

Scientific Updates

Other cancer centers may call themselves comprehensive—anyone can—but the University of Colorado Cancer Center is the only comprehensive center in the Rocky Mountain region designated by the National Cancer Institute. One of the important measures of being truly comprehensive is the level of collaboration that takes place between scientists in the labs and clinicians working directly with cancer patients.

Translational Research:

Nowhere is collaboration more notable than in the translation of scientific findings from the bench to the bedside. Making discoveries in the lab that eventually help the clinicians more effectively treat patients with cancer has evolved from a linear process to an iterative, rational process of approaching a problem - taking ideas from the lab to the clinic and back. Historically, cancer biologists were less engaged in translating their work to clinical applications. Today personalized targeted therapies and rational combinations of drugs are on their way to becoming first-line treatment, standing firmly on the bedrock of cancer biology discoveries. Cancer biologists now have a tangible, immediate clinical application for their work.

The goal of CU Cancer Center's Developmental Therapeutics Program is to discover new agents, test them in preclinical models, bring them to patients through Phase I Clinical Trials and, eventually, to the greater population. This model allows doctors and researchers to watch for patients who respond to new therapies and, rather than give that therapy to all patients, figure out what is special about that individual patient's tumor to cause it to respond. That may mean taking something noticed in the clinic back to the lab for further study, such as in the case of lung cancer with the ALK translocation. Dr. Ross Camidge, a Cancer Center member, noticed a tiny subset of patients had tumors melt away when they took a new drug. He worked in collaboration with other Cancer Center doctors and discovered that these lung cancer patients had a rare molecular anomaly that the drug worked against.

Translational research extends beyond the Cancer Center's walls. Dr. Gail Eckhardt, a specialist in GI cancers, had a drug in the lab and in the clinic that was known to inhibit a particular gene. In the past, Dr. Eckhardt might have worked with the drug on her own for most of her career. Instead she collaborated with other scientists and together found a biomarker to discover which patients were going to get the most benefit from the drug.

The culture of collaboration created by Cancer Center director Dr. Dan Theodorescu ensures that the members and consortium partners embrace translational research. The impact of the innovative research and treatment taking place at the CU Cancer Center is being felt nationwide and, in turn, its reputation as a leader in the field continues to grow.

Letter from the Chairman of the Board, Gary Kortz and the Executive Director, Alice Norton

As AMC staff, volunteers and supporters interact with the doctors, scientists and faculty of the CU Cancer Center, we hear often of the importance of collaboration in the advancement of cancer research. As a fundraising partner of the Cancer Center, we embrace this culture and look for ways to implement collaboration in our own efforts to fundraise and create awareness about the Cancer Center.

Philanthropy is incredibly important to the Cancer Center and the work being done there. AMC provides nearly \$2 million a year from workplace giving, strategic corporate and foundation partnerships, individual donors and special events. This support allows the Cancer Center to buy state-of-the art equipment, hire research staff and convert interesting research ideas into million-dollar federally sponsored grants.



AMC Cancer Fund's only mission is to support the CU Cancer Center programs, projects and people. We collaborate with other organizations and volunteers such as CancerCure and June's Fund - two groups of dedicated volunteers who, with AMC's support, generate funds for specific areas of cancer research. In addition, we are proud of our partnership with the CU Foundation as we work together to create a robust and diversified fundraising program that will continue to provide the important philanthropic base that is critical to the Cancer Center's success.

Our most important partners are the donors listed in this Annual Report. We thank these individuals, companies and organizations for their continued support in helping AMC achieve our mission and hope that together, one day, we will accomplish our vision of a "world without cancer."

Annual Calendar of Events and Campaigns

Visit our website at www.amc.org or call 303-239-3335 for more information about these and other fun ways to support AMC Cancer Fund!

Women's Event

March
The Women's Event, an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres celebrating women, supports the continued research on women's cancers at the CU Cancer Center.

Be the Answer to Cancer...

One Shot at a Time

Spring through Fall
Reward yourself for every great shot by making a contribution to AMC Cancer Fund during the golf season! Whether you make a bogey or your best shot ever, track your shots and reward yourself by making a contribution at amc.donorpages.com/answer.

The Gift of Life and Breath

5k Run/Walk

May
Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States but is surprisingly underfunded and rarely detected in its early stages. This event was created by Gary and Thelissa Zollinger to support the critical research needed for early detection of lung cancer.

Dinner in White

August
Proved to be the next "major event on Denver's social scene" the Dinner in White, organized by a committee of young professionals, offers a unique experience for attendees who dress all in white, pack picnic dinners and then eagerly await the announcement of the secret outdoor venue before dancing the night away.

Men's Event

November
Join leading members of Denver's business community at Morton's Steakhouse LoDo to support prostate cancer research and treatment.



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creating **hope** through science

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Gift of Life and Breath 5k Run/Walk
Thelissa Zollinger

Women's Event
Stacy Carpenter
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Dinner in White
Krista Gilbertson
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Men's Event
Jeff Dorsey
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Blair Richardson
Richard L. Robinson
Mark D. Schwartz
Steven D. Toltz

Annual Report 2011



a world without cancer

One Donation at a Time

At AMC Cancer Fund, we celebrate survival while working toward a world without cancer. The impact of our efforts is immediate and direct. All funds raised are kept in our community to benefit research and treatment at the University of Colorado Cancer Center



Creating Hope Through Science

AMC Cancer Fund is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization.