

INVESTING IN

hope

Philanthropy in action at the UVA Cancer Center

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PATIENTS & FRIENDS

Toasting the Future

IN SEPTEMBER, the Patients & Friends Steering Committee kicked off their new fund-raising campaign with an event at the Prince Michel tasting room on top of Carter's Mountain. Amid beautiful scenery and breathtaking views, they announced their plans to raise \$600,000 for cancer research at UVA by 2013.

"Now, more than ever, it's critical for people to support cancer research," explains Patients & Friends co-chair Dana Faulders. "The Patients & Friends Research Fund helps UVA retain, attract, and energize talented investigators. Every private dollar of support leverages research dollars from federal sources and large, private grant-makers. But what's more, private support is our best hope for finding the cures of tomorrow *today*."

Since 1998, Patients & Friends has raised more than \$3 million to support research at critical stages in the process, when promising ideas might otherwise go untested for lack of funding. The group is entirely volunteer-driven, and every dollar raised goes directly to cancer research.

For more information, visit:
www.uvapatientandsfriends.org.

A Promising New Source of Life-Saving Treatment

This January, the UVA Stem Cell Transplant Program will open its doors, making UVA one of only a handful of medical centers on the East Coast to offer the full complement of curative therapies for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and other life-threatening blood diseases. Mary J. Laughlin, MD, a pioneer and national leader in the research and clinical practice of umbilical cord blood transplant, will lead the new center.

For decades, bone marrow transplants — perhaps the most well-known type of stem cell therapy — have proven vital to curing diseases like leukemia and lymphoma. But this treatment is not without its limitations. More than half the people needing a transplant are unable to find a compatible bone marrow donor. The statistics for minorities and people of mixed ancestries are especially dire.

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

Mary J. Laughlin, MD, will lead the UVA Stem Cell Transplant Program, opening in January.





On the Road, Making a Difference

Left: Christine Shachtman with a patient at the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic. Right: The mobile unit travels several times each week to sites across Virginia.

When the UVA Breast Care Program began its mobile mammography program in 2006, Christine Shachtman was one of the first on board.

Shachtman is one of two radiology techs who travel with the mobile unit, providing high-quality mammograms at workplaces and in community settings across Virginia.

“I love my job,” says Shachtman. “I really feel like I am helping women take care of themselves by bringing the mobile to them. Most of the women we see just wouldn’t get regular mammograms if it

weren’t for the mobile unit.”

Between July 2009 and July 2010, the mobile unit made 165 trips and provided 2,225 mammograms to women across the state. Two hundred and thirty-four of these mammograms (about 10%) were paid for with funds from the **Charlottesville Women’s Four Miler**. The Mobile Mammography Program also receives funding from the Healthy Appalachia Institute and the Susan G. Komen Foundation, specifically for women in southwest Virginia.

Requests for the mobile unit have

grown considerably since 2006. “When we first got the unit, we’d take it out once every other week,” Shachtman remembers. “Now, we’re out three or four times every week.”

On the road, Shachtman works closely with fellow tech Terri Shelor and driver Chris Knight. There are certainly some long days, but the work is rewarding.

“When we’re finished with a site, Terri and I always comment on how grateful the women are,” says Shachtman. “It always makes us feel good about what we do.”



It takes more than 400 volunteers to make race day happen each year.

Great Job, Ladies!

This year’s Charlottesville Women’s Four Miler was held on September 4th and raised over \$335,000 to benefit the UVA Cancer Center’s Breast Care Program and breast cancer research through the Patients & Friends Research Fund.

IN THEIR

own words

Chloe Sackier is one accomplished 14-year-old. A ninth grader at St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville, Sackier is a talented violinist who has already garnered national attention and performed around the world.

She's also a budding philanthropist. Two years ago, when her sixth grade history teacher, Stephen Mirabella, died of lung cancer, Sackier wanted to honor his memory — and join the fight against a deadly disease. With the support of her parents, teachers, and fellow classmates, she decided to organize an event to raise money for lung cancer research.

"Mr. Mirabella was a musician and an artist as well as a great history teacher. He had such a positive impact on so many people," says Sackier. "A benefit with the entire St. Anne's-Belfield arts community seemed like a fitting tribute."

After learning about the work of David Jones, MD, at UVA and speaking with him on the phone, Sackier decided that his labs were the right place to direct the proceeds.

"I wanted to fund scientists who were getting right at the root of it all by trying to find a cure," she says. "Dr. Jones works at understanding some of the greater puzzles of this terrible disease, such as its resistance to chemotherapy, and I believe that the information he and his team discover will be hugely beneficial to fighting cancer."

The event, which Sackier dubbed "Artists in Action," was held on March 20, 2010, and included a concert and art show.



Fourteen-year-old Chloe Sackier organized an arts benefit at her school to raise money for lung cancer research at UVA.

Overall, the event raised \$2,000, which was matched by an anonymous donor.

Jones, a nationally recognized researcher and surgeon, was honored to receive the funds from the St. Anne's-Belfield event.

"It's incredibly inspiring to know that there is this kind of grassroots support for the work I am doing," he says. "Chloe is an amazing and inspiring young woman."

See Chloe play her violin: www.vimeo.com/12206062



UVA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY EVENT

"Accentuate the Positive"

*A benefit in support of the Positive Image Boutique
at the UVA Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center*

Saturday, March 19, 2011

Heavy hors d'oeuvres | Silent Auction | Building Tours

Space will be limited — watch your mailbox for information on purchasing tickets! For more information, call (434) 924-5251.

The **Positive Image Boutique** will be housed on the first floor of the Couric Center, providing a convenient, compassionate, and educational place for patients to shop for specialized cancer products, as well as a variety of gift shop items.

Building the Future... Brick by Brick

Questions? Call 434-924-8432



Commemorative bricks are being offered for \$250 each, to be prominently and permanently displayed in an outdoor garden at the corner of Jefferson Park Avenue and Lee Street. With your brick, you can remember someone who touched your life, honor a doctor or nurse who provided outstanding care for you or a loved one, or make your own lasting statement of support for the future of cancer care in the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center.

UVA Health System Development Cancer Programs Team

Scott Karr, *Director of Development*
Joshua Scott, *Associate Director of
Development*
Casey Hull, *Director of Annual Giving*
Becky Gildersleeve, *Development Associate*

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Editor: Anna Emery
Designer: Anne Hilton
Writers: Anna Emery, Lee Fleisher
Photographers: Diane Butler, Tom Cogill,
Anna Emery, Jackson Smith, Coe Sweet

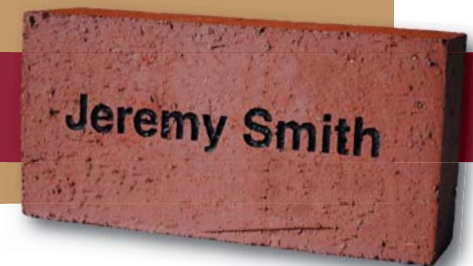
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Please write to us at our return address above to remove your name from the list to receive fund-raising materials supporting the UVA Health System.



Printed on 50% recycled paper with
25% post consumer waste.

To purchase a brick, please visit us at
www.campaign.virginia.edu/cancercenterbrick



Stem Cell Transplant Program

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Umbilical cord blood is an abundant and rich source of stem cells, and, unlike embryonic stem cells, its use in human transplantation is approved by all religious groups, including the Roman Catholic Church. Stem cells from cord blood are easier to match, and less likely to provoke a severe immune response in patients. And, cord blood is available faster — within a few weeks — while it can take more than two months to procure stem cells from a bone marrow donor or registry. Today, more than 15,000 patients have received cord blood transplants, with results similar to or better than patients receiving bone marrow transplants.

“Cord blood is poised to play an increasingly important role in the treatment of blood cancers in the years to come,” says Michael J. Weber, PhD,

director of the UVA Cancer Center. “Dr. Laughlin’s arrival — and the development of this new program — will prove nothing short of transformational for the UVA Cancer Center. We are thrilled to have her, and excited about the new treatment options we’ll soon be able to offer our patients.”

Laughlin can’t wait to get started.

“The world-class center we are establishing will render UVA a destination site for patients in need, physicians in training, and investigators in the field,” says Laughlin. “UVA is already rich in clinical and research expertise, and is physically situated in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, a wonderful environment in which our patients can recover after transplant and continue their healing.”