

# YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO CANCER CENTER



University of Colorado Cancer Center

A NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE-DESIGNATED CONSORTIUM COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER



# THANK YOU

Gary,

Thanks to the vision of Cancer League of Colorado, we are improving the lives of patients throughout the Rocky Mountain region. Since our partnership began in 1985, you have given us the resources to make significant strides in understanding and treating cancer. By helping us build a foundation of success, you are enabling decades of future research and clinical care at the University of Colorado Cancer Center.

As we look forward to the opportunities ahead, we are most excited about providing the best possible care to our patients — care that is informed by the latest research and delivered by world-class health care professionals. By combining basic science, translational research and clinical care on one campus, we are transforming cancer care and rapidly changing the therapies available to patients.

Your investments in our research are investments in our future. Your partnership is where cures begin. Thanks to your support, we are able to create opportunities for our faculty, and fuel innovation and discovery. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

With warm regards,



Richard Schulick, MD, MBA  
Director, CU Cancer Center  
Chair, CU Department of Surgery  
Aragón/Gonzalez-Guistí Endowed Chair in Surgery



# INVESTING IN OUR KEY LEADERS

In order to move the field of cancer care forward, we must invest in top talent to lead our research and clinical programs. Funding from Cancer League of Colorado is essential to providing our faculty the resources to take calculated risks and develop new therapies for patients through investigator-initiated trials and grants for basic science research.



## CHRISTOPHER LIEU, MD

Division of Medical Oncology

In 2011, Dr. Lieu joined the CU Cancer Center following a fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He was attracted to CU Anschutz because of the outstanding faculty and collaborative culture. Today, his work is focused on drug discovery and novel therapeutics for cancer specific to detection and treatment of young-onset colorectal cancer. His team is bringing findings from the lab to clinical trials as quickly as possible.

Private support is helping Dr. Lieu accomplish his ambitious research goals. He also leads the allocation of funding from Cancer League of Colorado to faculty with promising research.



*“Without private support, research doesn’t happen! With your partnership, we can fund research that otherwise would not be possible. Our researchers and patients are indebted to our community for pushing the field forward and creating an atmosphere of innovation.”*

## BREELYN WILKY, MD

Division of Medical Oncology

Dr. Wilky was recently recruited to the CU Cancer Center in 2018 from the University of Miami. She is an expert in sarcomas, rare cancers of bone and soft tissue that affect all ages of patients, who desperately need new therapies. In addition to seeing patients, she oversees laboratory research and designs and runs clinical trials to find treatments that improve the immune system's ability to kill sarcomas. Dr. Wilky also works with Dr. Lieu to allocate funding from Cancer League of Colorado to the most promising research ideas.



*“In cancer research, the distance between new discoveries in the laboratory and the patients waiting for early clinical trials is the smallest of any field in medicine. Particularly when we are studying immune therapies, it’s critical that we learn something from every single patient who is treated with these new drugs. With investigator-initiated trials, and the additional support from Cancer League of Colorado, we have the critical resources to do exactly this. We study our patients’ immune systems in blood and tumors before and after therapy, identify the barriers, and try therapies in the lab that can improve the next generation of clinical trials for our patients. It’s bench to bedside and back again!”*

## SANA KARAM, MD, PHD

Department of Radiation Oncology

Dr. Karam joined the CU Cancer Center in 2013 following her residency training in radiation oncology at Georgetown University. At CU Anschutz, she treats head and neck cancer patients, and manages a research lab. Dr. Karam uses experiences in the clinic to inform her research. When treatments fail or she sees opportunities to improve the patient experience, she uses resources in her lab to create new cancer treatments. Being in the clinic also gives her the opportunity to see treatments in action to ensure a positive quality of life for her patients.

Dr. Karam's specific research focus is on developing novel therapeutics for radiosensitization of head and neck cancers, and improving patient lives.



*“I most enjoy successfully treating cancer. But even when an aggressive cancer has spread throughout a patient's body and no treatment is available, I feel I can serve an important role by helping them understand and decide among their options. In the lab, I am also fortunate to help develop next-generation therapies for our patients.”*

# INVESTING IN INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Recent giving from Cancer League of Colorado is fueling research that otherwise may not have been possible. With your support, we are changing the future of cancer treatments and designing clinical trials to move research from bench to bedside more quickly than ever before.



## ELIZABETH KESSLER, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of Medical Oncology

Dr. Kessler is conducting a clinical trial to alternate high doses of testosterone in patients with prostate cancer to reset androgen receptor signaling in patients. The concept of this type of therapy has long been proposed, but no large-scale studies have shown a benefit in overall disease control. However, this therapy has been shown to improve the quality of life for patients with prostate cancer. Most previous research has relied on the gradual rise and decline of testosterone. Dr. Kessler's research uses a sudden shift in testosterone levels to allow for improved control of the cancer.

### CLINICAL TRIAL

**Open to Accrual: January 18, 2019**

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**Current Patients Enrolled: 7**

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**Target Total Accrual: 15**

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**Anticipated Completion Date: August 24, 2020\***

\*may be impacted due to current events

## PAUL MARONI, MD

Associate Professor, Surgery-Urology

Early results from Dr. Maroni's study in patients with non-metastatic prostate cancer suggest that the rising of PSA, a measure of microscopic disease, can be slowed with grapeseed extract. After rapidly enrolling patients in the first stage, these exciting results support expansion of the number of patients to further confirm the benefit.

*“Thanks to support from Cancer League of Colorado, I have been able to jumpstart a clinical trial using grape seed extract in patients with non-metastatic prostate cancer. This is just one way that private funding is accelerating progress and hopefully changing lives.”*

*“Because of your outstanding support, our patients are experiencing better outcomes. The clinical trials that you have funded are certain to push the field forward. I believe that the research we are doing today will have a tangible impact on lives tomorrow.”*

**S. LINDSEY DAVIS, MD**

Assistant Professor, Division of Medical Oncology

*“Thank you for your continued support for clinical trials at the CU Cancer Center. So often, clinical trials are not sustained because of a lack of funding. By providing these critical funds, we can complete clinical trials and bring new therapies to patients more quickly than ever before.”*

**ELISSA KOLVA, PHD**

Assistant Professor, Division of Medical Oncology

*“Our clinical trial specifically studies radiation and anti-PD-1 therapy in recurrent women’s cancers. Thanks to your support, we are ready to begin recruiting patients to participate and hope to start seeing patients soon.”*

**CHRISTINE FISHER, MD, MPH**

Vice Chair of Education, Associate Professor and Residency Program Director, Department of Radiation Oncology

*“Our study is exploring the potential differential need for anti-resorptive bone medication in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer and bone metastases. Since we opened accrual in April, we have three subjects who have consented. We hope to complete the clinical trial in 2022. You are helping make this research possible, and providing a valuable service to current and future patients.”*

**ROSS CAMIDGE, MD, PHD**

Professor, Division of Medical Oncology

# UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO CANCER CENTER MILESTONES

Richard Schulick, MD, MBA,  
named director **2018**

Elected as member of National  
Comprehensive Cancer Network **2013**

Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD,  
named director **2010**

Designation as National Cancer  
Institute formal consortium **2005**

Expansion and move of research components  
to CU Anschutz Medical Campus **2003**

Expansion and move of the outpatient center  
to CU Anschutz Medical Campus **2000**

Expansion of radiation and  
chemotherapy facilities at UCH **1998**

Designation as National Cancer Institute  
Comprehensive Cancer Center **1997**

Dedicated bone marrow transplant program  
opens at Children's Hospital Colorado **1996**

Dedicated outpatient cancer center  
opens at East Pavilion **1993**

Dedicated cancer research space opens  
in Biomedical Research Building **1992**

Dedicated bone marrow transplant program  
opens at University of Colorado Hospital **1991**

Paul Bunn, Jr., MD, named director **1985**

## 2018

## 2010

## 2005

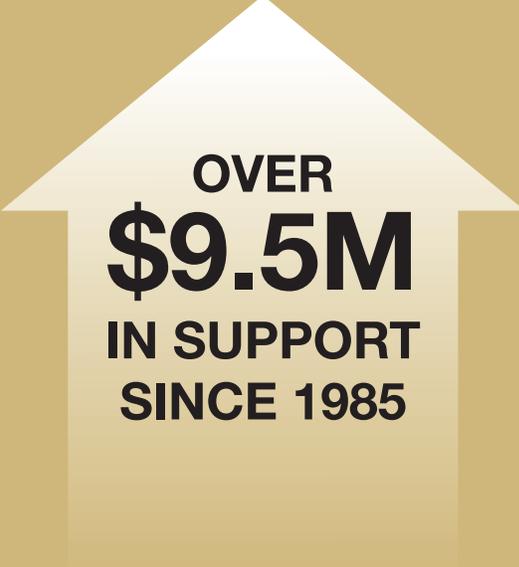
## 2000

## 1995

## 1991

## 1985

# CANCER LEAGUE OF COLORADO GIVING



OVER  
**\$9.5M**  
IN SUPPORT  
SINCE 1985

We have accomplished  
so much over the years  
due to your support.  
The milestones we have  
reached as a Cancer  
Center would not have  
been possible without  
your longstanding  
partnership.

# IMPACT IN INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED TRIALS

You have championed our IITS, and we are so please to see our accrual numbers increasing. Additionally, thanks to your leadership in our match mailing, we are bringing new supporters to our community.

## ACCRUALS SINCE 2014

FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>197</b>

## 2019 MATCH EFFORT FOR INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED TRIALS



**464**

total gifts



**\$80,510**

total giving



**219**

first-time benefactors

**10%**

\$500+ gifts

**3**

\$5,000+ gifts

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

The generosity of Cancer League of Colorado is accelerating clinical trials and moving new therapies into the clinic more quickly than ever before.





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