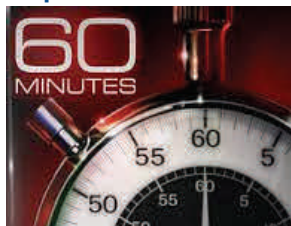


YEAR IN REVIEW

2016

Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke

Top stories in this newsletter



60 Minutes



Joe Biden's Visit



Jean Hartford-Todd



Angels Among Us



Dr. Eric Fountain



Christina Cone

Vice President Visits Duke to Discuss Cancer 'Moonshot'



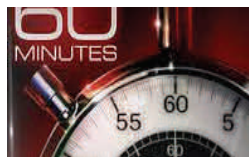
Vice President Joe Biden met with Dr. John Sampson and Dr. Matthias Gromeier (both from the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center) this past February. Dr. Gromeier's work has focused on using a modified form of the poliovirus as an innovative brain cancer therapy. The work is showing promise in an early clinical trial, and was featured in a two-part segment on CBS's 60 Minutes program last March.

During the roundtable discussion, Biden singled out the first patient treated with the poliovirus therapy, Stephanie Lipscomb, whom he met in a private gathering. Noting that she looked "as healthy as can be," Biden praised the innovation involved in the research endeavor.

"In my view, the science is ready," Biden said. "I believe we can make much faster progress -- as an outsider looking in from a different perspective -- if we see greater collaboration, greater sharing of information, breaking down some of the research that is trapped inside of silos."

After Biden wrapped up the laboratory tour, which was led by Dr. John Sampson, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, the vice president held a roundtable discussion with key leaders in the cancer community who were convened to share their aspirations for the moonshot.

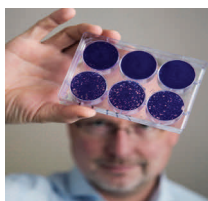
The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke Featured on 60 Minutes



A year ago, the news magazine introduced viewers to the amazing work of the team behind the poliovirus therapy, which is being tested in patients with glioblastoma brain tumors.

This year's double segment reported several updates, including the news that the FDA granted breakthrough status to the treatment, which should help speed research (it does NOT mean the therapy has been approved for market use); the advancement into studies on breast cancer; and the progress and challenges of patients who underwent the therapy.

Poliovirus (PVSRIPO) Immunotherapy Receives Breakthrough Status



The recombinant poliovirus therapy developed at the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke Health has been granted "breakthrough therapy designation" from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The designation will expedite research into the poliovirus therapy, but it does not mean the investigational drug has been approved for clinical use. It is currently being tested in a clinical trial for adults with advanced glioblastoma brain tumors. To receive breakthrough status, preliminary evidence must indicate that the treatment may offer substantial improvement over available standard therapy.

"Breakthrough status means that we can work with the highest levels in the FDA to develop the most efficient clinical trial and pathway to fully evaluate the safety and efficacy of the genetically modified poliovirus for treating recurrent glioblastoma," said Darell Bigner, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke. "Ultimately, we hope the therapy will one day obtain FDA approval."

Jean Hartford-Todd Receives Presidential Award



The Presidential Award is one of the highest honors given to Duke University faculty and staff. The awards program recognizes full-time employees who have excelled in their positions, having made exceptional contributions to the university and health system during the previous calendar year. The program annually presents Presidential Awards and Meritorious Service Awards in five categories.

Celebrating 30 years of service this year, Jean Hartford-Todd, CCLS, is a child life specialist with the Duke Cancer Institute's patient support program. She received a 2015 Presidential Award in the Clinical/Professional Non-Managerial category. Hartford-Todd joined Duke in 1986, accepting a role as a child life specialist in Pediatrics. Eleven years later, she joined the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center and in 2012, she teamed up to serve with the Duke Cancer Patient Support Program. Hartford-Todd went beyond the call of duty to, over the course of two years, facilitate biweekly sessions specifically designed for four young children of a terminally ill cancer patient. In doing so, Hartford-Todd equipped the children to better navigate the many emotions resulting from their mother's illness and eventual loss.

Angels Among Us 5K Run & Family Fun Walk Celebrates Its 23rd Year

On April 23, 2016, Angels Among Us celebrated 23 years of raising funds for brain tumor research at the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center. Established in 1994, this event has contributed over \$20 million to help find a cure for brain tumors. This year's event raised over \$1.8 million with the help of more than 330 teams from across the country. Survivor Alan Stephenson and his band played at the event this year. Next year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. For details, visit www.angelsamongus.org.



SAVE THE DATE: 24th Annual Angels Among Us: April 29th, 2017

Shingleton Award Presented to Stan and Melinda Epperson

The Shingleton Award recognizes volunteers and donors for their exemplary service to the Duke Cancer Institute (DCI) and their tireless commitment of time, effort and resources to advancing the understanding of cancer and caring for patients with cancer. This year's award was received by Stan and Melinda Epperson for their philanthropy, dedication and commitment to the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center. With a \$1 million gift to the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, Stan and Melinda Epperson, along with their daughter, Lisa, established the Jeffrey Thomas Epperson Memorial Fund in memory of their son and to support brain tumor research at Duke.



DCI established the Shingleton Award in 1987 to recognize the "outstanding service and generosity" of individuals who are committed to the war against cancer. Since the award's inception, the Cancer Center has honored 45 individuals for their selflessness in commitments of time and financial resources to the Duke Cancer Institute.

New Staff Joins the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center



Dr. Eric Fountain has joined the clinical team as the center's hospitalist. He is responsible for the care of brain tumor patients admitted to Duke University Hospital. Dr. Fountain joined us after completing his Duke Internal Medicine Residency. Prior to coming to Duke, he obtained his MD at the University of Colorado.

Christina Cone Appointed Administrative Director of the Tisch Brain Tumor Center



It is with great pleasure that we announce Christina Cone has accepted the position of administrative director of the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center, effective immediately. Christina has been part of the PRTBTC for nearly 7 years as a seasoned oncology nurse practitioner, and more recently as the Duke Cancer Institute's advanced practice provider team leader, representing the PRTBTC extenders. In addition to Christina's leadership roles, she will soon complete her post-graduate work in health care leadership. All of these combined backgrounds make her the ideal selection to assume the role of administrative director.