

FLINT ANIMAL CANCER CENTER

NEWSLETTER | Fall 2019

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Extending FACC's model of comprehensive and compassionate care around the world.



Since the early 1980s, the [Robert H. and Mary G. Flint Animal Cancer Center](#) has trained more surgical, medical, and radiation oncologists than any other veterinary institution. Beyond the formal training program, each year, the FACC also welcomes dozens of guest observers from around the world. Over the years, this expanding collegial network has led to FACC's growing global impact on cancer care for companion animals.

While teaching is fundamental to academic institutions, four decades ago, the FACC set the standard in veterinary oncology training and made exceptional teaching and learning a foundational principle. Through clinical and classroom experiences, cancer center trainees have the opportunity to employ advanced diagnostic tools and treatment protocols. But technology isn't necessarily what makes the FACC's program unique. What draws rising oncology specialists and other guests is the center's willingness to share its model of comprehensive and compassionate care and the opportunity to work alongside experts

in medical, radiation, and surgical oncology as they coordinate the best treatment plan for each patient.

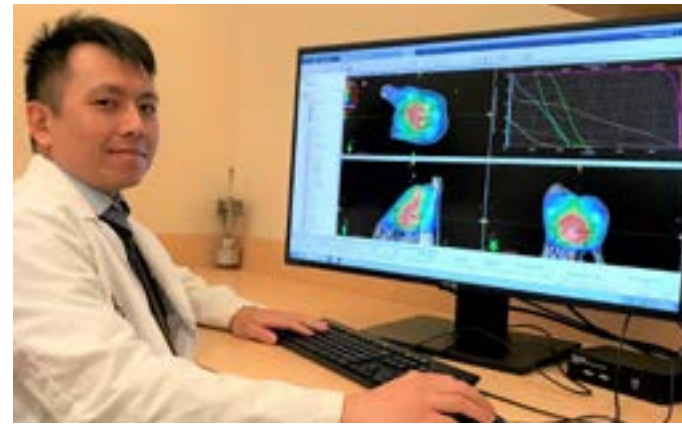
"The multidisciplinary approach to cancer care distinguishes our program," said FACC director, [Dr. Rod Page](#). "I believe it's important to share our model and decades of experience with veterinarians around the world, ultimately to benefit infinitely more pets with cancer."

CONQUERING CANCER TOGETHER

According to Page, the FACC explicitly welcomes international trainees and visitors, a policy he plans to continue.

"We say cancer doesn't care if you have two legs or four," said Page. "Cancer also doesn't care if you're a dog living in Arizona or Australia. We believe every pet should have access to specialty care and that the more specialists we have treating and studying cancer, the more likely we will be to conquer cancer in all species."

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From left to right: Dr. Furuya Masaru presented FACC oncology service chief, Dr. Sue Lana, with the gift of 1,000 cranes at the conclusion of his nine-month training. Dr. Tristram Bennett plans to return to Australia following his one-year surgical oncology fellowship. Dr. Thomas Lee will be only the second specialty-trained veterinary radiation oncologist in Taiwan.

ALUMNI INFLUENCE ON THREE CONTINENTS

In 1984, the FACC's first specialty trainee completed a medical oncology residency. Four years later, the first of many international trainees completed a surgical oncology fellowship. Since then, 98 residents and fellows and more than a dozen specialty interns have trained at the FACC. In total, current and past specialty trainees represent 11 countries. While some international alumni join specialty clinics or academic institutions in the United States following their training, others work in clinical practices back home. To date, FACC alumni have practiced in Australia, Canada, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Japan, and England.

VISITORS WELCOME

While formal training is resource-limited, each year the FACC welcomes visiting veterinarians and students from other institutions. These guests travel from across the United States and around the world. Over the last four years alone, the FACC has hosted more than 200 visitors. Nearly 70 of those traveled from outside the United States.

The Flint Animal Cancer Center has welcomed trainees and professional visitors from the following countries:

Australia	Germany	South Africa
Belgium	Italy	South Korea
Brazil	Japan	Switzerland
Canada	Mexico	Taiwan
Costa Rica	Netherlands	Thailand
El Salvador	New Zealand	Uganda
England	Scotland	Venezuela
France		

Professional visitors typically spend two to four weeks observing patient cases, attending patient rounds, and shadowing faculty. The FACC's goal is to share knowledge and build relationships with every visitor to provide them with tools and experiences that they can bring back to the patients and clients they serve.

THREE SPECIALISTS, THREE COUNTRIES

In January 2019, Dr. Furuya Masaru, associate professor of veterinary sciences at the University of Osaka in Japan, began his nine-month visit working alongside FACC clinicians to learn more about the center's oncology service. By embedding with the team, his goal was to learn as much as possible about FACC's comprehensive care model. Now back in Japan, he is working to establish a similar veterinary oncology program to expand treatment options for companion animals in his country.

Dr. Thomas Lee, a native of Taiwan, is a radiation oncology resident at the FACC. Following vet school and a medical oncology residency, Lee worked at a teaching hospital in Taiwan. During that time, he began consulting with human radiation oncologists to develop therapy plans for his pet patients. With no formal training program available in Taiwan, Lee pursued a radiation oncology residency at the FACC.

"I selected the FACC because of its multidisciplinary model," said Lee. "I think it's important for our patients that we work with medical and surgical oncologists."

Current FACC surgical oncology fellow, Dr. Tristram Bennett, joins a growing list of specialty trainees from Down Under. Bennett is originally from New Zealand, but following veterinary school, he moved to Australia. There, he completed an internship and residency in surgery with FACC surgical oncology fellow alumnus Dr. Rod Straw.

"In Australia, CSU is quite revered, likely because most of our big names trained there," said Bennett. "There's a catchphrase in our veterinary community that starts with 'In Colorado, they'"

Now that Bennett is here, he looks forward to learning how things are done in Colorado and taking his training back to Sydney to benefit his patients. He also wants to share what he's learned with colleagues and students. And, of course, have his chance to start a few conversations with the phrase, "In Colorado, we"

Private philanthropy supports several FACC trainee positions. Your gift to Elliott's Long Paw Scholars helps to fund a three-year medical oncology residency.

STAFF NEWS

PAGE HONORED FOR CAREER ACHIEVEMENT IN CANINE RESEARCH

Dr. Rodney Page, Stephen J. Withrow Presidential Chair in Oncology and director of the Flint Animal Cancer Center at Colorado State University, received the American Veterinary Medical Association Career Achievement in Canine Research Award at the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium on July 27 in Worcester, Massachusetts.



As a champion of comparative oncology, Page has worked throughout his career to achieve buy-in at the highest levels to improve treatment options for all cancer patients.

With a long list of professional achievements, one of his most noteworthy endeavors is with the Morris Animal Foundation. In 2010, Page was named the principal investigator of the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. This multimillion-dollar lifetime cohort study is one of the largest, most comprehensive prospective canine health studies in the United States. Results will provide comprehensive data on diseases, including cancer, and serve as a launching point for future health studies in dogs.

In 2015, Page led an initiative to convene the first-of-its-kind translational cancer workshop hosted by the Institute of Medicine's National Cancer Policy Forum. The event, held in Washington, D.C., included medical, veterinary, scientific, and policy leaders and explored the benefits and challenges of coordinating studies that aid multiple species. Ultimately, the meeting served as a springboard for collaborations and helped release competitive funding from the National Cancer Institute.

CSU-CU DENVER COLLABORATORS PRESENT AT WORLD MOLECULAR IMAGING CONGRESS

Dr. Bernard Seguin, surgical oncologist at the Flint Animal Cancer Center, along with Dr. Lynn Griffin, radiologist at CSU's James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and Dr. Natalie Serkova, professor of radiology at University of Colorado Denver, presented an abstract at the 2019 World Molecular Imaging Congress in Montreal, Canada.



The presentation featured the team's work on a new technique for imaging canine head and neck cancer that may advance detection of metastasis. Typically, staging of malignant lymph nodes is a major predictor of tumor metastasis, survival rates, and therapeutic options. Unfortunately, conventional MRI lacks sensitivity to adequately diagnose lymph node metastasis and as a result an invasive biopsy is required. The hope is that this work will have implications for detection of metastasis in human head and neck cancer and offer a noninvasive diagnostic alternative.

Following the workshop, Page spearheaded development of the Comparative Oncology Research Consortium, an academic/public/private partnership that includes support from the Jimmy V Foundation. The consortium's mission is to enable accelerated and coordinated comparative oncology research. Current projects are focused on bladder cancer, leukemia, and cancer genetics.

Page earned his D.V.M. from CSU in 1981. Before attending veterinary school, he received his master's degree in medical physiology at Georgetown University School of Medicine. Following veterinary school, he completed specialty training in medical oncology at the Animal Medical Center and The Donaldson-Atwood Cancer Clinic. He is board-certified in medical oncology and internal medicine. His interest in both animal and human medicine led him to the field of comparative oncology research.

Page started his career at North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984. In 1999, Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine recruited Page to its faculty. During his tenure, he founded the Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research.

After a successful decade at Cornell, Page returned to CSU in 2010 to lead the Flint Animal Cancer Center. Notably, he has grown the cancer center's One Cure Clinical Trials program to include seven staff who manage more than 30 canine and feline studies each year.

Throughout his career, Page has worked to advance oncology research as the primary, senior, or co-author on more than 125 peer-reviewed papers and 25 book chapters. His research is recognized internationally, with ongoing invitations to present around the world.

DR. KEARA BOSS NAMED TO RADIATION RESEARCH SOCIETY COUNCIL

Flint Animal Cancer Center clinician and assistant professor of radiation oncology, Dr. Keara Boss, was recently elected councilor-at-large for the Radiation Research Society. The society works to advance radiation research, foster research collaborations, and share knowledge with the scientific community and the public.



Boss's relationship with the organization began in 2013 when she attended her first meeting as a Scholar-In-Training. She recently chaired the Scholars-In-Training committee. As a radiobiologist and veterinary radiation oncologist, Boss looks forward to bringing a unique perspective to the council that will allow her to promote efforts for more predictive, more translational preclinical radiation research.

Boss is a board-certified radiation oncologist and also holds a Ph.D. in radiation biology from North Carolina State University. She joined the Flint Animal Cancer Center in August 2016.

ONE CURE FRIENDS SHARE STORIES OF HOPE, PASSION, ACTION AT ANNUAL EVENT



One Cure's keynote storyteller, Dr. Karyn Goodman, shared the story of her dog Cashew's experience as a patient at the Flint Animal Cancer Center.

Friends of the two- and four-legged kind gathered on Aug. 17, 2019, for the Eighth Annual Evening for [One Cure](#). More than 90 friends traveled from near and far to unite in their shared mission to find a cure for pets and people with cancer. The event returned to Fort Collins, Colorado, for the second year in a row, and was hosted at the Diagnostic Medicine Center, adjacent to the [Flint Animal Cancer Center](#).

The evening focused on the themes of hope, passion, and action with stories told by staff, FACC client families, human cancer patients, and other friends of One Cure.

[Dr. Dan Regan](#) provided an update on the Losartan clinical trial for patients with metastatic bone cancer. His project started in the lab with the help of samples from the FACC's biorepository, piloted with our clinical trials team, and is now giving hope to pets and kids with metastatic bone cancer.

Attendees also had the opportunity to share stories with one another, prompted by the question: Who are you One Curing for? New friends and old exchanged stories of pets and people they were honoring and the reasons for their One Cure passion.

Keynote storyteller, Dr. Karyn Goodman, associate director of clinical research at the University of Colorado Cancer Center, shared the stage with her friendly wheaten terrier, Cashew.

Cashew was an FACC patient in November 2018. Goodman shared Cashew's patient journey, and then offered her professional perspective on the importance of clinical trials.

In addition to Cashew, other four-legged guests included One Cure clinical trials patient, Leo, a mastiff mix with lymphoma; four-time cancer survivor and yellow Labrador, Frankie; and ambassador of hope, 4-month-old Labrador, Sadie, sister to former FACC patient, Riley Anderson.

The evening ended with a heartfelt message from One Cure founder Meg O'Neil. In 2011, O'Neil envisioned the One Cure brand after her yellow Labrador, Elway, was treated at the FACC. That experience, combined with the loss of both of her parents to cancer, motivated her to take action on behalf of all cancer patients. O'Neil, a cancer survivor and thriver, asked the audience to join her in taking action to raise awareness and financial support for One Cure.

With lead gifts from the Graham and Courtney Rahal Foundation and anonymous donors, One Cure friends teamed up to gift \$500,000 to modernize the FACC's biorepository. The biorepository is a key resource for research faculty such as Dr. Regan. Thanks to generous friends, the FACC can continue to develop this critical asset to support new discoveries, and hopefully, one day, a cure.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Please join us in welcoming several new members to the FACC team!

Dr. Tiffany Martin joins our radiation oncology faculty after completing her three-year radiation oncology residency at the Flint Animal Cancer Center.

Dr. Giovanni Tremolada returns to the Flint Animal Cancer Center as a clinical instructor after completing his surgical oncology fellowship with us in July.

Dr. Tristram Bennett is one of two surgical oncology fellows this year. Dr. Bennett completed his surgical residency in 2017 at Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre in Australia. Most recently, he was on the staff of the Small Animal Specialist Hospital in Sydney, Australia.

Dr. Chris Thomson joins us as a surgical oncology fellow. Dr. Thomson completed veterinary school at the University of Minnesota, followed by a small-animal internship at the University of Wisconsin. He recently finished a small-animal surgery residency at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Beck Ringdahl-Mayland joins our team as a medical oncology resident. Dr. Ringdahl-Mayland attended veterinary school at the University of Minnesota. He comes to us following a one-year rotating internship at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Jake Siewert is a new medical oncology resident. Dr. Siewert completed his D.V.M. at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. He recently finished a one-year internship at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Alicja Reczynska joins our team as a radiation oncology resident. Dr. Reczynska attended veterinary school at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Massachusetts. After completing her D.V.M., Dr. Reczynska spent a year in a small-animal rotating internship at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital.

Dr. Erin Trageser is a new radiation oncology resident. Dr. Trageser was admitted into the inaugural class at the veterinary school of

Midwestern University. She joins us after finishing a rotating internship at the VCA Animal Referral and Emergency Center of Arizona.

Dr. Elise Martens is our new medical oncology intern. Dr. Martens received her D.V.M. from The Ohio State University and recently completed a small-animal rotating internship at the University of Missouri.

Dr. Kirsha Fredrickson joins us as our clinical trials intern. She earned her D.V.M. from Colorado State University and recently completed a one-year internship in small-animal medicine and surgery at the University of Georgia.

Danielle Biggs brings more than 16 years of veterinary technician training to our clinical trials team. She specifically works with Dr. Doug Thamm on the large-scale, multisite Vaccine Against Canine Cancer Study.

Michele Blackburn is one of our new veterinary technicians. She attended the Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology and has worked in private practice for 12 years. She recently received dual bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry from Metropolitan State University.

Maria Lerma is a new member of the veterinary technician team. She attended the Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology and also holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Metropolitan State University.

Bailey Tumas is the newest veterinary technician at the Flint Animal Cancer Center. After completing her bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Denver, Tumas went to work at a veterinary clinic. She went back to school in 2017 at the Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology to become a veterinary technician and graduated in 2018.

Lisa Group relocated from New York last fall and joined our radiation oncology team as a technician. Veterinary medicine is Group's second career; she spent 13 years working in

human resources before deciding to return to school to train as a veterinary technician.

Rupta Pascal recently joined our radiation oncology technician team after moving to Colorado earlier this year.

Torii Kapavik joined our administrative team as director of development in September. She has worked in development for the last seven years. In her new role, she will support FACC fundraising and stewardship.

We wish the best of luck to the following team members who have left us for new adventures and thank them for the many ways they have enriched our lives in their time with us!

Dr. Nicole Ehrhart accepted the position of director of Columbine Health Systems Center for Healthy Aging at Colorado State University. In her new role, she will unite the expertise and research programs across campus to support development of programs and policies that support successful aging in both animals and people.

Dr. Brittany Ciepluch finished her surgical oncology fellowship with us and is looking forward to a career in academia.

Dr. Jake Cawley finished his residency and joined Ethos Veterinary Health as a postdoctoral fellow and medical oncologist.

Dr. Annie Galloway completed her residency and accepted a position as a medical oncologist at a private practice in Longmont, Colorado.

Dr. Carolynne Kruckman completed her radiation oncology residency this summer and joined a private practice in Illinois.

Dr. Chris Dolan completed his internship and has moved on to a medical oncology residency program at Texas A&M.

Dr. Allison Gedney, our clinical trials intern, has moved on to a medical oncology residency at the University of Pennsylvania.

Small but mighty, Yogi kicks cancer to the curb with the help of a clinical trial



Left to right: Kara Hall, clinical trials technician, clinical trials patient, Yogi, and Dr. Kristen Weishaar, clinical trials director. Yogi remains in complete remission as of his September 2019 recheck appointment.

The runt of his litter, Yogi, has never let his size determine his destiny.

“He doesn’t know he’s only 12 pounds,” said Yogi’s owner, Sharon. “There isn’t a dog or a person he won’t talk to; he’s just so friendly.”

Yogi, the happiest Yorkshire terrier you’ll ever meet, joined his forever family, including mom, Sharon, and dad, Pat, 11 years ago. Yogi and Sharon share a special bond; he’s the first to greet her when she walks through the door, and every evening, he settles in with Sharon for cuddle time.

“Yogi’s been with me through thick and thin,” said Sharon. “He gives me unconditional love whether I’ve had a good day or a bad day; I couldn’t be without him.”

In March 2018, the unthinkable happened when Sharon brought Yogi to his primary veterinarian concerned about an unusual cough. At that visit, she learned Yogi had cancer. Yogi was diagnosed with multicentric B cell lymphoma. [Lymphoma](#) is one of the most common cancers in dogs, accounting for up to 24 percent of all new canine cancers.

Willing to do whatever it would take to help Yogi, Sharon called to schedule an appointment at Colorado State University’s [Flint Animal Cancer Center](#).

“Bringing Yogi to CSU was a no-brainer,” said Sharon. “I believe a university is the best place to go with health concerns, person or pet.”

Sharon admitted she was terrified of what they might find out at Yogi’s first appointment at the FACC but shared her relief from the minute she walked in the door.

“The volunteer who greeted us and the welcome we received at the front desk made me feel better right away.”

During their first visit, Yogi, Sharon, and Pat met with [Dr. Kristen Weishaar](#), director of clinical trials at the FACC, to talk about treatment options. One possibility involved a clinical trial using the CHOP protocol. CHOP is one of the most effective therapies for inducing remission in both pets and people with lymphoma. The treatment involves a combination of the chemotherapy drugs cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and doxorubicin as well as the steroid prednisone and is delivered over 15 weeks.

The clinical trial, called the [CHOP Dose Escalation Study](#), uses the CHOP protocol but seeks to determine if patients can achieve longer remission with increased dosing. The dosing is personalized to the patient’s response.

After learning that Yogi qualified for the study, Sharon and Pat were quick to enroll him. He received his first dose of vincristine on April 5, 2018. That’s also the day he met his new best friend, clinical trials technician, Kara Hall.

“Yogi is a bundle of love and energy all wrapped up in a 12-pound package, bursting with excitement,” said Hall.

The family traveled to Fort Collins from Boulder every week for several months so that Yogi could receive treatment.

“From the first time I met Sharon and Yogi, I could tell how special Yogi was and how committed she was to doing everything she could to help him,” said Weishaar.

Yogi achieved remission in late May 2018 but continued the weekly CHOP chemotherapy protocol through August of that year.

“All in all, he handled chemotherapy like a champ,” said Sharon. “There were a few weeks when his white blood cell count was too low for [chemotherapy](#),

and that made me nervous, but now here we are; he’s been in remission for 16 months.”

Yogi returns to the FACC once per month for rechecks, and despite his dislike of car rides, he is always excited when he realizes he’s at the hospital. He also returned to deliver Christmas presents to his friends at the FACC last year and celebrated his birthday with them in February.

“We are so happy that Yogi has done this well for so long, and we are very grateful that Sharon allowed Yogi to participate in our clinical trial. We wouldn’t be able to do the work that we do without people like Sharon and dogs like Yogi,” said Weishaar.

When reflecting on the last 18 months, Sharon feels grateful.

“Anyone who has the chance to bring their pet here is lucky. Despite the circumstances, this has been a wonderful experience. The staff is kind and caring, and they take the time to explain treatment plans clearly and provide detailed updates. They are never in a rush and take the time to answer all questions. People should have the kind of care you get here. I couldn’t ask for more.”



Yogi was diagnosed with lymphoma in March 2018 and has been in remission for 16 months.



ONE CURE CLINICAL TRIALS PROGRAM UPDATE

Our [clinical trials](#) program is the largest in veterinary medicine and includes seven dedicated staff members. In 2018, the program supervised 31 clinical trials to study more effective therapies for a variety of cancer types, including osteosarcoma, lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, and brain tumors.

As of Sept. 1, 2019, the clinical trials team has managed a record 674 patient visits, a 16 percent increase over last year. They are on track to see 1,000 appointments by the end of the year. March, April, and May were the busiest months to date. The team also managed 32 trials in the first eight months of the year, with a handful of new studies in the review process.

We are grateful to friends of One Cure for providing gifts to support the growth of our clinical trials service. To join us, please donate at www.onecure.com.

CURRENT CLINICAL TRIALS

- Lymphoma
- Brain Tumors
- Osteosarcoma
- Primary Lung Tumors
- Hemangiosarcoma
- Oral Tumors
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas
- Multiple Tumor Types
- Feline Tumors

For details, visit www.csuanimalcancercenter.org/current-clinical-trials.



Dr. Samantha Schlemmer is the first Seeker Oncology Research fellow and will spend the next two years in a specialized research training program.

New fellowship trains future clinician-scientists

When Dr. Samantha Schlemmer read the posting for the Seeker Oncology Research Fellowship at the Flint Animal Cancer Center, it was as if the stars had aligned.

Schlemmer was nearing the end of her residency in clinical pathology at Texas A&M and considering her next steps when she learned about the research fellowship.

“I was a little unsure of my chances since I’d been away from research for a while,” said Schlemmer.

“But I applied because the position combined my interests in pathology, oncology, patient care, and research. The job was perfect. The timing was perfect. Best of all, I didn’t have to choose between my passions.”

According to FACC director of clinical research, Dr. Doug Thamm, the new two-year research-intensive has the potential to transform a well-trained clinician like Dr. Schlemmer into a clinician-scientist.

“We are deeply gratified for the funds provided for the Seeker Oncology Fellowship,” said Thamm. “This gift offers the opportunity to mentor specialists who not only can answer clinical questions but can also pursue a bench-to-bedside approach to challenging problems in veterinary oncology.”

Schlemmer looks forward to capitalizing on this unique opportunity.

“I admire all the work the FACC has done, and I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to train with renowned researchers in veterinary oncology and cancer biology. I look forward to being a part of moving the program forward.”

Schlemmer successfully achieved board certification in pathology in September. Her first few months will be spent rotating through various labs, meeting people, and gathering project ideas. She looks forward to diving into a meaningful study, likely focused on cancers that are difficult to treat or diagnose, such as hemangiosarcoma or bladder cancer.

ABOUT THE SEEKER ONCOLOGY RESEARCH FUND

Longtime FACC friend Bets Keen established the oncology research fund to honor her mother and the care their family companions have received at the cancer center for many decades. It is named in memory of Bets’ beloved golden retriever Seeker, her “once-in-a-lifetime dog,” and one of the American Kennel Club’s most titled goldens ever. Through this fellowship, she hopes that we can SEEK to find longevity for our dear canine friends.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1990s, our faculty determined that dogs undergoing surgery for bone cancer that develop an infection lived longer than dogs without infection. This was later proven in children and is an active area of research.

FACC surgeons have pioneered several procedures, including limb-spare and oral/facial reconstruction. Today, these techniques are common practice around the world.

A National Cancer Institute trial conducted at CSU with canine patients confirmed that intra-arterial chemotherapy was more effective than I.V. drug delivery for patients with bone cancer. As a result, this therapy is now widely used in children.

We were the first veterinary oncology service in the U.S. to employ a linear accelerator for treatment of companion animals, the same technology used to treat people, and the first veterinary oncology service in the world to offer stereotactic radiation therapy.

Wish List

The following wish list items support the work of our oncology team. If you would like to donate funds toward the purchase of one of these items, please contact [Torii Kapavik](mailto:Torii.Kapavik@facc.vet.msu.edu), (254) 424-2327. Every dollar makes a difference to our program.

TWO RAPIDVAC™ SMOKE EVACUATORS (\$3,125 EACH) BOX OF FILTERS (\$500 EACH)

Electrosurgery is a common technique used by our surgeons. This Rapidvac™ system filters surgical smoke and removes particulates and other potentially hazardous byproducts of electrosurgery to protect the lungs of our surgical team.

NEW ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT (\$7,000)

Our procedures caseload is growing, and we need to add new equipment. A new anesthesia machine will allow us to perform more procedures more efficiently and is the top request of our talented team of veterinary technicians.

SMALL DIAMETER VIDEO SCOPE (\$22,500)

With this video scope, our surgeons can perform minimally invasive thoracic surgery. They currently borrow a similar scope but have to schedule procedures based on availability, which creates challenges for our busy surgical oncology service.

THANK YOU ...

Thanks to David and Maxine Pierce for their 2018 gift to support the purchase of the Brasseler Pneumo Micro Power System, a tool that facilitates advanced surgical techniques in small animals.

Thank you to Ed and Marilyn Hansen for making a wish come true with their gift to support the purchase of an ultra-low temperature freezer to help expand storage capacity for our biorepository.

Remembering Jessy

This November marks the ninth anniversary of Jessy Topham’s first visit to the [Flint Animal Cancer Center](http://FlintAnimalCancerCenter.org). Following a diagnosis of osteosarcoma in Jessy’s right maxilla, Jessy’s mom, Allison, traveled with Jessy from their home in Utah to seek treatment at the FACC.

Over several months, Jessy underwent surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy treatments. During that time, Allison spent many hours at the FACC and met a variety of pet families, some of whom were anxious not only about the health of their pets but also about the cost of treatment. Allison empathized with those families, grateful that she was able to afford Jessy’s care but heartbroken for those she met.

Jessy fought a courageous battle with cancer for two years and during that time enjoyed many of her favorite things in life, including chasing squirrels in the park. In honor of her best friend, Allison established [Jessy’s Leash of Love](http://Jessy'sLeashofLove.org). To date, nearly 250 families have received financial support from this fund. Typical grants

are \$1,000 and help to reduce the financial burden of treatment and ensure all FACC patients receive the best possible care.

Allison also honored Jessy with the naming of the Jessy Angel Topham Quiet Intake Room. This room is designed for pets, like Jessy, that are more comfortable in a private space during visits to the cancer center.

FACC staff are grateful to Allison for her generosity and commitment to helping future patients.





Left to right: Danielle Biggs, veterinary technician at the Flint Animal Cancer Center, Fraser Foster, VACCS trial participant, and Stephanie Foster

Update: Vaccine Against Canine Cancer Study

The much-anticipated [Vaccine Against Canine Cancer Study](#) enrolled its first patients in May 2019. To date, 186 dogs have entered the study at the three participating sites (Colorado State University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of California, Davis). VACCS investigators seek to recruit 800 healthy, middle-aged pet dogs to evaluate the effectiveness of the cancer prevention vaccine.

The clinical trial is led by Colorado State University's [Dr. Douglas Thamm](#), director of clinical research at the Flint Animal Cancer Center at the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

"This is a critical study in the evaluation of this vaccine," Thamm said.

"While effectiveness and safety have been shown in the lab, moving immediately to an expensive and time-consuming human study is a leap that is hard to justify. Testing this approach in dogs will serve as the perfect bridge to human

studies. Additionally, if it is successful, we will have a new tool for cancer prevention in our pets, potentially decades before it is available for humans."

The protocol requires visits every other week for the first four visits to receive a series of vaccinations. After that, patients will visit every six months for the remainder of the study (five years) and receive a vaccine booster once per year. Nearly half of the enrolled patients have completed the initial six-week vaccine protocol.

Even if the vaccine doesn't turn out to be the answer, Thamm believes the team will still learn valuable information related to early detection and other relevant health data.

"While we all want the vaccine to work, the fact that we can closely follow 800 patients over five years will no doubt provide a wealth of beneficial information," said Thamm.

Study leaders expect to have preliminary data in two to three years.

The vaccine was developed by Stephen Johnston, a professor and director of the Center for Innovations in Medicine at Arizona State University. Johnston and his team discovered a way to identify commonalities among cancerous tumors and used that information to develop what they believe is a potential one-size-fits-all cancer prevention vaccine. The study is funded by the Open Philanthropy Project.

SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

All three sites are continuing to recruit and enroll patients. Owners must live within 150 miles of one of the participating trial sites. Other qualifications include: dogs must be between 6 and 10 years of age, weigh at least 12 pounds, and have no history of cancer. Dogs must also be among one of 45 eligible breeds or mixed breeds. Complete qualifying information as well as an enrollment form is available online at www.vaccs.org.

HONOR ROLL, FALL 2019

Generous giving from the private sector has become increasingly important over the years. The following individuals (in alphabetical order) are especially noteworthy in that they have given once, or in a sustained way, more than \$25,000 to support our work. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to them.

Herbert A. Allen	Dr. Norman and Ann Jorgensen	James Rotherham
Dawn and Brett Anderson	Kate Koogler Canine	William Rush III
Barbara Anthony*	Cancer Fund Inc.	Albert and Nancy Sarnoff
Blue Buffalo Foundation for Cancer Research Inc.	Elizabeth Keen	Charles R. Jr.* and Lucia H. Shipley*
The Bow Wow Buddies Foundation	Sam* and Margaret* Kelly	Kraig and Suzanna Smiegowski
Bruce Weber Nan Bush Foundation	Kneller Family Foundation	Michael and Iris Smith
Don* and Katy Callender	Kathy Kregel and James Smith	David and Peggy Sokol
CanineKids Outfitters	Robert* and Eva Knight	Frederick W. Stelle
C.H. Robinson Worldwide Foundation	Susan LeFebvre	Dr. Ralph and Peggy Starkey
The Charles Engelhard Foundation	Limb Preservation Foundation	Jennie and Bob Strayer
Charles Shipley, Jr. Foundation Inc.	William C. Lukes, AIA*	Brett F. Stuart
Colorado State University	Maddie's Fund	E. Hadley Stuart Jr.* and Family
Research Foundation	ZaZa and Donald Manocherian	Nan M. Stuart
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado	Mark and Bette Morris Family Foundation	Stuart Foundation
Steve and Kitty Cooper	Steven J. McCarthy	The Estate of Barbara Cox Anthony
Sophie and Derek Craighead	Jay and Sandra Mesinger	The Estate of Maria Bristol
David Cummings and Shelley Kerr	Milheim Foundation Cancer Research	The Estate of Lionel Edmunds
David Merin Foundation	Kenneth and Myra Monfort	The Estate of Jaynn Emery
Dani's Foundation	Charitable Foundation	The Estate of Patricia Hall
Dr. William and Sara DeHoff	Thelma C. Morici*	The Estate of June Harper
Paul Dunbar and Mindy Richards-Dunbar	National Institutes of Health	The Estate of Fern A. Howard
Elbridge and Debra Stuart Family Foundation	Jeffrey Neu	The Estate of Elisabeth Kellie
Walter* and Jaynn* Emery	Robert Neu	The Estate of Laura Katherine Krebill
Gene* and Marylynn* Fischer	Gary and Alice* Nordloh	The Estate of Carolyn Larson
Robert H.* and Mary G. Flint*	Norman Hirschfield Foundation	The Estate of William C. Lukes
Matthew Frank	Meg and Andy O'Neil	The Estate of Lois Maurer
The Hadley and Marion Stuart Foundation	Ann E. Osborn	The Estate of Carol E. McCandless
Mari Hulman George	Terry and Linda Owen	The Estate of Julia Holt Merkle
Graham and Courtney Rahal Foundation	Dr. Rodney L. Page	The Estate of Nancy A. Oyster
Golden Retriever Endowment Fund	Susan C. Page	The Estate of Constance C. Ricci
Richard and Linda Habitzreiter	Petco Foundation	The Estate of Patricia Shay
Haddington Ventures LLC	Landon Phillips and Susan Maltby	William V. Taylor*
Ed and Marilyn Hansen	David and Maxine Pierce	Allison Topham
Jeffery Harbers*	Maj. Glen and Rose Porter	Trailsend Foundation
Renee Harbers-Liddell	Joe and Kay Pyland	Dr. Cleve Trimble
June Harper*	Reiman Charitable Foundation	Deborah Van Dyke
Kathleen Henry	Roy and Roberta Reiman	Lori Venners
Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc.	Scott and Virginia Reiman	Theodore Venners
Alan* and Berte Hirschfield	Erik and Terrin Riemer	Bruce Weber and Nan Bush
Jewish Communal Fund	Dr. Ronald R. and Sara Ringen	Melissa Westerman
John H. Bell Charitable Remainder Trust	River Terminal Development Company	Rick Westerman
Lawrence Jones III*	Robert and Evelyn McKee Foundation	Richard and Nancy White
	Robert and Susan Wilson Foundation	Dr. Stephen and Susan Withrow
	Robert E. Knight Trust	Willard L. and Ruth P. Eccles Foundation
	Richard and Nancy Rogers	William Wrigley Jr. Trust
	Harold and Cathy Roozen	Rosamond R. Zetterholm*
	Donita Rotherham	

We are grateful to the following individuals for honoring the Flint Animal Cancer Center in their estate planning.

Vikki and Arthur Anderson	Michele Lier	Nancy and Carl Schramm
Dr. Allen D. and Kathy Brandon	Gigi Meinhardt	Joe and Nancy Sisinyak
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Susan Coit	Connie Miller	Robyne Taylor
Steve and Kitty Cooper	Jerry and Karen Moore	Clint Teegardin and Martha Baxter
Edward and Karen Franceschina	Deanna and Daniel Mueller	Patrick and Kim Thomsen
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Angelica Harcharik	Landon Phillips and Susan Maltby	Julie Tyger
Elizabeth Keen	David and Maxine Pierce	Jacqui and Russell Widener
Teresa and Robin Koogler	Sharon Powers	
Adrian and Karen Lakin	B. Gregory Russell	

THANK YOU FOR
MAKING OUR
WORK POSSIBLE!

2018 Impact



6,139
PATIENT VISITS

428
SURGERIES

1,356
ONLINE
CONSULTS

32
Clinical Trials

1,934
Radiation therapy
treatments



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ONE CANCER. ONE CURE.

Cancer is cancer. At the Flint Animal Cancer Center, we believe the answer to curing cancer lies in comparative oncology. Our One Cure initiative works to advance cancer research through comparative oncology clinical trials. Every day, our researchers look for new treatment options that benefit our pet patients – and people too. Your support is critical to our continued work. Please visit www.onecure.com to learn more.



**FLINT ANIMAL
CANCER CENTER**
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