OHSU Extra
Celebrating the Power of Philanthropy

Summer 2013
A New Era in Prostate Cancer Treatment
Stem Cell Discovery May Be Key to New Cures
Noteworthy News and Gifts
A New Era in Prostate Cancer Treatment

Table of contents
page 2  A New Era in Prostate Cancer Treatment
page 5  OHSU's Believe it or Not
page 8  Stem Cell Discovery May be Key to New Cures
page 10  Noteworthy News & Gifts
page 16  Why I Support OHSU

To the right:
OHSU’s prostate cancer team includes (left to right): Tomasz Beer, M.D.; Joshi Alumkal, M.D.; Arthur Hung, M.D.; Christopher Amling, M.D.

Extra is a publication of the OHSU Foundation for friends and supporters of Oregon Health & Science University.

Extra is:
• The passion and skill of OHSU’s caregivers
• The stature of its world-class research programs
• The strength of its commitment to train tomorrow’s health and science workforce

Extra is also the dedication of OHSU supporters whose investment and advocacy make extraordinary things possible.
Clinical trials offer new hope

“The opportunities before us are greater than they’ve ever been,” said Tomasz Beer, M.D., deputy director of the Knight Cancer Institute and the Grover C. Bagby Endowed Chair for Prostate Cancer Research. That’s welcome news to the approximately 238,000 U.S. men diagnosed each year with the disease.

Today, for instance, the Knight Cancer Institute’s researchers and physicians are developing and testing promising new approaches focused on extending life for patients whose cancer has spread beyond the prostate. Among them is the use of an immunotherapy drug to supercharge the body’s natural defenses. This tactic is advancing thanks to the participation of Page and others in a clinical trial to see if revving a patient’s immune system before surgery helps zap remaining or previously undetected cancer cells in men with localized tumors.

Page’s doctor, Christopher Amling, M.D., chairman of the OHSU Department of Urology and holder of the John Barry Chair for Urology, leads OHSU’s participation in the trial.

Terry Page received three drug infusions prior to his surgery. “The opportunity to participate in a clinical trial that could help me and future patients was a win-win,” he said. Such trials put promising ideas to the test and advance new drug treatments toward FDA approval.

The immunotherapy study in which Page participated was part of a much larger program of clinical trials (currently numbering 11) that distinguishes the Knight Cancer Institute as a leader in prostate cancer research, offering new hope to many.

Philanthropy fuels discovery

Amling and Beer both believe that today’s advances point to a time when prostate cancer will change from a disease that cuts short many men’s lives to a manageable condition. “And when that day comes,” said Beer, “philanthropy will have played a crucial role.”

For the Knight’s cancer experts, private support is powerful because it gives exceptional people resources
they need to achieve major advances in research. “We need our best and brightest to swing for the fences,” said Beer. “And when they have a base of support behind them, they’re able to swing the bat harder.”

Beer holds an endowed chair established with seed funding from donors Cecil and Sally Drinkward and Bill and Karen Early, who issued a fundraising challenge to raise $2.5 million in private gifts for this chair. The Drinkwards characterized their gift as an investment in brainpower.

“Theytalent, like capital, is portable and you have to compete for it,” said Cecil Drinkward. “We wanted to help OHSU compete and win for some of the best cancer minds anywhere.”

Research forges the path
The brightest minds are needed to pursue the most innovative avenues in research, such as the recent breakthrough by physician-researcher Joshi Alumkal, M.D., whose work has been supported by the Wayne D. Kuni and Joan E. Kuni Foundation, Wayne and Joan Kingsley, Platt Electric, Bruce Burns, and the Burns Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. “Everyone in my family agrees. Our investment in Dr. Alumkal and his team is important to our family and to the community. We are fortunate to have Dr. Alumkal and his team right here in our back yard,” said Bruce Burns.

Alumkal discovered that two proteins involved in prostate cancer – AR and c-Myc – cooperate to allow prostate cancers to grow even after hormonal therapy has reduced or eliminated the testosterone that traditionally fuels the cancer’s growth. The Kuni Foundation recently awarded Alumkal additional funding to continue this investigation, and Alumkal is actively pursuing an innovative treatment strategy to shut down AR and c-Myc in prostate cancer.

“It’s an incredible challenge and honor to be able to pursue this work,” said Alumkal. “I’m reminded every Tuesday afternoon, when I see patients in the clinic, just how precious life is – and how life is until further notice. Philanthropy plays an essential role in our research and enables us to test high-risk ideas that may lead to improved quality and quantity of life for prostate cancer patients.”

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute team’s groundbreaking investigators are helping transform prostate cancer research and care. To continue to make these types of discoveries possible, private support is critical to provide exceptional faculty with the resources they need to succeed. For example, one of the program’s philanthropic priorities is to secure $1 million to create an endowed professorship in support of Joshi Alumkal, M.D. For information on how you can support OHSU’s Knight Cancer Institute’s prostate cancer program, contact Rachel Stroud Hunsinger at 503-494-8342 or hunsinge@ohsu.edu.

Patient Terry Page (left) participated in a clinical trial led by Christopher Amling, M.D. (right)
OHSU is home to some of the world’s most astonishing feats of intellect. In this feature we highlight a few of the discoveries taking place across campus – all with the potential to transform health. Though they might seem uncanny or bizarre, each of these items is true – and nearly all of these mind-boggling advances were made possible by generous and well-timed philanthropic investments in OHSU scientists and their work.

OHSU’s Oregon Center for Aging & Technology (ORCATECH) has developed a pill dispenser that uses wireless technology to help doctors track whether or not their elderly patients are taking their medications. The pill caddy is one of many technologies ORCATECH researchers are developing to measure seniors’ routine activity within the home and detect the early stages of cognitive decline.

This new technology and many others in development at ORCATECH were made possible by a philanthropic partnership with Intel and grants from the National Institute on Aging.

The W. M. Keck Foundation made it possible for OHSU to purchase this powerful instrument.

The magnet in the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner used by OHSU neuroscientists to detect tiny brain injuries in animals is powerful enough, if unshielded, to yank a car off the Fremont bridge. The 12 Tesla MRI creates a magnetic field 120,000 times stronger than that of the Earth. The National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, is currently the only other site in the world with a 12 T MRI.

The magnet in the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner used by OHSU neuroscientists to detect tiny brain injuries in animals is powerful enough, if unshielded, to yank a car off the Fremont bridge. The 12 Tesla MRI creates a magnetic field 120,000 times stronger than that of the Earth. The National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, is currently the only other site in the world with a 12 T MRI.
**WOMAN FEEDS HER GRANDDAUGHTER — BEFORE SHE’S BORN!**

It’s been known for decades that what a woman eats while pregnant has a strong influence on the health of her child. But now OHSU research suggests that a woman’s diet affects not only her future children but also future grandchildren! A woman’s diet, even before pregnancy, determines the health of her ovaries, which in turn determines the health of her future embryos, and the health of her daughter’s ovaries in ways that can lead to – or prevent – chronic conditions such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

**Mystereous Spelling Bonnet!**

Using sophisticated software to read the brain’s electrical signals, OHSU scientists can translate brainwaves into letters that appear on a computer screen, so that you can spell by just thinking. Led by Melanie Fried-Oken, Ph.D., director of OHSU’s assistive technology program, the innovative research is a life-changer for those who have been paralyzed because of a spinal cord injury or stroke, for example.

**4-D Map of Cancer Cells!**

In a world-leading effort to stop cancer at its source, OHSU researchers are starting to map the ever-changing molecular landscape in and around cancerous cells. Led by Joe Gray, Ph.D., director of the OHSU Center for Spatial Systems Biomedicine and the Gordon Moore Chair in Biomedical Engineering, the team uses advanced imaging technologies that illustrate cancer cells, tissues and structural details across time, creating an overall picture every bit as detailed as a Google map.

**World’s Only Tumor-Printing Machine!**

OHSU’s Rosalie Sears, Ph.D. is using a three-dimensional printer that “prints” layers of live cells to create replicas of human tumors. Sears and her team at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute test replicas with different treatments to see which remedies could be most effective on original tumors. OHSU’s 3D bio-printer, obtained in partnership with Organovo, Inc., is one of only three in the U.S., and the only one being used to study cancer.

This exciting research needs private support to take it to the next level.

Philanthropic support from Phil and Penny Knight, MMGL Corp. (formerly Schnitzer Investment Corp.), FEI and many others made it possible to recruit the world-famous Gray and build his specialized lab in the new OHSU/OUS Collaborative Life Sciences Building.
A team led by Kenneth Ward, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and a provider at the OHSU Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center, is developing a wearable bloodsugar monitor and insulin pump, critical components of an artificial pancreas system. In collaboration with Legacy Health System, Ward’s team is developing a computer program that controls the infusion of insulin and the hormone glucagon to tightly regulate blood sugar and prevent it from dropping dangerously low. Ward hopes the system will make it easier for those with type 1 Diabetes to manage their disease.

Grants from the HEDCO Foundation, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the JDRF and the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust are helping to speed progress on this remarkable technology.

OHSU cardiologists use a non-invasive test that uses microbubbles to quickly and accurately detect heart attacks. Developed by Sanjiv Kaul, M.D., co-director of the OHSU Knight Cardiovascular Institute and Ernest C. Swigert Distinguished Professor of Cardiology, Myocardial Contrast Echocardiography (MCE) provides a more detailed, real-time ultrasound of the heart than traditional EKGs, which fail to detect heart attacks up to 50 percent of the time.

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust funded the development of the world’s fastest movie camera to observe the microbubbles.

A parasite that latches onto tsetse flies infects hundreds of thousands of Africans with sleeping sickness every year. Scott Landfear, Ph.D., professor of molecular microbiology and immunology in the OHSU School of Medicine, and his team are dedicated to understanding the pesky parasite’s genetic makeup – and creating drugs designed to shut it down.

Several bequests to OHSU have supported Landfear’s work, helping him assemble one of the nation’s top teams exploring parasite-borne disease.

More amazing scientific discoveries are on the horizon at OHSU.
A world-leading discovery by Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Ph.D., has brought new hope to patients with Parkinson’s disease, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, diabetes and cardiac disease. “As a Parkinson’s patient, I am absolutely thrilled by the potential of Mitalipov’s research, not only to treat PD but many other disorders as well,” said OHSU Foundation trustee Gregory Chaillé.

Mitalipov, a senior scientist in OHSU’s Oregon National Primate Research Center, worked in collaboration with OHSU reproductive endocrinologist Paula Amato, M.D., to become the first team in the world to convert human skin cells into embryonic stem cells. Stem cells can be converted into different cell types – such as nerve cells, liver cells or heart cells – that might one day be used to replace cells damaged...
by injury or illness. The potential is so great, and the discovery so revolutionary, the research made headlines around the world, sparking more than 2,000 news reports from Japan to South Africa.

Mitalipov and his team used a technique called somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), which removes chromosomes from a human donor’s unfertilized egg and then replaces them with new DNA obtained from a patient’s skin cells. Using a specially formulated growth medium (one surprising ingredient is caffeine), the researchers prompted the modified egg to divide and eventually become stem cells that have the potential to grow into other kinds of cells. The team spurred the growth of human heart cells, which can be seen rhythmically beating, in unison, inside a petri dish. Mature cells created using this method will exactly match a patient’s own DNA. This may prove a significant advantage in regenerating cells or tissues that the body will not reject.

“The task is now to produce these different cells – whatever cells the patient needs – in the lab,” said Mitalipov. “Then we could transplant these mature cells back into the patient.” The technique holds promise for treating diseases such as Parkinson’s, which is caused by a dysfunction in one type of brain cell, or neuron, that produces a chemical the body needs to function properly. “In many patients, these neurons have died off. They’re gone,” says Mitalipov. “There are no other types of cell that can make this chemical. So now in the lab we can learn how to make these neurons and transplant them into patients.”

Mitalipov’s latest breakthrough is the culmination of years of painstaking research, a combination of basic science discoveries made at the OHSU primate center and privately funded human cell studies. Researchers were able to pursue promising leads thanks to substantial institutional investment from OHSU, support from the Leducq Foundation, and early funding from donors in the OHSU Center for Women’s Health Circle of Giving.

“If we believe that solutions to serious health problems lie in scientific research, then it’s going to take the private sector to step forward and let the scientists pursue that research,” said Karen Hinsdale, who was chair of the Circle of Giving when it awarded research funding to Mitalipov in 2010. “If we don’t fund promising projects in their early stages, then these opportunities to improve the human condition will be lost to all of us.”

(continued)
The worldwide media reaction touched off by Mitalipov’s recent findings included both kudos from prominent scientists around the globe – and some concerns. The SCNT method is considered a technique for cloning stem cells. Some worry that these therapeutic cloning techniques might lead others to attempt to clone human beings. Mitalipov, whose work is focused solely on the potential to cure human diseases, says that such concerns are understandable but in the case of SCNT, he believes they are unwarranted. “We don’t believe our findings could be used by others to advance the possibility of human reproductive cloning. We’ve been doing it for many years in monkeys, and none of the embryos could develop into live monkeys. We can assume that the same techniques, if applied to humans, would not be able to produce live clones.”

Mitalipov operates at the complicated intersection of scientific promise, political debate and regulatory constraint. On the one hand, the SCNT method is an alternative to the politically fraught use of stem cells derived from fertilized human embryos. On the other hand, because federal funding for stem cell research is restricted, Mitalipov’s work is conducted under tightly regulated conditions that mandate a separate lab space designated for human embryonic stem cell research and funded solely through private support.

“Only private investment will move this research forward,” said Daniel Dorsa, Ph.D., OHSU’s senior vice president for research. “Private funders need to step in where federal agencies cannot. This research will fuel the development of stem cell therapies to combat several diseases and conditions for which there are currently no treatments or cures.”

Through ongoing collaborative efforts, Mitalipov and his colleagues around the world will refine the innovation that has given new hope to so many.

For information on how you can support this research, contact Cathy Kemmerer at 503 412-6353 or kemmerer@ohsu.edu.
Less than two years after its launch, OHSU’s Bob and Charlee Moore Institute for Nutrition & Wellness has taken a healthy bite out of its ambitious agenda to fight chronic disease through healthy eating. Marking its second birthday at a June 18 campus celebration, Moore Institute leaders reviewed their full plate of achievements to date and previewed what’s next. As befits a good birthday party, the Moore family brought a gift – their latest $1 million contribution to the $25 million philanthropic partnership.

Another highlight was the official announcement that Kent Thornburg, Ph.D., has been named the Moore’s permanent director after serving as interim leader since its inception. Under Thornburg’s direction, the institute has organized its leadership team and steering committee and established a guiding focus on programs that promote healthy, nutrient-rich diets based on wholesome foods before conception, during pregnancy and lactation, and in infancy and early childhood.

Projects now up and running to advance that goal include a competitive research grant program open to applicants across Oregon, a statewide nutrition consortium to create a unified approach to maternal and infant nutrition, a range of international collaborations that give OHSU scientists access to critical population data from other major nutritional studies, and an innovative community engagement project in Astoria to provide nutrition information and cooking courses to pregnant women. Each of these initiatives creates opportunities for donor participation in the institute’s goals.

“Achievements to date are exciting, but we’re just beginning,” Thornburg said. “We welcome additional partners in this important work.”
Richard Lacey contributed $443,800 to OHSU in support of two programs he and his late wife, Marzelle, named in memory of their son, Lee Bradford Lacey, in recognition of the care he received at OHSU for several years until his death in 2009. A portion of the gift establishes the Lee Bradford Lacey Commemorative Fund to support the Frances J. Storrs, M.D., Medical Dermatology Endowment. The remaining portion will create the Lee Bradford Lacey Endowed Fund to support patient relations, advocacy and physical therapy at OHSU.

Two estate gifts supported scholarships at the OHSU School of Dentistry. The Delia M. Smith Trust Estate contributed $166,800 to the Dr. Oscar E. and Dee Smith Family Endowed Scholarship. Oscar Smith was a 1953 graduate of the School of Dentistry and the patriarch of a three-generation family of dentists. In addition, the Robert Vinson Estate designated $100,000 toward a scholarship for dental students who come to OHSU from eastern Washington. The scholarship was established in honor of Robert Vinson’s father, O.F. Vinson, a 1908 graduate of the OHSU School of Dentistry (then the North Pacific Dental College).

The GIST Cancer Research Fund (GCRF), established by GIST patient Tania Stutman of New York and her husband, Robert, contributed $125,000 to the Knight Cancer Institute. Since 2003, the fund has donated more than $1 million to the Knight’s gastrointestinal stromal tumor research program. Each year GCRF splits the funds they raise between nationally-designated cancer centers that conduct GIST cancer research including OHSU, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.
Several gifts from OHSU faculty, staff, alumni and friends helped the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute reach its fundraising goal of $2.5 million to establish the John Barry Chair for Urology. The fund is named in honor of John M. Barry, M.D., a pioneer in renal transplant, for his significant contributions to the field of urology. Barry is the immediate past chair of the division (now department) of urology at OHSU. The position is held by Christopher Amling, M.D., F.A.C.S., the chairman of the Department of Urology.

A $100,000 gift from Fred Brauti, M.D., and his wife, Mary, will support the E. Fred and Mary Brauti Scholarship Fund in the School of Medicine. Dr. Brauti, an alumnus of the school and a member of the Sam Jackson Guild, created the scholarship in 1995 to lessen the financial burden for students. The Brauti Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to medical students who are graduates of Oregon State University. To date, the couple has contributed $599,328 to the fund. More than 70 students have received financial support through the scholarship.

OHSU and Doernbecher earn top spots in U.S. News & World Report rankings
U.S. News & World Report recently ranked U.S. medical schools, and OHSU again placed in the top five in two critical categories – No. 3 in primary care and No. 5 in family medicine. Recognition in these key national rankings helps the OHSU School of Medicine recruit outstanding faculty and students. The publication also ranked OHSU/Doernbecher Children’s Hospital in eight pediatric specialties for 2013-2014 – including cancer, cardiology/heart surgery, diabetes/endocrinology, nephrology, neurology/neurosurgery, orthopaedics, pulmonology and urology – placing OHSU Doernbecher among the nation’s best children’s hospitals four years running. This year, OHSU Doernbecher improved its standing in seven of its eight ranked specialties. It is the only medical center in Oregon whose pediatric specialties met U.S. News & World Report’s criteria for quality of care, best practices and outcomes.

New dean appointed to School of Nursing
Following a nationwide search, Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Ph.D., R.N., A.P.R.N., B.C., has been named the new OHSU School of Nursing dean and vice president for nursing affairs for OHSU. Bakewell-Sachs has become the 11th School of Nursing dean in OHSU’s history. As dean, Bakewell-Sachs oversees education, research and faculty practice at the school’s Marquam Hill Campus in Portland and its satellite campuses in Ashland, Monmouth, Klamath Falls and La Grande. She also oversees the school’s virtual online programs.

Bakewell-Sachs comes to OHSU from the College of New Jersey where she has most recently served as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Doernbecher Freestyle turns 10
This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Doernbecher Freestyle program, a powerful partnership between OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital and Nike that has raised more than $5 million through the sale of limited-edition Nike shoes designed by Doernbecher patients. To celebrate this milestone, Nike is re-releasing five classic Freestyle shoes in the weeks leading up to the unveiling of the 2013 Doernbecher Freestyle Collection. The 2013 collection will be unveiled on September 28 at a live auction occurring at the Portland Art Museum and simulcast to New York City. Proceeds will benefit OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital and its young patients.

Elijah Diggins, 14, was treated for cancer at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital and is a designer in the 2013 Freestyle program.
Helping vaccines outsmart HIV
Researchers at OHSU’s Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI) believe they have discovered a promising delivery method to help make an HIV vaccine effective prior to, and perhaps after, infection.

A major challenge in developing an effective HIV vaccine is figuring out how to target the evasive virus. Louis Picker, M.D., VGTI associate director, led the study, published in the journal Science.

The investigation pinpointed an ingenious method to ensure the body effectively reacts when infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In an animal model, the researchers used an altered cytomegalovirus to outsmart a simian version of the virus. The technique, developed at OHSU, has been used in developing an HIV vaccine candidate, which has so far shown promising results in animal studies. Picker and his colleagues believe an HIV vaccine created using their method might be able to both prevent infection and effectively battle the virus even if applied post-infection.

Drug advances fight against malaria
Scientists at OHSU and the Portland VA Medical Center have developed a drug that may represent one of the world’s best hopes for treating and preventing malaria – a disease that kills more than 1 million people each year. The two main drugs that have been used to treat malaria over the last several decades – quinine and chloroquine – have become less effective as the parasite that causes malaria has become resistant to the drugs. A new drug, known as ELQ-300, has been developed by Michael Riscoe, Ph.D., professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at OHSU and director of the Experimental Chemotherapy Lab at the Portland VA Medical Center. The drug has the potential to become part of a combination therapy in humans that could prevent infection and block the transmission of malaria.

New technique for deep brain stimulation
Kim Burchiel, M.D., F.A.C.S., John Raaf Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery, is the surgeon who more than two decades ago pioneered deep brain stimulation surgery in the U.S. to treat people with Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders. He has developed a new way to perform the surgery that allows for more accurate placement of the brain electrodes and likely is safer for patients. The new technique may increasingly be used to help treat a wide range of medical issues beyond Parkinson’s disease and familial tremors, according to the study published in the Journal of Neurosurgery.

OHSU AND INTEL COLLABORATE TO DEFEAT CANCER
In a joint effort to defeat cancer and other diseases, OHSU and Intel Corp. have teamed up to co-develop next-generation “extreme-scale” computing systems for biomedical research. The alliance’s mission is to perfect new information systems that can quickly and cheaply process a patient’s complex DNA data to reveal the root causes – and potential Achilles’ heel – of his or her disease at the molecular level.

This personalized approach to medicine creates new possibilities for predicting risk and prescribing cures, but also creates a tidal wave of new biomedical data that must be analyzed, stored and shared by multiple users. Scientists believe extreme, or exascale, computing will prevent an information bottleneck in the search for cures. The collaboration will combine Intel supercomputing power with OHSU’s uniquely sophisticated biomedical imaging and genomics data in the development of new algorithms, software routines and scientific workflows optimized to think 1,000 times faster than today’s top supercomputers.

As fast as exascale computing is, it can’t get here fast enough for Paul Spellman, Ph.D. An OHSU genomics expert and collaboration member, Spellman wants to build a comprehensive database and accompanying interactive Web tool for breast cancer patients, researchers and physicians. His vision to conduct whole-genome testing in 10,000 volunteer patients will ensure that he captures data from all of breast cancer’s many subtypes. That can translate into more effective, safer treatments and a faster exchange of new genomic information among the global community. The shared expertise of the Intel-OHSU collaboration will help him crunch the data and translate it into more effective treatments that give patients a source of extreme hope.
New dean appointed to School of Dentistry

Dentist and immunologist Phillip T. Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D., was selected from a field of national candidates to become dean of OHSU’s School of Dentistry. Marucha is expected to join OHSU in September. He will be the ninth dean in the dental school’s 114-year history. Marucha will lead the school as it moves into its new home, the Skourtes Tower, which is scheduled to open in 2014. Marucha most recently served as associate dean for research and director of graduate studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry.

Study sheds light on late-night snack cravings

A study published by Steven Shea, Ph.D., director for OHSU’s Oregon Institute for Occupational Health Sciences, found that the body’s internal clock, the circadian system, increases hunger and cravings for sweet, starchy and salty foods in the evenings. While the urge to consume more in the evening may have helped our ancestors store energy to survive longer in times of food scarcity, in the current environment of high-calorie food, those late-night snacks may result in significant weight gain, according to the report published in the journal Obesity.

OHSU Foundation selects new president

L. Keith Todd has joined the Oregon Health & Science University Foundation as president and been named senior vice president for advancement by OHSU. Todd has worked in university advancement for more than two decades at nationally prominent academic health centers and public research universities. Most recently he served as interim vice chancellor for university development for the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and senior vice president for the University of Illinois Foundation. At UIC, Todd also served as chief development officer for the College of Medicine, the nation’s largest medical school. Todd joins the OHSU Foundation during a period of significant growth in philanthropic investment in Oregon’s only public academic health center and premier research university.

Druker spearheads two initiatives to improve public health

Brian Druker, M.D., director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, was among a group of more than 100 national and international leaders who published an editorial in the Journal of the American Society of Hematology advocating for balancing reasonable profits with lower drug prices to help save lives. Their efforts were featured in The New York Times and Forbes Magazine in articles about the high price of cancer medicines.

In Oregon, cancer prevention legislation backed by Druker and the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute was signed into law in May. The new law prohibits minors from using tanning devices, unless proof of a physician exemption is provided. OHSU made skin cancer prevention a priority in large part because of the disproportionate toll it takes on Oregonians. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranks Oregon fourth in the nation for its death rate from skin cancer; the melanoma death rate for women in Oregon is the highest in the country.

OHSU’s Center for Women’s Health is ready for the changes ahead in health care reform. Michelle Berlin, M.D., M.P.H., and Renee Edwards, M.D., M.B.A., have been named the center’s interim co-directors, combining their extensive expertise in clinical care and policy research across all facets of women’s health as they direct new OHSU investments in faculty recruitment and educational programming. With the appointment of Berlin and Edwards to the directorship, Aaron Caughey, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.P., M.P.H., chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will bring his expertise as a clinician, researcher and health care economist to the School of Medicine’s long-range planning as associate dean for women’s health research and policy. “With changes coming soon due to health care reform, the time is ideal to invest in the center in ways that help it realize its original holistic vision for seamless women’s health care,” said Mark Richardson, M.D., M.B.A., dean of the OHSU School of Medicine.

The center has worked side-by-side with community supporters since its 1997 inception, first to equip its patient-centered clinics in the Peter O. Kohler Pavilion and, more recently, to support innovative research through the annual Circle of Giving Research Awards.
"As physicians, we live our personal and professional lives as extensions of those who mentored and counseled us in our formative educational years. Naming a scholarship honors those who taught me, and links a future generation of physicians to the greatness of their forebears."

– Samuel Lin M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., M.P.A., M.S.; Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General (Ret), USPHS; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Ret), USDHHS; President, Humetrics, Inc.; OHSU class of 1975

EXTRA NOW FREE ON ITUNES!

Our digital iPad edition is filled with extra photos, videos and special features that you will want to share with friends and family. To download, go to the App Store and search for “OHSU Extra.”