the OSUCCC – James.

"The last thing we want is for people to avoid seeking medical help and to present with advanced-stage disease that is more difficult to treat," adds William Farrar, MD, a surgical oncologist and CEO of the OSUCCC – James.

“Every day, we work to make our hospitals and clinics a *safe haven* for our patients to obtain cancer care.”

DAVID E. COHN, MD, MBA

aesthetics. She enjoys spending time with her family, which includes her husband, three adult children and five furry feline friends.

Why cancer screening should be a priority, despite pandemic

Data from the American Cancer Society and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network—two leading cancer organizations—shows a concerning and significant drop in recommended cancer screening and treatment in 2020 compared to previous years.

Cancer screening and diagnostic testing information

Cancer screening exams are available through The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) and can be made by calling **1-800-293-5066**.

In addition, the OSUCCC – James has launched a Cancer Diagnostic Center to give individuals direct, expedited access to diagnostic testing for cancer. The goal is to provide immediate, community-wide patient access to cancer providers

timely cancer screenings

Nancy says having her radiation therapy in a shorter, higher-dose regimen was helpful in getting her back to normal life faster—and reducing trips to the hospital during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

When her daughter asked her what she would like for Christmas, Nancy said she wanted just one thing for the rest of her life: for her daughter, then age 40, to get her annual screening mammogram. Nancy takes every opportunity to

Experts say this side effect of the pandemic could lead to a staggering number of preventable cancer deaths over the next 10 years and beyond. Oncology experts agree that people should not delay any necessary prevention or care.

"We have reliable cancer screening tools available for colorectal, cervical, breast and prostate cancer, as well as lung cancer screening protocols for individuals who are at increased risk for this

for anyone with a suspected cancer, especially in communities where access to health care is limited and has become even more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more, visit cancer.osu.edu/diagnostic-center.

"Every day, we work to make our hospitals and clinics a safe haven for our patients to obtain cancer care," says Cohn.

Genomic study points to new treatment approaches for advanced small-cell lung cancer



Small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) accounts for **up to 15%** of lung cancer cases.

SCLC initially responds well to chemotherapy, but it often recurs in a poorly understood **treatment-resistant form** that is usually fatal.

A new study of advanced small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) led by researchers at the OSUCCC – James has identified molecular patterns linked to patients developing resistance to certain therapies.

This study, published in the journal *JTO Clinical and Research Reports*, examined more than 60 tumors from five patients. OSUCCC – James researchers identified distinct mutational and molecular changes in four SCLC subtypes. The findings provide new insights into the patterns' treatment resistance and could offer new targets for the development of more effective immunotherapy and other therapies for advanced SCLC, which progresses quickly and is usually fatal.

SCLC accounts for up to 15% of lung cancer cases worldwide. The disease often responds well to chemotherapy when first diagnosed but then recurs in a lethal, treatment-resistant form.

“Advanced SCLC often does not respond as well to immune therapies that are effective in other types of lung

cancer, and the reasons for this are poorly understood,” says principal investigator **Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD**, a medical oncologist and member of the OSUCCC – James Translational Therapeutics Program. He is also an associate professor in the Ohio State College of Medicine's Division of Medical Oncology and medical director of the OSUCCC – James Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Cancer Genomics Laboratory. Other authors of the study include **Hui-Zi Chen, MD, PhD**; **Russell Bonneville, PhD**; and **Anoosha Paruchuri, PhD**, all of whom received Pelotonia Fellowships.

“Our findings suggest that the causes of treatment resistances in advanced SCLC may be subtype-specific,” says Roychowdhury. “They also highlight the

importance of tumor genomic studies to identify the most effective therapies for these patients and to support development of new therapies for this often-fatal disease.”

Genomics is the process of identifying cancer-related mutations that drive the growth and spread of cancers. Oncologists can gather genomic information from individual patients to help match them with the best therapy based on their unique tumor characteristics. This concept is referred to as precision cancer medicine. This approach has important significance in metastatic and rare forms of cancer, where treatment options are often limited.

“Understanding the specific drivers of a person's cancer can help us identify potential alternative treatment options through clinical trials that would not have been possible otherwise,” adds Roychowdhury.



This study identified molecular changes in **four subtypes** of advanced SCLC.

The findings could lead to the development of **new targeted therapies** for advanced SCLC.

For this study, Roychowdhury and his colleagues analyzed genomic DNA and total mRNA from tumor cells removed from five deceased patients with advanced SCLC, along with circulating tumor DNA. The tissue was obtained as part of a rapid research autopsy study, originally supported by a Pelotonia Idea Grant. Tissue was collected within 16 hours of each patient's passing, minimizing the molecular changes that occur in cells after death.

The five patients had consented to undergo a research autopsy soon after death to allow the researchers to collect and evaluate many tumors. The researchers used sequencing technologies to identify genetic and molecular changes in four SCLC tumor subtypes. Many of the changes are associated with resistance to immune therapy and other treatments.

Key findings include:

Feasibility for rapid research autopsy to provide in-depth insights into resistant lung cancers

Evidence that tumors continue to evolve after patients receive treatment. Even a single patient may have six to eight genetically distinct subtypes of their cancer — which could have implications for future drug development

The most common neuroendocrine SCLC subtypes showed high expression of the enzyme ARG2, a possible suppressor of immune responses

Support for the known association between the Wnt pathway and chemoresistance in advanced SCLC

“Our results need to be validated by larger studies,” says Roychowdhury, “but they suggest that subtyping SCLC patients before systemic therapy could someday play a role in drug development and therapy selection.”

TIME AND CHANGE

THE OHIO STATE CAMPAIGN

*For those
who want a
cancer-free world.*

IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY

Widely considered the next frontier of cancer treatment, immuno-oncology is a non-toxic treatment that uses a body's own immune system to combat cancer.

cancer.osu.edu/piio

CANCER ENGINEERING

This discipline combines the brightest minds from the College of Engineering with the subspecialized oncology researchers at the Comprehensive Cancer Center, leading to more innovative treatments.

cancer.osu.edu/engineering

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Delivery of exceptional research-based care will allow our patients to see more than one specialist in a day, getting them back to their lives faster.

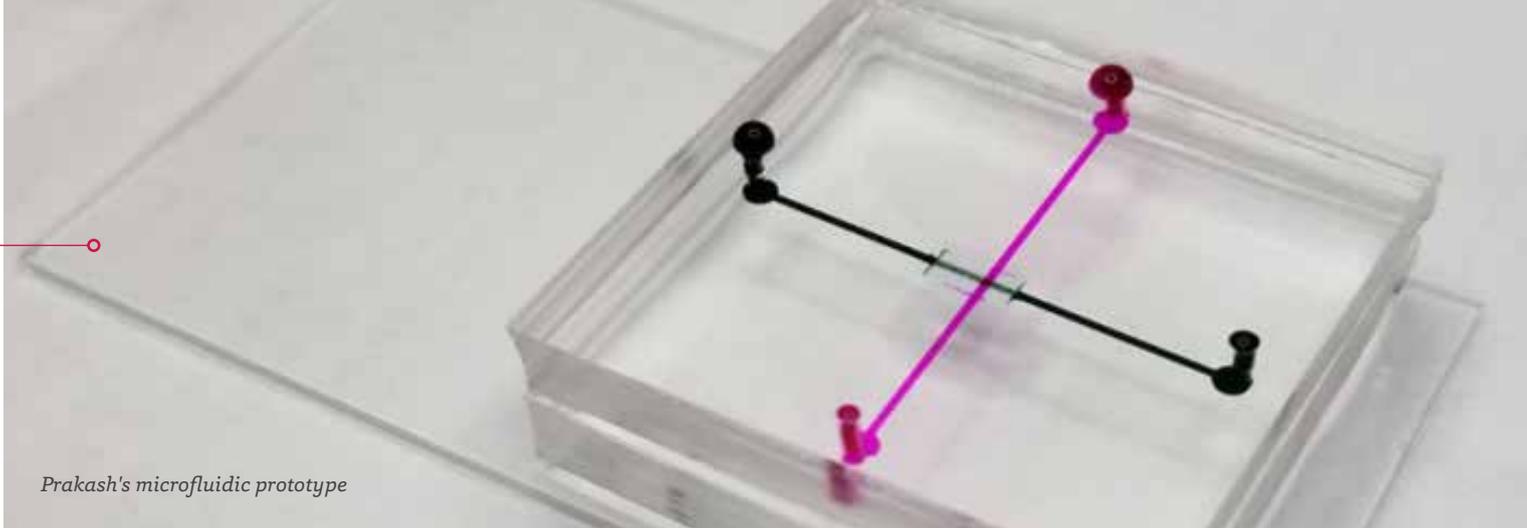
[buildingthefuture.osu.edu/
west-campus-ambulatory-facilities](https://buildingthefuture.osu.edu/west-campus-ambulatory-facilities)

Creating a cancer-free world is an ambitious vision, one that requires the right combination of talent, expertise and passion. Through *Time and Change*, we believe we can create paths forward to enhance the landscape of cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment.

The OSUCCC – James is focusing on three key areas within the university's *Time and Change* Campaign: immuno-oncology, cancer engineering and the development of state-of-the-art facilities.

Continue reading to learn how engineering can play a role in the fight against cancer.





Prakash's microfluidic prototype

Cancer engineering

IMPROVING CANCER DIAGNOSTICS THROUGH MICROFLUIDICS

HOPE FOR SARCOMA PATIENTS

Sarcoma is a particularly deadly form of cancer. Of the 13,130 people who received a sarcoma diagnosis in 2020, more than half are not expected to survive. One reason sarcoma claims so many lives is that it forms in soft tissue, where it can frequently grow undetected. By the time it becomes visible, the disease has often spread to other areas of the body, making it very difficult to successfully treat.

MICROFLUIDICS: NEW BLOOD TEST MAY SAVE LIVES

Microfluidics is a field in which the precise control and manipulation of fluid is applied to practical situations. A new blood-based test developed at Ohio State offers hope for early sarcoma diagnosis that is less invasive and less expensive than current diagnostic options that have been used for decades.

WHAT THE BLOOD TEST MEANS FOR PATIENTS

“After a long operation to remove a confirmed tumor, it is very difficult in scans to differentiate tumor recurrence from post-surgical scarring,” says OSUCCC Director **Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, FACS**, a sarcoma specialist. “But if you can detect something a tumor releases into the bloodstream, that provides you with a heightened index of suspicion of what you may be seeing on a scan.

“Instead of relying on repeat scans over months to determine size increase or decrease, we can potentially identify recurrence at a very early point. We’re very excited about the potential.”

OHIO STATE TEAM LEADS THE NEW RESEARCH

Pollock is interested in exosomes, or particles that are extruded by most cells into the blood stream. Exosomes contain nucleic acids and protein cargoes, some of which may serve as biomarkers to help with early detection of sarcomas.

Pollock turned to microfluidics expert **Shaurya Prakash, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at The Ohio State University College of Engineering, for a cancer engineering partnership to more effectively isolate sarcoma-derived circulating exosomes



Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, FACS



Shaurya Prakash, PhD

and determine if their cargo could help identify undetected sarcomas elsewhere in the body.

Prakash and Pollock developed a microfluidic prototype for extracting exosomes from the blood. **The new technology has been shown to enhance biomarker detection at a fraction of the cost and time compared to current best methodologies.**

The team is refining the prototype; Pollock and Prakash are working toward biomarker-validating clinical trials. Microfluidic approaches can also be applied to many other areas of cancer diagnostics, including other sarcomas, leukemia, and lung, prostate and gastrointestinal cancers.

THE CENTER FOR CANCER ENGINEERING

Microfluidics is one of multiple projects underway at The Center for Cancer Engineering, a collaboration between the College of Engineering and the OSUCCC – James. The center seeks to improve patient lives by integrating innovative engineering technologies and data analytics with cancer science to enhance cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

“It’s been a total partnership,” Pollock says. “None of this would have happened without the mutual interest and opportunities to communicate about possibilities.”

Newly established professorship will advance cancer research



Deliang Guo, PhD, has been named to the Urban and Shelley Meyer Professorship in Cancer. This newly established professorship has been made possible with \$1 million from the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research.

The Urban and Shelley Meyer Professorship in Cancer will advance cancer research through innovative ideas, novel therapies, state-of-the-art technology, basic and translational research, and other initiatives to more quickly improve patient treatments and outcomes.

Guo is a tenured professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology. His laboratory team's research focuses on understanding metabolic reprogramming in malignancy and aims to identify novel molecular targets and effective therapeutic strategies for cancer. Guo joined the OSUCCC – James in 2011, and in 2015 his study investigating cancer lipid metabolism was featured as one of “*Ten Breakthrough and Insights for Cancer Research*” by the American Cancer Society. Guo's team has four active National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 grants to support their ongoing research.

“I am very excited for the appointment of this professorship. Our research aims to translate scientific discoveries into new therapies for patients, and this will have a profound impact on our work to create a cancer-free world,” says Guo.

The Urban Meyer III and Shelley Meyer Chair for Cancer Research



Timothy M. Pawlik, MD, PhD, MPH, professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, was named the Urban Meyer III and Shelley Meyer Chair for Cancer Research in 2016. He has been upholding his commitment to work “above the line” in caring for patients, delivering state-of-the-art treatment and performing innovative research in pursuit of a cancer-free world.

Pawlik's research is contributing to the understanding, prognosis, staging and care of patients with complex liver and pancreas cancers. His research also includes understanding how social vulnerability, race and other social determinants of health impact the ability of patients to receive quality care and achieve the best possible outcomes.



The Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research is dedicated to advancing cancer research for all cancers. The fund was established in 2013 and continues to benefit from the generosity of friends, colleagues, athletic community members and enthusiasts in honor of Urban F. Meyer III and Shelley J. Meyer.

Learn more at cancer.osu.edu/meyerfund

\$10 million gift supports new myeloma research center at Ohio State



The OSUCCC – James has received a \$10 million gift from the Paula and Rodger Riney Foundation to establish the Riney Family Foundation Myeloma Center for Advanced Research Excellence (Myeloma CARE).

A collaborative effort of the OSUCCC – James Drug Development Institute (DDI) and the Division of Hematology at Ohio State, this new center is focused on accelerating myeloma drug discovery and development projects at the OSUCCC – James. Initial projects will include the creation of a comprehensive, multi-institutional database for categorizing patient samples and correlating de-identified health data for future scientific studies aimed at better understanding and treatment of multiple myeloma.

This new financial support will enable the OSUCCC – James to accelerate drug discovery research to explore potential new treatments using specific molecular targets, including some identified by OSUCCC – James scientists. The gift will be made over the course of two years.

“We are very focused on pushing new therapies from the lab to clinical trials. Our progress may be faster and more impactful by developing methods to share discoveries and collaborate with colleagues at other major centers,” says **Don Benson, MD, PhD**, a professor in the Division of Hematology at Ohio State, myeloma program director and member of the Molecular Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention Program at the OSUCCC – James.

“By creating a collaborative research database to house patient samples from our institution and from those of our collaborators, we can all make

more meaningful discoveries that reach the bedside faster,” says **Jeff Patrick, PharmD**, director of the DDI. “People with myeloma don’t have time to wait—the future is bright, but there is still much work to do. We are so grateful to the Paula and Rodger Riney Foundation for believing in and supporting our mission.”

The center will be led by Benson and will include numerous clinicians and investigators from the OSUCCC – James who specialize in treating multiple myeloma and conducting related research.

Researchers will work closely with staff from the DDI at the OSUCCC – James to advance promising drug targets from the

“

We are enormously honored to receive the Riney family’s generous gift to drive new research discoveries through this outstanding collaboration.

”

HAROLD L. PAZ, MD, MS

laboratory to clinical testing. The DDI is a biotech-like institute embedded within the OSUCCC – James that employs a combination of targeted investments, strategic management and cutting-edge resources to drive projects from discovery through early-stage drug development, thus creating high-value new drug candidates.

“We are enormously honored to receive the Riney family’s generous gift to drive new research discoveries through this outstanding collaboration. The Myeloma Center for Advanced Research Excellence unites our expert researchers from the DDI and the Division of Hematology to accelerate innovative treatments for patients with multiple myeloma,” says **Harold L. Paz, MD, MS**, executive vice president and chancellor for Health Affairs at The Ohio State University and CEO of the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center.

“As a five-year survivor, my family and I personally understand and are passionate about investing in this scientific research that is absolutely critical for finding less toxic, more effective treatments for people facing this disease. We are honored we have the ability to invest in hope through multiple myeloma research at the OSUCCC – James,” says **Rodger Riney**.

Kristina M. Johnson, PhD, president of The Ohio State University, notes the critical need for continued laboratory research to advance discoveries that improve care at the bedside.

“Academic research is critical to modern-day medical advancements, and all treatment breakthroughs have their roots in the laboratory,” says Johnson. “The Riney family’s extraordinary commitment to Ohio State’s cancer drug discovery and development is an investment in hope for better outcomes and richer futures for patients and their families. Their generosity will improve countless lives for years to come.”



Benson shares more inside info about the Myeloma CARE center on our Cancer-Free World Podcast.

soundcloud.com/thejamescancerfreeworld/benson

Recognizing the JEGS Foundation and Coughlin family generosity

The Coughlin family's personal experience with cancer formed their commitment to raise public awareness about cancer prevention and to raise dollars for cancer research. Reaching out through their Delaware, Ohio-based, family-run businesses of JEGS Mail Order and Team JEGS Racing, the JEGS Foundation for Cancer Research provides access to information, support for novel cancer research and an avenue to become involved to make a difference.

Since 2014, The JEGS Foundation has awarded an individual who has demonstrated commitment to and passion for creating a cancer-free world with the JEGS Foundation Award of Excellence.

The 2020 award was presented to a group of individuals in recognition of their work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic—all faculty and staff of the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, including the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

The JEGS Foundation Award of Excellence is on display in the JEGS Foundation Lobby at The James.

Watch a special video about the 2020 award at go.osu.edu/JEGSgivesback



The foundation's unique logo—a ribbon bearing the black and white checkered motif of a race car flag, is filled in with colors representing various cancer-awareness programs.



‘A SOURCE of hope’

President Biden touts support for cancer doctors, researchers during Ohio State visit

President Joe Biden brought his passion for cancer research to Ohio State, where he met with doctors to discuss innovation underway at The James—a “source of hope” that continues to break new ground in the nationwide effort to create a cancer-free world.

The president came to The James to mark the 11th anniversary of the signing of the Affordable Care Act, the landmark legislation that transformed health coverage in the United States while also providing funds for advancements in medical technology, some of which are now in use at the OSUCCC – James, one of the nation’s leading comprehensive cancer centers.

The president was joined during his visit by James doctors, including **Arnab Chakravarti, MD, FASTRO, FACRO**, chair and professor of Radiation Oncology and holder of the Klotz Family Chair of Cancer Research, who shared details about the impact of the ACA support on patients in central Ohio.

“I just concluded a tour of the radiation oncology department here, which was expanded thanks to a \$100 million grant in the Affordable Care Act,” the president said after speaking with Chakravarti and other Ohio State doctors. “Because of our investments, this department has gone from being able to treat 60 to 70 patients a day to nearly 300 a day.

“This place is a source of hope.”

That hope is on display on The James’ radiation oncology floor, where specialists work with patients representing nearly every cancer type.

“The ACA grant award expanded access to care—including historically underserved patient populations—and patient volumes at The James,” Chakravarti says. “It also led to the development of sentinel Radiation Oncology technologies at Ohio State that have already dramatically improved the safety and quality of care for our patients, and which also hold the potential to transform the future of cancer care, especially with the advent of proton therapy and FLASH (a breakthrough, highly targeted proton therapy scheduled to begin use at Ohio State in 2023).”

During his visit, Biden had a lengthy conversation with OSUCCC – James leaders about the latest developments in cancer research, which are a personal passion for the president. Biden’s oldest son, Beau, passed away of glioblastoma—an aggressive form of brain cancer—at the age of 46.

“When I ran, I said I wanted to be a president who would preside over the end of cancer as we know it,” Biden said after touring the OSUCCC – James. “And when I see the strides we’ve made... I can tell you, it’s within our reach. I know we can do this.”

The support provided by the ACA has been instrumental in the progress made at The James—and at cancer centers throughout the country—since the bill’s signing. Continuing that partnership with the federal government will be a key in continuing to improve outcomes for cancer patients while also focusing on research that could prevent cases in the future, says James CEO **William Farrar, MD**.

“We were excited for the opportunity to welcome President Biden to The James,



Tameka Hairston, manager of the Case Management and Social Work Department at East Hospital, speaks about the impact of the Affordable Care Act and introduces Biden.



Arnab Chakravarti, MD, chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, discusses advances in cancer treatments with President Biden at the OSUCCC – James.

and to discuss our shared vision for a cancer-free world,” Farrar says. “The president has long been a passionate advocate for cancer research, and we look forward to working with his administration to break new ground in cancer care and research right here at Ohio State.”

The chance to see the impact of the ACA in person at the OSUCCC – James made an impression on the president, who expressed confidence in—and gratitude toward—Ohio State’s oncology team.

“All of the docs that are here that I got a chance to meet with today—thank you. You’re an incredible group of individuals,” he said. “We have some of the finest minds in the world.”

BERRY'S BLOOMS



\$25,000 raised

for the Pancreatic Cancer Community Access and Treatment Research Fund

Teri and Robert Berry of Berry's Blooms, a family-run flower farm in Medina, Ohio, had planned to host a dinner in their sunflower field in August 2020 to raise funds for pancreatic cancer research at the OSUCCC – James, but those plans had to be put on hold due to COVID-19. "The pandemic didn't stop cancer, and it didn't diminish our passion to raise funds and awareness for pancreatic cancer research at The James," the Berrys say. So when they had to delay their Evening in the Sunflower Field dinner until Aug. 21, 2021, they brainstormed how they could safely reach out to the community to help fund cancer research and community access to the OSUCCC – James. "We know flowers bring so much joy to people, so we used our flower farm as a springboard to start the fund in 2020. We hosted several pop-up events at the farm in which 100% of our flower sales went to the fund." Through the ingenuity of the Berrys and the generosity of their community, they have already raised \$25,000 for the Pancreatic Cancer Community Access and Treatment Research Fund, and they are looking forward to hosting their dinner this summer.

fb.me/e/1B81Lyt5b

Community Partners are passionate individuals, groups and corporations who share our vision of creating a cancer-free world. Hundreds of Community Partners are raising critical funds to further research, education and patient care at the OSUCCC – James. This past year, more than \$3.4 million has been raised through corporate initiatives, promotions and local events.

RAISE A RACKET



More than \$7,000 raised

for The Diane Crawford Cervical Cancer Research, Education and Outreach Fund

The 9th Annual Raise A Racket event was placed on hold because of COVID-19, but it didn't stop the group from raising awareness and funds to end human papillomavirus (HPV)-related cancers. Instead, the group hosted an online auction on Jan. 23. The organizers were pleasantly surprised by the turnout for this first-time auction. They were able to offer 57 packages donated by 29 individuals/businesses, and 63 bidding participants raised over \$7,000.

The group is looking forward to hosting its annual tennis fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022.

thecrawfordcrew.org

BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER VIRTUAL CRUISE WEEK



More than \$41,000 raised
for the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

The Buckeye Cruise for Cancer couldn't hold its annual sailing excursion last February because of the pandemic, but event organizers didn't let the week go by without having fun and raising funds for cancer research. During the week in which the 14th annual Buckeye Cruise would have been held (Feb. 21-26), the cruise team hosted five days of virtual events on its Facebook page, including silent auctions and raffles, hot wing-eating contests, surprise lunch deliveries from sponsors Roosters and Papa John's, trivia and cornhole contests, and an end-of-the-week livestreamed horse race featuring Buckeye Cruise staff, friends and Buckeye greats as celebrity jockeys. The week gave Buckeye Cruise for Cancer supporters a chance to spend time together from a distance and raised more than \$41,000 for the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research.

buckeyecruise.com

Learn more about becoming
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TEE IT OFF FOR BRAIN TUMORS



More than \$30,000 raised
for the Surgical Neuro Oncology Research Fund

Tee It Off for Brain Tumors was created in 2019 by Kevin Farrell. In association with the Rock and Roll Over Brain Cancer event, the group hosted its second annual golf outing at the Golf Club of Dublin in October. All proceeds from this outing go directly to the Surgical Neuro Oncology Research Fund, which supports clinical care, education and research in the area of surgical neuro-oncology for the treatment of brain tumors.

Farrell was diagnosed with a brain tumor in March 2015 at Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center (Veterans Association Center in Columbus, Ohio) and chose to be treated at the OSUCCC – James. Three surgeries and 45 days later, Farrell was released from the hospital. He is grateful for the care he received from **Russell Lonser, MD**, chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Ohio State; **Aaron Moberly, MD**, of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery; and their teams, residents, nurses, nursing assistants and so many others.

rockandrolloverbraincancer.org

PARTNERS

An immunotherapy clinical trial *saved my life*



Jay McDaniel celebrates after Pelotonia 2018

“In our family,” says 55-year-old cancer survivor Jay McDaniel, “it wasn’t a matter of if we would get cancer but when.”

Jay started having colonoscopies every five years, beginning at the age of 35, after his father died of cancer. In 2013, Jay was diagnosed with stage 3B colon cancer and underwent surgery and chemotherapy.

When his cancer recurred a few years later, a Pelotonia-funded clinical trial was just getting underway—an immunotherapy study that saved his life.

“I was able to participate in an immunotherapy trial called Pembro,” he recalls. Still relatively in his infancy at the time, immunotherapy had a marked impact on Jay’s treatment and recovery.

In fact, he was astonished at how differently he felt on immunotherapy compared to chemotherapy.

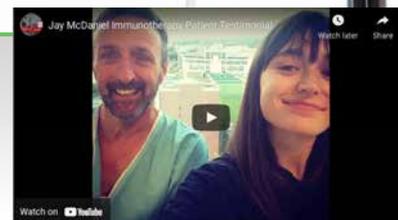
“The difference was incredible,” Jay shares. “On chemo, I had fatigue, no appetite, neuropathy, I slept a lot and had an extreme sensitivity to cold. But with immunotherapy, it really was just business as usual—I felt fantastic. I could golf, ride my bike, do any activity I normally would do and be active throughout treatment. I had no major side effects at all. It was like night and day.”

According to **Zihai Li, MD, PhD**, founding director of the Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology, the immune system “can remember things that happened in the past. Once it’s trained to deal with a particular type of cancer (using immunotherapy), there is a high likelihood that the cancer will not relapse.”

Heather Hampel, LGC, MS, associate director of the Division of Human Genetics at The Ohio State University and associate director for Biospecimen Research at the OSUCCC – James, adds, “We have seen it literally save lives, including some of our stage 4 patients who were going to be discharged to hospice because none of the standard therapies were working anymore.”

“I think I dodged a bullet. I think it was all about timing... I got to watch two of my daughters graduate from Ohio State, and my youngest is a senior at Ohio State,” says Jay.

Watch Jay discuss his cancer journey and his experience at the OSUCCC – James at go.osu.edu/JayMcDaniel



UPCOMING EVENTS

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, all events are subject to change.

Aug
14

JIM HARDY MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

August 14, 2021
Bent Tree Golf Club, Sunbury, OH

[sites.google.com/view/
jimhardymemorialgolfouting](https://sites.google.com/view/jimhardymemorialgolfouting)

Proceeds benefit the Cure for Pancreatic Cancer Fund

Aug
21

AN EVENING IN THE SUNFLOWER FIELD

August 21, 2021
Berry's Blooms, Medina, OH

fb.me/e/1B81Lyt5b

Proceeds benefit the Pancreatic Cancer Community
Access and Treatment Research Fund

Aug
23

PAPA JOHN'S CHARITY CHALLENGE

August 23, 2021
The Medallion Club, Westerville, OH

papajohnscharitychallenge.com

Proceeds benefit the Urban and Shelley Meyer
Fund for Cancer Research

Aug
28

MUSCLES FOR MYELOMA

August 28, 2021
Wolfe Park, Columbus, OH

[myelomacrowd.org/5th-annual-muscles-for-
myeloma-5k-and-1-mile-walk-in-columbus-ohio](https://myelomacrowd.org/5th-annual-muscles-for-myeloma-5k-and-1-mile-walk-in-columbus-ohio)

Proceeds benefit the MMORE for Multiple Myeloma
Research Fund



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

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