

PROMISE

SPREADING *the* WORD

Two-time survivor advocates for HPV vaccination

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®



Making Cancer History[®]

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY GALA
November 10, 2016

To learn more, please see page 5.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

22: Aspen
Making Cancer History® Seminar

SEPTEMBER

12: Austin
Making Cancer History® Seminar

13: San Antonio
Making Cancer History® Seminar

15: Houston
Rogers Award for Excellence

21: Atlanta
Making Cancer History® Seminar

28: Dallas
A Conversation With a Living Legend®
Honoring Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper

OCTOBER

21: Houston
Brown Foundation Award

NOVEMBER

10: Houston
75th Anniversary Gala

11: Houston
BOV Annual Meeting
Survivorship Conference and Dinner

12: Houston
Boot Walk to End Cancer™

DECEMBER

5: San Antonio
A Conversation With a Living Legend®
Honoring Dr. Condoleezza Rice

8: Houston
Santa's Elves Party

ACCESS ANSWERS

To become a patient: Call 877-632-6789 or fill out the self-referral form at www.mdanderson.org.

For more information, please visit www.mdanderson.org/gifts or call 800-525-5841.

Download Promise at www.mdanderson.org/Promise.

If you do not want to receive certain fundraising communications from MD Anderson, please visit our website at www.mdanderson.org/FundraisingOptOut or contact us at 855-344-5272.



ON THE COVER:

Cancer survivor Kara Million is an advocate for raising awareness of the human papillomavirus and its link to cervical and other cancers. **p. 8**

PHOTO BY ADOLFO CHAVEZ III

PROMISE

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Email us your thoughts: promise@mdanderson.org.



ZAYED BUILDING OPENS DOORS TO STATE-OF-THE-ART RESEARCH

Dedication celebrates Khalifa Foundation's \$150 million grant

MD ANDERSON recently welcomed His Highness Sheikh Hamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Crown Prince Court of Abu Dhabi; His Excellency Mohamed Haji Al Khoori, Director General of the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation; and H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba, United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the United States, to dedicate the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Building for Personalized Cancer Care. Construction was made possible through a \$150 million grant by the Khalifa Foundation in 2011 to accelerate the pace of personalized cancer therapies and pancreatic cancer research. The 12-floor, 628,652-square-foot building, now in the second phase of construction, houses the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute for Personalized Cancer Therapy, the Sheikh Ahmed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research, and molecular diagnostics, histocompatibility and molecular pathology research laboratories.

The grant also funds three distinguished university chairs as well as a Faculty Scholar program to advance the discovery and delivery of effective and accessible personalized cancer treatments.

"This dedication marks a significant milestone for MD Anderson and the patients we serve around the world," says Ronald DePinho, M.D., president of MD Anderson. "We are grateful to the Khalifa Foundation for its visionary contribution to Making Cancer History."

"I hope one of the fellows comes up with a cure. **It would make me proud to know that this gift made a difference.**" — Andrew Sabin



CANCER, MEET YOUR MATCH

Andrew Sabin Family Fellows named

EIGHT OF MD ANDERSON'S BRIGHTEST young scientists are the inaugural awardees of the Andrew Sabin Family Fellowship Program, established through the generosity of MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors member Andrew Sabin.

The New York businessman and philanthropist and his family foundation donated \$30 million to reward creative, independent thinkers eager to take on high-risk, high-impact research. The program will fund up to eight fellowships each year, with each fellow receiving \$100,000 over two years. This year's Andrew Sabin Family Fellows, selected from among 65 highly competitive applicants, are:

- Ken Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
- David Hui, M.D., assistant professor, Palliative, Rehabilitation and Integrative Medicine and General Oncology
- Nicholas Navin, Ph.D., assistant professor, Genetics and Bioinformatics
- Katharina Schlacher, Ph.D., assistant professor, Cancer Biology
- Ferdinandos Skoulidis, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology
- Benjamin Smith, M.D., associate professor, Radiation Oncology and Health Services Research
- Cullen Taniguchi, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, Radiation Oncology
- Shannon Westin, M.D., assistant professor, Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine

Sabin is president of Sabin Metal Corporation, the largest privately owned precious metals refiner and recycler in the country. He is an avid environmentalist, conservationist, wildlife enthusiast and advocate for increased cancer research funding on a national level.

MD ANDERSON EXPERTS JOIN NEW PARKER INSTITUTE FOR CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

Largest single contribution to breakthrough field funds alliance of six cancer centers

CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY LEADERS at MD Anderson will work with experts at five other cancer centers in a new alliance funded by the largest single contribution ever made to the field. The Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, created with a \$250 million grant from the Parker Foundation, focuses on accelerating progress in the breakthrough field that helps the immune system attack cancers. Each center received initial funding of

\$10-15 million in the first year to establish the Parker Institute onsite. This investment will grow annually through project grants, shared resources and central funding.

Initially, five MD Anderson researchers will fully participate in the Parker Institute at MD Anderson:

- **Director: Jim Allison, Ph.D.**, chair, Immunology, and executive director, MD Anderson's immunotherapy platform

- **Co-director: Padmanee Sharma, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor, Genitourinary Medical Oncology, and scientific director of the immunotherapy platform
- **Cassian Yee, M.D.**, professor, Melanoma Medical Oncology, and co-leader of the Adoptive Cell Therapy platform
- **Elizabeth Mittendorf, M.D. Ph.D.**, associate professor, Breast Surgical Oncology
- **Jennifer Wargo, M.D.**, associate professor, Surgical Oncology and Genomic Medicine



DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Proceeds of gala celebration to benefit variety of programs

NOVEMBER 10, 2016 Join fellow MD Anderson supporters, cancer survivors, faculty and staff in celebrating the institution's 75th anniversary. The festivities unfold on the prairie at the southeast corner of Fannin Street and Holcombe Boulevard, in a 50,000-square-foot, climate-controlled tent featuring a 100-foot-long, two-story window offering fantastic views of the Texas Medical Center. Reception is at 6 p.m., with dinner and entertainment at 7 p.m.

For information, please email events@mdanderson.org or call 713-563-4025.



DAVID LIENEMANN

NATIONAL CANCER MOONSHOT SUMMIT

'A bad day for cancer'

MD ANDERSON was among more than 270 organizations across the country participating in Vice President Joe Biden's June 29 National Cancer Moonshot Summit. Nearly 300 people — patients and survivors, researchers, physicians, health care workers, advocates, Board of Visitors and Advance Team members, and data and technology experts — attended the MD Anderson event.

"It's a bad day for cancer," said Ronald DePinho, M.D., president, in welcoming remarks as he expressed the institution's enthusiastic support for the national effort to double progress against cancer over the next five years. DePinho took the opportunity to highlight advances generated by MD Anderson's Moon Shots Program since it launched in 2012 (see page 8).

In live-streamed remarks from Washington, D.C., Vice President Biden called for increased collaboration, innovation and data sharing. He also shared his family's personal journey and referred to MD Anderson as "an incredible organization."

The event concluded with a panel discussion offering diverse perspectives and covering such topics as the need to share data and collaborate with community hospitals, industry and other organizations; the importance of voting to support the renewal of funding for the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas; and the recent work of the HPV-related Cancers Moon Shot to increase vaccination rates.



F. CARTER SMITH

Top: In April, at the Third International Conference on the Progress of Regenerative Medicine and Its Cultural Impact in Rome, Ronald DePinho, M.D., president of MD Anderson, meets with Vice President Joe Biden on the Moon Shots Program and its practice-changing advances.

Above: Panelists at MD Anderson's Cancer Moonshot Summit, from left: J. Leonard Lichtenfeld, M.D., deputy chief medical officer, American Cancer Society; Chris Belmont, vice president and chief information officer; Bree Sandlin, cancer survivor; Ronald DePinho, M.D., president; Rep. Sarah Davis, Texas House of Representatives; Patrick Hwu, M.D., division head, Cancer Medicine; Lois Ramondetta, M.D., professor, Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine, and co-leader, HPV-related Cancers Moon Shot; Devon Still, Houston Texans defensive lineman and founder of Still Strong Foundation



From left: Marc Metrick, Bobby Dees, Tom Buchholz, M.D.

PHOTOS BY WILSON PARRISH

THE GRAND REOPENING OF SAKS FIFTH AVENUE in Houston's Galleria III, featuring special guest Erdem Moralioglu, founder and creative director of London-based brand ERDEM, drew some 900 guests and raised more than \$140,000 for MD Anderson's Moon Shots Program. In addition to ticket sales, Saks also contributed 10% of the evening's store sales.

Kicking off the VIP reception in the store's 51Fifteen restaurant were Bobby Dees, vice president and general manager of Saks Houston, and Marc Metrick, president of Saks Fifth Avenue, from New York. Tom Buchholz, M.D., executive vice president and physician-in-chief at MD Anderson, thanked Saks and the fashion-forward crowd for their support and offered an update on the Moon Shots Program and its impact around the world.

Event Chairs: Yvonne and Rufus Cormier, Isabel and Danny David, Courtney Hill Fertitta and Jason Fertitta, Janet Gurwitch, Denise Monteleone, and Claire Cormier Thielke and Rick Thielke



Margaret Alkek Williams



Yvonne and Rufus Cormier, Claire Cormier Thielke



Janet Gurwitch and Ron Franklin

GOT HOPE?

Bringing joy to others was teenage AML patient's priority

BY LESLIE FRIEDMAN

From an early age, Kaylee Carew wanted to help others. At 10, she made and sold anklets to raise money for the San Antonio Humane Society.

At 13, Kaylee was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a cancer of the blood cells. She was treated for seven months in her hometown of San Antonio, continuing to do well in all advanced classes at Reagan High School and making the National Junior Honor Society.

"Kaylee's determination to end cancer never wavered," says her mom, Aimee. "In true Kaylee spirit, she started the Got Hope Club. She was concerned for others, especially young patients like herself. She wanted to bring joy to those suffering with cancer."

In January 2015, Kaylee relapsed. Doctors suggested a bone marrow transplant at MD Anderson. In April, she had the procedure, using bone marrow from her father, Lance.

Though Kaylee fought fearlessly through the transplant, she passed away in December of that year. Her legacy and never-give-up spirit live on, not only through the Got Hope Club, but also at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital, with a plaque in her name donated by Energy Transfer Partners, Lance's employer.

"Employees at Energy Transfer want to contribute in a significant way in the fight against cancer," says Chris Curia, executive vice

president and chief human resources officer. "We believe our efforts are most effective by aligning with MD Anderson and supporting its research and treatment programs."

Energy Transfer, majority owner of Sunoco, LP, the parent company of Stripes, Sunoco and APlus, raised nearly \$2.8 million last year for MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital.

The Got Hope Club in San Antonio continues to reach out to children with cancer, coordinating activities designed to support and bring joy, as Kaylee would have wanted.

She was concerned for others, especially young patients like herself. She wanted to bring joy to those suffering with cancer."

— AIMEE CAREW



Aimee Carew

DIANA SHEKHTER

Cosmetics entrepreneur focuses on cancer's genetic makeup

\$1 million gift supports Lung Cancer Moon Shot

BY ALLISON SCHAFFER

Laughter is a key component in Jane Ford-Petrin's life. In 1970, "farm gal" Jane and her twin sister Jean left Indiana and headed west to San Francisco. The twins debated whether to open a casserole store or makeup shop to earn a living. A simple coin toss decided their future: Makeup store it was.

On July 16, 1976, Jane and Jean opened Benefit Cosmetics, chock-full of "corn-fed" humor and a product line called "fake-its." Benefit's success continues on this promise: "Laughter is the best cosmetic. So grin and wear it!"

But on Dec. 20, 2013, all the grins and laughter nearly went out of Jane's life. She had been experiencing excruciating pain, what she, her husband and doctor believed to be pneumonia. A CT scan proved different. Jane was diagnosed with lung cancer and was found to have a mutation of the KRAS gene, commonly known to lead to the disease. In early 2014, she underwent surgery at MD Anderson by Reza Mehran, M.D., professor, Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery.

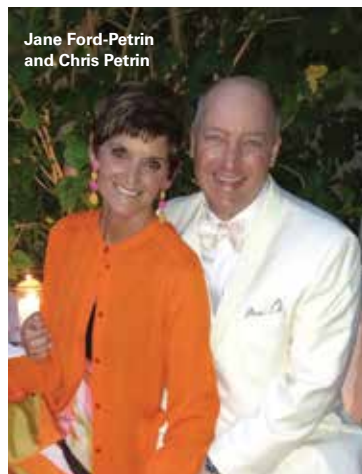
"We are overwhelmed in gratitude. Thank you, thank you to all the staff and doctors at MD Anderson. Each of you has played a huge role in giving us a second shot. Now, we are determined to help others receive their own 'second shot,'" says Jane.

Her husband, Chris Petrin, adds: "We knew the second we stepped inside these doors that we had made the right choice to come here."

The couple recently contributed \$1 million to the Lung Cancer Moon Shot's KRAS research effort. Their donation has helped researchers identify three subsets of lung cancer with KRAS gene mutations, opening up new approaches for treating lung adenocarcinoma.

"The development of more effective treatments for lung cancers bearing KRAS mutations has been hampered by their biological diversity," says John Heymach, M.D., Ph.D., chair of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology. "Thanks to Jane and Chris' generous gift, we are better equipped to deal with these tumors and closer to finding a cure."

As for Jane and Chris? Laughter and grins continue their return.



Jane Ford-Petrin and Chris Petrin

COURTESY OF JANE FORD-PETRIN

About the

HPV-related Cancers MOON SHOT

Podcast at <http://bit.ly/2acytX2>

LEADERSHIP

- **Erich M. Sturgis, M.D.**, professor, Head and Neck Surgery
- **Cathy Eng, M.D.**, professor, Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology
- **Lois Ramondetta, M.D.**, professor, Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine
- **Kathleen Schmeler, M.D.**, associate professor, Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine

Certain forms of the human papillomavirus (HPV) cause common skin warts (papillomas). Others can lead to cancer, including cervical (90%), oropharyngeal (70%), vulvar (70%), vaginal (70%), penile (more than 60%) and anal (90%).

GOALS

Prevention and screening: Increase state and national HPV vaccination rates to greater than 80% in the next five years, increase access to early diagnosis and improve access to cervical cancer screening in underserved populations. Explore new screening methods for noncervical cancers and HPV cancers in men.

Discovery: Develop molecularly targeted therapies based on integrated genomics to improve outcomes for the full spectrum of HPV-related disease. Use the Cancer Genomics Laboratory, a moon shot platform, to sequence tumors and better understand how the HPV virus inserts its DNA into a person's DNA. Study the role of genomic integration in cervical and head and neck cancers.

Immunotherapy and new clinical trials: Identify and address immunosuppressive mechanisms in HPV-associated squamous carcinoma of the oropharynx and anogenital tract and launch immunotherapy trials for HPV-related cancers.



VATICAN MEETING: At the Third International Conference on the Progress of Regenerative Medicine and Its Cultural Impact in Rome this spring, Ronald DePinho, M.D., president of MD Anderson, meets with Pope Francis and other Vatican leaders on behalf of the HPV-related Cancers Moon Shot and cancer prevention and control platform teams.

MOON SHOTS PROGRAM Results-oriented, patient-driven

MD Anderson's Moon Shots Program is a comprehensive assault to significantly reduce cancer deaths and transform cancer care. Moon shot teams pursue innovative projects prioritized for greatest patient impact. Many moon shots also include prevention and early-detection projects. Specialized platforms provide infrastructure, systems and strategy. Moon shot efforts will help support all other cancer research at MD Anderson, particularly with improved resources and infrastructure. Funding is from private philanthropy, institutional earnings, competitive research grants and commercialization of new discoveries.

As of May 31, private philanthropic commitments to the program total more than \$383.8 million.

12 AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Acute myeloid leukemia/myelodysplastic syndromes
- B-cell lymphoma
- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
- Colorectal cancer
- Glioblastoma
- High-risk multiple myeloma
- Human papillomavirus-related cancers
- Melanoma
- Lung cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Triple negative breast cancer and high-grade serous ovarian cancers

MY MOON SHOT



KARA MILLION, of Houston, is a mother of two and a two-time cancer survivor. A volunteer for myCancerConnection and an advocate for raising awareness about the human papillomavirus (HPV), Kara says the Moon Shots Program will be key to ending cancer for good.

ADOLFO CHAVEZ III

“When I first heard of the Moon Shots Program, I was sitting in Dr. (Kathleen) Schmeler's office. She had just learned that HPV-related cancers had been selected for the program. She was excited. I was excited for her!

HPV affects eight out of 10 people. It affected me in 2004, when I found out that I had the virus that could cause cervical cancers. I hadn't heard of it before then.

I was at my gynecologist's office for my annual exam, and they asked if I'd like to be tested for HPV. I wasn't having any issues, so I wasn't worried about the test.

Then the results came back: positive for strands of the virus linked to cervical cancer. My doctor assured me I was OK, but that we would be doing exams every six months, to keep an eye on things.

Being a busy mom, I let my regular check-ups lapse. When I went in for my exam in 2009, they found cancer on my cervix. It was at stage IIIA. I underwent six weeks of radiation along with chemotherapy and two weekends of internal radiation. After several months of recovery, it appeared that the cancer was gone.

Just a year later, the cancer was back. I am thankful to still be here.

Now that I realize how important the Moon Shots Program is to getting the word out about HPV, I am very hopeful the program will help bring awareness of HPV and the HPV vaccine. I hope it becomes a routine vaccination that we give all of our children. The HPV-related Cancers Moon Shot can help find a way to eradicate cancers that affect so many.

WHAT'S YOUR MOON SHOT?

Contact us at promise@mdanderson.org and tell us why MD Anderson's Moon Shots Program is important to you.

A WIN-WIN WIN SITUATION

Corporate matching gift programs help your money work smarter

BY DAWN DORSEY

As a financial adviser, Libby Witherspoon recommends corporate matching gift programs as smart financial moves. As a donor to MD Anderson, she follows her own good advice.

“I absolutely tell my clients to take advantage of matching gift programs at their places of employment,” says Witherspoon, who directs a wealth management team at BNY Mellon in Miami. “It’s the best way to leverage a gift, giving it impact on an exponential basis.”



“I’m so grateful
for everything
MD Anderson does
to advance toward
wiping out this
disease. I want to do
everything I can.”

— LIBBY WITHERSPOON

Witherspoon’s husband was treated at MD Anderson for glioblastoma, a type of brain tumor. Treatment was successful at first, but he died in 2014 after a recurrence. Now her mother is being treated at MD Anderson for ovarian cancer.

“I’m so grateful for everything MD Anderson does to advance toward wiping out this disease,” she says. “I want to do everything I can.”

Gifts benefit company, employee, MD Anderson

Many companies, large and small, offer matching gift programs that augment employee donations to certain nonprofits. Programs vary as far as match ratio and minimum and maximum donations, and some extend the offer to retirees. The most common match is one dollar to one dollar, but some go as high as four to one.

MD Anderson began receiving matching gifts in the early 1990s, and the amount received annually has grown to almost \$850,000. These programs are valuable on many levels, says Susan Alanis, administrative director of Development-Gift Operations.

Most important, the donations help increase MD Anderson’s ability to help patients and their loved ones.

“Matching gift programs allow companies to become involved in causes important to their employees, so they are more connected to their team and the community,” she says. “Donors are able to make more of an impact because the programs boost the effectiveness of their contributions.”

Opportunity to make your money do more

Marathon Oil Corporation’s matching gift program, for example, offers one-to-one matches of unlimited donations to any nonprofit supported by the company.

“Our workplace giving program increases employee awareness of the meaningful work of the organizations the company supports,” says Kathy Sauvé, manager of Corporate Communications and Philanthropy at Marathon Oil. “We hope that encourages them to give generously to further the efforts of our nonprofit community partners.”

Doug Seaworth, a planning manager in Corporate Development at Marathon Oil, has been donating to MD Anderson through the company’s matching gift program for three years.

Although his family has not been directly touched by cancer, he gives to the institution because of its stature as a worldwide leader in cancer treatment and research.

“The matching gift program provides a great way to increase our gifts and double their power to make a difference,” he says.



Kathy
Sauvé



Doug
Seaworth





WALTER DRIVER

Five years ago, Driver's wife was treated successfully at MD Anderson for pancreatic cancer. Sadly, she died last fall of metastatic breast cancer.

Chairman of the southeast for Goldman Sachs & Co., Driver uses the matching gift program, along with family contributions and memorial gifts, to fund research on pancreatic cancer.

"When I first started giving to MD Anderson, I was trying to save my wife's life," he says. "Now I find the program gives me further incentive to support MD Anderson."



DON SCHLATTMAN

When Schlattman's wife passed away in 2005 of ovarian cancer, he was working as an information technology professional at Chevron. He and his two children decided to access Chevron's matching gift program to establish an endowment in her honor.

"I needed \$20,000 to set up the endowment," Schlattman says. "I put in \$10,000, and they put in \$10,000."

Now retired, Schlattman continues to donate through the program to support the endowment, which helps children whose parents are in the final stages of cancer.



JENNIFER SHUFELT

Jennifer Shufelt, a lawyer in the New York office of IBM, says her family can never forget the compassion of MD Anderson's staff and their personalized and attentive treatment of her father's glioblastoma.

"When I started working at IBM, I became aware of the matching gift program right away," she says. "I gave \$100 here, \$100 there. But after my father died, I began to give to MD Anderson at the maximum limit, earmarking my gifts for glioblastoma research."



PHIL PARKER

Until Phil Parker's family members were treated at MD Anderson, he made occasional gifts when an obituary suggested it. When he decided to increase his giving, he learned his employer, Shell, offered the opportunity to double the impact of his gift.

"I'm not the biggest donor by any means, but it makes my wife and me feel good to know our donations are making more of an impact," says Parker, who retired after 41 years at Shell and continues to participate in its matching gift program.

Among the companies that include MD Anderson in matching gift programs are:

- Allstate
- AIG
- Applied Materials
- AT&T
- Bank of America
- BP
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Cardinal Health
- Chevron
- Coca-Cola
- ConocoPhillips
- Dell
- EOG Resources Inc.
- ExxonMobil
- Fluor
- GE
- Goldman Sachs
- Halliburton
- HP
- IBM
- JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Johnson & Johnson
- KBR
- Kimberly-Clark
- Liberty Mutual
- Lockheed Martin
- LyondellBasell
- Marathon Oil
- Merck
- Microsoft
- Mobil
- Occidental Petroleum
- Phillips 66
- Raytheon
- Shell Oil Company
- Spectra Energy
- Texas Instruments
- Wells Fargo

“Matching gift programs allow companies to become involved in **causes important to their employees.**” — SUSAN ALANIS

To find out how you or your company can participate in MD Anderson's matching gift program, call 713-792-4512 or email matching@mdanderson.org.

GETTING TO KNOW Kelli Kickerillo

BY ALLISON SCHAFFER

Native Houstonian Kelli Kickerillo knows a thing or two about a successful event. As chair of the 2015 Houston A Conversation With a Living Legend®, Kelli and her husband, Todd Forester, raised more than \$1 million for MD Anderson’s Moon Shots Program. Kelli serves as events chair for MD Anderson’s Advance Team, a volunteer board of “next generation” community and business leaders. No matter what the event, Kelli and her family remain focused on Making Cancer History® for cancer patients and survivors around the world.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was born and raised right here in Houston, Texas. My husband, Todd Forester, and I have one son, named Kick. Professionally, I work with my parents at our family business, Kickerillo Companies. We are land developers and home builders, and I serve as executive vice president and chief marketing officer.

How did you come to know MD Anderson?

Growing up in Houston, I’ve always known about MD Anderson. What struck me most, besides the incredible research and amazing patient care, was the fact that I’ve had the opportunity to meet so many survivors, many who have been living 20 or 30 years since their initial diagnosis and treatment. These survivors are a testimony to MD Anderson and the institution’s mission to end cancer — it’s truly becoming more of a reality.

Why is it important to you to support this mission to end cancer?

MD Anderson’s mission struck closer to home when my mother had a small scare in the ‘90s. Fortunately, it turned out not to be cancer, but it gave us the opportunity to learn more about the benefits available through the Lyda Hill Cancer Prevention Center. I think many people don’t realize that MD Anderson also can help you reduce your cancer risk — the doctors in the cancer prevention program are absolutely wonderful. A few years ago, when I had a small scare myself, I received nothing but the best care and peace of mind while I was in the hands of the doctors there.

How did you become involved with the Advance Team?

Joining the Advance Team was an opportunity to play a more active role in the fight against cancer. Recently, I was asked



Kelli Kickerillo and Todd Forester

MICHELE WATSON

Born: Houston
Resides: Houston
Education: BBA from the University of St. Thomas, Houston
Career: Chief Marketing Officer/Executive Vice President, Kickerillo Companies
Advance Team (Since 2012)
Events Chair: 2016

to be a part of the executive team to chair the events committee. Then, Todd and I were asked to co-chair the Houston Living Legend event. It’s been such an educational experience.

What message do you have for patients at MD Anderson?

I say you are halfway there simply by being a patient at MD Anderson. The entire organization, from the volunteers, the physicians and nurses, the executive staff, the Board of Visitors and the Advance Team, are behind you. The combined years of experience in patient care and the advances in treatment that I’ve already mentioned are what set this institution apart in the nation and world.

SURVIVORS SAY

LAUREN ERDMANN, of Midland, is a three-time cancer survivor. She enjoys spending time with her family, including the newest addition: a sister-in-law. She also enjoys working at her parents’ business, Advance Kwik Lube. Erdmann has traveled to Cancun and Hawaii with her family, and they plan a cruise to Alaska and Canada later this year.

It’s not an exaggeration to say I owe my life to MD Anderson. I’ve had cancer three times over seven years and successfully fought it each time, thanks to my doctors and nurses there.

In 2007, during my high school senior year, I was experiencing discomfort, bloating and stomachaches. When I learned I had colon cancer, I went straight from Midland to MD Anderson and underwent a massive surgery to remove my colon and rectum.

Nine months later, after a CT scan revealed that a cancer cell had traveled to a lymph node in my abdomen, I had more surgery, as well as five months of chemotherapy before and after the procedure and 30 rounds of radiation.

I was in remission until 2013, when cancer struck a third time: uterine clear cell carcinoma, a rare form of endometrial cancer. I had a full hysterectomy at age 23.

Later that year, a genetic test showed constitutional mismatch repair deficiency syndrome, which was the cause for my developing cancerous colorectal polyps and other cancers.

I don’t know what lies ahead, but I won’t let cancer beat me. Cancer has made me stronger. And my expert medical team has made it easier for me, as I know I’m in good hands. They’ve given me a second and a third chance at life.

Video: youtube.com/MDAnderson



Lauren Erdmann

GINI REED

Promise invites cancer survivors to share their reflections. Email promise@mdanderson.org.

PROM PARTY PALOOZA

Teenage cancer patients enjoy an unforgettable evening

BY KATRINA BURTON

MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital was prom central this spring as teenage cancer patients and their families enjoyed an evening of glitz and glam. Thanks to the efforts of Houston business owner Thomas Nguyen and a team of vendors and volunteers, the Prom Party Palooza was a night to be remembered.

Nguyen, former attorney and now co-owner of Peli Peli, a South African fusion restaurant, led efforts to produce the Great Gatsby-themed evening, collaborating with MD Anderson staff and local business owners for months to make prom night "unforgettable."

"This was one of the most rewarding experiences," says event co-sponsor Nguyen. "Our vision was to help create the most amazing prom for teens at MD Anderson. The fact that we were able to create a prom experience for their families was an added bonus."

The inaugural prom was the result of an idea sparked a year ago through a connection with MD Anderson Advance Team member Karissa Barber of Phoenix, Ariz. In Houston for the annual Advance Team advisory board meeting, Barber had dinner at Peli Peli and learned that her husband and Nguyen grew up together. Nguyen expressed his desire to do something for pediatric patients at MD Anderson, and Barber worked with Advance Team Chair David Herr to set the wheels in motion.

"Thomas was willing to close his restaurant on a busy Saturday night to host the prom, but it was easier for prom to take place at the hospital," says Barber. "That speaks to his commitment to give back."

Expecting more than 100 patients and families, Nguyen reached out to family, friends, business partners and the community to help organize three separate parties for patients, siblings and parents. He had an overwhelming response with more than 300



David Olazaba and
Ashley Cavender

PHOTOS BY AARON PALANAV

dresses donated, over 100 volunteers and a host of restaurants and businesses contributing food and services for the special night, such as a Kendra Scott color bar where patients and their families created custom jewelry.

Co-sponsor Jason Poon, CEO of family-owned seafood distribution company Marine Foods Express, donated \$10,000 to MD Anderson Children's Cancer

Hospital in support of the prom.

"I'm grateful to MD Anderson," says Poon, noting the institution's care of several family members and friends. "So when Thomas asked for our support, there was no hesitation."

Beyond the excitement of selecting dresses, getting fitted for tuxedos, beauty makeovers, dancing and enjoying great food was the poignant reality that this might be the only prom experience for many patients, says Nguyen.

"These kids deserved to have a prom they will hopefully remember for the rest of their lives," he says. "I hope we're able to do this yearly so every child at MD Anderson has a chance to experience prom."

PARTNERS IN PROM

Thanks to all who collaborated to make Prom Party Palooza a success, including:

Al's Formal Wear
BoothRus
Craft Burger Food Truck
DJ JKB
DJ Johnny Mac
El Bolillo Bakery
Fluff Bake Bar
Holley's Seafood Restaurant
Houstonia Magazine
Kendra Scott
Kuu
Marine Foods Express Ltd.
Pageboy
PGA TOUR Wives Association
Peli Peli
PXLS Studio
Roostar Vietnamese Grill
Taste of Texas
The Tasting Room
Zone 6 Video

TRADITION TRIUMPHS IN WEST TEXAS

Polo on the Prairie marks 30 years

TENS OF THOUSANDS have attended Polo on the Prairie at the Musselman Brother's Lazy 3 Ranch in Albany, Texas. Whether it's for the sights or the sounds, the fight to end cancer unites them all.

Polo on the Prairie was first held in 1987. The brainchild of MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors (BOV) member Mary Anne McCloud and her son-in-law, Henry Musselman, also a member of the BOV, the event was intended to spread awareness of MD Anderson, raise funds for the institution and honor those impacted by cancer.

Since then, Polo on the Prairie has evolved to include a barbecue dinner catered by local favorite Joe Allen's Pit Bar B Que, an all-star lineup of country music favorites, including this year's featured artist, Kevin Fowler, and an extraordinary fireworks show.

"Polo on the Prairie is one of the most beloved traditions celebrated by our MD Anderson family," says Ronald DePinho, M.D., president of MD Anderson. "We're grateful for the McCloud and Musselman families and all who attend this Texas-size event to support the lifesaving work of our world-class faculty and staff."

The inaugural event raised \$25,000. This spring, Polo welcomed more than 1,200 people and raised more than \$305,000 for MD Anderson's Moon Shots Program, bringing the event's total contributions to more than \$5.74 million.

"Thirty years ago, we never imagined what a difference we could make," says Musselman. "Every year gets better and better, and we can't wait to see what the next 30 years have in store for us and for MD Anderson."

ALLISON SCHAFFER



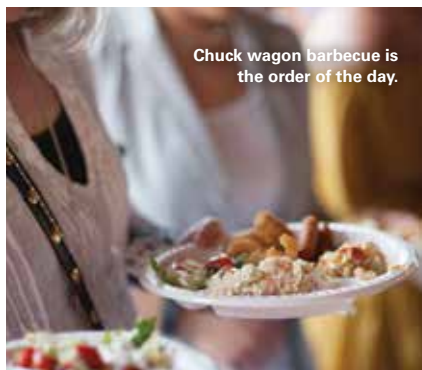
The U.S. Polo Association-sanctioned tournament is a time-honored tradition.



After polo, it's time for two-stepping to the sounds of Kevin Fowler.



The Musselmans gather family and friends for this year's Polo on the Prairie.



Chuck wagon barbecue is the order of the day.



Tables set under a big white tent provide hospitality, West Texas-style.

PHOTOS BY ADOLFO CHAVEZ III

CYCLERS EYE THE FINISH LINE

Friends create 'Wheel to Survive' to reach the end of ovarian cancer

BY LESLIE FRIEDMAN

The four women were friends. What brought them together wasn't a common hobby, sorority or even another friend. It was ovarian cancer.

To help fight the disease, Jill Bach, Helen Gardner, Lynn Lentscher and Julie Shrell, survivors at different stages, founded Be the Difference Foundation in 2012 and started Wheel to Survive, an indoor cycling fundraiser. The event benefits programs for women battling ovarian cancer and provides research dollars for a cure. To date, Wheel to Survive has raised more than \$1.8 million from events in Dallas, Austin, San Francisco and San Diego. Its inaugural Houston event, on Sunday, Sept. 25, is co-chaired by Tracey Blumrosen and Tami Sheena, who hope to attract 300 riders.



Wheel to Survive founders, from left, Jill Bach, Helen Gardner, Lynn Lentscher and Julie Shrell

COURTESY OF JILL BACH

The \$50 entry fee includes a commemorative T-shirt, free training rides and a goodie bag. Participants are required to raise at least \$250 for each rider on a relay team. Proceeds will support MD Anderson's Breast and Ovarian Cancers Moon Shot.

Gardner succumbed to the disease in 2014, but her friends continue the fight.

"With statistics as they are, it's time to change them for our mothers, daughters, sisters and girlfriends," says Bach.

www.bethedifferencefoundation.org/wheel-to-survive

'THE SECRET SAUCE'

Golfers Against Cancer credits volunteers in fundraising success

BY ALLISON SCHAFFER

A few sage words of advice from his wife changed Bobby Jones' life: "If you feel this way, do something about it."

It was 1997, and one of Jones' close friends had just been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. They had met through the Deerwood Golf Club in Kingwood. As news spread, the entire golf group grew more devastated. Then, the golfers were hit with another blow when their assistant pro developed a brain tumor a few months later.

"Most of the time, the easiest way for us to help out was to write a check," says Jones. "But in this case, that just wasn't enough."

Jones and his friends created Golfers Against Cancer (GAC) and in six weeks raised \$80,000.

"Our purpose was to show our two friends that we really cared about them," says Jones. "It was only later when we started allocating the money that we got excited about what

the money could do."

To date, GAC has funded more than \$1.87 million for cancer research at MD Anderson (see sidebar). Jones credits the group's success to the strictly volunteer-based structure of the organization.

"That's really our secret sauce," he says. "There are no paid executives; it's all volunteers. People really feel like they own the organization, and they do."

MD Anderson remains one of GAC's primary beneficiaries.

"It's the leading cancer research center in the world, it's in Houston, we have direct relationships with the researchers and administration and it's treated so many of our friends," says Jones. "We know that our money going to MD Anderson can do more, or as much as it can going anywhere else."

"That's really our secret sauce. There are no paid executives; it's all volunteers. **People really feel like they own the organization, and they do.**"

— BOBBY JONES



Actor Chris Rich (left) and GAC co-founder Bobby Jones at the 2015 tournament at The Clubs of Kingwood

HUGH HARRIS

Since 1997, GAC has made possible 23 research projects, among others, at MD Anderson that:

- Tested a screening strategy for early-stage ovarian cancer in more than 5,000 women where no more than three operations were required to detect each case of ovarian cancer
- Detected early-stage cancer in nine of 12 women (75%) by the screening where only 20% of early-stage cases would be expected
- Leveraged nearly \$2 million in funds from the National Cancer Institute through the Ovarian Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) program and \$50,000 from The Jane P. and Wiley L. Mossy Jr. Foundation

TAKING A SWING AT CURING BRAIN CANCER

Patient raises money through golf tournament in Mississippi hometown

BY LESLIE FRIEDMAN

Fulton, Mississippi is a close-knit community of 4,000, where Martin Richardson, 32, lives with his young family. He loves coaching his 4-year-old's T-ball team, so it was not unusual to see him on the field on May 11, 2015.

He was feeling fine but soon began feeling strange and lost consciousness. Martin, who was having a grand mal seizure, was taken by ambulance to the hospital for a CT scan and MRI. His diagnosis was a grade II oligodendroglioma, an incurable, slow-growing brain cancer. Martin's doctor suggested he travel to Houston and see his former colleague at the National Institutes of Health, Jeffrey Weinberg, M.D.

Within days, Martin, wife Leah, mother Sharion and father Randy headed to

MD Anderson and met Weinberg. Surgery was five days later, with 80 to 85% of his tumor removed. About five weeks of proton radiation followed.

"Everyone we talked to says MD Anderson is the best, and we felt comfortable right away," says Martin.

"The doctors sincerely care about the patients' quality of life," adds Leah.

In October 2015, the Play for the Cure Golf Classic in Fulton, along with a silent auction, raised more than \$44,000 for brain cancer research.

"We're grateful to Martin and his community for helping support the Brain Tumor Center and the Glioblastoma Moon Shot," says Weinberg, professor of Neurosurgery. "This contribution enables us to



Martin and Leah Richardson, with children Vivian and Kline, support the Glioblastoma Moon Shot.

COURTESY OF THE RICHARDSON FAMILY

buy two spectrophotometers, which are vital to our work. They project a beam of light through a sample to measure light absorption, which provides insight into the sample's molecular composition, and ultimately, the tumor."

PROMISE SUMMER 2016

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Jan Bres, far right, with her late husband, Tom, and daughters Meg, left, and Kate

COURTESY OF JAN BRES

Jan Bres' husband, Tom, died at 54 from glioblastoma. During his 15-month fight, Tom and Jan learned of The Broach Foundation for Brain Cancer Research, founded in 2011 by James and Jamie Broach after James was diagnosed with aggressive brain cancer. James, who died in 2013, and Jamie made it their mission to promote funding and education so effective treatments, and ultimately a cure, might be found. The nonprofit has raised \$4 million to support brain cancer research under the leadership of Frederick Lang, M.D., director of Clinical Research, Neurosurgery.

“Because of the type of person Tom was, everyone wanted to reach out and help. My husband was a vibrant man fighting for his life. He wanted to keep going for his two daughters, his family, his friends and for me. That fighting spirit is what prompted a client, at Tom's request, to give to The Broach Foundation. This \$1.5 million donation,

by someone who does not want to be named or recognized, enabled Tom's doctor, Fred Lang, to meet his funding goal for a clinical trial.

The Broach Foundation gave Tom hope. It gives everyone fighting this disease hope. Of course, Dr. Lang's work and research bring hope. And that hope spreads. Our youngest daughter,

Meg, performed a concert over the Christmas holidays, raising \$10,000 for the foundation. My nephew is hosting a basketball camp to raise money, too. I am so glad to have met Jamie Broach, such an infectious person. Her enthusiasm about the progress being made at MD Anderson makes it impossible not to get involved.”

DO YOU PROMISE?

Tell us why you're committed to Making Cancer History® by sending an email to promise@mdanderson.org.