

in touch

autumn 2003

The Newsletter for the Friends of Fox Chase Cancer Center

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FOX CHASE
CANCER CENTER

Changes Its

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The Cancer Information Super Highway Fox Chase Accelerates the Drive from Bench to Bedside

Fox Chase Cancer Center is paving a new road for laboratory scientists and physician researchers to bring new cancer treatments to patients at an accelerated rate. This process is called translational research. To underscore its commitment to the power of translational research, Fox Chase has become one of the first cancer centers in the United States to develop a core facility with the sole purpose of implementing translational research activities.

Translational research creates a continuum from the laboratory "bench" to the clinical "bedside" and back again. It allows for the development of major advances made by Fox Chase scientists into new detection technologies, targeted treatment and prevention strategies, and allows for the translation of clinical observations into new research foci for basic science. This process often involves researchers from several disciplines and divisions.

Fox Chase president Robert C. Young, M.D., solidified the institution's commitment to this critical process by establishing a Centerwide initiative for translational research. In 2002, Young appointed **Louis M. Weiner, M.D.**, as vice president to lead the effort. Weiner is also chairman of medical



Kathleen Scotto, Ph.D. (left), director of Fox Chase Cancer Center's translational research core facility, and facility manager **Margret Einarson, Ph.D.**

oncology at Fox Chase.

If the new initiative is the vehicle moving research forward, then the translational research core facility is the turbo engine powering the effort.

Translating Translational Research

The very essence of translational research is the collaboration between physician researchers and laboratory scientists. It is an uncommon relationship.

"Historically, in most cancer centers, there have been problems with the concept of translational research," explains **Kathleen Scotto, Ph.D.**, director of the translational research

core facility. "At many institutions, the relationship between scientists and physicians is almost an adversarial one, with both sides vying for limited resources. That problem doesn't exist at Fox Chase. What's amazing to me is how both our basic scientists and our clinical investigators have embraced the translational research initiative since its launch."

Through preclinical research, the translational research core facility provides a way for investigators to identify new cellular targets for drug therapy that will have clinical applications. The facility also develops and validates new methods to assess investigational drugs.

"Translational research is one of the defining characteristics of great cancer centers," Weiner points out. "Our initiative is especially compelling because Fox Chase has exceptional quality and depth in basic science that can inform and enrich clinical research in our cancer center."

"We want to facilitate projects on the brink of becoming clinical studies as well as projects that need a few years to develop," Scotto says. "This will create a pipeline for scientific findings that are banging on the door of the clinic and

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Fox Chase Board

New Members

Avery Elected Chairman of Fox Chase Board

William J. Avery, retired chairman and chief executive officer of Crown Cork & Seal Company, has been elected chairman of Fox Chase Cancer Center's board of directors. Avery, who joined the board in 1993, had served as a vice chairman since 2001. He succeeds Philip E. Lippincott, former chairman of Campbell Soup, who chaired the Fox Chase board since 1995.

Shortly after joining the Fox Chase board, Avery became chair of its institutional advancement committee. In this role, he spearheaded a major campaign, launched in 1996, to establish the nation's first comprehensive Research Institute for Cancer Prevention, which opened in 2000 in the Center's new Prevention Pavilion.

With a goal of \$38 million over five years, this was the largest capital campaign ever undertaken by Fox Chase. Avery led the campaign to its successful completion in less than four years, raised \$1 million over goal and kept campaign expenses well under budget. Also under his campaign guidance, Fox Chase received the largest Kresge Foundation challenge grant ever given to a Pennsylvania institution.

Fox Chase president Robert C. Young, M.D., calls Avery "a tireless and energetic volunteer in advancing our mission of reducing the burden of cancer."

Avery's volunteer service includes a long list of educational, cultural and other non-profit organizations besides Fox Chase ranging from the American Red Cross and the National Constitution Center to the YMCA. Over the

years, Avery has received an array of well-deserved accolades.

Avery began his business career at Crown Cork & Seal in Chicago in 1959 as a management trainee while attending the University of Chicago. He moved to Philadelphia in 1974 as corporate vice president of sales. Ultimately, he served as CEO and board chairman of Crown Cork & Seal from 1990 until his retirement in February 2001.

At Fox Chase, Avery's commitment to fighting cancer has been recognized by a generous gift from the Connelly Foundation in his name, establishing both the William J. Avery Postdoctoral Fellowship and the W. J. Avery Postdoctoral Fellowship. These fellowships were two of several established as part of the Prevention Campaign Avery chaired.

William Avery (center), Fox Chase's new board chairman, has been a steadfast supporter of the Center since joining the board in 1993. Here, he mingles with Fox Chase president Robert Young (left) and Ralph Roberts, at the Grandparents' Cancer Prevention Campaign kick-off event earlier this year.



Peter S. Kim, Ph.D., Peter McCausland and Christine A. Poon were recently elected to Fox Chase Cancer Center's board of directors. Kim and Poon will serve on the strategic planning committee while McCausland has joined the governance and leadership committee.

Peter Kim became president of Merck Research Laboratories earlier this year after serving as the company's executive vice president for research and development.



Before joining Merck, Kim was a faculty member for 13 years in the department of biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He most recently served as professor and associate chairman of the department. In addition, Kim was an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and a member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research.

Kim has made fundamental discoveries about how viruses enter cells and served on the AIDS Vaccine Research Committee of the National Institutes of Health. He is a former editor of *Advances in Protein Chemistry* and former associate editor of *Cell* in addition to having served on the editorial boards of several other research journals.

An elected member of both the National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine, Kim's many awards include the Ho-Am Prize for Basic Research from the Samsung Foundation, the

National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology and the Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry.

Kim earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry *magna cum laude* with distinction from Cornell University. He received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Stanford University, where he was also a medical scientist training program fellow.



Peter McCausland is chairman and chief executive officer of Airgas Inc., the largest distributor of medical, industri-

al and specialty gases and welding equipment and a leading distributor of safety supplies in the United States. He founded the company in 1982 and has served in his current position since 1987.

Before starting Airgas, McCausland was a partner in the law firm of McCausland, Keen & Buckman as well as general counsel for MG Industries, Inc., an industrial gas producer.

McCausland earned his bachelor's degree in history from the University of South Carolina. He received his J.D. from Boston University Law School, where he graduated *cum laude*.

In addition to the Fox Chase board of directors, McCausland serves on the boards of a vari-

ety of organizations, including the Independence Seaport Museum, the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships and Hercules, Inc.



Christine Poon is worldwide chairman of pharmaceuticals at Johnson & Johnson with

responsibility for the commercial businesses of the global pharmaceuticals group as well as strategic marketing and operations. She serves on the company's 12-member executive committee, its highest level of management. Since August 2001, Poon has also chaired the

pharmaceuticals group operating committee.

Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson, Poon spent 15 years at Bristol-Myers Squibb, most recently as president of international medicines. While there, she held a variety of positions, from vice president for cardiovascular strategic product planning to president of medical devices.

A graduate of Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree in biology, Poon earned her master's degree in biology and biochemistry from St. Louis University and her M.B.A. in finance from Boston University. She is a past member of the board of trustees of the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Fox Chase Named Among Best Places to Work for Postdocs

A recent survey by *The Scientist* ranks Fox Chase Cancer Center among the best places to work for postdoctoral researchers. Postdocs ranked Fox Chase as tops when asked about factors relating to compensation, grant funding, institutional factors, quality of family and personal life, and recreational and social experiences while working at Fox Chase.

The survey yielded responses from 2,800 postdocs at 681 institutions in the United States, Canada and Western Europe. Respondents were asked to assess their postdoctoral experience according to 37 criteria by scoring positive statements on a 1 to 5 scale (5 = "strongly agree," 1 = "strongly disagree" and 3 = "neither agree nor disagree"). The survey ranked 150 institutions on various factors relating to the lab's principal investigator, colleagues, department or division, and the institution.

"Postdocs value the opportunity to work at Fox Chase for several important reasons that aren't always related to pay, though we surveyed well in that category," explains Randy Strich, Ph.D., a member of the basic science division at Fox Chase and faculty director of its Postdoctoral and Graduate Student Program.

"Fox Chase provides its postdocs with access to training, travel and supplemental grants for research as well as opportunities for independent postdoctoral research funding. Equally important to many, Fox Chase provides a nationally accredited child development program, housing subsidies, health insurance, fitness facilities and planned social events. All that while working with top scientists on a beautiful campus setting in an exciting city."

The high approval rating reflects Fox Chase's overall philosophy of providing a stimulating work environment to prepare future sci-

entists. In 2002, *Philadelphia Magazine* named Fox Chase as one of the region's best places to work. The American Nurses Association also has recognized Fox Chase as an excellent workplace for nursing by honoring it with the first Magnet Award for nursing excellence ever granted to an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center.



Maria Ramirez, Ph.D. (left), of the lab of Luis Sigal, Ph.D., D.V.M., and Patrick Dumont, Ph.D., of the lab of Maureen Murphy, Ph.D., both chose Fox Chase Cancer Center for their first postdoctoral positions. Ramirez and Dumont are the Board of Associates' Plain & Fancy postdoctoral fellows this year. Proceeds from the annual food fest support the research of promising young investigators in Fox Chase's postdoctoral program.

New Prostate Cancer Treatment with Fewer Side Effects

Incontinence and impotence are two major complications feared by men undergoing treatment for prostate cancer, since the bladder and rectum are located near the prostate. These organs are often in the line of fire when radiation beams target the cancerous prostate. Now, with a highly sophisticated technology called intensity modulated radiation

therapy (IMRT), patients have fewer side effects than with conventional and even three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3-D CRT).

Fox Chase Cancer Center was the first institution in the Delaware Valley to treat patients with IMRT for all prostate cancer. Fox Chase physicians have treated more than 1,000 prostate cancer

patients with IMRT, distinguishing themselves as having the most experience with this treatment in the region. IMRT is a treatment technique, which enables radiation oncologists to administer high doses of radiation with extreme precision to the targeted area while sparing surrounding healthy organs.

"IMRT is our standard treat-

ment for patients with prostate cancer," says **Alan Pollack, M.D., Ph.D.**, chairman of radiation oncology at Fox Chase. "We use IMRT throughout the entire course of the patient's treatment whereas some institutions only use IMRT at the very end, as a 'boost' treatment."

Conventional radiotherapy delivers only single beams of radiation with a uniform dose. A more advanced approach, 3-D CRT, was the first in a new generation of treatment where the beam conforms to the irregular shape and size of a man's prostate.

Like 3-D CRT, IMRT conforms the radiation to the prostate, but IMRT allows the beams to vary in intensity—more where the tumor is thickest and less near healthy tissue.

Recent studies presented at the last meeting of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) have shown that patients had fewer side effects with IMRT than with 3-D CRT. Currently, Fox Chase physicians also use IMRT for the treatment of breast cancer and are studying its use for endometrial cancer. **To learn more about IMRT at Fox Chase, call 1-888-FOX CHASE.**



U.S. News & World Report Ranks Fox Chase Among Best

Fox Chase Cancer Center ranks as the top cancer center in the Delaware Valley according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The magazine's 2003 edition of "America's Best Hospitals" also counts Fox Chase among the elite top 15 cancer centers in the nation, ranking the Center 13th for its outstanding cancer care. To view the list, visit www.usnews.com.

Fox Chase has taken the lead in actively working to encourage changes in the methodology of *U.S. News & World Report's* survey process. The goal is to promote a more accurate listing for readers who may consider this information as a tool in health care decision-making.

Helping Research: A Good Investment

With interest rates at an all-time low, the rates for charitable gift annuities (CGA) are one of the best philanthropic *investments* available. A charitable gift annuity pays you a guaranteed lifetime income, up to 11% annually, based on the age you are at the time you start to receive payments. You can establish an annuity now, claiming a deduction in the year it is given, and begin receiving annuity payments immediately, or elect to defer them, for example, until you retire. The Charitable Gift Annuity program at Fox Chase Cancer Center, in existence for over 10 years, is a smart investment for you *and* for cancer research. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Judith Lopacki, director of special gifts, (215) 728-4084.

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 Wyeth
 Marion B. Wynkoop
 Josephine & Frank L. Young
 Louis H. Young Research Fund
 Pearl Young Foundation
 Ruth C. Young
 Virginia Zimmerman

Annual Giving Clubs

January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002

Reimann Club \$10,000+

Acme Markets, Inc.
 Adler Foundation, Inc.
 AHEPA Fifth District Cancer Research Foundation
 Alan Albert
 American Institute for Cancer Research
 AMGEN Inc.
 The Annenberg Foundation
 Asbestos Workers Local 14
 Aventis Pharmaceuticals
 Sharon & William J. Avery
 Emily & Raymond Bartolacci
 Alice C. Bassett Trust
 Bernard A. & Rebecca S. Bernard Foundation
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 Lucy S. Binder
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 Bucks County Chapter
 Marlyn Fein Chapter
 Fox Chase Chapter
 Friends of the Hospital of Fox Chase Cancer Center
 The Trading Post
 Patricia Bolden
 Helen Booth
 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
 Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Inc.
 Susan & Robert E. Brown Jr.
 Lloyd & W. Thacher Brown
 C.W.A. Local 13000 Jim Willer Golf Tourney
 Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation
 Carolyn R. Aldigè
 E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter
 Employees
 Jane & Kenneth B. Charlesworth

The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund
 W. Morgan Churchman III
 Combined Federal Campaign
 Philadelphia Area
 Creative Beginnings Golf Outing
 Blanche Dale
 Delaware Investments
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 Rachel K. & Benjamin E. DeRoy
 Dermatology Foundation
 Joan M. Dietze
 G. Morris Dorrance Jr.
 The Drueding Foundation
 Gloria & Edmund M. Dunn
 Virginia W. Dunn
 Myra T. & Meyer Durlfosky
 The Eden Foundation
 The Ellison Medical Foundation
 Harriet C. & Edward L. Engelhardt
 Fox Chase Cancer Center
 Employees
 Finding A Cure Golf Outing

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 Eleanore L. Howard
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The Value of Individual Giving

By **A.J. Gabriele, Fox Chase Cancer Center Board of Directors**

So often I hear people say, “You really only need the big donations. What I can give just won’t make any difference.” But that couldn’t be further from the truth.

At Fox Chase, we recognize donors’ contributions each year on plaques and in publications. Recognition for annual giving is made to groups of donors we call “giving clubs.” The Reimann Club recognizes donors at the \$10,000 and above level in a year. The Talbot Club recognizes donors from \$5,000-\$9,999. The Dorrance Club is for donors in the \$2,500-\$4,999 range. The Directors’ Circle includes donors from \$1,000-\$2,499. And the President’s Circle recognizes annual contributions of \$500-\$999.

“So how am I making a difference?” That’s the easy part. Every gift that we receive in every one of these giving clubs goes to support something special at Fox Chase.

And your undesignated gift provides funding where needed.

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Bargain Thrift Shop
Helen D. Groome Beatty Trust
Minnie Bernstein
Berwind Corporation
Louise & John K. Binswanger
Anonymous
Boeing Employees’ Good Neighbor Fund
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
George Brown Golf Outing
Butler Family Fund, Inc.
Rene Callec
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Jane & Allan R. Hallock
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The Hollenbach Family Fund
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The Kanter Foundation
Virginia & Harvey Kimmel
Patricia Kind
Kenneth F. Kucowski
Evy Lessin Fund for Ovarian Cancer
Phyllis & Michael H. Levy
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Sue & William G. Little
Edwin Lorber
Sandra & Fredric R. Mann II
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Purdue Pharma L.P.
Quaker Tri-State Plumbing Wholesalers
James F. Rieck
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Rudolf Grun
Jane Guerriero
Cheryl & Scott Herman
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Elizabeth W. & John K. Knorr III
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Polkas Against Cancer
Beatrice Pollock Fund
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Benjamin Savidge
Janet Schwartz
Henry Stuebner
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Jill Marie Tulli Fund
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Wawa
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Just think about it.

- Whose gift funds the research ideas of young investigators just starting their careers?
- Who pays for the CD players for the patients’ comfort while they are receiving chemotherapy?
- Who purchases the special bed required in the ICU?
- Who provides for the compassionate hospice care at Fox Chase when a family can’t afford it?

The answer is we *all* do.

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One President's Circle gift can provide relaxing musical enjoyment for 10 infusion patients. Five Talbot Club gifts put together can provide for the start-up costs for a new idea by a young scientist. One Directors' Circle gift can purchase the special digital camera that would be perfect for high-definition images from the operating room. Four Reimann Club gifts together could provide a new laser for less invasive treatment of cancers. Three Dorrance Club gifts can provide a more comfortable, versatile bed for patients confined to the intensive care unit.

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In short, the "Giving Club" annual gifts provide opportunities for improved technology, for breakthrough research, for improved treatment and, perhaps most importantly, for increased compassionate care for our patients. **Yes, your gift does make a difference!**

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... and many others who prefer to remain anonymous.

The foregoing is only a small expression of the deep gratitude we have for all who make Fox Chase Cancer Center's work possible with their support. If we have omitted or misstated an acknowledgement, please let us know. Thank you.

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A Creative Way to Give

"It was a journey for both of us—a wonderful journey, for what it was," says **Janet Kovacs**. But the journey she speaks of isn't the kind she and her husband planned for their retirement.

John Kovacs had already retired from an industrial engineering firm, when Janet retired in June 2001, after 38 years as an elementary school teacher. That September, he learned he had advanced lung cancer. A year of treatment at Fox Chase Cancer Center followed—a biopsy by Walter Scott, M.D., radiation therapy by Ben Movsas, M.D., chemotherapy through a clinical trial by Corey Langer, M.D.

"If they learn one little thing from everything I went through, it would be wonderful," John told Janet while he was taking part in the clinical study.

"You just develop such a rapport with these people...the atmosphere was amazing," Janet Kovacs recalls. Fortunately, too, "he never felt terribly sick," she adds.

John Kovacs died in October 2002 and a year later, Janet has started to volunteer at Fox Chase. However, that's just one aspect



John and Janet Kovacs celebrating at a friend's birthday party. of her intense desire to thank the institution for the care her husband received.

Since John had handled all the family's finances, a friend and neighbor, Fox Chase board member **Al Gabriele**, put Janet in touch with financial advisor **Nick Meyers** of Sagemark Consulting in Cherry Hill, N.J. In reviewing her assets and planning her own will, she told him, "If there is anything I can do for Fox Chase, I want to."

continued on page 15

Donor Support Leads to Published Research

One person can make a difference. Just ask **Tania Stutman**. With a gift of \$10,000, she has helped support laboratory research at Fox Chase Cancer Center focusing on gastrointestinal stromal tumors, or GIST. This work, which enhances understanding of how a new drug works, was presented at the 94th annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research and published in the August 2003 issue of an AACR journal, *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.

Three years ago, at age 49, Stutman's life changed forever when she learned she had GIST, a soft-tissue sarcoma, which originates in the connective tissue supporting the intestinal tract. Since her diagnosis and treatment, Stutman has dedicated herself to creating greater awareness about this rare form of cancer. Through her work with the GIST Cancer Research Fund she started, she has raised thousands of dollars to support GIST research with an annual walk-a-thon and other fundraisers.

At Fox Chase, Stutman's medical oncologist, **Margaret von Mehren, M.D.**, directed the first clinical trial in the United States to test Gleevec for the treatment of GIST. Stutman took part in this trial. Fox Chase was among only three institutions in the United States involved in this clinical study.

In this case, the knowledge gained in such a trial allowed scientists to return to the laboratory and make additional discoveries that may benefit patients.

People who develop GIST often have an alteration in a gene called c-kit, which triggers the growth of the tumor. Gleevec works by inactivating the protein KIT to control tumor growth.

Together with **Burton L. Eisenberg, M.D.**, former chairman of surgical oncology, von Mehren collaborated with the Fox Chase laboratory of geneticist **Andrew K. Godwin, Ph.D.** This lab uses cell cultures and microarray analysis to examine the molecular changes in cells after treatment with Gleevec. The scientists also study tissue samples from GIST patients taking part in the trial.

Their recently published work sheds further light on Gleevec's molecular mechanisms, identifying important genetic markers of clinical response and potential therapeutic targets. The concept of controlling a cancer by shutting down the molecular activity needed for the cancer cells to multiply may apply to other cancer types, explains von Mehren.

Clinical trials of the drug represent an important step in applying fundamental knowledge of the molecular causes of cancer to innovative therapies. This interaction between laboratory and clinical researchers is an important part of Fox Chase's translational research effort. (Read more about translational research at Fox Chase on the front page).

To learn more about Stutman's efforts, visit her web site, www.gistinfo.com. To help support GIST research at Fox Chase, call the Center's office of institutional advancement at (215) 728-2745.

Turning Sadness into Joy



Susan smiles when she talks about her younger sister. "She was the life of the party... friendly and popular. She was also very smart," Susan says. "Jennifer worked as a production coordinator for The Limited Corporation after graduating from college. She was very dedicated to her family, friends and career."

The Habibs' gift has been recognized with the naming of an exam room in Fox Chase's outpatient department, where medical oncologist Mitchell Smith, M.D., Ph.D., sees lymphoma patients.

"We wanted to have Jennifer's name remembered," explains Susan. "The exam room is geared to her personal experience. She spent a lot of time in exam rooms, waiting for the doctor, feeling nervous."

The Habibs have seen how cancer can overwhelm but also point out how patients respond to it by showing so much support for each other.

"Patients notice little things like a tribute plaque on an exam room wall," says Susan. "A reminder of Jennifer—someone who lived that experience—could help put others at ease. She never gave up and neither should anyone else."



Tania Stutman (second from left) is shown with her medical oncologist, Margaret von Mehren, M.D., geneticist Andrew Godwin, Ph.D. (second from right), and postdoctoral fellow Andrey E. Frolov, Ph.D.

In Honor of a Friend

Ed Leary (left) and Mike McKale honored their friend, Rob Pollock, by presenting a check for more than \$18,000 to Kimberly Wagner, Fox Chase Cancer Center's assistant director of special events. The two were among friends and family who organized the first annual Robert Pollock Jr. Beef and Beer to support cancer research earlier this year.

Rob's loved ones remember him as a hard worker who loved cars, especially his 1991 Corvette. He started working with cars at age 10 and eventually chose a career in the auto industry, becoming a manager in his family's wholesale auto parts business in Lansdale, Pa.

But he loved his wife and family even more. Rob was a wonderful son and husband who was close to his family and friends, remember his parents, **Robert and Joan Pollock**. He was a very young 28-year-old newlywed who never gave up fighting his cancer.

More than 300 family members, friends and supporters turned out for the beef and beer, which supports the research of Fox Chase medical oncologist **Jonathan Cheng, M.D.** Cheng studies how fibroblasts (connective tissue cells that make and secrete collagen proteins) contribute to a cancer's ability to invade and metastasize, or spread.

Currently, Cheng is working on a protein called fibroblast activation protein,



which is found on the cells surrounding a tumor. The goal is to understand how cancer cells may use such proteins to grow and spread.

Cheng treats patients with head and neck cancers and gastrointestinal cancers. However, his research on fibroblasts should be applicable to most solid tumors.

For information on next year's Robert Pollock Jr. Beef and Beer or to make a donation, call Kimberly Wagner in Fox Chase's special events office at (215) 728-3163.

Translational Research, continued from front page

findings just inching out of the basic lab. This pipeline will flow in both directions, bringing clinical observations back to the laboratory setting."

Asking the Right Questions

Translational research always begins with a question. For example, if a basic researcher identifies a protein that is activated in cancer, the question becomes, "Can we prevent or reverse the activity of that protein?" Similarly, a physician can make a clinical observation and question its molecular basis.

Enter the translational research core facility. Here, staff scientists, under the guidance of facility manager **Margret Einarson, Ph.D.**, are

able to test existing drugs or combinations of drugs in tumor samples to identify a drug that can "shut off" the protein. Without the core facility, many researchers would not have the capability to carry out the test.

"With the possible exception of the National Institutes of Health, we are not aware of another facility quite like this in the country," Scotto points out. "We haven't found another facility with the exclusive mandate to implement translational research.

"Interest in this kind of research has surged since Fox Chase established a translational research initiative," she says. "It has evolved in a very short time."

The core facility began in 2000 when pharmacology chairman **Ken Tew, Ph.D.**, holder of

the G. Willing "Wing" Pepper Chair in Cancer Research, launched the prototype translational research core facility after recognizing the need to expand the possibilities of scientific problem solving by bringing together both clinical and basic researchers.

The need was great, but the funding was limited. The facility operated with donated equipment and a limited budget. More often, equipment from other researchers' labs was used.

"We have a few limitations," Scotto comments. "Right now, space is a critical issue. While the walls currently confine the facility to a small laboratory in the West Building, its possibilities are already breaking barriers among Fox Chase faculty members."

Scotto says there is incredible

enthusiasm for what this facility can become.

Measurable Milestones

The goals of the translational research core facility are multifaceted.

"We can provide researchers with data to support publications and develop preliminary data for investigators applying for NIH grants," Scotto says. "We act as a triage to bring researchers together. We also manage the coordination of projects requiring the use of multiple facilities.

"One of the most exciting milestones will be to support the launch of new treatment trials based on the work done in the translational research core facility."

Scotto and the core facility team are active in helping prin-

She's Got the Winning Numbers

How do you heal from the loss of a loved one and help others at the same time? Begin an annual tradition involving family, friends, fundraising and a great time? Bingo!

With their fifth annual bingo event in the works, **Sue Epstein** and her team of volun-

teers show no sign of slowing down as they gear up for what they expect will be their most successful event yet.

The Barbara Belsky Toub Fund bingo event helps support the lung cancer research of **Michael Unger, M.D.**, at Fox Chase Cancer Center. Unger directs Fox Chase's pulmonary

cancer detection and prevention program as well as its pulmonary endoscopy and high-risk lung cancer program.

This bingo is a family project with children, in-laws and friends joining Epstein in remembrance of her cousin, Barbara, who died of lung cancer just before her 50th birthday.

"Barbara was a beautiful person inside and out with a smile that could fill an entire room," Epstein says. "She was a mother, devoted daughter and granddaughter."

Since its inception, the Barbara Belsky Toub Fund has raised more than \$100,000. Support has steadily increased each year.

"Two years ago, we had to change locations to a bigger place," Epstein says. "And last year was the first time I didn't know everyone in the room. This year, we're hoping for 500 people."

The event offers eight rounds of bingo with a chance to win \$100 to \$150 per round. Area restaurants and businesses donate gift certificates and other goodies that go into the event's now well-known basket display. Attendees can take chances on the gift baskets, browse the jewelry concession or place a bid at the silent auction. Donald Epstein, Sue's



Sue Epstein's annual bingo event helps support the research of Michael Unger, M.D.

father-in-law, also runs a 50/50 raffle, which raised \$1,800 alone last year. Sue's good friend, Sharon Thornton, helps coordinate all the event details.

"Barbara was very health-conscious," Epstein points out. "She exercised, never sat in the sun and never smoked. And she lived only nine weeks after her diagnosis.

"We chose to support Fox Chase because they do wonderful things here," she says. "We particularly like Dr. Unger's work because it can save lives along the way, before the cancer gets to the point at which Barbara's was diagnosed."

Watch for more details about the Barbara Belsky Toub Fund's upcoming spring 2004 event. For more information or to make a donation, call Sue Epstein at (215) 938-5215.

Kovacs, continued from page 12

She never expected to be able to make a large gift or bequest. But Meyers had something creative to suggest. The Kovacs' little-used vacation condominium in Florida had increased in value over the years and represented a major asset, but selling it would incur large capital-gains taxes. And bequeathing vacation homes to children or grandchildren often passes the tax burden on to them, greatly reducing the value of the inheritance.

Instead, Janet was able to put the condo to work by establishing the John Kovacs Family Memorial Charitable Remainder Unitrust. The condo went into the trust, which was then able to sell it. The assets of such trusts are ultimately destined as a charitable bequest, but the trust holder also receives a percentage as income during his or her lifetime.

Basically the trust accomplishes several things for Janet Kovacs, Meyers explains. "It converts a non-income-producing asset into an income producer. It saves income tax. And it benefits an organization that she has a tremendous regard for.

"The trust became an elegant solution to a range of financial planning objectives that she felt strongly about," says Meyers. "Janet will bequeath Fox Chase much more than she thought she could and at the same time, she's improved her lifetime economics."

"I'm so proud to be able to do this for Fox Chase," says Janet Kovacs. She feels John would agree. "I try to do something every day to make him proud."

For more information about setting up a charitable remainder trust, call Linda Fischler, senior director, planned giving, at (215) 728-2811.

cial investigators find a source of money for start-up projects via grants or by acting as a liaison for private funding through Institutional Advancement.

"We hope to be self-sufficient by finding opportunities for funding with the help of private philanthropy and peer-reviewed grants," Scotto says.

She also points out that some

valuable milestones may not be as apparent. "We know this facility will create partnerships between collaborators who previously were unaware of the mutual interests shared by a fellow colleague.

"We expect more and more researchers to call on the facility for our assistance," says Scotto. "All of the proposals

coming in are excellent. We're already facing a situation where we have to prioritize projects. We want to ensure fairness."

To that end, Scotto has set up an oversight committee whose membership includes basic scientists and clinicians representing all three divisions at Fox Chase. The group meets regularly to make decisions

about the facility and to prioritize the projects.

"We'll hit some bumps in the road, but there is a huge commitment to translational research at Fox Chase," Scotto says. "I see this as a signature initiative for Fox Chase and anticipate other cancer centers will contact us for direction as they set up their facilities."

Upcoming

Paws for the Cause

Sunday, October 26, 2003

Registration: 8 a.m. Walk: 9:20 a.m.

Fox Chase Cancer Center

This fifth annual dog walk, a favorite of employees and friends of Fox Chase Cancer Center, benefits cancer prevention research at Fox Chase. The event takes place rain or shine and features a dog/owner look-alike contest, best tail-wagger and amazing pet tricks contests, pet-oriented activities and demonstrations, pet supply samples and special guests.

Registration is \$10 (dogs free). Pledges are encouraged. Participants who collect the most pledges will earn prizes. For more information or to make a donation, call Maryann Krajkowski at (215) 728-3024.



Science and Medicine Seminar

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

12-2 p.m.

Philadelphia Country Club, Gladwyne, Pa.

This educational program, in its 14th year, is designed to provide information on advances in research, treatment and prevention of cancer. Members of the estate bar, financial planning and banking communities are invited as well as interested friends of Fox Chase Cancer Center. Fox Chase dermatology director, Stuart Lessin, M.D., an expert in skin cancer and melanoma, and director of the Familial Melanoma Risk Assessment Program at Fox Chase, will speak on "Preventing Melanoma: the Burning Issues." For more information, call Judith Lopacki, director of special gifts, at (215) 728-4084.

Pedal for Prevention

Spring 2004

Fox Chase Cancer Center's 14th annual Pedal for Prevention bike ride has moved from October 2003 to Spring 2004! Look for an exciting new venue and format as we "spring ahead." More details to follow. For additional information, call the special events office at (215) 728-3163.

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