

INVESTING IN

hope

Philanthropy in action at the UVa Cancer Center

Fall 2007
Volume 1, Number One

PATIENTS & FRIENDS SPOTLIGHT PROJECT

Fighting Lung Cancer in the Lab

DESPITE SIGNIFICANT

treatment advances in other cancers, the five-year survival rate for lung cancer remains a dismal 15 percent. Dr. David Jones, leader of UVa Cancer Center's Thoracic Oncology Program, is committed to changing that.

Jones and his colleagues have established UVa as a national leader in clinical trials for lung cancer. His team has discovered that inhibiting a protein found in lung cancer cells actually increases the sensitivity of cancer cells to chemotherapy. Jones recently opened a Phase 1 clinical trial, available only at UVa, using two molecularly targeted drugs for patients with lung cancer.



Dr. David Jones

In September 2006, an anonymous donor stepped forward to help advance Dr. Jones's work. Every gift—big or small—to Dr. Jones's research will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$400,000. For more information, or to make a gift, please call 800-297-0102 or 434-924-8432.



UVa researcher Deborah Lannigan received a grant from Patients & Friends to pursue the discovery of new drugs to fight breast cancer.

Sowing the Seeds for the Next Cure

“We have made considerable strides forward in the fight against cancer. Yet so much remains to be done,” says Meredith Gunter, cancer survivor and co-chair of the Patients & Friends Research Fund.

Started by cancer patients and their friends in 2000, the all-volunteer Patients & Friends Research Fund has provided more than \$2 million in seed money for research projects in basic science, drug discovery, and diagnostic technologies

at the UVa Cancer Center. The fund provides support at critical stages of research, when promising ideas might otherwise go untested for lack of funding.

“From donations at a local bridge luncheon to the proceeds from a golf tournament held miles away from Charlottesville, we are thrilled by the generosity and commitment of people who want to invest in the best new ideas to fight cancer,” says Gunter. “People

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER



Breast cancer survivor Kate Hamilton hosts an annual dinner to raise funds for the UVa Cancer Center.

Ten Years & Counting

Hamiltons' Dinner Supports Cancer Research & Care

Thirteen years ago, Kate Hamilton found out she was pregnant—and had breast cancer. With the help of the UVa Health System, Hamilton beat her cancer and gave birth to a healthy baby boy. Since her diagnosis, she and her husband Bill have become steadfast supporters for patient care and cancer research at UVa.

At their Charlottesville restaurant—Hamiltons' at First and Main—the couple has hosted an annual fundraiser for the UVa Cancer Center for the last ten years. The proceeds from

this year's dinner were matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor, bringing the total raised to more than \$128,000. Through the Patients & Friends Research Fund, these donations will support groundbreaking lung cancer research by Dr. David Jones (see sidebar first page).

The Hamiltons' commitment has attracted financial support for UVa's cancer programs and research and energized others to become volunteers. Past dinners have not only supported research, but also such vital projects as the

The Sport of Kings Helps Fight Breast Cancer

POLO ENTHUSIASTS as well as spectators new to the game gathered Saturday, June 16th for the Pink Ribbon Polo Cup. The annual event, held at King Family Vineyards in Crozet, Va., brought out a large crowd and raised approximately \$90,000 for cancer care and research. Proceeds from the event will be split between UVa and Martha Jefferson Hospital. UVa will use the proceeds to fund innovative breast cancer research through the Patients & Friends Research Fund.

"This year, organizers decided to keep the money local to benefit people in the Charlottesville community," says Julie



Speasmaker, a cancer survivor and co-director of the Patients & Friends Steering Committee.

Local and international polo talent came out for the match, with two teams—Team Embarq and Team Eagle—battling for the win. Prior to the game, attendees saw demonstrations of polo strokes and had the opportunity to swing a polo mallet for themselves. They

also were able to learn more about breast cancer, and what they can do to help make a difference.

"Supporting cancer research through events like Pink Ribbon Polo helps translate discoveries in the lab into new treatments for patients," explains Speasmaker. "These advances give much-needed hope to women and men who face a diagnosis of cancer."

IN THEIR

own words

new UVa Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center.

“It was important to my family and me that we honor the bond we’d formed with my team of caregivers at UVa,” Kate Hamilton says today. “Not only do I appreciate their dedication to and compassion for their patients’ families, I admire their talent and drive to find cures for the many forms of cancer that face us. It is a privilege to know that by supporting their work, we are part of the answer to the cancer dilemma.”



Cynthia Lorenzoni
*Organizer, Charlottesville
Women's Four-Miler*

Twenty-five years ago, Cynthia and Mark Lorenzoni began a tradition for hundreds of women in Central Virginia. Each Labor Day weekend, women of every shape, age, and size lace up their shoes and run or walk the **Charlottesville Women's Four-Miler**. Over the years, the race has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the UVa Cancer Center Breast Care Program. This year, 2,700 women helped raise a record-breaking \$230,000 to advance patient education, support services, and community outreach.

More than a charity event, the race also motivates thousands of area women to take charge of their health.

“We wanted to start an all-woman race close to home to promote women’s fitness,” remembers Cynthia Lorenzoni, who owns the Ragged Mountain Running Shop with her husband. “The response to the race has been incredible, and we’ve been able to provide vital resources to the Breast Care Program that have significantly improved patient care for women in the area. The Four-Miler gives people the opportunity to get involved in a great cause.”

A Charlottesville Track Club event since 1982, the Four-Miler has donated 100 percent of its proceeds to the UVa Breast Care Program since 1992. Today, Cynthia Lorenzoni serves on the Cancer Center Board of Directors. Her plan for the future: “To keep on running, and keep on raising more money for breast cancer.”

SPOTLIGHT EVENT

The Cure Cup



The Cure Cup—a charity hockey match to support the Patients & Friends Research Fund at the University of Virginia—returned to the Charlottesville Ice Park on Saturday, June 30th. The popular event has raised several thousand dollars in support of cancer research at UVa.

The Cure Cup is the brainchild of Trey Childs of Staunton, Va., who lost his father to esophageal cancer four years ago. “I believe if we work together, we can find a cure for cancer,” Childs says. “I love hockey. Hosting these tournaments is my way of supporting research, while making sure the money stays in my community.”



Building for the Future in Cancer Care

PATIENTS PROVIDE the inspiration for the UVa Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center. Expected to break ground in 2008, the new building will allow cancer patients to receive all the care they need in one place—a place that will accommodate technological advances and allow us to pioneer new ones. Look for more information about the new Couric Cancer Center in the next *Investing in Hope*.

UVa Health System Development Cancer Programs Team

Scott Karr, *Director of Development*

Joshua Scott, *Associate Director of Development*

Claire Wood, *Director of Annual Giving*

Cari Hocevar, *Development Associate*

INVESTING IN HOPE

is published twice a year. No public funds are used for its production.

Managing Editor: Lee Fleisher

Designer: Anne Matthews

Writers: Margaret B. Edwards, Lee Fleisher

Photographers: Tom Cogill, Rob Garland

Photography, Stephanie Gross, Mary Miller, Meg Runion, Jackson Smith

The University of Virginia does not discriminate in its programs, procedures, or practices against any person on the basis of age, citizenship, color, handicap, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. The University operates equal opportunity and affirmative action programs for faculty, staff, and students. The University of Virginia is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

Sowing the Seeds

CONTINUED FROM COVER

are excited by the opportunity to give when 100 percent of their donations go directly to cancer research and are leveraged into something bigger.”

UVa researcher Deborah Lannigan knows exactly how important seed money can be for research projects. A \$125,000 grant from the Patients & Friends Research Fund in 2000 enabled her and co-investigator Jeffrey Smith to identify and synthesize a promising new compound that one day may lead to a targeted drug therapy for breast cancer. Her research holds tremendous promise for other types of cancer as well.

Without Patients & Friends, it might not have happened. New drug discovery is extremely expensive, says Lannigan, and NIH funding for such basic research is virtually nonexistent in the current budget environment. Because of the high cost and the low odds of initial success, even major pharmaceutical firms are limiting their investment in

drug discovery. Thus, says Lannigan, “new drugs are going to have to come from academic laboratories like ours at UVa, initially funded by private philanthropy.”

“Deb Lannigan and Jeff Smith’s exciting research results prove that new ideas are worth our support,” says Gunter. “They also embody the hope that cancer patients and their friends and families need. All of us in Patients & Friends want to help make the future a place where we don’t have to lose people we love, or leave behind our families and friends because of cancer. We welcome everyone to join us, with donations large or small, or with your ideas or energies added to our group.”

Patients & Friends welcomes all gifts and new volunteers. For more information, please call 800-297-0102 or 434-924-8432.



UVa Health Foundation

P. O. Box 800773

Charlottesville, VA 22908-0773

Telephone (434) 924-8432

Toll-Free (800) 297-0102

Fax (434) 982-1984

www.uvahealthfoundation.org

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Charlottesville, VA
Permit No 164