

Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory

Report

Winter 2020

*Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays and
Happy New Year
from all of us at Wood Hudson!*



A Holiday Thank You to Our Donors and Friends for Your Support During 2020



Dear Friends of Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory, as this difficult year ends, the Trustees, Students, and Staff of Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory want to thank you for your faithful support throughout the health and economic crises so many have faced this year. As a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization, we recognize our dependence on you, the donors, as well as our responsibilities to you to accomplish our cancer research and education mission. We are overwhelmed with gratitude as we look at the lists of generous donors on pages 4-7 of this newsletter.

Because of your continued support this year we have been able to pursue ground breaking research on colon cancer, add new knowledge to the understanding of gastric and gastroesophageal cancer, and pursue two ovarian cancer projects. All of these studies were patient oriented research, studying archived surgical specimens of human tumors. We hope that this research will lead to new treatments and to new methods for selecting patients for specific treatments. Because we closed the tissue culture labs due to COVID in March, one breast cancer project to study the metabolism of cultured breast cancer cell lines has been put on hold until it is safe to re-open those labs.

Our Undergraduate Research Education Program students continue to excel. Their intelligence, creativity and excitement for research and discovery give us hope for the future. It takes a village to provide this opportunity and we thank all the foundations, organizations, and individuals who have supported the Undergraduate Research Education Program this year. We also thank the scientists who mentored and encouraged the students.

For the first time in over 25 years our Newsletter Mailing Committee has been unable to help with mailings. Their leader, Georgia Kinman, who is Director of Development and Volunteer Coordinator, has worked remotely throughout this time to coordinate mailing and printing our communications. We are indebted to Mailwise Solutions who have volunteered their services to do our mailings for several years. We are also grateful to Minute Man Press Southgate and Southern Ohio Printing for producing our letters and this newsletter. We also thank Elyse Hawkins for designing this newsletter. Fortunately, Adrian Guy has developed a monthly e-newsletter, which is available to all who send their e-mail address to her at adrianrguy@woodhudson.org.

In closing the Trustees, Students and Staff wish you good health throughout the holidays and a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous year ahead.

Dr. Julia Carter
President



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*denotes former Undergraduate Research Education Program participant

Extraordinary Summer Undergraduate Research Education Program

Most research institutions across the nation and world dropped summer internships for students because of COVID-19. The pandemic didn't stop Wood Hudson. Although the regular UREP laboratory-based program was impossible to execute, Wood Hudson had a 10 student, 12 week program complete with study, virtual learning of research techniques, journal presentations, guest speakers, and, most importantly, capstone projects wherein students creatively addressed a National Cancer Institute Provocative Question. These capstone projects, complete with background, experimental design, anticipated results, and discussion, included a written report and an oral presentation. The students presented via Zoom on August 4th. It was exciting to see each student's personal interests, knowledge, and creativity show forth in each presentation.

Dr. Ron Snyder, a Wood Hudson Trustee who volunteered his time during the 12-week program to help mentor and give lectures to the students, said, "Dr. Carter snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. COVID-19 made the regular summer program impossible, but in a grand move, Dr. Carter devised a meaningful program complete with most importantly, final projects addressing a National Cancer Institute Provocative Question."



*Left to right, top: Ashwin Menon, Adam Neltner, Anna Oliverio, Alex Grayson
Bottom: Brianna Hoegemeyer, Angel Rapp, Louis Fritz, Michael Parritt
Not pictured: Norman Chan, Clay Hausberger*

(See <https://provocativequestions.cancer.gov>.) The Provocative Questions are meant to challenge cancer researchers to think about and elucidate specific problems in key areas of cancer research that are deemed important, but have not received sufficient attention. Our 10 UREP students each devised an outstanding project that proposed a research experiment to help answer one of the nine Provocative Questions.

Thank you to our guest speakers, Trustees Dr. Doug Hartman and Dr. Jeremy Graff, and collaborators Dr. Jim Deddens and Dr. Zachary Taylor. Thanks as well

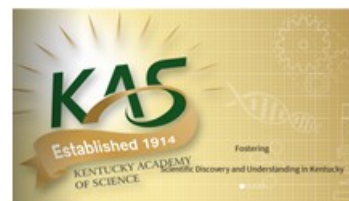
to Dr. Julia Carter, Dr. Larry Douglass, Dr. Ron Snyder, and Professor Diane Fritz for devising and executing an original and successful summer UREP. The students' participation in this summer UREP was supported by funds donated by you to support the Flying Pig and Ft. Thomas Corvette Club Car Show fundraisers, by a generous grant from the R. C. Durr Foundation, and by the William Randolph Hearst Scholarship Endowment.

We thank the students for their hard work, and congratulate them on their accomplishments. Please visit the Wood Hudson website to see a video the students created about their 2020 UREP experience, produced by Norman Chan. (www.woodhudson.org)

KAS Award Winner: Ashwin Menon

Ashwin Menon, a summer 2020 UREP participant and student at the Gatton Academy presented a poster on his UREP summer project at the virtual Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS) annual meeting November 6th & 7th, 2020. His participation in UREP was supported by a generous grant from the **R. C. Durr Foundation**.

Ashwin's project was entitled, "An In-Silico, Stochastic, Eden-Type Growth Model of Cell Competition in a Two-Dimensional Tumor." Using mathematical modeling, Ashwin examined the hypothesis that competition between subsets of tumor cells can inhibit tumor growth. Analysis of the data produced by the in-silico model supports the hypothesis that an increase in rates of cell competition due to increased selective pressures (such as those caused by chemotherapy or environmental changes) will lead to a slower tumor growth rate. Ashwin received second place in the Cellular and Molecular Biology section of the conference. Congratulations Ashwin!



The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./US Bank Foundation

The **Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation** is an independent family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents in our region. In collaboration with the region's stakeholders, the Foundation helps lead the way to a strong and vibrant community across ten counties in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. In November, 2019, The **Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation** awarded a \$15,000 grant to support Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory Operating Costs during 2020. These funds were used to support essential utility services such as gas and electric and water and sanitation for our facilities as well as to support the cost of insurance. Wood Hudson recently received another \$15,000 grant to support the 2021 operating budget. This continued financial support from The **Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation** for the 2021 Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory Operating Budget is very welcome and greatly appreciated. We also acknowledge with gratitude recent \$5,000 gifts from the **I Have Wings Breast Cancer Foundation** and the **Martin Miracle Fund**. These funds will be used to support breast and ovarian cancer projects during 2021.



Wood Hudson Gastric Research Presented at the 2020 AACR Virtual Annual Meeting

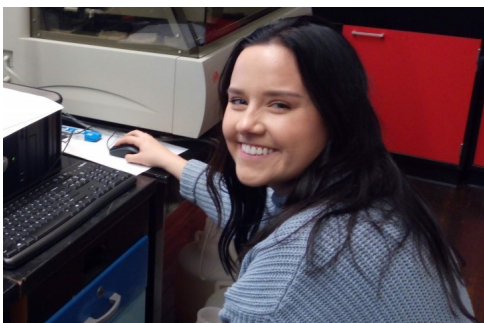
Although the physical Wood Hudson Laboratory was shut down from mid-March to late August, and in spite of the restrictions COVID-19 placed all of us under, Wood Hudson science continues, and is perhaps more active than ever. All ten Wood Hudson UREP students and four senior scientists attended the 111th Annual Meeting of The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), June 22-24. Last year, it may have seemed to be an impossible task to have a meeting of this scope virtually, but as we are learning how to navigate our virtual work better and better, this international conference adjusted well. In a diagnostic biomarkers section on June 22, Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory presented a poster, narrated by Dr. Larry Douglass, entitled PAK1, TGF- α , Ki-67 and Survival in Human Gastric and Gastroesophageal Junction Adenocarcinomas. Our data suggest that Pak1 and TGF α might serve as diagnostic biomarkers for subtypes of adenocarcinomas of the stomach and gastroesophageal junction. The poster remained online and available to all 70,000 attendees for three months.



COVID Can't Stop Cancer Research (so far!) Wood Hudson Restarts Lab Experiments

Closing the physical lab on March 13 for COVID-19 didn't shut down cancer research. Studies continued remotely, and much forward progress was made. Now, as of August 31st, it's good to be open again! Scientists and staff are busy in the lab, tissue bank, and office. We are grateful to have Dr. Larry Douglass examining tissues on his microscope from home in Nashville, sharing the microscopic images via Zoom. You won't see students at the lab based on the Board of Trustees vote to suspend UREP for the fall, so things are quieter. In the meantime, we are getting the lab in order after being closed for six months. Hoods, balances, autostainers, pipettes, and microscopes are being tested and calibrated. Our new cell-culture incubator has been set up. COVID changed things at the lab, but studies are moving forward, and we are anxious for students to get back into action, as soon as it is safe to do so.

Congratulations to Leah Focke as she moves on to Children's!



Congratulations to Leah Focke, Wood Hudson Research Assistant, who accepted a position at Cincinnati Children's in Molecular Cardiovascular Biology as a Research Assistant 3. Leah started UREP in 2018 while a student at Mount St. Joseph University. As an Undergraduate Student Research Assistant she did her Senior Research Project for Mount St. Joseph University at Wood Hudson. Her project was on the role of variants in the gene for Transforming Growth Factor beta in development of ovarian cancer. The project was supported in part by a grant from the **Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati**. Leah presented her research at the Kentucky Academy of Science Annual Meeting in November 2019. At graduation from Mount St. Joseph, she won the Chemistry student of the

year award. We are so proud when our students can take the training and experience gained in cancer research out into the world to benefit all. Good luck Leah!

Welcome Adrian Guy, B. S., New Research Assistant

Adrian Guy is a Wood Hudson research assistant who started late November 2019. During the pandemic shut down, she worked from home on our new donor management software, Network for Good. Our participation in the Network for Good Jumpstart Program was supported by a grant from the **R.C. Durr Foundation** and the **Horizon Fund of Northern Kentucky**. Adrian is the author of the monthly Wood Hudson eNews. Please share your email address with the lab if you would like monthly updates from Wood Hudson. You can go to www.woodhudson.org to sign up for eNews. Adrian is now back in the lab doing histology and immunohistochemistry for several projects. She loves labwork and managing the details of scientific protocols. Adrian has a B.S. in Chemistry from Utah State University and had been a stay-at-home mom for 18 years before joining Wood Hudson. She and her husband live in Northern Kentucky with their five children.



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In Memoriam

The Very Reverend Dr. Ronald W. Summers, a 30 year member of the Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory Board of Trustees, died October 24, 2020. Fr. Ron was a community leader as the Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Thomas for twenty-five years and honored by being made Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Irvine, KY. We appreciate his long and devoted service to Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory, and that of his late wife, Mary Lou, on the Wood Hudson Community Advocacy Board, and greatly mourn their passing.

Margaret Schworer, R.N., a longtime volunteer and former Trustee of Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory, passed away November 19, 2020. Marge was the widow of Dr. Philip Schworer and the mother of six children. She was a nurse at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, and after retiring, became a real estate agent. Marge served as the Chair of the Wood Hudson Community Advocacy Board for several years before becoming a Wood Hudson Trustee. Her tireless energy and enthusiasm will always be remembered.

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Thank You to the Flying Pig and Corvette Club Car Show Donors!



Thank you to all those who responded to a joint letter from Wood Hudson and the Ft. Thomas Corvette Club with a donation to Wood Hudson for this year's "Non-Events". Every summer for the past 20 years, the Ft. Thomas Corvette Club has hosted a car show to benefit Wood Hudson Cancer Research. Thanks to the Ft. Thomas Corvette Club and all those who gave, \$9,727 was raised from over 65 donations. Your generosity is inspiring. We hope to see you at the car show next August! Gifts were given to the Car Show fundraiser in memory and honor of the following friends and loved ones: Bruce Baarendse, David Baarendse, Judy Bauerle, Harry Carter, Lynn Coleman, Mary Davis, Jeanette Dittoe, Karen Enlow, Randy Hibbard, Finley Isaacs, Jr., Gene E. Landrum, Norman B. Lucas, Margaret Mader, David Pharo, John D. Salyers, Rosella Schof, Lori Staggs, Helen J. Speakes, James Sprotts, Bob Steinhauser, Ken Stoll, Mary Lou Summers, Janet Thompson, Bob Verkamp, and Jerry Zint. A happy 50th anniversary gift was made in honor of Bill & Diane Detzel, as well as a gift honoring Julia Carter for continued dedication.

Thank you to supporters of the Flying Pig fundraiser. We thank St. Andrews' Episcopal Church Women, who sponsored a delicious spaghetti supper that raised \$1,000 towards the Flying Pig fundraiser. We also thank Pediatrics of Florence, who were a Gold Level sponsor. Thank you also to all who bought "Piggest Raffle Ever" tickets on behalf of Wood Hudson! Although we didn't win the raffle, with your support Wood Hudson raised nearly \$1,000 for our cancer research and education programs through raffle ticket sales. All funds from the Flying Pig and Ft. Thomas Corvette Club fundraisers supported our cancer research and the 2020 Undergraduate Research Education Program.



New Year-End Matching Gift Announced

We are thrilled to announce that a former member of Wood Hudson's Board of Trustees has pledged to match any funds donated, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000! This matching pledge is good until year end! Thank you very much to this anonymous donor. We hope this matching pledge will help to attract both new and past donors to our cancer research and education programs. If you have never given to Wood Hudson Cancer Research Lab, now is the time to do it! ***You can donate using the enclosed envelope, or you can donate online today at <http://woodhudson.org/donate.html>. We hope you will help us reach our \$5,000 goal which will result in \$10,000 for Wood Hudson research and education programs!***





Wood Hudson
Cancer
Research
Laboratory

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The Conquest of Cancer Through Research



Scan the QR code with your Smartphone to be directed to our "Donate Page" where you can make a donation to Wood Hudson!

Wood Hudson Mission Statement

Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory, Inc. is a professional, independent, not-for-profit, publicly supported, research institute dedicated to the discovery of new knowledge regarding the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer. Because the Laboratory is a not-for-profit enterprise, no organization or individual profits financially from its operation, and all discoveries resulting from ongoing research are freely given to the scientific and medical community through promptly reported peer-reviewed publications. **Wood Hudson approaches the cancer problem three ways:**

- 1) ***study of clinical cases*** and experimental models of cancer to learn new methods of cancer prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment
- 2) ***study of environmental causes*** of cancer, particularly food and drinking water chemicals, and
- 3) ***provision of training and "hands-on" research experience*** for tomorrow's scientists and physicians through its Undergraduate Research Education Program (UREP).

How You Can Support Our Cancer Research Mission

- 1) Our **Annual Fund Drive** has started — our goal this year is to raise funds for our research of human breast, ovarian, lung, colon and bladder cancers as well as sponsorships for students working and learning in the Undergraduate Research Education Program. Donations from individuals, groups of individuals, businesses and organizations are appreciated and needed. Grants from Foundations, Corporations and Government entities are also being sought in this highly competitive environment. Thank you for whatever support you can give to our Annual Fund Drive.
- 2) Need to take your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (**RMD**)? For those who qualify (over 70 1/2 years of age), any time before December of each year you can contact your banker or IRA administrator to donate directly to Wood Hudson, and save the tax burden while helping our good cause.
- 3) Donating appreciated stock to Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory is an efficient way to avoid capital gains tax and potentially obtain a charitable donation deduction.

For more information on these or other philanthropy options, please contact Wood Hudson Treasurer, Robert Layton, CPA at rlaytoncpa1@gmail.com or 813-575-9199.