

Thank you for supporting our team!

Your gift to Kari and Kelsey's fund supports the heart and soul of FACC operations, including our fantastic team. Thank you!

WELCOME, DRs. VICKERY AND BURTON

We're thrilled to welcome medical oncologists, Dr. Kate Vickery and Dr. Jenna Burton, to the Flint Animal Cancer Center family. Both clinicians completed their residency training at the Flint



Dr. Jenna Burton will join the FACC in Summer 2020.



The FACC welcomed Dr. Kate Vickery in January.

Animal Cancer Center.

Vickery joined us in January 2020, after 11 years in private practice. While she loved her patients, clients, and colleagues, she missed teaching and jumped at the chance to return to CSU to work with students.

Burton will return to the FACC in July 2020 after six years as a faculty member at the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

GUSTAFSON ELECTED SECRETARY/TREASURER

Earlier this year, Dr. Dan Gustafson, FACC director of research, was elected secretary/treasurer-elect of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Division for Cancer Pharmacology. This prestigious international organization represents 5,000 members who conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research.



Dr. Dan Gustafson is the director of research at the FACC.



Dr. Dan Regan received a \$235,000 grant to study cancer metastasis.

REGAN NAMED BOETTCHER INVESTIGATOR

Dr. Dan Regan, assistant professor and FACC scientist, received a three-year \$235,000 grant from the Boettcher Foundation's Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards. The program funds promising biomedical researchers at Colorado institutions. Regan will use the award to support metastatic cancer research.

NEWSLETTER | Spring 2020

Tails of Hope

UPDATES FOR FRIENDS OF THE FLINT ANIMAL CANCER CENTER



THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Your Gift at Work (2019)

6,546
PATIENT VISITS

1,605
CONSULTATIONS

427
SURGERIES

1,888
RADIATION TREATMENTS



FLINT ANIMAL CANCER CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



OUR MISSION is to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in pet animals, translating our research and knowledge to also benefit people with cancer. We attain our mission through an innovative study of cancer, thoughtful and compassionate care, specialized treatment options, and clinical trials.

OUR VISION is to conquer cancer in all species.

Notice something new?

You're busy; we understand! That's why we've redesigned our newsletter to focus on the updates that matter most to you. We also encourage you to follow us on social media, visit our newly updated website to see our Donor Honor Roll and other features, and follow our blog. Thank you for your ongoing support. You make our work possible.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED



www.csuanimalcancercenter.org

Thanks to a generous gift from brothers Jeff and Robert Neu, the Robert H. and Mary G. Flint Animal Cancer Center and the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital, have a new, state-of-the-art Siemens Somatom Force CT scanner. It is the first of its kind in all of Colorado, human or veterinary medicine, and the first in a veterinary hospital west of the Mississippi.

"We've had a relationship with the FACC for nearly 10 years, since I brought my dog Lucy here for cancer treatment," said Jeff Neu. "The people are amazing and give the best-in-the-world care. We believe in them and, to support their work, we've invested in updates to the facility,

and now we need to update the equipment."

SPEED AND PRECISION

The new CT scanner obtains images up to 10 times faster than conventional scanners, while keeping radiation doses low. Faster scan times provide a variety of benefits, including the ability to image more patients in a day. And because the machine can scan the entire body of a 50-pound dog in less than 30 seconds, in many cases, patients can be sedated rather than anesthetized. Precision technology combined with speed makes it possible to "digitally pause the heart" to reduce motion effects that make the images

blurry, which provides radiologists with sharper pictures to read.

IMPACT ON PATIENT CARE

The powerful CT gives FACC clinicians a new tool to diagnose cancer, understand the extent of the disease, and intervene at the earliest possible time.

"Our new CT capabilities will provide more detailed information about our patients' tumors, allowing us to help owners make the best treatment decisions possible," said Dr. Susan Lana, oncology service chief. "We are just starting to explore the exciting new things we can learn."

Current plans include using high-resolution capabilities to

benefit oncology surgical planning, and our radiation oncology service will use the new CT images for treatment planning.

"I hope this technology will mean better outcomes for cancer patients," said Neu. "I'm also excited about its potential for other areas of the hospital."

According to Dr. Tim Hackett, interim associate dean of CSU's Veterinary Health System, the CT provides opportunities to become leaders in new areas.

"We've never been able to see the heart like this – the detail is incredible," said Dr. Brian Scansen, veterinary cardiologist. "With this machine, we can capture the heart in high

continued ...

HOPE FOR PETS AND PEOPLE WITH CANCER

Through clinical trials and comparative oncology research, your gift to One Cure is a gift of hope to all cancer patients. In 2019, our team managed 35 clinical trials to study more effective therapies for a variety of cancer types, including osteosarcoma, lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, and brain tumors.



Max is participating in a clinical trial studying lymphoma.

Your Gift at Work (2019)

35

CLINICAL TRIALS

167

PATIENTS

956

PATIENT VISITS

resolution, which allows us to plan the right surgery or intervention for each patient. We think this is the future of surgical planning for heart disease.”

Other specialties look forward to using the technology for advanced trauma imaging, which is standard of care in human medicine, detailed

images of the brain to support neurology cases, and more. “We are grateful to the Neu family for their continued support of capital projects and

investments in cutting-edge technology that allows us to lead the way in veterinary medicine,” said Hackett. ■

Your One Cure Gift in Action

Serena knew CeCe, an Italian greyhound, was special when she won her show debut the week-end before her first birthday.

“My husband and I had been successfully showing dogs for a few years when we got the call about CeCe,” said Serena. “She was the pick of her litter and had been with us for only a short time when she won her first ribbon.”

Following her premiere, CeCe earned multiple national and international titles. She competed in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, where she placed Best of Opposite Sex. At one point, CeCe was the No. 3 Italian greyhound in the United States.

“She loved to show,” said Serena. “She loved the constant attention and treats. I call her my diva. She doesn’t like toys and isn’t interested in chasing anything. Sleeping is her hobby.”

CeCe retired from competition two years ago. Last fall, CeCe’s family noticed a small lump on her neck that quickly grew to the size of a pingpong

ball. Her veterinarian determined it was a soft tissue sarcoma and referred her to Flint Animal Cancer Center for treatment.

CeCe was diagnosed with a grade III soft tissue sarcoma. This tumor type is locally invasive, and its behavior is predicted by grade. Grade III tumors have a



Just like in her show days, CeCe has been a champion clinical trials patient.

40% chance of metastasis, usually to the lungs. Surgery is typically the recommended treatment. However, Serena learned that CeCe’s tumor would be difficult to remove completely, significantly increasing the likelihood the cancer would grow back.

Fortunately, CeCe had options. “We decided to participate in a clinical trial,” said Serena. “If we didn’t treat, CeCe’s prognosis was poor. We wanted more time with her, but we’re both retired, so the treatment costs were a concern. We learned that clinical trials offer great care and cover some of the treatment costs.”

HELPING PETS AND PEOPLE WITH CANCER

Serena enrolled CeCe in a study to learn if adding oxygen to soft tissue sarcomas during radiation improves tumor response. Studies show that tumors lacking sufficient oxygen are more resistant to radiation treatment. The results of this study may be significant for both pets and people with certain types of cancer.

“We chose to enroll CeCe in a trial that would benefit pets and maybe even people,” said Serena. “We decided that would be CeCe’s legacy – to help others.”

“CeCe has been such a joy to work with, and we are so happy

that she has done so well with her treatment,” said Dr. Kristen Weishaar, medical oncologist, and clinical trials director.

“When we initially saw her, the tumor was 4.6 cm, and at her last visit, we couldn’t even feel it.”

Today, CeCe is back to enjoying retirement and spends her days napping and playing with her six, four-legged siblings.

“We wanted a few more months with CeCe and hoped that through her participation in the study that she could help others,” said Serena. “Amazingly, the cancer is gone!”

On behalf of CeCe, and all of our clinical trials patients, thank you! Gifts to One Cure support our clinical trials team and comparative oncology research. To learn more or to invest in this program, please contact Torii Kapavik, director of development, torii.kapavik@colostate.edu, (254) 424-2327. ■



Mini celebrates her last day of chemotherapy by ringing the bell with mom, Kris.

RINGING IN HOPE

Thanks to your ongoing support, our clinical team can provide compassionate and personalized care for our patients and clients through every step of their cancer journey. We especially love the chance to celebrate the end of treatment; whether it’s the last day of chemotherapy or radiation or a follow-up to a successful surgery, it means a lot to our staff to share in the happiness. Now, thanks to a grateful client, we have a beautiful bell to rejoice at the end of cancer treatment and ring in hope.

*Ring this bell
Three times well
Its toll to clearly say,
My treatment’s done
This course is run
And I’m on my way!*

Petco Foundation invests in patient care & advancing treatments



Nero received radiation therapy for a brain tumor, thanks to the Petco Foundation.

In 2019, thanks to a generous award from the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo Cancer Treatment Support Fund, 28 pet patients received lifesaving financial grants. The award was the first of a two-year, \$150,000 investment to support oncology patient care at the Flint Animal Cancer Center.

The fund allows the FACC to provide financial assistance for patients with specific diagnoses, requiring tests and treatment that can cost \$5,000-\$10,000 or more. Last year’s grants supported pet patients with brain and nasal tumors. In addition to supporting patient care, the award offers the opportunity for the cancer center clinicians to learn more about the therapeutic benefits of treatments, which would potentially benefit future patients.

“The generous grant from the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo Cancer Treatment Support Fund ensures money isn’t a barrier to care. The fund helps support costs for patients needing treatments that can be cost-prohibitive for many families. Not only do patients receive the care they need, but these cases also allow our team an opportunity to learn and advance care for future patients,” said Dr. Susan Lana, Flint Animal Cancer Center’s oncology service chief.

ABOUT THE PET CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

For 11 years, the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo have teamed up to raise funds to help with the costs of pet cancer treatment, provide lifesaving surgeries, continue groundbreaking research for a cure, and fund clinical trials for new therapies. The campaign runs each May in Petco Stores nationwide and online. For more information, visit www.petcofoundation.org/PCA.

YOUR GIFT ENSURES MONEY ISN’T A BARRIER TO CARE.

In addition to the grant from the Petco Foundation, we are grateful for assistance funds such as Jessy’s Leash of Love, Friends of Nan Bush and Palomino, and Holly’s Legacy. Last year, these programs supported the care of nearly 120 patients. Now, more than ever, we need your help to make sure finances are not a barrier to care. Please consider a gift to one of our patient assistance funds so that we can continue to provide financial support to families in need. See the enclosed envelope for details, or contact Torii Kapavik, director of development, torii.kapavik@colostate.edu, (254) 424-2327 for more information.



Thanks to support from Friends of Nan Bush and Palomino, Clifford received radiation and chemotherapy to treat thyroid cancer.