

Focus ON THE Search

Focus on the Search is a quarterly publication of resources for people who are current or past participants in cancer clinical trials in Colorado, for people who have been recently diagnosed with cancer and those interested in cancer research.

Colorado Cancer Research Program (CCRP) is a non-profit organization — a partnership of Colorado and Wyoming hospitals, and their affiliated doctors, dedicated to the advancement of cancer research and care close to home. CCRP is a NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), one of a nationwide network of 34 such National Cancer Institute (NCI) approved programs.

CCRP's Partner Hospitals & Cancer Centers

Boulder Community Hospital	Lutheran Medical Center
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center	McKee Medical Center
Colorado Blood Cancer Institute (CBCI) at Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center	National Jewish Health
Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Institute (CCCRI) at Swedish Medical Center	North Colorado Medical Center
Denver Health Authority	Radiation Oncology at Swedish Medical Center
Good Samaritan Hospital	Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers
	Saint Joseph Hospital
	St. James Hospital (Montana)

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Connecting Hope and Medical Science Through Clinical Trials

Focus ON THE Search

Clinical trials advancing the quest for cancer treatment, management, and prevention.

303.777.2663 ■ 888.785.6789

Colorado Cancer Research Program (CCRP) ■ Fall/Winter 2017 ■ Issue 32

Upcoming Events

■ SAVE THE DATE



2018 Drive for the Cure Golf Tournament

Monday, May 21

■ Please Remember CCRP as We Say Goodbye to 2017

There is still time to make a gift in the 2017 tax year. Go to our website co-cancerresearch.org and click on the **Donate Now** button, call **720.475.5721**, or mail your gift to:

1720 S. Bellaire Street, Suite 701
Denver, CO 80222

Thank you!



CCRP is a member of the Community Health Charities.

Please consider supporting CCRP in your workplace giving program.



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Online Cancer Resources

American Society of Clinical Oncology:
www.asco.org | www.cancer.net

Oncologist approved cancer information, including information on cancer research and advocacy.

CancerCare:
www.cancer.org

CancerCare programs include counseling and support groups, education, financial assistance and practical help.

National Cancer Institute:
www.cancer.gov

National Comprehensive Cancer Network: www.nccn.org

A patient-oriented cancer website based on the NCCN Guidelines which set the standard of care for clinicians around the globe.



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Letter from Pat Peterson

CCRP President and CEO

What do the Tepin Pepper, an acorn, and Hermia of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* have in common with CCRP?

- The Tepin Pepper is pea-sized and supposedly the hottest pepper in the world.
- A tiny acorn gives rise to a tall oak tree.
- And in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, tall Helena says of short Hermia "though she be but little, she is fierce."

What do all three have in common with CCRP? CCRP is a small organization (we employ only 16 people in our main office) with limited funding (55% of our funding comes from the NCI), and yet we have at least 70 trials open on a regular basis, support nearly 300 patients on their cancer journeys and follow approximately 1,500 people for their health status post-treatment.

Being small and mighty has its merits. Our team works together efficiently and collaboratively, supporting more than 65 physicians and their oncology teams in three states to produce results that are helping change the playing field of cancer research. As Steve Jobs said, "A small team of 'A' players can run circles around a giant team of 'B' and 'C' players."

We have developed strong partnerships in the medical community throughout Colorado, Wyoming and now Montana which ensure patients have access in their local communities to cutting edge cancer treatment, symptom control and prevention trials. CCRP continues to be a key player in the development and implementation of innovative treatment protocols that offer patients

an entirely new spectrum of options and REAL hope for extending and saving lives

Finally, as a team, we get to know our patients, making them more than a data point or number in a study. Helping patients get involved with our clinical trials and enabling them to stay with their own oncology teams and in their own communities of support, improves their quality of life and enhances their chance of a better prognosis.

So there is much to learn from the Tepin Pepper, the acorn and Hermia — even the smallest things can bring about great results. At CCRP, we believe in our mission and know that actualizing it requires more than sheer size. We are proud of our small and mighty team and our courageous patients, and are grateful to our medical partners and donors who help sustain us.

If you are not already a team member, we invite you to join our small and mighty team of "A" players" by making a donation, volunteering, and/or attending one of our events. We welcome all acts of kindness because as the fabled Aesop said, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."



Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday and a healthy New Year,

CCRP Board of DirectorsNorman Benedict, *Chair, Denver, CO*Andrew Nemecek, MD, *Vice Chair, Littleton, CO*Matthew Nyberg, Esq., *Treasurer, Denver, CO*Jerry Hayes, *Secretary, Denver, CO*Nicholas DiBella, MD, *Director Emeritus, Parker, CO*Ken Dawson, *Littleton, CO*Karen Holtman, *Centennial, CO*R. Lee Jennings, MD, *Littleton, CO*Madeleine Kane, MD, *Denver, CO*Ann Murphy, PhD, *Arvada, CO*Patricia Peterson, BSN, JD, *Denver, CO*Dianne Primavera, *Denver, CO*Keren Sturtz, MD, *Denver, CO***For more information...**

Contact one of the following staff at 303.777.2663.

Patricia Peterson, BSN, JD
*President and CEO*Keren Sturtz, MD
*Principal Investigator*Lisa A. Switzer, MA
*Director Operations & Development***Berris Award**

To honor CCRP founder, Dr. Robert Berris' vision, CCRP created the Berris Award. This year's recipient of the award were **Dr. Keren Sturtz** and **Sami Diab**. Berris Award winners are nominated for their vision, leadership, commitment of time and resources and for being a true warrior against cancer.

**FROM MY POINT OF VIEW**

Cancer Has Reminded Me to Be Thankful...

Kathy Trujillo

In February of 2016 I felt like I was on top of the world! I had just won second place in a national fitness contest, was accepted into graduate school, and was working towards an eventual career change with my employer. My daughter was doing well in high school, my parents were doing well, and that lump in my breast didn't fit the criteria for cancer, per the internet. It was probably just a clogged duct, but my doctor told me to go ahead with my annual mammogram to check it for sure. The mammogram led to an ultrasound, which wasn't my first.

Next, was the biopsy, and then I started getting scared. My parents were spending the winter with me, graduate classes were demanding, and my daughter was only a junior in high school, so I *couldn't* have cancer (never mind that my dad's mother and oldest sister died of breast cancer, and my dad currently has Stage IV prostate cancer).

The biopsy came back and the results indicated that it was breast cancer, Grade I (slow moving) and the tumor looked small. I met with three specialists shortly afterward: an oncologist, a radiologist and a surgeon. They all thought I should be good with a lumpectomy and radiation, but they recommended I get an MRI to be safe. Meanwhile my parents went back home to Wisconsin, so it was just my daughter and me left here (I was widowed in 2005).

The MRI came back that the cancer was more extensive than everyone initially thought, but the PET scan showed it hadn't spread to anything more than my lymph nodes. With that new development, treatment changed from just surgery and radiation to surgery, radiation AND chemotherapy. Here I just spent the last several years trying to avoid putting poisons into my body and now I had to do chemo?!



Kathy and her daughter, Selena

Part of me wanted to pursue holistic treatment and skip the chemo. If it weren't for my daughter, I would have gone that route. Instead I decided to fight this cancer with every fiber of my being because I did not want to leave her an orphan. I met with a naturopathic doctor, started Reiki, continued with acupuncture, and also continued to meet with my treatment team at Rocky Mountain Cancer Center. Chemo wasn't that bad, and I credit the other treatment modalities to making it through – bald but still feisty!

CCRP makes me grateful for all those people who battled cancer before my father and me. Their willingness to take part in research studies has helped with treatment to keep my dad alive (17 years), and will hopefully help me to be the first one in my family to beat breast cancer. Some people say cancer is a gift; I say give me jewelry...

Cancer *has* reminded me to be thankful for everyone around me, all the love I have experienced, and all the blessings God has given me — including being in remission!

Kathy works at Pinnacle Assurance, is a valued member of CCRP's Community Engagement Committee and the proud mom of Selena, who is now a freshman in college.

Find us on Facebook at [endcancerco](https://www.facebook.com/endcancerco)**Out and About**

CCRP President and CEO, **Pat Peterson**, gathered with former colleagues from Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs at the Peak Vista Breakfast of Champions reception on October 26th which honored Olympian **Amy Van Dyken**.

Pictured: Pat Peterson, Dick Eitel and Tracy Narvat with Amy Van Dyken

**Change is Not the Enemy**

On September 8th, **Andre van Hall** spoke to over 30 CCRP supporters. His talk "Things I Bump Into: Confessions of a Blind Cancer Survivor," took the audience on a journey starting with his father and five uncles (all of whom died from some form of cancer) up through present day when Andre himself was diagnosed with cancer, only a year after having gone blind from an unrelated condition. Andre's message to the audience was that we need to wake up our curiosity because "change is not the enemy."

**Bill Dea Memorial Golf Tournament**

For 24 years, members of the **Bill Dea** family have honored his memory with a golf tournament fundraiser. CCRP is proud to have been designated the beneficiary of the event, which this year raised nearly \$5,000. We are very grateful to the Dea family and their friends for supporting our mission.

It's easy to name CCRP as the beneficiary of a fundraiser you are hosting — please contact Lisa Switzer, Director of Operations & Development for more information at 720.475.5721 or lswwitzer@co-cancerresearch.org

**New CCRP Trials****Open Trials as of November 2017**

- Biomarker (2)
- Bladder (1)
- Brain (1)
- Breast (16)
- Cancer Control (2)
- Cervical (1)
- Colon (2)
- Endometrial (1)
- Head & Neck (2)
- Lung (5)
- Lymphoma (3)
- Melanoma (3)
- Multiple Myeloma (1)
- Ovarian (1)
- Pancreas (2)
- Rare Tumors (1)
- Rectal (2)
- Sarcoma (1)
- Symptom Management/Prevention/Screening (4)

Radiation Studies

- Brain (1)
- Breast (3)
- Cervical (1)
- Head & neck (1)
- Lung (2)
- Pancreas (1)

To learn more about these specific clinical trials, go to our website at <http://co-cancerresearch.org/showtrials.aspx>

Ask your physician if you are a candidate for one of these trials.

If you would like to become more involved with CCRP in a volunteer capacity, please email our Director Operations & Development, **Lisa Switzer**, at lswwitzer@co-cancerresearch.org or call 303.777.2663.

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