



Thank you for your continued support!

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your support of Wood Hudson throughout 2025. The cancer problem continues as a substantial societal challenge: in the United States, the American Cancer Society estimated that over 2 million new individuals would receive a cancer diagnosis in 2025 and over six hundred thousand would die of cancer. Fortunately, improvements in behavior, environmental conditions, and treatments are reducing the relative mortality rate, but the devastating impact of the disease remains extraordinarily high in absolute terms.

Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory continues forward with its singular focus on cancer, approached through education of future scientists & physicians, maintenance of our biospecimen repository, and renewed research efforts. Throughout this *Report* you will see clear evidence of both the positive impact made by Wood Hudson and the generous contributions of time, talent, and financial resources by donors. We are grateful to our current staff, including Denise Byrum (who has completed her first full year as our Senior Director), Sharon Bresser, and Dr. Mary Kate Gehret. We are also thankful to staff members who provided important help during the year but have since moved on: Carole Ewald, Elyse Hawkins, and Dr. Joseph Bruns. Finally, we have had expert help from collaborators including Professor Zachary Taylor (Thomas More University), along with two new board members, Timothy Schwiebert and Joshua Goble, Esquire.

The board is tremendously excited to see the institution celebrate its 45th anniversary in 2026! The mission of the Lab remains as relevant today as when it was founded, and we invite you to contribute in any way that you think appropriate, whether that be through volunteering, referring a candidate for our student program, fundraising, or directly giving a gift. It is our cooperation as a community that has sustained the work of the organization throughout its history, and that will continue to do so in the years ahead.

Percy Carter, PhD, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Reflecting on the past year, I am proud of our progress and inspired by what lies ahead for Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory. Our summer program was a great success, with engaged students working diligently in the lab. As we celebrate an extraordinary 45 years of advancing cancer research and education, we look forward with enthusiasm to the projects now underway. The continued dedication of our staff, students, collaborators, and donors strengthens our mission and fuels our shared commitment to the fight against cancer. Thank you for your continued support!

Denise Byrum, MS, MBA, Senior Director, Operations and Organizational Development



Welcoming Dr. Mary Kate Kilroy-Gehret!

Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory is pleased to welcome Dr. Mary Kate Kilroy-Gehret to our research team. Dr. Kilroy-Gehret brings an impressive background in cancer biology and pharmaceutical sciences to the lab. She earned a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering and Master of Science degree in Bioengineering from the University of Dayton. Dr. Kilroy-Gehret recently received her PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a focus in Experimental Therapeutics from the University of Cincinnati James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy working in the laboratory of Dr. Joan Garrett. Her doctoral research focused on the regulation and therapeutic targeting of mutant KRAS in cancer which is important to the development of new precision medicine strategies.



In addition, she has authored and co-authored multiple peer-reviewed publications, including studies in *Carcinogenesis*, *Molecular Carcinogenesis*, and *Cancers* that study mechanisms of HER3 and KRAS in cancer along with potential therapeutic interventions. She also has served as a mentor to students and scientists. Welcome!

Thank you to our UREP Mentors

Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory extends appreciation to the colleagues who generously contributed their time and expertise to support students in the Undergraduate Research Education Program (UREP). Their guidance is essential to the professional development of our emerging scientists. We express sincere thanks to **Brent Hallahan, Ph.D.**, of the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center Biospecimen and Tissue Procurement Shared Resource Facility, for providing expert insight and delivering a guest lecture to our students. We also offer special recognition to instructors **Joseph Bruns, Ph.D.**, and **Zachary Taylor, Ph.D.**, as well as board members **Jeremy Graff, Ph.D.**; **Percy H. Carter, Ph.D.**; and **Larry Douglass, M.D.**, for their participation and support with UREP.



Best Wishes Carole and Elyse!



Our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to **Carole Ewald**, who is retiring after 23 years. Carole has been a vital part of Wood Hudson, supporting front office operations and our administrative communications. We thank her for her dedication and wish her well in retirement.

We also extend our appreciation to **Elyse Hawkins** for her many years of service. Elyse first joined Wood Hudson as a student in 2007 and contributed in multiple roles throughout her tenure, most recently as the Biospecimen Repository Manager. We are grateful for her long-standing commitment to the organization, and we wish her the best in the future.



Wood Hudson in the Spotlight



Have you seen the news? Media partners have featured Wood Hudson and UREP! Soapbox media Cincinnati published an article highlighting our students and the growing life sciences opportunities in Northern Kentucky. In addition, FOX19's Jason Maxwell aired a feature story showcasing our research and educational mission. We invite you to look us up!

UREP Student Experience



This summer UREP continued to provide an immersive environment for aspiring scientists. Students were able to engage in hands-on laboratory work to broaden their understanding of cancer biology and translational research. In addition to laboratory instruction, students benefited from weekly educational sessions. Wood Hudson remains committed to fostering the next generation of researchers and providing educational experiences that support their continued growth. We highlight our recent students and celebrate the accomplishments of these talented individuals.



2025 Summer UREP students:

Front Row: Molly Eide, Alisha Syed, Emma Lykins, Abby Bocian, Lily Keith; Back Row: Will Telesz, Morgan Lopes, Dr. Joseph Bruns. Above: Professor Zachary Taylor

Highlighting Summer Undergraduate Research Education Program Students



My name is Emma Lykins, and I am a Junior at The Ohio State University, majoring in Biology. This summer I've gained valuable hands-on experience that has deepened my interest in scientific research and medicine. This experience has allowed me to apply what I've learned in the classroom to the real world, strengthening my understanding of how scientific discovery contributes to patient care & future medical advancements. I look forward to applying what I have learned to my future!



My name is Morgan Lopes, and I am a senior at Northern Kentucky University studying biology on the Pre-Medical track. This summer at Wood Hudson was an amazing experience for me. I learned a lot about cancer biology and how to translate that into the laboratory as well as many common laboratory techniques that I will encounter in the future. What made this an invaluable experience for me was not only the different techniques & materials we have learned, but working alongside such great people that made coming into the lab something I was truly excited about.



My name is Alisha Syed, and I am a senior at Northern Kentucky University. Wood Hudson was a great experience for me to learn new lab techniques and participate in student led research. They had a very welcoming environment and I made a lot of long term peers. I especially appreciate the connections and opportunities they presented to us with guest speakers for our future careers.



My name is Will Telesz, and I'm a Junior at Ohio Wesleyan University. This program has been very educational to me and has helped influence my future career. Wood Hudson has allowed me to learn about many possible career paths I have in front of me. I've gotten to see and practice many lab techniques with more time and feedback than is possible in typical labs at college. I have learned so much more about many scientific fields through the various guest speakers. Overall, I won't forget my time at Wood Hudson and will remember it as a very educational summer.



My name is Lily Keith, and I am in my sophomore year at Northern Kentucky University. This summer, I have learned many valuable skills regarding cell culture, creating 3D gel models, and working side by side with colleagues in the lab. We each gained experience in scientific writing, analyzing data, and communicating our research with one another. I hope to use these skills in my future career in disease research. I owe a huge thank you to everyone involved with the program!



My name is Molly Eide, and I am in my 4th year at Northern Kentucky University, majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology with minors in Chemistry and Spanish. Spending the summer at Wood Hudson has been a great experience. It gave me the opportunity to deepen my understanding of cancer and develop a variety of lab techniques. This work is especially meaningful to me, as I lost my mom to glioblastoma nearly five years ago. I am truly grateful to have been a part of this program, and it has been both educational and inspiring.



My name is Abby Bocian and I am a student with an interest in pursuing medicine and business. I was introduced to many new lab techniques. I feel more comfortable in the lab environment and excited to use these acquired skills in my future classes and career. The weekly journal clubs were a really interactive way to discover new topics through discussion with my peers. Thank you to all for making UREP a productive and exciting program!

Wood Hudson Thanks Its Contributors and Supporters 12/1/2024 through 11/30/2025

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Grant Support Strengthens Our Mission



Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory expresses sincere appreciation to the foundation partners whose generosity advances our mission in cancer research and education. We were honored to receive a new grant from the **Fraternal Order of Eagles**. Through the leadership of **Barbara Heck**, Southeast Central Regional President, the organization awarded a total of \$5,000 to the laboratory, with \$2,500 contributed locally and matched by the national organization. This new partnership reflects the Eagles' support for scientific advancement.

The laboratory also received continued support from long-standing partners. In December, the **Chemed Foundation** renewed its generous \$15,000 contribution. The **Herzog-Beckman Foundation** provided \$6,000 to sustain ongoing work. In addition, the **R.C. Durr Foundation** awarded a \$15,000 grant in support of local UREP students and has signaled an anticipated 50 percent increase for the 2026 award, which would further enhance student research training. Thank you again to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Chemed Foundation, the Herzog-Beckman Foundation, and the R.C. Durr Foundation for their dedication to students and cancer research.

Celebrating 45 Years of Cancer Research with an Exciting Matching Campaign!

Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory is preparing to celebrate its 45th anniversary of advancing cancer research and education on January 26, 2026. As we look forward to commemorating this milestone, we are launching a special matching gift campaign to support our mission. A generous donor has once again offered an extraordinary challenge. Once we reach an initial \$15,000 in donations, this donor will match that amount 100%, DOUBLING those contributions. After that milestone is met, the donor will continue to match every dollar donated up to another \$45,000 to celebrate the 45th anniversary. That means Wood Hudson could potentially receive up to \$60,000 in matching funds to support our work.

The opening \$15,000 campaign runs through December 26, 2025, the anniversary date of Wood Hudson's initial filing of its articles of incorporation. This matching continues as our End of the Year campaign then extends throughout the entire first quarter of 2026, which includes our 45th anniversary of incorporation on January 26th. Every gift and matching donation will help advance both our studies on cancer biology and our undergraduate research education program.

Please join us in celebrating 45 years by making your gift today to DOUBLE your impact with this matching opportunity. If your employer offers a gift matching program, taking advantage of this generous matching period can be particularly powerful, as your employer's match could also be matched if received in time. Please give today and help us continue our contributions to research and education!



Double Your Impact

\$15,000 by Dec 26 = MATCHED!
+ up to \$45,000 doubled through
March 31, 2026



Community Initiatives Support our Work

Throughout the year, Wood Hudson was involved in a number of community events including the **Flying Pig Marathon**, **Ride Cincinnati** bike tour, and the **Future of Data Hackathon**. Participation in these initiatives provided opportunities to connect with partners and share our work with broader audiences. Having participants in both the Flying Pig Marathon and Ride Cincinnati not only raised money but also reinforced the importance of supporting local initiatives that benefit scientific advancement. The Future of Data Hackathon engaged students in developing innovative solutions, allowing us to contribute to educational growth and assist us with our future outreach efforts. Stay tuned to our E-News for more details on how you can get involved in events like these in 2026 and make a difference!



Stay in Touch!



Stay connected with the latest lab news. Sign up for our monthly emailed **E-News** and follow us on **Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram** to get updated information, behind-the-scenes photos, research highlights, and other information! Connect with us at information@woodhudson.org.

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Easter
Gary & Georgia Kinman

Thanksgiving
Gary & Georgia Kinman



*Happy Holidays,
Merry Christmas,
and Happy New Year!*

Wood Hudson: 45 Years of Impact

January 26, 1981
Date of Incorporation



May 1981
Date established as 501(c)(3)



1984
Moved to Northern KY

1990
Move to current building,
Newport, KY



2012
Biorepository opens



2026

45 ^{HAPPY} *Anniversary*

Wood Hudson is a 2026 Flying Pig Charity Partner

Join us in supporting a great cause by participating in the 2026 Flying Pig Marathon. Running the race? Contact us before registering to receive a discount code. Additionally, we will be selling Piggest Raffle tickets that help raise funds for Wood Hudson. Stay tuned to our E-News for more details on how you can get involved and make a difference!



End-of-Year Giving Opportunity



Your contribution to Wood Hudson can play a crucial role in advancing cancer research. Consider making a gift through stock donations, IRA distributions, or charitable trusts. By turning your required minimum distribution into a charitable donation, you can create an impact while enjoying potential tax benefits. We encourage you to consult your financial planner or tax advisor to explore your options.



**Scan the QR Code to be directed to our
"Donate" Page to give today!**



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The Conquest of Cancer Through Research

Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory Mission

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's focus on three areas:

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
3. Provision of training and hands-on research for undergraduate students through its Undergraduate Research Education Program (UREP).

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