

H O P E

Rises like a  
*Phoenix*

Annual Report 2019-2020



# Hope

RISES LIKE A

# Phoenix



**Hope.** It's one of our most essential tools in the fight against cancer here at Roswell Park.

Ancient Greek and Egyptian mythology have brought us an iconic symbol for it: **the phoenix**. The legendary bird was said to live 500 years, burst into flames and rise again from the ashes, reborn.

The fabled bird illustrates the hope we work so hard to foster for our patients and their loved ones in their cancer journeys: Hope to get through this. Hope to emerge strong and new. Hope to provide the support our loved one needs. Hope for more days, more holidays, more togetherness. Hope for the future.

Hope for better treatments. For world-class care. For a cure.

We find this hope in historic new partnerships, in the promise of a burgeoning new field of cancer therapy, and in the creative areas of life. But most of all, we find it in the friends and partners who give today so we all have more hope for tomorrow.

I lost my father to cancer. Roswell Park gave us hope and more time, and for that I am forever grateful — and humbled to be in a position to help provide the same to others.

Our 2019-20 fiscal year was one to be proud of. The Empire State Ride, the Ride for Roswell and All Star Night all broke fundraising records. Roswell Park was featured on the small screen across the country for its cutting-edge lung cancer treatment. Release the Breakthroughs, our immunotherapy campaign for groundbreaking therapies, launched on a critical mission to raise funds for the next big advancement in cancer care.

For the fifth year in a row, Charity Navigator, America's largest charity evaluator, gave the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation its highest ranking of four stars, placing us among the top 12% of evaluated nonprofits in the country.

But I don't think any of us could have imagined that 2020 would take the direction it did. It has been remarkable to watch the Buffalo community rise to the demands of this pandemic and work together against the tolls it has taken. Our hearts go out to everyone who has lost a loved one or faced adversity due to COVID-19.

In this Annual Report, you'll find stories about just a few of the many ways Roswell Park has helped hope rise and brought second chances to our patients. And they're all thanks to you, my friends. On behalf of everyone at Roswell Park, thank you for everything you do in our quest to bring that hope to those we serve as we strive to save more lives from cancer.

— Jim Newman  
*Chair, Board of Directors, Roswell Park Alliance Foundation*



Unleashing the  
**Powers**  
THAT LIVE WITHIN US

**The plane from Atlanta slows,** dropping gently toward Buffalo. Parents Mike and Erin are getting anxious, eager to get to their final destination, while 10-year-old Lili is quietly watching “The Greatest Showman” on her tablet.

With no checked luggage, they head straight into the warm July air and to the waiting car. The Callahan family isn’t coming home from a sunny week in Disney World or heading to see Niagara Falls. Instead, their destination is Roswell Park.

Lili has brain cancer. The Callahans are here for her third SurVaxM treatment.

The active, athletic little girl was diagnosed in fall 2019 after having a seizure during gym class. An MRI showed a lesion in her right frontal lobe: anaplastic astrocytoma taking up a quarter of her brain. She showed no other symptoms. “Your heart is ripped out of your chest,” Mike says. “We didn’t know anything about brain cancer.”

In December, Mike and Erin found out about the brain cancer vaccine SurVaxM, led by investigators Drs. Fenstermaker and Ciesielski at Roswell Park, and the promise it held for preventing recurrence. Hope sparked in their hearts. Lili had been able to fight this tumor so far, but a recurrence would be far more aggressive and very dangerous.

But she handles this new journey like the strong kid she is. “We call her the mayor of her elementary school because she’s so positive and friends with everybody,” Mike says. “Hopefully SurVaxM will help assist in shrinking what’s left, but the long goal is to prevent it from recurring. The hope we’re tied into is that this finds the surviving cancer, kills it off and prevents other cells from mutating.

“Because of Roswell Park, there is hope that my daughter can beat brain cancer,” Mike says. “The five-year outlook is positive for adults, and children usually bounce back quicker than adults. Roswell Park has given us hope.”

### ON THE CUSP OF A NEW ERA IN CANCER TREATMENT

Lili’s treatment exists because of Roswell Park’s deep involvement in cutting-edge immunotherapies, many of which have been made possible by generous donations from the Roswell Park community. SurVaxM is just one of many types of immunotherapy. And helping patients in WNY and around the world, patients like Lili, is why Roswell Park launched **Release the Breakthroughs: The Roswell Park Immunotherapy Campaign** this past September.

“BECAUSE OF  
ROSWELL PARK,  
THERE IS HOPE  
THAT MY DAUGHTER  
CAN BEAT BRAIN  
CANCER.”

“Our immune system exists to fight. It fights the flu, colds, allergies, food poisoning. But because cancer is so devastatingly good at adapting its defenses to whatever is thrown at it, the immune system has very limited power in fighting cancer’s aggressive cells,” explains Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, Deputy Director of Roswell Park and Executive Director of the Center for Immunotherapy. “Immunotherapies tap into the body’s own technology and teach or equip the immune system to fight cancer cells in new ways — either by arming it with new strength or by altering its very nature.”

Release the Breakthroughs is a \$50 million campaign to take this frontier of medicine and turn it into everyday care for cancer, eliminating the risks and side effects of traditional therapies like chemotherapy and radiation. With the facilities, capabilities and world-renowned researchers of our Center for Immunotherapy leading the way, Roswell Park is one of the few institutions in the nation that can carry out the full scope of immunotherapy in one place, from discovery research to manufacturing to administering it to patients.

It’s got an army behind it, too.

### ARMING THE SCIENTISTS

Leading the charge are Release the Breakthroughs campaign chairs Bill and Nancy Gacioch, who are excited about the promise of immunotherapy. “We know we aren’t going to be here forever,” Nancy says. “We have three children and 13 grandchildren. I think about what immunotherapy could mean to them down the road. Chemo and radiation can be so hard on people. We think of it that way. If we can really get immunotherapy going, with better options for cancer patients, it would be fabulous.”

Their own introduction to Roswell Park came when Bill was treated for melanoma. “We were so impressed with the care and the caring that he received that they had us at hello,” Nancy says. “Ever since that, we’ve been involved. We hear so many things from friends of ours who can’t believe how great the care is. And we’re very interested in immunology.

“Phenomenal care, phenomenal people and phenomenally caring people. It’s the way of Roswell,” she says. “This is our time to make a difference.”





# BECAUSE OF ROSWELL PARK, I BEAT CANCER AND CAME OUT STRONGER THAN I WENT IN.

The donations provided to the Resource Center are essential for patients who are going on this journey for the first time, patients who are scared and don't know what's going to happen. Especially for women losing their hair.

In the Resource Center, I could exhale. It provided things that helped me feel like myself again. Things that made me feel pretty, which is so important to help you get through what you need to get through. To not just physically but emotionally fight the battle. Having this wonderful, safe place to go is what really helped me feel normal again. ”

– Jennifer  
cancer survivor



# Going Above and Beyond:

A WEEK IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAM

**Healing can take so many forms.** At Roswell Park, it's not just about medical care. It really has grown to encompass treating the whole person — emotionally, psychologically, socially and spiritually — and helping with the kinds of burdens and worries that make a cancer fight even harder than it already is.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Roswell Park is able to provide a vast spectrum of programs and activities to remind our patients that cancer doesn't define them. These offerings — what we call quality of life programs — can touch a patient at every step of their journey at Roswell Park and help them adjust to their new normal.

Here is a small sample of the kinds of experiences our patients might have thanks to donor-funded quality of life programming.



## Monday

Jennifer sips coffee made for her by a kind coffee cart volunteer while she listens to a guitarist serenade the main lobby and waits for her blood work results. After she meets with her doctor to talk about her treatment progress for T cell lymphoma, she stops in the Resource Center in the back of the Sunflower Café. She picked out a new wig last week — in pink — and Martha Hickey, Patient Education Coordinator for the Resource Center, has arranged for professional styling today. Jennifer's husband, Dave, often sought the comfort of the Resource Center while Jennifer was hospitalized, and the two have found the staff to be such a comfort during their cancer journey. Now, in talking to Jennifer, Martha notices she is feeling anxious and suggests visiting the Survivorship Center for counseling. Jennifer makes the first of several appointments with Medical Psychologist Megan Pailler, PhD, and is grateful that Martha knows so much about patient services in the hospital.

## Tuesday

David arrives to visit his mom, Marilee. When he gets to her room, a pastor from the Spiritual Care Team is talking with her. They are talking, and praying, about her ovarian cancer and the time she has left, helping her cope with the news she received earlier today. In the evening, during the few hours when no one in her family is able to be with her, a Bedside Attendant steps in to keep her company until someone can return.

## Wednesday

Caryn had Hodgkin's lymphoma when she was 16. Now 37, she has stayed active in Roswell Park's Adolescent and Young Adult Program, through which she learned about the Onco-Fertility Clinic. She was never able to get pregnant before, but after a few weeks of special acupuncture at Roswell Park, she took a home pregnancy test — and it was positive! Today her clinic team took a blood sample to find out for sure. She is just sitting down in Kaminski Park when they call, crying themselves, to confirm that she is indeed pregnant.

## Thursday

Roger has arranged his day carefully. His daughter talked him into trying reiki, and now he comes in for it every Thursday morning. He also has a counseling appointment to help him cope with issues surrounding the fact that his latest treatment for lung cancer isn't working as well as they'd hoped. After that, a nutritionist he's been working with in the Survivorship Center gives him some new recipes to try so he's eating more vegetables. His last appointment is with his palliative care doctor, who reviews his regimen to help determine the best next step in his pain management.

## Friday

**4-year-old Andre** comes to the Katherine, Anne & Donna Gioia Pediatric Hematology Oncology Center for infusion. While he waits for it to be ready, Roswell Park's Child Life Specialist, Jessica Wadium, spends time with him playing with medical dolls that help kids better understand what happens during treatment. Meanwhile, his older brother, D.J., is in the playroom with their dad, playing video games and painting. Back in Andre's treatment bay, Jessica brings a tabletop bubble tube in to entertain Andre, one of the multisensory environment tools that help distract pediatric patients from the discomfort and length of their treatment.

But the best part of this day is that this is Andre's last infusion. Once it's done, his family and many members of his medical team head to the pediatric Victory Bell in the lobby. Andre rings it with the ferocity of a happy 4-year-old who is finally done with 33 long weeks of treatment.

“ BECAUSE OF ROSWELL PARK, OUR FAMILY IS WHOLE DUE TO THE LIFESAVING TREATMENT THAT ANDRE RECEIVED. ”

Andre, left, with mom Alexandra, dad Rich and brother D.J.



All of these hopeful experiences, these human interactions, these emotional conversations — they are all thanks to support from donors like you. Patients come to Roswell Park for world-renowned, cutting-edge treatment, but here they find much more than that. They find caring, compassion and, quite often, new friends who become like old family — all of which helps them find new hope and strength to rise in their fight and learn how to craft their new lives.

PBS'S **NOVA**  
RAISES NATIONAL  
ATTENTION FOR *New*  
**Hope**  
IN LUNG CANCER TREATMENT



**Cuba.**

That was not something Jim expected to learn about during his cancer journey. Fidel Castro, John F. Kennedy, an older generation: that's what Cuba meant to him. Not groundbreaking cancer treatment. But when PBS aired a "NOVA" documentary featuring Roswell Park this spring called "Cuba's Cancer Hope," Jim — and all of America — learned about some cutting-edge medical care.

Jim looks at a photo where he's posing with his little brother, a chef renowned in his home of Baltimore and around the country. He died from pneumonia after a battle with esophageal cancer in 2019 at age 66. Jim tried to convince him to travel to Buffalo and come to Roswell Park. He didn't. Jim can't help wondering how things might have turned out if he had.

**RAISING HOPE BY MAKING HISTORY**

In 2015, Roswell Park representatives traveled to Havana as part of a special New York State trade mission and formed a historic collaboration with the country's Centro de Inmunología Molecular (CIM) to bring a new kind of lung cancer vaccine to the U.S. — something never seen here before.

CIMAvax-EGF<sup>®</sup>, which was created and developed by the CIM, uses the immune system to kill cancer by targeting a protein called EGF. When the CIM first contacted Roswell Park about sharing this treatment, everyone at the cancer center was surprised — but also intrigued. It's the science behind the vaccine that ended up surprising them the most: tricking the immune system into attack mode.

"It is very, very difficult to develop a vaccine that causes the immune system to target a normal protein like EGF. But the team in Cuba managed to do this when they designed the CIMAvax vaccine," explains Kelvin Lee, MD, the Jacobs Family Chair in Immunology at Roswell Park.

**For nearly four years now, Roswell Park has been the only place in the U.S. where CIMAvax is available, and that's only through clinical trials, made possible by generous donor giving.** Dr. Lee has been a key player since day 1. He had a lot of hope for CIMAvax when this began, and the results have well surpassed his expectations.

“DONORS HAVE GIVEN ME MY LIFE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERY ONE OF THEM.”

"There has been a remarkable amount of progress since 2016," says Dr. Lee. "We have ongoing the first ever U.S. clinical trial of the CIMAvax vaccine. We have also established the first ever U.S.-Cuban joint venture to develop a portfolio of novel CIM immunotherapies for cancer. The research is progressing, with a number of clinical trials up and running for both the treatment AND the prevention of lung and other cancers."

The "NOVA" documentary has spread news about CIMAvax across the United States,

putting Roswell Park and its new capabilities in a new spotlight.

"I thought that since the documentary aired right as the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. was taking off, no one would watch it," Dr. Lee says. "But I have gotten messages from people all over the country about it.

"I am hoping that this documentary informs people across the country about multiple things — the importance to patients of new and innovative cancer therapies, the strength and determination of cancer patients like the one in the documentary, the science behind immunotherapy against cancer, and the real importance and value of collaboration."

**JIM'S LIFE: 70 YEARS AND COUNTING**

"CIMAvax has made my life normal again," Jim says, sitting on the back deck on a warm summer's day with his wife, Marcia. "I don't worry about dying. It's made me feel like there's hope. That one day maybe I won't even have to do this treatment anymore."

Jim is part of the CIMAvax phase 2 clinical trial because of squamous cell cancer of his tonsils that metastasized to his lungs. **When the metastasis was discovered, he was given a year to live. Then he found out about CIMAvax and qualified for the stage 2 trial.**

**That was two years ago. "Now no one can believe I'm sick!" he says.**

"I couldn't even think about losing Jim," says Marcia, putting down a pitcher of iced tea, sitting down and taking Jim's hand. "I'm tickled pink. What would I do without him? We've been together 53 years. CIMAvax gives us a lot of hope."



**Jim and Marcia are no strangers to giving to Roswell Park.** For the past two years, they've played Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Tree of Hope, and 2020 is their ninth year riding with the Donor Center Team in the Ride for Roswell. Donations from the Ride played a large part in the \$4 million the Alliance Foundation committed for the CIMAvax clinical trial.

"Donors have given me my life, and I would like to thank every one of them," says Jim. "Everybody knows somebody who's been touched by cancer, and Roswell Park is the answer. Because of them, I have a longer life to live and more things to do and more things to give, and I love everyone there."

# THE *Healing* POWER OF *Art*

**“A second chance at life with new lessons learned along the journey.”**

Those powerful words adorn a wing of the phoenix, a crimson bird of legend that is ready to take flight at Roswell Park. Joe Garguilo, a member of Roswell's Creative Arts Team, leans over the nearly finished painting on its easel, a jar of brushes on a small table beside him, paint waiting in fat tubes and spread strategically on a palette. Amy is standing beside him, finishing her own message of hope and taking in the dozens of other words from patients just like her.

Amy first met Joe while she was recovering from a bone marrow transplant for T cell lymphoma and couldn't leave the BMT floor until doctors were sure her immune system was healing. She was excited to add her personal touch to Joe's collaborative art piece. “The bird's really cool to begin with, and I love the idea that everyone can write what they want on it,” Amy says. Some days, Joe visits inpatient floors, while on others, he's in the main lobby, where people naturally gravitate toward the colors of the painting.

The renewal and rebirth symbolized by the mythical phoenix inspired Joe to bring it to life at Roswell Park. His hope is to provide patients with a way to express their feelings about their cancer journey, their hope and their strength, what they've learned from their journey and what rising from the ashes means to them. **He is able to bring his talents to Roswell Park thanks to generous donors who support the Creative Arts Team, part of Roswell Park's Quality of Life Program.**

“There's so much that people are grappling with when they come and go from the hospital,” Joe says. “I'm seeing people come to terms with and put words to an emotional experience that they're just beginning to understand. On the other hand, I'm helping survivors reflect on something that they may have experienced a few years ago. And it's possible that now they're their best self and living their best life.”

When Amy faced a sudden recurrence of her cancer a few months later, she remembered what it meant to meet Joe and make part of the phoenix her own. “I felt like I could give hope to people who were coming into Roswell who haven't been through what I have yet,” she says. “You come out with so many lessons learned. It's so easy to feel hopeless, so this way, you see people who've been through it and are still here, and it encourages you. They can think, I'm not in this alone.”

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



*Below, Amy adds some color to the feather she personalized on the phoenix painting.*



“ THANKS TO THE ALLIANCE FOUNDATION AND DONORS, I HAVE A SPACE TO PROVIDE HOPE BY CREATING A TRUE COMMUNITY WORK OF ART. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES MEANINGFUL FORMS OF REFLECTION AND PROFOUND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF ROSWELL. ”

## THE ROSWELL PARK CREATIVE ARTS TEAM

The phoenix painting is just one of the many ways in which Joe and the other members of the Creative Arts Team engage patients and their families in activities that bring enrichment, escape and hope as they fight cancer. Six artists make their own kinds of hospital rounds, visiting patients in treatment centers, public areas and patient rooms.\* They might bring paints, silk scarves, ceramic tiles, musical instruments, beads and more to give Roswell Park patients ways to explore and be creative.

Studies have shown that engaging in music and the visual arts has the power to relieve anxiety, depression, pain and fatigue, while improving quality of life for cancer patients.

Joe believes that art and creativity are a vital part of cancer care: “I think people see in all creative people a shoulder to lean on, and that's what our program is trying to accomplish. I only hope to listen and to share their stories in a way that is cohesive and understandable to someone who doesn't have cancer, to give them the depth and gravity of that experience.

“Thanks to the Alliance Foundation and donors, I have a space to provide hope by creating a true community work of art. I believe creativity is at the core of all acts of ministry, and this program provides meaningful forms of reflection and profound emotional support for the people of Roswell. Your generosity will open doors for future generations — of patients, families and staff — to experience the healing benefit of art during their journey.”

*\*Special visiting rules apply during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect patient health and safety.*



13 GRANTS BRING  
*Hope*  
FOR NEW WAYS TO TREAT CANCER

**Discovery.** It's one of the greatest sources of hope at Roswell Park. But the next big breakthrough can't happen without the right funding support. Roswell Park is fortunate to have supporters not just willing but eager to step up and provide the donations that will take a new research project from the first slide under a microscope to the delivery of a lifesaving treatment.

The Alliance Foundation created the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to facilitate such discovery. Twice a year the committee puts out a call for grant applications, meets to discuss each application's merits and awards grants to the projects that show the most potential for finding new treatments for cancer and new ways to understand the disease — with the hope that one day, such discovery will lead to a cure.

**On the next 3 pages are the projects — and hope-filled goals — that were chosen for SAC awards in 2019-20, totaling \$1,260,353.**

*Dr. Pallawi Torika is leading a pilot study on oncology and aging thanks to donor support.*

“BECAUSE OF DONORS, JUNIOR RESEARCHERS LIKE ME CAN STEP OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE AND ANSWER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS IN THEIR FIELD OF STUDY.”

**Research in Focus:**

**DR. TORKA AND THE BASELINE GERIATRIC ASSESSMENT TOOL**

**Imagine you've just been diagnosed** with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. You just turned 70, and you've been a widower for three years. You also have arthritis, asthma, high blood pressure and high cholesterol, so your medication load is already high. You live alone in the small house you shared with your wife for 40 years, and your three children, while devoted, can't be with you every day.

While the new pill for your leukemia is a much easier treatment than the chemo that patients like you used to need, it's far too easy to forget among all the other things you have to keep track of. But any missed treatment can mean you get sicker. And you have too much living left to do.

What can you do?

Pallawi Torika, MD, is investigating ways to help patients in situations just like this. She has observed the difficulties faced by many older people when it comes to taking their treatment consistently. Memory issues, multiple chronic health problems and lack of social support can all be factors in a patient's ability to adhere to treatment. And it varies widely among this population.

That's why she is testing the effectiveness of a geriatric assessment tool to predict which patients are likely to have difficulty taking pills on a daily basis and which are prone to side effects and decreases in quality of life. New resources like this can help determine frailty in older adults and truly help guide therapy.

The SAC grant she received to facilitate her project has enabled Dr. Torika to study a vital area of oncology where funding is hard to come by for pilot studies.

“Because of donors, junior researchers like me can step out of their comfort zone and answer important questions in their field of study. Pilot studies funded by SAC grants lay the groundwork for larger projects and prestigious NIH funding, which is vital for success of academic investigators. I am very honored and thankful that our project was selected for the award this year.”

**DR. YEARY'S STUDY ON OBESITY AND CANCER RISK IN BLACK COMMUNITIES**


**One of the reasons** obesity is such a serious public health problem in the U.S. is because it increases the risk of cancer. Blacks in the U.S. have higher rates of obesity than any other population.

To figure out how to reduce cancer risk from obesity, a team led by Karen Yeary, PhD, will work with Black communities of faith near Roswell Park to test two different weight loss interventions. The team will build on the strengths of Black churches to develop interventions that may be more effective than previous strategies in reducing obesity and lowering cancer risk in this population.


“Underserved communities bear a disproportionate burden of obesity and cancer, and I am indebted to the SAC and Roswell Park's donors to continue my work to bring health equity to these communities. Due to generous funding from the Alliance Foundation, I am understanding the extent to which different weight loss strategies can cause weight loss and reduce cancer risk of Black adults. Results from this research have the potential to move the field of obesity and cancer prevention forward, and result in a truly sustainable, scalable intervention that can reduce obesity and cancer inequities.”




## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2019-20




**Ethan Abel, PhD**, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, received **\$100,000** for his project studying drug resistance in pancreatic cancer, with the hope of improving the effectiveness of treatment and reducing its lethality.




**Andrei Bakin, PhD**, Department of Cancer Genetics and Genomics, received **\$100,000** for his project focused on breast and pancreatic cancers and the genetic alteration of a tumor suppressor, which could ultimately improve patient outcomes.




**Sebastiano Battaglia, PhD**, Center for Immunotherapy, received **\$99,896** for his project to study how an enzyme affects the immune system and cancer cells, which may lead to clinical testing to help patients diagnosed with prostate cancer.




**Anna Bianchi-Smiraglia, PhD**, Department of Cell Stress Biology, received **\$100,000** for her project dissecting the mechanisms that control the invasiveness of triple negative breast cancer, with the hope of suppressing its metastatic progression.



**Subhamoy Dasgupta, PhD**, Department of Cell Stress Biology, received **\$100,000** for his study of a metabolic enzyme in triple negative breast cancer, which could help identify new treatment options and explain the mechanisms that lead to recurrence and metastasis.

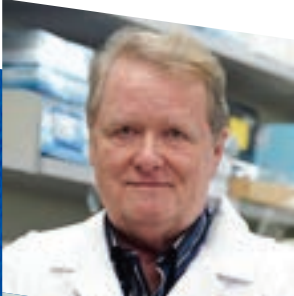


**Prasenjit Dey, PdD**, Department of Immunology, received **\$100,000** for his study exploring a novel strategy targeting a protein involved in helping tumors evade treatment for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, which could help researchers develop more successful therapies.




**Shipra Gandhi, MD**, Department of Medicine, received **\$100,000** for her project seeking to mobilize the immune system to reduce the need for chemotherapy and improve outcomes in triple negative breast cancer cases.


“PILOT STUDIES FUNDED BY SAC GRANTS LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR LARGER PROJECTS AND PRESTIGIOUS NIH FUNDING, WHICH IS VITAL FOR SUCCESS OF ACADEMIC INVESTIGATORS.”




**Michael Higgins, PhD**, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, received **\$72,337** to investigate the role of breastfeeding in preventing aggressive breast cancer.




**Steven Hochwald, MD, MBA, FACS**, Chief of Gastrointestinal/Endocrine Surgery, received **\$100,000** to study the mechanism utilized by cancer cells to use glucose as a growth hormone to drive tumor growth in esophageal cancer.




**Angela Omilian, PhD**, Department of Cancer Prevention and Control, received **\$99,993** to study the racial differences in the interactions between tumor cells and immune cells in breast cancer, which could lead to new treatment strategies for Black women.



**Pallawi Torka, MD**, Department of Medicine, received **\$88,127** to determine if a baseline geriatric assessment tool can predict treatment adherence and outcomes in older adults with chronic lymphocytic leukemia on oral therapy.



**Karen Yeary, PhD**, Department of Cancer Prevention and Control, received **\$100,000** for her study to compare different diet strategies in Black adults of faith, with the hope that reduced obesity will lead to lower cancer rates.



**Yuesheng Zhang, MD, PhD**, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, received **\$100,000** for his project to understand and learn how to utilize a protein called PEPD, with the hope of creating a new therapeutic strategy in treating cancers.

## HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND *Influence* *Cancer Research* IN SEVEN SUMMER DAYS

**Terry Bourgeois turns his bicycle into camp** at the end of a warm, early August afternoon in 2019, having completed day 5 of the Empire State Ride (ESR). Sweaty and tired but also invigorated, he and 166 other cyclists have each covered 390 miles in 5 days. But there's a surprise waiting for them — and especially for Terry, who founded the event in 2014.

Staff are jumping, yelling and waving a sign at the riders: **WE DID IT! \$1 MILLION!**

The riders have been testing their limits all week, drinking in the beauty of New York State and finding new family among their fellow cyclists. But hitting this record-breaking fundraising milestone for the first time in the event's six-year history is the best part of all.

Each full-week rider has raised at least \$3,500 to participate. Twenty became Excelsior riders by raising \$10,000 or more; the top fundraiser was Kirsten Lawley, who collected more than \$53,000. They began on Staten Island on July 28 and made overnight camp stops in Stony Point, the Hudson Valley, Schenectady, Utica, Weedsport and Spencerport. Seven beautiful, invigorating, excruciating, hot, life-changing days.

They've come to New York from 20 states, Canada and Panama. Every one of them has been touched by cancer: family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues. Some are survivors and even patients themselves. Every one of them wants to make a difference.

“SEEING THE SIGN THAT WE HAD BROKEN THROUGH \$1 MILLION RAISED WAS INCREDIBLY OVERWHELMING.”

Their commitment at first glance may appear to be about the once-in-a-lifetime, 546-mile journey. But it's really about helping cancer patients. The donations raised are supporting critical cancer research at Roswell Park — breakthrough treatments and clinical trials for cutting-edge immunotherapy, like SurVaxM and CIMAvax, that will change the face of cancer treatment for patients not just in Buffalo but around the world.

*“Seeing the sign that we had broken through \$1 million raised was incredibly overwhelming,” Terry says. “Images of so many people who made it possible flashed through my mind like a movie. The images I see and feel include the amazing outcomes these donations are achieving, the glint in a researcher’s eye when they announce results and the tears of joy when we witness the Victory Bell being rung. The Roswell story is being told across the nation and around the world by our Empire State Riders, and I am so proud to be amongst them.”*



Terry, founder of the Empire State Ride



Terry and fellow ESR riders celebrating a major milestone.

# Hope Rises

THROUGH COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED EVENTS



**The challenge of treating and curing cancer** may be centered within Roswell Park, but that's definitely not where it stops. All you have to do is take a look at the vast number of people who support Roswell Park events to provide the hope so critical to the millions fighting their cancer battles, near and far.

How can we continue to grow hope? By turning to this amazing community. It's everywhere you look. With every Empire State Ride mile, hope grows. With every Carly's Crossing swimmer and All Star Night guest, hope multiplies. With every student who shaves their head, hope rises. And at the Ride for Roswell, hope completely floods our corner of the world.

**Community events provided \$10,823,628 in donations last year. Here are our biggest events of 2019-20.**



## The Ride for Roswell

\$5,708,694

The 24<sup>th</sup> Ride for Roswell, presented by the West Herr Automotive Group, brought the community together to celebrate life, hope and those we love. 7,940 riders, 2,200 volunteers and 75,000 individual donations helped the Ride break another record as we surpassed \$5.7 million! With the 2019 Ride in the books, the Ride for Roswell has raised more than \$53 million for cancer research and patient care programs at Roswell Park.



EMPIRE STATE RIDE  
TO END CANCER

## Empire State Ride

\$1,059,835

The Empire State Ride hit its own fundraising record as it surpassed \$1 million for the first time in the event's history. On July 28, 167 riders set off from Staten Island on their adventure to end cancer, spending seven days traveling 500+ miles across New York State before crossing the finish line in Niagara Falls to the cheers of loved ones August 3. Riders from 20 states, Panama and Canada rode to raise funds advancing cancer research that will benefit patients not just at Roswell Park but around the world.



GOIN' BALD  
FOR BUCKS

## Goin' Bald for Bucks

\$584,825

While none of us could have anticipated that the Bald for Bucks season would be interrupted by a global pandemic, the determination of many students, teachers and others still helped make this a great year for snipping, clipping and shaving your way to cancer cures. Thirty-three schools registered to go Bald, bringing in \$221,809 for the 2019-2020 school year. We'd like to give a special shout-out to Frontier Middle School, whose dedication the last four years has raised \$100,000! The Buffalo Sabres T-shirt promotion raised \$108,233 this year, with 1,521 donations of \$50 or more from 35 states and five countries.



## All Star Night

\$561,081

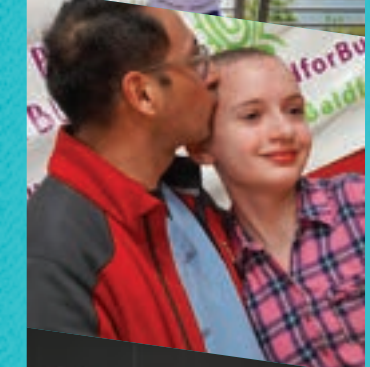
Our 2019 All Star Night, presented by M&T Bank, celebrated our hometown of Buffalo, with guests enjoying cuisine, entertainment and décor reflecting Queen City favorites. Longtime volunteer Bill Loecher was awarded the Katherine Anne Gioia Inspiration Award for his inspirational service and commitment to Roswell Park. The Thomas B. Tomasi Hope Award was presented to Andrew Hyland, PhD, Chair of the Department of Health Behavior, for his commitment to preventing cancer and improving the lives of millions around the world. The Gilda Radner Courage Award was presented to Boris Kuvshinoff, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer of Roswell Park, for his passion and dedication to Roswell Park, for leading by example, and for inspiring his patients and his colleagues with his perseverance in the face of his own cancer journey.



## Carly's Crossing and Summer Splash

\$149,755

Our eighth annual Summer Splash celebrated a beautiful Buffalo summer evening on August 2 with a waterfront cocktail party benefiting our pediatric patients. Wearing sky blue, guests enjoyed premier local fare while dancing the night away. Those who joined in Carly's Crossing on August 4 swam a half-mile or mile along the Lake Erie shore before joining family and friends for another fun Beach Bash in the sun. Both are presented by Upstate Pharmacy Ltd.; all donations support pediatric cancer and blood disorders through the Courage of Carly Fund.



INAUGURAL DAY OF GIVING ASKS

# ‘What Matters to You?’

“What matters to you?” asked 6-year-old Desmond, a pediatric patient with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, undoubtedly charming everyone who saw him. Roswell Park’s first ever 24-hour fundraising event invited the community to give to the research area that means the most to them. 850 donations brought in \$102,588, which went immediately to support important research at Roswell Park.

Day of Giving enlisted Roswell Park staff and faculty to rally the community to raise funds to support research with these goals in mind: increasing survival rates, developing new treatments, providing access to new therapies through clinical trials and offering supportive services throughout our patients’ cancer journeys. One of those staff ambassadors was Therese Kurtz, RN, BSN, CCRN, Urology Oncology Nurse Coordinator, who reached out to patients in the support group she leads, posted on social media and even tapped colleagues on the shoulder to nudge them for donations.

**“I want my patients to get the best. Because of fundraising, more is possible at Roswell Park that wouldn’t be otherwise,” Therese explains about why she got involved. “I’m really passionate about this, and for personal reasons, too — my mom had bladder cancer. She’s doing well now, but it was a long struggle for her.”**

Another area that benefited from donors like you was skin cancer research. Skin cancers are the most common cancers in the world. 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70, making donations crucial to finding new ways to prevent and treat this disease. Gyorgy Paragh, MD, PhD, Department of Dermatology, says the Day of Giving funds raised for dermatology are helping his team establish a model for studying early ultraviolet carcinogenesis. “This model in the long term will help us understand how early mutations in the skin contribute to skin cancer formation, and will enable us to better prevent skin cancer,” he explains. “We are grateful to every donor and for every donation.”

Francisco Hernandez, MD, Chief, Lymphoma Section, was also excited about the results for his disease site. “The funds raised will help our lymphoma translational program continue our work focused on: 1. understanding why patients fail to respond to chemo-immunotherapy treatments, and 2. developing new therapeutic strategies to overcome acquired resistance to chemotherapy in B-cell lymphoma,” he says. “I would like to take time to thank all the donors who showed their support during the Day of Giving campaign. As a community, we are facing very challenging, very difficult times, and your generosity is deeply appreciated.”

**What matters to you? Watch for this year’s Day of Giving on October 21!**

*Patients Desmond and Jacqueline invited the Roswell Park and WNY communities to give to the areas that matter most to them.*



“ BECAUSE OF FUNDRAISING, MORE IS POSSIBLE AT ROSWELL PARK THAT WOULDN'T BE OTHERWISE. ”



# A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

**Team ROSWELL**  
CHAMPIONS FOR CANCER CURES

The power to give rise to hope lies with each one of us in the simplest of ways. Team Roswell gives community members near and far the tools to spread hope by turning their passions, hobbies and special moments into donations supporting the next big cancer breakthrough. Whether it’s a little boy hoping to help his dad by holding a summer lemonade stand, a girls basketball team playing a game for a teacher, an Italian festival celebrating a family matriarch’s successful fight, a birthday party or a golf challenge, everyone who participates in Team Roswell is a champion not just for cures but for hope.

**In 2019-20, Team Roswell participants held 250 events to give hope to cancer patients at Roswell Park, raising \$2,030,894.**

**On the following two pages are just a few of the great events friends, family and neighbors have put together.**



## 11 Day Power Play Community Shift \$1,000,000

In 2019, more than 2,500 pairs of skates, led by founders Mike and Amy Lesakowski, hit the ice in continuous four-hour shifts during this hockey marathon at Buffalo's Harborcenter, raising critically needed funds for cancer research and supportive programs at Roswell Park for the third year in a row.



WCC 1,000 Holes

**Wanakah Country Club 1,000 Holes and Pink Ribbon Tournament**

**\$62,969**

Ten players combined to play 1,000 holes of golf in one day for the 1,000 Holes golf marathon to raise funds for the Courage of Carly Fund, with each player covering about 35 miles on foot. In the Pink Ribbon event, women participated in an 18-hole scramble tournament before enjoying a luncheon and a silent and live auction, with proceeds benefiting cancer research at Roswell Park.

**A Taste for Life**

**\$61,608**

Guests enjoy an evening filled with wine, craft beer and treats both sweet and savory at the Saturn Club, all while supporting groundbreaking research advancing lung cancer treatments and therapies at Roswell Park.



A Taste for Life

**Shooting Hoops for a Cure**

**\$33,125**

This annual game began in 2011 when the Pembroke Lady Dragons girls basketball team approached their coach, Mike Wilson, about how to help 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.



Shooting Hoops for a Cure

**Friends of Carly – White Party and Gift Gathering**

**\$30,200**

Each year, the Friends of Carly come together to raise critical funds for the Courage of Carly Fund at Roswell Park. Their summer event, the White Party, is a top party of the summer with one rule: wear white. In December, the group joins forces to collect toys and fulfill our wish list for the Courage of Carly Fund holiday party.



Friends of Carly

**Sip Away Sarcoma**

**\$26,699**

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.

**Tony Reid Memorial Sportsmans Raffle**

**\$24,000**

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 and more.

**Buffalo Niagara Building Trade Hockey Tournament**

**\$20,219**

The first ever Buffalo Niagara Building Trade Hockey Tournament brought teams from 10 building trades across Western New York together to compete against each other in a three-day tournament benefiting Roswell Park.

**Saddle Up for Roswell**

**\$16,114**

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



Saddle Up for Roswell

**Every Team Roswell event is a champion for cancer cures.**

Here are a few more of the top fundraising events.

**Starpoint Locked In to Lock Out Cancer**

**\$12,000**

**Nicholas Dusenberry Memorial Golf Tournament**

**\$11,995**

**Elmwood Village Celebration of Hope**

**\$11,963**

**DiVal Safety Charity Event**

**\$11,300**

**Racquets for Roswell**

**\$10,872**

**Hockey Mom Foundation Golf Tournament**

**\$10,000**

**Sink Cancer with Corn Hole**

**\$10,000**

**Lindsay's Legacy 5K**

**\$10,000**

**NYS USBC Bowling Tournament**

**\$10,000**

NEW HERD OF HOPE MEMBERS  
HELP FUEL THAT NEXT

# Big Breakthrough



Above from left: Rikki Cannioto, PhD; Kristopher Attwood, PhD; Song Yao, PhD; Elizabeth Bouchard, PhD; Christine Ambrosone, PhD, the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation Endowed Chair in Cancer Prevention; Elizabeth Repasky, PhD, the Dr. William Huebsch Professorship in Immunology; Chi-Chen Hong, PhD; Andrew Ray, PT, PhD.

Their research study investigating the connections between stress and cancer won the 2019 Herd of Hope Team Science Award, founded by longtime advocate Bill Loecher. The research team's ultimate goal is a grant from the National Cancer Institute to establish a Center of Excellence in Stress Research at Roswell Park.

The following generous organizations, individuals and government entities all joined the Herd of Hope in 2019-20 in support of cancer patients across Western New York and the quest for that next big breakthrough. With their sponsorships, they have become part of a group of over 120 organizations that understand the importance of research for the future of cancer diagnosis and treatment.

- |  |   |                                  |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation                | Holiday Valley Resort                     | Pooley Inc.                      |
| Bernice Kuca                                     | Ingram Micro Inc.                         | Sgroi Financial, LLC             |
| BlueCross BlueShield of WNY                      | Jayne and Joe Kelly                       | Sonwil Distribution Center, Inc. |
| Connors & Ferris LLP                             | John and Kathy Wabick                     | The OSC Charitable Foundation    |
| Doritex Corp.                                    | MJ Mechanical Services, Inc.              | Tony Rehak                       |
| Erie County Department of Environment & Planning | MJ Painting Contractor Corp.              | Town of North Collins            |
| Fruit Fresh Up, Inc.                             | Niagara Frontier Orthopaedic Supplies LLC | Town of Sardinia                 |
|  | Peerless Inc.                             | Wendt Corporation                |

## Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2020

### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$26,865,664
Investments, at market value*	65,286,467
Pledges and bequests receivable, net	8,756,586
Split interest agreements	527,113
Other assets	415,412
Due from related parties	1,604,532

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$103,455,774**

### LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accrued liabilities	\$445,240
Grants payable to related parties	19,698,175
Annuities payable	813,257

Total liabilities 20,956,672

Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	8,573,434
With donor restrictions	73,925,668

Total net assets 82,499,102

**TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS** **\$103,455,774**

## Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2020

### REVENUE and SUPPORT

Contributions		\$28,955,194
Special Events	10,823,628	
Annual Fund/Direct Mail	2,463,296	
Individual Major Gifts/Planned Gifts	11,475,146	
Foundations	2,898,859	
Corporate Partnerships	1,294,266	
Gift shop receipts		522,890
Interest and dividends		1,852,677

**TOTAL REVENUE and SUPPORT** **31,330,761**

### DISTRIBUTIONS and EXPENSES

Grants to benefit Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center	22,008,950
Management and general expenses	1,441,282
Fundraising expenses	4,949,083
Gift shop expenses	432,418

**TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS and EXPENSES** **28,831,733**

Excess of revenue and support over distributions and expenses	2,499,028
Net realized and unrealized losses on investments*	(9,841,382)
Actuarial losses on annuity obligations and split interest agreements	(87,972)

Change in net assets (7,430,326)

**NET ASSETS, BEGINNING of YEAR** **89,929,428**

**NET ASSETS, END of YEAR** **\$82,499,102**

\* In the months following March 31, 2020, the Foundation's investments have seen a significant recovery, restoring investments close to their pre-pandemic levels.

# Legacy Giving

Members of the **Dr. Roswell Park Society\*** have expressed their commitment through a very special and important form of financial support — a future 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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|  |  | Mr. and Mrs. James Quigley            | Ms. Carole Zeiher                        |

“ ROSWELL PARK IS WHERE MY LIFE NOT ONLY WAS SAVED;  
IT WAS CHANGED. MY SECOND BOUT WITH CANCER  
CHANGED MY OUTLOOK ON EVERYTHING, AND MY  
FAMILY AND I ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO THIS PLACE. ”

— Lavon  
cancer survivor

# 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, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

## \$1 million+

11 Day Power Play, Inc.  
Mr. Roman Abramovich  
Mrs. Patricia Fors  
Bill and Nancy Gacioch and Family  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Greene III  
R.A. Foundation  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

## \$500,000-\$999,999

Anonymous  
Estate of Nancy A. Cunningham  
M&T Charitable Foundation

## \$250,000-\$499,999

Breast Cancer Research Foundation  
Estate of Hope Ilona Gottlieb  
Mrs. Nancy Hahn  
Estate of Margaret E. Pabst

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SeaComm  
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Zeron Foundation

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Buffalo Police Department Goin' Bald for Bucks  
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Linde Foundation, Inc.  
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Vaika, Inc.  
Wanakah County Club 1,000 Holes  
WGRZ-TV Channel 2 News  
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## \$10,000-\$24,999

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DiVal Safety Charity Event  
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Nicholas A. Dusenberry Memorial Golf Tournament  
Mr. and Mrs. Ross J. Eckert  
Dr. Stephen Edge and Dr. Cynthia Swain



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Erie County Holding Center Goin' Bald for Bucks  
Ferguson Electric  
Robert J. & Martha B. Fierle Foundation  
Frontier Middle School Goin' Bald for Bucks  
Fruit Fresh Up, Inc.  
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New Era Cap Company, Inc.  
The Donald F. and Barbara L. Newman Family Foundation  
Nichols School Goin' Bald for Bucks  
North Collins Central School District Goin' Bald for Bucks  
Northwood Elementary Goin' Bald for Bucks  
NYS USBC Bowling Tournament

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry W. O'Connell  
Mr. William A. Paladino  
Mr. Keith E. Patrick  
Mrs. Joan M. Peck  
Mr. D. Russell Peters  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Piazza  
Pie Dog Media USA, Inc.  
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Rapaport Family Charitable Trust  
Dr. Elisa Rapaport  
Racquets for Roswell  
Tony Reid Memorial Sportsmans Raffle  
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Rich Family Foundation  
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Sadler Jr.  
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Sheldon Precision  
Mr. Gavin Sherman  
Sink Cancer with Corn Hole  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sobel  
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Spivy  
Ms. Christine Standish and Mr. Christopher Wilk  
Starpoint Locked In to Lock Out Cancer  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Steinwachs  
Subway  
Systems Management Planning, Inc.  
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WUTV Fox 29  
Mr. Carl J. Yerkovich  
Mr. Arnold Zimmer and Ms. Peggy Kulick

† Deceased

“ IF IT WEREN'T FOR  
ROSWELL PARK'S TESTING  
AND TREATMENT, I MIGHT  
NOT BE ABLE TO ENJOY  
THE PRESENT MOMENTS  
LIVING A FULL LIFE. ”

– Ken  
cancer survivor



# Endowment Funds

\*As of July 8, 2020

## 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 (held by Andrei V. Gudkov, PhD, DSci)

The Lee Foundation Chair in Palliative and Supportive Care (held by Amy Case, MD, FAAHPM)

## Endowed Chairs: \$1.5 million+

The Alfiero Foundation Endowed Chair in Breast Oncology (held by Kazuaki Takabe, MD, PhD)

The Lawrence P. and Joan Castellani Family Endowed Chair in Dermatology in honor of Allan R. Oseroff, MD, PhD (last held by Oscar R. Colegio, MD, PhD)

The Katherine Anne Gioia Endowed Chair in Cancer Medicine (held by Marc Ernstoff, MD)

The Hope Ilona Gottlieb Endowed Chair in Breast Cancer Translational Research (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)

M&T Bank Presidential Chair in Leadership (held by Candace S. Johnson, PhD)

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 Cancer Immunotherapy (held by Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, FRCOG, FACOG)

## Endowed Funds: \$1 million+

Courage of Carly Endowed Fund for Pediatric Cancer

The Joseph and Kathleen Curatolo Endowment for Pediatric Quality of Life Projects

The William and Nancy Gacioch Family Endowed Fund for Cancer Research

The Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center Priority Endowed Fund

## 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

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 David Jay Dougherty Memorial Fund for Lung Cancer Detection & Treatment

The Ann and Tracy Hartman Endowment for Cancer Research

The Leonard S. LoVullo Endowment for Leukemia Research

The David, Anne and Scot McLellan Endowment for Pediatric and Prostate Cancer Research

The Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry Endowment

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

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

The Lucille M. Kopp Endowment for Cancer Research

The Betty Lee Endowment for Leukemia 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 Peter S. and M. Caroline Gilfillan Family Endowment for Cancer 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 Gregg Lipsitz Family Endowment for Esophageal Cancer Research

Lisa's Legacy Endowed Fund for Colon Cancer Research

The Jacqueline V. LoRusso Endowed Fund for Breast Cancer Research

## Endowment Funds *(continued)*

The Matthew & Julie Endowment Fund for Gastrointestinal Cancer Research

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

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

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

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 Stephen B. Woodruff Endowment Fund 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 Donofrio 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 Dr. Shashikumar R. Harvey Endowed Fund for Gastrointestinal Cancer 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 Janet and Kevin O'Leary Endowed Fund for Cancer Research and the Angel Fund

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 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 Spampata and Colquhoun Families Endowed Fund for Patient Support through Quality of Life Programs

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 Zepowitz 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



“ BECAUSE OF  
ROSWELL PARK,  
I FEEL LIKE ALEX HAS  
THE BEST CHANCE OF  
OVERCOMING THIS  
AND BEING CURED. ”

– Katie

Alex, pediatric cancer patient,  
with his mom, Katie



ROSSELL PARK ALLIANCE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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THIS ANNUAL REPORT IS DEDICATED TO KATHLEEN THEAL

“ WITH PAIN, YOU BECOME EITHER BITTER OR BETTER. I CHOSE TO BECOME *better.* ”

In 2004, Kathleen Theal was diagnosed with stage 3c ovarian cancer. While advanced ovarian cancer is so difficult to treat that it's called the silent killer, Kathleen went into remission for 10 years. "I've been called a miracle," she would tell you.

But then she had recurrences. As she started spending more time at Roswell Park, she began making new connections. She became a fundamental part of the Roswell Park family and shared her story at events, in publications and in commercials.

At the end of 2019, Kathleen died from the cancer that had come back too strong for any of our treatments to overcome.

This is why we fight.

This is why we still have so much more to do.

Cutting-edge cancer treatments gave Kathleen another 15 years. But cancer still took her in the end. We won't stop until the day a cancer diagnosis is nothing to fear. Until the day we find a cure.

We learn from every person who walks through our doors, young and old, healthy and sick. Kathleen symbolizes them all.





*Debra, cancer survivor*

46904



Elm & Carlton Streets | Buffalo, New York 14263  
716-845-4444 | [RoswellPark.org/Giving](https://RoswellPark.org/Giving)



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 fifth consecutive year that the Alliance Foundation has earned Charity Navigator's highest possible rating.

