Northwestern Medicine®
Northwestern Memorial Foundation

Power of Your Giving

Scoreboard Charities Impact Report
August 2019

Through your generous commitment to Northwestern Memorial Foundation, you have helped to fuel great progress for cancer care at Northwestern Medicine. You have provided extraordinary support of breast cancer and ovarian cancer research and treatment at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. With gratitude for your philanthropy, we would like to share with you some of the advancements and findings that were made possible through your gift.

Nationally Recognized Cancer Care

The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University has a long standing history of providing the best in cancer research and patient care. The Lurie Cancer Center is a founding member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), an alliance of 28 of the world's leading cancer centers dedicated to quality and effectiveness of cancer care. The center is also part of the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium, a network of academic institutions working together on clinical trials that can truly address the critical medical needs of cancer patients.

Comprised of outstanding clinicians and scientists, the Lurie Cancer Center has approximately 300 researchers who have been awarded $200 million in funding for cancer-relevant research annually. Together they bring the knowledge gained through basic, clinical and translational research directly to our patients at Northwestern Medicine. The Lurie Cancer Center and its affiliated hospitals and physician practices treat nearly 16,000 cancer patients each year, offering a full range of prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care programs for all types of cancer.

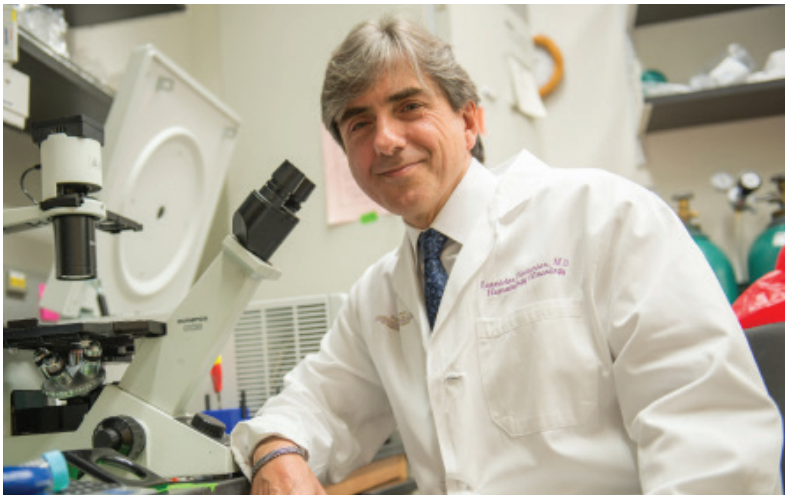
In addition to the excellence of our clinical care, the Lurie Cancer Center has cultivated major research strengths in a variety of areas, including breast cancer and gynecologic cancers, gastrointestinal and digestive cancers, neurologic cancers, sarcoma and melanoma as well as pediatric cancers. With over 125,000 net-square-feet of space dedicated to laboratory research and administrative support, the Lurie Cancer Center provides access to the shared resources of cell imaging, pathology, genomics, clinical research and more.

The Lurie Cancer Center has more than 300 clinical trials under way at any given time staffed by more than 100 full-time employees. The new OncoSET Precision Medicine Program combines the sequencing of genes and molecules with pathology to identify new, tailored treatments and clinical trials for patients whose cancer is resistant to traditional therapies. The Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit continues to accelerate pre-clinical breakthroughs to better cancer therapies.

Truly "Exceptional" Care

In 1997, the name of the cancer center was modified to the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University when it was awarded the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) highly competitive "comprehensive" designation. This reflection of the center's dedication to the highest standards of cancer research, patient care, education and community outreach remains true today. This year, The Lurie Cancer Center received the highest possible overall rating of "exceptional" from the NCI and was granted competitive renewal of its Cancer Center Support Grant for the fourth year. However, this grant will provide nearly $31.5 million in support of the team's research programs, infrastructure, resources and technology - a 36 percent increase over previous awards. The five-year renewal of the center's status puts the Lurie Cancer Center in the top 3 percent of all cancer programs nationwide.

"The success of our cancer center reflects the innovation and remarkable achievements of our talented clinicians, scientists and staff," said Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, director of the Lurie Cancer Center *(pictured right)*. "We are now positioned among an elite group of top cancer centers in the country and poised for the next phase of growth. We look forward to expanding our capabilities and intensifying our efforts to defeat cancer as a disease. We have exciting plans for the future. We are also expanding our precision medicine capabilities and cutting-edge clinical trials across the rapidly growing Northwestern Medicine network."



Breast Cancer Clinical Trials

This past year, the support of Scoreboard Charities has helped to continue Lurie Cancer Center's development in early stage breast cancer research through innovative clinical trials. Massimo Cristofanilli, MD, an expert in the treatment of patients with inflammatory breast cancer, is conducting a trial that evaluates the response in metastatic breast cancer patients being treated with different immunotherapy drugs. This trial will be assessing the DNA of the tumor and changes in tissue to predict the response of this specific treatment in patients.

In addition to Dr. Cristofanilli's research, Dr. Swati Kulkarni, MD, a board-certified breast surgeon, is evaluating the effect of estrogen being used in combination with a selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM) in the treatment of ductal carcinoma in situ, a non-invasive breast cancer that forms in the ducts of the breast. This trial will be assessing the changes in the genes of patients receiving the estrogen treatment compared to those receiving a placebo.

Gynecological Oncology Research

The Northwestern Medicine Division of Gynecologic Oncology consists of a team of renowned surgeons, medical oncologists and scientists focused on providing leading-edge comprehensive care, including Daniela Matei, MD, Diana Princess of Wales Professor of Cancer Research, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Edward J. Tanner, III, MD, Chief of Gynecologic Oncology. Their efforts are paving the way for improved patient outcomes through innovative research and exploring strategies to detect ovarian cancer before the disease has a chance to spread.

The team is conducting a variety of innovative clinical trials to improve care for patients diagnosed with ovarian cancer as well as those who are at risk for the disease. The division is currently collaborating with researchers in the Department of Biomedical Engineering to develop a nanotechnology-based screening test for ovarian cancer that may eventually lead to an office-based "Pap test" for ovarian cancer.

For patients that have already been diagnosed, we have opened several clinical trials developed by Northwestern clinician-scientists using novel drugs. We also offer patients enrollment into nationwide clinical trials sponsored by the National Cancer Institute. We currently have three open trials designed specifically for the treatment of ovarian cancer as well as numerous other clinical trials that enroll patients with ovarian cancer in addition to other tumor types. Future research studies will evaluate the use of hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) in the treatment of advanced ovarian cancer. HIPEC is an innovative method of delivering chemotherapy within the abdomen at the time of surgery. Initial studies using HIPEC for the treatment of ovarian cancer have shown promising results; however, more research is needed prior to safely incorporating this technique into standard practice.

The Division of Gynecologic Oncology has recently launched an innovative program to improve health outcomes for patients undergoing ovarian cancer surgery by measuring well-being after patients leave the hospital. In one lead study, the team is exploring factors such as physical activity and sleep that affect postoperative recovery. Patients wear a Fitbit activity tracker that measures movement and sleep during the critical postoperative period. By integrating biometric data and patient reported outcomes, our team hopes to identify patients who are at risk for developing postoperative complications long before the patient or physicians are even aware that there may be a problem. This ground-breaking work has the potential to improve the quality of recovery from complex surgery, minimize complications, and possibly improve overall disease survival.

In the research laboratory, we are studying emerging ovarian cancer treatment targets to prevent tumor growth and recurrence. Our team of scientists are working to develop new immunotherapies that target cancer stem cells and blood vessel growth. By improving our understanding of cell signaling and the tumor microenvironment, we may identify new therapeutic targets for the treatment of ovarian cancer.

With Gratitude for Your Support

Thanks to your unwavering and enduring support, we continue to accelerate our research efforts, make new discoveries in the areas of cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and provide cancer patients and survivors with comprehensive, compassionate care and support services. Each year, we re-dedicate ourselves to fully realizing our mission as we seek new and creative approaches to push the boundaries in our battle against cancer. Aided by our invaluable partnership with Scoreboard Charities, we will continue to make strides on our journey to conquer this disease. Thank you for being one of our most valued partners in the fight against breast and ovarian cancers.