

PROMISE

A Legendary Effort

A Conversation With a Living Legend® events
in three cities advance mission to end cancer

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®

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PHOTO BY RACHAEL HALE MCKENNA

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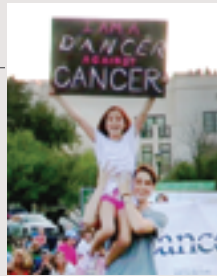


PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE DIAMOND

Jordan Diamond, with the help of friend Keaton Bullen, proudly concludes her bat mitzvah community service project, a dance flash mob to raise cancer awareness. **p. 13**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Comments? Suggestions?
We welcome your perspective.

Email us your thoughts: Promise@mdanderson.org.

FEBRUARY

- 20: Palm Beach, Florida**
Making Cancer History® Seminar

MARCH

- 1: McAllen, Texas**
Donor Appreciation Event
- 5: Sarasota, Florida**
Making Cancer History® Seminar
- 19: Houston, Texas**
Little Galleria Bunny Hops and Photo Ops
- 29: Dallas, Texas**
Donor Appreciation Event
- 30: Fort Worth, Texas**
Donor Appreciation Event

APRIL

- 13: New Orleans, Louisiana**
Donor Appreciation Event
- 19: Austin, Texas**
Making Cancer History® Seminar
- 27: Houston, Texas**
Saks Fifth Avenue Grand Opening
- 30: Albany, Texas**
Polo on the Prairie - 30th Anniversary

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:

From left, CBS News' Norah O'Donnell, event chair Ashley Rankin and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice enter the Hilton Anatole's Chantilly Ballroom for A Conversation With a Living Legend® in Dallas.

ABOVE: O'Donnell interviews Rice before a crowd of more than 700 MD Anderson supporters. **p. 12**

PHOTO BY GRANT MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

PROMISE

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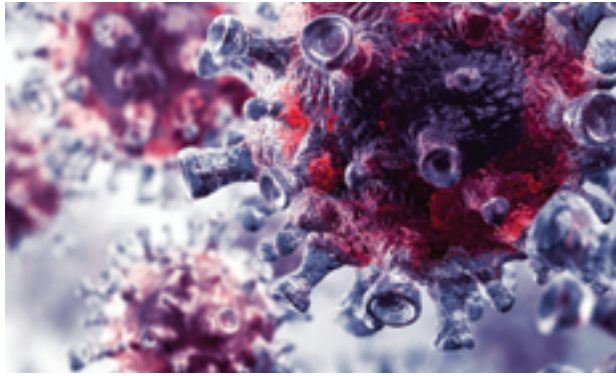
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MD ANDERSON RECEIVES \$22.2 MILLION IN CPRIT GRANTS

Funding underscores institution's excellence, impact

MD ANDERSON received more than \$22 million in research grants from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) in November. More than 35% of funds awarded for Individual Investigator Awards went to MD Anderson faculty, as well as nearly 40% of funds awarded for recruitment, reflecting the excellence and impact of the institution's world-class cancer researchers and star recruitment candidates.



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Across Texas institutions, CPRIT awarded a total of \$112 million in 73 new grants. MD Anderson CPRIT awards included \$14.8 million for research, \$6 million for recruitment funding and \$1.4 million for evidence-based cancer prevention services. Consistent with MD Anderson's broad research program, these CPRIT awards will fund exciting studies in cancers of the liver, skin, pancreas and ovary, as well as lymphoma, leukemia and other cancers.

Programs made possible with CPRIT funding have reached every corner of the state, brought more than 100 distinguished researchers to Texas, advanced scientific and clinical knowledge, and provided more than 2.6 million life-saving education, training, prevention and early detection services to Texans.

RON GILMORE

LIQUID ASSETS

Researchers explore blood-based biopsy for pancreatic cancer

PANCREATIC CANCER TUMORS spill their molecular secrets into the bloodstream, shedding their complete DNA and RNA wrapped inside protective lipid particles that make them ripe for analysis with a liquid biopsy, MD Anderson researchers report online at the *Annals of Oncology*.

The team analyzed tumors in three patients, using DNA and RNA found inside exosomes circulating in their blood or other liquid biospecimens. The proof of principle study opens the door to validation studies in multiple tumor types of a liquid biopsy that could be used to determine prognosis, guide targeted therapy and monitor treatment.

"Tumors continuously evolve during therapy," says senior author Anirban Maitra, M.B.B.S.,



professor of Pathology, scientific director of MD Anderson's Sheikh Ahmed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research and co-leader of the Pancreatic Cancer Moon Shot (see page 6). He also holds the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Distinguished University Chair. "Now you can bypass the need for tissue and get the full genome, exome and transcriptome from a vial of blood."

This research was funded by MD Anderson's Pancreatic Cancer Moon Shot, the Sheikh Ahmed Pancreatic Cancer Research Center, the National Cancer Institute, the Translational Molecular Pathology Fellowship at MD Anderson and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.

SCOTT MERVILLE

"Now you can bypass the need for tissue and get the full genome, exome and transcriptions from a vial of blood."

— ANIRBAN MAITRA, M.B.B.S.



PHOTO BY ADOLFO CHAVEZ III

PRESTIGIOUS HONOR RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO ONCOLOGY

TWO MD ANDERSON SCIENTISTS have earned membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS):



Michelle Barton, Ph.D., dean, The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, and professor of Epigenetics and Molecular Carcinogenesis,

for her research in understanding p53 tumor suppression in stem cells.



Gabriel Hortobagyi, M.D., professor and former chair of Breast Medical Oncology, for his breakthrough advances in treating breast cancer.

AAAS Fellows are elected by members of the 141-year-old organization. With the induction of Barton and Hortobagyi, MD Anderson's faculty includes 33 AAAS Fellows.

"Election to AAAS is a great honor that highlights the impressive accomplishments and research excellence of MD Anderson's two newest Fellows," says Ronald DePinho, M.D., president of MD Anderson. "We take pride in our faculty's efforts and involvement with AAAS, and we remain committed to pursuing exceptional programs that integrate patient care, research, education and prevention."

Barton and Hortobagyi were among more than 300 new fellows honored in a Feb. 13 ceremony at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

LANY KIMMONS

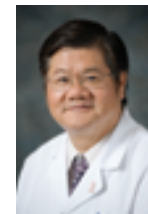


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WHY SOME COLORECTAL CANCERS RECUR AFTER TREATMENT

Study sheds new light on monoclonal antibody therapy cetuximab

CETUXIMAB, marketed as Erbitux®, is one of the key therapies for metastatic colorectal cancer. Yet the cancer still returns in some patients, shortening overall survival. An MD Anderson study published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* may help explain why the body sometimes becomes resistant to this therapy.



“We investigated the role of extracellular methylation in EGFR signaling and unexpectedly discovered new information about how EGFR renders

cancer cells resistant to cetuximab antibody therapy,” says Mien-Chie Hung, Ph.D., chair of Molecular and Cellular Oncology.

Methylation is a process by which proteins are chemically altered. When expressed aberrantly, EGFR can lead to runaway cell growth, reduced cell death, tumor formation and metastasis. Hung’s group found that expression of methylation-defective EGFR reduced tumor growth in mice.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health; the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas; The University of Texas MD Anderson-China Medical University and Hospital Sister Institution Fund; Ministry of Science and Technology, International Research-Intensive Centers of Excellence in Taiwan; China Medical University Hospital Cancer Research Center of Excellence; the Center for Biological Pathways; the American Cancer Society; and the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.

RON GILMORE

MAST + RECON

Study looks at factors such as cost, complications



AN MD ANDERSON STUDY of guideline-concordant treatments for women with early-stage breast cancer found that mastectomy plus reconstruction (mast+recon) not only is the most expensive option in a younger patient population but also has the highest rate of complications and complication-related costs, regardless of age.

The findings, presented in December at the 2015 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium by Benjamin Smith M.D., associate professor, Radiation Oncology and Health Services Research, should help guide patients and help physicians determine the most appropriate treatment options, as well as help define which local therapies offer the highest value to patients and payers.

Over the past decade, the rate of mast+recon has risen in the United States. This study is

the first to quantify the harm associated with this trend, says Smith.

“What we show for the first time is that while the patient is undergoing more surgery, she is also taking on a considerable amount of risk with regard to what could happen,” he says.

Cost data, from 2010 and 2011, indicated the average insurance company of patients who chose mast+recon pays approximately \$10,000 over two years to manage the complications of that procedure. Smith stresses that these findings should not be used to decrease reimbursement or coverage for mast+recon when medically indicated.

This study was funded by grants from the Department of Health Services, Varian Medical Systems and the Duncan Family Foundation.

LAURA SUSSMAN

PREDICTOR OF POOR SURVIVAL, RECURRENCE

Head and neck cancer research points to depression



DEPRESSION is a significant predictor of five-year survival and recurrence in head and neck cancer patients, according to an MD Anderson study.

Eileen Shinn, Ph.D., assistant professor, Behavioral Science, and lead author of the study, points to increasing evidence for modest associations between elevated depression symptoms and increased mortality risk.

The researchers focused on oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma, a type of head and neck cancer that originates at the back of the throat and base of the tongue.

“When we controlled for all variables, depression was linked with a nearly four times

higher risk of recurrence,” says Shinn.

Looking ahead, the researchers would like not only to replicate the findings in a larger sample but also to determine the biological reason depression makes this cancer more lethal. Possible mechanisms include poor lifestyle behaviors or a different biological response to chronic inflammation that affects cancer biology.

This study was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

CLAYTON BOLDT

THUMBS UP FOR STRIPES

Stripes® Convenience Stores gets the seal of approval from 4-year-old Caleb Sanchez, a patient at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. The annual Stripes Stores Celebrates Tomorrows campaign launched Sept. 16. For one month, Stripes customers purchased paper pin-ups for \$1. This is the second year this campaign raised more than \$1 million to support cancer research and programs for MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital.



PHOTO BY ADOLFO CHAVEZ III

SANTA'S ELVES CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Two events raise \$137,000 for MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital



PHOTO BY MEGAN CURTIN

CHRISTMAS CHEER FURTHERS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

Hosts Camille Ohmstede, left, and Sharon Parker are all smiles at the seventh annual Santa's Elves Party in Beaumont, Texas. Ohmstede and Parker welcomed nearly 100 guests to the festive fete benefiting MD Anderson's Camp Star Trails. Supporters raised over \$33,000 for the camp, which hosts patients from MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and their siblings, ages 5-12.



PHOTO BY PETE BAATZ

SANTA'S ELVES RAISE \$100,000:

As Dasher takes a break, Santa, Patsy Fourticq and Gregory Fourticq Jr. share in the spirit of giving at the 10th annual Santa's Elves party in Houston. Paige and Tilman Fertitta hosted more than 400 supporters, along with founders Patsy Fourticq, Gregory Fourticq Jr., Diane and John B. Connally III and Courtney Hill Fertitta and Jason Fertitta. The event raised more than \$100,000 for the Arts in Medicine Program at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. The Galleria and Simon Property Group sponsored a Giving Tree with mystery pull gifts that raised an additional \$4,000.



About the

Pancreatic Cancer MOON SHOT

LEADERSHIP

- Jason Fleming, M.D., professor, Surgical Oncology
- Anirban Maitra, M.B.B.S., professor, Pathology, and scientific director, Pancreatic Cancer Research Center
- Robert Wolff, M.D., professor, Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology, and interim chair, General Oncology

GOALS

- Increase the five-year survival rate from 5% to more than 20%.
- Decrease the percentage of patients with inoperable pancreatic adenocarcinoma at diagnosis from 85% to 70%.

ADVANCES

- **Early detection blood test/diagnostic biomarker:** A study revealed the potential of a protein that could lead to an early detection blood test. The protein was found in blood samples of nearly all 200 participants with pancreatic cancer but absent in samples of 100 healthy volunteers. Patients with more advanced disease had higher levels of the protein. This discovery is being validated in a larger group of patients.
- **Prognostic biomarkers:** The team is working on validating biomarkers that can help identify patients amenable to certain drugs and at higher risk of treatment failure.
- **Drug development and immunotherapy:** A newly discovered inhibitor of cancer metabolism is in MD Anderson's Institute for Applied Cancer Science drug discovery pipeline. Phase I trials for pancreatic cancer are slated for 2016. The team also is exploring adoptive cellular therapy: removing a patient's T cells, enhancing or modifying them in the lab and infusing them back into the patient to kill tumor cells.
- **MD Anderson's first pancreatic cancer high-risk clinic:** This clinic will serve people at increased risk for screening and counseling.

Podcast at <http://bit.ly/10Dtf2u>

THE MOON SHOTS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MD Anderson's Moon Shots Program is an unprecedented, comprehensive assault to significantly reduce cancer deaths and transform cancer care. Moon shot teams pursue innovative projects prioritized for greatest patient impact, including clinical trials of new cancer immunotherapies, targeted therapies and combinations. Collaborations heighten molecular understanding of cancers and therapies to further improve translational research and move scientific findings into the clinic. Many moon shots include prevention and early detection projects. Specialized platforms provide infrastructure, systems and strategy.

Ultimately, moon shot efforts will help support all 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 Dec. 31, private philanthropic commitments total more than \$341.8 million.

12 areas of focus:

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

MY MOON SHOT

Tom Rushing, of Houston, is a pancreatic cancer survivor of eight years. After his initial diagnosis, he sought a second opinion at MD Anderson and was placed in the care of Robert Wolff, M.D., chair ad interim, General Oncology; Sheikh Zayed Distinguished University Chair in Medical Oncology; and a co-leader of the Pancreatic Cancer Moon Shot. A senior consultant with Merrill Lynch, Rushing has been a member of the MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors since 2011, serving on the board's Development Committee.

When the original Moon Shots Program was brilliantly proposed by Dr. Ron DePinho, I was elated. Our city and the Texas Medical Center have prospered and dramatically expanded due to the vision and courage of our leaders.

Pancreatic cancer was not included among the disease types selected as inaugural moon shots when the program launched in 2012. Sure, maybe I was a little disappointed. However, I understood why pancreatic cancer wasn't selected initially. Dr. DePinho was clear regarding the MD Anderson decision process. At this point my wife Don Nell and I made a personal contribution to MD Anderson, designating our gift to Dr. Robert Wolff's expertise and



Tom
Rushing
with son,
Holden
Rushing

judgment. I presumed that pancreatic cancer patients would one day benefit from the research being funded for other cancers. I remembered that I had a pancreatic cancer chemotherapy regimen that was specifically designed for colon cancer patients.

Now that the pilot pancreatic cancer project has been accepted into the Moon Shots Program, I can be assured that moon shot funds will be available for pancreatic cancer research and patient treatment. MD Anderson treats more pancreatic cancer patients by a factor of five times than any other cancer treatment facilities in the world. Our country can and must generate funds for cancer. It will come from generous patients and personal philanthropic interests.

My mother and father both died from cancer; I almost did. MD Anderson is the best managed, most experienced and best research and treatment facility in the world. If anyone can end cancer, it is MD Anderson.

Read more at makingcancerhistory.com/tomrushing.

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.



PHOTO BY F. CARTER SMITH

PAPPAS SERVES UP \$101,500 TO #ENDCANCER – Pappas Restaurants across Houston featured a unique opportunity on the menu this fall: the chance to help #endcancer. Select Pappas restaurants, including Pappasitos, Pappadeaux and Pappas Bar-B-Q, launched the week-long campaign in September, offering guests who donated \$1 or more an MD Anderson #endcancer collector's cup. Pappas matched every donation up to \$50,000. Waiters got in on the fun, wearing buttons that displayed how many donations they'd raised on their shift. Guests also received stickers, which they could use to honor the names of loved ones fighting cancer. The stickers were displayed proudly on banners across the restaurant.

SURVIVORS SAY

JUDITH JENNINGS, of Meridianville, Ala., is a mother, grandmother, retired teacher and ovarian cancer survivor.

I was 62 years old and fresh into retirement when my life took a turn. I began to notice that I was experiencing acid reflux and the need to use the restroom more frequently, things I'd never dealt with before. I didn't think much of it until I read an article in a women's magazine describing acid reflux as a possible symptom of ovarian cancer, along with bloating and frequent urination. A red flag went off in my head and I immediately called my doctor.

Although he was not overly concerned, my doctor ordered an ultrasound, to please me and calm my nerves. Two days later, I was back in his office to hear the devastating results. Ovarian cancer. I think my doctor was as shocked as I was.

I could barely think — this couldn't be happening. My grandmother had died of breast cancer and my aunt was battling it. But the fact of the matter was that I had ovarian cancer. I had to deal with it, and now.

I knew I needed to go to MD Anderson in Houston. I've always said if I or any family member had cancer, we'd go to the No. 1 cancer center in the United States. I wanted the best possible treatment. One week later, my wonderful doctors performed surgery.



Judith Jennings, center, with her family

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDITH JENNINGS

My husband and I opted to stay in Houston throughout my treatment. Although it's 16 hours away from home, I felt blessed to be at MD Anderson. It's been six years since my treatment. I'm thankful to God and MD Anderson for giving me more time to live on this earth and be with my family. Every day is a special blessing, never to be taken for granted.

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS WITH A COLLECTIVE GOAL:

Making Cancer History®

BY SARAH WATSON

The MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors plays a significant role in advancing the institution as the world's premier cancer center. The advisory, nonfiduciary board was established in 1957. Almost 60 years later, members continue to support MD Anderson's mission to end cancer by participating in numerous board activities and committees, offering advice and counsel on a range of issues, sharing personal expertise and interests within the community, fundraising for MD Anderson initiatives and contributing personal philanthropy.

The board recently welcomed 14 new members who join more than 250 appointed volunteers from across the country and all over the world. The incoming group reflects the board's national and international presence, with new members from five states and as far away as Spain.

"It is an honor to welcome each of these outstanding men and women to the Board of Visitors," says chair Mel Klein, of Corpus Christi, adding that being a part of MD Anderson's history "is a privilege."

"We are grateful for these dedicated volunteers who have enthusiastically joined us as ambassadors of this great institution," says Klein.

"Our Board of Visitors members dedicate their time, wisdom, influence and resources to our shared goal to end cancer here at home and globally," says Ronald DePinho, M.D., president of MD Anderson. "Their compassion for all cancer patients and their commitment to MD Anderson fuel our efforts to make a real difference for patients and their families everywhere."



New Board of Visitors members attended orientation and the annual business meeting Oct. 28-29 in Houston. Seated, from left: Alejandra De la Vega Foster, Glenn B. Stearns, Diane Dilworth Gates. Standing, from left: Robert (Bob) G. Gwin, S. Wil VanLoh Jr., Charles D. McVean, J. Robert Brown, Andrew M. Baker, George E. Norcross III, Wyck A. Knox Jr., Andrew D. McCullough. Not pictured: Anthony Ray "Tony" Chase, Ana Palacio, Donald R. Sinclair.

PHOTOS BY ADOLFO CHAVEZ III



We are grateful for these dedicated volunteers who have enthusiastically joined us as
AMBASSADORS OF THIS GREAT INSTITUTION.”

—MEL KLEIN, CHAIR



2015 ANNUAL MEETING –
Among Board of Visitors leadership attending the annual business meeting in October, from left: Harry Longwell, immediate past chair; Mel Klein, chair; Jim Mulva, chair-elect; David Grimes, Membership and Board Development committee chair.

The board adds two new Life Members. Read about them on page 15.

FISCAL YEAR

2016 NEW MEMBERS

ANDREW M. BAKER
Houston, Texas

Baker is the managing partner of Baker Botts. He represents companies, boards and audit committees in corporate and government investigations, and counsels on corporate governance compliance, crisis response, dispute resolution, strategic planning and communications strategies.

J. ROBERT BROWN
El Paso, Texas

Brown is owner and president of Brownco Capital LLC. He serves on the board of directors of WestStar Bank, is on The University of Texas at El Paso Development Board and is a director of El Paso Electric Company.

ANTHONY RAY “TONY” CHASE
Houston, Texas

Chase is chairman and chief executive officer of ChaseSource LP. An entrepreneur, a tenured law professor at the University of Houston Law Center and an eagle scout, he serves on the boards of Anadarko and Paragon Offshore.

ALEJANDRA DE LA VEGA FOSTER
Chihuahua, Mexico; El Paso, Texas

De la Vega Foster is president of Almacenes Distribuidores de la Frontera,

which owns and operates Del Rio stores in Chihuahua. She owns the Domino Pizza franchise in Juarez and franchise rights for the El Paso, Southern New Mexico and Arizona markets for La Madeleine Country French Café.

DIANE DILWORTH GATES
Corpus Christi, Texas

Gates is a retired teacher, counselor and administrator for a private school in Laredo. She serves on numerous nonprofit boards in Laredo and Corpus Christi.

ROBERT (BOB) G. GWIN
The Woodlands, Texas

Gwin is executive vice president, finance, and chief financial officer at Anadarko Petroleum. He chairs the boards of LyondellBasell Industries N.V., Western Gas Partners LP and Western Gas Equity Partners LP and is a co-owner and director of the Arizona Coyotes.

WYCK A. KNOX JR.
Augusta, Georgia

Knox is a retired partner and former chairman of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton. He is a director of AGL Resources Inc., director and chairman of nBank Corp, partner of Knox Properties LLP and president of Knox Charity Fund Inc.

ANDREW D. MCCULLOUGH
Houston, Texas

McCullough is a private investor in Asche Family Interests. He is a former chair of MD Anderson’s Advance Team advisory board. In this capacity, he served on the Board of Visitors’ Executive and Advisory Group-Children’s Cancer Hospital committees.

CHARLES D. MCVEAN
Memphis, Tennessee

McVean founded McVean Trading & Investments LLC in 1986 as chairman and chief executive officer. The company conducts extensive research in livestock and meats, grains and oilseeds, and global macroeconomics, managing investments for over 5,000 clients worldwide.

GEORGE E. NORCROSS III
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Norcross is executive chairman of Conner Strong & Buckelew, a brokerage and consulting firm. He also is chairman of the board of trustees of the Cooper Health System and Cooper University Hospital in Camden.

ANA PALACIO
Madrid, Spain

Palacio, the first woman to serve as Foreign Minister of Spain, is a lawyer by

profession. She has held senior positions in the governing bodies of the Madrid Bar and the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe.

DONALD R. SINCLAIR
Houston, Texas

Sinclair is president and chief executive officer and a director of Western Gas Partners LP and Western Gas Equity Partners LP. Before joining Anadarko and Western Gas, he was a founding partner and president of Ceritas Energy LLC.

GLENN B. STEARNS
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Stearns is the founder of Stearns Lending. He was inducted into the Horatio Alger Association in 2011. Glenn and his wife, Mindy, founded the Stearns Family Charitable Foundation, dedicated to helping disadvantaged youths.

S. WIL VANLOH JR.
Houston, Texas

VanLoh co-founded Quantum Energy Partners in 1998. He is president and chief executive officer and serves as chairman of the firm’s executive and investment committees. He is on the board of trustees of St. John’s School.

\$50,000 BOOST TO CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Annual Halliburton Charity Golf Tournament supports MD Anderson cancer fighters

BY ALLISON SCHAFFER

Houston-based energy company Halliburton has hosted the Halliburton Charity Golf Tournament for the past 22 years. Today the tournament brings together more than 500 golfers and 300 volunteers to raise funds and awareness for local and national charities. Over the past five years, it's donated more than \$500,000 in support of cancer research and treatment programs at MD Anderson.

"This year we hit a new record," says Cindy Patman, senior director of Corporate Affairs & Diversity Initiatives at Halliburton. "We raised more than \$3 million for more than 40 charities. It's amazing to see how generous our donors are — we were literally turning teams away in our final hours because we didn't have the space, but they proceeded to donate anyway."

MD Anderson was a beneficiary of the October 2015 tournament, receiving \$50,000 in support of the institution's cancer prevention and control platform, a crucial component of the Moon Shots Program. Led by Ernest Hawk, M.D., vice president for Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences, Joxel Garcia, M.D., executive director of the platform and Mark Moreno, vice president for Governmental Relations, the platform creates and conducts evidence-based, community-focused programs in prevention, screening, early detection and survivorship.

"Halliburton is a family-oriented company," says Patman. "We care about the communities where we live and work. Despite the industry downturn, it's just as important to us to continue to give as much as we can to the community and support the fight against cancer."

MD Anderson's Strike Through Cancer wall was on display at this year's tournament. Golfers had the opportunity to sign the wall and learn more about MD Anderson's latest progress in the fight against cancer.

"MD Anderson's presence out on the course is important to us," says Patman. "The fact that teams stand in line to be in this tournament is a testament to that. Those lines show how much these charities mean to them, MD Anderson included."

Katy league's Peyton Watson launches T-shirt sales to fight breast cancer



BY WENDY MOHON

Peyton "Tuff Girl" Watson has a game plan for fighting cancer. Last fall the 10-year-old fifth-grader designed and sold T-shirts bearing her nickname in honor of her maternal grandmother, who has been a breast cancer patient at MD Anderson in Katy for the past five years. Full proceeds, \$2,600, went to Nikesh Jasani, M.D., associate professor, General Oncology, and medical director at MD Anderson's Katy location.

Peyton plays wide receiver and safety for her team, the Spartans, in a youth tackle football league in Katy. The league's only female player this year, she's been making national headlines, most recently for winning a trip to Super Bowl 50 as part of the "Today" show's "Together We Make Football" series. But she says her grandmother, who gave her the nickname, is the strong one.

"Meme is really the Tuff Girl. She says she's proud of me, but I'm proud of her," says Peyton.

Peyton's mom, Tracy Watson, explains how the T-shirt sales came to be.

"Every 10 weeks, my mom would get chemo, and her white blood cell count got very low," Tracy says. "Peyton overheard me telling a friend, 'Mom couldn't take her treatment today,' and thought it was because of financial reasons."

When Peyton asked Tracy what she could do to help raise money, Tracy explained that the issue wasn't about finances, but Peyton was determined to lend support to the institution providing her grandmother's care.

Soon the concept of selling T-shirts was born, and Peyton crafted a design on her own. Though the campaign reached its initial goal in less than a month, the T-shirts are still available at www.tuffgirlbypeyton.com.

"We love MD Anderson," Tracy says. "They've given my mom these extra five years."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRACY WATSON

Above: MD Anderson patient Linda Crisp shows off the popular T-shirt her granddaughter designed to raise money for breast cancer research.



Andy Sabin with his dog, Geisha

PHOTO BY RACHAEL HALE MCKENNA

A LASTING LEGACY

New York conservationist gives \$30 million to cancer research

BY SARAH WATSON

Andy Sabin is concerned about the lack of federal funding to drive lifesaving cancer research. So the New York-based philanthropist and businessman recently did his part to bridge the growing gap, committing \$30 million to MD Anderson. **His motivation is straightforward: “I want to find a cure.”**

Beginning this year, the Andrew Sabin Family Fellowship Program will fund up to eight two-year research fellowships at \$100,000 each. The program encourages creative, independent thinking and high-risk, high-impact research. Fellowships will be awarded annually, giving deserving early-career researchers at MD Anderson the means to strive toward their collective goal to end cancer.

“I wanted to provide a vehicle so that the best and brightest minds at the world’s premier cancer center don’t have to spend 50% of their time fundraising to sustain innovative projects,” says Sabin, who has served on the MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors since 2005 and is president of Sabin Metal Corporation, the largest privately owned precious metal refiner and recycler in the country. “Through this program, they have the opportunity to focus instead on important work that can truly help people who suffer from cancer.”

The Andrew Sabin Family Foundation made more than 200

grants in 2015, and the MD Anderson contribution is its largest to date. An avid environmentalist and wildlife advocate, Sabin says he set up the family foundation to teach his four sons the importance of philanthropy, conservation and “giving back.”

“Andy Sabin is my hero — a great philanthropist with a heart of gold,” says Ronald DePinho, M.D., president of MD Anderson. “His vision will have a positive, far-reaching impact for generations to come.”

Sabin’s legacy includes not only the MD Anderson fellowship, but also four wildlife species bearing his name: two frogs in Peru and New Guinea; a lemur in Madagascar; and a chameleon in Tanzania.

“Having a species named after you ensures your name will live in perpetuity,” says Sabin, who lost a loved one to cancer six years ago and is now “so aware” of the pain caused by the disease. “This fellowship program at MD Anderson will be there in perpetuity too. I hope one of the fellows comes up with a cure. It would make me very proud to know that this gift made a difference.”



Tom Brokaw, left, interviews Bob McNair at A Conversation With a Living Legend® in Houston.



PHOTO BY MARKS MOORE

Honoree Emmitt Smith, left, and Sean Elliott pause after their interview at A Conversation with a Living Legend® in San Antonio.

A CONVERSATION WITH A LIVING LEGEND®

A signature event, steeped in tradition

BY ALLISON SCHAFFER

For the past 26 years, A Conversation With a Living Legend® has held the spotlight on former heads of state, professional athletes, prominent journalists, popular entertainers and more. The intimate onstage chat, aimed at not only entertaining guests but also increasing awareness and raising funds for MD Anderson, was conceived by Lyda Hill (see page 15). Replicated across the nation, the successful event model has raised more than \$33 million for cancer treatment, prevention and education programs at MD Anderson. This past fall, the tradition continued across the state of Texas.

SAN ANTONIO

Pro-football hall of famer Emmitt Smith teamed up with MD Anderson for the sixth annual A Conversation With a Living Legend® luncheon in San Antonio Oct. 12. More than 420 MD Anderson supporters and football fans packed the Marriott Rivercenter to hear Smith's conversation with Sean Elliott, a local NBA legend and full-time color commentator for the San Antonio Spurs.

Since its inception six years ago, A Conversation With a Living Legend® San Antonio has raised more than \$1.7 million for MD Anderson. Returning chairs Sonya

Medina Williams and Gene Williams spearheaded fundraising efforts, with Peggy and Lowry Mays and Charline and Red McCombs serving as honorary chairs. Founding chairs Kim and Clyde Johnson IV and Paula and Clyde Johnson III, as well as Nancy Loeffler, former chair of MD Anderson's Board of Visitors, were on hand for the festivities.

HOUSTON

Bob McNair, Houston Texans founder, chairman and CEO, took center stage Nov. 4 with Tom Brokaw, special correspondent for NBC News, at the eighth

annual A Conversation With a Living Legend® at the Hilton Americas-Houston.

More than 600 dinner guests listened as cancer survivors McNair and Brokaw opened up about their personal battles and commended cancer fighters everywhere as well as MD Anderson's mission to end cancer in Texas.

Special guests included former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III, and two MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital patients. As event chairs, husband-wife team Kelli Kickerillo and Todd Forester, along with honorary chairs Cyvia and Melvyn Wolff, rallied supporters to raise more than \$1 million for the Moon Shots Program.

Major sponsors included the Honorable and Mrs. Hushang Ansary, the Vijay and Marie Goradia Charitable Foundation, Kelli Kickerillo and Todd Forester, Mary and Vincent Kickerillo, and the Ralph & Ricky Lauren Family Foundation, Inc., in honor of President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush.

DALLAS-FORT WORTH

More than 700 guests packed the Chantilly Ballroom at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas Dec. 1 for A Conversation With a Living Legend® honoring former Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice. The event took on a supper club vibe, with the Steve Bayless Orchestra and singer Scot Cameron covering the best of Frank Sinatra.

CBS News' Norah O'Donnell joined Rice onstage for an in-depth interview on a variety of subjects from current events and international policy to discrimination and Rice's reflections on her mother's cancer experience. The Rice-O'Donnell duo brought the audience to their feet several times throughout the evening.

Event chair Ashley Scott Rankin led the fundraising effort, which topped \$1 million prior to event night. Presenting sponsors, at the \$100,000 level, were Andrews Distributing and AT&T. Lyda Hill was a premier sponsor, donating \$75,000.

CALL OF THE CATTLEMEN

NEIGHBORS BAND TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF WILDFIRES TO SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH



From left, Hero Award winner Cheryl Martin; survivor Kimberly Burns; Christian Abee, D.V.M.; Shannon Mayo, recipient of the 2015 Cattlemen for Cancer Research Cancer Survivor Award; and survivor Mark Hayes

PHOTO COURTESY OF CATTLEMEN FOR CANCER RESEARCH

BY ALLISON SCHAFFER

Since 1999, Cattlemen for Cancer Research, a coalition of volunteers, organizations and businesses in Central Texas, has made it its mission to carry out the fight against cancer. Combining their passions for ranching and community, its members have raised more than \$1.7 million to fund programs at MD Anderson's Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research near Bastrop.

When wildfires threatened Bastrop County in October 2015, they banded together to ensure their neighbors, livestock and property were safe from harm. By a stroke of luck, the smoke cleared in time for the organization's 17th annual fundraiser on Oct. 17.

More than 500 central Texas residents gathered at the Hills Prairie Livestock Auction Company for a picnic lunch, a silent auction, children's activities and a live cattle auction. All event proceeds — more than \$132,000 — will advance research initiatives and programs at the Keeling Center, which provides comparative research in animal models to aid in understanding and preventing cancer.

"The Keeling Center is pleased with the tremendous support we continue to receive from Cattlemen for Cancer Research and our local community," says Christian Abee, D.V.M., M.S., director. "The funds are crucial in supporting our mission of Making Cancer History®, as well as providing assistance to cancer patients in Central Texas."

Wildfires consumed more than 34,000 acres in Bastrop County this past October. The Keeling Center was minimally affected by the blaze. The thoughts and concerns of MD Anderson's staff and leadership remain with the residents of Central Texas.

CHERYL MARTIN, advanced practice registered nurse, Neurosurgery, received Cattlemen for Cancer Research's sixth annual Hero Award, which recognizes an MD Anderson clinician or researcher for outstanding contributions in patient care. Martin's earnest compassion and commitment to patients exemplify the spirit of the Hero Award.

SHANNON MAYO, a three-time survivor who first came to MD Anderson at age 10, received the organization's Cancer Survivor Award for her bravery and determination in her fight against cancer during three separate occurrences.

DANCER TO END CANCER

Teen organizes flash mob in honor of grandparents



Jordan Diamond

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE DIAMOND

BY ALLISON SCHAFFER

JORDAN DIAMOND, 13, of Fort Worth, never takes the easy way out. From her full school schedule at Fort Worth Country Day to hours each week in class at the Dance Concept studio, Jordan is the epitome of commitment.

So when it came time for her bat mitzvah, a Jewish tradition that represents a girl going into adult life, Jordan knew she had to go beyond the norm. She decided to use her bat mitzvah community service project to raise awareness and funds for finding a cure for cancer, a disease that's deeply affected her family since before she was born.

"My grandmother, Carol Gold, was treated for breast cancer at MD Anderson. And my grandfather, Alan Gold, was treated at MD Anderson for brain cancer before he passed away. I thought it would be a good idea to raise money for breast and brain cancer research."

— JORDAN DIAMOND

"We strive to make sure our kids get involved in as many ways as they can," says Jordan's mother, Julie Diamond.

Jordan teamed up with her friend Keaton Bullen to choreograph a three-minute tribute flash mob in honor of her grandmother.

She chose Friday on the Green, an outdoor concert series at Magnolia Green Park in Fort Worth, for the big debut. Hundreds of bystanders watched as Jordan began to dance, only to be joined by dozens more dancers, with MD Anderson's iconic Strike Through Cancer logo in the background.

"My grandmother was so happy she was in tears," she says.

Jordan's hard work paid off, raising more than \$4,500 for breast cancer research and the Alan L. Gold Memorial Fund for Brain Cancer Research at MD Anderson.

Watch Jordan's dance at <https://www.crowdrise.com/iamadanceragainstcancer>.

GETTING TO KNOW David Herr

BY ALLISON SCHAFFER

David Herr wasn't born in Texas, but if you ask him, he'll tell you, "I got here as fast as I could." An energy commodity trader and vice president of the gas division at Trammo Inc., Herr also serves as chair of MD Anderson's Advance Team, a volunteer leadership board of "next generation" community and business leaders. Drawing on his passion for philanthropy and his love of family, Herr leads the Advance Team in multiple efforts focused on one goal — Making Cancer History®. He and his wife, Catherine, have two children, Hudson, 6, and Lauren, 4.

Describe yourself in three words.

Motivated, dedicated, positive. Whatever I do, I try and give 100%. I feel that if you're passionate about something, commit to it and do something. Our actions speak louder than words, and in a world where much can be upsetting, I try to find that one aspect that is positive and put my focus there. I truly respect the doctors, nurses and researchers who are fighting every day for the patients and families being treated at MD Anderson.

How did you first come to know MD Anderson?

When I moved to Houston, I immediately took notice of the MD Anderson commercials on TV. They struck a chord with me and I just started donating. The people who started on this mission, the past and present leaders, the scientists, doctors and nurses who work every day to make cancer history, are my true connection to the institution. I believe we all can play a role in helping beat this disease for good, and I wanted to have a part in that.

What motivated you to be an advocate for MD Anderson?

Private philanthropy has an extremely important role in MD Anderson's mission

to end cancer. My thought was that many people, thankfully, have the ability to write a check, but I wanted to do something more, in addition to donating financially. A dear friend at MD Anderson nominated me to join the Advance Team. I'm grateful to have served on this team for eight years now. It's truly had an impact on my personal life, my family members' lives and how we think about our future.

What are you hoping to accomplish as chair of the Advance Team?

The Advance Team has been charged with shining a light on MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital and prevention as it relates to the Moon Shots Program. My passion project with the Advance Team is the Sunbeatables Program, which we're trying to get into a lot of the pre-K and kindergarten classes around town. While the program is still in its infancy, we've seen schools in the Houston area taking on the responsibility of educating our youth about the importance of sun safety. It's an unbelievable program.

What's most important in life?

Family is the most important thing. Nothing else can really follow that. If I don't have the support of my wife and kids, I can't really do



David and Cathy Herr with their children, Lauren and Hudson

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID HERR

Born: Chicago, Ill.
Raised: Kansas City, Kan.
Resides: Bellaire, Texas
Education: University of Tulsa, Kansas State University

ADVANCE TEAM (SINCE 2007):

Chair 2015–2017
Chair-Elect 2013–2015
Education Chair 2009–2013

what I do. I couldn't be chair of the Advance Team and get involved like I do without the support and immense amount of love from my family. They're my core. They're my strength.

Describe a particularly life-changing moment.

Unfortunately, my father passed away before I moved to Houston. His passing reminded me how important it is to let those you love know it. Life is short, and I'm reminded of that when I realize how many lives have been ruined by this terrible disease we're all fighting. You need to tell people that you love them.

Tell us a little-known fact about David Herr.

I've been fortunate on the golf course to have made three holes in one. The latest came this past year at the Shell Houston Open playing on the Member Course with Shell at a customer outing.

What do you do for fun?

We love to travel with the kids. We go to Colorado for a week every year for summer vacation. I play tennis and I'm an avid golfer. We are a social couple and, more importantly, a social family. We love to be surrounded by good company and enjoy life to its fullest.

"I believe we all can play a role in helping beat [cancer] for good, and I wanted to have a part in that."
— DAVID HERR

A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

BY SARAH WATSON

Life Members of the MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors embody philanthropy, leadership and a community spirit. Through their dedication and devotion, this select group has furthered MD Anderson's mission and advanced the institution toward its goal to end cancer. Their belief in MD Anderson has motivated their personal generosity and inspired that of others. True ambassadors of Making Cancer History,[®] they've helped place MD Anderson at the forefront of cancer care, research, prevention and education. In 2015, the board welcomed two new Life Members: Lyda Hill of Dallas and James A. Baker, III, of Houston.



PHOTO BY DAVID WOOD / DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Lyda Hill

DALLAS

Lyda Hill's commitment to MD Anderson spans more than three decades. Her generous support of the institution has enhanced the lives of countless patients and their families. She's served on the Board of Visitors since 1980, playing a crucial role on the Development Committee from 2006 to 2007 and on the Events Committee since 2007. In 1990, she spearheaded and chaired the inaugural A Conversation With a Living Legend[®] event in Dallas. The luncheon-interview format that Hill conceived has evolved into a trademark MD Anderson event that has raised more than \$33 million in cities across the nation. A longtime proponent of scientific research and biomedical advancement, Hill continues to lend her service and expertise to the Dallas Living Legend Executive and Steering committees. In 2009, she was inducted to the Anderson Assembly, which recognizes those who have contributed \$1 million or more to MD Anderson. In 2013, she pledged \$50 million to MD Anderson's Moon Shots Program. In recognition of Hill's generosity, MD Anderson named the Lyda Hill Cancer Prevention Center in her honor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES A. BAKER, III

James A. Baker, III

HOUSTON

James A. Baker, III's commitment to MD Anderson is rooted in nearly 75 years of tradition. His childhood playground, the estate of Captain James A. Baker, his grandfather, eventually became MD Anderson's first home in Houston. In 1979, former U.S. Secretary of State Baker was appointed to the Board of Visitors while serving as deputy secretary of commerce under President Gerald Ford. Secretary Baker's dedication to the Board of Visitors and MD Anderson continued throughout his political career, even as he ran five presidential campaigns for three presidents and was appointed to increasingly crucial government positions. Inducted to the Anderson Assembly in 2009, he lends his expertise to the Board of Visitors' Advisory Group's Global Programs and Events committees. In 2013, Secretary Baker was honored at A Conversation With a Living Legend[®] in Washington, D.C., which raised more than \$4.5 million for MD Anderson's Moon Shots Program. Secretary Baker is a recipient of the institution's Making Cancer History[®] Award, which honors those who have made a difference through caring, integrity and discovery.

PROMISE WINTER 2016

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NITA AMBANI

Businesswoman, educator, philanthropist and sports enthusiast Nita Ambani, of Mumbai, India, joined the MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors in 2014. She is founder and chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, established in 2010 to provide impetus to various philanthropic initiatives of Reliance Industries Limited. The efforts of the group have touched the lives of more than 4 million people across India, in more than 5,500 villages and urban locations.

Cancer is a disease that fills me with intrigue and concern. I am extremely worried about the growing prevalence of the disease, in India and around the world. The statistics are alarming, and hardly a family is spared. I have had to silently watch a number of colleagues, friends and family members fall prey to this deadly disease. The extreme suffering and loss of life I have witnessed have left a permanent vacuum in my life.

My personal crusade against cancer began more than a decade ago when I addressed a breast cancer workshop at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai. Ever since, I have been a staunch advocate of addressing the menace of this disease on all fronts: prevention, research, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

Breast cancer is by far the most common among women worldwide. The fact that 14% of the more than half a million women losing their battle to breast cancer each year are from India brings forth the urgency to effectively deal with it.

In our country, cancers of the head and neck and of the lung predominate among males, and are intimately associated with tobacco habits. That we can prevent approximately half of all cancers and cancer-related deaths is a major wake-up call we will not ignore.

In October 2014, we launched the Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre in Mumbai, with oncology as a major focus. Along with our research programs, we

hope to make a significant contribution to the community by providing education, prevention, state-of-the-art diagnostics and treatment. It will be our humble effort to provide the best possible care to all, educate our people and restore quality of life and productivity.

It is heartening to see that many have fought cancer successfully, with courage and a positive outlook, thanks to the availability of better medicines and treatment facilities. This gives hope. On account of the relentless efforts of institutions like MD Anderson through dedicated research, clinical care, preventive initiatives, raising resources and collaboration with the medical fraternity worldwide, we see more optimism in conquering this disease. As a woman and a philanthropist, I understand the critical need to banish cancer from our world. It will always be my wholehearted endeavor to associate with and support MD Anderson in accomplishing its mission of Making Cancer History®.