Spring 2012

HOLLINGS HORIZONS

The Newsletter of Hollings Cancer Center
Medical University of South Carolina

Hollings Breast Cancer Research and Treatment

Last year, the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) issued a challenge to eradicate breast cancer by the year 2020. It was bold move that the NBCC says was necessary to end more than three decades of incremental progress against the second most fatal type of cancer for women after lung cancer.

Ann Ramsdell, PhD, is a breast cancer researcher at Hollings and a breast cancer survivor. Ramsdell, pictured with her son, is featured in a Hollings clinical trials awareness campaign.

While researchers and physicians remain divided about what's possible by 2020, everyone agrees that ending breast cancer by any date is a shared goal. At leading cancer research centers like Hollings, the key to conquering breast cancer is to attack it from all angles: basic, translational, and clinical research, screening and diagnostic imaging, treatment protocols, prevention and control, and training the next generation of scientists.

"At Hollings, the breast cancer research program is multifaceted and growing," said Carola Neumann, MD, leader of the breast cancer research group. "At any given time, at least 20 researchers and physician-researchers in multiple areas across the MUSC campus are working on breast cancer. And Hollings has collaborations with South Carolina's other research universities, cancer centers across the country, and biotech industry leaders."

Currently, Hollings has dozens of funded and pilot research projects devoted to breast cancer. Some of the more significant projects include:

- An NIH-funded study exploring whether nucleolin, a protein on the cell surface of common breast cancers that aids in the delivery of nutrients to the cells, is an effective delivery system for antibodies to destroy cancer cells. This study builds on patented research, developed by Hollings researchers, that has been effective in killing prostate and some blood cancer cells.
- A $1.4 million grant from the US Department of Defense that supports multiple research endeavors in collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine, internationally-known for its breast cancer research. One study investigates how specific biomarkers in triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) respond to platinum-based chemotherapy. TNBC is an aggressive and hard to treat cancer for which most standard therapies are not effective. Another study examines why patients with metabolic syndrome, such as obesity-related type 2 diabetes, have a higher risk of developing breast cancer. The goal of this research is to develop interventional screening and prevention programs for people with metabolic syndrome.

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Inside Horizons

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HOLLINGS CANCER CENTER
A National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Center

Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

Hollings Cancer Center
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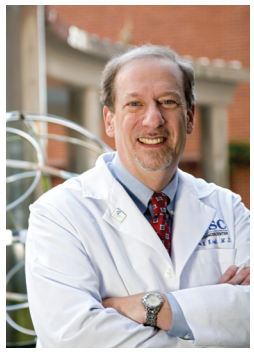
From the Director



So far, 2012 has been a good year for the Hollings Cancer Center. This issue of Hollings Horizons brings you up to date on big developments since our last issue and some exciting things unfolding over the next few months.

The achievements of successful cancer cancers like Hollings rest squarely with the people on our team. And I am pleased to report that our team of physicians and scientists is growing, allowing us to expand our treatment and research programs with significant talent.

Some of these scientists and physician-scientists have joined Hollings thanks to South Carolina's SmartState Centers of Economic Excellence Program. SmartState is a visionary program enacted by the SC General Assembly that enables the state's three public research institutions to use education lottery revenue to conduct specialized research that will advance the state's economy.

For example, Hollings recently launched a Phase I clinical trial that is a first for MUSC. The study, led by two SmartState researchers, Melanie B. Thomas, MD, and Charles D. Smith, PhD, is testing a drug developed by Dr. Smith for the first time in humans. Phase I trials are the first critical step in the long process of developing better cancer therapies, something which cancer research centers like Hollings are committed to doing.

To expand the Phase I program, Hollings has recruited Carolyn Britten, MD, who will join the MUSC faculty this summer. Dr. Britten, nationally noted for her Phase I expertise, has spent the last nine years in leadership positions at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

And next month, Michael B. Lilly, MD, a nationally-recognized expert in targeted therapeutics, joins Hollings to co-lead our translational research program. Dr. Lilly will also be bringing his expertise in prostate cancer to provide outstanding care to patients at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston.

It's a pleasure to have this good news to share. Please join us in cheering on our teams as they make a difference for South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Kraft, MD
Director, Hollings Cancer Center
William H. Folk, MD, Chair in Experimental Oncology

HOLLINGS WELCOMES NEW RESEARCH FACULTY

Stephen P. Ethier, PhD

Stephen P. Ethier, PhD, a noted researcher in breast cancer biology and cancer genomics, will co-lead the Cancer Genetics and Molecular Regulation Program. Ethier, a professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at MUSC, holds the Countess Alicia Spaulding-Paolozzi Distinguished Endowed Chair in Breast Cancer Diagnosis, Treatment and Research. He was recruited from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, MI.

Ethier's research explores the genetic drivers of cancer, specifically which few genetic alterations among the thousands found in cancer cells drive a tumor's growth. While his work has largely focused on breast cancer, Ethier said that causal genetic drivers for one type of cancer likely play a role in others.

"This is one of the most exciting frontiers in cancer research. The genetic focus on cancer means that we'll be able to develop more drugs that target tumors based on their genetic signatures rather than on where they originate in the body. This is going to make a dramatic impact in cancer treatment."

Chanita Hughes-Halbert, PhD

Chanita Hughes-Halbert, PhD, one of the country's leading researchers in health disparities, brings extensive experience and a significant body of novel research in disparities for cancer and other major diseases. Hughes-Halbert, a professor in MUSC's Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, holds the AT&T Distinguished Endowed Chair in Cancer Equity in Hollings and the SmartState Center of Economic Excellence Endowed Chair in Cancer Disparities. She was recruited from the University of Pennsylvania.

"MUSC and Hollings are strongly committed to addressing cancer equity issues in a state with an ethnically diverse population and, as a result, marked disparities in disease and healthcare outcomes across all populations. Hollings is one of the few cancer centers I've seen that addresses disparities as such a priority. MUSC has the potential to serve as a national model on minority health issues."

Cathy L. Melvin, PhD, MPH

Cathy L. Melvin, PhD, MPH, has joined MUSC as section leader of Dissemination and Implementation Research in Hollings' Cancer Prevention and Control Program. Melvin, recruited from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, is an associate professor in MUSC's Department of Medicine, Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Over the last 20 years, her research has focused on using evidence-based approaches to improve health care and change behavior. Her work, which includes national and international collaborations, engages faculty and staff from many disciplines in developing a strong research, teaching, and service agenda for dissemination research and practice, and for cancer prevention and control.

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■ A landmark study funded by the NIH exploring why African Americans in the US develop and die from certain cancers at a higher rate than Caucasians. The study is among the first of its kind in the US to include South Carolina Sea Island residents, the most genetically homogeneous black population in the US. They are direct descendants of Africans removed by force from West Africa, primarily from Sierra Leone. The genetic distance between the Sea Island populations and those in Sierra Leone is less than the distance between Sea Island populations and African American populations in the US.

Several members of the breast cancer research group: front row (l-r) Megan Baker, MD; Rita M. Kramer, MD; Amanda C. LaRue, PhD; Ann F. Ramsdell, PhD; back row (l-r) Stephen P. Ethier, PhD; Daniel J. Fernandes, PhD; Carola A. Neumann, MD; Dennis K. Watson, PhD; Victoria J. Findlay, PhD

> *"What distinguishes Hollings' breast treatment program from any other institution in South Carolina is how deep and broad it is. We're always improving and raising the bar because we owe that to our patients."*
>
> *Megan Baker, MD, director of Hollings' Comprehensive Breast Health Center.*

■ Using cutting-edge technology to help identify the specific genetic abnormalities, or oncogenes, within a tumor that drive its growth and proliferation. Identifying oncogenes paves the way for personalized targeted therapy – more effective and less toxic drugs. This is the forefront of cancer research.

■ A study exploring the causes of drug-induced peripheral neuropathy, a painful and often debilitating side effect of some common chemotherapy drugs. The study focuses on paclitaxel, a medication used to treat early and advanced breast cancer, which leads to neuropathy in about 40% of patients who take it. In some cases, effective therapy is discontinued because of side effects. Researchers believe that an accumulation of an abnormal lipid protein causes nerve damage. The study centers on measuring samples donated by patients for abnormal levels of lipid proteins.

■ An NIH-funded study addressing a virtually unstudied feature – why more tumors arise in the left breast. The overall hypothesis is that the left and right breast tissues are differentially susceptible to tumor-initiation and/or progression. If correct, differential left-right susceptibility may be particularly important during puberty, when breast tissue is highly vulnerable to genetic, hormonal, and other environmental changes that may promote abnormal cell growth.

Raising the Bar in Treatment

Hollings' mission of alleviating the burden of cancer on South Carolinians is dual: treating patients for every type of cancer today while searching for better treatments, and ultimately a cure, for future patients. For the 3,300 women in South Carolina who will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012, offering the most advanced treatments available is essential.

"What distinguishes Hollings' breast treatment program from any other institution in South Carolina is how deep and broad it is," said Megan Baker, MD, director of Hollings' Comprehensive Breast Health Center. "We're always improving and raising the bar because we owe that to our patients." Hollings was among the first cancer centers in the state to earn national accreditation for its breast imaging, diagnosis, and treatment programs by voluntarily adopting some of the nation's most sophisticated and stringent practices.

Highlights of the comprehensive breast program include:

■ A high-risk breast clinic offering advanced screening, detection, treatment, and genetic testing and counseling for women at high risk.

■ MUSC's Advanced Breast Reconstruction Program that has helped pioneer and refine techniques to rebuild a woman's breast with her own tissue. Our surgeons have have refined the DIEP procedure in which they detach a "free flap" of tissue from one part of a woman's body and then shape it into a new breast. Because of this expertise, they handle high-risk cases as well as complicated revisions to past reconstructions.

■ MUSC breast reconstruction surgeons who are among a select few in the US with the expertise to alleviate lymphedema, the painful and debilitating swelling caused by the removal of lymph nodes following mastectomy. Our surgeons perform a vascular lymph node transfer by replacing the lymph nodes taken from under the affected arm with healthy ones from the other side. At the same time, they remove radiation-related scar tissue that limits movement. Patients experience reduced swelling and pain and improved range of motion.

■ Treatment plans developed for each patient by a team. A hallmark of academic cancer centers like Hollings is the tumor board, a weekly meeting of disease-specific experts (surgeons, radiologists, oncologists, radiation oncologists) who work together to develop individual treatment plans based on the different elements of each patient's case.

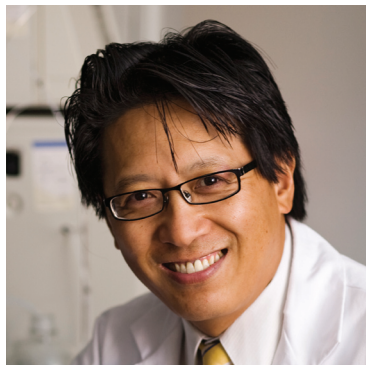
■ A portfolio of clinical and therapeutic clinical trials, some of which are unavailable elsewhere in South Carolina.

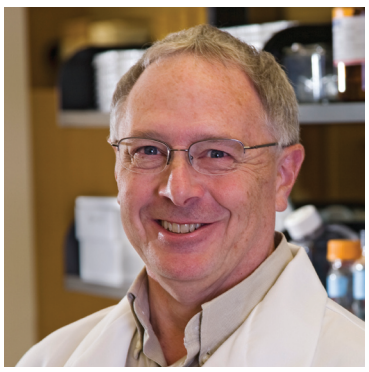
SMARTSTATE PROGRAM KEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH AT HOLLINGS

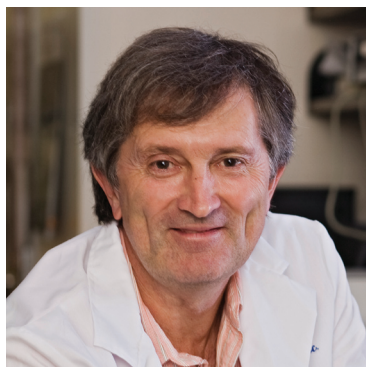

Richard R. Drake, PhD


Chanita Hughes-Halbert, PhD


John J. Lemasters, MD, PhD


Zihai Li, MD, PhD


Charles D. Smith, PhD


Kenneth D. Tew PhD, DSc


Melanie B. Thomas, MD


Patrick M. Woster, PhD

Despite more than a decade of stagnant federal funding for cancer research and steep state budget cuts, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and Hollings have continued to recruit top scientists and grow their research programs thanks to South Carolina's SmartState Program.

The SC General Assembly established the SmartState Program in 2002, funding it with Education Lottery revenue. The legislation authorizes the state's three public research institutions – MUSC, Clemson University and the University of South Carolina (USC) – to use state funds to create Centers of Economic Excellence in research areas that will advance South Carolina's economy. Each center is awarded $2 million - $5 million in state funds that must be matched dollar-for-dollar with non-state funds.

Rep. Robert W. Harrell, Jr., the SC Speaker of the House of Representatives, led the effort to establish the program, seeing its potential to strengthen the state's economy.

"Driven by business input, industry investments, world-class scientists, and top-notch research facilities, this public/private partnership has taken our state's knowledge-based economy to a new level," Harrell said. "In less than a decade, the SmartState program has accomplished huge strides and is responsible for generating more than $1.2 billion in external investment into our economy. Because of this, SmartState is a national model for success."

A hallmark of SmartState is the Endowed Chairs program which brings talented scientists recruited from national marquee research institutions, including Fox Chase Cancer Center and MD Anderson Cancer Center, to lead the centers.

A Growing Research Portfolio and NCI Designation

MUSC serves as the lead institution on 19 SmartState Centers in biomedical and healthcare research, collaborating on 11 of those with Clemson, USC, and SC State University. Six centers are dedicated to cancer research at Hollings.

"The SmartState Program has generated tremendous energy across the three research universities promoting collaboration for programmatic development and the recruitment of more than 25 endowed chairs," MUSC Associate Provost for Research Stephen M. Lanier, PhD, said.

"This program has been critical to the sustained growth of our research, which goes hand-in-hand with economic development and improved quality of life for the communities we serve."

As well-conceived as it is, SmartState would not have succeeded without its non-state partners. Dozens of major corporations, such as BMW, GlaxoSmithKline, and AT&T, as well as private donors and federal agencies, met the challenge to improve the welfare of the state and citizens, said SmartState Review Board Vice-Chair Melvin Williams, also a member of the Hollings Advisory Board. "The SmartState Program is deeply committed to cancer research and improving cancer screening in South Carolina. The teams have secured additional significant investment in cancer research," Williams said. "This enables the Hollings Cancer Center to develop better treatments for cancer, as well as to translate major cancer-related discoveries from the laboratory to the market."

Hollings Cancer Center Director Andrew S. Kraft, MD, said the SmartState Program was vital to the cancer center's achievement of NCI designation in 2009.

"SmartState and our philanthropic partners that matched the state's investment helped Hollings join the country's top cancer research centers in conducting research targeting some of cancer's most complex questions," Kraft said. "The program has brought scientists here that are the envy of other institutions. Their work will lead to important findings."

To learn more about the SC SmartState Program, visit www.smartstatesc.org

SmartState Cancer-Related Centers of Economic Excellence

Gastrointestinal Cancer Diagnostics

- Co-led by Melanie B. Thomas, MD, associate director of clinical investigations at Hollings
- Supported by The Grace E. DeWolff Distinguished Endowed Chair in Medical Oncology
- MUSC has recruited Carolyn Britten, MD, from UCLA. Dr. Britten will be supported by The Charles Westfield Coker Distinguished Endowed Chair in Gastrointestinal Oncology

Tobacco-Related Malignancy Research

- Recruiting for two co-leaders to be supported at MUSC by The Burtschy Family Distinguished Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research; and The BMW Distinguished Endowed Chair in Cancer Research

Translational Cancer Therapeutics (in collaboration with USC)

- Co-led at MUSC by Kenneth D. Tew, PhD, DSc, program leader of the Developmental Cancer Therapeutics Research Program at Hollings
- Supported by The John C. West Distinguished Endowed Chair in Cancer Research

Cancer Drug Discovery (In collaboration with USC)

- Co-led at MUSC by Charles D. Smith, PhD, developmental cancer therapeutics researcher; John J. Lemasters, MD, PhD, developmental cancer therapeutics researcher; and Patrick M. Woster, PhD, developmental cancer therapeutics researcher
- Supported by The Charles and Carol Cooper Distinguished Endowed Chair in Pharmacy; The GlaxoSmithKline Distinguished Endowed Chair in Cancer Research; and the SmartState Chair in Medicinal Chemistry

Cancer Stem Cell Biology and Therapy (In collaboration with Clemson University)

- Co-led at MUSC by Zihai Li, MD, PhD, program leader of the Cancer Immunology Research Program at Hollings
- Supported by The Abney Distinguished Endowed Chair Remembering Sally Abney Rose; and the Robert K. Stuart, MD, Distinguished Endowed Chair in Hematological Oncology

Cancer Disparities (In collaboration with USC and South Carolina State University)

- Co-led at MUSC by Chanita Hughes-Halbert, PhD, cancer disparities researcher at Hollings
- Supported by The AT&T Distinguished Endowed Chair in Cancer Equity
- Recruiting for co-leaders at MUSC and USC

Proteomics

- Led at MUSC by Richard R. Drake, PhD, cell and molecular pharmacology researcher

Lipidomics, Pathobiology and Therapy

- Recruiting for endowed chairs

Hollings' SmartState Chairs Launch Phase I Study

A Phase I, Open-label, Dose-Escalation, Safety, Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Study of ABC294640 in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors

Two Hollings SmartState endowed chairs, Charles D. Smith, PhD, and Melanie B. Thomas, MD, recently launched a Phase I clinical trial that is the first of its kind at MUSC. The trial is unique for two reasons – it is testing a drug developed by Smith; and it is the first time the drug has been used in humans.

In Phase I trials, researchers test an experimental drug or treatment for the first time in a small group of people (20-80) to evaluate its safety, determine a safe dosage range, and identify side effects. Hollings has 23 Phase I studies open. However, this trial is the only one testing a new drug for the first time in cancer patients.

The first patients to enroll in the study are those with solid tumors of any kind for whom all other treatments have failed. After safe levels have been determined, enrollment will be expanded with additional pancreatic cancer patients. Because of the type of inflammation associated with pancreatic cancer, Smith and Thomas believe it may respond to the drug. Beyond that, the drug may have applications for liver, brain, and colon cancers.

The trial would not be possible without the collaboration between Smith and Thomas, who were recruited to Hollings with the support of SmartState funds.

Smith, a developmental cancer therapeutics scientist, co-leads SmartState's Cancer Drug Discovery Center of Economic Excellence with two other Hollings researchers. He joined Hollings in 2002 from Pennsylvania State University where he led the team that developed the drug used in the Phase I trial. Smith is the founder of Apogee Biotechnology Corporation which is developing this drug.

Thomas, recruited from MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2008, is a gastrointestinal oncologist and associate director of Clinical Investigation at Hollings. Thomas is affiliated with SmartState's Gastrointestinal Cancer Diagnostics Center of Economic Excellence.

"Very few cancer centers have Phase I trials initiated by their own investigators using a homegrown compound," Thomas said. "This is a perfect example of researchers from different SmartState programs collaborating to translate research, and get it into clinical testing so someday it might have real clinical use in treating cancer."

"At Commerce, we see the importance of supporting research programs. Supporting SmartState efforts will not only improve the health care for our citizens, but also generate economic activity within the health sciences for our state."

– Bobby Hitt, South Carolina Secretary of Commerce

Philanthropy

Carolyn E. Reed, MD, Establishes Distinguished Endowed Chair in Thoracic Surgical Oncology with $500,000 Gift

Carolyn E. Reed, MD, a nationally-recognized thoracic surgeon and longtime leader at MUSC and Hollings, has made a $500,000 gift to establish an endowed chair in her name. Dr. Reed's gift was given as a matching challenge. Hollings seeks donations to raise $500,000 to meet this challenge and to establish the chair at the $1 million minimum required for endowed chairs.

"My patients are my inspiration. It is on their behalf that I pledged half of this chair. As I approach retirement, I want to ensure that the best possible care continues to be available to patients with thoracic malignancies. When I came to MUSC in 1985, I was given freedom to develop a program in general thoracic malignancies. With the help of Dr. Fred Crawford and many others, I created a multidisciplinary clinic, a floor devoted to surgical oncology, and a resource for surgical expertise in lung and esophageal cancer. The creation of the Hollings Cancer Center and its subsequent National Cancer Institute designation capped my goal of bringing the best cancer care to MUSC. I have watched MUSC grow over the past 25 years, and the changes are truly amazing. The research, the facilities, and the educational opportunities have grown in quantity and quality. MUSC continues to serve a diverse population and should be proud that we are resource for the people of South Carolina."
–Carolyn E. Reed, MD

Dr. Reed is a professor of Surgery; chief, Section of General Thoracic Surgery; and associate director of Medical Affairs at Hollings. She holds the Alice Ruth Reeves Folk Endowed Chair of Clinical Oncology and served from 2000-2004 as the cancer center's director.

If you would like to make a gift to the Carolyn E. Reed, MD, Chair, please contact the Office of Development at (843) 792-7694, smithrmd@musc.edu, or mail your gift made payable to MUSC Foundation/Carolyn E. Reed, MD, chair to the Hollings Cancer Center Office of Development, 86 Jonathan Lucas Street, Charleston, SC 29425.

Three generations of the Talbot family honored Frank Talbot's memory by attending a Washington Nationals baseball game.

The Honorable Francis F. Talbot Endowment for Pancreatic Research Established with $250,000 Gift

Jane Talbot's husband, Frank, passed away on July 26, 2010, after battling pancreatic cancer for more than two years. To honor him and to help others fight this disease, the family established the Francis F. Talbot Endowment for Pancreatic Research with a $250,000 gift.

Jane and Frank Talbot

"Our family is committed to the fight against pancreatic cancer. We know that research holds the key to a future where pancreatic cancer can be treated more successfully, prevented, and even cured. With the endowment, we have invested in those discoveries in Frank's memory, and we know that he would be pleased," Jane Talbot said.

To support more immediate research efforts, the family gave an additional $25,000 that was matched with $50,000 from the South Carolina Clinical and Translational Research Institute for cutting-edge pancreatic cancer research currently taking place at Hollings.

Jill and John Chalsty Invest $250,000 in Breast Cancer Programs

Breast cancer touches all of us. It affects our mothers, grandmothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and close friends. Breast cancer is the second most common – and the second most deadly – form of cancer in women in the US. This is why Hollings Advisory Board Member John Chalsty and his wife, Jill, gave $250,000 to support breast initiatives at Hollings.

Their gift supports the growth of the Hollings Breast Cancer Survivorship Clinic that will provide services to breast cancer patients who have completed treatment. This includes support groups and classes focused on side effects, recurrence prevention, nutrition, exercise and physiology, emotional health and family support, obstetrics and gynecology, and clinical research projects.

The gift also supports new Phase I and Phase II clinical trials in breast cancer, statewide training for healthcare providers, and the annual Chalsty Breast Cancer Research Symposium.

Jill and John Chalsty

Strantz Endowment for Head & Neck Cancer Research

Mrs. Heidi Strantz Mortimer has established the Mike Strantz Endowment for Head and Neck Cancer Research at Hollings Cancer Center. A golf tournament was held in memory of Mike at one of the courses he designed.

Ann Ritter Helps Establish Young Scholars Program

Hollings Advisory Board Member Ann Ritter has led an initiative to establish the Medicine and Research Young Scholars program. This effort engages high school students by partnering them with MUSC physicians and researchers. Students attend lectures, conduct research, and present their findings. The inaugural program was launched with Porter-Gaud School this year and is expected to expand with additional funding to other schools.

Abney Foundation Supports Research

Special thanks to The Abney Foundation for its continued investment in The Abney Foundation Cancer Research Scholarship and Emerging Scholars Program. We are also pleased to report the naming of The Abney Chair Remembering Sally Abney Rose which is held by Zihai Li, MD, co-chair of the SmartState Center of Economic Excellence in Cancer Stem Cell Biology & Therapy.

Gift Supports Prevention Research Using Natural Compounds

Mary Margaret McLernon made a gift to establish the Hollings Cancer Center Ethnobotanical Cancer Chemoprevention Program. This discipline focuses on the idea that cancer can be prevented and/or pre-cancers can be inhibited from progressing by the use of natural compounds and pharmaceuticals.

Friends Raise Funds in Patrick Beale's Memory

The Annual Patrick Beale Memorial Tournament, held for the past four years and organized by Aubrey Bell and Coosaw Creek Country Club, has raised more than $46,000 for brain cancer research.

Ethier Named to Spaulding Paolozzi Endowed Chair

Hollings Cancer Center welcomed the Spaulding Paolozzi Foundation Board of Directors to campus for a luncheon to welcome Stephen P. Ethier, PhD, as the inaugural holder of the Countess Alicia Spaulding-Paolozzi Distinguished Endowed Chair in Breast Cancer Diagnosis, Treatment and Research. Led by Nigel Redden, the Spaulding Paolozzi Foundation made a matching gift challenge of $500,000 to establish this chair. The gift was matched by Hollings donors.

Front Row: *Nigel Redden, Dr. Steve Ethier, Dr. Andrew Kraft, Ted Stern, Jennet Alterman* Back Row: *Dr. Alan Elzerman, Mayor Joe P. Riley, Dr. Linda Plunkett, Dr. Ray Greenberg, Dr. Rose Gibbs, Hilton Smith, and Whit McMillan*

Gourmet & Grapes 2012

The Fourth Annual Gourmet & Grapes Weekend May 4-6 at The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Gourmet & Grapes, a weekend-long culinary extravaganza, is the only fundraiser in the Lowcountry that brings together renowned chefs and winemakers to raise money for cancer research.

Headlining Gourmet & Grapes' signature black tie event is Executive Chef Sean Brock, of Husk and McCrady's of Charleston. An all-star team of noted chefs will join Brock in preparing a multi-course wine dinner featuring Row Eleven Winery, Heitz Wine Cellars and Trinchero Wine Estates in The Sanctuary's Ocean Room which holds both Forbes 4 Star and AAA 4 Diamond ratings.

Other highlights include a Luncheon and Wine Trail, an interactive event with chefs and vintners; the Wine Odyssey Gala, with silent and live auctions, cuisine stations, live music, dancing, and a champagne and chocolate afterglow; and a Farewell Brunch sponsored by Moet Hennessey with a build-your-own Bloody Mary bar.

Since its inception in 2009, Gourmet & Grapes has raised close to $500,000 for cancer research programs at Hollings. These donations have proved invaluable to cancer research in South Carolina.

For more information on Gourmet & Grapes, visit www.gourmetandgrapes.com.

MUSC
HOLLINGS CANCER CENTER
A National Cancer Institute
Designated Cancer Center

86 Jonathan Lucas Street • PO Box 250955
Charleston, South Carolina 29425

Highlights

SELF REGIONAL JOINS HOLLINGS NETWORK

Hollings welcomed Self Regional Healthcare Cancer Center, of Greenwood, into its clinical trials network (CTN). The CTN represents a statewide partnership of quality cancer centers dedicated to promoting cancer research. By establishing a collaborative infrastructure of physicians, clinical trials offices, and patients, the CTN reaches a large and diverse patient population.

The partnership provides cancer patients in the seven-county Lakelands region access to new and innovative cancer treatments, many of which are not yet available to the public. In many cases, patients will be able to receive treatment in their communities and see their own doctors while on a clinical trial.

Opened in the spring of 2011, the new Self Regional Healthcare Cancer Center offers advanced cancer care, including medical, radiation, and surgical oncology. The center, which consolidates clinical and support areas, has been surveyed by the American College of Surgeons and received the Outstanding Achievement Award for meeting or exceeding standards of care.

ESNAOLA, MD, AND FORD, PHD, EARN $1.8 MILLION NIH GRANT

The NIH's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities awarded a $1.8 million R01 grant to Nestor F. Esnaola, MD, MBA, MPH, director of MUSC's Oncology Service Line, and Marvella Ford, PhD, associate director of Cancer Disparities at Hollings.

The study, "Improving Resection Rates among African Americans with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer," will be a statewide trial of nurse navigator intervention to increase lung resection rates in African American patients with early-stage/resectable lung cancer. The project has the potential to transform the care of African American lung cancer patients in South Carolina, and will further highlight Hollings' commitment to bettering the health of all South Carolinians.

BROOK, RN, MBA, JOINS HOLLINGS

Jim Brook, RN, MBA, joined Hollings in late 2011 as administrator of the Oncology Service Line. Prior to joining MUSC, Brook was at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, where he held a number of leadership positions, including COO of clinical affairs in the Department of Medicine and clinical administrative director of the Gastrointestinal Center. Brook said the ability to help shape cancer care in South Carolina and help grow Hollings' clinical enterprise drew him to the position.

"One of the priorities is bridging the gap between clinical and research activities, and we're making great strides. Those kinds of collaborations are happening more and more here, and they are the heart and soul of a cancer research center."

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