

Circle of HOPE

Spring/Summer 2010

Boyle Family Endows Chair in Memory of "One Exceptional Scientist"



Above: Gert Boyle and Brian Druker, M.D.

The recent creation of an endowed faculty chair in basic science in association with the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute will advance its efforts to develop new molecularly targeted cancer therapies. The chair – which will help OHSU recruit a nationally known cancer researcher – was made possible by a \$2.5 million gift from Columbia Sportswear’s Boyle family: President and CEO Tim Boyle, his wife Mary and his mother, Chairman of the Board Gert Boyle.

The family gift is in memory of Gert Boyle’s late sister, Hildegard Lamfrom, Ph.D., for whom the chair will be named. Lamfrom died in 1984 at age 62, following a remarkable career in molecular biology marked by scientific achievement, superstar collaborators and legions of younger scientists buoyed by her mentorship. One of those beneficiaries was a promising undergraduate chemist at the University of California San Diego named Brian Druker, director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute.

Druker’s story underscores the powerful ripple effect of strong scientific mentoring. Lamfrom’s mentoring helped convince Druker to broaden his focus from pure laboratory science to patient care. From this followed the career experiences that led to his development of the breakthrough anticancer compound Gleevec. This medicine has saved hundreds of thousands of patients from chronic myeloid leukemia and other cancers, and has earned Druker the 2009 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, widely regarded as the American equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

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Hildegard Lamfrom, Western Reserve, 1940s



Arpana Naik, M.D., Carol Marquez, M.D., and Christine Kemp, R.N., F.N.P.

Intrabeam® Offers New Treatment Options

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute is one of a handful of centers nationwide to offer a powerful new treatment option for cancer patients – the Intrabeam, which delivers a high dose of radiation directly to the tumor site, sparing healthy tissue, reducing side effects, and accelerating treatment.

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Knight Cancer Institute
at Oregon Health & Science University

For More Information

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, a designated center of the National Cancer Institute, is dedicated to bringing new hope to cancer patients through compassionate care, groundbreaking research, and partnerships to catalyze better prevention, screening and treatment efforts.

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Message from the Chair

Last fall, my wife Suzanne and I had the privilege of traveling to New York to celebrate Dr. Brian Druker's selection as a recipient of a 2009 Lasker Award, commonly referred to as "America's Nobel" and perhaps the highest honor in American medical science. More than 75 Lasker Laureates have gone on to receive the Nobel Prize.

Dr. Druker received the Lasker Award for his pioneering work in developing Gleevec – the world's first targeted cancer therapy – for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML).

By targeting the molecular underpinnings of CML, Dr. Druker and fellow prize recipients, Nicholas Lydon and Dr. Charles Keller, broke new ground in cancer therapy and radically altered the prognosis of CML patients by converting a fatal cancer into a manageable condition.

Watching Dr. Druker receive this award was particularly meaningful for me. Nearly four years previously I was diagnosed with CML. While I was shocked and devastated by my diagnosis, Gleevec brought me hope. It normalized my white blood count and restored my health in just five weeks. Before Gleevec, CML patients were given four years to live. Because of Dr. Druker and Gleevec I have been able to live a normal and productive life with no side effects. I am now nearly five years in total remission.

The targeted therapy revolution has changed everything in cancer research, and I am proud that it began right here in Portland – at OHSU. Oregonians are so fortunate to have a top academic medical center like OHSU in our state and a scientist like Brian Druker in our own community. His accomplishments are a reflection of the exciting work underway by dozens of outstanding scientists at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute who are committed to finding better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

As someone who has benefitted from the extraordinary progress in cancer research and care, I want to do all that I can to advocate for and support the institute so that all cancer patients will benefit from new therapies and cures. I am grateful to our friends who accelerate these successes through their support of the institute. Even greater discoveries lie ahead because of your partnership. I have no doubt the best is yet to come.

– Rob Shick

Rob Shick is incoming chair of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Council and a member of the OHSU Foundation Board of Trustees. He is senior vice president of McAdams Wright Ragen.



Rob Shick, Brian Druker, M.D., Phil Knight at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's 2009 Targeting Hope Celebration.

Thyroid Cancer Research & Care: Excellence in Collaboration

For some patients with thyroid cancer, getting treatment can be a confusing and sometimes confounding process. Going back and forth between appointments with surgeons and endocrinologists to determine the best course of care results in frustration and fatigue for everyone involved.

OHSU's Knight Cancer Institute Thyroid Cancer and Parathyroid Clinic offers a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to the treatment of patients with thyroid cancer, tumors, nodules, cysts and goiters. A nationally recognized group of surgeons, endocrinologists, medical oncologists, and radiation oncologists work together to give patients comprehensive, targeted and personalized care. The result is a more streamlined, efficient experience for doctors and patients.

"This model allows for a primary endocrinologist to be in the clinic at all times," says Paul Flint, M.D., chair of the Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery. "Surgeons also see the patient more quickly, and everyone moves forward in treatment with greater ease." Nurse Coordinator Leslie Manser, R.N., B.S.N., helps patients navigate comfortably through their care regimen at the clinic.

Maisie Shindo, M.D., F.A.C.S., who joined OHSU's Department of Otolaryngology in 2008, is one of the most respected thyroid experts in the nation. She has been invited to give numerous lectures nationally and internationally due to her expertise in thyroid and parathyroid surgery.

"Surgery continues to be the best initial treatment for thyroid cancer," says Shindo, "followed by treatment with radioactive iodine for well-differentiated thyroid cancer, and meticulous surveillance to catch any recurrence. You need a highly experienced surgeon who gets the disease and who works side by side with the endocrinologist."

"Good communication is the key to efficient, effective care," says endocrinologist Linda Lester, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.P. She appreciates having quick access to surgeons, radiologists, pathologists and nurses when she's helping her patients. Coordinating all the different steps gives everyone, including the medical staff, a better experience,



Thyroid expert Maisie Shindo, M.D., F.A.C.S., joined OHSU's Department of Otolaryngology in 2008.

she says. Assessing a patient's risk for recurrence of cancer after surgery is her top priority.

"We don't want to under or over treat," Lester says. "And we want to carefully balance the risks of therapy with the risks of the disease."

Shindo is quick to praise the advantages of OHSU's collaborative care model. "As a multi-disciplinary team we can figure out what's the best treatment after surgery. For the patient it's very convenient; everyone's in one office, and if there's a question about surgery, I am right there to answer any questions or see the patient. Another essential component in diagnosis of thyroid cancer, be it initial diagnosis or for recurrent disease, is ultrasonography and cytopathology. We have excellent ultrasonographers and cytopathologists whose expertise in the area of thyroid cancer facilitates early and accurate diagnosis."

Expert research and clinical trials round out this team, ensuring that each patient has the opportunity to benefit from the latest developments in the lab. Led by medical oncologist Ann Gramza, M.D., OHSU offers clinical trials with several of the newest kinds of drugs for cancer, called targeted therapies, that work to specifically stop the growth of thyroid cancer cells. In addition, OHSU is one of only a few top academic medical centers using newly developed technology to look for specific gene mutations that have been linked to particular types of cancer. Endocrinologist Kathryn Schuff, M.D., along with medical oncologist Michael Heinrich, M.D. and pathologist Chris Corless, M.D., Ph.D., run a tumor registry which tests thyroid tumors for common genes associated with cancer. The patients who allow researchers to use their tissue samples for molecular genotyping are essential to the exploration of a new frontier in cancer research and future treatment.

The emotional impact on patients with a thyroid cancer diagnosis is heavy. OHSU's team of doctors and researchers understand this, and that's a big part of why they are dedicated to giving the best possible, personalized and targeted therapy available.

*Intrabeam Offers New Treatment Options
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Currently, the Intrabeam is used primarily for patients with breast and brain cancers. The therapy provides a targeted dose of radiation to the tumor site at the time of surgery. After the surgeon removes the tumor, the small Intrabeam applicator is placed into the tumor bed. The therapy may be used to complete all radiation treatment at the time of surgery, or as a boost for breast cancer treatment. Following the Intrabeam treatment's delivery, the surgeon removes the applicator and miniature X-ray source, and closes the surgical site.

"By placing the source of the radiation directly in the surgical cavity, other tissues like the overlying skin and the rest of the breast are not treated with radiation. By having the surgeon place the applicator, you can be certain that the radiation is delivered to the correct location," says Carol Marquez, M.D., an associate professor of radiation oncology.

Breast cancer survivor Elaine Kapinos was the first at OHSU to benefit from this new device. Breast Center Director Arpana Naik, M.D., called Kapinos shortly after her diagnosis to tell her she fit the profile of someone who could benefit from the Intrabeam during her lumpectomy. According to her physicians, Kapinos' surgery went perfectly. One Intrabeam treatment covered a number of traditional radiation treatments for her.

"It's painless," Kapinos says. "It doesn't affect recuperation, and if I can eliminate 8 day trips to the hospital for radiation, that's great for me, and for the doctors. More time for all of us, and I save money on gas."

"As someone who was held in such high regard by the top scientists of her time, Hildegard made an incredible impact on my life and career," said Druker. "I am so pleased that OHSU will be helping to preserve her legacy."



Hildegard Lamfrom, Ph.D.

Originally from Germany, Lamfrom immigrated to the United States at the height of Nazi rule along with her parents and two younger sisters. Her parents settled in Portland, where they soon launched the apparel company that would grow into Columbia Sportswear. The teenaged Lamfrom daughters attended Grant High School, perfected their English and readily acclimated to life in their adoptive country.

Gifted in math and science, Lamfrom went on to earn her bachelor's degree at Reed College, a master's at Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. at what is now Case Western Reserve in Ohio. She launched her 40-plus-year scientific career at the very dawn of the field of molecular biology, when exciting work was happening at places like California Institute of Technology and Britain's Medical Research Council Laboratory in Cambridge. Remaining a "free agent" rather than settling into a permanent, tenure-track position, Lamfrom traveled to these and other prestigious institutions around the globe to work for and collaborate with or mentor some of the biggest names in 20th Century science: Linus Pauling, Richard Feynman, James Watson, Francis Crick, and a half dozen of their fellow Nobel laureates.

She was best known for her late 1950s to early 1960s work in protein synthesis, which was cited by Watson in his 1962 Nobel acceptance lecture. Her career also included productive stints at southern California's City of Hope and Cedars of Lebanon hospitals, the Salk Institute, the University of Oregon, UC San Diego and Harvard. Overseas, she joined pioneering research teams at laboratories in Copenhagen, Paris and Ahmedabad, India. Preeminent research leaders sought her out because they valued her authoritative insights on scientific problems, her innovative and tenacious approach to day-to-day bench science, and her facility for mentoring younger staff members.

"Hildegard was a selfless contributor to many significant teams tackling the most vexing genetic puzzles known to science," said Tim Boyle on behalf of his family. "She ultimately succumbed to cancer, which she believed someday would be curable. She would have wanted to be remembered as providing fanatically dedicated support to basic science, focused on the most significant health issues in the world."



Evan and Tom Denhart at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

PAR for Life Honors Commitment to Stop Prostate Cancer

“When my father, Tom Denhart, was diagnosed in 1994 at age 53 with prostate cancer our family knew little about the disease despite having a family history of prostate cancer,” says Evan Denhart, Tom’s oldest son. “While we were all in shock, my father and Gun [his wife] felt that through education they would understand the options and ask the right questions.”

Evan said while originally his dad’s diagnosis was poor – doctors gave him a life expectancy of less than three years – that his proactive approach to educating himself about the

various options helped him to live another 15 years before succumbing to the disease in April of 2009.

“Not only did my dad’s experience make him an advocate for his own health but it also inspired him to raise awareness and support for prostate cancer research and education,” says Evan.

In the late 1990s, Tom and Jim Snow started an annual golf event, the Prostate Cancer Challenge, to raise support for prostate cancer research. Over the past six years, the Challenge has given nearly \$300,000 to prostate cancer research at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. In addition, Tom and his family have been generous personal supporters of the institute’s prostate cancer program and its leader, Tom Beer, M.D. This spring the program received a \$600,000 gift from Tom through his estate. In appreciation, the institute plans to name a laboratory bay in honor of Tom.

Like his father, Evan is committed to fostering greater awareness of prostate cancer. In November 2009 Evan

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Awards Advance Promising Research

Generous philanthropic support from U.S. Bank, the N.W. Heart of Gold and the Oregon Cancer Ski Out, enabled the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute to select four researchers last summer to receive Cancer Research Development Awards. These awards, which provide support for faculty members in the early stages of their careers, are aimed at cultivating outstanding cancer research that could lead to better ways to treat, diagnose or prevent cancer.

Jeff Tyner, Ph.D., a post-doctoral fellow, received a \$10,000 award from U.S. Bank for research that focuses on therapeutic targets in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common form of malignancy in children. During his laboratory work, Dr. Tyner identified a cancer-causing gene that appears to be a good therapeutic target in 5% of all patients with ALL.

“Our goal is to fully understand the role of this gene in causing cancer in these patients, such that we can develop cancer therapies to target this gene, and improve outcomes for these patients,” said Dr. Tyner. “Without U.S. Bank’s generosity, I could not pursue this goal.”

U.S. Bank pledged \$50,000 to make one \$10,000 award each year for the next five years. Bank President Malia Wasson and Community Relations Manager David Wynde presented Dr.



(L-R) David Wynde and Malia Wasson visit with U.S. Bank Cancer Research Development Award recipient Jeff Tyner, Ph.D., and Brian Druker, M.D.

Tyner with his award during a recent tour of his lab.

“It’s an honor for us to have the opportunity to support such important research,” said Wasson. “Jeff Tyner’s work can make a huge difference that impacts the lives of so many people and we’re excited to help advance his endeavors.”

Three other researchers received \$10,000 awards for research studies that also are focused on understanding the molecular and genetic causes of cancer in order to develop more effective therapies. Mu-Shui Dai, Ph.D., and Anupriya Agarwal, Ph.D., received awards from the Oregon Cancer Ski Out. Monika Davare, Ph.D., received the N.W. Heart of Gold Award. A scientific review committee at the institute selects the award recipients through a competitive internal review process.

Clinical research studies get boost from Safeway, Kuni Foundations

New I-SPY 2 Trial Targets Breast Cancer

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute is one of 20 cancer centers across the country selected to participate in a groundbreaking clinical trial aimed at testing the most promising drugs in development in women newly diagnosed with higher risk, rapidly growing breast cancers.

The I-SPY 2 Trial (Investigation of Serial Studies to Predict Your Therapeutic Response with Imaging and MoLecular Analysis) marks a unique public-private partnership between the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the FDA, the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, major pharmaceutical companies and Safeway, Inc.

Women who participate in the trial will receive anti-cancer drugs before they have surgery to remove their tumors. In the course of the trial, breast cancer drugs in development will be tailored to the biology of each woman's tumor using specific genetic or biological markers. Unlike conventional clinical studies, where the efficacy of a treatment is determined upon completion of a trial, I-SPY 2 is set up to continuously analyze results in real time.



Steve Chui, M.D.

“As a physician who treats breast cancer, I am incredibly excited about the I-SPY 2 study,” said Steve Chui, M.D., director of breast cancer clinical research at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. “This revolutionary study dramatically accelerates the way that we evaluate and develop new breast cancer drugs, and brings these therapies to the people

who need them. The goal of this study is to treat women with breast cancer on an individualized basis, matching the right drug to the right patients.”

All participants in the trial will receive the current optimal standard of care and most will receive one investigational drug. That novel drug will be customized for each individual tumor. The I-SPY 2 trial is also expected to further advance the concept of personalized medicine by leveraging molecular tools developed during the last decade to identify which tests should be used to determine who should be treated with which drugs.

Dan Floyd, on behalf of the Safeway Foundation, presents Steve Chui, M.D., with a gift from Safeway's October 2009 breast cancer fundraising campaign to support the I-SPY 2 project.



In addition to speeding the process of bringing safe and efficient new drugs to patients, I-SPY 2 has the potential to significantly reduce the cost of drug development. Currently, it takes more than \$1 billion, 12 to 15 years, and thousands of patient volunteers to get a single drug approved.

“Compared to the slow pace of current drug development, the I-SPY 2 platform potentially can help us identify five times as many active breast cancer drugs for one-fifth of the cost, in half the time, using half the volunteers,” says Chui. “We are thankful that Safeway has partnered with the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and sees the potential in this unique clinical trial. This gift will help deliver potentially more effective life-saving therapies to the thousands of women diagnosed with breast cancer each year.”

The institute anticipates opening the I-SPY 2 Trial in the summer of 2010. For more information, visit www.ohsuhealth.com/breastcancer.

Kuni Foundation Grants Advance Prostate Cancer Research

Two of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's prostate cancer clinician researchers – Tomasz Beer, M.D., F.A.C.P., and Joshi Alumkal, M.D. – recently received grants of \$137,500 each from the Wayne D. Kuni and Joan E. Kuni Foundation to fund clinical research studies in prostate cancer.

“There is a great need for the development of new therapies for the nearly 75 men who are dying from prostate cancer every day in the United States. The Kuni Foundation's support will help provide the essential resources to move our ideas from laboratory benches into the clinic,” said Beer, who is deputy director of the institute, leader of the prostate cancer program and the Grover C. Bagby Endowed Chair of Prostate Research.

Beer's study seeks to understand if targeting a particular gene, MAOA, can circumvent an inducible resistance pathway and improve chemotherapy outcomes in patients with prostate cancer.



Tom Beer, M.D., and Joshi Alumkal, M.D., recently received grants that will enable them to conduct new prostate cancer clinical research studies.

Alumkal's study builds upon two decades of research with the compound sulforaphane, which is derived from cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, whose high consumption is associated with a lower risk of prostate cancer in epidemiological studies. However, until Dr. Alumkal's work with sulforaphane in prostate cancer cells, it was not known how diets rich in these foods may protect men from prostate cancer. Dr. Alumkal showed that sulforaphane treatment of prostate cancer cells leads to disruption of androgen receptor signaling, the central pathway in prostate cancer. In his Kuni-funded proposal, he will determine the safe and effective dose of sulforaphane in men with recurrent prostate cancer. Alumkal serves as assistant professor of medicine and was recently named associate scientific advisor of the journal *Science Translational Medicine*, a publication of *Science Magazine*.

The Wayne D. Kuni and Joan E. Kuni Foundation is committed to funding advanced research in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, with particular emphasis on clinical applications of promising drug and technological advances.

Carl Christoferson, president of the Wayne D. Kuni and Joan E. Kuni Foundation, says that funding cancer research was very important to Wayne Kuni, who was the founder of Kuni Automotive.

Kuni was the victim of three kinds of cancer, Christoferson said. When he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2004, Kuni set to work creating the Kuni Foundation that was to direct much of his company's proceeds to charity. The foundation was established in 2005, and Kuni died at age 75 in February 2006.

Kuni was also a member of both the institute's council and the OHSU Foundation's board of trustees. During his lifetime, contributions from Kuni and his family, friends and colleagues helped fund important research initiatives at the institute.

What are clinical trials?

Clinical trials are research studies in which people help doctors find ways to improve health and care. Cancer studies try to answer scientific questions and to find better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat cancer. Most clinical research that involves the testing of a new drug progresses in an orderly series of steps, called phases. This allows researchers to ask and answer questions in a way that results in reliable information about the drug and protects the patients.

- Phase I trials are first studies that usually enroll a small number of people and evaluate how a new drug should be given (by mouth, injected into the blood, or injected into the muscle), how often, and what dose is safe.
- Phase II trials continue to test the safety of the drug, and begin to evaluate how well the new drug works. Phase II studies usually focus on a particular type of cancer.
- Phase III trials often enroll large numbers of people and test a new drug, a new combination of drugs, or a new surgical procedure in comparison to the current standard. A participant will usually be assigned to the standard group or the new group at random.
- Phase IV trials evaluate the side effects, risks, and benefits of a drug over a longer period of time and in large number of people. These trials are often conducted after a treatment has been approved and is being marketed.

For more information, contact:

- OHSU Knight Cancer Institute (which manages approximately 400 cancer clinical trials/year): www.ohsu.edu/cancer or 503 494-1080
- National Cancer Institute: www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials or 1 800 4-CANCER

Source: National Cancer Institute

Oregon's Only Public Cord Blood Program Offers Potential for Cures

For thousands of adults and children battling cancer and other life-threatening blood diseases, the odds of survival just got better. Doernbecher Children's Hospital recently established Oregon's only public cord blood bank.

Cord blood is rich in stem cells that can seed in bone marrow and then grow into healthy blood and immune cells. That in turn offers the potential cure for many cancers, blood disorders, and inherited diseases.

Eneida Nemecek, M.D., director of the OHSU Doernbecher Pediatric Bone and Marrow Transplant Program, leads the Oregon Cord Blood Program.

"Unrelated umbilical cord blood donation may be the only chance for cure for patients who have exhausted all available treatment options and for whom no matched family members or adult unrelated donors are found for transplantation," said Nemecek. "It's amazing that something once considered medical waste [umbilical cord blood] can now be used to save lives."

There are just 21 public cord blood programs in America. Oregon's program is the result of a grant from the Friends of Doernbecher, which is partnering with the Puget Sound Blood Center in Seattle to collect cord blood units in Oregon for public donation.

"We want to open the option of cord blood donation for all Oregonians and would like to increase the inclusion of donors of all ethnic backgrounds," Nemecek explained.

Eneida Nemecek, M.D., leads the Oregon Cord Blood Program.



Caucasian patients have a 75 percent chance of finding an unrelated donor, while ethnic minorities have much lower chances, ranging between 2 percent and 30 percent.

OHSU/Doernbecher's Oregon Cord Blood Program coordinators are now collecting umbilical cords from consenting mothers in the OHSU Mother/Baby Unit. Collected cord blood units will be entered into the National Cord Blood Inventory, a federally funded program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and made accessible to patients in need anywhere in the world.

The program's annual budget is small right now, about \$50,000. But Dr. Nemecek sees that growing through private donations as the program expands beyond OHSU to other hospitals in Portland, and, eventually, across the state.

Donating cord blood is free. The Oregon Cord Blood Program covers the cost of collecting, processing and storing cord blood units. The donor's name is kept confidential, and the recipient family's privacy is protected. Names are not shared with any patient or transplant center.

"I have donated the cord blood of both my children," said Nemecek. "It is safe and does not represent any risk for the mother or the newborn. I invite everyone in our community to consider entering the National Marrow Donor Registry. Giving bone marrow or donating cord blood could save the life of another human being."

PAR for Life Honors Commitment (continued from page 5)

started a foundation, the Prostate Awareness Research Foundation, known as PAR for Life, to continue to advance the knowledge and understanding necessary to individualize prostate cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Beer, who is also the institute's deputy director and the Grover C. Bagby Chair of Prostate Cancer Research, chairs PAR for Life's scientific advisory board.

"PAR for Life is an extension of our family's commitment to eliminate death from prostate cancer," says Evan. "We want men who are at risk or who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer to understand their individual health risks, the biology of their cancer and their treatment options through a strong patient-doctor relationship."

"Tom was an incredible man," said Beer. "The generosity of Tom and his entire family has allowed us to make a game changing difference through prostate cancer research. I am thrilled to work with Evan to make PAR for Life a dynamic force for change for men who have prostate cancer. We shall not stand down until suffering from prostate cancer becomes a distant memory."

The PAR for Life Foundation raises support through a variety of golf-related event activities, including golf tournaments, "Tee Times 4 Charity," and other special events. Funds raised benefit prostate cancer research and education activities. On Oct. 4, 2010, the foundation will hold its second event in the PARforlife golf series at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club in Portland, Oregon. To learn more, visit www.ParforLife.org.

Research Updates

Drug for Advanced Prostate Cancer Shows Promise

An investigational drug that's shown promise in men with advanced prostate cancer will now move one step further in clinical development. In Phase II clinical trials, MDV3100 has been shown to effectively lower prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels – a marker for tumor growth – in men with advanced prostate cancer who have no other treatment options. The investigational drug also has been shown to shrink prostate cancer lesions identified on imaging studies in some patients. The Phase III clinical trial of MDV3100 will seek to determine whether the drug extends the lives of men with advanced metastatic prostate cancer.

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute is one of just three original centers worldwide to enroll participants in all phases of MDV3100 clinical trials. Two additional centers joined the study as it progressed.

“This clinical trial is yet another example of how the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute is consistently able to bring the most exciting and promising new drugs and treatment options to Oregonians,” said OHSU principal investigator Tomasz Beer, M.D. “We saw the majority of men respond favorably to treatment, including men whose cancers were resistant to both hormonal therapy and chemotherapy and who have no good treatment options today.”

Chemo-Radiation Before Prostate Removal May Prevent Recurrence

Researchers in the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) have found a combination of radiation therapy and chemotherapy given before prostate removal is safe and may have the potential to reduce cancer recurrence and improve patient survival.

“In men with aggressive prostate cancer, standard therapies such as radiation or surgery often fail to eliminate the cancer completely at the site of treatment. When these cancers recur, they are often fatal,” said principal investigator Mark Garzotto, M.D., who holds dual appointments at OHSU and the Portland VAMC. “Novel approaches are needed if we are to make advances in this disease.”

The use of multimodality therapy – combined radiation, chemotherapy and surgery – has resulted in improved outcomes in a number of cancers, but has not yet been studied in prostate cancer. Co-investigator Arthur Hung, M.D., says this study is the first-ever clinical trial in prostate cancer to combine radiation, chemotherapy and surgery given as a combination treatment before prostate

surgery to potentially provide higher cure rates than traditional approaches with fewer side effects.

Hayes-Lattin to Advise LIVESTRONG



The cancer patient advocacy organization LIVESTRONG has selected Brandon Hayes-Lattin, M.D., as its senior medical adviser and spokesperson for medical and scientific issues. Trained and experienced in treating patients with various blood cancers and in stem cell transplants, Hayes-Lattin established the Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Program at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute in 2006 with support from LIVESTRONG. The National Cancer Institute has defined adolescents and young adults with cancer as a distinct population diagnosed at ages 15 through 39. A young adult cancer survivor himself, Hayes-Lattin brings unique insight and compassion to his patients and their families, his students, and the research he conducts.

Bagby Named ACP Master



The American College of Physicians has selected Grover C. Bagby, M.D., as a 2010 Master – a prestigious honor awarded to a small number of doctors around the world each year through a meticulous selection process that is based on personal character, positions of honor, and excellence and significance of contributions to the field of medicine. Bagby founded the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute (formerly called the Oregon Cancer Center) in 1992. He retired as director in 2007, and currently is an OHSU professor of medicine and molecular and medical genetics with research interests in carcinogenesis and leukemia.

“When I consider my own Oregon heroes that were Masters of the ACP, luminaries like Drs. Howard Lewis and Edwin Osgood, this is one of the most meaningful awards I’ve ever received,” says Bagby. “I am truly humbled and honored to have been selected.”

Mohs Award Presented to Swanson

Neil A. Swanson, M.D., professor of dermatology, surgery and otolaryngology and associate director for clinical operations for the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, received the 2009 Frederic E. Mohs Award for Career Achievement by the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS). This lifetime achievement award honors individuals who promote Mohs surgery throughout their

Researchers Receive Grant Awards



SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D., research associate professor, received a \$275,000 grant from the Avon Foundation for Women to study the genetic defects that change normal breast stem cells into breast cancer stem cells. Recent research has shown that breast cancer begins from a normal breast stem cell that becomes damaged through DNA mutations. The cancers that develop contain defective stem cells. Dr. Pommier and her team will be comparing both normal and breast cancer tissue to examine genes in the stem cells that are known to be involved in normal cell behavior and in cancer. By compiling genetic profiles for normal and breast cancer stem cells, Dr. Pommier will create an enormous amount of data that will help identify cancer-causing agents.

Three researchers received pilot project support awards from the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute:

Samuel Wang, M.D., Ph.D, assistant professor of radiation oncology, received an award funded by the Schnitzer Investment Corp. for a research study that aims to create a set of tools to provide more customized treatment recommendations for a given patient, based upon their individual characteristics and risk factors. Currently, most cancer treatment recommendations are based on studies that provide treatment guidelines for a general population of patients. However, individual patients vary widely in prognosis and response to treatment based on a variety of factors, including cancer stage, tumor characteristics, gender, and age. This project seeks to provide oncologists with a set of web-based online survival prediction calculators for a multitude of cancer types that could help in making treatment decisions regarding whether a given therapy would benefit a specific patient.

Phillippe Thuillier, Ph.D., received an award funded by the NW Heart of Gold to support research focused on understanding the role of food and diet in preventing cancer. One of the focuses of Thuillier's lab is to understand the effect of dietary nutrients (Omega 3 fatty acids, broccoli and others) on breast and prostate cancer prevention. Research has determined that broccoli and Omega 3 fatty acids decrease tumor growth and that the mechanisms involve regulation of cell death and oxidative stress (an initial trigger for cancer promotion). A better understanding of the role of dietary fatty acids in cancer development may lead to more efficient prevention strategies. The NW Heart of Gold, which is comprised of Columbia River Yacht Club members, has raised nearly \$800,000 through an annual dinner and auction to support research at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute since 2003.



Charles Lopez, M.D., received a 2009 Knight Cancer Institute Pilot Project Award funded by the National Cancer Institute to study a new and unpublished form of a binding protein called delta-ASPP2 to validate its role in human cancer development. This understanding could enable the discovery of new molecular targets to exploit in the development of novel cancer therapies. Lopez and his team are attempting to genetically engineer a mouse to help validate that delta-ASPP2 is an important determinant in human cancer development. They will also examine the expression of delta-ASPP2 in human breast cancer prior to treatment with chemotherapy to see if the expression of delta-ASPP2 is an important clinical prognostic marker in breast cancer. Ultimately the team expects that this research into the basic molecular mechanisms underlying the etiology and treatment of cancer will lead to the development of more effective and less toxic therapies for the treatment of cancer patients.

Research Updates (continued from page 9)

career with their teaching, clinical practice, scientific contributions, innovation, mentorship, or service to the organization. Swanson is an international lecturer, author and clinical expert regarding the detection and treatment of skin cancer. In addition to authoring numerous journal articles and textbooks, he has trained 28 surgical fellows.

Bornstein named 2010 Rubinstein Scholar

Sophia Bornstein, Ph.D., recently received the 2010 Rubinstein Radiation Research Scholar Award. Bornstein

who will soon receive her medical degree is also one of two students – out of 153 – recently accepted for the residency program in radiation oncology at OHSU. Her particular interests are the mechanisms that cause head and neck cancer to develop. Her research has involved studying the Fanconi Anemia and the BRCA signaling pathways. With Dr. Charles Thomas, chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine, she has worked on research projects that focus on how to prevent side effects caused by radiation damage to the rectal/pelvic area and whether stem cell therapy could regenerate tissue. Bornstein has been published as first author in leading cancer journals.



Loyal, Quiet Donors Leave Generous Legacy

Eunice and Theodore “Ted” Angel were among the first donors to the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute’s Circle of Hope, which was established in 1999 as a giving club for people who wanted to support the institute’s mission to defeat cancer. While the Angels gave quietly for many years, it wasn’t until after Eunice died that OHSU learned of their significant intentions to support the institute with a gift through their estate planning. Last month, members of Eunice’s family traveled to OHSU to deliver a check for \$1.15 million.

In presenting the check to Institute Director Brian Druker, M.D., Eunice’s brother, Jack Taylor, said he felt his sister and brother-in-law had given to the right place as they had lost family members to cancer, including Eunice and Jack’s mother. Accompanying Taylor to campus were his wife, Stella, daughter, Ardy, and the Angels’ estate attorney, Pam Pariani.

Eunice and Theodore Angel

Eunice was a native Oregonian who lived most of her life in the Portland area. Eunice and Ted were both avid golfers and enjoyed extensive travel. Eunice’s family says she was an accomplished seamstress and a gourmet cook and that she loved to entertain. She was especially fond of her dog, Heather. Eunice died on November 30, 2008, at the age of 87. Ted died in 2008.

Dr. Druker expressed deep gratitude to the Taylors for the Angels’ generosity, which will provide the institute with critical resources to advance cancer research and care. One of the institute’s top priorities is to provide faculty with the resources they need to accelerate the pace of discovery. Gifts such as the Angels’ enable the institute to recruit top researchers and provide them with important resources to set up laboratories, hire support staff, and conduct groundbreaking research studies.



Eunice Angel’s brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Stella Taylor, with Brian Druker, M.D.

Today’s decisions can become tomorrow’s discoveries



You have the power to make a difference in the future of health care.

With a generous legacy gift to benefit the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, you can play a critical role by funding leading-edge research and discovery that brings breakthrough treatments and new hope for all. A gift to OHSU through your will, trust or retirement plan is an investment in knowledge, care and the vitality of our region.

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**Let's cure cancer.
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Prevent prostate cancer.
Stop lung cancer.
Change the world.**

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