Thank you for supporting our team!

Dr. Kathryn Pitt
will spend this year as a surgical oncology fellow. Dr. Maureen Griffin
joined our team as a medical oncology fellow. Following a year at The Ohio State University, Dr. Molly Gasparinis looks forward to training as a medical oncology intern this year. Dr. Jennifer Grover graduated from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and joins us as One Cure clinical trials intern.

BEST WISHES

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 made a difference:

Surgical oncology fellow, Dr. Tristram Bennett, returned to Sydney, Australia, to work at the Small Animal Specialist Hospital.

After her medical oncology internship with us last year, Dr. Eliea Mortana stays with us to complete her three-year medical oncology residency.

Dr. Ashley Parker joins the team as a medical oncology resident, following a rotating internship at the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Brittany Wittendorf completed her residency and started her career at the Austin Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center.

Dr. Anna Collins graduated from the University of California, Davis, after completing a residency as a surgical oncology fellow and started her career at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Welcome back!

WELCOME (BACK), DR. WUSTEFELD-JANSSENS

In December 2020, former Flint Animal Cancer Center surgical oncology fellow, Dr. Brandon Wustefeld-Janssens, returns to our surgical oncology faculty. Wustefeld-Janssens comes back to us following three years as an assistant professor of surgical oncology at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine.

OUR MISSION

To improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in pets, 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

To conquer cancer in all species.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Compassionate and Comprehensive Clinical Care | Transformative and Collaborative Research | Innovative and Exceptional Teaching | Purposeful and Responsive Outreach

Focusing on opportunity

NEW CLINICAL MODEL

As an academic institution, we are committed to teaching. D.V.M. students to be Day One-ready practitioners. It is our job to help them understand the basics of veterinary cancer during their two-week oncology rotation.

"Students have always been members of our care team," said Dr. Susan Lata, oncology service chief. "In March, when D.V.M. students moved to remote learning, we had to adjust operations quickly. Learning to care for patients without students fast-tracked a new dual-service model that has been in design for a few years. And with this year’s addition of medical oncologists Drs. Kate Vickery and Jenna Burman to the team, we are ready to implement our vision. The new model includes a teaching service and a clinical service. In our dedicated teaching service, our team will see fewer patients to allow time for in-depth student learning. Fourth-year D.V.M. students will work with faculty to understand cancer diagnosis and treatment planning. In parallel, our dedicated clinical service permits us to see more patients, similar to private practice. It also provides our specialists-in-training with the opportunity to develop multidisciplinary management plans for complex cancers that are crucial for their specialty careers. Patients in both services will benefit from our compassionate care model. Every treatment plan is designed and supervised by our medical oncologists.

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Courtney's continued commitment to the Graham and [&] Rahal Foundation raised more than $300,000 at their Ninth Annual Dinner. Proceeds will be split between One Cure and Soldiers Angels. Despite a date change and the global pandemic, the Graham and Rahal Foundation raised more than $300,000 at their Ninth Annual Dinner. Proceeds will be split between One Cure and Soldiers Angels.

One Cure in Action

It's common knowledge among cancer researchers that tumors lacking oxygen (hypoxic) don't respond well to radiation. FACC researchers are tackling this issue head-on. Dr. Susan LaRue, working with colleagues at four universities to test a new approach that adds oxygen to tumors to help of tumors.

"Solid tumors, whether in pets or people, are characterized by a hypoxic structure that provides a springboard for tumor growth and metastasis. If oxygenation in a tumor increases, tumors show a decreased ability to metastasize," said Dr. LaRue.

A NOVEL STUDY

The project, called "Hypoxia-directed Targeted Ultrasound-Guided Radiation Therapy," is funded by the National Institutes of Health. The study is enrolling canine patients with soft tissue sarcomas, a cancer of the connective tissues. These canine tumors are bulky and often radiation-resistant, with evidence of tumor hypoxia.

"Per the protocol, microbubbles are injected into patients in the treatment group. Control group patients will receive standard radiation therapy alone. Using a handheld ultrasound device, technicians guide the microbubbles to the tumor. The fragile microbubbles break and release oxygen into the tumor tissue immediately following the treatment. If proven effective, the microbubble application paired with radiation could translate to any human or animal tumor with hypoxia, whether it's in dogs or people, a potentially exciting breakthrough for cancer patients."

CAPITALIZING ON OPPORTUNITY

According to LaRue, the NIH-funded study provides a fruitful opportunity for discovery, but she saw an opportunity to learn more. Thanks to a gift from One Cure friends, Dawn and Brett Anderson, LaRue plans to improve the tumor before treatment, immediately after treatment, and three weeks post-treatment.

"Not only will the team be able to measure changes to the tumor size, but they will also be able to analyze radiation-induced tumor DNA changes at different points in time," said Dr. LaRue.

"This study, in time, will help us develop new treatments for tumors that don't respond well to radiation. That means we'll be able to destroy cancer and save more lives," said LaRue. "Not only can we extend the quality of life for our patients, but we can also help improve the quality of life for those who care for them."

One Cure at Work (2019)

35

CLINICAL TRIALS

167

PATIENTS

956

PATIENT VISITS

WHY WE GIVE

Nancy and Larry McDonald, and Sunshine, our new buddy

We first met the team at the Flint Animal Cancer Center after Bow, our dog’s cancer was diagnosed with cancer. Our vet recommended a local clinic, but, after research, Larry said, “No way, we’re taking him to CU!”

Brow had chemoradiation and radiation; we were so grateful for the compassionate care he received. About a year later Rain, our black Lab, was diagnosed with cancer. Once again, we contacted the客服, but, after research, Larry said, “No way; we’re taking her to CU!”

In honor of Rain and Bow, and the fantastic FACC team, we’ve included the cancer center in our estate plans. Our gift will support One Cure to help increase our cancer’s chances of survival and improve the lives of other cancer patients.

"The compassionate care and support we received from the FACC team made a difference in fighting this ugly disease."

We're so grateful for Graham and Courtney’s continued commitment to speeding up the cure!