



Connecting Hope and Medical Science

# 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) ■ Spring/Summer 2017 ■ Issue 31

## Upcoming Events

- **“Change is Not the Enemy”**  
**Andre van Hall**  
**Professional Speaker and Curiosity Instigator**  
**October 19th**  
**6 – 8:00 PM**

Iliff School of Theology  
(on the DU Campus)  
Co-sponsored by Iliff School of Theology

Watch for more details in the mail, on our website and Facebook page!

- **Check out our website’s new look!**  
[www.co-cancerresearch.org](http://www.co-cancerresearch.org)



## Drive for the Cure 2017

After three days of heavy rains, a brilliant, cloudless morning played host to CCRP’s annual golf tournament, **Drive for the Cure**. On May 22nd, 70 golfers gathered for a shotgun start at Valley Country Club in Centennial Colorado. A silent auction and luncheon followed the tournament. In its 11th year, the 2017 tournament raised nearly \$20,000. While a good time was had by all, what’s a tournament without a little competition?

The first place team was comprised of **John Stuebner, Bill Maniatis, Jim Long, and Tony Rosacci**; **Manna Restaurant** team members took second place (**Dan Skay, Dr. Todd Wente, Jeremy Pitman, and David Martinez**) and third place team prize went to **John St. Martin, Frank Dumontiel, Sean Smiddy, and Chad Foster**. **Lisa Bridson** won for the Ladies Longest Drive and **Bryan Dea** won the Men’s Longest Drive.



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**CCRP is a member of the Community Health Charities.**

Please consider supporting CCRP in your workplace giving program.



## CCRP Board of Directors

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### 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, M.A.  
*Director of Development*

## Courtney Newbold



Courtney joins us with 20 years of clinical experience with 14 of those years as a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator (CCRP). She has in-depth knowledge of running protocols from opening to closing, including pharma budgets, contracts, investigator identification, site selection, pre-trial visits and regulatory work. She will oversee the clinical aspects of CCRP and the clinical staff will report to her. We are very pleased and fortunate to have Courtney join our team.

## Letter from Pat Peterson

### CCRP President and CEO



### A Year of Engagement

Our Nation's politics, local housing crisis, global weather changes...Is there anyone who hasn't noticed the turmoil this past year? It is a time of tremendous challenge...and opportunity! It is a time to get engaged! And we are!...Americans are standing up and fighting for their beliefs. Good for us! Turmoil has inspired action! And action is exactly what we need to change the world and exactly what we need to advance medical science to find advanced treatments and cures for cancer.

This is the year to get engaged in the fight! At CCRP we are engaging our Board members, our physicians, our patients and our staff. We are having team building exercises and celebrations of our accomplishments. We are so grateful to be able to celebrate our role in the advancement of cancer research.

Did you know that because of cancer research there has been a 23% decline in cancer deaths since 1991; 90 plus cancer drugs approved by the FDA since 2006; an increased 5-year survival rate so that now 2 out of 3 people with cancer live at least 5 years after diagnosis; and there are now 14.5 million cancer survivors, up from 11.4 million in 2006 (American Cancer Society Cancer Facts & Figures 2016)?

There is much for which to be grateful, but we cannot stop now! We know that people on clinical trials have better outcomes (site); we know that science is advancing into new promising technologies with genomic and immunotherapy studies; and we know that only a small percent of cancer patients are aware that clinical trials may be available to them.

So what do we do to get engaged?

- Tell everyone you know with cancer and those with loved ones with cancer to ask their doctor if there is a clinical trial right for them.
- Volunteer to give a ride to a chemotherapy treatment,
- Prepare a meal for the family,
- Give a hug,
- Make a donation to support cancer research,
- Show up at a cancer support event,
- Support cancer research by letting Washington know that funding is urgently needed to accelerate life-saving research.

Turmoil is everywhere, and we cannot wait for solutions to come to us. In the world of cancer we must find the solutions through research. Please engage with us to make a real difference and find a cure. Thank you.

## Hockey with Heart

On April 21st, **Quest for the Cure** hosted its 10th annual hockey tournament, naming CCRP as a beneficiary again for the third year. The tournament ran for three days and drew over 500 players from 32 Teams and seven divisions from all over Colorado. The tournament which featured a silent auction raised \$7,000 for CCRP.

The Quest Tournament is the brainchild of **Lance Jaeger** and **Justin Goldman** and grew out of the NHL Fights Cancer initiative. For the first five years, Lance and Justin ran the tournament together, having developed the idea in the back of a pick-up truck



### FROM MY POINT OF VIEW

## Confessions of an Inadequate Caregiver

Ken Dawson

I never expected, and never wanted, to be a caregiver for a terminal cancer patient. I suspect anyone who has been in that role would say the same. But on a spring day in 2009 my wife Janet's diagnosis with grade 3 bladder cancer dictated that role for me and changed our lives forever—hers tragically, mine in ways that will play out for the rest of my life.

Each day for the next 18 months I had only one priority: find out what I needed to do to get her the treatment she required, and keep her as comfortable as possible. This meant a dizzying series of events and tasks; I will not attempt an exhaustive listing of them.

Just as a quick summary, however, there followed: several hospitalizations, ranging from three to ten days; multiple consultations with a wide range of medical specialties; an extended course of debilitating chemotherapy, and many other indignities. These included midnight bouts of nausea, all but constant constipation, insomnia, crushing fatigue, and the inevitable depression.

Perhaps the hardest part was the constant roller coaster of emotion as hopeful periods due to apparently promising new treatments or medications alternated with the despair of increasingly ominous scans, combined with grinding states of utter fatigue and exhaustion. There were periods of relative calm, some lasting a few weeks, such as the few weeks after her course of chemo before the tumors rallied and declared the long, final decline.

while they were volunteering at the Denver Rescue Mission. Starting in 2013, Lance took over the tournament himself and that's when CCRP became a beneficiary of the proceeds.

Raised in a family with a giving heart (Lance's parents drive from Minnesota every year to help with the tournament), Lance,

Those calm periods seem almost cruel in retrospect.

Of course these wild swings affected both of us. And through it all, I never lost the feeling of inadequacy, the feeling that there must be more I could do but knowing I had no idea what that might be. I was flying blind, as there was no instruction manual and were no resources I knew of then to help me through the labyrinth. I was making it up on the fly, day by day.

As the end neared, Janet lacked the strength even to accomplish elementary tasks of private personal hygiene. These I did for (and with) her, and in that process we found a level of intimacy and tenderness that rivaled anything that had come before in our lives together.

Finally, these days as I reflect back on all this, I'm reminded of Stephen Levine's haunting line: "...tragedy holds the seeds of grace." And I now know with absolute clarity that my duty to care for Janet was so very, very far from being a burden. In fact it was a gift, and the greatest honor I will ever receive.

A quick word about hospice services. I almost waited (in my state of denial) too long to engage them. But an incredible hospice nurse spent the last five hours of Janet's life with her and with me. That nurse eased the path for Janet into her next adventure, and saved my sanity. After it was over, I said to her "you are an angel from Heaven", and I meant every word of it.

a hockey player and owner of Foothills Event Management, believes in giving back to the community. Since 2014, CCRP has received over \$28,000 from Foothills Events Management.

*If you or someone you know is planning an event, please consider naming CCRP its beneficiary.*

## New CCRP Trials

### Open Trials as of June 2017

- Biomarker (2)
- Bladder (1)
- Brain (17)
- Breast (12)
- Cancer Control (2)
- Cervical (1)
- Colon (3)
- Head and Neck (4)
- Lung (7)
- Lymphoma (1)
- Melanoma (4)
- Multiple Myeloma (2)
- Ovarian (5)
- Pancreas (2)
- Rare Tumors/solid tumors (1)
- Rectal (2)
- Symptom Management/Prevention/Screening Studies (3)

### Radiation Studies

- Brain (1)
- Breast (1)
- Cervical (1)
- Head & Neck (1)
- 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 of Development, Lisa Switzer, at [lswitzer@co-cancerresearch.org](mailto:lswitzer@co-cancerresearch.org) or call 303.777.2663.



# 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

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center

Colorado Blood Cancer Institute (CBCI) at Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center

Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Institute (CCCRI) at Swedish Medical Center

Denver Health Authority

Lutheran Medical Center

McKee Medical Center

National Jewish Health

North Colorado Medical Center

Radiation Oncology at Swedish Medical Center

Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers

Saint Joseph Hospital

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Connecting Hope  
and  
Medical Science

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## Online Cancer Resources

### American Society of Clinical Oncology:

[www.asco.org](http://www.asco.org) | [www.cancer.net](http://www.cancer.net)

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

### CancerCare:

[www.cancercares.org](http://www.cancercares.org)

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

### National Cancer Institute:

[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

### National Comprehensive Cancer

**Network:** [www.nccn.com](http://www.nccn.com)

*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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