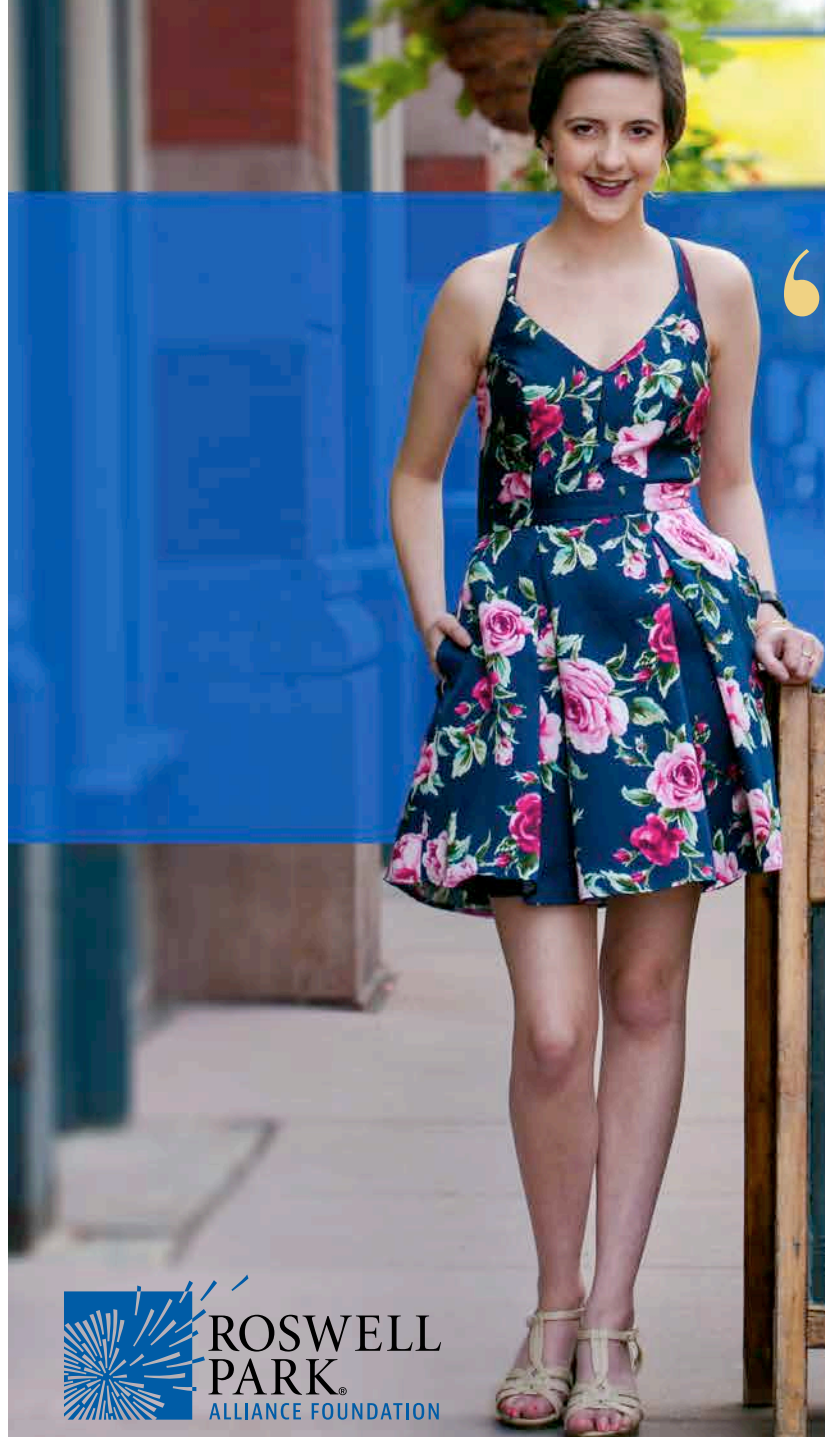


Roswell Park Alliance Foundation

# Annual Report

2018-2019



“ The Courage of Carly Fund and events like the Teen Prom *matter* so much to me. It takes our minds off our worries – just for a little while – so we can get away for the night and just have fun. ”

*~Zaida*  
pediatric cancer patient  
(read more about the Teen Prom on page 11)





## It matters.

I've been thinking about these words a lot. As I step down as Chair of the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation Board of Directors and look back on these past 10 years, I see so much that matters. I want to share a few words with you about this place and the people who make it what it is. About why it matters, and why you do.

The mission of the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation is to maximize every donation it receives. I hope everyone reading this knows how seriously and personally we take the stewardship of *every dime* that comes in from our donors.

There are many moments and accomplishments I look back on with fondness and pride. Because space is limited, here are two that stand out.

**OmniSeq®:** It started as genetic testing for late-stage lung cancer. Insurance companies would not provide reimbursement, so we stepped into that void and provided funding for over 600 tests that assessed tumors for genetic mutations. This enabled the validation health insurance providers needed in order to cover the tests. Now we're doing the same with the next level of OmniSeq testing.

**Scott Bieler Clinical Sciences Center:** I will never forget being at that opening ceremony with Scott Bieler in 2016. It was a beautiful sunny day and a remarkable culmination of the capital campaign, opening a building that would provide cutting-edge facilities and enhanced physical comfort to patients during chemotherapy, mammograms and more. But it was also a day to celebrate Scott, because he's one of the most generous, humble humans I've ever encountered.

I am always so taken aback by the talent we have in Roswell Park. It is remarkable, from the clinicians and scientists through every staff member in every part of the organization. I really fed off the excellence of the men and women of Roswell Park.

**To our donors:** You bring our patients hope. It comes in the form of your generous funding for new clinical trials, advancing immunotherapy vaccines, outreach to underserved populations and so much more. Your continued support demonstrates to our patients and their families that they do not walk alone. And as such, they have hope.

It has been one of the great privileges of my life to be in this position and work with these people for this mission. To be part of something that matters so much.

I'd like to introduce you to the next Chair of the Board of Directors: Jim Newman, President and CEO of NOCO Incorporated. My hopes for the future of the Alliance Foundation are a reality because of Jim. We're fortunate to have an individual who is committed to our mission and who is a demonstrated business leader to step into the role as chair. I wish him all the best and know the Alliance Foundation could be in no better hands.

It's been such an honor to work with the Alliance Foundation team. The passion, the focus on mission, the selflessness — they have inspired me and always will.

But I'm not going far — I will continue on the board in different roles. I will see you around town as we continue this work that really matters.

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



“ It has been one of the great privileges of my life to be in this position and work with these people for this mission.

*To be part of something that matters so much. ”*

*~ Lee Wortham*



Lee Wortham, Scott Bieler, Dr. Candace Johnson and patient representative Sally Gagliardo at the opening ceremony of the Scott Bieler Clinical Sciences Center in 2016.



# CIMAvax and the *Promise* of Prevention



*At the end of summer, Kevin's cancer rapidly advanced, and his family placed him in comfort care in the cancer center. On September 6, Kevin died surrounded by the people he loved most. It is his family's wish to continue sharing his story in the hope that his journey will help others.*

Kevin repositions his oxygen tube in his nose.

"Seeing that my grandparents died from lung diseases, I can't believe I ever even started smoking," he says. "It was peer pressure. Trying to be cool."

He watches his daughter Krissandra chase little brown-haired Colin and Wyatt, his grandsons, around the small park near the Niagara River. They run past, calling him "G-Pa." He laughs. There's a lot of love here.

As too many do, Kevin started smoking as a teenager. When he and Terri got married in their 20s, they decided to quit together. To be healthy together for the rest of their lives.

Unfortunately, as Kevin says, smoking wasn't his only risk factor. His paternal grandfather had died of emphysema, and his paternal grandmother from lung cancer. "She never smoked a day in her life," he says. One of lung cancer's cruel, random shots at humanity. On top of those factors, Kevin also worked in a factory surrounded by "very bad chemicals and really bad things."

In 2014, when he was 58, he developed a cough that lasted four months. His primary doctor diagnosed him with stage 4 lung cancer.

The father of three headed straight for Roswell Park. "I wanted to go to the best."

Kevin's cancer was inoperable, so his doctor put him on chemotherapy. After an initial good response, it started to fail. For the next several years, he went back and forth between chemo and immunotherapy and had gamma knife surgery for brain metastasis. After two years of success with the targeted therapy drug Xalkori (crizotinib), that also began to fail.

He recently started the chemo drug Cabometyx (cabozantinib). But he's feeling terrible from side effects and keeps having to take breaks from it.

Kevin is grateful to Roswell Park for giving him these past few years. "I would have never seen Wyatt and Colin if I hadn't had the treatments," he says. But his doctors are running out of options.

**Now imagine if we'd been able to evaluate Kevin's risk for lung cancer and given him a vaccine in his 20s — or 30s or 40s — that could have prevented all this. All his health problems, all the worry his family has gone through and now the uncertainty of the future.**

## The hope we hope to give through new research

Generous donations from supporters like you have enabled us to begin testing a lifesaving new vaccine that is helping lung cancer patients in early stages and has the potential to help other patients, too, both for other cancers and for prevention. It's something that might have

helped Kevin if it had been available in his younger years.

**CIMAvax-EGF is a lung cancer vaccine developed by the Center for Molecular Immunology in Cuba that is currently available in the U.S. only through clinical trials here at Roswell Park. After showing good results in stage I and II trials here, CIMAvax is now the focus of preparation for some new research that could help people at high risk for lung cancer.**

Mary Reid, MSPH, PhD, Director of Cancer Screening and Survivorship, and Rachel Evans, a doctoral candidate and Clinical Research Coordinator, believe that CIMAvax may be successful in preventing lung cancer in people at demonstrably high risk. The protein that CIMAvax targets in preventing cancer growth — EGF, or epidermal growth factor — is already very active in the lungs of these people, but isn't in others.

"That's part of what drives the tumors to grow," says Dr. Reid. "But we see it very early on, before they have any cancer. We see abnormalities in that target, and that gives us hope that CIMAvax will work on people who don't have cancer because it's going to go after that receptor."

Dr. Reid and Rachel are hoping to begin a clinical trial testing CIMAvax for prevention in these high-risk people in the coming year, and then expand it into a stage II trial in cancer centers around the country. "They're so high-risk that 10 out of 100 will die of cancer," says Dr. Reid. **But this trial will only happen with the continued support of donations.**

"There are 18 million cases of lung cancer a year worldwide, and if this helps to decrease incidence even in the highest-risk group, it will have a huge impact by preventing new lung cancers," adds Dr. Reid.

Kevin's family wishes CIMAvax had been available for him in his earlier years and hopes it will help other families.

**"It would mean more time with him for sure," says his daughter Kalli. "This is something I wish he had never had to go through."**

There are 18 million cases of lung cancer a year worldwide, and if this helps to decrease incidence even in the highest-risk group, it will have a huge impact by preventing new lung cancers.

~ Dr. Mary Reid



# How the *Kindness* of Strangers Changes Patients' Lives

Imagine you've been fighting two kinds of cancer for five years — even spending weeks in the ICU. Now treatment is done, and your doctor says you can go home. But insurance says no. After all you've been through.

It started in 2011. You were 61, happy, healthy and active, with a job you loved as a purchasing agent for a dairy products company. You volunteered with the Big Kids group at church, spent whole weekends with your young granddaughter and got together with friends every Monday night to make the most of a large pizza special from the place on the corner. Your family included a motley crew of devoted rescue animals. You and your dear husband went on weekend trips to Canada and the Finger Lakes. Things truly couldn't have been better.

Then one day, you went to the doctor with a minor problem, expecting to be handed a prescription and sent home. But instead, he saw cancer. Small cell carcinoma.

After that devastating day, you endured years of treatment — multiple surgeries and radiation — with the amazing support of your husband, friends and family, only to hear the traumatic diagnosis of another cancer: sarcoma. More surgeries. Weeks in the ICU.

Then finally, finally, the hospital is ready to send you home. You'll still have to do a course of intravenous antibiotics for several months, but you will be home. There's no need for you to stay in the hospital, your doctor tells you. He's certain. It's time to go home. Heal in comfort.

But your insurance will only cover the antibiotics if you remain in the hospital — or go to a nursing home. For another three months.

That's what happened to Sharon in 2016.

After five long years of fighting, she was distraught by this turn of events. After all this time, she just wanted to be home with her husband, her family, her friends, her beloved animals. But insurance said no.

Fortunately, her doctor stepped in. Shashikant Lele, MD, Clinical Chief of Gynecologic Oncology, wouldn't stand for this answer from insurance. So he contacted the Angel Fund, asking them to cover the cost of the antibiotics and the necessary equipment.

## Angel Matters

Sharon was by no means alone in facing this kind of need. There are many times during the cancer journey when patients and their families confront extraordinary financial challenges. These might include child care expenses, utility shut-off, catastrophic events, wheelchair transport or durable medical equipment needs. The lack of financial resources to meet these challenges may prevent or inhibit patients from receiving the treatment they require.

It might keep them from the healing they so desperately need.



Philip Hubbell became a Roswell Park donor and pastoral care volunteer in 2005 after his wife, Jayne, became a breast cancer patient.

After a four-year fight against the cancer, Jayne passed away in 2009. But she continued to inspire Phil to give back and help others. "Now it's up to me to do good work with the time and funds that I have," he thought. In 2012, he made a personal gift to establish the Angel Fund at Roswell Park in Jayne's honor.

"Through my volunteer work, I had observed that there were frequently non-medical needs not covered by insurance that were quality-of-life issues for patients and their families," Phil says. "I felt like it was the perfect opportunity to give back, because the staff at Roswell Park is so attentive to the patients that their needs are able to come to light."

Since Phil made the initial gift to establish the Angel Fund in 2012, many more donations from the community have allowed Roswell Park to continue providing assistance to patients.

Sharon is grateful to be one of them and thankful for people like Phil.

## Sharon Goes Home

Once Dr. Lele reached out, a social worker assessed Sharon's situation against available resources and approved it for Angel Fund assistance.

"They helped pay for antibiotics, the fluid and the materials. I was able to come home," Sharon says, now surrounded by her three dogs. Her husband smiles from his chair across the room. **"And it was all because of the Angel Fund. They actually helped me to get better. They helped save my life."**

"Coming home, I could be with my family, and my husband, and my animals. It just helped me so much morale-wise to get better. As far as I'm concerned, the Angel Fund are truly angels. They helped me get through the hardest time in my life."

*Phil's wife, Jayne, was his inspiration for the Angel Fund.*



*Sharon and husband Berton meet Phil Hubbell, Founder of the Angel Fund*

## Paying it forward

In December 2017, a touchdown pass thrown by Cincinnati Bengals QB Andy Dalton helped Buffalo land its first playoff berth in 17 years. Buffalo fans showed their gratitude by inundating the Andy and JJ Dalton Foundation with donations. Andy and JJ, his wife, were so overwhelmed that they were determined to give back to the Nickel City. In summer 2018, while in Buffalo for a preseason

game, they made a \$25,000 donation to Roswell Park's Angel Fund and donated an electronics Hub to the Katherine, Anne and Donna Gioia Pediatric Hematology Oncology Center. Angel Fund Founder Phil Hubbell was so touched that he pledged \$25,000 to support Cincinnati families in return. Among the best of people, kindness begets kindness.



# Urgency Matters, and the Assessment and Treatment Center Responds



“As a volunteer, it was very gratifying to see firsthand that the funds you help raise are making an impact for cancer patients. You realize that raising funds *does make a difference.*”

~ Jon Olsen,  
Ride For Roswell Volunteer Leader

It was getting late that night, about two months into Jon's cancer treatment. At first he just didn't feel well in a way he couldn't explain, but then he started feeling hot on a cool fall night. He broke out into cold sweats. What might have been a harmless, passing rise in body temperature that other people could ride out was a potentially dangerous symptom for a lymphoma patient.

The memory of this evening now brings Jon feelings of gratitude — for the swift action and familiar expertise of the staff of Roswell Park's Assessment and Treatment Center (ATC), who shifted the course of the night for the better.

Jon and his wife, Kim, made a quick call to Roswell Park once they realized what was happening to him, knowing it could be caused by the cancer or his treatment. The nurse on the phone told them to come now.

“Security helped us inside and up to the clinic. A nurse and doctor were waiting for us, and we got right in. I was evaluated and in a room right away,” Jon says. Before long, he and Kim were able to breathe a sigh of relief as the doctor treated his fever and sent him home. What also brought relief was how efficiently the ATC worked.

Had it not been for the ATC, Jon's night could have turned out much differently. Fever, shortness of breath, weakness — when you're a cancer patient, these and other symptoms can indicate very different problems than they do for other patients. Medication, chemotherapy, other treatments or even the cancer itself could be responsible. Having the expertly trained and knowledgeable staff of the ATC at the ready for these late-night urgent medical needs can truly be the difference between life and death.

## Why This Kind of Urgent Care Matters for Our Outpatients

Roswell Park supporter Robert Nucherenno saw firsthand what his brother Ray experienced when he had to turn to another hospital for emergency care before the ATC was available at Roswell Park. Their

care team was not familiar with his history of multiple myeloma, and it became a grueling situation for Ray and his loved ones. Not wanting another family to go through a similar situation, Robert worked with Roswell Park to create the Assessment and Treatment Center so they would be able to treat cancer outpatients experiencing urgent but non-life-threatening situations.

**The Assessment and Treatment Center opened in 2017. Thanks in part to donations, and with the fundraising leadership of Robert Nucherenno and his family, Roswell Park was able to make the ATC available 24 hours a day in 2018. It's now accessible to our outpatients any time they need its care, day or night.**

## Finding Comfort in Consistent Care

Because Jon was seen at Roswell Park, the ATC's medical staff had all his records on hand. “We were treated right away,” he says, “and we felt comfortable. We did not have to go through a registration process. We knew we were in the right place. My care would be consistent.

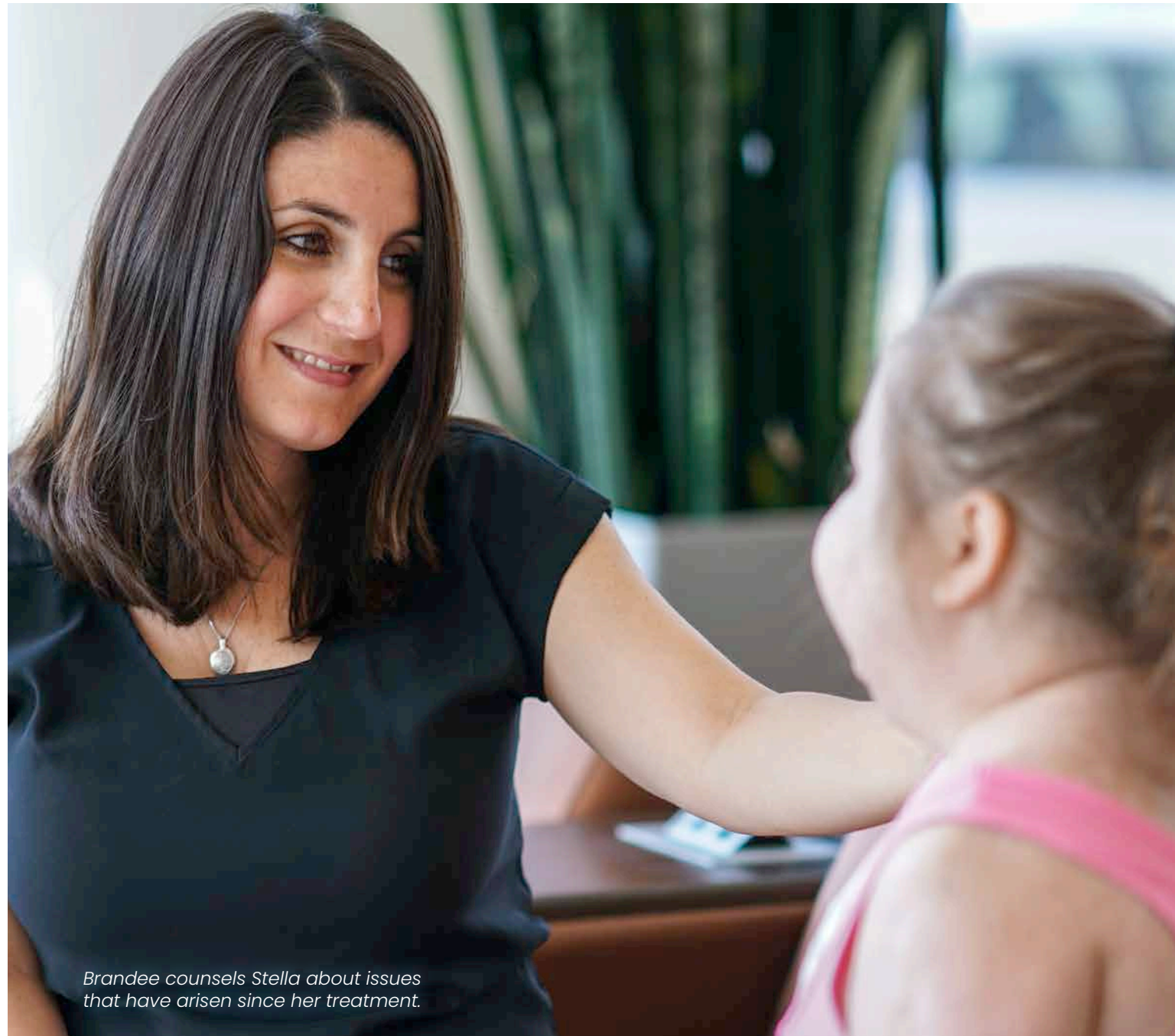
“When you are going through chemo, having the ability to come to a place that knows you when you have an issue associated with your treatment is critical. In an emergency room, you are not a known person; you have to be evaluated and explain everything, which can be difficult, and then have to wait for your records and so forth.”

Jon has been a key Ride For Roswell volunteer since 2006, so he knows full well the importance of donations. Seeing them at work in the Assessment and Treatment Center really struck home for him.

“It is very comforting knowing that the ATC is available. I think it is vital. It's a peace of mind for a cancer patient that if they do have something, there's a place they can go, and you're not going to be a number in a line.”

Jon is doing well today. But he's glad the ATC is there, and glad for all other Roswell Park patients who find themselves needing it, too.





*Brandee counsels Stella about issues that have arisen since her treatment.*

## Quality-of-Life Programs at Roswell Park

In addition to providing the highest quality medical care, it's critical to us at Roswell Park that we do everything we can to help our patients remember that cancer doesn't define them. That's why we offer dozens of quality-of-life programs every year that support non-medical needs and diversions for patients and their loved ones. These range from the beautiful art you see

around the hospital to translation services to financial assistance in critical situations. We want to make sure we do everything possible to reduce worry and stress for every person who walks through our doors so they can focus on their fight when needed and relax whenever possible.

**In 2018-19, \$1,182,459 funded 44 programs.**

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.



# Supporting Mental and Emotional Health in the Lives of Kids With Cancer

It's early morning in the Katherine, Anne and Donna Gioia Pediatric Hematology Oncology Center. Brandee Aquilino, PsyD, MA, is in her office looking at her schedule and preparing for her day. As much as she can, at least, because she knows everything will change in an instant if a child or family has an emergency situation.

In her role as the Medical Psychologist with the Department of Pediatrics, Brandee spends her days helping children and families deal with their medical struggles and the thoughts and feelings that come both with treatment and after.

In other words, she helps children and their families through the hardest moments they've ever faced. Possibly the hardest they ever will.

Her busy schedule makes it clear how critical her job is to the physical and mental health of our youngest patients and their families, but Brandee's position hasn't always existed here. In fact, it wasn't until 12 years ago that Roswell Park fully realized the demand from the families we serve.

"I started out part time, but when the department saw how beneficial the position was to our patients, they went to the Foundation and were able to get a grant to create a full-time position," Brandee explains. She works closely with doctors and other medical providers, as well as with her team members: Medical Social Worker Kristen Fix; Manager of the Integrative Wellness Program Doug McDaniel; and Child Life Specialist Jessica Krahmer. The Roswell Park Alliance Foundation also supports the salaries of these last two positions.

Every day brings Brandee new challenges and new joys, and sometimes new losses. Through every moment, Brandee is finding ways to help children and their families make their way through tremendous difficulties.



*Child Life Specialist Jessica Krahmer and Justin play with Charlie, a medical toy that helps kids feel more comfortable with chemo ports and other parts of their cancer care.*

## A Day in the Life of a Child Psychologist

### 8:00 a.m. Grief Counseling

Brandee starts her day by sitting down with a mother who is devastated by the recent loss of her 16-year-old daughter to cancer. Brandee provides her with emotional support and grief-focused psychotherapy, helping her to process thoughts and feelings surrounding every parent's worst fear.

### 9:30 a.m. Coping

Brandee answers a page to meet with a 19-year-old patient who is having difficulty coping with his diagnosis and treatment. He is also experiencing anxiety about a medical procedure the next day. Brandee spends time counseling him on his own and then provides his mother with family-focused counseling.

### 10:45 a.m. Parent Counseling

A parent is struggling with the terrible news that their child has relapsed. Brandee sits with the family, offering emotional support and counseling that helps them adjust and cope with the fear, anxiety and life changes that come with starting treatment again, as well as the child's poorer prognosis.

### 12:30 p.m. Treatment Compliance Intervention

There's a family facing a lot of stressors that have made it difficult for them to get to their child's leukemia treatment appointments. Brandee provides family-focused counseling and support to help them develop ways to cope with these issues and devise a plan for improving compliance.

### 1:13 p.m. School and Peer Counseling

A school psychologist calls Brandee to schedule a session with a patient's elementary school class. Brandee will talk to the students, help them understand why their classmate has been missing school and prepare them for his return by explaining why, because of his treatment, he might look or behave differently.

### 2:42 p.m. Treatment Anxiety

Brandee is paged to come help a 16-year-old with anxiety who is having a panic attack in the Gioia Center clinic. He needs his blood drawn, but he's preventing staff from doing it. His mother is also distressed. Brandee provides emotional support and implements

coping strategies to help him relax, then talks about this with the medical team so the procedure will be more successful.

### 3:36 p.m. Crisis Management

A teenage patient who has been battling severe depression needs urgent attention. Brandee is paged to provide emergency intervention for the patient and parents.

**Around 5 p.m.,** Brandee returns to her desk to update her records and review her schedule for the next day before going home. But even when she leaves, she remains available by phone to the people who need her. 24 hours a day.

**Brandee knows that nighttime is the worst time of all for some of the patients and families who rely on her. Anxiety hits hard. Grief, harder. It is all crisis management as these children and their families go through the hardest things they've ever known.**

**"Parents whose children are sick have the most difficult and heartbreaking job. It makes mine feel easy," she says. "The hardest part for me is I can't make it go away."**



# It's the Special Moments That Matter Most

Giving Every Child A Fighting Chance



ROSWELL PARK  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

Donor support makes possible everything the Courage of Carly Fund does for Roswell Park's pediatric patients. We know parents and siblings need some escape and relief, too, so we also provide activities for the whole family, from game nights at Dave & Buster's to tickets to concerts and the Buffalo Sabres, Buffalo Bisons and Buffalo Bandits.

These kids spend so much time in their fight. They're strong — stronger than any child should ever have to be. But it takes a lot out of them. With nights like Teen Prom, we make sure they still have the chance to just be kids.



Late in the afternoon on May 31, 16-year-old Zaida Smith was excitedly putting on makeup and a flowered cocktail dress while getting ready for a special night out just a few months after ringing the Victory Bell.

Less than a year before, in July 2018, she and her mom had received the call with her cancer diagnosis: Hodgkin's lymphoma. She remembers actually feeling relief to know what was going on after being sick for a long time.

Since then, she's faced trials no 16-year-old should: losing her hair, missing school, seeing friends drift away, and spending seemingly countless days getting chemo in a cancer hospital.

But those things are also what would make this year's Caribbean Cruise Teen Prom magical.

Zaida arrived at the Pre-Prom party on Roswell Park's campus that Friday with her friend Bea as her guest. She said hello to young men in tuxes waiting for dates who were having their hair and makeup done by volunteers from local beauty salons. Dresses of all styles and colors swirled around her as friends tested out their high heels. It was Zaida's first prom, but a prom like no other. Tonight she would celebrate while surrounded by other teens who knew exactly what she had gone through the previous year.

*Every year, longtime volunteer Barb Heller (pictured left with Zaida) gathers donations from local businesses to give out as favors to the Teen Prom guests.*



Sleek limo buses delivered Zaida and the other prom guests to the historic Pearl @ The Webb in downtown Buffalo. Inside, a tropical paradise awaited, complete with palm trees, glowing tropical punch, a cruise ship gangway, a beach backdrop. Over gangplanks and through arched doorways, Courage of Carly Fund teens and their guests mixed, mingled and made their way to their dinner tables.

Zaida and her friends made faces in photo booths, indulged in sumptuous desserts and treated themselves to the candy bar — an entire buffet of sweet treats. They danced and posed for selfies and group shots. As the night came to a close, they laughed and twirled under the balloon drop, the festive conclusion to a wonderful night of escape and friendship.

**The 2019 Teen Prom was proudly presented by The Montgomery Family Foundation with additional support from other donations and sponsorships.**

“The main focus of The Montgomery Family Foundation is to support Buffalo-based charities, but we have a special interest in pediatric programs. The Courage of Carly Fund activities fit well! The Teen Prom is a wonderful way to bring normal teenage moments to kids whose daily lives present constant challenges. The smiles in the pictures let us know how important this event is, and we are delighted to help.”

*~Carolyn Montgomery, The Montgomery Family Foundation*



Courage of Carly has given me fun opportunities while going through hard times. When I felt alone, going to the events, being able to take my mind off stuff, and always being able to have fun with people that have gone through things I have and understand me on another level meant a lot to me.

I always look forward to the events. ”

*~Zaida*





# Research Matters in Our Quest for a Cure



Jane and Eric,  
anxiously waiting  
for a new trial to open

## How donations save lives by making ideas into new treatments

Last fall, at just 34, Eric found out he had glioblastoma, a brain cancer that is difficult to treat and has an average survival rate of about 18 months. “It was like a tidal wave crashing over us and our two boys,” says his wife, Jane. After surgery, radiation, surgery for a recurrence and more radiation, the members of this young family are searching for any hope they can find. Right now, that hope lies in SurVaxM and the promise of an expanded randomized clinical trial Eric can participate in — once the trial opens.

SurVaxM is a vaccine — a form of immunotherapy — that seeks out the protein survivin in cancer cells and targets them for destruction. It was developed right here at Roswell Park, and began as an idea in the minds of Robert Fenstermaker, MD, Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and Director of the Neuro-Oncology Program, and Michael Ciesielski, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery. That idea took its first steps in the world thanks to a grant award — funded by donations from generous supporters like you — from Roswell Park’s Scientific Advisory Committee. In phase I and II clinical trials, SurVaxM has been proven to increase progression-free and overall survival rates in study participants.

**This is what happens when we support new ideas.  
This is what we pursue with every research project we fund.**

**This is the path to the next cancer breakthrough.  
And, one day, to a cure.**

Because of your giving, our scientists and doctors can take ground-level ideas and hypotheses, begin research and testing, build data and support theories. These things are critical to achieving the next step: winning the larger awards that can carry their ideas to fruition — new treatments, new ways to use existing treatments, the cusp of a cure, that next cure.

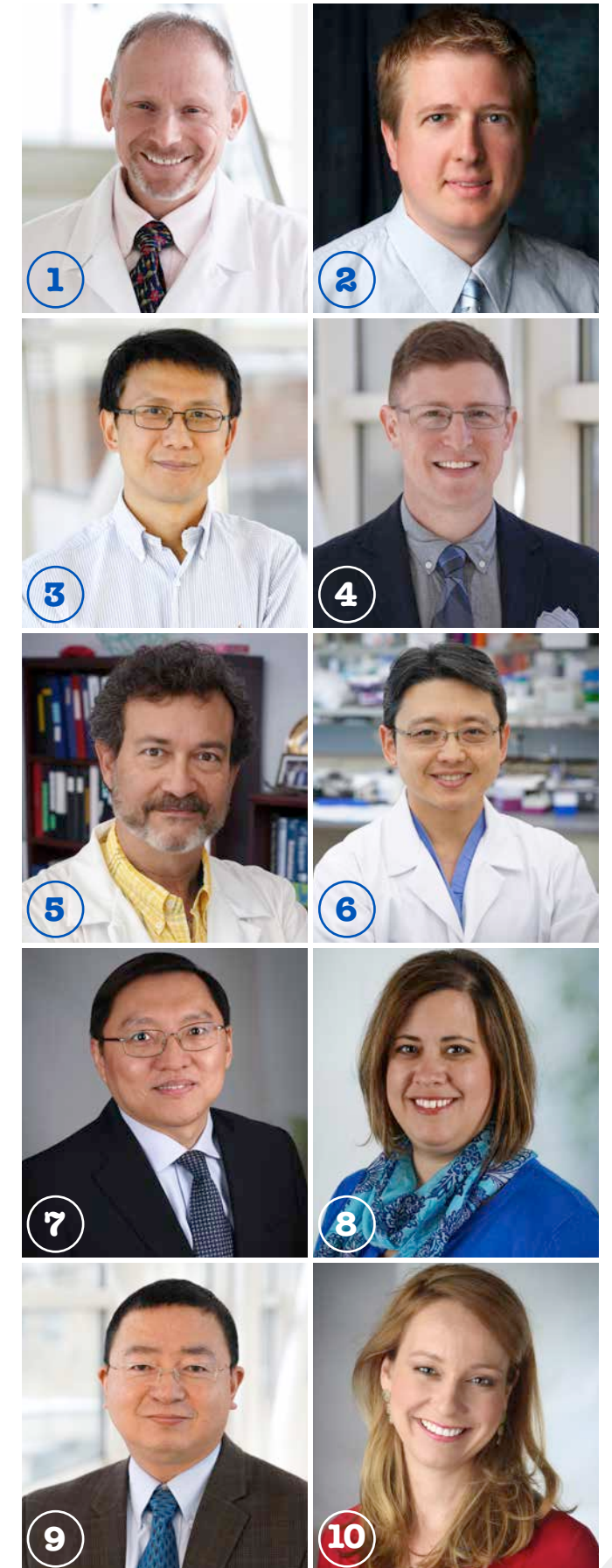
Roswell Park formed the Scientific Advisory Committee as a way to evaluate proposals, select the ones with the most promise and provide the applicants with the seed grants to take their critical first steps. Applications are reviewed by objective Roswell Park peers.

In 2018-19, 10 research projects were awarded a total of \$968,848 in seed funding made possible by donations. On average, every dollar donated to Roswell Park for research purposes results in an additional \$13 in new grant funding from national sources.

This is the  
path to the  
next cancer  
breakthrough.  
And, one day,  
to a cure.

## The 2018-19 award recipients are:

- 1 Scott Abrams, PhD**, Department of Immunology, received \$100,000 courtesy of The 11 Day Power Play Community Shift for his project “A novel combination cancer treatment that boosts immune-targeted therapy by impeding immune suppressive networks.”
- 2 Matthew Barth, MD**, Department of Pediatrics, received \$70,000 for his project “Targeting Oncogenic Micro-RNAs in MYC associated aggressive B Cell non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.”
- 3 Jia Fang, PhD**, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, received \$100,000 for his project “SETDB1-mediated tumor suppressor gene silencing in lung cancer.”
- 4 Michael Feigin, PhD**, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, received \$100,000 for his project “Alternative polyadenylation as a driver of pancreatic cancer.”
- 5 Irwin Gelman, PhD**, Department of Cancer Genetics and Genomics, received \$100,000 for his project “Drug susceptibilities in fusion oncogene-driven pediatric sarcomas.”
- 6 Fumito Ito, MD, PhD**, Department of Surgical Oncology and Center for Immunotherapy, received \$100,000 for his project “Clinically applicable generation of tumor-specific T cells from human induced pluripotent stem cells.”
- 7 Qiang Li, MD, PhD**, Department of Urology, received \$100,000 for his project “Measuring and targeting nucleotide excision repair in bladder cancer patients.”
- 8 Joyce Ohm, PhD**, Department of Cancer Genetics and Genomics, and Scott Olejniczak, PhD, Department of Immunology, received \$100,000 for their project “Novel ncRNA fusions in soft tissue sarcomas.”
- 9 Jianmin Zhang, PhD**, Department of Cancer Genetics and Genomics, received \$100,000 for his project “Role of CAMK1D in metastatic breast cancer.”
- 10 Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD**, Department of Gynecology, received \$98,848 for her project “Impact of using restrictive opioid use on surgical recovery, long term opioid use and cancer survival.”





# Our Special Events

Make Changes That

# Matter

What matters in saving and changing the lives of cancer patients? What it comes down to is the fact that Roswell Park can't do it alone. We see every day how the Roswell Park community doesn't end at our campus walls but extends into the city of Buffalo, through the counties of Western New York and far beyond into other states and even other countries. Lives are saved because of each rider, swimmer, gala attendee, volunteer and student who shaves their head, plus every other person who gives of their time, energy and self to make a difference for our patients.

Here are our biggest events of 2018-19.



## The Ride For Roswell

### \$5,390,435

It was another record-breaking year for The Ride For Roswell, presented by the West Herr Automotive Group! In its 23rd year, we passed the \$5 million mark. Thanks to the commitment and energy of our 10,000 riders and volunteers, as well as our sponsors, our charity bike ride continues to grow in fundraising and scale every year.



## Empire State Ride

### \$696,236

More than 130 riders biked across New York State from July 29 to August 4 on this fully supported, 500+ mile cycling adventure. Beginning in New York City and crossing the finish line in Niagara Falls, our 2018 riders saw our state as few ever have while raising critical funds to end cancer once and for all.



## Goin' Bald for Bucks

### \$826,607

41 schools and 26 individuals snipped, clipped or shaved their way to cancer cures this year while fundraising for research and patient-care programs. The Buffalo Sabres T-shirt promotion raised \$115,000 on its own. We also had 13 police departments and organizations grow — then shave — some extensive facial hair in Beards for Bucks!



## All Star Night

### \$545,506

Our 2018 All Star Night brought us **Summer Nights: Celebrating 40 Years of GREASE™**. The Katherine Anne Gioia Inspiration Award was presented to longtime volunteer Susan Roney, and Olivia Newton-John received the Gilda Radner Courage Award, which her GREASE™ co-star Didi Conn accepted on her behalf. The Thomas B. Tomasi Hope Award was presented to Kelvin Lee, MD, the Jacobs Family Chair in Immunology.

*From left: All Star Night Chairs Kathy and Bryan Wittman; Dr. Johnson; Didi Conn and husband David Shire*



## Carly's Crossing and Summer Splash

### \$152,382

Our seventh annual Summer Splash brought guests to the Buffalo waterfront in their finest magenta fashions for the classiest cocktail party of the summer. Carly's Crossing participants took on open-water swim courses along the Lake Erie shore before joining family and friends for the Beach Bash. Both events are presented by Upstate Pharmacy Ltd.; all donations support the Courage of Carly Fund.



**Team Roswell brought in \$1,692,789 in 2018-19. See pages 16-17 for more!**



# Community Matters

## in the Fight Against Cancer

Our Western New York community is tight-knit and supportive, and cancer has affected almost every single member of it. It's a devastating education that also has shown us the difference that every contribution makes in the fight against the disease — large, small and everything in between.

Team Roswell rallies the community by engaging people of all ages in inventing their own fundraisers to help save and improve the lives of cancer patients by supporting research and patient-care programs at Roswell Park. Whether they raise funds through lemonade stands, pancake breakfasts, athletic events or cocktail parties, the people of WNY find amazing ways to have fun while supporting the fight against cancer and, in many cases, remembering and honoring loved ones they've lost.

**Team Roswell community events raised \$1,692,789 in FY 2018-19.**

Here are just a few of the great events friends, family and neighbors have put together — often with the help of Team Roswell's supportive online fundraising page.

### BOGO Bunch Casino for a Cause

**\$75,000**

More than 600 people attended the Roaring '20s-themed event in February that featured live and silent auctions as well as Zach Bogosian's Buffalo Sabres teammates delighting guests as dealers at the gaming tables.



## Team ROSWELL

CHAMPIONS FOR CANCER CURES



### A Taste for Life

**\$57,300**

A Taste for Life invites guests to an evening filled with wines, craft beers and treats both sweet and savory at the Saturn Club, all while supporting groundbreaking research advancing lung cancer treatments and therapies at Roswell Park.

### Tony Reid Memorial Sportsman Raffle

**\$30,458**

Held at the Cattaraugus Conservation Club in memory of Tony Reid, who owned Gowanda Harley-Davidson, this year's annual raffle included cash prizes, a kayak, a week's stay in Daytona during Bike Week 2019 and more.

### Shooting Hoops for a Cure!

**\$30,156**

This annual game began in 2011 when the Pembroke Lady Dragons girls' basketball team approached their coach, Mike Wilson, about how to help out the wife of another coach after she'd been diagnosed with breast cancer. Years later, it has become a huge rallying point for the entire small-town community of Pembroke, New York.



### Wanakah Country Club 100 Hole Golf Challenge Event

### Wanakah Country Club Pink Ribbon Charity Event

**\$54,933 (combined)**

Players commit to 100 holes of golf in one day for the 100 Hole Golf Challenge Event to raise funds for Roswell Park, while in the Pink Ribbon event, women participate in an 18-hole scramble tournament before enjoying a luncheon and a silent and live auction.



### The 11 Day Power Play Community Shift

**\$720,000**

In 2018, The 11 Day Power Play transformed into Community Shift, where more than 1,700 pairs of skates hit the ice in continuous four-hour shifts at Buffalo's Harborcenter to raise critically needed funds for cancer research and supportive programs at Roswell Park.

### Nicholas A. Dusenberry Memorial Golf Tournament

**\$13,618**

The tournament is held in memory of Nicholas A. Dusenberry, who died at 24 of melanoma. Each year, his mother and brothers host the event, which features golfing contests and awards as well as an auction, to celebrate his life and raise funds for melanoma research at Roswell Park.

### Salsa for a Cure

**\$6,262**

This sensational amateur dance competition is hosted by the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY and features raffles, music and more in addition to the dance competition, raising funds for patient-care services at Roswell Park.

### Bridget's Battle Band Jam

**\$10,100**

This daylong music festival held in memory of Bridget Schuh raises funds for Roswell Park's Angel Fund and features some of Western New York's best bands as well as raffles, outdoor games and more.

### Saddle Up for Roswell

**\$14,130**

This annual event raising funds for breast and gynecologic cancer research is run by riders and volunteers at Chestnut Ridge Equestrian Center and features horse trials and a dressage show.

### Sip Away Sarcoma

**\$27,160**

At Sip Away Sarcoma, family, friends, business colleagues and other guests gather at Acqua restaurant, overlooking the Niagara River, to enjoy food, refreshments and more in memory of Rick Vivacqua and to raise funds to fight sarcoma through an endowment made in his name.



“Members of Wanakah Country Club have embraced both the Golf Challenge and the Pink Ribbon events as a way to give back to the Western New York community, whether they participate by playing, becoming a caddy, donating to a player, contributing to the auction or doing something else. Many members have been impacted by cancer. It's important to us to support a very important, worthwhile institution in Western New York and all the good work that's done there.”

— *Michael Gacioch,*  
Wanakah Country Club Member and  
Roswell Park Alliance Foundation  
Board Member

Every Team Roswell event is a champion for cancer cures. Here are a few more of the top fundraising events.

**Buffalo Goes Gray: \$35,000**

**Leonard S. LoVollo Memorial Golf Tournament: \$33,000**

**Friends of Carly White Party: \$15,000**

**52 Races in 52 Weeks: \$13,464**

**Cherry Creek Sno-Goers Freezin' for a Reason: \$12,035**

**WNY Flash Kicking Cancer Tournament: \$10,437**



## Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2019

### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$26,029,000
Investments, at market value	73,536,328
Pledges and bequests receivable, net	7,426,108
Split interest agreements	565,845
Other assets	301,004
Due from related parties	1,310,430

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$109,168,715**

### LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accrued liabilities	\$486,418
Grants payable to related parties	17,910,296
Annuities payable	842,573

Total liabilities 19,239,287

Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	13,641,607
With donor restrictions	76,287,821

Total net assets 89,929,428

**TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS** **\$109,168,715**

## Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2019

### REVENUE and SUPPORT

Contributions		\$27,308,542
Special Events	10,042,221	
Annual Fund/Direct Mail	2,433,281	
Individual Major Gifts/Planned Gifts	11,813,593	
Foundations	1,630,083	
Corporate Partnerships	1,389,364	
Gift shop receipts		468,700
Interest and dividends		1,554,476

**TOTAL REVENUE and SUPPORT** **29,331,718**

### DISTRIBUTIONS and EXPENSES

Grants to benefit Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center	21,220,876
Management and general expenses	1,411,723
Fundraising expenses	4,689,591
Gift shop expenses	437,131

**TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS and EXPENSES** **27,759,321**

Excess of revenue and support over distributions and expenses	1,572,397
Net realized and unrealized losses on investments	(79,078)
Actuarial losses on annuity obligations and split interest agreements	(38,842)

Change in net assets 1,454,477

**NET ASSETS, BEGINNING of YEAR** **88,474,951**

**NET ASSETS, END of YEAR** **\$89,929,428**

“ To our donors: You bring our patients hope. It comes in the form of your generous funding for new clinical trials, advancing immunotherapy vaccines, outreach to underserved populations and so much more. ”

– Lee Wortham







# Legacy Giving

Members of the **Dr. Roswell Park Society** have expressed their commitment through a very special and important form of financial support — a planned, or legacy, gift. These donors have named the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation as the beneficiary of a bequest, charitable trust, gift annuity, life insurance, retirement plan, will or trust.

Their gifts will make a lasting contribution to Roswell Park's commitment to understanding, preventing and curing cancer, and will ensure that the cancer center's future will remain strong for generations to come.

- |   |   |  |   |
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|---|---|--|---|



# Our Supporters

To make a difference in the fight against cancer and in the lives of those who are battling the disease, Roswell Park needs a strong family of supporters. We are grateful to the many individuals, foundations, corporations and volunteer groups that have joined our team. You are providing the fuel to power new discoveries that one day will lead to a world without cancer.

List reflects donations received from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

## \$1 million+

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## Endowment Funds \*As of July 1, 2019

### Endowed Funds: \$4 million+

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation  
Quality of Life Endowment

### Endowed Chairs: \$2 million+

The Garman Family Chair in Cell Stress Biology  
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### Endowed Chairs: \$1.5 million+

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(held by Ellis G. Levine, MD)  
The Barbara C. and George H. Hyde  
Endowed Chair in Radiation Medicine  
(held by Michael R. Kuettel, MD, PhD, MBA)  
The Jacobs Family Endowed Chair in Immunology  
(held by Kelvin Lee, MD)  
The Waldemar J. Kaminski Endowed Chair in Pediatrics  
(held by Kara Kelly, MD)  
The M&T Bank Endowed Chair in Cancer Research  
The John and Santa Palisano Endowed Chair  
in Cancer Genetics (held by John J. Krolewski, MD, PhD)  
The Roswell Park Alliance Foundation Endowed Chair in  
Cancer Prevention (held by Christine Ambrosone, PhD)  
The Robert, Ann and Lew Wallace  
Endowed Chair in Translational Research  
(held by Candace S. Johnson, PhD)

### Endowed Funds: \$1 million+

Courage of Carly Endowed Fund for Pediatric Cancer

### Endowed Professorships: \$750,000+

The Dr. Robert P. Huben Professorship in  
Urologic Oncology (held by Khurshid Guru, MD)  
The Dr. William Huebsch Professorship in  
Immunology (held by Elizabeth Repasky, PhD)  
The Shashikant B. Lele, MD, Endowed Fellowship in  
Gynecologic Oncology  
The M. Steven Piver, MD, Endowed Professorship in  
Gynecologic Oncology (held by Kunle O. Odunsi, MD, PhD)  
The Rustum Family Endowed Professorship for  
Molecular Therapeutics and Translational Research  
(held by Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD)

### Endowed Fellowships: \$500,000+

The Rita DeRose Endowed Education Fellowship  
The Scott & Henderson Endowed Fellowship

### Endowed Funds: \$500,000+

The Joseph and Kathleen Curatolo Endowment  
for Pediatric Quality of Life Projects  
The David Jay Dougherty Memorial Fund  
for Lung Cancer Detection & Treatment  
The Ann and Tracy Hartman Endowment  
for Cancer Research  
The Leonard S. and Jeanne LoVullo Endowment  
for Leukemia Research  
The David, Anne and Scot McLellan Endowment  
for Pediatric and Prostate Cancer Research  
The Ovarian Cancer Registry Endowment  
The Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Priority Endowed Fund  
The Dennis J. Szeffel Jr. Endowed Fund  
for Leukemia Research  
The Wegmans Child Life Endowment Fund

### Endowed Funds: \$250,000+

The Babcock Family Endowed Fund for Leukemia  
Research in memory of Richard Newhall Babcock  
The Rex E. Ballantine Jr. Endowment  
for Lung Cancer Research  
The Buffalo Sabres Alumni Endowed Fund  
for Breast Cancer Risk Assessment & Prevention  
The Catherine Cridler Endowed Fund  
for Nursing Education  
The Honorable Dolores Denman Endowed Fund  
for Gastric Cancer Research  
The James L. Desiderio Endowed Fund  
for Esophageal Cancer Research  
The Marcia Anastasi DiNardo Endowed Fund  
for Pancreatic Cancer Research  
The Friends of Children with Cancer Endowment  
The Waldemar J. Kaminski Park Endowment  
The Dr. Edwin Albert Mirand Endowed Fund  
The Barbara & Norman Oliver Endowment  
for Melanoma Research  
The Pioneer Fund for Biomedical Research  
(HWI/RPCI Collaborative Research)  
The Margaret Weber Endowment  
for Pancreatic Research  
The Wilson & Dorothy VanNorstrand Endowment  
for Cancer Research



## Endowment Funds *(continued)*

### Endowed Funds: \$100,000+

The Association for Research of Childhood Cancer (AROCC) Endowed Fund for Pediatric Cancer Research

The Allene Phillips Barans Endowment for Leukemia Research

The Robsan Barnes Endowment for Pancreatic Cancer Research

The Norman Bate Endowment for Prostate Cancer Research

The Marie E. Bogner and Maria T. Bogner Endowment for Colon Cancer Awareness and Early Detection

The Carl Cammilleri Endowment Fund for Lymphoma Research

The Lisa Carbone Endowed Fund for Breast Cancer Research

The Mark and Elizabeth Czarnecki Family Endowed Fund for Head and Neck Cancer Research

The Nicholas A. Dusenberry Endowment Fund for Melanoma Research

The William J. Ertel Jr. Endowed Fund for Lung Cancer Research

The Fasolino Family Endowment for Pediatric Cancer Research

The Shane G. Ferguson, MD, Kids Create Hope Endowed Fund for Pediatric Research

The Robert J. & Martha B. Fierle Endowment for Lung Cancer Research

The Sandra C. Genco Endowment for Excellence in Nursing

The Gratwick Family Endowed Fund for Cancer Research

The Habib Family Endowed Fund for Priority Melanoma Research Programs

The Betty Lee Endowment for Leukemia Research

The Lucille M. Kopp Endowment for Cancer Research

The Theresa M. Opalinski Endowment for Mesothelioma Research

The Andrew J. & Mary J. Scoma Endowment for Head & Neck Cancer Research and Diagnostic Imaging

The Puttur and Shantabai Shenoy Endowed Fund for Diagnostic Radiology Training

The Marilyn & Irving Shuman Family Endowed Fund for Multiple Myeloma Research

The Joseph Takats Family Endowed Fund for Pediatric Programs

The Janine Torba Endowment for the High School Summer Research Program

The Richard J. Vivacqua Endowment for Sarcoma Research

The Kenneth R. Weishaupt Memorial Fund for Lung Cancer Research

The West Herr Cancer Resource Center Endowment

The Catherine Worden Endowed Fund for Breast Cancer Research

### Endowed Funds: \$50,000+

The Ricky R. Arnold Endowment for Patient Benefit

The Thomas C. Atwell Jr. Endowed Fund for Childhood Cancer Research

The Eileen Beauchamp Endowed Fund for Ovarian Cancer Research and the Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry

The Nancy C. Cully Endowed Fund for Leukemia Research

The Sandra M. DeMaria Endowment for Rare Cancer Research

The Arthur J. and Jean Graham Ennis Endowment Fund for Cancer Research

The Mary Deane Freeland Endowed Fund for Pediatric Research

The Greene Family Endowment for Pediatric Cancer Research and Pediatric Quality of Life Programs

The Jane Highlander Endowed Fund for Gynecologic Oncology

The Jayne and Phil Hubbell Endowed Fund for Cancer Research

The Linda Angert Kahn Endowed Fund for Innovative Research and Patient Care Programs

The Kasimov Family Endowed Fund for Cancer Research in Memory of Ilene and Alvin Katz

The Gregg Lipsitz Family Endowment for Esophageal Cancer Research

Lisa's Legacy Endowed Fund for Colon Cancer Research

The Matthew & Julie Endowment Fund for Gastrointestinal Cancer Research

The Allan Oseroff, MD, PhD, Endowed Fund for Quality Patient Environment

The Robert E. Rich Sr. Endowment Fund for the Head & Neck Center in memory of Dr. John M. Lore Jr.

The Dr. Kumao Sako Endowment Fund for Head & Neck Cancers

The Heidi Schmidtke Endowed Fund for Leukemia Research

## Endowment Funds *(continued)*

The Linda Scime Endowment Fund for Brain Tumor Research

The Helene & Edward I. Seeberg Endowed Fund for Prostate Cancer Research

The Andrew Sobczyk Endowment for Cancer Research

The Stefanie Spielman Endowed Fund for Breast Cancer Support Programs

The Meir Wetzler, MD, Memorial Fund

The Rose Whalen Endowed Fund for Bladder Cancer Research

The Robert Stafford Wills Endowed Fund for Cholangiocarcinoma Research and Treatment

The J. Barnett Woodruff Family Endowment for Gastrointestinal Cancer Research

The Mary Lou McNamar Woodside Endowed Fund for Brain Cancer Research

The Matthew P. Zaleski Endowed Fund for Gastric Cancer Research

### Endowed Funds: \$25,000+

The Frank & Jean Acciari Endowment Fund for Melanoma Research in the Department of Immunology

The Amigone Family Endowed Fund for Urologic Oncology

The Patricia L. Banks Endowment Fund for Lung Cancer Research

The K. Michael Cummings, PhD, Endowed Fund for Tobacco Control

The Dintino Family Endowed Fund for Quality of Life Programs

The Dr. Thomas J. Dougherty Endowed Fund in Support of the Tobacco Cessation Group in Memory of Thomas Perry

The Cindy and Jim Eller Endowed Fund

The Dale J. Englehart Endowed Fund for Multiple Myeloma Research

The Donald A. Gage Patient Benefit Endowment

The Joseph L. and Emily K. Gidwitz Endowment Fund for Cancer Prevention & Outreach

The Peter S. and M. Caroline Gilfillan Family Endowment for Cancer Research

The Dr. Shashikumar R. Harvey Endowed Fund for Gastrointestinal Cancer Research

The Judy Heiler Endowed Fund for Mesothelioma Research

The Nancy H. Jewett Art Endowment

The Eftychia Kentros Endowed Fund in Ovarian Cancer Research

The Kuzniarek Family Endowment

The McDonald-Miller Family Endowment Fund for Skin Cancer Research

Dr. Enrico A. Mihich Endowed Graduate Student Fund

Dr. Enrico A. Mihich Endowed Lecture Series

The Laura and Arthur Moran Golden Anniversary Cancer Research Fund for Mesothelioma & Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma

The Richard B. Morchan Endowment for Gastrointestinal and Esophageal Cancer Research

The Amber Lynn Osgood Endowment for Sarcoma Research

The Kathleen L. Peterson Endowed Fund for Gastrointestinal Cancer Research

The Reach Out and Touch Endowed Fund for Community Outreach for Cancer Patients in Rural Communities

The Mary Kelly and James J. Rehak Jr. Endowed Fund for Pancreatic and Squamous Cell Carcinoma Cancer Research

The Dr. Thomas C. Sist Endowed Fund for Pain Medicine Studies

The Anna C. Smerka Endowment for Cancer Prevention & Outreach

The James Robert Spampata Endowment for Cancer Research

The Dr. Leonard Weiss Lecture Endowment (on Cancer Metastasis)

The Stanley and Irene Welnowski Endowment for Cancer Research

The Susan Zebro Art Endowed Fund

The Piera Zeplovitz Family Endowment

### Future Bequest Commitments

The Joan and Sonia Dale Patient Benefit Endowed Fund

The Dearnley Young Scholars Program for the Summer Student Program

The Plenz Endowment in Neurosurgery

The Gary I. Simon Endowed Fund for Kidney Cancer Research



A New Kind of  
*Community Support*  
at Roswell Park



**The Herd of Hope** — the brainchild of longtime Roswell Park supporter Bill Loecher — was created to spread awareness of the innovative research taking place at Roswell Park while raising funds to develop the kinds of ideas that could change the face of cancer treatment. For \$5,000, companies and individuals can sponsor a bright blue buffalo to display at their place of business to show the people of Western New York their commitment to the fight against cancer.

In 2018-19, 100 sponsors together contributed \$500,000 for our first award supporting team science at Roswell Park, bringing together experts in a variety of fields to build research projects that would span their cancer disciplines. After a competitive application process involving dozens of multidisciplinary teams, the first Herd of Hope award was given to a group led by David Goodrich, PhD, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics.

The team also includes:

Pamela Hershberger, PhD, Associate Member, Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Erik Knudsen, PhD, Chair, Molecular and Cellular Biology

The late Steven Pruitt, PhD, Member, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Michael Feigin, PhD, Assistant Member, Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Grace Dy, MD, Chief, Thoracic Oncology

Agnes Witkiewicz, MD, Director, Center for Personalized Medicine, and Director, Pathology Network Shared Resource

Sean Glenn, PhD, Director, Genomics Shared Resource

Jianmin Wang, PhD, Co-Director, Bioinformatics Core Resource



A cure is out there, and this research, along with future support from the Herd of Hope, will bring us one step closer to a world without cancer.  
**For more information, see [herdofhope.org](http://herdofhope.org)**



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The Roswell Park Alliance Foundation has received the ranking of 4 out of 4 stars from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Alliance Foundation has earned Charity Navigator's highest possible rating.

