

MAYS CANCER CENTER: IS RECOGNIZED BY



NEWSLETTER

10.3.2019

On September 25, we passed the first significant milestone in our competitive renewal journey as an NCI-designated cancer center — the submission of our Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG).

Our designation as an NCI-designated cancer center is a highly competitive process and one that we have enjoyed since 1991. Because of the tremendous efforts of our members, faculty, and staff at the Mays Cancer Center, and the wonderful community of San Antonio and South Texas, we have continued to receive this designation. The process of renewal is once every five years and is both a challenge and an opportunity to reflect on our mission, celebrate our shared accomplishments, and plan for our future working together to decrease the burden of cancer in San Antonio and South Texas.

The process of renewal as an NCI-designated cancer center is first and foremost a grant and one that has taken tremendous efforts to prepare. Our team has been tremendous, fueled by the tireless efforts of our associate director of administration, Dr. Susan Padalecki, and the entire administrative team, our co-program leaders, associate directors, shared resources directors, research executive committee, and our senior leadership committee. By working together, these groups have worked extremely hard to adequately convey to our reviewers the accomplishments and the plans of the Mays Cancer Center.

A PARTIAL LIST OF OUR SHARED ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDES:

- Developed the **Mays Cancer Center Strategic Plan** with four primary areas of focus:
 - South Texas Focused Cancer Discovery
 - Next Generation Cancer Therapies
 - Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos
 - Patient-Centered Complex Cancer Care
- Growth to 94 full members with over \$37M in external peer-reviewed funding
- Significant areas of focused growth in CDP (genome repair and tumor microenvironment), EDT (early phase trials, neuro-oncology, drug repurposing) and PSP (Active prevention, risk-based screening, cancer survivorship), and the capabilities of our shared resources and clinical trials office
- 1,086 publications with 23% in journals with impact factors >8
- 1,651 patients accrued in cancer clinical trials in 2018, with 59% being patients who are underrepresented minorities
- Development of a comprehensive Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) office led by associate director, Dr. Amelie Ramirez
- Development of comprehensive Cancer Research Career Enhancement (CRCE) efforts under the Cancer Education office led by associate director, Dr. Robin Leach, and Kate Lathrop, M.D., the co-chair of the education committee
- Development and growth of a complex cancer service line that includes clinical-research integration in cancer prevention and screening, palliative and survivorship care and multi-disciplinary cancer care all in a newly renovated Mays Cancer Center, home to UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson

As we pivot towards our NCI/CCSG site visit on February 25, 2020, we are planning for an active fall which includes:

- I. development and practicing of high-quality presentations, with several mock site visits and external feedback,
- II. continuing our strongest possible efforts in the continued forward progress of the mission of the Mays Cancer Center, **especially clinical trial accruals**. We will also highlight the very latest updates in recruitments, trial accruals, and newly funded grants,
- III. Continue renovations and cosmetic

enhancements to the Mays Cancer Center building in preparation for that visit.

Deepest thanks for the incredible team effort to get us to this first crucial milestone. Let us pause, briefly celebrate, and leverage our strong sense of mission and passion for making a difference in cancer care to energize our preparations for a successful site visit.

All my best,



Ruben Mesa, M.D., FACP
Director, Mays Cancer Center

WELCOME MARK BONNEN, MD



We're excited to welcome **Mark Bonnen, MD**, as the new Chair for the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Mays Cancer Center.

Dr. Bonnen is a native Texan who graduated from Texas A&M University with honors and degrees in both physics and philosophy. After completing his internship at Baylor College of Medicine in internal medicine, he went on to complete his residency in radiation oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Upon completion of his residency, Dr. Bonnen spent two years on faculty at MD Anderson before founding a large private practice in the greater Houston area. Seven years ago, he was recruited to Baylor College of Medicine where he founded their department of radiation oncology.

Since 2014, Dr. Bonnen has served as the inaugural interim chair of radiation oncology at the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Bonnen also has experience supervising a radiation oncology residency program, in which he won teaching awards. He has significant clinical trial experience, and will further enhance the outstanding clinical trials program at the Mays Cancer Center.

JOIN US FOR THE WINGS OF HOPE — HANDS OF HEALING DEDICATION CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

President William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP and Director Ruben A. Mesa, M.D., FACP cordially invite you to attend a dedication ceremony and reception celebrating

"Wings of Hope — Hands of Healing"

Created by Kent Ullberg, sculptor

Generously donated by Jack and Valerie Guenther Foundation

Thursday, October 3, 2019

Mays Cancer Center, 7979 Wurzbach Road

Dedication Ceremony, 4 – 5 p.m. | Reception, 5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Tent in [Lot 21](#) by the sculpture in the circle drive
Grossman Building, Mabee Conference Room

Kindly **RSVP by September 27**, using the buttons at the bottom of the e-mail invitation.
Parking lot 21 will be closed on the morning of Wednesday, October 2. Please park on floors three and four in the parking garage.

SPIRIT WEEK IS COMING SOON!

Get ready! We're dedicating a week to celebrate **YOU!** Your passion for what you do drives our progress in transforming, education, research and patient care for San Antonio, South Texas and beyond.

- [Learn more about all the events starting on Monday, October 7.](#)
- [The Mays Cancer Center t-shirt and game day are on Tuesday, October 8.](#)

DRIVING TO END CHILDHOOD CANCER

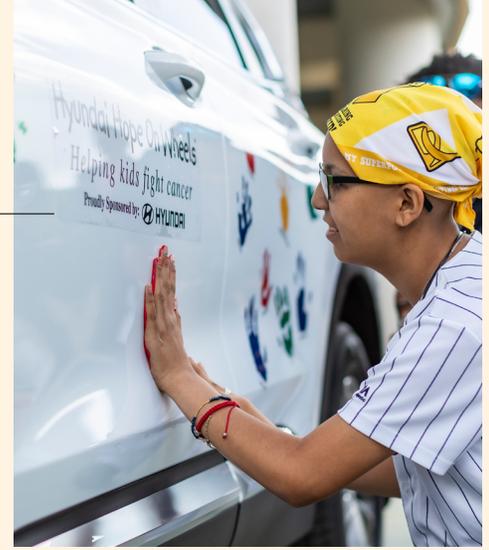
Every 36 minutes, a child is diagnosed with cancer. To help in the fight against it, **Hyundai Hope on Wheels**® presented two grants totaling \$500,000 to UT Health San Antonio for pediatric cancer research. Gregory Aune, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pediatric hematology-oncology and an investigator in the Greehey Institute, will receive a **\$300,000 Hyundai Scholar Hope Award**. Amanda Lipsitt, M.D., a third-year fellow in pediatric hematology-oncology, will receive a **\$200,000 Hyundai Young Investigator Award**. The grants will allow both physician-scientists to continue their research into better treatment options and improving care for children battling cancer.

“These new research grants provided by *Hyundai Hope on Wheels* represent a new chapter of hope for children and parents, sparked by the commitment of scientists,

The sight of children putting their little paws in finger paint and leaving handprints on a new Hyundai SUV encouraged onlookers Sept. 24 at UT Health San Antonio’s Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute.

health care providers and business people,” said Peter Houghton, Ph.D., professor of molecular medicine and director of the Greehey Institute. With these awards, *Hyundai Hope on Wheels*’ support of research at UT Health San Antonio exceeds \$1.5 million.

Dr. Aune, himself a survivor of a childhood cancer, is studying the long-term cardiac effects of chemotherapy. He uses mouse models to study how different cell types in the heart respond to anthracycline chemotherapies. “We can look at different types of cells in the heart and understand how their genetic profile changes in response to the chemotherapy exposure,” Dr. Aune said. “From that, hopefully we will be able to understand more about why exposure to chemotherapy, when the heart is growing, puts patients at a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease decades later.”



[Read more](#) or [watch Hope on Wheels video](#)

ANNUAL PRESIDENT’S GALA

UT Health San Antonio honored philanthropists **Karen and Ronald Herrmann** at the annual President’s Gala on Sept. 21.

A record attendance of 1,800 guests, including more than 700 UT Health San Antonio students, helped raise over \$500,000 to establish the Karen and Ronald Herrmann Endowment for Research to Advance Excellence in Caregiving.

This endowment will support innovative research to develop and test new models of care, clinical trials, intervention delivery and emerging technologies to address the needs of diverse caregiving families in South Texas.

The gala also marked the 50th anniversary of the School of Nursing at UT Health San Antonio and its continued service to the South Texas community.



(From left) Rev. Dr. Robert F. Fuller, Morgan Fuller, Ronald and Karen Herrmann, Mary Henrich and William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, president.

In a surprise announcement, UT Health San Antonio President William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, told the crowd that the Herrmanns have given \$1 million to establish, in the School of Nursing, the Karen and Ronald Herrmann Distinguished Chair in Caregiver Research.

“This exceptional generosity will forever be a notable milestone in the school’s history and will catalyze needed research on how best to support those who will serve as caregivers in the future,” Dr. Henrich said.

Dr. Henrich praised the Herrmanns for their passion and community service. “Each of them has left an indelible mark on the thousands

of people who know and love them and the numerous organizations, in San Antonio, Texas and our nation, for which they have served as volunteers and generous supporters,” he said.

“Their passion and longstanding support have extended to a wide range of organizations whose missions include education, health, arts, wildlife conservation and historical preservation. We at UT Health San Antonio are very proud and extremely honored to have been beneficiaries of not only their treasure, but of their time and friendship.”

[View the Gala video](#)

[View and download Gala photos](#)



HODGKIN LYMPHOMA: DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND SIDE EFFECTS MANAGEMENT

VENUE: Korbell Conference - Room U631

SPEAKERS:

Enrique Diaz, MD, UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center

Matthew Matasar, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Timothy Peterson, PharmD, BCOP, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Susan J. McCall, MSN, ANP-BC, AOCNP®, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Continuing Education (CE) Information

GOAL: To provide a learning opportunity for oncology nurses and social workers to expand their knowledge about treating patients with Hodgkin Lymphoma.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Nurse practitioners, nurses and oncology social workers at the intermediate and advanced levels involved in the care of patients with Hodgkin lymphoma (HL).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- Describe the various types and subtypes of Hodgkin lymphoma (HL)
- Identify tests used to diagnose disease and monitor treatment of HL
- Explain the overarching goals of treatment for the subtypes of HL
- Explain approved and emerging treatment options for HL, including stem cell transplantation, and the role of clinical trials
- Describe strategies to manage treatment side effects as well as potential long-term and late effects of treatments for HL

Approval for nurses has been obtained by the National Office of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society under Provider Number CEP 5832 to award 1.0 continuing education contact hours through the California Board of Registered Nursing.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), Provider Number 1105, is approved as a provider for social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) www.aswb.org. Approved Continuing Education Program (ACE). Approval period: 12/10/2017 - 12/14/2020. LLS maintains responsibility for the program. Social workers should contact their regulatory board to determine course approval. Social workers will receive 1.0 CE clinical contact hours.

Upon completion of this program and submission of the activity evaluation, a certificate of completion will be emailed to you within 30 days

For more information and for assistance for people with disabilities or grievances, please contact: Chelsea Hart | Chelsea.hart@lls.org

**BEATING
CANCER
IS IN
OUR BLOOD.**

The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Find out more at www.LLS.org.

Thursday

November 7, 2019

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Registration: 11:45 PM

**Lunch and Program:
12PM to 1:00 PM**

Complimentary lunch will be provided

There is no fee for this education activity, but pre-registration is required.

**To register, please visit:
www.RegistrationLink**