

UPMC CancerCenter
Partner with University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

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CANCER

DISCOVERY & CARE

INSIDE 4 From Survivor to Champion | 10 Prestigious Grants | 14 Faculty Honors and Additions | 19 2013 Gala | 20 2014 Gala/Donors



**FROM SURVIVOR
TO CHAMPION**

UPMC CancerCenter

Partner with University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute



A Comprehensive Cancer
Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute

The University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, working in conjunction with UPMC CancerCenter, UPMC's clinical care delivery network, is western Pennsylvania's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, reflecting the highest level of recognition by the NCI.

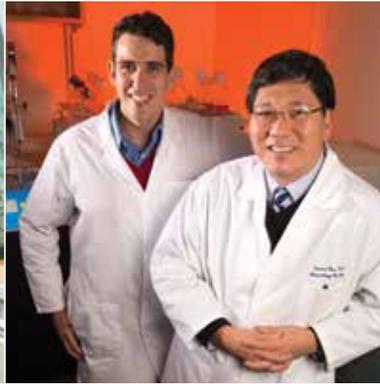
ON THE COVER

Robert Flug, a patient of Dr. David Bartlett at the David C. Koch Regional Perfusion Cancer Therapy Center, has turned his appendiceal cancer journey into hope for others with this rare disease.

CANCER

DISCOVERY & CARE

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



We frequently ask ourselves how we can tell if we at University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) and UPMC CancerCenter are making a difference in our campaign against cancer. One way we can judge progress is by the impact of our researchers in their chosen areas of investigation. Ideally, a great idea is tested in the lab and/or clinic, and those studies lead to a specific conclusion that influences how we think about or approach cancer. Such discoveries are then published in the scientific or medical literature so that others may build upon this new knowledge and create new cancer therapies.

Of course, authorship of highly influential papers is but one metric of success. We also count the grant dollars we bring in to support our work, including several Lead Academic Participating Site (LAPS) grants and the award from the National Cancer Institute that brands UPCI's Clinical Trial Program as one of only 31 Comprehensive Cancer Centers within the National Clinical Trial Network. Also of importance is the number of individuals who we train and educate, the number of clinician-researchers holding leadership positions in national cancer organizations, our rankings in *U.S. News & World Report*, and so much more.

But the most significant indicators are the patients and families that we serve, the quality of care we provide, and the individual lives we strive to improve and extend. As you will read in this issue, we are helping patients far beyond the borders of western Pennsylvania, including a man from New York City diagnosed with a rare cancer who sought treatment at the David C. Koch Center.

Our contributions to the slow but steady decrease in cancer mortality in the United States are an important measure of our success. With your support over the years, UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter have changed the face of cancer in our region. Your generous investment of time, talent, and funds has allowed us to challenge the way we view these diseases, unlocking innovative treatment options that are transforming medicine and extending — or even saving — lives, one at a time.

Still, our work is far from complete. The American Cancer Society estimates that 1.5 million people were diagnosed with cancer in the United States in 2014. Each of these individuals deserves the opportunity to soar in the face of his or her disease, and needs our ongoing support. All of us at UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter look forward to partnering with you as we advance our vision to make a meaningful impact on the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Nancy E. Davidson, MD

Director
UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter

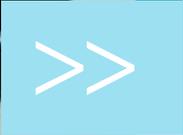
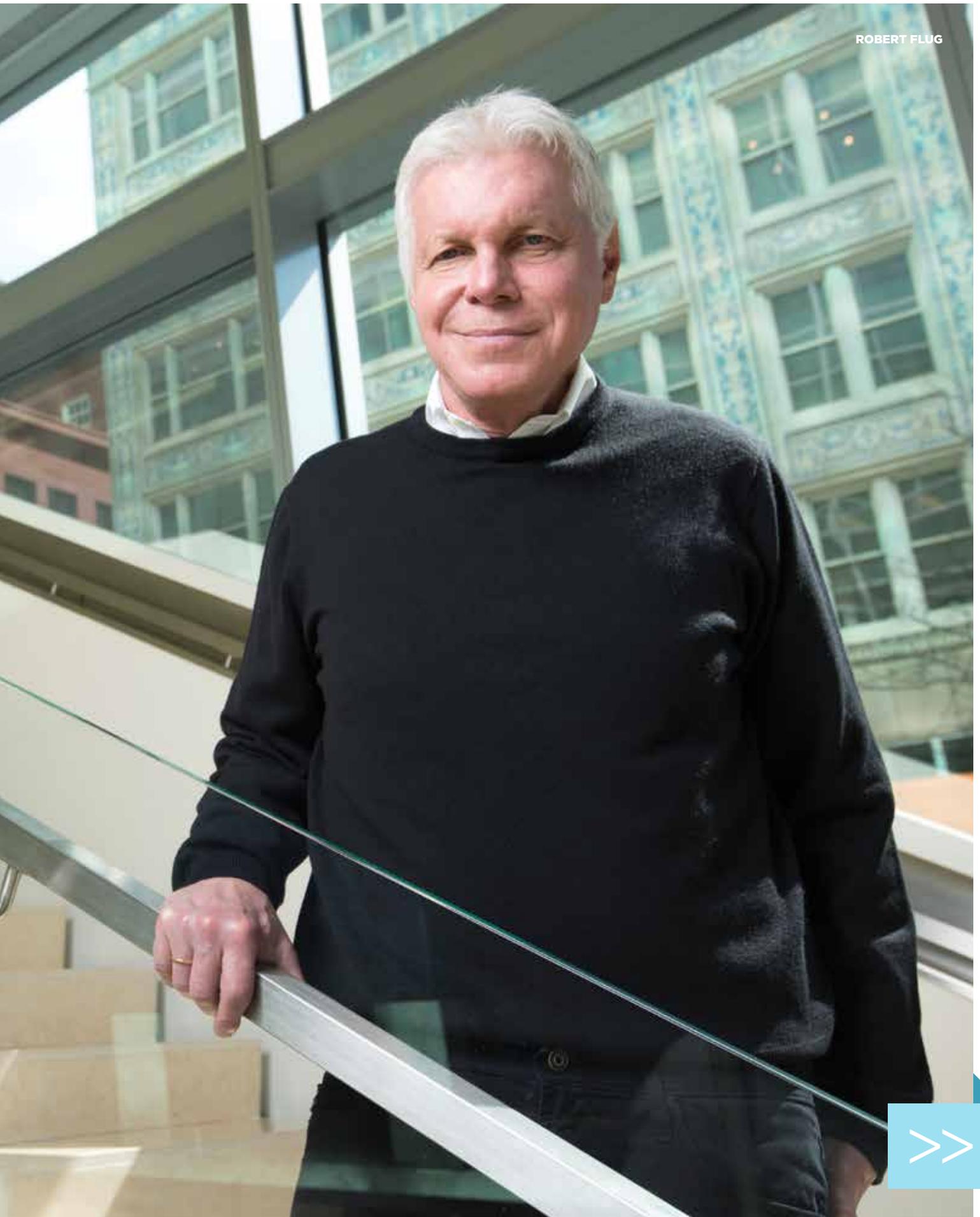
Stanley M. Marks, MD

Chairman
UPMC CancerCenter



FROM SURVIVOR TO CHAMPION

**THE STORY OF
A RARE CANCER
AND TWO MEN
ON A MISSION TO
DEFEAT IT**



FROM SURVIVOR TO CHAMPION



In 2008, Robert Flug was a New York City women's clothing manufacturer who, as a young man, had twice beaten cancer.

Through his history with the disease, his natural curiosity, and his habit of completely immersing himself in everything he does, Robert became a self-made cancer authority. One day that April, something serious happened that would have major implications not only for his health, but for how a very rare disease is treated. The story it would set in motion is one of courage, compassion, collaboration, and coincidence.



"My appendix burst," Robert recalls. "I had laparoscopic surgery here in New York. Afterwards, I compared the surgical report with the pathology report, and I noticed they were inconsistent. So I called the pathologist and

he asked me if I was a physician. And then he said the words a patient never wants to hear: 'Oh my, I'm sorry. You have pseudomyxoma peritonei.'"

Known as PMP for short, pseudomyxoma peritonei is a very rare, slow-growing cancer of the appendix that can spread throughout a person's abdomen. A series of recommendations and coincidences led Robert to David Bartlett, MD, chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology at UPMC CancerCenter and Bernard Fisher Professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Bartlett had a keen interest in PMP, stemming from the seven years he'd spent studying it at the National Cancer Institute. And he'd built quite a reputation for treating it.

"I came out and spoke with Dr. Bartlett, hoping that I didn't need surgery, because it's a huge surgery," Robert remembers. In the end, surgery was his best option.

The PMP surgery Dr. Bartlett and his team perform at the David C. Koch Regional Perfusion Cancer Therapy Center is designed to find any and all tumor tissue, going from the diaphragm to deep in the pelvis, examining every inch of the abdominal cavity and aggressively removing anything that looks like tumor. The abdominal cavity is then bathed in a heated solution of concentrated chemotherapy to try to kill any remaining microscopic cells and prevent the disease from recurring.

The eight-hour operation itself was a success. Robert faced a few complications, as is common with this risky surgery, but he weathered them. "Patients come from all over the world to UPMC CancerCenter for these types of procedures," says Dr. Bartlett. "The advantage is that we have such a good team, because we do

so much of this type of surgery. For these very complicated operations, our entire team is working together closely, from the outpatient nurses to the anesthesia team to the ICU nurses. They're on top of things quickly, which allows us to do operations of this magnitude safely."

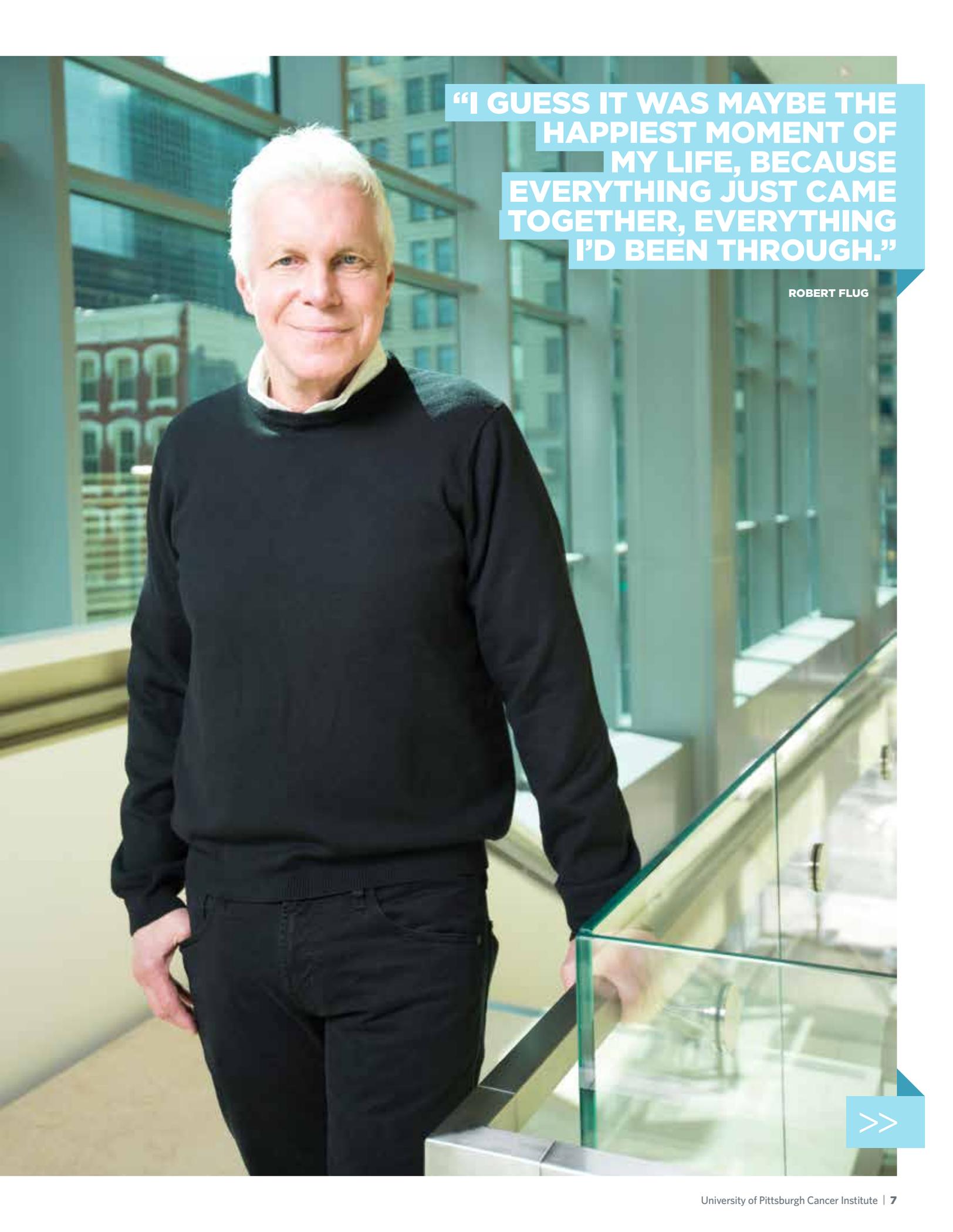
Robert has gone six years with no evidence of recurrent disease, which, according to Dr. Bartlett, suggests a good prognosis for the long term. "We don't use the 'cure' word; we just say that he's in prolonged remission."

"I was really weak," says Robert. "And I'm a guy who had done three New York City marathons. But I had a lot of hope, and I was very, very grateful. I guess it was maybe the happiest moment of my life, because everything just came together, everything I'd been through. My family and my close friends were there with me, and Dr. Bartlett saved my life. On May 15th of the next year, I got married, and last year on June 8th I walked my daughter down the aisle. And it's all thanks to Dr. Bartlett and his team."

The relationship between Robert Flug and Dr. Bartlett continued after surgery.

"It's very difficult to get government funds right now to research PMP," Robert says. "Money has to come from the private sector, and there are so few people who get this disease that fundraising is difficult. Not many people have heard of it."

Robert donated money to start a fund at UPMC CancerCenter's foundation specifically to research PMP. The fund pays for both laboratory-based and clinical outcomes-based research. Through his personal connections, Robert has brought in other donors who have helped build the fund. Today, UPMC CancerCenter is the only site that has as comprehensive a PMP research program in terms of biology and treatment.



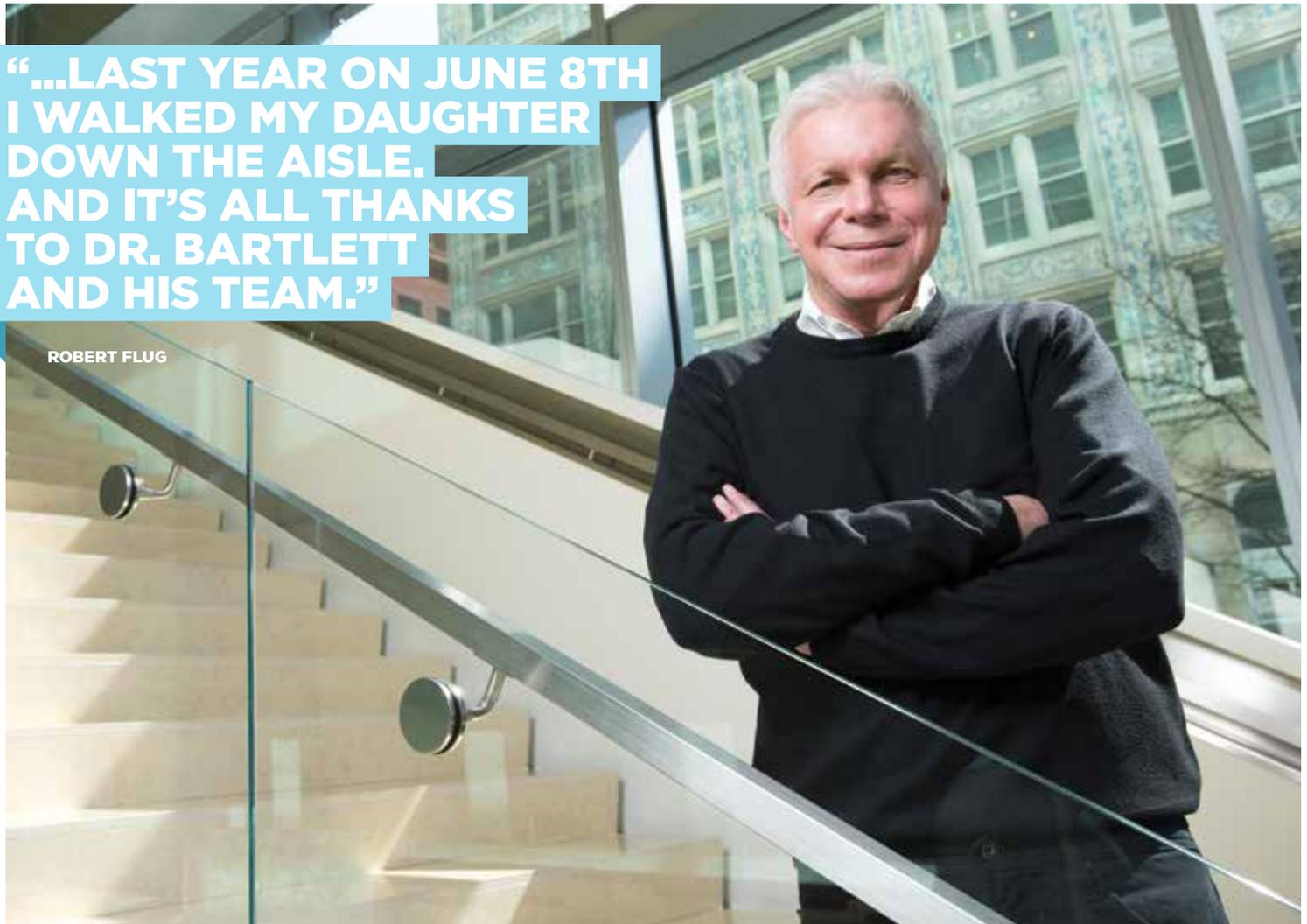
“I GUESS IT WAS MAYBE THE HAPPIEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE, BECAUSE EVERYTHING JUST CAME TOGETHER, EVERYTHING I’D BEEN THROUGH.”

ROBERT FLUG



“...LAST YEAR ON JUNE 8TH I WALKED MY DAUGHTER DOWN THE AISLE. AND IT’S ALL THANKS TO DR. BARTLETT AND HIS TEAM.”

ROBERT FLUG



The story doesn't end with Robert's philanthropy, either. Always a voracious reader and a curious thinker, Robert was inspired to work with Dr. Bartlett on potential breakthroughs.

About every three months they discuss the ongoing research and go through any updates. Robert has become, in his own way, an expert not only on his disease but on cancer biology. Thanks to the fund that Robert has worked so hard to support, Dr. Bartlett's team has been able to develop animal models that mimic exactly what happens in the human body and some new treatment approaches.

"We may be fighting the disease from completely different backgrounds, but because we get along and communicate so well, we'll hopefully be successful," says Dr. Bartlett.

"Robert is a unique individual who combines a strong insight into the cancer biology — even though that's not his background — and a very inquisitive mind," says Dr. Bartlett. "That's what makes him

special and a joy to work with. He has a very positive attitude, and he's not doing this for himself, because he's already beaten this disease. He's really doing this for others."

Dr. Bartlett and Robert both have high hopes for the future of PMP treatment. Dr. Bartlett says, "Our overall mission is that we want to avoid the operation and the complications that come with it. We want to develop treatments that we can apply that are simpler, easier, and safer."

As for Robert Flug, he's still working as hard as ever to contribute whatever he can to the fight against PMP. "I try to apply common sense and read as much as I can to educate myself so I can maybe help others," he says.

With that kind of compassion and collaboration, it's no coincidence that these two very different people are working together toward the same goal. ■

ACCREDITATION: IT'S MORE THAN VALIDATION FOR US. IT'S CONFIDENCE FOR OUR PATIENTS

Earning accreditation from prestigious national institutions is proof of our commitment to quality and excellence in patient care and treatments across our entire UPMC CancerCenter network. It means we can guarantee that the quality we provide at Hillman Cancer Center is available at every facility throughout our network. And it's reassurance to our patients that they've made the right choice for their cancer care. Here are some of our recent accreditations.

NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center

Our cancer research is judged to be among the best in the country. The University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) is one of only 41 cancer centers in the U.S. designated as a comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) — and the only comprehensive cancer center in western Pennsylvania. This designation recognizes our research, clinical care, education, and community outreach. It means people across the region have access to world-class cancer treatments and clinical trials, including state-of-the-art therapy for complex and rare cancers.

ACRO

Distinction in radiation oncology care. UPMC CancerCenter recently became the largest cancer network in the country to earn accreditation from the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO). It means we're meeting strict, nationally accepted standards for providing the highest quality of radiation oncology care. It's the culmination of a process that began in the summer of 2011 when ACRO officials reviewed detailed reports of patient charts, technology, staff certifications, processes, and site services for each radiation oncology site. They visited all 21 UPMC CancerCenter radiation oncology sites to survey day-to-day operations.

QOPI

Quality drives successful cancer patient outcomes. QOPI, the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative, recognizes the importance of continuous quality improvement in cancer care. Developed by world-renowned oncologists and cancer care experts, QOPI

certification measures quality that drives successful patient outcomes and provides tools to meet nationally accepted standards. UPMC CancerCenter is one of the largest cancer treatment networks in the U.S. — both in number of cancer care sites and geographic area — to apply for and receive QOPI certification.

CoC

Recognition at the highest possible level. In 2012, for the second time, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons granted three-year accreditation with commendation to the UPMC St. Margaret Cancer Program, a critical part of UPMC CancerCenter. Three-year accreditation with commendation is only awarded after an on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor who finds commendable compliance with one or more standards representing the full scope of the cancer program — including cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach, and quality improvement. In addition to UPMC St. Margaret, many other UPMC CancerCenter locations hold this accreditation. This special recognition is given only to programs earning a commendation rating for one or more standards with no deficiencies. By receiving every possible commendation with zero deficiencies, our program earned the highest award possible: Outstanding Achievement.

Magnet®

A rare honor for excellence in nursing. UPMC Shadyside earned Magnet Recognition Status® from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for excellence

in nursing, professional practice, and patient care. This is one of the highest nursing awards a hospital can earn; it demonstrates excellence, commitment to patient care, and a healthy work environment. This national award, which has been granted to only 6.8 percent of U.S. hospitals, involves a lengthy application and rigorous evaluation process that includes extensive interviews and review of all aspects of nursing services.

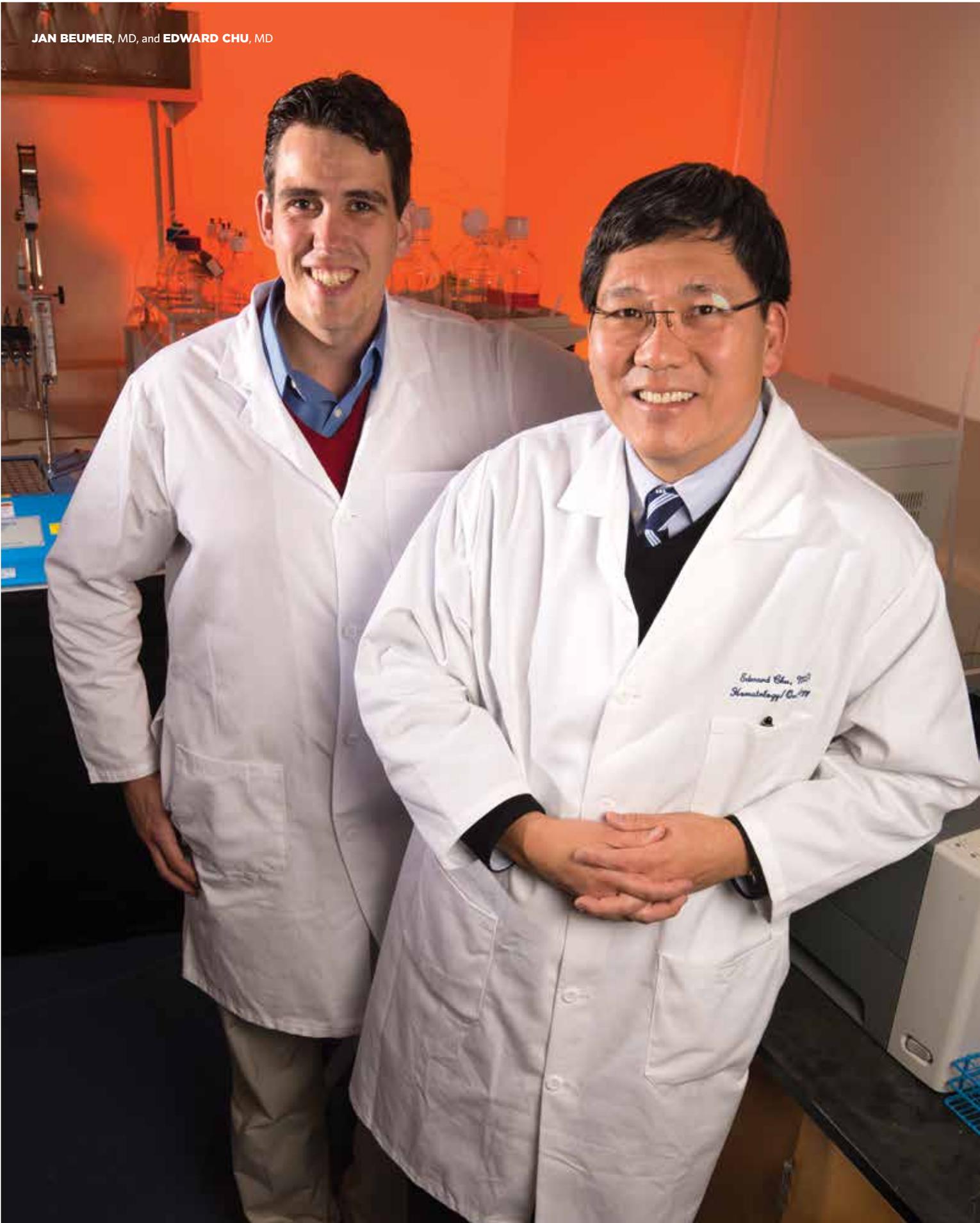
FACT

Offering high-quality cellular therapy. UPMC CancerCenter's adult hematopoietic stem cell transplant program was awarded a three-year re-accreditation by the nonprofit Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). Our program demonstrates adherence to FACT's strict standards, which emphasize the clinical use of cellular therapy products collected and processed with rigorous controls. FACT officials visited the Mario Lemieux Center for Blood Cancers, the program's home, to conduct an inspection of staff and processes. Since 1990, UPMC doctors have performed more than 1,400 bone marrow or stem cell transplants to treat patients with a variety of diseases. The program averages 150 transplants a year.

ACR

Honors for radiology. UPMC Horizon earned the American College of Radiology (ACR) gold seal of accreditation for ultrasound, mammography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), nuclear medicine and positron emission tomography (PET), and computed tomography (CT).

JAN BEUMER, MD, and EDWARD CHU, MD



PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS MEAN GREATER HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

UPCI was recently awarded nearly \$10 million for critical cancer research and clinical trials

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) a pair of highly competitive grants totaling \$9.25 million over the next five years. The funding will be used to improve the efficiency of clinical trials, develop drugs for cancer more quickly, and accelerate research into rare tumors.

UPCI is one of only 12 centers in the country to receive the NCI Experimental Therapeutics–Clinical Trials Network (ET-CTN) with Phase I Emphasis grant, and one of only 31 cancer centers nationwide and the only one in Pennsylvania to receive a Lead Academic Participating Site (LAPS) grant under the NCI's new clinical trials network.

"This speaks to our expertise across the continuum of clinical research," says Nancy E. Davidson, MD, director of UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter. "These two grants reflect the tremendous accomplishments of our clinical investigators and, most importantly, provide wonderful opportunities for people in western Pennsylvania to take advantage of the most advanced cancer care and have access to cutting-edge clinical trials. And that's because of the great science that's going on at the University of Pittsburgh, the amazing commitment to clinical care at UPMC CancerCenter, and the expertise of our faculty and our staff across our network and across the region."

Funding clinical trials using new drug therapies

The ET-CTN grant is led by UPCI Deputy Director Edward Chu, MD. The five-year, \$4.25 million award will further complex clinical research into the development of new drug therapies.

"Getting this grant is all about team science," says Dr. Chu. "A successful Phase I drug development program takes a team of clinical investigators. We also work very closely with basic and translational scientists, clinical pharmacologists, and a clinical pharmacology laboratory that is one of the top two or three in the country, if not in the world."

That lab is led by Dr. Chu's co-principal investigator, Jan Beumer, MD. The ET-CTN team will focus on investigating the clinical pharmacology and metabolism of completely novel agents.

These lab-based studies are critically important as new anticancer agents and targeted therapies are being developed.

Dr. Chu's team has been working closely with colleagues in pathology, who perform sophisticated sequencing analyses of patients' tumors to identify the presence of certain genetic mutations. These mutations can then determine the specific type of experimental treatments that should be given to a cancer patient. This way, doctors can administer new therapies in a truly individual, personalized manner.

Their efforts benefit from a large patient base at UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter, which allows the team to conduct these first-in-human studies (meaning they haven't yet been tried with human subjects). Most of the eligible patients seen by the UPCI Phase I team have already received standard-of-care therapies and are looking for new treatment options.

"At one time, Phase I studies were only about safety and side effects," says Dr. Chu. "But now, we're also looking to see whether or not the drug has clinical benefit by inhibiting the growth of the cancer. In fact, just within the last week, a new drug was approved by the FDA that targets a specific genetic mutation found in patients with lung cancer. The fact that this drug was approved solely on the basis of Phase I studies is completely unprecedented. It underscores the crucial importance of matching tumor genetic mutations with specific, targeted therapies.

"Any time we treat patients with a new agent or a novel combination of drugs, and we get a meaningful response that the patient can tolerate and that controls their tumor for some time, it is really tremendous for the patient and their family. It is also very rewarding for our entire team," Dr. Chu says.

As for the future, Dr. Chu adds, "The hope is that all of the studies that we are conducting, in the very earliest phase of drug development, can progress to the point where these drugs, or a combination of regimens, will eventually be used in everyday clinical practice."



PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS MEAN GREATER HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Matching patients with new treatments faster than before

The second of the two awards is a nearly \$5 million LAPS grant, part of the new National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN). The NCTN is intended to shorten the time it takes research to get from the lab to patients. At UPCI, this grant is led by Adam Brufsky, MD, PhD, associate director for clinical investigation. The grant will support an infrastructure that allows patients to enroll in national clinical trials led by NCTN at over a dozen sites across the UPMC CancerCenter network.

Dr. Brufsky's UPCI clinical trials steering committee includes Dwight E. Heron, MD, FACRO, FACR; Mark Socinski, MD; John Kirkwood, MD; and Robert P. Edwards, MD.

"This grant is tremendous validation of the important and cutting-edge work that we are doing here at UPCI and our ability to shape what's happening in cancer research across the country. We're excited to play a vital role in this new system and expand access to trials all over western Pennsylvania," Dr. Brufsky says. "Being picked for a LAPS grant means you have faculty and staff who are truly involved at the highest level of shaping the cancer research agenda."

The new NCTN network will have a big impact in at least one crucial area: a national network of clinical trials sites for patients with rare cancers. As more cancers are classified into smaller subsets, the new network will support the efforts to define and locate the specific patients who qualify for those studies.

A major focus of the LAPS grant is to help move UPMC even further into the area of personalized, precision cancer medicine, based upon the biology of a specific cancer. For instance, for a patient with breast cancer, the goal would be to understand more than the type of breast

cancer and go deeper into the patient's genes and the nature of the tumor. It's all about using scientific insight as a way to push forward new, customized treatments.

"The beauty of the clinical trial is not only do patients get great care, but we learn something along the way that will help more patients down the road," says Nancy Davidson, MD, director of UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter.

"Everything we do in standard practice in oncology today is based on results from clinical trials that were done in the past. So we are standing on the shoulders of the patients, the doctors, and the nurses, who did these trials in the past," Dr. Davidson says. "When patients go into a trial, the main reason is, of course, for themselves, as it should be. But people are often quite altruistic, and they appreciate that the learning that goes on in the trial may help others."

No one is closer to the patients in these trials than Deidre Cleary, RN, BSN, CCRC, senior director of Clinical Research Services. She is in charge of 130 coordinators, data managers, and regulatory and administrative staff who register patients for the trials.

"My hope is that in the future, cancer becomes just another chronic disease," Ms. Cleary says. "We won't have to go through many different chemotherapies to find the one that works for the patient. We can personalize it and treat the patient for years."

Recognition and awards from the National Cancer Institute are certainly outstanding achievements for UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter. But as far as Dr. Davidson is concerned, both the commitment and the focus remain unchanged. "There's a huge team involved in this work," she says, "and the team is always wrapped around the patient." ■



DEIDRE CLEARY, RN, BSN, CCRC, and ADAM BRUFSKY, MD, PhD

“I FELT LIKE I MATTERED”

A cancer survivor shares her clinical trial experience



VICKY BAKER

“ST. MARGARET WAS CLOSE TO OUR HOME, AND THE PEOPLE THERE WERE FANTASTIC...”

In 2008, Vicky Baker was shocked to find out that what she thought was an ulcer in her mouth was, in fact, cancer in her gum and jaw. Her periodontist and PCP both recommended the one place they would go if they were in the same situation: UPMC CancerCenter.

“I talked to the surgeon, and he said they were going to do drastic things to me, and quickly,” recalls Vicky. The surgery required removing part of her jaw and reconstructing it with parts of her lower leg bone. After the surgery, she was asked to participate in a clinical trial.

The trial was for chemotherapy. It added a drug that had typically been used to treat colon cancer to the normally prescribed regimen. Both Vicky’s trial and her radiation therapy were conducted at UPMC CancerCenter at UPMC St. Margaret. “St. Margaret was close to our home, and the people there were fantastic,” Vicky says. “I was delivered right to the best hands: clinical personnel, physicians, nurses, everyone, every step of the way. I felt like I mattered.”

“It was a very hard six months between the surgery and the treatment,” she says. “My biggest concern was that I wouldn’t be able to speak or smile. But when I smile now, people smile back.” As for the trial, she says, “It’s continuing. I’m still here, so it was successful for me. This will be my first full year without a scan. And I found out on Mother’s Day that my daughter is pregnant.” ■



PATRICK MOORE, MD, MPH, and YUAN CHANG, MD

OUR FACULTY: RECENT HONORS AND NEW ADDITIONS



SALLY E. CARTY, MD, FACS



DAVID BARTLETT, MD



OUR FACULTY: RECENT HONORS AND NEW ADDITIONS

As a pre-eminent cancer research center and one of the largest integrated community networks of cancer physicians, researchers, and health care specialists in the United States, UPMC CancerCenter and the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute have assembled a group of some of the most prominent experts in the country, and we continue to recruit new talent.

FACULTY HONORS (SHOWN PREVIOUS PAGE)

Yuan Chang, MD, and Patrick Moore, MD, MPH, were inducted into the Association of American Physicians. This election is an honor reserved for 60 individuals per year who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the fields of biomedical science and translational research. Dr. Chang, a distinguished professor of pathology, and her collaborator Dr. Moore, distinguished professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, are a husband-and-wife research team whose virology and cancer lab has revolutionized the study of human tumor viruses and infectious diseases. Together, they have discovered two of the seven known human cancer viruses: Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus, the cause of AIDS-associated Kaposi's sarcoma; and Merkel cell polyomavirus, the cause for most Merkel cell carcinomas. New diagnostic and treatment options already are emerging from their research.

Sally E. Carty, MD, FACS, completed a term as president of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES). Dr. Carty is professor of surgery, chief of Endocrine Surgery, and director of the Endocrine Surgery Fellowship Program, as well as codirector of

the UPMC/UPCI Multidisciplinary Thyroid Center. The AAES is dedicated to the advancement of the science and art of endocrine surgery, which covers diseases of the thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal glands, and neuroendocrine. The theme of her year-long term was Education: Teach to Reach, which focuses on increasing the number of fellowships in endocrine surgery to keep pace with the increased national interest in this specialty. "Nearly half of the academic institutions in the United States do not have an endocrine surgeon on staff, and this initiative will be working to change that," Dr. Carty says. Dr. Carty is only the third female endocrine surgeon to head the AAES in its 33-year history.

David Bartlett, MD, was elected treasurer of the Society of Surgical Oncology®, the premier organization for surgeons and health care providers dedicated to advancing and promoting the science and treatment of cancer. Dr. Bartlett is the Bernard Fisher Professor of Surgery, vice chairman for Surgical Oncology and Gastrointestinal Services, vice chairman of the David C. Koch Regional Perfusion Cancer Therapy Center, and director of Multidisciplinary Disease Site Clinical and Research Programs.

NEW FACULTY

Colin Champ, MD

Radiation oncologist

Special expertise: the treatment of breast cancer and central nervous system malignancies, and clinical nutrition and exercise relating to cancer treatment

Rushir Choksi, MD

Medical oncologist

Special expertise: hematology and medical oncology

Andy (David) Clump, MD, PhD

Radiation oncologist

Special expertise: head and neck malignancies and stereotactic radiosurgery

Madeleine Courtney-Brooks, MD, MPH

Assistant professor of Gynecologic Oncology

Special expertise: minimally invasive gynecologic oncology surgery, optimizing gynecologic oncology care for elderly patients, and quality of life at the end of life for gynecologic oncology patients

Laura M. De Castro, MD

Associate professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Director of benign hematology, Institute for Transfusion Medicine and UPMC CancerCenter; director of Clinical Translational Research, UPMC Sickle Cell Disease Research Center of Excellence

Special expertise: the impact of sickle cell disease on end-organ damage, psychosocial issues related to the disease, and development of novel treatments

Ying Ding, PhD

Assistant professor, biostatistics,
University of Pittsburgh

Special expertise: the design and analysis of biomarker studies and biomarker/subgroup identification; survival analysis, including semiparametric inference theory and method, and application of empirical process; comparative effectiveness research (CER) using Bayesian indirect and mixed treatment comparisons and meta-analysis of patient outcomes; and proteomics experiment design and network analysis

Kathleen Dorritie, MD

Assistant professor of Medicine,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Special expertise: hematologic malignancies, stem cell transplantation, and the development of novel therapeutics for acute myeloid leukemia

Melissa Hogg, MD

Assistant professor of Surgery,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Special expertise: gastrointestinal surgical oncology with a focus in minimally invasive treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the stomach, bile duct, and pancreas

Marilyn Huang, MD, MS

Assistant professor of Gynecologic Oncology

Special expertise: all gynecologic malignancies, hereditary gynecologic cancers, minimally invasive surgery, and Phase 1 clinical trials

Annie Im, MD

Assistant professor of Medicine,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Special expertise: research of hematologic malignancies, such as leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma; drug development; stem cell transplantation; and graft-versus-host disease

Bruce L. Jacobs, MD, MPH

Assistant professor of Urology,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Special expertise: minimally invasive and open surgery for prostate, kidney, bladder, and testicular cancer

Gregory J. Kato, MD

Professor of Medicine,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine;
director, Adult Sickle Cell Center of Excellence,
UPP Division of Hematology/Oncology

Special expertise: nonmalignant hematology, adult sickle cell disease, and early-phase sickle cell clinical trials

Brenda Kurland, PhD

Research associate professor, biostatistics,
University of Pittsburgh

Special expertise: biostatistics and the design and analysis of clinical trials involving quantitative imaging, breast cancer, lung cancer, and functional imaging, specifically PET and breast MRI

John Lech, DO

Hematologist/medical oncologist

Special expertise: the treatment of gastrointestinal malignancies and peritoneal carcinomas

Seah Lim, MD, PhD, FRCP

Hematologist/medical oncologist

Special expertise: stem cell transplantation, hematological malignancies, hemato-pathology, and general hematology

Carissa Low, PhD

Assistant professor of Medicine, and assistant professor of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh

Special expertise: bidirectional relationships between inflammation and patient-reported outcomes over the course of cancer treatments; development of interventions to reduce symptom burden and enhance quality of life in cancer patients

Solomon Ofori-Acquah, PhD

Visiting associate professor of Medicine
and director, Center for Translational and
International Hematology

Special expertise: sickle cell disease and acute chest syndrome, medical laboratory sciences specializing in hematology and blood transfusion

Javier Salgado, MD

Assistant professor of Surgery,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Special expertise: the treatment of colon and rectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and other diseases of the colon and rectum

Inderpal Sarkaria, MD, FACS

Assistant professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery,
director of Thoracic Robotic Surgery,
and co-director of the UPMC Esophageal
and Lung Surgery Institute (ELSI)

Special expertise: cutting-edge minimally invasive surgery for thoracic diseases, robotic thoracic surgery, clinical and molecular-genetic characterization of lung and esophageal cancers, novel advanced surgical imaging technologies in thoracic oncology

Jack D. Schocker, MD

Radiation oncologist

Special expertise: the treatment of all cancers, stereotactic radiosurgery, intensity modulated radiation therapy, image-guided radiation therapy

Alison Sehgal, MD

Assistant professor of Medicine,
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Special expertise: allogeneic and autologous stem cell transplant, lymphoma, leukemia, and multiple myeloma

Rajesh Sehgal, MBBS, MD, FACP

Hematologist/medical oncologist

Special expertise: solid tumors including breast, colon, and lung cancer, and blood disorders

Felicia Snead, MD

Radiation oncologist

Special expertise: breast, central nervous system, and gastrointestinal cancers, and general radiation oncology

Robert VanderWeele, MD, MS

Hematologist/medical oncologist

Special expertise: hematology and medical oncology

Joseph Wang, MD

Radiation oncologist

Special expertise: the treatment of all cancers, intensity modulated radiation therapy, and image-guided radiation therapy

ONE FACEBOOK PAGE THAT'S EASY TO LIKE

You may use Facebook to share important life events and keep up with your friends and family. But for UPMC CancerCenter patients, Facebook is much more than a social networking tool. It's a way to get educated about treatment options, keep up with our efforts to fight cancer, and share stories of inspiration and hope.

UPMC CancerCenter launched its Facebook page in September 2011 to keep visitors updated on cancer-related news and events, and to share information about UPMC's doctors and cancer care.

But UPMC CancerCenter's Facebook page now offers the opportunity to do much more. It is another way to reach out to CancerCenter patients and their families, caregivers, and friends.

When faced with any health-related issue, patients tend to jump online to see what information is out there. Because of this, UPMC CancerCenter's goal was to create a virtual cancer community — offering support to anyone affected by cancer, directly or indirectly — to connect people who are in similar situations with facts on cancer, encouragement from others, and more.

The UPMC CancerCenter Facebook page features patient testimonials, showing visitors how other people have gotten through situations similar to theirs. These stories are also opportunities for people to

offer advice and support to one another. In addition, the page highlights staff members to spotlight the heart of the CancerCenter: caring people who are committed to helping patients.

Patients use the Facebook page to share their thoughts on everything from the mundane to the deeply personal. They discuss how to manage family and friends' expectations about the "new normal" as a survivor. And they offer prayers, encouragement, and a willingness to just listen.

The page also includes weekly features like "Motivational Mondays," a source of encouragement and positive energy, and "Learn the Lingo" posts that translate cancer terminology into plain language. "Ask the Audience" reaches out to the greater cancer community for stories and anecdotes. There are also event announcements, trivia questions, and general cancer information, as well as updates on UPMC CancerCenter developments. It's all about patients giving each other good advice and making sure



other patients and their loved ones know they aren't alone.

Since taking this community-focused approach, UPMC CancerCenter's fan base has increased nearly five-fold. Fans of the page who have never met give each other support, hope, and advice. They want to be updated on each other's health, and they send well wishes to each other.

If the purpose of a community is to pull together to help each other through tough times, work toward a common purpose, and promote a sense of hope, then UPMC CancerCenter's Facebook page is a community in the truest sense of the word.

Keep up with current news, follow patients' stories, and share your own tips and memories by clicking "like" at [Facebook.com/UPMCCancerCenter](https://www.facebook.com/UPMCCancerCenter). ■



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SURGEON GENERAL'S TOBACCO REPORT

January 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Surgeon General's report that brought the negative health impact of tobacco into the public spotlight. To mark this golden anniversary, a new Surgeon General's report was released reflecting our progress in the area of tobacco control and our understanding of the overwhelmingly negative effects of tobacco use on human health.

We are honored that three University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine faculty served as co-authors: **Hillary Tindle, MD, Steve Shapiro, MD, and Nancy Davidson, MD.** ■



THE 2013
HILLMAN CANCER CENTER GALA

L I V I N G
Courageously

A FUTURE
w i t h o u t C A N C E R

LIVING COURAGEOUSLY: A FUTURE WITHOUT CANCER

On October 24, 2013, more than 850 of the region's most enthusiastic community and civic leaders and other distinguished guests recognized \$4 million raised in support of cancer research at care at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) and UPMC CancerCenter.

Living Courageously: A Future Without Cancer was co-chaired by Christina and Carlos Cardoso and Rebecca Cost Snyder. The gala featured performances by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under the direction of composer Robert Miller who conducted scores that were specifically written for UPMC.

In addition, Sy Holzer, president of PNC Bank Pittsburgh and chair of the UPCI Council, gave remarks alongside Nancy E. Davidson, MD, director of UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter, and Stanley M. Marks, MD, chairman of UPMC CancerCenter. They honored researcher Theresa Nimick-Whiteside, PhD, with the PNC/UPCI Director's Distinguished Scholar Award for her extensive work in cancer immunology.

Cathy and Sy Holzer served as honorary co-chairs along with Elsie and Henry Hillman. The Hillmans also received a special recognition by then University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg for their longstanding commitment to the community and cancer care. ■



HILLMAN
CANCER CENTER

Gala
2014

— A FUTURE —
WITHOUT CANCER

At UPMC CancerCenter, partner with University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), every philanthropic contribution — whether made as a donation, sponsorship, community-based event, planned gift, in-kind support, or volunteerism — helps us in our efforts to improve the lives of all cancer patients and survivors.

The Circle of Hope is a special recognition society that honors individuals, family foundations, and

privately held companies who have committed a minimum of \$10,000 during a calendar year to support programs at UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter. Growing from seven founding members in 2002 to 143 members in 2014, the Circle of Hope represents many millions of dollars in philanthropic gifts over a 12-year period.

As broadly as Circle of Hope membership spans in terms of geography — with 43 percent of all members living outside of Allegheny County — its collective return on investment is even more expansive. Cumulatively, annual renewals of support from these major donors have made a highly significant impact on progress in a broad spectrum of cancer research and patient care programs, making it possible for our scientific and clinical experts to pioneer advances that lead to improvements in cancer prevention, detection, and treatments.

With tremendous gratitude, we thank all donors to UPCI and UPMC CancerCenter and extend a special salute to all Circle of Hope members for such extraordinary philanthropic leadership and, above all, for sharing our commitment to a future without cancer.

HILLMAN CANCER CENTER GALA 2014: A FUTURE WITHOUT CANCER

On October 4, 2014, hundreds of the region's most influential community leaders and supporters gathered at CONSOL Energy Center for the *Hillman Cancer Center Gala 2014: A Future Without Cancer* to recognize \$3.4 million raised for innovative cancer research and treatment and celebrate the advanced cancer research and patient care programs at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) and UPMC CancerCenter. Adam M. Brufsky, MD, PhD, was honored as the 2014 PNC/UPCI Director's Distinguished Scholar for his outstanding work.

Gala leadership and supporters included honorary co-chairs Elsie and Henry Hillman and Cathy and Sy Holzer. Event co-chairs were Rebecca Cost Snyder

and Debbie and Frank Coonelly, with PNC again serving as the presenting sponsor. Vanessa German, actress, playwright, sculptor, and pioneer of the spoken word opera, opened the evening with a powerful performance of an original poem inspired by the thousands of men and women who are in the fight against cancer at the Hillman Cancer Center. Two uniquely staged performances were also given by Le Ombré, one of the premier silhouette dance and shadow troupes in the United States.

In addition, cancer survivor Terry George spoke to the crowd about his personal journey over the past several years. He thanked the dedicated physicians and researchers who are exploring new and better ways to treat this devastating disease.

ENDOWED CHAIRS

A number of endowed chairs support the mission of University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, partner with UPMC CancerCenter. The income generated from endowed chairs enables our scientists, clinicians, and their teams to strengthen established areas of expertise, expand new initiatives, and forge new frontiers in science that benefit our patients and their families now and into the future.

The Claude Worthington Benedum Endowed Chair in Radiation Oncology
The Jane and Carl Citron Endowed Chair in Colon Cancer
The Richard M. Cyert Endowed Chair in Molecular Oncology
The Gregory T.H. Davies Endowed Chair in Brain Tumor Research and Physician Education
The Lawrence Ellis Endowed Chair in Hematology and Oncology
The Bernard Fisher Endowed Chair in Surgical Oncology
The Giant Eagle Foundation Endowed Chair in Cancer Genetics
The Hillman Endowed Chair in Oncology
The Arnold Palmer Endowed Chair in Cancer Prevention
The Pittsburgh Foundation Endowed Chair in Innovative Cancer Research
The Sampson Family Endowed Chair in Thoracic Surgical Oncology
The Sandra and Thomas Usher Endowed Chair in Melanoma
UPMC Endowed Chair in Advanced Oncologic Head and Neck Surgery
UPMC Endowed Chair in Cancer Prevention Research
UPMC Endowed Chair in Cancer Virology Research
UPMC Endowed Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Surgical Research
UPMC Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research

VISIONARY SOCIETY

These dedicated partners have given or helped to raise a cumulative total of \$1 million or more in support of cancer research and care.

American Cancer Society, Inc.
Family and Friends of Nathan S. Arenson*
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
The Breast Cancer Research Foundation
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Carl Citron*
DSF Charitable Foundation

Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute
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The V Foundation for Cancer Research
Debi Wheeler
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FAMILY LEGACY SOCIETY

Often, a personal experience with cancer or loss of a loved one to the disease spurs a family or others to establish funds that honor a patient or caregiver through support of continuing efforts to better detect, prevent, and treat cancer.

Suzanne Hill Alfano Endowment for Lung Cancer Research
Nathan S. Arenson Fund for Pancreatic Cancer Research
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The Heidi Browning Endowed Ovarian Cancer Research Scholars Fund

Ruth C. Brufsky Fund for Clinical Research on Pancreatic Cancer
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Al Copeland Memorial Fund for Merkel Cell Carcinoma Research
Merrill J. Egorin, MD Scholars Program
Wayne Fusaro Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund
Sadie Gerson Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program
Stuart Goodman Brain Cancer Memorial Fund
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Harvey G. Herberman, MD Memorial Cancer Research Fund
Dr. George W. Hiatt Foundation Fund
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Barbara Klump Memorial Scholarship Fund
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David C. Koch Memorial Fund
The Kramer-Neiderhiser Endowed Fund in Blood Cancers Research
The Kramer-Neiderhiser Endowed Fund in Ovarian Cancer Research
Mario Lemieux Patient Care and Cancer Research Fund
Sally M. Levin Endowed Fund for Innovative Cancer Research
Scott Limbach Entrepreneurial Center
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PNC Innovation Fund
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The Spang Translational Research Core Facility
Joseph and Giovanna Tarquinio Memorial Fund

Edward Thaw Blood Research Fund
Edward Underhill Memorial Fund for Colon Cancer Research
Dr. Leonard S. Zombek Memorial Fund

PLANNED GIVING

University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, partner with UPMC CancerCenter, gratefully acknowledges planned gifts from the following individuals:

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Sarah and Lamont Ray
Hilda M. and Henry D. Sundermann, Jr.
Gayle Tissue and Yiannis Kaloyeropoulos
Bonnie W. and Thomas L. VanKirk, Esq.
Debi Wheeler
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CIRCLE OF HOPE

The Circle of Hope honors individuals, family foundations, and privately held companies that make contributions of \$10,000 or more in a calendar year. This list recognizes those who were members in 2013 and 2014, as of August 30, 2014.

Anonymous (4)
Adams Capital Management
Cheryl and Bruce Americus
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Rosalie Barsotti and Tony Poli
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ANNUAL GIVING

The annual fund provides vital support for the operation of clinical programs, basic and clinical research programs, recruitment of new physicians and scientists, seed money, medical and patient education, and outreach programs. Those listed have made gifts at the following levels during the fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014).

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FOR AN UNCOMMON CANCER, UNCOMMONLY STRONG SUPPORT

Pittsburgh Cure Sarcoma (PCS) celebrated their fourth annual 5K Run/Walk on July 12, 2014. The event, which supports research and awareness of this relatively rare form of cancer, raised more than \$180,000 this year. Strong community support contributed to its success, making it the second largest sarcoma-related community event in the country as recognized by the Sarcoma Foundation of America. As beneficiaries, the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and Hillman Cancer Center have benefitted from PCS's impressive fundraising efforts. The race's founders, Carl Firetto and Bill Suit, recently lost their battles with the disease. Their wives, Cindy Firetto and Sue Suit, have taken up the mantle for organizing this year's race.

"It's been a survival year for us," says Sue, who credits the tight-knit fundraising team for helping her deal with her grief. "It's been hard, but organizing the race has helped me stay focused. This year's race was a feel-good day, a celebration of life. Our goals are to raise awareness and to provide an environment for people to have fun and support each other."

Since 2011, PCS has raised approximately \$500,000 to fund sarcoma research in Pittsburgh and nationwide.

Sue notes that the support of UPMC CancerCenter's Hussein Tawbi, MD, PhD, helped keep PCS's planning on track. "Dr. Tawbi has worked so hard to bring sarcoma research to the area. He shows up every year for the race. We're so grateful for his commitment."



MUSTANGS STAMPEDE TO STAMP OUT LEUKEMIA

The Plum Running Mustangs, part of Plum School District's track and field program, held their 7th annual Stampede in the Park 5K on July 19, 2014, to benefit leukemia and lymphoma research at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI). Their coach, Joe Ionta, has chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Faced with a cancer diagnosis, "Coach I" used his personal challenge to inspire and motivate others. He organized and launched the first Stampede in the Park in 2007, an event that received strong

support from the Plum community and became an annual tradition. This year, the Running Mustangs reached a major milestone: they broke the \$100,000 fundraising mark. Michael Boyiadzis, MD, of UPMC CancerCenter presented the organization with a plaque to mark this achievement. Through sponsorships and grassroots initiatives, the Running Mustangs donated more than \$20,000 to UPCI in 2013, and their lifetime fundraising total to more than \$140,000.

Stampede in the Park, with its mission to "stamp out leukemia," also helps secure brighter futures for graduating Running Mustangs by awarding college scholarships. Four graduating seniors from Plum's track and field program receive \$1,000 each for demonstrating leadership, integrity, and devotion to their teams. Backed by individual and corporate sponsorships, including UPMC East, the Running Mustangs have turned their passion for their sport into a mission to help others.

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