



1 Visions of
Hope





Our Mission

To maximize dollars available for Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's most promising lifesaving research, treatment and prevention programs, while supporting the psychosocial needs of patients and families touched by cancer.

It began with a vision.

Dr. Roswell Park, already an accomplished surgeon in Buffalo, New York, had a revolutionary idea in 1898: a place where the knowledge and skills of multiple kinds of medical specialists would merge into one unified force in pursuit of research, discovery and promising new treatments in the fight against cancer. A cancer center whose goal would be easing the effects of the disease while investigating the many routes to an ultimate cure.



Today there are hundreds of cancer centers around the world based on this same idea. But here in Buffalo, we raise our thanks to Dr. Park for his vision and the amazing results we've seen in the past 120 years:

A vision of what a community can do when it rallies together to bring the fight forward by leaps and bounds.

A vision of giving patients and caregivers the best quality of life possible in their hardest times and in the chapters that follow.

A vision of easing the most difficult parts of the journey through complementary and alternative methods.

A vision of research and innovation breaking boundaries and shattering expectations.

A vision of seeing more and more survivors until the day when the healing power of hope has won, and no one ever again has to be afraid of the words "You have cancer."

A vision to free our world from the fear, pain and loss due to cancer — one act of compassion, one breakthrough discovery, one life-changing therapy at a time — until cancer is gone. Forever.

Your support makes all of these things possible and will be the cornerstone on which a cure is built. On behalf of everyone at Roswell Park, thank you for the critical role you have chosen to play in our vision.

Lee C. Wortham
Chair, Board of Trustees
Roswell Park Alliance Foundation

A Vision of Stopping Cancer in Its Tracks

It's a Wednesday morning in spring. Dr. Kunle Odunsi is in Roswell Park's Center for Immunotherapy (CFI) with Dr. Richard Koya. They are discussing the possibilities of re-engineering a patient's T cells to be able to seek out and destroy cancer cells without harming healthy tissue. It's part of a new clinical trial in immunotherapy that Dr. Odunsi will lead at Roswell Park, something so new that only a handful of centers are working on it. And he's excited.

"We could expand it to cover all cancers," he says. "This is something people across the globe will be interested in." But first come the initial clinical trials.

Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, is Deputy Director of Roswell Park and Chair of the Department of Gynecologic Oncology. He's also Executive Director of the Center for Immunotherapy. And that's what they're working on now: launching a clinical trial testing an immunotherapy called adoptive cell therapy — and more specifically

using TCRs, or T cell receptors. TCRs are used by immune T cells to engage with cancer cells before the T cells can initiate attack.

Research has already proven that T cells can seek out and destroy cancer. The problem is that they don't live very long, and patients relapse. So Dr. Odunsi and his team began asking some new questions.

"How can we generate cells that are strong, powerful and able to deliver to the target in a very powerful way, destroy the cancer cells but, importantly, be able to persist in the patient's body? Almost for the lifetime of the patient?"

The answer came from research with many layers of innovation. "Number one is the way we engineer our T cells so they have TCR, the ability to recognize very specific cancer cells without destroying normal tissue. Number two, we engineer them so they are not just soldiers, but soldiers in an armored tank. Because in this way, when the cancer fights back, they are shielded.

"Number three, we manufacture helper cells that help the fighting soldiers and enable them to fight for much longer."

"We could not be at this point without donor dollars"

Dr. Odunsi credits donor support for enabling his team to start this research years ago. "Our team received Scientific Advisory Committee funding for our initial research program. We received donor funds from the Alliance Foundation to help construct the Center for Immunotherapy and the Vector Development and Production Facility. The gifts have helped us maintain existing and develop new infrastructure since then."

A lot of specialized support is needed to engineer these cells and test them in patients. The facility and processes have to meet very strict FDA guidelines. Then we need the expert staff, the supplies and the equipment. Fortunately we have a head start — the capacity to engineer these cells right here at

the CFI's Vector Development and Production Facility, run by Richard Koya, MD, PhD, who is also Associate Director of the Center for Immunotherapy.

All told, conducting and completing early phase clinical trials and the later phases to follow will require about \$15 million in new funding.

Roswell Park has made great advances in fighting cancer, much of it thanks to generous donations. But it won't be enough until cancer is no longer a threat. Dr. Odunsi can see this adoptive cell therapy treatment expanding beyond the liquid cancers they've so far had success with — leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma — into what are called solid tumors as well — ovarian cancer, breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, head and neck cancers and the rest.

"With this innovative cell therapy program, the goal is to have this in almost every solid tumor site at Roswell Park," he says.

"We could expand it to cover all cancers.

This is something people across the globe will be interested in."



A Visionary Gift Helps Ease the Cancer Journey

Like so many, Tom Cybulski was hit hard by his diagnosis: Ewing sarcoma. It's a rare cancer made even more rare in Tom's case by the fact that it developed in his soft tissue instead of his bones. The cancer started in his intestines and traveled to his liver. During his treatment, he was in a lot of pain and was finding it hard to manage. He also was hit hard by anxiety — not a surprise when you're only 30 years old, a husband and a father of two little boys, and suddenly you're told you have this terrible disease.

Tom recalls a particularly difficult time when the struggle was becoming too much to handle.

"One week I was really angry and couldn't find peace with myself, and everything I did, I felt like I was digging a hole, and I just kept digging it further and further," he says. "I couldn't get out of it."

But thanks to his oncologist, Anne Grand'Maison, MD, Assistant Professor of Oncology, and Amy Case, MD, FAAHPM, Chair of the Department of Supportive Care, things are very different now.

He was connected with the Palliative and Supportive Care team at Roswell Park, and now they're providing him with the assistance and services he needs to address his symptoms. "I go in for acupuncture, and I start talking to Doug McDaniel, and he puts those needles in, and I come out of there floating. I feel so much better. I feel so much relief."

Often confused with hospice or end-of-life care, palliative care provides services at all stages of disease. The goal is to create optimal quality of life for patients, their families and their caregivers by helping them manage their illness and relieve stress and suffering. It can include pain management, group counseling, mindfulness-based stress reduction, nutrition support, occupational or physical therapy, acupuncture and spiritual support.

Palliative care was the piece that completed the puzzle for Tom. After regular acupuncture and counseling, he feels capable again. He feels like there's more to him and to his life than cancer. Much more.

"With all these doctors and all the help from my parents and my wife, I finally came to the conclusion that just because I have cancer doesn't mean I can't do something. It turned me around. I can mow my lawn, I can clean out my garage, I'm able to take my kids to a playground. Just because I have cancer doesn't mean I can't do any of these things.

"I feel great, and I'm ready for that next step to find out how we could get this out of me."

Now Roswell Park can help more patients like Tom thanks to a generous gift from Patrick P. Lee.

After the loss of his son Patrick Warn Lee in 2017, he wanted to do something that would ensure the support of patient emotional and physical health at Roswell Park.

With a deeply generous personal gift of \$2 million, Lee established **the Lee Foundation Chair in Palliative and Supportive Care in honor of his son**, making Dr. Case the inaugural Chairholder. This secure base of annual funding and resources is enabling Dr. Case and her team to expand their services and provide 24-hour on-call support for inpatients seven days a week and extend their outpatient clinic services to five days a week.

"Because of the palliative care at Roswell Park, I now can see the light of day. I'm feeling great. I'm doing everything that everyone else can do," says Tom. "With Dr. Case it just completed the puzzle."

"Because of the palliative care at Roswell Park, I now can see the light of day. I'm feeling great. I'm doing everything that everyone else can do."

*— Tom Cybulski,
Ewing sarcoma patient*





A Vision to Make a Difference: The 11 Day Power Play

In a city like Buffalo, sometimes hockey is the answer.

In the summer of 2017, 40 hockey lovers — all amateurs — committed to fighting cancer and took their fight to the ice. From June 22 to July 3, 2017, HarborCenter in Buffalo hosted their nonstop, 11-day game. The 11 Day Power Play put Buffalo on the map as two teams played around the clock and raised more than \$1.2 million for Roswell Park.

It began with Mike and Amy Lesakowski. Amy is a breast cancer survivor, and Mike's mom, Evelyn, lost her own battle with metastatic lung cancer in 2016. Mike and Amy sought a new way to fight that would really make a difference and change lives. They're both big hockey fans, so the idea grew naturally.

After learning about a 10-day game in Alberta, Canada, that had set a record for the longest hockey game played, they started planning, spread the word among friends and recruited 39 more volunteers — Mike was the first — to put on their skates, suit up with the Power Play and fundraise for the patients of Roswell Park. **Hundreds applied, but the final teams were made of those who had been affected most deeply by cancer, knowing that their passion would keep them going during the toughest and darkest hours.**

Sub-teams played in four-hour shifts, rested for eight hours and got on the ice again, ensuring play 24 hours a day. They set a lofty goal of raising \$1 million for Roswell Park — and then beat it by raising \$1.2 million.

The players were cancer survivors, business professionals, lawyers, scientists, teachers and even some Roswell Park employees.

They ate, slept and played the game they love for 11 days straight and for people they love.

It was grueling. They all admit it. But 11 days of hockey is nothing compared with what you go through when you have cancer. They knew this firsthand.

Mike Lawley's wife, Kirsten, is a breast cancer survivor. "If Kirsten could handle 11 months of chemo and radiation, I can handle 11 days of hockey," he said. Mike played forward for the Blue Team.

"When we're done with these 11 days, we're done. We have good health. There's a lot of people out there that would trade those 11 days and do this to get cancer out of their bodies," said Craig Curtin, who also played forward for the Blue Team.

The game got national coverage from CNN to ESPN and everywhere in between.

They couldn't have done it without the constant help of volunteers or the support of sponsors and other local businesses that donated everything from mattresses to lunch. Spouses, significant others, family and many others all made the 11 Day Power Play both a possibility and a success.

"We do believe in miracles," Amy said, announcing the tally after the game's final moments.

Who won? The patients of Roswell Park.

“I saw my wife go through cancer treatment; I saw my mom go through cancer treatment. It's hellish. It's not easy. *Playing hockey is a walk in the park compared to what people with cancer have to go through.*”

— Mike Lesakowski



The 11 Day Power Play received the Katherine Anne Gioia Inspiration Award at the 2017 All Star Night gala.

11
grueling
days

250
hours
3,422
total
points

40 donated
mattresses
40
players

311
volunteers

FINAL SCORE

TEAM BLUE: 1,725
TEAM WHITE: 1,697

ONE
craft brew
named for
the event
60
sponsors

\$1.2M
dollars
to fight cancer
right here
in Buffalo



“Right in front of my eyes was a whole care team with opened arms ready and able to treat my child. Cancer forced me to put my child’s life in someone else’s hands, and the pediatrics team at Roswell Park made me feel comfortable. They have gone above and beyond to learn about my child. I don’t know what I would do without the support and care my child and I have received from the pediatrics department.”

— Angel Lyons, mother of 2-year-old Sophie, who has alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma



A Collaborative Vision to Change Cancer & Blood Disorder Care for Children

It feels like a place made for children.

When you enter the Katherine, Anne and Donna Gioia Pediatric Hematology Oncology Center on the first floor of Roswell Park, you find yourself in a cheerful reception area filled with bright colors and light. You see children and their families watching the giant interactive video monitor or coloring at the table. A playful circle motif catches your eye in the carpets, on the walls, in the light fixtures.

Moving into the hallway, you pass the recreation room, where a brother and sister are playing video games, two boys are drawing and a little girl is sorting through the toy closet looking for her favorite. So far, no one actually seems sick.

Then you get to the chemo area. It’s also designed with bright colors and lots of light, but things are quieter. In an infusion bay, a father watches over his preteen daughter as she receives her fourth leukemia treatment. And in the infant treatment area, a mother gently strokes her 2-year-old’s hair as he undergoes the first of many infusions he’ll face in the coming months.

It’s still about cancer and blood disorders. But we’ve tried to make it just a tiny, tiny bit easier.

The Gioia Center

This past September, generous donations enabled Roswell Park to open the outpatient Gioia Center. Working with the new Roswell Park Oishei Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Program, it expands the population we are able to treat by including infants and children under age 5 with cancer as well as children with blood disorders.

Almost \$7 million in donations was raised in the campaign for the center, which was chaired by Scott and Lisa Friedman. In honor of all they’ve done to fight cancer, it was named for sisters-in-law Anne and Donna Gioia, the co-founders of the Alliance, and for Katherine, Anne’s daughter, lost to a rare lung sarcoma in 1989. She was 5.

Outside in the foyer, there’s a beautiful mosaic created by Buffalo artist Ani Hoover portraying Anne, Katherine and Donna, a tribute presented to the Gioias at All Star Night in 2015. And a wall of glowing planets with a quote at its center: “If I had my choice between a moon walk and the life of a single child with [cancer], I would never glance upward.” It’s from Dr. James Grace, Director of Roswell Park 1967-1971, who lost his 2-year-old son Jimmy to leukemia in 1955.

Partnership for Saving Children’s Lives

The Roswell Park Oishei Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Program unites the best providers, facilities and skills from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Oishei Children’s Hospital of Buffalo and UBMD Pediatrics in order to provide seamless medical care and supportive services for children with cancer or blood disorders. Outpatients are treated at Roswell Park and inpatients at Oishei Children’s Hospital.

“This program fulfills our shared vision for a regional center of excellence in pediatric care,” says Candace S. Johnson, PhD, President and CEO of Roswell Park. “We invested a lot of thought and careful planning into understanding the needs of our community’s youngest patients, and the result is an outstanding model of forward-thinking medical collaboration that puts patients first.”

Activities and resources in the Gioia Center are made possible through donations to the



A Vision for Better Access to Cancer Care in CNY

When you're sick, and even when you're healing, travel hurts.

Cancer patients and their caregivers know that having chemo or radiation is hard enough on its own. Imagine having to spend three or four hours traveling by car to get to quality care like Roswell Park's. It can start to feel like too much.

Now, residents of Central New York no longer have to face this kind of travel for many kinds of cancer treatment — or a decision between quality of care and ease of access.

That's because Roswell Park has entered into a new medical oncology affiliation with Oneida Healthcare in Oneida, New York. And it's also because the Dorothy G. Griffin Charitable Foundation in Rome, New York, made a generous and meaningful gift of \$1 million to support the capital campaign for developing new and upgraded facilities on the Oneida Healthcare campus.

The Griffin Foundation was established in 1995 by Dorothy Griffin, who was president of the Varflex Corporation — a manufacturing company founded by her father and run by his children that continues its operations in Rome today.

Griffin was a trailblazer, setting her own standards and forging her own path in an industry dominated by men. She was also a deeply committed community leader, advocate and supporter who gave generously both out of her own pocket and through her foundation. And out of appreciation for the care her husband received there, she was a longtime supporter of Roswell Park.

When asked why she gave, her answer was simple: "Because I can."

She passed away in March 2015 at 100 years of age — after continuing to come to work every day until the December before. Her brother Bill continues to run the company.

The Griffin Foundation's \$1 million gift, along with other philanthropic contributions and a \$6.75 million grant from the New York State Department of Health, has brought the campaign a long way toward reaching its \$12 million goal.

"With this gift, the Foundation Trustees hope to honor Dorothy and her many philanthropic efforts and believe Dorothy would have fully supported this project and the significance of the gift," said Foundation Trustee Charles Schoff. "We hope that others will join the Foundation in bringing these services to Central New York."

Roswell Park is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in New York State outside of New York City. The joint capital campaign between Roswell Park and Oneida Healthcare means that Oneida Healthcare can provide residents of Central New York with access to NCI-level cancer care without their having to travel to Buffalo unless medically necessary.

Schoff says Griffin would be very happy that this care is coming to Central New York. There were many times her husband had to be treated in Buffalo and she couldn't accompany him. "She would be extremely grateful to have a program like this that's more convenient for getting the care Roswell Park provides," he says.

The new facilities include a radiation oncology facility that will be named for Griffin; the Alice M. Gorman Imaging Center; and an infusion center, staffed by oncology experts who will collaborate closely with Roswell Park physicians in Buffalo to review and develop treatment plans for their patients.

"For nearly two decades, Roswell Park patients and our innovative research efforts have benefited from Dorothy's generosity, as well as her belief that all communities should have access to the best possible care at their community hospitals," says Dr. Candace Johnson. "We're grateful to the Dorothy G. Griffin Charitable Foundation for continuing to carry out her passion through this significant gift that will expand access to Roswell Park's nationally recognized cancer care to Oneida Healthcare patients in Central New York."

Clockwise from top left: Dorothy Griffin; ribbon cutting of the chemo infusion center; groundbreaking for the radiation oncology facility to be named for Griffin.



When asked why she gave, her answer was simple:
"Because I can."





Quality of Life Programs at Roswell Park



Roswell Park knows that cancer doesn't define you and strives to make sure patients remember that, too. That's why we provide many quality-of-life programs supporting patients and their loved ones. From coffee carts to art programs to logistical assistance, these programs help our patients focus on their fight while providing distraction and help in many other areas of life.

In 2017-18, \$857,361 funded 36 programs. Here is a sample of these programs and their impact.

"I threw all sorts of drugs into my body that helped save my life, but in the end, I didn't know what that could mean for having a child. It's always been my dream to have a child. To be able to have that, he's a dream come true. He's the best baby in the world."

— Hodgkin's lymphoma survivor
Caryn Domzalski

Caryn Domzalski will assure you that she has the best baby in the world. But there was a time when she was worried she wouldn't be able to conceive naturally.

A survivor of Hodgkin's lymphoma that was discovered when she was 16, Caryn, now 35, has stayed active in Roswell Park's Adolescent and Young Adult Program, a support group open to all survivors of pediatric, adolescent and young adult cancers. Through them she heard about Roswell Park's Onco-Fertility Clinic, which provides information about the risks of infertility from cancer treatment and the options available for fertility preservation and treatment.

"It was amazing that it was available. That is a really awesome service, because it is about quality of life. I had cancer when I was 16, and granted, that's going to be a part of me the rest of my life, but I don't want it to dictate everything about my life." The clinic was opened with the support of donations.

Caryn had never been able to get pregnant before, but after only a few weeks of acupuncture — which is also supported by donor giving — she took a home pregnancy test. It was positive. That same day, she had an acupuncture appointment, and the very excited medical team ran blood work for her. They called her later pretty much crying themselves, "confirming I was pregnant."

"I threw all sorts of drugs into my body that helped save my life, but in the end, I didn't know what that could mean for having a child. It's always been my dream to have a child. To be able to have that, he's a dream come true. He's the best baby in the world. I could not ask for anything more. He is so calm, and happy, and he's yelling, and he's just perfect."

"Living in Buffalo all my life, I knew what a blessing Roswell was to patients and survivors," says her husband, Erik, "but I had no idea how deeply Roswell as an organization — not just as a hospital — cares about the quality of life of its family. I have to say 'family' because I see how much everyone cares for their patients. It is not just wanting you to feel better, but wanting you to feel the best you can."

Amazon Echo Dot

The Dot is a hands-free, voice-controlled speaker you can activate to make phone calls, play music, hear the news and more. Ten Dots have been purchased for the rooms of blood and marrow transplant (BMT) inpatients, whose hospital stays average 30 days.

"Alexa has been a big help and a wonderful distraction," says Roswell Park BMT patient Janice McCoy. "When I need to wake up, or want Alexa to tell me a story or joke or sing me a lullaby, all I have to do is ask. Alexa is wonderful company when family or staff aren't around. I'm thrilled that it's been provided to me during my stay."

Wellness Wednesdays

Because being a patient at Roswell Park goes beyond just chemotherapy and radiation, Wellness Wednesdays were created to offer support, information and strategies to help patients manage their lives both during and after their cancer treatment. These periodic programs support patients in their mind, body and soul by helping them cope with side effects, find healthier ways to eat, reduce stress and improve overall wellness.

For 60-90 minutes, patients and caregivers can learn about complementary therapies in such topics as sleep, nutrition, acupuncture, chiropractic, qi gong, organic hair care and applied mindfulness. The programs are free of charge, include healthy snacks and take place at Roswell Park. They are also a first step in building a more robust Wellness Program at Roswell Park.

"We want to give our patients the information they need so they're not doing the wrong thing," says Bryan Wittmeyer, MS, PT, Director of Rehabilitation Therapy and Wellness Services. "We started vetting community complementary medicine providers, making sure that they had an understanding of the special needs our patients have."

The Quality of Life Program is made possible by the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, the Roswell Park Gift Shop and the generosity of our donors.

Envisioning a Cure: Supporting Research Into New Cancer Treatments

In 2017-18, 17 projects were awarded a total of **\$1,442,938 in seed funding** made possible by donations. Every dollar donated to Roswell Park for research results, on average, in an additional **\$13 in new grant funding.**

The 2017-18 award recipients are:

New treatments for cancer come from years of hard work and research.

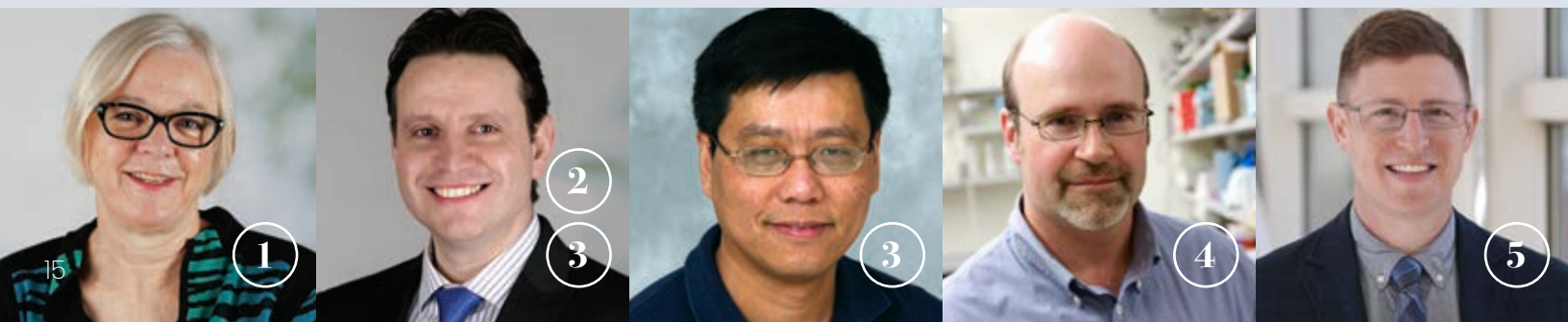
That research requires funding in order to get started, and it's not easy to come by. For that reason, Roswell Park created the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to oversee and distribute a grant process for our own scientists right here at the Cancer Center.

SAC is composed of objective Roswell Park scientists who score applications and select projects that show the most potential to find cancer cures and save lives.



- 1 **Christine Ambrosone, PhD**, Department of Cancer Prevention and Control, for the Population Sciences program in smoking cessation research.
- 2 **Boyko Atanassov, PhD**, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, "Defining the functions of ubiquitin specific protease 51 (USP51) in the regulation of receptor tyrosine kinase signaling pathways in cancer."
- 3 **Boyko Atanassov, PhD**, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and **Yuesheng Zhang, MD, PhD**, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, "Targeting EGFR in triple negative breast cancer."
- 4 **Michael Ciesielski, PhD**, Department of Neuro-Oncology, "Development of a surface-survivin targeted CAR-T cell immunotherapeutic."
- 5 **Michael Feigin, PhD**, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, "Evaluation of G-protein coupled receptors as therapeutic targets in pancreas cancer."
- 6 **Christos Fountzilas, MD**, Department of Medicine, "Viral defense mechanisms in pancreatic adenocarcinoma treated with oncolytic virus/immune checkpoint inhibitor combinations."
- 7 **Marc Ernstoff, MD**, Department of Medicine, "A phase Ib/II study of propranolol with fixed-dose pembrolizumab in patients with unresectable stage III and IV melanoma."

- 8 **Sharon Evans, PhD**, Department of Immunology, "Novel mechanism of intravascular immune suppression in cancer."
- 9 **Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW**, Department of Cancer Prevention and Control, and **Eliza Rodriguez, PhD, MS**, Department of Cancer Prevention and Control, "Strengthening knowledge for future generations: Cancer bio-banks in the landscapes of the Haudenosaunee."
- 10 **Fumito Ito, MD, PhD**, Department of Surgical Oncology, "The chemokine receptor CX3CR1-guided cancer immunotherapy."
- 11 **John Krolewski, MD, PhD**, Department of Cancer Genetics and Genomics, "Harnessing an ovarian cancer sequencing pipeline."
- 12 **Kelvin Lee, MD**, Department of Immunology, and **Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD**, Department of Medicine, to support research in the Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy Program.
- 13 **Asoke Mal, PhD**, Department of Cell Stress Biology, and **Eugene Yu, PhD**, Department of Cancer Genetics and Genomics, "Developing a universal CRISPR/Cas9-facilitated chromosome engineering technology for precise modeling of any chromosomal translocation/fusion oncoprotein-associated human tumors in mice."
- 14 **Scott Olejniczak, PhD**, Department of Immunology, "Novel role for Ars2-directed nuclear RNA processing in support of adoptive T-cell immunotherapy."
- 15 **Elizabeth Repasky, PhD**, Department of Immunology, "Adrenergic signaling at the crossroads of cancer and aging: Mechanisms and implications."
- 16 **Elizabeth Repasky, PhD**, Department of Immunology, and **Anurag Singh, MD**, Department of Radiation Medicine, to develop a team science project focused on "Neoadjuvant Radiotherapy."
- 17 **Dean Tang, PhD**, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, "Novel therapeutic strategies to co-target undifferentiated prostate cancer stem cells and bulk Pca cells."



Community Support Brings Our Collective Vision Alive

Is there anything as powerful as a community with a united vision?

The community supporting Roswell Park has never been stronger, as evidenced by the growth in our special events last year and the records they broke in funds raised. Our community is made of patients, staff, volunteers, family members, donors and many other participants from Western New York and well beyond, all unified under — and inspired by — one vision: ending cancer once and for all.

Here are our biggest events of 2017-18.

THE RIDE FOR ROSWELL \$4,898,160

The Ride For Roswell, sponsored by the West Herr Automotive Group, is a charity bike ride that unites almost 10,000 riders and volunteers to fundraise in the fight against cancer. In 2017 we broke all previous Ride fundraising efforts thanks to these amazing and dedicated supporters.

EMPIRE STATE RIDE \$474,346

From July 30 to August 5, more than 100 riders crossed New York State on this beautiful, fully supported, seven-day, 500+ mile cycling adventure from New York City to Niagara Falls, all to raise funds for cutting-edge cancer research. In 2017 the Empire State Ride topped its previous year by over \$200,000.

TEAM ROSWELL \$1,785,504

Formerly known as Team Cure, Team Roswell gives community members the tools and assistance to create their own fundraiser supporting Roswell Park. More than 265 events were held in 2017-18. From selling T-shirts to holding a yearly pasta contest and an annual basketball fundraiser, our supporters find creative and inspiring ways to engage their friends, families and community.

GOIN' BALD FOR BUCKS \$799,816

Bald for Bucks participants clip, snip and shave their way to cancer cures in a show of solidarity with cancer patients, all while raising funds for cancer research and patient care programs. This year, 37 schools, 13 groups and 25 additional individuals went Bald for Bucks. The Buffalo Sabres ran a T-shirt promotion that raised more than \$100,000 on its own.

ALL STAR NIGHT \$516,077

At Roswell Park's signature black-tie gala, guests dined, danced and mingled to the theme of Masquerade. The 11 Day Power Play was given the Katherine Anne Gioia Inspiration Award, and "Good Morning America" news anchor Amy Robach was the guest of honor receiving the Gilda Radner Courage Award. Robert Fenstermaker, MD, Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, received the Dr. Thomas B. Thomasi Hope Award for developing SurVaxM.

SUMMER SPLASH AND CARLY'S CROSSING \$130,843

Our sixth annual Summer Splash cocktail party's theme was Tangerine Twist and invited guests to wear their best orange attire at the Buffalo waterfront. At Carly's Crossing, participants took an open water swim challenge along the shore of Lake Erie before enjoying a family Beach Bash. Both are presented by Upstate Pharmacy Ltd. and raise funds for the Courage of Carly Fund.

One Vision:
ending cancer
once and for all.



Anne Marie Comaratta lit the inaugural Ride For Roswell ceremonial torch in 2017, the product of a vision of Chris Eberle, longtime Ride volunteer and Chair of the Celebration of Hope committee. Anne Marie lost her husband, Ross, a longtime rider and Roswell Park supporter, to leukemia in 2016.

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2018

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$22,980,279
Investments, at market value	71,514,088
Pledges and bequests receivable, net	7,188,878
Split interest agreements	1,894,905
Other assets	413,447
Due from related parties	1,275,597

TOTAL ASSETS **\$105,267,194**

LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accrued liabilities	\$1,467,546
Grants payable to related parties	14,429,347
Annuities payable	895,350

Total liabilities 16,792,243

Net assets	
Unrestricted	16,787,475
Temporarily restricted	28,464,225
Permanently restricted (endowment)	43,223,251

Total net assets 88,474,951

TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS **\$105,267,194**

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2018

REVENUE and SUPPORT

Contributions		\$24,330,679
Special Events	9,268,685	
Annual Fund/Direct Mail	2,608,638	
Individual Major Gifts/Planned Gifts	9,366,654	
Foundations	990,364	
Corporate Partnerships	2,096,338	

Gift shop receipts 519,443

Interest and dividends 1,243,421

TOTAL REVENUE and SUPPORT **26,093,543**

DISTRIBUTIONS and EXPENSES

Grants to benefit Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center	18,145,283
Management and general expenses	1,696,825
Fundraising expenses	4,572,548

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS and EXPENSES **24,414,656**

Excess of revenue and support over distributions and expenses 1,678,887

Net realized and unrealized investment gains 5,018,816

Actuarial gains on annuity obligations and split interest agreements 200,181

Change in net assets 6,897,884

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING of YEAR **81,577,067**

NET ASSETS, END of YEAR **\$88,474,951**



“Roswell Park is vitally important to our community and the worldwide community, and now it is personally important. That’s why I volunteer on the largest fundraising event. That’s why I work on The Ride. Because it does make a difference.

And now that difference is helping me.”

— Chris Eberle

Celebration of Hope Committee Chair and longtime Roswell Park supporter Chris Eberle rings the victory bell at Roswell Park to celebrate the end of her cancer treatment.

When you support Roswell Park,
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Pediatric patient Michael's family treats him to a silly string celebration to mark the end of his treatment.



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