

Partnerships • Innovation • Hope

A Newsletter for Our Friends



Dear Friends, Benefactors, and Colleagues,

In the midst of all your special activities that we hope you are enjoying this time of year, we encourage you to take a moment to peruse the latest newsletter from your Cancer Center. It clearly is a tribute to you and all that you have done to advance cancer research and cancer care at the WVU MBRCC.

The Bonnie Wells Wilson Mobile Mammography Program and the Betty Puskar Breast Care Center collectively received more than \$56,000 to support their efforts to fight breast cancer. We thank the Komen West Virginia affiliate and everyone involved in grassroots community fundraisers, including South Middle School; Kristen Falconi and Mountaineer Middle School; Liberty, Lincoln, Bridgeport, and Notre Dame high schools; and the WVU women's soccer team. This network of support is vital to expanding the efforts to make mammography available across the state while continuing to provide the highest quality patient care at the Breast Care Center. We also appreciate the efforts of Morgantown Touch-A-Truck for raising money for various programs benefiting cancer patients, and Erin Dunmire and her niece, Erin 'Poppy' Polak, for their ambitious fundraising campaign to create the Let the Journey Begin Endowment Fund for brain cancer research.

Several Cancer Center scientific programs are also growing thanks to the significant impact of your philanthropic support. In this issue, we highlight the Osborn Hematopoietic Malignancy and Transplantation Program as one example. Funding through the Alexander Bland Osborn Trust, the West Virginia Research Trust Fund, and the Hostler-Child Cancer Research Fund collectively support this program's research efforts and significantly expand the breadth of the work that is possible well beyond that which could be achieved by extramural grant funding alone. In addition, five junior cancer researchers received pilot grants from the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute, the American Cancer Society, and the Allen Lung Cancer Program to support their innovative projects that will impact our understanding of cancer and ultimately improve patient care.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to our friend and colleague Dr. Jame Abraham,

medical director of the Cancer Center and chief of the WVU section of Hematology/Oncology, for his dedication and service to the Center, our patients, and to WVU. We are saddened that he is leaving us to lead the breast cancer program at Taussig Cancer Center - Cleveland Clinic, an NCI-designated consortium cancer center with Case Western Reserve University. We wish him the very best. We can assure you that our Breast Cancer Program and the entire cancer program at WVU Healthcare will continue to provide the very best care to our patients and continue on the trajectory to maintain and grow our national reputation.

Handwritten signature of Laura F. Gibson in cursive.

Laura F. Gibson, PhD, Deputy Director

Handwritten signature of Scot C. Remick in cursive.

Scot C. Remick, MD, Director

Cancer Center celebrates 28th annual gala at The Greenbrier



Any event that inspires dedication and loyalty among those who share a common cause bears repeating. In that vein, friends and supporters of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center gathered at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs this past April for the Cancer Center's 28th annual Gala, appropriately themed "Encore, Encore."

The weekend event was an opportunity to celebrate the Cancer Center's efforts to advance research and cancer care in West Virginia, due in large part to significant philanthropic support. For Center Director Scot Remick, MD, the gala was the ideal venue for updating attendees on progress WVU is making in the fight against cancer through A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University. "Since the start of our campaign, we have raised \$32 million of our \$43 million campaign goal with nearly \$10 million of those gifts used to create endowments," Dr. Remick said. "This is a wonderful testament to the tremendous generosity of our loyal supporters who clearly share our enthusiasm and passion to reduce our state's

cancer burden. Thanks to their support we are growing the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center."

This year's gala program began with an intimate evening honoring a Wheeling couple – Frederick and Joan Stamp – whose faithful support has contributed to the Cancer Center's growth and development since its inception. "Joan and Fred have been major contributors to the Cancer Center for 28 years, and their leadership has brought other people to the table to grow cancer clinical trials," Remick said.

The Stamps created a cancer research endowment in 2008 providing funds for the Clinical Trials Research Unit and the Cancer Center to provide access to state of the art cancer therapies through innovative and lifesaving clinical trials.

Award winning entertainer Craig Karges, also from Wheeling, amazed gala participants Thursday evening and again Friday by combining the art of magic with the science of psychology and the power of intuition. He told the crowd that what he does isn't real magic. He said what his close friends the Stamps do for the Cancer Center is the "real magic."

Logan County native Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr. of America's Got Talent show

fame, returned for an encore on Friday, after wooing last year's gala crowd with his crooning performances.

On Saturday, Greenbrier Executive Chef Richard Rosendale treated gala participants to a culinary demonstration and preview of Saturday evening's dinner. Rosendale, a Certified Master Chef, has earned over 45 national and international medals in cooking competitions, including the Bocuse d'Or USA Finals at The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, in 2012.

"Cancer is one of our big health challenges," noted WVU President Jim Clements, who shared with gala participants at the Saturday evening dinner dance that he lost his mother to the disease two years ago. "But our team of oncologists at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center is one of the best in the country. We gain hope through their work, and you the donor help us to have hope."

Erin Dunmire, director of customer service at WVU Healthcare, also spoke that evening and shared her personal journey with cancer, which began in 2011 when she was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme.

Next year's 29th Annual Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center Gala will be held April 10-13, 2014 at The Greenbrier.



L to R: Judge Fred Stamp, Mrs. Joan Stamp, Dr. Laura Gibson, Dr. Scot Remick



Visiting Committee Spotlight: Betty Puskar

When Ms. Puskar was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1985, West Virginia did not have the resources to aggressively combat this disease. She was forced to look out-of-state for treatment options. After beating cancer, she set her sights on creating a comprehensive breast care center for the women of West Virginia. In 1996, her vision became

a reality when the Betty Puskar Breast Care Center opened its doors welcoming women from across the state. Today, the Breast Care Center provides the all-encompassing treatment and

comprehensive expertise in the field of breast health she envisioned.

Along with her philanthropic role, Ms. Puskar speaks to the women of West Virginia about breast cancer and breast health. She has sponsored such beloved fundraisers as the Betty Puskar Futures LPGA Golf Tournament, the Betty Puskar Breast Care Center WVU Women's Soccer Invitational, and the Betty Puskar Breast Care Center Fashion Show, which enjoyed a 15-year run.

Ms. Puskar's efforts do not stop with the Breast Care Center, as she is also a strong supporter of the MBRCC, serving on the Visiting Committee. With her spirit and drive to improve the lives of West Virginia women, it is easy to see how she acquired the moniker "the First Lady of Morgantown."



During the 28th Annual Gala, Visiting Committee members who were able to attend met with senior leadership to discuss meaningful ways to advance the mission and goals of the MBRCC. *Back Row (L to R):* Sherry Stoneking, Betty Puskar, Stan Hostler, Phil Reale, Alison Bibbee, Sharon Rowe, Tammy Whitacre, Billy Pulice *Front Row (L to R):* Scot Remick, Jo Statler, Bill Bright, Laura Gibson



Visiting Committee Spotlight: William T. Bright

Mr. Bright's family motto, "Brights Don't Give Up," speaks to this self-made-man's entrepreneurial spirit and determination to succeed. After graduating from West Virginia University in 1960 with his degree in business management, he and his brother John set about building Bright of America, an international

fundraising and marketing company. He sold his thriving company in 1990. Following this venture, Mr. Bright continued to develop many successful businesses in varying fields. To this point, Mr. Bright has started, owned, or operated around 30 different businesses.

With Mr. Bright's successful entrepreneurial career, it is easy to see how this Summersville, WV, native was a 2005 inductee into the

West Virginia Business Hall of Fame. In addition, he was named the 1989 West Virginia Entrepreneur of the Year and elected to the State Journal's Who's Who in West Virginia Business in 2002.

Along with his presence in West Virginia's business community, Mr. Bright and his wife Patty are devoted to helping the community through their work with various non-profit agencies, including The West Virginia Friends-R-Fun Foundation and The P.W. and Jennie Bright Fund. Mr. and Mrs. Bright formed The Bright Foundation in 2005 to help improve the lives of less fortunate individuals.

Mr. and Mrs. Bright are active, long-time supporters of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. Mr. Bright is a faithful member of the Visiting Committee, providing valuable advice and guidance. The couple's philanthropic work has provided many wonderful opportunities for growth throughout the state and the MBRCC.

New Directions: Pilot grants fuel innovative research in MBRCC labs

The MBRCC was awarded an American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant. As part of this overall funding, pilot grants are offered to support the investigations of researchers early in their careers, providing them the opportunity to develop broader investigations that impact improved identification, understanding, and treatment of cancer. This year's recipients are Dr. Alexander Chi and Dr. Peter Stoilov.

Alexander Chi, MD

Associate Member, Sara Crile Allen and James Frederick Allen Lung Cancer Program

Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Title: Stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR) for T2 and microscopic T3 (PL3), N0, M0 Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) and predictive biomarkers for metastasis and radiation pneumonitis after SABR.

Dr. Chi's grant is focused on the treatment of early stage non-small cell lung cancer and isolated recurrent non-small cell lung cancer with a new and increasingly used radiotherapy approach – stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR). Through this non-invasive treatment, an ablative dose of radiation will be delivered over a course of a few days. Although this approach has had excellent clinical outcomes with early stage lesions, the most appropriate dose in the treatment of more advanced early stage lung tumors needs to be further defined. This study will evaluate effectiveness of escalated doses for lung cancer in more advanced early stages and will attempt to establish a set of potential

predictive biomarkers for response to SABR in tumor tissue and blood. Collectively, this research will contribute to strategies aimed at individualizing treatments for patients with non-small cell lung cancer.

Peter Stoilov, PhD

Associate Member, Molecular Mechanisms of EMT & Metastasis Program

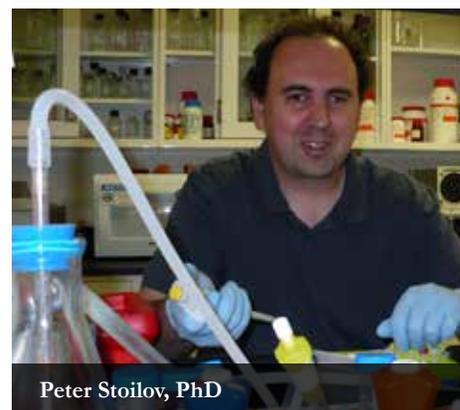
Project Title: Regulation of phosphofructokinase (PFKM) activity by p53

Award Amount: \$30,000

Dr. Stoilov's grant is focused on the p53 gene, one of the most frequently mutated genes in human cancer. It acts as a master regulator that prevents uncontrolled growth and coordinates the response to DNA damage. More recently, loss of p53 was shown also to control the way cells process nutrients, and significant effort is being directed towards understanding this newly discovered role of p53 in metabolism. Dr. Stoilov's lab has shown that disruption of p53 leads to an increase in the production of the enzyme phosphofructokinase M



Alexander Chi, MD



Peter Stoilov, PhD

(PFKM), which regulates one of the major pathways by which glucose is broken down in the cell. Stoilov and his lab aim to uncover the mechanisms by which p53 controls the levels of the PFKM enzyme and will also determine how the increased capacity of the cells to process glucose affects their ability to grow. Because tumor growth is a primary contributing factor to progression of disease, this work has exciting potential application to patients with cancer.

The Allen Lung Cancer Program offered its first pilot grant this year. The funding will promote research within the Program, as well as foster collaboration with other MBRCC scientific programs. Dr. Sudjit Luanpitpong received support through this mechanism for a project focused on questions associated with lung cancer.

Sudjit Luanpitpong, PhD

Associate Member, Sara Crile Allen and James Frederick Allen Lung Cancer Program

Project Title: Induction of cancer stem-like cells by carbon nanotubes

Award Amount: \$25,000

Dr. Luanpitpong's pilot grant addresses the effects of carbon nanotubes, one of

the most widely used nanomaterials to date, on the development of lung cancer. A wide variety of cancers have been shown to have a sub-population of tumor cells that seem to contribute to disease. These cancer stem cells are often difficult to effectively kill with existing therapies. She seeks to determine the involvement of cancer stem-like cells in disease that result downstream of carbon nanotube exposure. Importantly, she will also identify biomarkers, or indicators of lung cancer, to aid in early prediction of disease in an effort to better understand both causes of cancer as well as allowing earlier detection to support better patient outcome.

The West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute (WVCTSI) awarded \$360,000 to 8 researchers through its pilot grant funding mechanism. These grants support clinical, translational, and community engagement focused projects that share the important goal of improving the lives of West Virginians through addressing specific health issues of relevance to our state. Three MBRCC researchers were awarded pilot funds, including Dr. Erik Bey, Dr. Sudjit Luanpitpong, and Dr. Elena Pugacheva.



Erik Bey, PhD

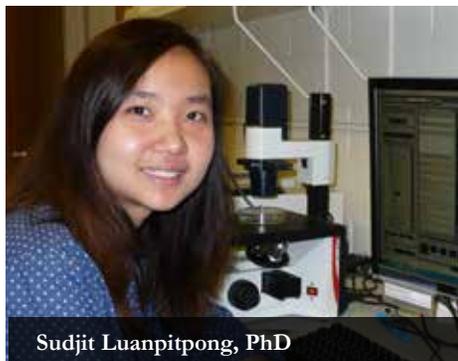
Erik Bey, PhD

Associate Member, Sara Crile Allen and James Frederick Allen Lung Cancer Program

Project Title: Modulation of oxidative stress regulators alters the invasive program of non-small cell lung cancers

Award Amount: \$46,805

Dr. Bey's work is focused on understanding whether increasing or decreasing the expression of specific genes that are relevant to lung cancer, including NQO1 and catalase, can prevent lung cancer metastasis. Using human derived lung cancer cell lines, the expression of these genes will be modulated in a targeted manner and evaluated for the effect in both the cell model system, as well as in animal model studies to increase the relevance of the model to patients with lung cancer. Bey hypothesizes that the loss or gain of specific oxidative stress regulators plays an important role in tumor biology, thus their manipulation may alter the tumors' ability to survive. Because metastasis is such a critical component of lung cancer progression, understanding the factors that control it may identify novel therapeutic targets to treat this disease more effectively.



Sudjit Luanpitpong, PhD

Sudjit Luanpitpong, PhD

Associate Member, Sara Crile Allen and James Frederick Allen Lung Cancer Program

Project Title: Lung carcinogenesis of mountaintop particulate matter

Award Amount: \$34,655

Dr. Luanpitpong's pilot grant focuses on the important lung cancer disparity in West Virginia and what role high mountaintop mining activity that is common in our state may have on incidence of the disease. She

seeks to determine whether particulate matter derived from mountain top coal mining increases lung cancer risk, and if so, she will study direct effects of specific elements within the particulate matter (such as silica) on human derived lung cells. Her work is designed to include evaluation of cells that are exposed for extended times to particulate matter to make it most relevant to real life circumstances and to increase the impact on our understanding of lung cancer in this setting.

Elena Pugacheva, PhD

Member, Breast Cancer Program

Project Title: Pre-clinical studies to determine efficacy of Aurora A kinase (AURKA) inhibitor MLN8054 in prevention and treatment of breast cancer metastasis using patient-derived tumors

Award Amount: \$50,000

Dr. Pugacheva's lab studies the Aurora A enzyme (AURKA), which stimulates cell division in breast cancer. Recent work from her lab indicates that inhibition of AURKA dramatically decreases metastasis in mice, thus providing an efficient means to formulate new treatment strategies for breast cancer patients with very aggressive disease. The research objective is to evaluate her lab's findings of the anti-metastatic activity of AURKA inhibitors using patient-derived tumor samples. The long-term goals are to develop new guidelines for the therapeutic application of AURKA inhibitors as anti-metastatic agents, design clinical trials with AURKA inhibitors, and to determine if AURKA presence is an indicator of breast cancer patient response to the treatment, thus providing a means to select patients who will benefit most from AURKA inhibitors.



Elena Pugacheva, PhD

Bonnie's Bus: The Face Of Your Cancer Center In The Community

Bonnie's Bus now in its fifth year of providing lifesaving breast cancer screening

The Bus took to the road this March for the fifth consecutive year and has been reaching communities sooner thanks to a new chassis specially built for the mobile mammography unit.

The new chassis allows the program to reliably deliver digital mammography services to women across West Virginia in spite of the state's challenging geography.

Made possible by the generosity of Ben and Jo Statler, the Bus has provided more than 4,300 mammograms to West Virginia women since the Bonnie Wells Wilson Mobile Mammography Program began, and the number of lifesaving breast cancer screenings continues to climb each year. In 2012, Bonnie's Bus provided nearly 1,700 screenings in 104 screening days; this year's goal is 2,000 women in 120 visits.

Early detection saves lives, and Bonnie's Bus is playing a major role in this regard. To date, eight women diagnosed with breast cancer were initially screened on the Bus. "We also strive to generate breast cancer awareness," said Sara Jane Gainor, director of Bonnie's Bus. "Our staff encourages women to engage in self-care and further examination, and women leave the Bus

feeling competent to take charge of their breast health."

Keeping a program like Bonnie's Bus rolling does have its challenges, and many of those are financial. "As a traveling mammography unit, we have more expenses than a stationary mammography facility," said Gainor. "For instance, we need gasoline for traveling from community to community, and once we arrive to our destination, we have to continue running the generator on the Bus to operate the mammography equipment."

The Bus refers women who need follow-up care back to their community providers. "We are proud of the fact that we can serve every West Virginia woman age 40 and older, even if she has no method of paying for a mammogram. We are continuing to seek funding to support those mammograms and to operate Bonnie's Bus. To help us meet these funding challenges we've already experienced an outpouring of grassroots community support through local fundraisers and donations."



Bonnie's Bus program receives grant from Komen West Virginia Affiliate



Bonnie's Bus has received a \$35,000 grant from the West Virginia affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure to provide education and mammography screenings to women of color in West Virginia.

"This funding will allow us to reach out to all women of color to encourage them to have regular mammograms to reduce their mortality rate from breast cancer. It will also allow us to provide mammograms for any West Virginia women who have no insurance or other coverage," Sara Jane Gainor, director of Bonnie's Bus, said.

"Early detection is the best way to reduce deaths from breast cancer."

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the world's largest breast cancer organization, and the West Virginia Affiliate is one of 125 affiliates on the front lines dedicated to ending breast cancer in their communities. Komen affiliates fund innovative programs that help women and men overcome the cultural, social, educational, and financial barriers to breast cancer screening and treatment.

South Middle School students raise more than \$3K for Bonnie's Bus

Students at South Middle School recently presented a gift of more than \$3,400 to Bonnie's Bus. The money came from the school's first annual Connect-athon fundraiser in May. Students sold cups and held a fun run and walk at the school.

South Middle School and the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center have been partners in education since 2000. The Partnerships in Education Program is a statewide initiative linking schools and students with businesses and organizations in the community in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship. South Middle brings a community service aspect to the partnership and with the latest donation has raised more than \$8,400 to benefit patients at the Cancer Center.



Miss Central WV's Outstanding Teen presents gift to Bonnie's Bus



Miss Central WV's Outstanding Teen Kristen Falconi presented MBRCC Director Dr. Scot Remick a check for Bonnie's Bus. Kristen spearheaded a dance and a walk at her school, Mountaineer Middle, to benefit the Bus and raised more than \$2,000. Kristen's platform is Caring for the Cure (C2): Breast Cancer Awareness & Promoting Positive Self-Image in Teens and Adolescents. She is the daughter of Deborah Falconi, administrator of the Cancer Service Line at WVU Healthcare, and Larry Falconi.

Partnerships that make a difference... ...Bonnie's Bus & Homer Laughlin

The Bonnie's Bus staff looks toward building relationships with state and regional corporations to help defray some operational expenses. One of the most successful partnerships to date is with the Homer Laughlin China Company based in Newell, WV. This internationally renowned business is well known for its popular glazed ceramic dinnerware line, Fiesta, which boasts vivid color selections.

As part of its wellness program, Homer Laughlin invites the Bus to screen their employees four times a year. After the first visit, this partnership already had made a difference in the life of one woman. An 18-year employee with the company, Jackie Poynter, had no plans to get a mammogram when Bonnie's Bus visited Homer Laughlin in December 2011. A nurse with the employee wellness program encouraged her to take advantage of the opportunity and scheduled Jackie with the Bus. It turns out it was a decision that would change her life forever. Following her screening, it was determined that she had breast cancer and was referred back to her community for follow-up and early treatment.

Since Bonnie's Bus made a huge impact on her life, Jackie has been an advocate for the program. She encouraged Homer Laughlin to team up on a fundraiser to benefit the Bus. On June 20, 2013, the Bonnie Wells Wilson Mobile Mammography Program debuted its specially designed Homer Laughlin mugs at the corporation's annual tent sale. These mugs were donated by Homer Laughlin to the Bus to help raise funds and awareness. All proceeds will go directly to Bonnie's Bus. Plans are in the works to sell these unique mugs through other channels, including the Friends Gift Shop at Ruby Memorial Hospital.



Erin's Inspirational Journey to Help Cancer Patients

"Life is a journey. Not a destination. Enjoy the moments." This stunningly simple yet resonating quote led a Morgantown teenager to make a huge impact on her community, the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center (MBRCC), and the patients it serves, all in the name of her inspiring Aunt Erin.

In January of 2011, Erin Dunmire, director of customer service at WVU Healthcare, was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme, a type of brain cancer. The news hit her niece, Erin 'Poppy' Polak, hard. Her aunt's favorite quote about enjoying all the moments in the journey of life helped her find some comfort during this trying time. Erin immediately underwent surgery to battle the cancer. With her resilience and positive attitude, she was back to work in 3 weeks.

With her aunt's inspiring story and quote in mind, Polak started a fund in 2011 entitled "Let the Journey Begin." Her vision was to endow the fund in order to sponsor sustaining brain cancer research and to provide comfort care for brain cancer patients being treated at the MBRCC. Erin, Poppy, and their family and friends began selling bracelets and T-shirts to raise funds.

In 2012, just one short year after the "Let the Journey Begin" fund was established, the group hit that \$25,000 endowment-level goal. They weren't ready to stop raising money and awareness though. Through continued hard work, the fund surpassed the \$71,000 mark in early 2013.

On May 11, 2013, the group raised \$11,140 at the second annual Just Desserts event held at the St. John University Parish in Morgantown. Sponsored by the Let the Journey Begin Fund Committee, the fundraiser included different types of desserts to sample, multiple auction items, and entertainment.

Cancer free now for over two years, Erin's inspiring story continues to make an impact on anyone who hears it. She was recently an invited speaker at the 28th annual MBRCC Gala celebration on April 20, 2013, at The Greenbrier Resort. Her goal was to take the audience through her journey. "We want to make a difference, so that brain cancer becomes a chronic, not a fatal disease," she told the attendees.

Erin was also featured in West Virginia University Health Sciences Center's campus campaign video.

Thanks to the continued efforts of Erin and Poppy, brain cancer patients at the MBRCC have devoted allies who are ready to help them make their journey through cancer treatment and beyond.



L to R: Erin Dunmire, Erin 'Poppy' Polak

WVU Women's Soccer Team Raises Over \$100K To Fight Breast Cancer

This past spring, the West Virginia University women's soccer team raised \$15,781 to support the Betty Puskar Breast Care Center's goal of providing women access to comprehensive breast care, education, cutting-edge technology, and

expertise in the field. Since starting this special relationship 10 years ago, the athletes have raised over \$100,000 to help fight breast cancer in West Virginia. Medical Director of the Betty Puskar Breast Cancer Center, Ginger Layne, MD, was eager to praise the team's efforts.

"Not only are the girls on the WVU women's soccer team outstanding athletes, they are also outstanding supporters of the Breast Care Center. We are so glad they teamed up with us to fight against breast cancer."



Morgantown Touch-A-Truck raises more than \$6K for cancer patients



An event that provides many a curious youngster a chance to explore a wide array of vehicles ranging from cranes to firetrucks is also helping cancer patients.

The fourth annual Morgantown Touch-A-Truck at the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown on June 1 raised more than \$6,000 to benefit patients at the WVU Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center.

“All of the vehicle operators and vendors donate their time and energy to support

Touch-A-Truck and we are very grateful that they want to support programs that battle cancer daily,” said Leah Darr, an event organizer and regulatory manager for the Clinical Trials Research Unit at the Cancer Center.

Since 2010, the Morgantown Touch-A-Truck has raised about \$27,000 to help local families fight cancer. All proceeds from this year’s event will support programs at the Cancer Center.

Because you gave...Donor Impact at the MBRCC

Laura F. Gibson, PhD, is deputy director of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center (MBRCC), co-leader of the Alexander B. Osborn Hematopoietic Malignancy and Transplantation Program, and professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Cell Biology in the WVU School of Medicine.

funds support research aimed at better understanding how to treat patients with hematological malignancies, such as leukemia and lymphoma through support of salaries, supplies, and training fellowships.

Support for Gibson’s research is also provided by the Hostler-Child Cancer Research Fund. Generously established in June 2011 by Stanley and Virginia Hostler, this fund also supports work across the MBRCC, such as the MBRCC’s capability to include patient samples in ongoing research projects to increase the impact of the work

and the application of the lab based models to the “real life” circumstance that cancer patients encounter. It also supports a research assistant to facilitate collaboration between MBRCC scientists and a local biotechnology company, Protea Biosciences. This collaboration provides the latest technology to investigators interested in understanding protein and metabolic signatures that might provide clues to how healthy cells are transformed into cancer cells and what determines how effectively a tumor cell responds to treatment.

Her research focuses on the tumor microenvironment, how it influences therapeutic response, and chemotherapy induced damage of the marrow microenvironment as it relates to recovery of a patient’s immune system following chemotherapy. Funded in part through the Alexander Bland Osborn Trust, her laboratory collaborates with colleagues in the Osborn Program to identify novel therapies for the treatment of patients with cancer.

Mr. Osborn, a WVU graduate, created the trust in 1993 and designated the MBRCC as one of the charitable beneficiaries. The donation from the Osborn Trust was matched by the West Virginia Research Trust Fund to create a \$1.57 million investment in a hematological malignancies program at WVU as well as the endowed professorship that Dr. Gibson holds. The



Front row, fourth from left, Laura Gibson, PhD, with her lab members.

New Physicians and Scientists

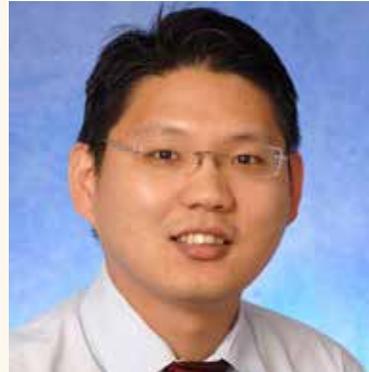
The Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center is pleased to announce the new physicians and scientists that have joined our team.



Richard Jurevic

Richard Jurevic, DDS, PhD, is interim associate dean of research and associate professor in the WVU School of Dentistry's Department of Oral Diagnostics. He also serves as a clinical

scientist with the WV Clinical Translational Science Institute. Dr. Jurevic earned his dental degree from The Ohio State University. He then went on to receive advanced training at the University of Washington in oral medicine and radiology. Dr. Jurevic completed a fellowship in special care dentistry and his PhD in oral biology, also at the University of Washington. Before coming to WVU, he served as a faculty member at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Jurevic investigates epithelial barrier function defects and immune responses to oral manifestations of HIV/AIDS.



Sung Cho

Sung Cho, MD, has joined the WVU Department of Surgery. Dr. Cho specializes in surgical oncology. His special interests include pancreatic cancer, liver cancer, colorectal cancer, and disease

of other abdominal organs, such as the spleen, the adrenal gland and the stomach. He earned his medical degree at the University of London, England. He also earned a master's degree in immunology at the University of Oxford, England. He completed a residency in general surgery, a chief residency in general surgery, and an Association of Academic Surgery Research Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Before coming to WVU, he developed specialist laparoscopic skills by completing a fellowship in minimally invasive hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery at Providence Cancer Center in Portland, Oregon.

Make a Difference in the Lives That Follow



LEAVE A LEGACY®

Over the past several newsletters, we have highlighted different types of philanthropic giving. To this point, we have touched on major gifts and endowments. In this newsletter, we will delve deeper into the wonderful opportunities estate gift support affords both donors and the MBRCC.

There are a number of worthwhile options to consider. Many choose including a gift provision in their will or revocable trust to carry out their dream for support of the MBRCC. The appropriate wording for that is "...to the West Virginia University

Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center."

Whether your gift will support faculty in carrying out their research and clinical responsibilities, program growth, facility upgrades, or unrestricted use, it will help in important ways.

Another direction is to name the WVU Foundation the beneficiary of a retirement account and let us know how you would like to have your future gift used. We're happy to work with you to assure the best results.

Some choose to make a gift that will provide income to them for their retirement years and will later provide support to MBRCC. You may select fixed income or variable income that can grow over time. The use of appreciated stocks, mutual funds, corporate bonds, cash or even

real estate can make sense. A federal tax deduction is earned by the gift, and you can decide how the remaining funds will be used in the future.

Donating a life insurance policy or real estate on which you retain lifetime rights are other choices that can make a difference for the MBRCC.

These gifts count in A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University for those who will be age 70 or older by the end of the campaign on December 31, 2015.

We hope you can help MBRCC reach its important campaign goal.

To learn more, contact Tammy Whitacre, director of development, at 304-293-8604 or twhitacre@hsc.wvu.edu.



Abraham Kanate

Abraham Kanate, MD, has joined the Osborn Hematopoietic Malignancy and Transplantation Program. Dr. Kanate specializes in hematological malignancies and blood and stem cell transplant. His special interests include lymphoma and leukemia. He earned his medical degree at St. John's Medical College in Bangalore, India. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in hematology and oncology at WVU. Before returning to WVU, he was a fellow in Blood and Marrow Transplantation at Stanford University, Stanford Hospitals and Clinics.



Christopher Watson

Christopher Watson, MD, has joined the WVU Department of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Watson specializes in radiation therapy, including external beam radiation therapy, intensity modulated radiation therapy, gamma knife and stereotactic radiosurgery, stereotactic body radiation therapy, and brachytherapy. His special interests are lung cancer, prostate cancer, liver cancer, gynecologic cancer, breast cancer, and pediatric brain tumors. He earned his medical degree at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. He completed a transitional year residency at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana. He also completed a radiation oncology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine before coming to WVU.



Ofelia Crombet

Ofelia Crombet, MD, has joined WVU's pediatric cancer staff. She specializes in pediatric and adolescent hematology and oncology care. Dr. Crombet earned her medical degree at the Havana University School of Medicine. She completed a hematology residency at the Institute of Hematology and Immunology in Cuba and a general pediatrics residency at Miami's Children's Hospital. She also completed a pediatric hematology oncology fellowship at the Children's Hospital of New Orleans.

Breast Care Center and Bonnie's Bus receive nearly \$6K... ...from Powder Puff Football Tournament



Female students from Liberty, Bridgeport, Lincoln, and Notre Dame high schools in Harrison County and Lewis County High School have donated nearly \$6,000 to the West Virginia University Betty Puskar Breast Care Center and Bonnie's Bus from their Fight Like a Girl Powder Puff Football Tournament at Bridgeport High School on April 21.

Tournament participants raised the money by charging admission to the event; selling food, T-shirts, basket raffles, and breast cancer ribbons; and through a cheer-off in which the male students dressed up as cheerleaders for a competitive half-time performance.

Powder Puff football is when the girls play football while the boys cheer.

"I know that through this tournament, we are not only helping people affected by breast cancer today, but also those affected in the future," said Haley Whiteman of Liberty High School, who organized the event. "It's hard to say how many students in our high schools might get breast cancer someday."

The money raised from the tournament will be split evenly between the Breast Care Center and Bonnie's Bus.

The Powder Puff Tournament has raised more than \$8,600 for breast care services at WVU over the past two years.

A New Face in the Office of Philanthropy



The Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center Office of Philanthropy (formerly the Development Office) proudly welcomed Dannell Boatman as the new Development Specialist at the end of April 2013. In this role, Dannell will assist the Director of Philanthropy, Tammy Whitacre, and support the advancement of the Cancer Center's comprehensive development plan.

Boatman is a Morgantown native and a 2008 graduate of WVU. She served as an administrative assistant at the MBRCC from 2009-2011. Following this position, she was program specialist for the WVU School of Pharmacy's Office of Experiential Learning.

"I am thrilled to be back at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center in this new role," Boatman said. "It is an exciting time for the Office of Philanthropy with the Capital Campaign in full swing. I will work closely with Ms. Whitacre on the Campaign's priorities to ensure the continued success of the Cancer Center. I am passionate about the work being done here and I am very happy to be a part of it."

If you have any questions regarding the Office of Philanthropy or need assistance in any way, you may contact Dannell at 304-293-4597 or email her at dboatman@hsc.wvu.edu.