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.”
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 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.

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 the only the second specialty-trained veterinary radiation oncologist in Taiwan.

**CSU-CU DENVER COLLABORATORS PRESENT AT WORLD MOLECULAR IMAGING CONGRESS**

Dr. Natalie Serkova, professor of radiology at the 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 accurately 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.

**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.

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**STAFF NEWS**

**DR. KEARA BOSS NAMED TO RADIATION RESEARCH SOCIETY COUNCIL**

Ft. Collins, Colo.—Dr. Keara Boss, a board-certified radiation oncologist at the Flint Animal Cancer Center, was recently elected co-chair-at-large for the Radiation Research Society. The society works to advance radiation research, foster research collaborations, and share knowledge within 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 veterinarian 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.

Boas 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.

**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY BENEFITS CANINE PATIENTS**

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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 Ringdahl 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 people 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. 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 trial 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.

Dr. Giovani 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 surgery 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 Stiewert is a new medical oncology resident. Dr. Stiewert 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 Lemma 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 Tuma is the newest veterinary technician at the Flint Animal Cancer Center. After completing her bachelor’s degree in biology at the University of Denver, Tuma 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.

Tori Kapaunik 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 friendraising 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 Ehnhart accepted the position as 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 Godfrey 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

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 her 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 adriamycin 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.

“Still 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 we are here; 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.”

The clinical trial was successful for Yogi, but unfortunately, his journey was not over yet. Yogi’s worst enemy, lymphoma, returned in late 2018. This time, the treatment plan involved a combination of the chemotherapies cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and doxorubicin as well as the steroid prednisone and is delivered over 16 weeks.

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

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.

One Cure Clinical Trials Program Update

Our clinical trial 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.

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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.

“Watching the stars align, 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 grateful 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 golden ever. Through this fellowship, she hopes that we can SEEK to find longevity for our dear canine friends.

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

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.

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 Tori Kapavik, (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 making a wish come true with their gift to support the purchase of the Brasserlei Pneumo Micro Power System, a tool that facilitates advanced surgical techniques in small animals.

**THANK YOU ...**

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. 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.

Jessey 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. 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.

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.
Clinical Trials evaluate the effectiveness of the cancer. VACCS investigators seek to recruit three participating sites (Colorado State University, Colorado State University, and the Jewish Communal Fund) to serve as the perfect bridge to human patients over five years will no doubt justify. Testing this approach in dogs will have shown in the lab, moving immediately of the study (five years) and receive a initial six-week vaccine protocol. SEEKING PARTICIPANTS All three sites are continuing to recruit Even if the vaccine doesn’t turn out to be the answer, Thamm believes the team 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. 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 Barbara Anthony* Blue Buffalo Foundation for Cancer Research Inc. The Steve Wise Badger Foundation Bruce Weber Nan Bush Foundation Don* and Kitty Callender Cantrell & Fitzharris C.H. Robinson Worldwide Foundation The Charles Emeryer Foundation Charles Shively, Jr. Foundation Inc. Colorado State University Research Foundation Community Foundation of Northern Colorado Steve and Kitty Cooper Sophie and Derek Craighead David Cummings and Shelley Kerr David Merin Foundation Dan’s Foundation Dr. William and Sara Detoff Paul Dunbar and Mindy Richards-Dunbar Elbridge and Debra Stuart Family Foundation Walter* and Jayn* Emery Gene* and Marilyn* Fischer Robert H.* and Mary C. Fint* Matthews Frank The Hadley and Marion Stuart Foundation Max Humen Geese Graham and Courtney Rahal Foundation Goldie Planeer Endowment Fund Richard and Linda Habitzmeir Hadidco Ventures LLC Ed and Marilyn Hansen Jeffrey Habibs* Bernadette Habibs* June Harper* Kathleen Henry Hill’s Pet Nutrition Inc. Alan* and Bette Hirschfeld Jewish Communal Fund John H. Bell Charitable Remand Trust Lawrence (Jenes III) V. Vail and Arthur Anderson Allen Dr. and Kathryn Brandon Susan Butler Susan Cott Steve and Kitty Cooper Edward and Karen Franseschka Virginia Garland Angela Harchark Elizabeth Keen Teresa and Robin Koegler Adrian and Karen Lakin Dr. Norman and Ann Jorgerson Kate Kroglf Carine Cancer Fund Inc. Elizabeth Keen Sam* and Margaret* Kelly Krieger Family Foundation Kathy Krepel and James Smith Robert* and Eva Knight Susan Lefkowitz Limb Preservation Foundation William C. Lukes, AIF Maddie’s Fund ZaZa and Donald Manoschen Mark and Bette Morris Family Foundation Steven* J. McCarthy Jay and Sandra Mesinger Milwenni Cancer Foundation Research Kenneth and Myra Monfort Charitable Foundation Thelma C. Monk* National Institutes of Health Jeffrey Neu Robert Neu Gary and Alice* Nordloh Norman Hirschfeld Foundation Meg and Andy O’Neil Art E. Olsbom Terry and Linda Owen Dr. Rodney L. Page Susan C. 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Howard The Estate of Elisabeth Kelle The Estate of Laura Katherine Krebill The Estate of Carolyn Larson The Estate of William C. Lukes The Estate of Louis Maizer The Estate of Carol E. McConnell The Estate of Julia Holt Merkle The Estate of Nancy A. Oyster The Estate of Constance C. Oxx The Estate of Patricia Oxy William V. Taylor* Allison Topham Trailhead Foundation Dr. Cleve Tremble Deborah Gunther Lori Vernens Theodore Wermers Bruce Weber and Nan Bush Melissa Weisnterman Dick Weir Reiman Richard and Nancy White Dr. Stephen and Susan Withrow William L. and Ruth P. Eccles Foundation William Young Jr. Trust Rosamond R. Zetterhelm* *Decreased Update: Vaccine Against Canine Cancer Study T he 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 canine cancer vaccine. The clinical trial is led by Colorado State University’s Dr. Douglas Thrann, 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.
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.