Celebration for Life Reaches More Than $15 Million
Welcome

At the Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), we start with groundbreaking research and translate that to superb and compassionate patient care. Though our Comprehensive Cancer Center is 40 years old, it wasn’t until July 1990 that we opened The James – a hospital dedicated to helping cancer patients. It is on the 25th anniversary of the James that we reflect on the incredible research work we have done and, more importantly, the thousands of patients and families we have helped.

Everything we do—from preclinical laboratory research, to clinical trials involving patients, to population and prevention studies—is designed to improve the care that we offer to our patients and their families, thus enhancing their quality of life and renewing their hope for the future.

That’s why we spent nearly a decade carefully planning, designing and building our new 21-floor, 306-bed cancer hospital that opened last December as a transformational facility that places researchers and clinicians into closer working proximity than ever before so we can more quickly translate discoveries to improved treatments.

It’s also why each inpatient unit at the new James is dedicated to a particular type of cancer and contains teams of sub-specialists—including medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, nurses, pharmacists, genetic experts, pathologists and others—working together to develop and deliver effective targeted therapies tailored to each patient’s cancer. Dozens of these specialists have been recruited over the past several years as we continuously strive to bring the best and brightest minds in cancer care to Ohio State.

A story starting on page 4 in this issue of impactCancer provides a closer look at our dedication to providing the best possible care for our patients and families throughout their cancer journey. Nothing is more important to our team.

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At The James

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, never tires of telling the tale. Years ago when he was on a nephrology rotation as a student at Stanford Medical School, he and his colleagues saved a life by “tricking” the body of a kidney-transplant patient into accepting the foreign organ.

“Finding a way to manipulate the immune system so the body would accept the organ—that blew me away,” recalls Caligiuri, director of Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center and CEO of The James.

That experience, combined with his interest in helping patients with life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, convinced him that he should train in internal medicine, oncology and bone marrow transplantation at Harvard University’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, where he also did a postdoctoral study in immunology.

Since then, he has been fascinated by the many ways science can benefit medicine for the good of patients. “I’m blessed to have found what I truly love to do: medical research that can be clinically applied to help patients overcome illness,” he says.

His ambition has influenced his more than a dozen years as leader of Ohio State’s cancer program, where the ultimate goal is to translate discoveries to innovative and compassionate clinical care that will help create a cancer-free world.

Patients Always Top Priority

Caligiuri’s enthusiasm for improving and extending clinical care is reflected in The James’ medical faculty, including long-timers and those who have been recruited since he arrived at Ohio State in 1997 as associate director of clinical research.

A prime example of the latter is John C. Byrd, MD, who directs the Division of Hematology at Ohio State and co-leads the Leukemia Research Program at the OSUCCC – James. Byrd is internationally known for translational studies that have found several therapeutic agents to be effective in treating patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and related leukemias and lymphomas.

But despite his scientific prowess, his favorite day of the week is Tuesday, when he spends up to 12 hours in clinic providing care for patients with CLL and other leukemias.

“Providing the best possible care to our patients is paramount—all of our work here is directed toward that end,” Byrd says. “Seeing patients and family members in my Tuesday clinic is always a pleasant reminder of the potential we have to improve the lives of people who turn to us for help.”

Byrd also keeps patients foremost in mind when he leads studies to develop and test targeted agents that more precisely attack each patient’s biologically unique cancer with fewer toxic side effects—replacing what he calls the “sledgehammer” approach of older chemotherapies.
David Carbone, MD, PhD, a renowned lung cancer specialist who was recruited to Ohio State in 2012 to establish a thoracic oncology center, has devoted his entire career to studying this deadly disease and finding better ways to treat it.

Carbone says he is determined to make a difference in the field through research, by training other physicians and, above all, by caring for patients with this malignancy, which is the leading cancer killer among both men and women in the United States.

The physician can keenly empathize with patients through his own experience with cancer. In 1999 he was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. His treatment involved removing part of his left lung and receiving chemotherapy and chest radiation, similar to treatments he often recommends for his lung cancer patients.

“The experience gave me a better understanding of the psychological impact of receiving a life-threatening diagnosis, both on me as a patient and on my family,” Carbone says, adding that it also gave him insight about the value of inspiring hope.

“Clinicians should be very cautious about taking away hope,” he says, explaining that statistics apply to populations, not individuals. "I’ve seen patients on death’s door come back to a normal lifestyle, at least for a while. And I’ve seen patients with metastatic lung cancer who have lived only a few weeks, and those who have lived 20 years with the disease. Nobody can predict the future with certainty.”

Roman Skoracki, MD, was recruited to Ohio State in 2014 to direct the oncology section in the Department of Plastic Surgery, where physicians and other caregivers are dedicated to restoring wholeness to people who suffer from physical deformities, including deformities stemming from cancer or its treatment.

Skoracki is an expert in oncologic reconstruction. His areas of clinical expertise include lymphedema surgery, reconstructive microsurgery of the head, neck and breast, sarcoma reconstruction and abdominal wall reconstruction, among other areas. All of his work is focused on improving patient outcomes physically and psychologically.

“The clinical staff at The James is composed of a number of enthusiastic, professional and highly innovative individuals who are all very interested in collaboration and multidisciplinary teamwork to optimize patient care,” Skoracki says. “This multidisciplinary approach to each individual patient represents the real strength of world-class cancer hospitals such as The James. I’m honored to be part of this highly functioning team and consider it a privilege to care for our patients.”

Skoracki is among just a few surgeons in the country performing two breakthrough surgical treatments to relieve lymphedema, a condition characterized by swelling and a feeling of extreme heaviness in the upper and lower extremities, as well as the head and neck, among some patients who have undergone surgery or adjuvant treatments for breast and other cancers.

“With his expertise as a microvascular plastic surgeon, Dr. Skoracki offers hope and relief for patients suffering from lymphedema,” says Michael Miller, MD, chair of the Department of Plastic Surgery. “He is one of only a few surgeons nationwide performing two new microvascular procedures shown to relieve lymphedema’s painful symptoms by re-routing lymphatic channels to allow proper fluid drainage.”

As an esteemed medical scientist and surgeon who was recruited to Ohio State in 2013 to direct the Division of Surgical Oncology, Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD, has one overarching goal: find ways to better manage patients with sarcoma, his specialty.

Sarcomas are relatively rare cancers that arise from cells resembling those that compose bone and a variety of soft tissues. Skeletal sarcomas include osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma. Soft tissue sarcomas (STS), of which there are more than 100 subtypes, occur in striated and smooth muscle, fibrous and fatty tissue, blood vessels, nerve tissue, tendons and the lining of joints.

Grant support to study sarcomas is limited, but Pollock is principal investigator for an $11.5 million multi-institutional Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant from the National Cancer Institute that is designed to develop new treatments. The grant supports several projects, including one led by Pollock that involves a clinical trial to evaluate a systemic therapy possibility for patients with genetically complex STS.

“There is an essential need for innovative, less toxic, molecular-based therapies for all solid tumors, especially in the understudied rare orphan illnesses such as soft tissue sarcoma,” Pollock says. "If we had better options for patients so afflicted, the need for sometimes very extensive surgical interventions could be significantly diminished.

“As a sarcoma surgeon, I have no concerns about being put out of business; in fact, this is my fondest wish," he adds. “And for my patients, being told that they suffer from a rare tumor is not particularly helpful: For these people and their families, these unusual tumors all too often, at least temporarily, have the potential to take over and become almost their entire universe.”
Celebration for Life, the signature event held annually at Easton Town Center’s Smith & Wollensky, passed the $15 million fundraising mark this past May 16, as the dinner benefitting The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) drew a sell-out crowd in its 14th year.

Thanks to underwriting support from the Easton Community Foundation, 100 percent of event proceeds go to the Technology Acquisition Fund, which purchases state-of-the-art equipment that helps cancer experts at the OSUCCC – James to detect and treat the disease. Technology acquired because of Celebration for Life includes a PET/CT scanner, an Intra-Operative MRI system, a daVinci® Robot that enables minimally invasive surgeries, a mobile digital mammography unit and more.

The most recent purchase—a NextSeq™ 500 Sequencing System from the California-based Illumina company—made the difference in helping Ohio State lure one of the nation’s top hematopathology experts, Daniel Jones, MD, PhD, to the OSUCCC – James. The machine, a fast, flexible, high-capacity desktop gene sequencer, will provide Jones and other researchers with a better understanding of gene mutations, a fundamental cause of cancer.

The groundbreaking capabilities this technology enables would not be possible without support from Celebration for Life. “The equipment that has been purchased literally saves lives,” says Judy Tuckerman, event co-chair since the beginning with husband Steve. “That’s the reason why we do this, and we just hope we can keep raising money so that, as new technologies are discovered, The James will have access to them.”

Starting the Celebration

Judy Tuckerman still becomes almost giddy when recalling the first equipment purchase for the OSUCCC – James that led to the founding of Celebration for Life.

After being successfully treated for breast cancer 18 years ago by the OSUCCC – James’ William Farrar, MD, Judy asked him at that time what he needed to enhance his work. She and Steve were so impressed with Dr. Farrar and the OSUCCC – James that they wanted to give back in some fashion for the excellent care he had provided.

With Farrar’s answer of a $550,000 digital mammography unit firmly in mind, Judy and Steve spoke to their friends Leslie and Abigail Wexner, and John and Ann Wolfe, at an event a couple of days later. They managed to talk each couple into funding half. Judy remembers being so excited when she arrived home that night that Steve had to practically beg her not to call Dr. Farrar with the good news at the late hour.
After a restless night of anticipation, she woke Dr. Farrar with her early morning call. “I said, ‘Go get your machine. You’ve got the money,’” recalls Judy. “I told him the story of how we got it, but he may not have been listening because he was so excited.”

Then, at 9 a.m., the phone rang and it was Les Wexner. He wanted to start an annual fund and connect it to a fundraising event. The Tuckermans took up the challenge, and the excitement from that moment continues to fuel the massive fundraising effort that is Celebration for Life.

“We do this together,” says Judy, nodding toward her husband. “Steve loves doing what he does, and he’s more comfortable asking for money than me.”

“I’m always talking to people about The James,” says Steve, who runs Tuckerman Development Company, a luxury homebuilder in New Albany, Ohio. “I talk to my customers, our friends. And we are very fortunate that we have a lot of the same people return each year, as well as a few new faces.”

In addition to making numerous calls to drum up attendance at Celebration for Life, the Tuckermans host a dinner each January attended by nearly 100 people. The dinner itself is not a fundraising pitch, but a thank-you to those who attended Celebration for Life the previous year and a time to purchase tickets for the next event. While tickets are limited, the event almost always sells out.

A Fitting Tribute

To honor the immense impact that Celebration for Life has had on the detection and treatment of cancer at the OSUCCC – James, the new James Cancer Hospital and

Solove Research Institute boasts the Celebration for Life Conference Center, which encompasses three major conference rooms and a lobby area. The name could not be more fitting.

The Celebration for Life Conference Center serves as the site for world-class conferences with experts from around the globe—including “virtual” guests connected to audiences via the center’s state-of-the-art conferencing technology. Original artwork of Dale Chihuly, donated by the estate of philanthropist and OSUCCC – James supporter Richard Solove, adorns the space.

The Tuckermans call the conference center, named in honor of their tremendously successful fundraiser, “breathtaking.” But they know there is still much work to do.

“I volunteered during the opening of the new hospital, visiting patients and giving them blankets we’d made and other gifts. And it wasn’t easy,” says Judy. “They are getting wonderful care, the hospital is magnificent, but it’s not like another hospital—there’s no one with a broken leg or having cataract surgery. Every room has a person with cancer.”

The sobering thought is not lost on the Tuckermans, who have faced Judy’s cancer and built something beautiful from the experience: a celebration that will continue to provide life-saving technologies for patients at the OSUCCC – James for years to come.
At The James

Honoring Dr. Schuller: 44 Years of Service

On June 30, David E. Schuller, MD, hung up his white coat for a final time and stepped into retirement after 44 years of service to Ohio State’s College of Medicine, Wexner Medical Center, and Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James). Adequately paying tribute to Schuller for his many accomplishments and for his tremendous impact on students, colleagues, staff and patients may seem like a Herculean task, but the OSUCCC – James community has launched four initiatives to do just that.

David E. Schuller, MD Endowment for The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, led by Ted Teknos, MD, who holds the David E. Schuller, MD and Carole Schuller Chair in Otolaryngology at Ohio State along with Schuller’s colleagues, past trainees, patients and friends, are leading an initiative by OSUCCC – James supporters to establish a $10 million endowed fund that will support programmatic and research efforts in Ohio State’s Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Schuller served for 21 years as chair of that department, which is now chaired by Teknos. To date, supporters have raised more than $750,000 for the fund, a total that includes $300,000 from the department that will continue as an annual gift until the fund goal is reached.

David E. Schuller, MD Professorship for Patient Compassion

The David E. Schuller, MD Professorship for Patient Compassion has been created and funded by the Walter Family Foundation. This gift was inspired by Schuller’s incredible kindness towards patients and their families during their time of need. The Professorship will enhance caregivers’ training on the importance of compassionate patient care.

David E. Schuller, MD Laboratories

OSUCCC – James laboratory space on the fourth floor of the Tzagournis Medical Building on the Wexner Medical Center campus has been renamed the David E. Schuller, MD Laboratories. With this honor, the Schuller legacy of excellence as a clinician, researcher and educator will be forever linked to the oncology physicians and researchers who work in these labs and to the advances they will make in his name.

James Leadership Society Induction

Schuller and his wife Carole, who also has played important roles in the growth and development of the OSUCCC – James over the years, have been inducted into The James Leadership Society, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated leadership to Ohio State’s cancer program through exceptional public service, philanthropic activity or both. Membership in this Society is the highest recognition bestowed upon supporters of the OSUCCC – James.

Society members are honored by individualized bronze plaques that are displayed within the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. The plaques include an artist’s rendering of the recipient(s) and a brief bio that highlights his or her leadership and/or philanthropic impact.

Established in 1994, the Society includes these previously inducted members: John W. Wolfe (the charter member); 1997 inductees John F. Havens, Len Immke Jr., Dean W. Jeffers, John G. McCoy, Vern G. Riffe, James A. Rhodes, Richard J. Solove, R. David Thomas; and 2006 inductees Deborah Price, Stefanie and Chris Spielman, Judy and Steve Tuckerman, and the Block family, including Macy Block, Maxine Block, Jay Block, Janis Block, Jeff Block, Julie Block Glassman and Jeri Block.

“These honors constitute a fitting tribute to a man who has devoted his life’s work to Ohio State through his roles as surgical oncologist, cancer researcher, educator, administrator and compassionate friend to legions of patients and their families who have turned to our cancer program for help,” Dr. Teknos says. “Dr. Schuller’s services have been invaluable, and we believe these honors will help extend his legacy far into the future.”
Pelotonia’s Future: Extended Through Major Sponsors’ Commitment

The three major funding partners that have supported Pelotonia since 2010 have each committed to $500,000 annually for the next five years, ensuring that the grassroots bicycle tour will raise money for cancer research at Ohio State through 2020.

Thanks to annual support from these major supporters, including Huntington National Bank, L Brands Foundation, and Richard and Peggy Santulli—along with support from other generous sponsors—every cent raised by Pelotonia riders, virtual riders and donors goes to cancer research at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

Combined, the funding commitment from the three major sponsors will provide $1.5 million annually to help finance the costs of organizing the weekend event, including security and emergency services, food and refreshments, entertainment and marketing.

“Huntington National Bank, L Brands Foundation, and Richard and Peggy Santulli are the top tier of the many funding partners that are necessary to make Pelotonia a success,” says Stephen Chaykowski, assistant vice president of advancement at the OSUCCC – James.

Beyond providing financial support at the corporate level, Huntington and L Brands have generated significant support for the event through corporate pelotons (riding groups). Thousands of employees represent those companies as riders, virtual riders or volunteers whose donations of time and talent help make Pelotonia a success.

Pelotonia also has some 60 other partners that provide funding and other forms of assistance, including volunteer work. Besides the three major funding partners, two others—AEP and Nationwide—are classed as supporting funding partners, and both have re-committed $250,000 per year for five years and two years, respectively.

Classed as notable funding partners for Pelotonia are Cardinal Health, Harold C. Schott Foundation, Scotts Miracle-Gro and Kenyon College. The event also benefits from several notable in-kind partners. Pelotonia President and CEO Doug Ulman says all partners are critical to maintaining the Pelotonia experience.

In the first six annual bicycle tours (2009-14), Pelotonia has generated $82,343,670, including a record $21,049,621 by Pelotonia 14, which outdistanced the 2013 total by more than $2 million. Pelotonia 14 drew 7,270 riders from 41 states and 10 countries, 3,700 virtual riders, 2,600 volunteers and 276 registered pelotons.

Pelotonia dollars support a variety of projects related to cancer diagnosis, treatment, psychosocial issues and prevention. The money also funds: a Pelotonia Fellowship Program for students in all disciplines and at all levels of scholarship who want to conduct cancer research in the labs of faculty mentors; an idea grant program for teams of faculty researchers; new and upgraded technologies to aid research; and support for work by researchers newly recruited to Ohio State.

To date, Pelotonia has funded 353 student fellowship awards spanning nine Ohio State colleges and 48 academic departments, as well as Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Pelotonia also has funded 73 idea grants for researchers in nine OSU colleges, Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

“When we think of all the valuable research that has come from Pelotonia dollars so far, and the promise of more research to come, we have to give huge credit to our three major sponsors and to all of the others as well,” says OSUCCC Director and James CEO Michael A. Caligiuri, MD. “This support fuels our pursuit of a cancer-free world.”
K. Ashworth, nurse manager of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, isn’t one to sit still.

While telling the story of her stage-three breast cancer diagnosis and her subsequent decade of survivorship, Ashworth shifts in her chair and shuffles a new stack of business cards into a holder. Staff members peek their heads into her office, and she motions them toward an overflowing jar of candy, barely missing a beat.

“You’ve got to have good aim to hit a moving target,” she says. Ashworth, an RN with an MBA, works in one of the most stressful parts of the hospital—the place where victims of the most serious car accidents come after surgery, and where people who have been severely burned in fires come to recover. Not all of the patients survive, and the toll on staff can be tremendous.

“This is a hard unit to work in—you see some pretty devastating things, and our staff handles it with grace and humanity. They deserve everything they get,” she says, referring to the prestigious Silver Beacon award that the unit recently received from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

With a management philosophy based on respect and love, Ashworth has been called the glue that holds the unit together.

“As a manager, you have to know your staff, to respect and love them and know what their needs are,” she says. “I love being a bedside nurse and taking care of my patients, but some people have that natural ability to make people understand and follow them. I’m lucky enough to have that gene.”

Perhaps her desire to care for her staff, as well as an indefatigable work ethic, is why Ashworth chose to work the entire time she was undergoing treatment for cancer, missing only two half-days due to nausea. “I didn’t sign up for cancer, she says, “but if I have to have it, we’re going to do it my way.

“I was called to be a nurse. I’m not even sure I ever had a choice,” Ashworth recalls. “People give you their lives when they are the most vulnerable, and so afraid and frightened, and that’s sacred. Not everyone gets that opportunity. We’re privileged.”

This summer, Ashworth will ride in Pelotonia, the annual grassroots bicycle tour that raises money for cancer research at Ohio State, to give back to the university’s Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), where she received top-notch treatment, and to celebrate the recent conclusion of her decade-long chemotherapy treatment.

“We were put on this Earth to take care of one another. People deserve that.”

— K. Ashworth
March 30 was National Doctor’s Day and many patients shared their appreciation to those who treated them along their cancer journey with notes of thanks. Some writers shared just a few impactful words, while others wrote letters to share how their lives have changed since their treatment. Contributors also made gifts ranging from $1 to $2,500 to honor the exceptional care their doctor provided. One grateful patient was so moved by their experience at the OSUCCC – James that they made a planned gift of $10,000 with their Doctor’s Day note. These are just a few quotes from a few of the close to 700 notes received by doctors for National Doctor’s Day.

To: Amit Agrawal, MD
From: Debbie Tavenner

My mother, Jean, has been under your care since Nov. 2013. Your skills and knowledge are the reason my mother is still with us. Without fail, every encounter my mom and family has had with you, your hard working residents and all the nursing staff, demonstrates your commitment to keeping Mom as healthy as possible and restoring some joy to her life after a long and difficult treatment. Thank you.

To: John Byrd, MD
From: Sheila Cohen

...With my husband’s battle with CLL, the medical problems that evolved from that condition could not be cured or improved. Dr. Byrd not only tried every bit of medical knowledge he had, but the compassion and attention he showed to both of us was beyond expectation. My husband passed away on Feb. 13 but there is not enough I can do to thank Dr. Byrd and his team for all they did for him.

To: Pierluigi Porcu, MD
From: Julie Frank

... I have been cancer free for 10 years now. In the past 10 years, I have been able to watch my children attend proms, get driver’s licenses, graduate college and get married. Our family is forever indebted to you.

To: Manisha Shah, MD
From: Erika Westfall

... It’s hard to believe that it’s been 7 years since I was diagnosed. I want to thank you for all you’ve done to care for me, and also for all of your work and research on medullary thyroid cancer. I’m confident that I have the most informed doctor, and that you’ll make tremendous strides in finding a cure for this cancer.
A Legacy of Generosity
Lives on Through Boehm Foundation

By all accounts, Herman Boehm led an amazing storybook life. Today, his story continues through charitable giving, including a recent gift to The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

After escaping Nazi Germany, where he had worked as a lawyer in Berlin, Boehm immigrated to the United States and married the love of his life, Antoinette, known as Mimi. He returned to Germany as an officer in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps and helped liberate the concentration camp where his father had been killed but where his mother was still being held.

Following his service in World War II—and with his mother safely in the United States—Boehm went on to eventually achieve great success as a food importer. When Mimi died of cancer in 1989, Boehm set up the Antoinette E. “Mimi” and Herman Boehm Foundation to award grants to promote cancer research.

The Foundation, run by trustees since Boehm’s death in 2002, continues his legacy of generosity. And while usually the trustees direct gifts to cancer research in New York, the opening of the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute got their attention.

Specifically what caught their eye, says Trustee Paul Chazan, a New York attorney, was an ad for the new James that ran in The New York Times Magazine. “We were very impressed by the ad,” says Chazan, recalling that it mentioned how the OSUCCC – James has recruited many of the world’s top researchers, drawing talent from renowned institutions such as Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

“Something about the ad really struck me, and I did some research on The James and found it to be a very deserving charity. Besides,” he jokes, “as great as these New York institutions are, they still have not found a cure for cancer. So why not give someone else a chance?”

Chazan, who never knew Boehm personally, admires his ambition to fund cancer research. Chazan’s own experience of losing his father to pancreatic cancer 40 years ago, and more recently of losing a client to pancreatic cancer, provides insight into the importance of research.

“Herman set up the foundation because he wanted to offer some hope for cancer,” says Chazan. “You need money to do these things, so whatever little bit we can do is money well spent.”

The world’s most advanced cancer hospital opens soon.

The ad announcing the opening of the new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute that ran in The New York Times in the fall of 2014.
BEST Courier: Small Business Makes Huge Difference in Fight Against Cancer

Spend five minutes with Joe Eckart, president of BEST Courier, Inc., and it quickly becomes apparent that he wears his enormous heart on his sleeve.

Among the many kindnesses Eckart shows—to his staff, for whom he cooks elaborate meals several times a year in the office kitchen; to his wife, two children and three grandchildren, whom he dotes on; and to the 30 or so area nonprofits that are on the receiving end of free-of-charge deliveries or other support—he also provides complimentary courier service to the advancement team at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).

“I'm a soft touch,” he admits, then jokes: “Don’t tell anyone.”

His relationship with the OSUCCC – James began through a delivery gone wrong that sent Eckart to James Foundation Board member Dave Ryan’s home to apologize personally. “It was the luckiest day of my life when I met Dave,” says Eckart, “because he got me involved with The James.” When Ryan asked Eckart what he was doing for The James, it hit at a time when Eckart was ready to help; two of his closest friends had just been diagnosed with cancer.

The conversation that began that day resulted in a tremendous partnership, as BEST Courier now provides thousands of complimentary deliveries for the OSUCCC – James each year, including informational packets for board members, marketing materials, notes to donors and more. “Some people may wonder how The James can afford the courier service,” says Eckart, “but it’s free.”

In addition to the pro bono delivery services, Eckart and BEST Courier also help staff at Ohio State’s University Hospital East, with whom they’ve bonded during laboratory deliveries, reach their fundraising goals for Pelotonia. Last year BEST Courier sponsored a golf tournament in memory of Shelli Kazlausky, the University Hospital East employee who died tragically during Pelotonia 2010, that drew 84 golfers and raised $30,000 to cover the hospital employees’ Pelotonia fees. The tournament, now in its fourth year, is organized through the hard work of University Hospital East Administrative Director Lou Flocken. This year, BEST Courier is sponsoring a “virtual rider” in Pelotonia and is encouraging its customers to make donations, the first $20 of which the company will match.

Eckart urges other small and medium-sized businesses to get involved with the OSUCCC – James. “We’re a small company, but small companies can make a big difference,” he says, smiling. “At least we think we can.

“You’ll get more back from The James than what you give. There is no better cause in Columbus.”
Vinay Puduvalli, MD, encountered his first patient with brain cancer soon after finishing medical school, while working in a hospital in his native India. She was a woman in her early 30s, a new mother. After surgery did not help, and with limited treatment options, he recalls, “I had to walk in to inform her and the family that there was little left to do. It made a lasting impression on me.”

The encounter left Puduvalli with a strong desire to do research in addition to clinical work, leading him to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and then to The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), where he directs the Division of Neuro-oncology.

Recently, Puduvalli and J. Bradley Elder, MD, associate professor of neurosurgery, treated a patient with the same type of aggressive brain tumor from which the woman back in India had suffered: 77-year-old James Salvino, a longtime Worthington, Ohio, resident, active Rotarian, Corvette aficionado and family patriarch. Despite the unfortunate outcome—James Salvino passed away from his cancer this past February—the connection he and his family forged with Puduvalli and Elder and the incredibly positive experience they had with the OSUCCC – James inspired them to create the Salvino Family & Accenture Brain Cancer Research Fund.

The family’s fund, matched by a gift from Accenture, where James’ son Mike serves as group chief executive of Accenture Operations and oversees 88,000 employees, will create an educational opportunity for a neurosurgery fellow to study with Elder and a postdoctoral student to work alongside Puduvalli in his brain tumor research lab.

“In situations like those that the Salvinos experienced, so many people understandably want to just walk away,” says Puduvalli. “It takes a special kind of commitment and perspective to not only not turn away, but to pitch in and help in the effort to ensure that this doesn’t happen anymore.”

The gift, Puduvalli notes, is a fitting tribute to the memory of a man who accomplished so much running Dictation Office Products Company (DOPCO), his business of 25 years, and through his service to the Columbus community. “Mr. Salvino and his family were an enormous inspiration to the medical team,” says Puduvalli. “His legacy will live on in the work of the next generation of scientists who will be supported by this fund and through the impact of their research on patients with brain tumors.”

Moving the Line Toward Survival

There is no cure at this time for glioblastoma, the rapidly growing type of brain tumor James Salvino had, but researchers at the OSUCCC – James are working to extend patient survival time. “If you do nothing, average survival may be only a few months,” says Elder. “If you do radiation, you can usually get survival to six to nine months. With surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, you can get a healthy patient to about 15 months from diagnosis. Our role is to optimize and increase the patient’s life span.”

Elder calls it “moving the line.”

“We want, five years from now, to be able to say, ‘The line was 15 months and now it’s 30.’ Any little nudge we can get—anything we can do that tells us where or where not to push the line—every little bit helps.”

The Salvino Family & Accenture Brain Cancer Research Fund will help move the line, with Ohio State medical student Christopher Hong selected to be Elder’s first neurosurgery student through the fund. Hong will focus on genetic abnormalities in brain tumors, which may provide insight into how best to direct treatment.

Prerana Jha, a researcher from India meanwhile, is the first recipient of the postdoctoral fellowship from the Salvino Family & Accenture Brain Cancer Research Fund and will investigate “glioma resistance”. Explains Puduvalli, “Most cancers get better for a while as they are treated, and then the tumor comes back for reasons we don’t fully understand.”

Jha’s research will examine cells’ resistance to radiation and chemotherapy and the role that microRNA plays in that process. “This is an unexplored boundary for brain tumors that may potentially lead to finding new targets for treatment.” Puduvalli notes that such a fellowship opportunity
that can train several individuals like Jha over time can draw highly trained and committed fellows to doing research in the field of brain tumors, spreading the impact of the fund. “The fund will go a long way to bring the best of trainees to the OSUCCC – James and launch careers committed to the fight against brain tumors.”

Beyond enabling unprecedented research, the Salvino Family & Accenture Brain Cancer Research Fund will inspire students to dedicate their careers to brain cancer research, says Elder, who benefitted from a similar donor-created fellowship as a student at Columbia University. “I want this to be the spark that inspires students to do more work in this area.”

The Salvino Family & Accenture BRAIN CANCER RESEARCH FUND FELLOW

Caring for One Another, Making a Difference for Others

Like the doctors who cared for his father, Mike Salvino is passionate about moving the line. While helping his family through his father’s illness—including flying from his home in Charlotte, North Carolina, to Columbus weekly—he thought hard about the disease and how his family could make a difference. Already through their 5MPower® foundation and personally, Mike, Denise and their family regularly give to charitable causes in the Charlotte area, with a particular focus on bladder cancer research.

“When my dad became sick, I realized that, like bladder cancer, this is another cancer that people don’t know a lot about, and so not a lot of money is donated toward it—despite it being such an aggressive cancer,” he says.

During James Salvino’s final days, father and son talked about the importance of making a difference philanthropically.

“He really liked Dr. Puduvalli and Dr. Elder,” Mike Salvino says of his father. My dad was a big ‘people person’, and once he liked you, you were ‘in.’ He was very supportive of the idea of setting up a fund, and it was just classic my dad—he didn’t want the thing named after him. He wanted it to be named for his family.”

The Salvino family’s care for one another during this time did not go unnoticed by the OSUCCC – James team. “If there is one thing that really helps a patient besides surgery, chemotherapy and radiation,” says Elder, “it’s family support. The Salvinos exemplify what we like to see to maximize care. Mike, his mother Dawn, and sisters Chris, Theresa and Jennifer were all completely there for Mr. Salvino.”

And, says Salvino, the OSUCCC – James was there for his family. “There was not a time I ever thought we weren’t getting the best care. The empathy they showed to my mom was outstanding. There wasn’t a time they met with her that they didn’t give her a hug.”

continued on next page...
Community

On its own, the $100,000 gift from the Salvino family would make a significant difference to brain cancer research at Ohio State. But thanks to a robust matching gift program at Accenture—a more than 323,000-employee strong organization that is one of the world's leading companies, providing management consulting, technology and outsourcing services—the fund will have twice the impact.

At Accenture, corporate citizenship is central to the company’s core values and vision to improve the way the world works and lives. Employees at Accenture bring the same passion to community service that they do to client service, and the company has a goal to equip more than 3 million people around the globe with the skills to get a job or build a business, through its Skills to Succeed initiative.

“The people we hire generally enjoy giving back, so anything we can do to accelerate and empower them in that effort is a good thing,” says Brad Borders, the company’s liaison to The Ohio State University, which is one of Accenture’s top universities for recruiting its future workforce.

“We are very proud of this gift,” Borders says. “The company giving to brain cancer research is one of those things that makes you proud you work for Accenture, and we want it to have the biggest impact possible.”

Salvino and Accenture hope the fund will grow to $1 million through contributions from those who care about advancing brain cancer research. Gifts to the fund can be made by visiting http://go.osu.edu/salvino.

“I’m not a doctor, but I can help others to come up with a solution,” says Mike Salvino. “We can all help.”

ACCENTURE AUGMENTS THE IMPACT

Fundraising made easy!

Anywhere and anytime, you can create a giving page in support of Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute to raise awareness and funds for Ohio State’s cancer program.

From weddings to birthdays to just wanting to do more, giving pages are simple to create and easy to share with others to collect donations that will be used by our team of cancer doctors and researchers to create a cancer-free world.

Visit go.osu.edu/JAMESgivingpages to start fundraising today.
Community Partners

The OSUCCC – James Community Partners Program consists of corporations, individuals and community groups who raise funds in support of our vision to create a cancer-free world. From corporate initiatives to local events, our more than 400 Community Partners bring in significant dollars to further research, education and patient care at the OSUCCC – James. To learn more, please contact The James Development Office at 614-293-4927, communitypartnerevents@osumc.edu, or visit go.osu.edu/JamesCommunityPartners.

Subaru Continues to “Share the Love” With the Spielman Fund

Subaru of America, Inc. donated $15 million to national and local charities in its 2014 “Share the Love” event, bringing the total donated over the past seven years to $50 million. During the “Share the Love” event held at the end of each year, Subaru donates $250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased. Customers who purchase or lease a vehicle during that period select one of several charities to receive the donation. The seventh-annual “Share the Love” event recommended four national charities to support. In addition to those organizations, each Subaru retailer selected a fifth charity from their local community to support. The Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research was the local charity of choice designated by local Subaru auto dealership, Byers, Mazda, Subaru of Dublin. This is the second year that the Spielman Fund has been the local charity. Proceeds from the 2014 campaign donated to the Spielman Fund exceeded $47,000! For more information on this promotion, visit go.osu.edu/sharethelove2014.

ATO Casino Night

The Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity at The Ohio State University hosted its 11th Annual Casino Night on February 27th, 2015 at the Archie Griffin Grand Ballroom in the Ohio Union. Proceeds this year amounted to $45,000 and benefit the Tressel Family Fund for Cancer Prevention Research at the OSUCCC – James. Ted Teknos, MD, who chairs the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, spoke on behalf of The James about how important community events are to the research being performed at Ohio State, and the role that the Tressel Family Fund plays in cancer prevention.

Casino Night is a formal-attire event that features a variety of casino-style games, such as blackjack, roulette and craps, among others. Guests play these games with a set amount of fake money and turn in their “winnings” for raffle tickets to try to win prizes. Past prizes have included cruises, spa treatments, golf rounds, gift certificates, and autographed sports memorabilia.

Over the past 10 years, Alpha Tau Omega has raised more than $275,000 dollars toward the fight against cancer. The 2016 event date has been set for March 4 at the Ohio Union. To learn more about this event, visit alphatauomegaosu.com.
Community Partners

Raise A Racket

On Saturday, February 7, 2015, the annual Raise A Racket event was a grand slam of a success! Wickertree Tennis and Fitness Club was packed with friends, families and tennis enthusiasts to support the Diane Crawford Cervical Cancer Research, Education, and Outreach Fund at the OSUCCC – James. Diane Crawford, of The Crawford Crew, created Raise A Racket in 2011 after her own diagnosis with cervical cancer. This 4th annual event was a fun-filled day that included a tennis tournament where participants could practice drills with tennis pros, a live and silent auction, music, food and drinks. Raise A Racket raised over $20,000 this year and has generated over $63,000 since its inception. For more information, please visit thecrawfordcrew.org.

Breath of Hope Gala

The inaugural Breath of Hope Gala was held on Saturday, March 14, 2015, hosted at the L Brands corporate center. This magnificent event was conceived by Dr. Mark Lomeo and his wife Sandy to bring much needed awareness and funding to lung cancer research. More than $170,000 was raised to support this research at the OSUCCC – James, as directed by David Carbone, MD, PhD.

The evening started with a cocktail hour and an informal clinical research education event that led into the evening’s program and live auction hosted by NBC4 news anchor Cabot Rea. Featured speakers included Drs. Lomeo and Carbone; Annie Cacciato, lung cancer survivor and James Advocate; and Doug Ulman, President and CEO of Pelotonia. The evening concluded with dancing and live music from Johnny and the Revelators. Thank you to the John and Georgia DallePezze Family Foundation for supporting the event as the lead sponsor, and to L Brands for its generous dedication to the cause. To learn more about the Breath of Hope Gala, visit bluebeautifulskies.org.
ROCK AND ROLL OVER BRAIN CANCER
August 22, 2015
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
4850 Powell Road
Powell, Ohio 43065
Contact: Mary Kay Fenlon,
mkfenlon@sbcglobal.net
Benefiting the Lisa B. Landes Brain Cancer Fund

STEPS FOR SARCOMA
JAMES 5K RACE SERIES EVENT
September 13, 2015
Wendy’s Corporate Office
1 Dave Thomas Boulevard
Dublin, Ohio 43017
u.osu.edu/stepsforsarcoma
Benefiting the Steps for Sarcoma Walk/Run Fund

UP ON THE ROOF
October 3, 2015
Landmark Aviation
4130 E 5th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43219
go.osu.edu/upontheroof
Benefiting Cancer-Free World Initiatives at The James

COURAGE, CONQUER AND CURE
JAMES 5K RACE SERIES EVENT
October 3, 2015
Historic Canal Winchester
36 S. High Street
Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110
www.courageconquercure.com
Benefiting the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research

STEF’S CELEBRATE LIFE TAILGATE
October 3, 2015
1919 Cambridge Boulevard
Columbus, Ohio 43212
www.stfscelebratelifetailgate.org
Benefiting the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research

ST. MARYS TAILGATE FOR CANCER
October 9-10, 2015
Fraternal Order of Eagles 767 of St. Marys
404 E. Spring Street
St. Marys, Ohio 45885
www.tailgateforcancer.com
Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

COLUMBUS DONUT RUN
October 31, 2015
Genoa Park
303 W. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.joansfoundation.org
Benefiting the Joan Bisesi Fund for Head and Neck Oncology Research

BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER
February 20-25, 2016
Ft. Lauderdale, Labadee Island, and Ocho Rios, Jamaica
www.BuckeyeCruise.com
Benefiting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR LIFE
May 14, 2016
Smith & Wollensky,
Easton Town Center
4145 The Strand West
Columbus, Ohio 43218
www.go.osu.edu/CelebrationForLife
Benefiting the James Fund for Life

JAMES 5K race series
Proceeds from these races benefit cancer research at the OSUCCC — James. For more information, visit go.osu.edu/james5k

Don’t miss out on the last three 2015 James 5K Race Series Events!
The James

OSUCCC – James Development
660 Ackerman Rd
PO Box 183112
Columbus, OH 43218-3112

2016 BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER  FEBRUARY 20-25, 2016

Setting sail out of Fort Lauderdale, FL to Labadee– Royal Caribbean’s Private Island and Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Proceeds benefit the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research

To book a cabin and learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit BUCKEYECRUISE.COM or Call Travel Partners Specialty Tours, 614-792-6204!