Pelotonia Funding Supports Statewide Research Initiatives
Opening Remarks

We often note that Ohio State’s cancer program is placing an ever-bigger footprint around the globe as we continue to make an impact in research, compassionate care and community relationships.

Nowhere is our expanding footprint more evident than here in Ohio, where we have directed funds from Pelotonia—our annual grassroots bicycle tour that raises money for cancer research at Ohio State—to support three statewide initiatives that are promoting prevention, early detection and better outcomes in colorectal, endometrial (uterine) and lung cancer.

Through these carefully coordinated efforts, which involve the participation of some 50 hospitals around the state, we are translating our cancer expertise into elevated prevention, care and education in many Ohio communities as we continue our pursuit of a cancer-free world. Our cover story for this issue of impactCancer takes a closer look at our three statewide initiatives and what they entail.

Also in this issue you’ll find stories about: two surgeons at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) who are pioneering a novel form of lymph node transfer surgery for patients suffering from lymphedema; author Dan Brown sharing his experience with the OSUCCC – James during his mother’s treatment; Block Lectureship awardee Mary-Claire King, PhD, and the barriers she helped eliminate to making genetic testing more accessible; and several other topics.

Please take time to read through this issue. I think you’ll find it interesting, informative and inspiring.

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At The James

22nd Annual Herbert and Maxine Block Lectureship Awarded to Geneticist Mary-Claire King, PhD

In the hands of world-renowned geneticist Mary-Claire King, PhD, science and medicine combine as a powerful force for bettering the human condition. To her, scientific inquiry is to be used as a tool for good.

Dr. King discovered a gene that can leave women at greater risk for breast cancer, then fought a company that tried to limit the scientific research that could be done on that gene. She reconnected families separated by war in Argentina, Rwanda and El Salvador. She won some of science’s highest honors — the Lasker Award, often called “America’s Nobel,” and the National Medal of Science.

In April, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) presented her with the annual Herbert and Maxine Block Memorial Lectureship Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer. Dr. King used that stage to advocate for science improving the world.

Every woman 30 or older, she said, should be offered testing for mutations in the breast cancer gene. Doing so could prevent thousands of deaths a year.

“No woman with a mutation in this gene need die,” King said at Ohio State when she accepted the award. “It is absolutely unnecessary; it is completely preventable.”

The breast cancer gene King discovered is called BRCA1. Later, researchers discovered a second gene and named it BRCA2.

Mutations in these genes can lead to devastating disease. King and her research team have found mutations in the genes lead to increased risks of breast cancer, ovarian cancer and cancer of the fallopian tubes. Men with mutations in the same genes are slightly more likely to get certain cancers, including prostate cancer.

The link is especially strong between the mutations and breast cancer: In King’s studies, more than 80 percent of women with BRCA1 mutations developed breast cancer by the age of 80.

If a woman carries the mutation, it doesn’t matter if her mother or aunt or sister had breast cancer, or if her mutation was inherited from her father who remained cancer-free; she is likely to develop it eventually.

“Family history matters less than the gene,” Dr. King said.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations are particularly common among certain ethnic groups, completely by chance. In the United States as a whole, scientists believe, between one in 100 and one in 200 people have a mutation in one of the genes. Among Ashkenazi Jewish women and men, though, that rate is one in 40.

And because the mutations are genetic, King said, cancers linked to those genes strike women “who have done everything right.”

The lesson her research has taught us is, in her words, “You cannot prevent breast and ovarian cancer with behavior alone. Mutations are simply bad luck.”

Tests for mutations in these genes used to be prohibitively expensive. But a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, combined with advances in technology, has made the tests far more affordable. Some are covered by insurance; those that are not run about $250, and funding can help women who can’t afford that price tag.

Gene mutations and their links to cancer are widely studied now for many cancers, but in the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s, when King and her research team were studying severely affected families to get a better handle on cancer, combining genetics and cancer research was groundbreaking.
At The James

Mary-Claire King, PhD (behind table, wearing red top), the American Cancer Society Professor of Medicine and Genome Sciences at the University of Washington, received the 22nd Herbert and Maxine Block Memorial Lectureship Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer on April 20 at The James.

King and her team used genetic tests similar to the ones that help determine a child’s paternity and eventually found a gene that, if mutated, puts women at high risk of developing breast cancer before they turn 45.

It took King and her lab 17 years to map the chromosomal location of \textit{BRCA1}. They published their findings in 1990, the same year as the beginning of the Human Genome Project, an international scientific effort to map all of the genes that make up human DNA. Progress of the Human Genome Project allowed scientists to locate \textit{BRCA2} in just a year.

King’s investment was personal: Her closest childhood friend died of cancer when King was 15. Turning her scientific attentions to understanding cancer, she hoped, could save children and women in the future.

Identifying \textit{BRCA1}, though, was just the beginning. Science then had to find a way to make sure women could learn if they carried a mutation on \textit{BRCA1} or \textit{BRCA2}. Four years after King identified \textit{BRCA1}, a genetic-testing company cloned and patented it, claiming that only they could test women for it. Costs for the genetic test to identify \textit{BRCA} mutations in women skyrocketed.

King saw the patent as an injustice. Because the test was prohibitively expensive, women at high risk of breast cancer were less likely to find out that they were at high risk, almost guaranteeing they would not get the preventive treatment they needed.

In 2009, the American Civil Liberties Union, with King’s support, filed a lawsuit to overturn that patent. In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed.

King’s work has earned her numerous awards, most recently the OSUCCC – James’ Block Lectureship Award. The award, started through a generous gift from the family of Herbert and Maxine Block, has brought notable cancer researchers to Ohio State. Some have gone on to join the team at the OSUCCC – James, pursuing new research that saves or improves cancer patients’ lives around the globe.

Jeri Block, daughter of Herbert and Maxine Block, said the award – and the family’s philanthropy – has been a way to harness their grief for good.

“Both of our parents died from cancer,” she said. “Our father died from cancer at the age of 60, and we wanted to do something to help fight cancer, which led to the establishment of this lectureship, which has grown into one of the most significant awards for achievement in cancer.”

Among other things, the award brought King to Columbus to speak before James cancer doctors and researchers, and led to a public panel discussion with King and cancer experts from the OSUCCC – James.

Funding for the award comes from the Herbert J. Block Memorial Golf Tournament, which took place Sept. 11.

The tournament began in 1982, years before other fundraisers for cancer research – for example, Pelotonia and the Stefanie Spielman walk/run – started in central Ohio. It started even before there was a James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

The Block family is committed to making a difference – philanthropy, they said, was instilled in them from a young age.

“We’ve been fortunate and lucky enough to see the growth and excitement and the cures,” said Julie Block Glassman. “And we’ve been fortunate to see people living longer with this disease.”

The lectureship is helping the OSUCCC – James advance its mission of curing cancer, one patient and one discovery at a time.

“The lectureship has been bringing the kinds of minds here who are changing the face of cancer treatment, and that gives me a lot of drive, because I can see how important that is,” said Jeff Block. “Without this lectureship, you wouldn’t have Dr. King here. We are proud these people share their knowledge at Ohio State.”
What is it like living with lymphedema, a condition that impacts quality of life for many cancer patients, even long after they’ve gone into remission?

Columbus, Ohio-based retired attorney, nonprofit administrator and breast cancer survivor Deb Wallace can tell you: “It’s painful and sometimes dangerous. And there’s no escape from it. It’s always there.”

Lymphedema is an often-overlooked disorder that many cancer patients develop as a result of lymph nodes being removed during cancer surgeries, usually for breast, urologic, gynecologic, melanoma, lymphoma, and head and neck cancers. Without lymph nodes, fluid can build up in the arms, legs and other body parts near the area of the lymph node removal, causing massive swelling and discomfort. Many patients with lymphedema must wear heavy compression garments on a daily basis and use special pumps that force fluids to move instead of pool. Often patients have trouble fitting shoes over their feet and struggle to wear jewelry and clothes that fit the affected areas.

Since Wallace’s surgery in August 2016, performed by Daniel Eiferman, MD, and Albert Chao, MD, her quality of life has changed dramatically.
Wallace developed lymphedema several months following her mastectomy in 2008, which included removal of 22 lymph nodes. While the lymph node removal saved her life — six of the 22 tested positive for cancer cells — it also led to swelling, which caused numerous cellulitis infections in her arm. She was hospitalized due to infection half a dozen times, including a frightening bout of sepsis. “I thought, ‘I’ve fought this cancer for so long. I had a mastectomy, heavy-duty chemo and radiation. I’m not going to be taken out by an infection in my arm.’ The fighter in me looked at different treatments for lymphedema rather than ways of just pushing fluid out of my arm.”

Wallace did her homework and discovered that a multidisciplinary surgical team had pioneered a new surgery making a huge difference for lymphedema sufferers at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center — James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James). While no cure for lymphedema exists, Wallace knew she had stumbled upon the best option she had for relief.

**Multidisciplinary collaboration leads to innovation**

The groundbreaking new surgery stemmed from an invitation from one surgeon to another to collaborate.

Roman Skoracki, MD, division chief for oncologic plastic surgery who came to the OSUCCC – James from MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2014, had long sought a way to relieve lymphedema in his patients. In fall of 2014, he approached Daniel Eiferman, MD, FACS, an Ohio State Wexner Medical Center general surgeon focused on abdominal surgery, with an idea: Rather than taking lymph nodes from the “good” arm or leg and transplanting them to the affected area — the standard surgical procedure for lymphedema that increased the patient’s risk for developing the disorder in the previously unaffected limb — what if they took lymph nodes that drained the small intestine?

The mesentery of the bowel, the tissue that connects the bowel with the blood vessels, contains more lymph nodes than an arm or leg, leading to practically no risk of developing lymphedema in the small intestine when two or three nodes are transferred to another part of the body. Still, the bowel lymph nodes are nestled next to the blood vessels that feed the intestine, making a general surgeon’s expertise a critical part of the procedure.

Dr. Eiferman thought it was feasible to remove the lymph nodes without damaging the adjacent intestine, and the two created a new surgery: the jejunal mesenteric lymph node transfer. Since February 2015, they and their colleagues have performed it on nearly 40 patients, including many who traveled to Ohio State from other cities and states to undergo the procedure.

While Skoracki and Eiferman are incredibly humble about their achievement, they marvel at the difference the surgery has made in their patients’ lives. “The surgery has generally delivered symptom improvements for most patients. We’ve seen that the majority have significant fluid volume reductions in their limbs, and around 90 percent have had an improvement where they say, ‘My limb doesn’t feel as heavy or tight.’ Infections are gone, and patients report being able to wear shoes or jewelry that previously didn’t fit,” says Dr. Skoracki.

Skoracki and Eiferman believe the OSUCCC – James is the only institution nationally to offer the surgery, though a German surgeon who visited Ohio State to learn the procedure has performed the lymph node transfer in Europe.

“It’s given me my life back”

Since Wallace’s surgery in August 2016, performed by Eiferman and Albert Chao, MD, her quality of life has changed dramatically. Says Wallace, “Breast cancer and its aftermath is something you deal with every day as a survivor. Every time you look in the mirror you see it. This surgery has given me safety from infection and a return to normalcy, which is such a huge blessing for me. It’s given me my life back.”

To help more patients, Skoracki, Eiferman and their colleagues have created the Ohio State Lymphedema Center for Excellence, which will harness the vast existing resources of the OSUCCC – James to offer comprehensive lymphedema services in a patient-centric experience. The center will provide one-stop access to surgical oncology, plastic surgery, physical therapists with special accreditation in lymphedema, dietary support, MRL imaging that looks at the lymphatic system, specialized interventional radiology procedures, vascular medicine and more at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center.

The physicians hope that, with the help of private philanthropy, the new Lymphedema Center for Excellence will find a cure for or prevent new cases of lymphedema. “We want to invest in the basic science research side of this to find out at the cellular level why it is that person A gets lymphedema and person B does not,” says Eiferman. “We have a robust clinical program, but research advances need to be made, and that starts at the level of the bench.”

Says Skoracki, “The last 10 to 15 years in lymphedema research have been more active than the last 85 before that. There is an incredible interest in lymphatic dysfunction right now, with so much research going on. This is the time we could potentially cure this disease with appropriate resources.”
New Leadership to Take Drug Development Institute to the Next Level

The Drug Development Institute (DDI) at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) has a new leader. Jeffrey Patrick, PharmD, took over as director effective Feb. 13, 2017, bringing nearly two decades of experience in the pharmaceutical industry to make an impact at Ohio State.

Created by the OSUCCC – James with the help of seven Ohio State colleges and the university’s Technology Commercialization Office, the DDI helps accelerate cancer drug development through strategic partnerships within the global pharmaceutical and research/development industries. DDI has catalogued 30 novel anticancer agents developed at Ohio State and is working to advance the most promising agents toward phase I human testing by seeking investigational new drug applications by 2020.

Nearly six months after taking the helm of the DDI, Patrick cites being involved at the forefront of cancer treatment exploration as the most exciting part of the job — including working with basic and clinical scientists and the internationally renowned experts at the OSUCCC – James who serve as advisers.

The DDI in turn benefits from Patrick’s deep experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Most recently he served as chief science officer at New Haven Pharmaceuticals in Connecticut, where he led development and implementation of scientific strategy for company products as well as design and implementation of preclinical and clinical trials. His previous experience includes stints as global vice president of professional affairs at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, Inc., director of medical science liaisons at Dyax Corp., field director for medical sciences at Myogen/Gilead Science and more.

Prior to pursuing a career in research and development, Patrick was an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist at the University of Tennessee Medical Center and a clinical assistant professor of pharmacy at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, where he earned his doctorate in pharmacy. He also completed the Wharton School of Business Pharmaceutical Executive Program.

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of the OSUCCC and CEO of The James, looks forward to the momentum Patrick’s leadership will create. “Over the past five years, we have quietly built a pipeline for advancing early stage research to ensure the most promising new cancer therapy approaches do not languish in university laboratories. Dr. Patrick brings deep knowledge and experience from the pharmaceutical industry that will help take our cancer program’s drug development efforts to the next level and ultimately create new therapeutics for cancer patients.”

There is no time like the present to advance this work, says Patrick. “We know, now more than ever, that there truly is no routine cancer. This is due to increasing awareness of the numerous abnormalities in the genetics of the cells in all of the different types of cancers compared to genes of normal cells. With this detailed knowledge, researchers can try to target those cancer cell abnormalities in a way that eliminates them from the body.”

A multidisciplinary search committee and interview teams representing faculty and staff from the colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Arts and Sciences, as well as the Technology Commercialization Office and the OSUCCC – James, selected Patrick for the job. His enthusiasm is evident.

“Between the experience of working with a great team and a tremendously rewarding environment comprising innovators and experts, I have enjoyed leading the DDI in my first months here.”

“Dr. Patrick brings deep knowledge and experience from the pharmaceutical industry that will help take our cancer program’s drug development efforts to the next level and ultimately create new therapeutics for cancer patients.”

— Michael A. Caligiuri, MD
Pelotonia-Funded Initiatives Take Aim at Colorectal, Endometrial and Lung Cancers in the Buckeye State

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) is taking aim at cancer in the Buckeye state through three initiatives that promote early detection and better outcomes in colorectal, endometrial and lung cancers statewide. The initiatives take the OSUCCC – James’ individualized genetic screenings, education and care on the road through partnerships with more than 50 Ohio community hospitals.
“The goal of our statewide initiative program is to take state-of-the-art science and translate it into the communities across Ohio to help elevate cancer patient care, prevention and education and reduce healthcare costs,” says OSUCCC Director and James CEO Michael A. Caligiuri, MD. “It is through these efforts that we take bigger steps together toward our pursuit of a cancer-free world.”

The initiatives are made possible through funding from Pelotonia, the grassroots organization that raises money for cancer research at the OSUCCC – James through an annual bicycling event. The first initiative, the Ohio Colorectal Cancer Prevention Initiative, launched in 2013. In November 2016 Pelotonia invested an additional $3 million to create the Beating Lung Cancer – In Ohio initiative. An additional $1 million investment announced in April 2017 kicked off the Ohio Prevention and Treatment of Endometrial Cancer program.

Pelotonia President and CEO Doug Ulman says the initiatives are tightly connected with Pelotonia’s mission. “The Pelotonia community is proud of our funding of three statewide initiatives — not only because they are great examples of fulfilling our mission, but more importantly because of the profound impact they are having on cancer care in Ohio and beyond, having already saved hundreds of lives.”

The First Initiative: Tackling Colorectal Cancer

Started in 2013, the Ohio Colorectal Cancer Prevention Initiative (OCCPI) set out to screen newly diagnosed colorectal cancer patients and their biological relatives for Lynch syndrome, a cancer-causing condition that occurs when a person inherits a mutation in one of four genes. Individuals with Lynch syndrome are very likely to develop colorectal, uterine, ovarian, stomach or other cancers. Approximately 3 percent of colorectal cancer cases result from Lynch syndrome. Each colorectal cancer patient with Lynch syndrome has, on average, three relatives with the syndrome, heightening their risk for colorectal and other cancers. The screening, which occurred in a cooperative network of 50 hospitals around Ohio, identified family members who may be at risk of developing these cancers so they can take precautionary measures.

Says Heather Hampel, MS, LGC, associate director for the Division of Human Genetics at Ohio State and for Biospecimen Research at OSUCCC – James, “People with Lynch syndrome need intensive surveillance, with annual colonoscopies beginning at age 20-25. This increased monitoring can save lives by catching precancerous polyps early, before cancer develops.”

The OCCPI has charted the course for increased attention for those with the syndrome — screening more than 3,000 newly diagnosed colorectal cancer patients for Lynch syndrome and other genetic mutations. As of November 2016, 94 of the patients had tested positive for Lynch syndrome, as well as 116 of their relatives. An additional 69 colorectal cancer patients were found to have a hereditary cancer syndrome other than Lynch, surprising the initiative’s leaders.

“We expected to find a high rate of Lynch syndrome among early onset colon cancer patients,” says Rachel Pearlman, MS, LGC, coordinator of the statewide initiative. “What was surprising were some of the other gene mutations found, including mutations in genes traditionally linked to breast cancer risk, even in patients whose family history was not suggestive of those mutations.”

Based on their new data, the OCCPI team recommends genetic counseling and a broad, multigene panel test of cancer susceptibility genes for all early onset colorectal cancer patients, regardless of family history or the results of tumor screening for Lynch syndrome. This differs from current professional guidelines, which recommend all colorectal
cancer patients be screened for Lynch syndrome, with referral for genetic counseling and Lynch syndrome-specific genetic testing if the tumor screening test is abnormal.

It is estimated that the OCCPI will save 1,000 years of life and provide $32 million in benefit to the community because of the lives saved in Ohio through the early diagnosis of Lynch syndrome and the reduced need for cancer treatment.

Looking to Reduce the Impact of Lung Cancer in Ohio

An estimated 224,390 people are diagnosed with lung cancer annually across the United States, and each year more people die of lung cancer than of colon, breast and prostate cancers combined.

In Ohio, those figures are especially alarming, as the state ranks 11th in cancer mortality and more Ohioans report smoking cigarettes (22 percent) compared with the national average (18 percent). Smoking is the leading risk factor for lung cancer and a leading risk factor for many other cancers.

Enter the OSUCCC – James’ Beating Lung Cancer – In Ohio (BLC-IO) initiative. Led by OSUCCC – James researchers Peter Shields, MD, David Carbone, MD, PhD, and Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH, the BLC-IO has two aims: to evaluate the impact of advanced gene testing and expert advice on lung cancer treatment and subsequent patient survival, and to improve smoking cessation rates among smokers with lung cancer and their family members. Both studies will measure improvements in patients’ quality of life.

To draw participants, BLC-IO is leveraging the relationships developed with community hospitals around Ohio through the OCCPI. Patient recruitment for BLC-IO began in March and will take place for three years. Other key partners in the effort include Foundation Medicine, a leading cancer gene testing company, and the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation, established in 2006 to support lung cancer patients and fund lung cancer research. The BLC-IO received approval from Ohio State’s institutional review board to begin pilot testing last summer.

Endometrial Cancer: A Rising Threat

“Endometrial cancer is one of the few cancers with both rising incidence and death rates in the United States. Escalating our efforts to understand this disease and develop new therapies to treat it is critically important,” says David Cohn, MD, co-principal investigator of the Ohio Prevention and Treatment of Endometrial Cancer (OPTEC) research initiative and director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Ohio State.

More than 61,000 women are diagnosed with endometrial cancer annually across the United States, with more than 17 percent of patients dying of the disease. Up to 5 percent of all women with endometrial cancer have inherited Lynch syndrome. The lifetime risk for endometrial cancer in a woman with Lynch syndrome is 50 percent, which is 10 times higher than a woman without Lynch syndrome. Women with Lynch syndrome have much the same risk for colon cancer as they do for endometrial cancer.

Through OPTEC, the OSUCCC – James will partner with Ohio community hospitals to screen up to 700 patients for Lynch syndrome and other inherited genetic mutations linked to an increased risk for endometrial, colon, stomach and ovarian cancer. At the same time, patient tumor samples will undergo molecular profiling to identify treatment approaches personalized to the patient’s unique tumor characteristics.

The OPTEC initiative will also help Lynch syndrome patients — and at-risk family members — understand the importance of genetic testing and cancer-prevention strategies based on their increased risk for Lynch syndrome-associated cancers. Researchers will create a patient registry to track endometrial
cancer patients from the current study and affected family members to help increase compliance with follow-up care for cancer prevention.

“Our long-term goal is to educate both patients and providers about the continued management of Lynch syndrome-associated cancers so that we can reduce the burden of this condition on all women and men who have this increased risk for cancer based on genetics,” says Cohn.

The OSUCCC – James Statewide Initiatives: A Roadmap for Other States to Follow

The impressive results of the OCCPI, the first of the statewide initiatives, will have an impact well beyond Ohio’s borders.

“The OCCPI and our work over the past four years demonstrates that it is possible to screen all newly diagnosed colon cancer patients for genetic risk factors through a statewide hospital collaboration,” says Heather Hampel, OCCPI’s director. “And the findings of our research study demonstrate the need and value of screening early onset colorectal cancer patients.”

Hampel and her colleagues are now working to launch this approach nationally, promoting the screening of the 136,000 colorectal cancer patients expected to be diagnosed in 2017. “We believe the OCCPI can serve as a roadmap for other states to implement Lynch syndrome screening for their newly diagnosed colon cancer patients at the time of diagnosis,” says Hampel.

While the endometrial and lung cancer initiatives are in early stages, they too have the potential to yield findings that will save lives nationwide. Says OSUCCC Director and James CEO Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, “The statewide initiatives are generating a powerful momentum here in Ohio for early detection and better outcomes. The OSUCCC – James will be a national leader in the effort to use cutting-edge innovation in genetic testing to proactively save lives, and we are grateful to our partners at Pelotonia for funding this transformative work.”

The POWER OF GENETIC TESTING: ONE FAMILY’S STORY

The Ohio Colorectal Cancer Prevention Initiative has had a powerful impact on Ohio families with inherited genetic risk factors. Take Dale S. and his family of Lima, Ohio.

After learning that one of his family members had enrolled in the study and then tested positive for a Lynch syndrome mutation, Dale scheduled genetic counseling and testing for himself. He learned that he also had Lynch syndrome. A colonoscopy found stage 1 colon cancer, and he is expected to do very well.

“I had my first screening colonoscopy at age 45 due to my family history – just one year before learning I also had Lynch syndrome and an early tumor,” says Dale. “The aggressiveness of this form of colon cancer is scary, but I think it is better to know. Now I know I have to stay vigilant for the rest of my life.”

More than 126 members of this family have been tested for Lynch syndrome through the OCCPI. Forty of them learned they have Lynch syndrome. Dale, a father of six, hopes that his children also will choose to get tested once they are of age.
Grateful Patients

On Doctors Day, March 30, members of our social media audience were asked to send notes of thanks to the doctors who have made a difference in their lives or the lives of their loved ones. Here we share a sample of the responses we received.

**From: Tracy L.**

Dr. Mayerson saved my mother’s life, and leg, June 6, 2008. His surgical skill paled only in comparison to the kindness this extremely busy man showed my mom and our family. Dr. Leibner still saves her today! He listens, even though we know his patient list is long and his time is short. There will never be enough thank-yous to repay what they’ve gifted us. She is a survivor, a miracle, and we are blessed every single day. She will celebrate 74 years on April 7!

**From: Deb A.**

Dr. James Chen and Dr. Ehud Mendel, thank you does not seem sufficient enough to express our gratitude for your continued expertise, professionalism and compassion while treating such a complex case. God bless both of you.

**From: James D.**

Dr. William Farrar, his Nurse Practitioner Denise Schimming and his tremendous staff were our salvation at The James when my wife, Janet S. Donnelly, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007. His expertise and ability to guide us through many decisions during a difficult time enabled her to successfully go through the surgery and the many chemo and radiation treatments that followed. Because of their efforts she is now 10 years cancer free! Thanks to everyone.

**From: Jennifer G.**

Dr. Mendel … thank you is not enough. The care and compassion and being straight-forward is a blessing. I feel so lucky to be an hour within The James and the wonderful care I AND my caregivers have received. Thank you!

**From: Becky P.**

Dr. David Cohn is a physician who has great wisdom, skill, and bedside manner. He cares for the patient AND the person and their support people. We have watched him help the Ohio State medical students learn as he examines and evaluates me. He and his team are a true blessing to me and my family. We are so very grateful for him.
Donor Spotlight

Dan Brown, the world-renowned author of best-selling books including *The Da Vinci Code* and *Inferno*, spends his life trying to reconcile some of humankind’s greatest puzzles against a backdrop of some of our most mysterious symbols and institutions. His is a world of secret societies, saints, deities, poets, architects, code-breakers and symbologists.

But it was a doctor-scientist who gave his family one of their greatest gifts: time.

Brown’s mother, Connie – a church organist and music director – was diagnosed in 2008 with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The disease starts in a person’s bone marrow, often without symptoms, before it progresses to the blood and lymph nodes.

Connie Brown had been a writer herself, a lover of libraries, the piano and her garden. She kayaked and hiked, and she co-authored a book about a small New Hampshire lake she loved. And here was cancer, stealing the vibrancy from her life.

“A decade ago, my mom was dying of CLL,” Dan Brown told a group of philanthropists during a recent visit to The Ohio State University. “You know your mom’s face perfectly, and the light was just going out. You could see it in her eyes.”

Connie lived in New Hampshire, but the family sought out the best care they could find. That led them to John C. Byrd, MD, and The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James). Byrd holds the D. Warren Brown Designated Chair in Leukemia Research at Ohio State, where he also co-leads the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James.
Byrd put Connie on a then-experimental drug called ibrutinib. “Two weeks later, our family and my mother were hiking Foss Mountain together,” Dan said.

Byrd warned Connie and her family that leukemia could be clever and cruel. One day, he warned, it would outsmart ibrutinib. When it finally did, Byrd had another drug to try.

“And my mom kept going,” said Dan.

It seemed that every time leukemia outmaneuvered one treatment, Byrd and his team had another to try. But eventually, Connie’s disease outpaced science. When she died on June 6, 2017, she was at home and surrounded by her family. Her obituary noted her hobbies, her love of her family, and her devotion to music. It also noted her gratitude to Ohio State — something her husband, Dick Brown, shared during his visit to Columbus. Dick joked that he and Connie had long been steadfast Michigan football fans, wearing maize and blue on fall Saturdays and always pulling for the Team Up North when the two Big Ten powerhouses clashed. However, since meeting Byrd, Dick and family don the scarlet and gray. “When the one you love falls ill,” he noted, “football rivalries lose their luster.”

“We visited doctors in Florida, New Hampshire, Maine, and finally we were connected with the doctors at The James,” says Dick Brown, Dan’s father. “And there, in spite of stage IV leukemia, Connie was given nine extra years. And they were quality years. We traveled all over the world. And we saw our young grandsons grow from boys to fine young men. The truly great, important work in any university is not on the football field, but in the classrooms and the laboratories and the university hospitals.”

Protecting that work mattered to Connie. Before she died, she and her family established the Connie Brown Leukemia Research Fund, which helps pay for laboratory supplies, new therapies, drug development and other scientific research that helps move new therapies forward sooner.

Dan Brown and his wife, Blythe, have themselves made a $1.2 million commitment to that work at the OSUCCC – James.

Dan and Dick traveled to Columbus in July to meet with other donors who have supported cancer research and care. Donors’ gifts helped make ibrutinib a reality and continue to support future advancements today. Dan says they have seen firsthand how philanthropy and science give families hope.

Without the generosity of donors, Connie may never have had access to ibrutinib because the drug may never have seen the light of day. Philanthropy is startup funding for medicine: It supports research in its earliest stages, before enough experiments have been done to show a treatment has real possibility. It allows researchers to pursue ideas that might not work, in search of ones that do.

When an idea shows promise – as in the case of ibrutinib – the work philanthropy pays for becomes the evidence that sways federal grant-giving agencies to give bigger financial support.

Philanthropists make a leap of faith in scientists, investing in work at its infancy, because of a profound desire to help humankind.

That desire, Dan Brown said during his visit to Columbus, is at the core of our humanity.

“I want to talk about one of the most primal of human instincts … and that is the instinct to help each other, to give of ourselves. We each have a moral compass inside of us, and whether that compass is guided by faith, philosophy, family, friends or some combination of all of them, that compass functions on a few fundamental truths that feel like they are inscribed in our human psyche – truths that we all understand viscerally regardless of where we live, what language we speak, what we believe. Those truths simply are: Kindness is better than cruelty. Creating is better than destroying. And love is better than hate.”

To the Brown family, the nine years they had with Connie after her diagnosis felt like a miracle.

“Of course it wasn’t literally miraculous,” Dan Brown said. “It was medicine, it was science, it was knowledge. And it was made possible by a very old notion, an idea that in ancient Greek is known as philanthropia. As many of you know, philo means love, anthropo means human being.

“Philanthropy is literally ‘love of our fellow human being.’”
As researchers begin to unlock the complex relationship between nutrition and cancer, the public increasingly turns to experts at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) for guidance.

Which foods have demonstrated cancer-preventive properties in research, and which may increase cancer risk? And when a person has received a cancer diagnosis, how should his or her diet change?

Thanks to a generous gift from Celebration for Life, the signature annual fundraising event for the James Fund for Life, the OSUCCC – James will help to address these issues and more through its new mobile education kitchen. Not to be confused with the typical retail food trucks that are so popular these days, the OSUCCC – James mobile kitchen will visit community festivals, fairs, athletic events and more to deliver hands-on nutrition education in places where the public gathers. Teams including chefs and dietitians, as well as Ohio State students completing their dietetic internships, will staff the kitchen, offering cooking demonstrations, food samples and nutrition information.

The goal, says Drew Patterson, culinary director for Nutrition Services at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, is to focus on health and wellness from foods in general — with a focus on nutrition as it relates to cancer. This means directing attention to the American Institute for Cancer Research’s nutritional recommendations and demonstrating flavor-filled ways those foods can be prepared. “One of the big challenges we run across in patients with a cancer diagnosis is that there is variability in individual diets,” says Patterson. “Just like there is no routine cancer, there is also no routine diet plan. What people eat, when they can eat and what they can tolerate can be completely different for every person.”

The kitchen will introduce people to a multitude of options and flavor profiles to optimize their food intake. “We might show three or four different ways to prepare kale or Brussels sprouts so people can get the nutrients they need. Or if they’re more into sweet flavors than savory, we can show how to prepare a grain salad they will enjoy.”

The mobile education kitchen adds to Ohio State Wexner Medical Center’s growing repertoire of nutrition-conscious initiatives. At the Michael D. Bloch Café on the 14th floor of The James, for example, diners may select from a variety of healthy foods on a menu designed to promote fresh fruits, vegetables and whole-grain salads. More than 85 percent of the products are made from scratch, and the restaurant sources local and sustainable foods as often as possible. “The Bloch Café was the first time we integrated food and nutrition from an educational standpoint in a retail café, and patients, visitors and guests have been drawn to the café because of that,” says Patterson. At Ohio State Wexner Medical Center Brain and Spine Hospital, the NeurOH! BistrOH! offers smoothies and snacks featuring fruits and other ingredients like dark chocolate that have brain-boosting properties.

The new OSUCCC – James mobile education kitchen will build on the momentum of nutrition consciousness the public hungers for, says Patterson, “Obviously, we’ve tapped into something a lot of people see value in, and we’re very excited about finding a fun, exciting way to get nutrition and health information out to people.”
James Patient’s Cancer Leads to Approval of Lifesaving Precision-Medicine Treatment

A Powell woman who was very sick in 2016 is cancer-free today thanks to lifesaving translational research and treatment by the Precision Cancer Medicine team at the OSUCCC – James.

After a year of standard treatments had failed for Rhonda Ball, who had a metastatic cancerous tumor of unknown origin that was protruding from her abdomen, researchers led by Sameek Roychowdhury, MD, PhD, went to work analyzing the DNA of her tumor.

When they found a biomarker for a genetic mutation called microsatellite instability (MSI-H), they enrolled her on a clinical trial that uses an immunotherapy drug called pembrolizumab (marketed as Keytruda) to target this marker in other types of cancer, such as colorectal and uterine cancers. Within a few months, her tumor was gone.

“Rhonda was a participant in one of five clinical trials that helped get this drug approved by the FDA in the spring of 2017 for treating MSI-H-positive tumors in patients with any type of cancer—the first approval for treating a biomarker independent of tumor type,” Roychowdhury says, noting that his team is continuing to refine and improve treatment for these patients.

Wondering whether other patients with different types of cancer might also have MSI-H, the team developed an algorithm to identify the marker, analyzed more than 11,000 patients with cancer and devised the framework for a new diagnostic test for MSI-H in any type of cancer. The team also received a National Cancer Institute grant that will help researchers enhance detection of MSI biomarkers and aid in the development of novel therapies in clinical trials.

“Patients at the OSUCCC – James have access to the latest treatments that stem from cutting-edge research,” Roychowdhury says. “But research is expensive, and that’s why philanthropy is so important. Donor generosity supports lab-to-bedside studies that will help us save even more patients.”
Taking Nothing for Granted: Grateful Patient

Steve Peters

Steve Peters of Beavercreek, Ohio, takes nothing for granted — not the time he spends with his wife, Wendy, and their three adult sons, Stanley, Sean and Christian; not the babysitting gigs for his young grandson, Jace; not the teaching he does for Antioch University following retirement from his career as an engineer and aviator.

That’s because the integrated, compassionate care he has received for prostate cancer at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) for the past seven years has helped to give him a new perspective on life with cancer.

“After I got my diagnosis, the first reaction was ‘This is it,’” says Peters, echoing the sentiments many feel upon hearing the words, “You have cancer.”

“But since that time, I’ve had many life events occur that have been so meaningful to me — events I didn’t know if I would be here to see.” Peters performed the wedding ceremonies for sons Stanley and Christian. He became a grandfather for the first time, thanks to his son, Sean. And when Christian graduated from Wright State University and followed his father’s footsteps to become an Air Force officer, Peters was able to swear him in as a lieutenant.

“I owe a lot of those experiences to my treatment at The James,” says Peters. “The James has helped me be there for my family.”

A Nonroutine Treatment Experience at OSUCCC – James

Peters was diagnosed with an advanced, aggressive form of prostate cancer in 2010 — the severity of which may have been prevented had his family physician noticed some red flags on his PSA tests in the years prior. When his urologist called Peters’ cell phone and all-too-casually dropped the news that he had cancer, Peters’ wife, Wendy, suggested they go to the place where cancer isn’t treated as a routine illness: The James.

Under the care of his treatment team, Peters took part in a clinical trial in which he received chemo and hormone therapy followed by a radical prostatectomy performed by one of the nation’s leading robotic surgeons. His primary oncologist, Steven Clinton, MD, PhD, referred Peters to a trusted radiation oncologist in the Dayton area so he could stay close to home for daily radiation treatments.

When the prostate cancer metastasized to his spine, resulting in a compression fracture, a team representing neurosurgery, radiation oncology and medical oncology quickly came together to assess his situation and recommend treatment. The result was an integrated approach that has adapted as his cancer has become hormone resistant.

“That all these specialties were part of the discussion to make treatment recommendations, that’s phenomenal to me. And when they decided what I needed, they scheduled all my appointments. It was all taken care of. I didn’t have to navigate the system on my own.”

“People say, ‘I don’t know what I would do if that happened to me.’ But you have no choice. You’d be surprised what you can deal with when you have to.’”

— Steven Peters

Steve Peters speaks about his journey as a cancer survivor at a Dayton Ambassadors Society event held in May 2017.
Gratitude Spurs Reciprocity

A firm believer in reciprocity — the concept that when a gift is received, one has the responsibility to give back — Peters now advocates and helps raise funds for the OSUCCC – James.

He participated in Pelotonia the past two years, first by sponsoring a rider through the “I Ride for You” program, which paired Peters with an Ohio State student who rode on his behalf. Then last year, he trained and completed the 25-mile ride himself. “It was one of the most amazing experiences I’ve ever had — not only the people riding, but the people out there supporting it. I’ve never seen anything like it in my life.”

He is also a member of the James Ambassadors Society, a volunteer group of advocates who raise awareness for life-saving research and treatments at the OSUCCC – James. He recently spoke at the Dayton Ambassadors Celebration in May, telling the room full of survivors, their families and advocates that a cancer patient’s decision regarding their diagnosis and treatment is “perhaps the most difficult decision one will ever have to make” — a decision that no one has a right to judge or second guess. “For me,” shared Peters, “I have found The James to be the right answer in every way.”

Peters tells his story in the hopes of helping others, even though he acknowledges it sometimes makes people uncomfortable. “People say, ‘I don’t know what I would do if that happened to me.’ But you have no choice,” says Peters. “You’d be surprised what you can deal with when you have to.”

The key, he says, is to understand how important a community of support is to living with this disease. In the case of Peters, “That community begins with my wife, Wendy, and my sons and their families, and certainly includes my family at The James.”
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 at the OSUCCC – James. To learn more, please contact The James Development Office at 614-293-2120, communitypartners@osumc.edu, or visit go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners.

Breath of Hope
Benefiting Blue Beautiful Skies Fund for Lung Cancer Research

L Brands hosted the third annual Breath of Hope Celebration on Saturday, April 22. With record attendance of over 375, the evening was full of laughter, memories and a community coming together to support lung cancer research. The Breath of Hope Celebration and ongoing fundraising efforts have raised $275,000 this year to help fund a future without lung cancer.

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of the OSUCCC and CEO of The James, started the evening’s program by sharing the need for research funding in a changing healthcare landscape. David Carbone, MD, PhD, director of the Thoracic Oncology Center at the OSUCCC – James, talked about incredible breakthroughs happening in research. Keynote speaker Chris Draft, NFL ambassador and international healthcare advocate for Team Draft, implored attendees to get involved and stand up as advocates supporting lung cancer patients in our community.

Breath of Hope is a not-for-profit advocacy organization committed to raising awareness for lung cancer and raising money to find the cure. In just three years, Breath of Hope has donated over $500,000 to the OSUCCC – James thoracic oncology program. To learn more about Breath of Hope, please visit our website BreathOfHopeOhio.com and follow us on Facebook at Breath of Hope Gala or on Twitter at breath_hope.

The Ohio Eggfest
Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

The third annual Ohio Eggfest, presented by Specialty Gas House, took place on Saturday, Aug. 12, in Upper Arlington, Ohio. This family-friendly gathering for foodies originated as a way for the Big Green Egg to say thank you to loyal customers and has become a rite of passage for “Eggheads.” Funds were raised through ticket sales, team registrations, sponsors, Big Green Egg sales and donations. Teams that registered at the event had the chance to compete for the coveted “People’s Choice Award,” and the professionally judged “Very Prestigious Award.” The day included music, food, activities for kids, special contests and raffle prizes. This year, the event raised over $40,000. For more information, please visit theohioeggfest.com.
Scooter Scramble
Benefiting Neuro-Oncology Novel Therapies and Research Fund

The 12th annual Scooter Scramble was held on Saturday, July 15, at the Golf Club of Dublin. Over 130 golfers hit the course in memory of Scott Sellers, who died of complications from glioblastoma multiforme, the most aggressive form of brain cancer. Scott was diagnosed with the rare brain cancer in 2004 and died just over a year later. After his passing, his family created the Scott Seller Memorial Fund.

Scott loved golf, and the Scooter Scramble celebrates his life and love for the game. This year, the event raised over $7,000 to benefit the Neuro-Oncology Novel Therapies and Research Fund at the OSUCCC – James. The organization also hosts an annual “Kicking Cancer” comedy event in the fall to benefit Neuro-Oncology at The James. For more information, please contact Matthew Long: matthew.long@herrealtors.com.

Mary Diaz and William Copeland Jr. Memorial Tennis Tournament
Benefiting the Mary Diaz Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

The 13th annual Mary Diaz and William Copeland Jr. Memorial Tennis Tournament, benefiting the OSUCCC – James and the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, took place July 21 and 22. The tournament kicked off at the Ohio State Lincoln Tower Park tennis courts Friday evening with drills, prizes and Adriatico's pizza. The doubles tournament started early Saturday morning. Players of all skill levels competed, from beginners to NCAA All-Americans. Due to inclement weather, The Player’s Club and Elysium Tennis Club graciously hosted the tournament indoors.

This year’s speakers included Mary Dillhoff, MD, a surgical oncologist at the OSUCCC – James, who highlighted the critical role research plays in finding a cure. Sandy Mack, a pancreatic cancer survivor, inspired listeners by sharing the story of her battle with the disease. And Graham Campbell gave a moving presentation about his father Doug, this year’s tournament honoree. Doug was an avid golfer, a strong leader and a dedicated father; he recently lost a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer and will be dearly missed.

The event concluded with the annual cookout held at the Diaz household. This end-of-tournament bash, as always, was filled with laughs, love and lots of food. A highlight of the cookout was the balloon release, a meaningful way for participants to remember lost loved ones. Overall, the tournament was a tremendous success, with nearly 160 competitors and over $50,000 dollars donated to the OSUCCC – James to support pancreatic cancer research.
43 New Pelotonia Fellowships Awarded for Cancer Research at Ohio State

The Pelotonia Fellowship Review Committee recently awarded 43 fellowships to Ohio State students who want to conduct cancer research in the labs of faculty mentors.

Pelotonia Fellowship Manager Marie Gibbons says the committee—co-led by Pelotonia Fellowship Program Director Joanna Groden, PhD, and by Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, PhD—awarded fellowships to 26 undergraduates, 14 graduates and three postdoctoral fellows. The undergraduates will receive funding for one year; the graduates and postdoctoral fellows will receive funding for two years.

The fellowships are funded by Pelotonia, the annual grassroots bicycle tour that raises millions of dollars for cancer research at Ohio State.

Awardees span Ohio State’s colleges of Medicine, Arts and Sciences, and Engineering. Gibbons notes that two of the undergraduate awardees are the first in their families to attend college. Additionally, two of the graduate awardees are the first in their families to attend college, and nine are the first in their families to attend graduate school.

Since it started in 2010, the Pelotonia Fellowship Program has allocated $2 million a year (except for the first year, when it allocated $1 million) for training grants for students in any discipline or at any level of scholarship at Ohio State, Nationwide Children’s Research Institute and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

To date, the Pelotonia Research Fellowship Program has provided more than $13 million to support more than 400 research projects undertaken by Ohio State students working with cancer faculty mentors. This program offers a variety of experiences, from an eight-week lab experience to multi-year research fellowships and participation in an international exchange program to conduct cancer research in laboratories in India and Brazil.

“The impact of these scholarships actually goes deeper than providing students with a unique opportunity to do cancer research,” says Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and CEO of the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. “With college affordability continuing to be a concern for many working families, we are able to provide meaningful financial support to these talented young people so they can continue to pursue their dream. And it is from the investment in these bright minds that we will eventually achieve our vision of a cancer-free world.”

OSUCCC – JAMES LEADER CALIGIURI RECEIVES “OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD” FROM NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has given a prestigious $6.5 million, seven-year Outstanding Investigator Award to Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of the OSUCCC and CEO of the James.

The award supports the Caligiuri lab’s international leadership to develop natural killer (NK) cell-based immunology to treat cancer — a crucial component in the body’s first line of cancer defense.

Compelling data now shows that the innate immune cells, such as NK cells, are an important component in antibody therapy, Caligiuri says. He and his team, co-led by Jianhua Yu, PhD, will use the NCI award to gain a more complete understanding of human NK cell development and then use that knowledge to optimize the cells’ cancer-fighting abilities.

Caligiuri believes his team’s work on this project over the grant period could result in clinical trials in acute myeloid leukemia, multiple myeloma and glioma that demonstrate significant antitumor activity – important work that may lead to prolonged survival for patients with cancer.
BUCKEYE SPECTACULAR OF TREES
Nov. 4, 2017
7 – 10:30 p.m.
Huntington Club at Ohio Stadium
www.buckeyecruise.com
Travel Partners in Dublin:
614-792-6204
Proceeds benefit: the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer and the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research
This first-year event will get you in the holiday spirit with dinner, special gifts, a photo opportunity on the 50-yard line, carolers from the Columbus Children’s Choir and will feature a professionally decorated Christmas tree and wreath auction. The Ohio State football game may be shown, depending on kickoff time.

STAR JEWELERS HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENT
Nov. 16, 2017
4 – 8 p.m.
Star Jewelers, 607 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215
www.starjewelersonhigh.com
Proceeds benefit: Lung Cancer Research at the OSUCCC – James
A holiday shopping event with 15% of sales throughout the evening benefiting the Blue Beautiful Skies Fund at the OSUCCC – James.

FRY OUT CANCER 2017
Nov. 23, 2017
5 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Matthew Freedman’s House
New Albany, OH 43054
www.FryOutCancer.org
Matthew Freedman (FryOutCancer@gmail.com)
Proceeds benefit: Pediatric Brain Cancer Research Fund at The James; Ovarian Cancer Research and Education in Gynecology Fund
Fry Out Cancer is an opportunity to support pediatric cancer research and ovarian cancer research at the OSUCCC – James. Patrons place their order for a fully prepared fried turkey and select a time to pick it up on Thanksgiving Day in New Albany. The suggested minimum donation for each turkey is $125. Donors also have the option of donating their cooked turkey to a local homeless shelter.

A CHRISTMAS TO CURE CANCER
Dec. 1, 2017
5 – 9 p.m.
The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Powell, OH
www.achristmastocurecancer.org
Proceeds benefit: The Heather Pick Music Program at the OSUCCC – James
A festive evening during Holiday Lights at the Columbus Zoo, this 16th annual event will include live entertainment, heavy hors d’oeuvres and cash bar, a buffet catered by Smith & Wollensky, and live and silent auctions.

BURGUNDY BALL – MISSION FOR A CURE IN MYELOMA
Feb. 3, 2018
6:30 p.m.
L Brands
Three Limited Parkway
Columbus, OH 43230
www.myelomacrowd.org
Proceeds benefit: Multiple Myeloma Research at the OSUCCC – James and Myeloma Crowd.
The first annual Burgundy Ball will continue the discoveries and legacy of MMORE (Multiple Myeloma Opportunities for Research and Education) in funding translational research in Multiple Myeloma. The festive evening will include dinner, silent and live auction, dancing and entertainment.

ROCKIN’ TO BEAT LEUKEMIA
Feb. 24, 2018
7 – 11 p.m.
Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center
2201 Fred Taylor Dr.
Columbus, Ohio 43221
www.lumemorialfund.com
Proceeds benefit: Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) Research Pilot Program Fund
Please join us at the second annual Rockin’ to Beat Leukemia created in memory of Lauryn “Lu” Oliphant who lost her battle with AML in May 2016 at the age of 17. Lu was known for her warm sense of humor and gentle spirit. She had a deep love for music and enjoyed singing in the choir and playing her guitar. The Lauryn “Lu” Oliphant Memorial Fund was established in Lu’s honor to support, contribute and raise awareness for AML research.

To see all community events that benefit the OSUCCC – James, please visit go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners.
Coach Urban Meyer has built a strong team of Buckeyes to tackle our rivals in the ‘Shoe. Now we need your help in building a strong team in the fight against cancer.

The Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research is dedicated to advancing cancer research through the recruitment of the very best cancer experts to The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

With your support, we will create a cancer-free world.