At CRC, we are searching every day for a healthier tomorrow. Our extensive cancer research is funded in large part by the citizens and businesses of central Missouri who desire a solution to this devastating disease. Because of the extensive cancer research that is being performed all over the world, including right here in Columbia, we are going way beyond poisoning, radiating, and cutting out cancer cells. We are developing procedures to stop cancer before it ever starts and researching innovative treatments to avoid destroying healthy cells.
Dear Friends,

The Cancer Research Center’s greatest assets are its donors, volunteers, Board members, and staff.

Research would not be possible without the assistance of our donors. Whether donating to the Jim Kidwell Memorial Gala, responding to our annual mailing, or sending a memorial or tribute to a loved one, the dollars given to the Cancer Research Center are spent in our laboratory in Columbia, Missouri.

Cancer Research Center staff are dedicated to the research and our quest to move it from the laboratory to the patient’s bedside. With this in mind, we work to make the most of every dollar received. When purchasing supplies or researching a much needed piece of equipment, our Laboratory Manager leaves no stone unturned to secure the best pricing. Our research team collaborates with colleagues outside of CRC to share expertise and advance our progress. Their work with the Salmonella bacteriotherapy continues to show great promise against prostate, breast, colon, and pancreatic cancers, as well as melanoma. Read more about the latest findings on pages 8-15.

A secondary mission at CRC is to train future researchers, which takes place through the Roma Eisenstark Scholars program. Students come to our laboratory and are given a cancer research project of their own. They are graduate students, undergraduate students, and even high school students. Read more about our Roma Eisenstark Scholars on page 18.

The CRC volunteer committee comes together every year to plan and execute the Jim Kidwell Memorial Gala, which is our one annual fundraiser. They sell tickets, tables, and sponsorships. They solicit donations for the silent and live auctions. They help set up before the event and clean up after it is over. The Gala would not be possible without this dedicated group of friends. This year’s event honored cancer survivors. It was a privilege to show our humble appreciation for the courage displayed by those who had fought, were currently fighting, or who had stood by a loved one’s fight against cancer. See pictures of the event on pages 20-33.

Behind every successful organization is solid leadership, and CRC is no exception. Our Board of Trustees is a diverse group of individuals who donate their time, expertise, and financial resources to CRC. They truly have CRC’s best interest at heart and are dedicated to helping CRC accomplish its mission.

As you are reading this report, be sure to know you are making a difference in the lives of cancer patients. Thank you for your hard work and generosity. You are vital to CRC’s success. We look forward to continuing this great work in 2017.

Wishing you good health and prosperity,

Marnie H. Clark
Administrative Director

CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
3501 Berrywood Drive
Columbia, MO 65201-6584
Phone: (573) 875-2255
Fax: (573) 443-1202

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Alycia McGee
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Alycia McGee
**Abraham Eisenstark** is the Research Director of the CRC. Previously, he was a Byler Distinguished Professor and Director of the Division of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri - Columbia. He has served as Program Director of the Molecular Biology Section, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC. His career includes years of collaborative research at other institutions, including universities at Copenhagen, Denmark; Leicester, England; Paris, France; Leiden, Netherlands; and Brookhaven National Laboratories. He is a native of Kansas City, MO. He received his BS, MS, and PhD. in Microbiology from the University of Illinois. He is married to the former Joan Ragsdell of Columbia and is the father of three children.

**Jack Bozarth** is the Director of Development at the CRC. He is responsible for fundraising and public affairs. He is a retired Air Force Officer who was the Public Affairs Officer for the Commissioner of Military Affairs of the state of Alaska. He graduated from the Defense Department’s Defense Information School with honors. He is married to the former Ann Freese of Columbia and has three children and four grandchildren. Jack was born in Kansas City and raised in Raytown, Missouri. He is a graduate of Central Missouri State University and was awarded a MS degree by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is a member of the Columbia Elks Lodge No. 594, Missouri Aerie 2730 of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, and Twilight Lodge No. 114 AF&AM.

**Marnie Clark** is the Director of the CRC and has been with the organization for more than 18 years. She served as Development Director from 1994 to 1999, and was a member of CRC’s Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2001 while working at William Woods University. She has extensive experience in public relations and association management. Marnie is a member of Columbia Metro Rotary, Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary, Columbia Elks Lodge and Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club. She is an active member of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce where she has Chaired the Chamber Ambassadors, as well as various committees. She was a 2003 recipient of the 40 under 40 in Columbia Award and is a graduate of Leadership Columbia. She earned a BFA degree from William Woods College. Marnie lives in Fulton with her husband Michael. They have four children.

**Alycia McGee** is the Executive Assistant and joined the CRC team in July of 2008. She is dedicated to managing the database, photographing special events and lab research projects along with designing the Annual Report and advertisements throughout the year. She was born in Mexico, MO where her father still resides. She graduated from Centralia High School and earned her Bachelor’s degree at Columbia College in Columbia. Through the years, she found her passion for photography after the loss of her mother to breast cancer. Since then, she has worn the hats of an artist, a photographer and an office manager and is proud to combine all of her talents at the Cancer Research Center. She resides on a quiet little street in southern Columbia.
Jacki Kian Mehr was born and raised in Jefferson City, MO. She is the youngest of six children. Jacki attended Jefferson High School and graduated in 1984. While in high school, she worked on a research project on embryo transfer. Jacki attended CMSU and there she met her husband of 31 years. They have four girls ages 30, 28, 15 and 13 and two grandchildren ages 6 and 2. Along with being a homemaker, Jacki was an advocate for the disabled. Since then she has returned to her love of research at the Cancer Research Center.

Dr. Robert A. Kazmierczak came to CRC as the Raymond W. Freese Fellow. He now serves as Senior Investigator. He received his BS in Bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin, studying regulation of Vitamin B12 production by Salmonella enterica (serovar Typhimurium) and interning at Upjohn Pharmaceuticals. He earned a MA and PhD in Microbiology from the University of Illinois, during which time he held an NIH Cell and Molecular Biology Training Grant Fellowship to research chronic viral infections. He later studied at Washington University in St. Louis. At the CRC he is conducting research to characterize and develop therapeutic Salmonella enterica as a treatment for prostate cancer.

Alison Dino is the Senior Technician and Laboratory Manager of the CRC. A New Jersey native, she attended Stephens College in Columbia prior to joining the CRC in 2002. During her time as an undergraduate, she served as the Chemistry Laboratory Assistant for the college’s Natural Science Department and served as an officer in several honor societies. The summer of her junior year she was elected to Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, for her HIV-1 research work when she was an infectious disease intern in Galveston, TX. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Stephens in 2002, with a BS in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She is the eldest of three; her family now resides in Lawrence, KS.

Dr. Bakul Dhagat Mehta joined CRC as the Raymond W. Freese Fellow in October, 2012. Bakul earned her PhD degree in Biochemistry from Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI. She graduated with a Masters of Science in Chemistry from India. Currently, here at the CRC, Bakul is studying protein interactions that occur between therapeutic Salmonella and their target human protein prostate cancer cells in order to understand the underlying mechanisms responsible for Salmonella’s targeting towards cancer cells. Bakul lives in Columbia with her husband Ravish and two children, Gauri and Meera.
Reaching out to the Community

Yolanda Burnett from Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance announced another contribution to CRC’s research was made by MEM’s Community Involvement Committee.

Diane Watson, Former State President of the Auxiliary, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #2730 delivered a check to CRC. Thank you, F.O.E.!

Alycia McGee & Marnie Clark share CRC’s promising research at the annual MSECC kick-off at the Truman Building in Jefferson City. Thank you, Missouri State Employees for you continued support.

Kim Ancell from Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance made a surprise visit to present a check to CRC’s Administrative Director, Marnie Clark. Thank you, Kim & MEM’s Community Involvement Committee.

Yolanda Burnett from Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance announced another contribution to CRC’s research was made by MEM’s Community Involvement Committee.
Message from the Research Director

Good News
At last year’s Gala, CRC celebrated cancer survivors. It is comforting to be aware that cancer deaths in the USA continue to decline at 1.8% each year. To the relatives and friends of the recovered, we share your joys! Our sincere condolences to families and friends of the less fortunate.

Not the Best News:
Scientists everywhere, including ours at CRC, are frustrated that we have yet to find the magic bullet that would result in perhaps an 80% drop in cancer deaths within the next decade but we are trying hard, and we are proud of our promising and hopeful recent discoveries. But hold on! There is a more optimistic promise!

CRC Is Vigorously Pursuing This Goal:
As reviewed elsewhere in this Annual Report, we are continuing to use genetically engineered bacterial organisms to destroy tumor cells without harming normal cells. There is a sharp optimistic turn among scientists, based in part on experimental activities in our CRC labs [see research reports in the following pages]. Note particularly our improvements in our Salmonella tumor-targeter and tumor-destroyer. Note also that our tumor destroying cargo may include the venom genes of rattlesnake and the toxin genes from a Brazilian bacterium. Also, by use of super computer bioinformatics, we are identifying critical tumor involvement genes. Finally, the hottest item in cancer therapy out there that is getting a lot of public press is CRISPR TECHNOLOGY, a candidate for the nobel prize that allows the editing and deletion of one identified tumor gene at a time.

My personal joy is to witness the enthusiasm of the various CRC participants as we pursue this goal. First, there are the researchers, Robert Kazmierczk, Bakul Dghagat, Alison Dino and Jacki Kian Mehr who design and execute each facet of our cancer experiments. It is a pleasure to share their passion, as well as the enthusiasm of our student interns as they observe the destruction of cancer cells. Also, in support of the day-to-day bench research, CRC is fortunate to have a devoted administrative staff and Board of Trustees.

In addition to our in-house research, CRC is always proud of its student scholarship program. As in the past, our high school and college undergraduate trainees, with their passion for careers in cancer research, are destined for positions in the best laboratories. Note their faces in the Roma Eisenstark Scholars section of this Annual Report.

As a special note: We are fortunate to have some of the brightest High School students as interns in our lab, thanks to Pam Close and Virginia Lennon. Pam and Virginia are the top science teachers in the State of Missouri. I remember the teachers from my youth. Pam’s students who interned in our lab are now also on their way to finding cures for cancer.

A third component in our mission to reduce cancer mortality and morbidity is the financial support we receive from our many donors. Thank you, generous supporters!!! You are, indeed, a vital factor in our research progress.

Thank you so much for your continued confidence in our experiments aimed at reducing cancer mortality. With our best wishes for your good health, including that you will be cancer free.

Abraham Eisenstark
Byler Distinguished Professor, Univ. Missouri [emeritus]
Research Report: Detect, Deliver and Destroy - Equipping Therapeutic Salmonella CRC2631 to be a Next Generation Cancer Therapy
By: Dr. Robert A. Kazmierczak, Senior Investigator

At the Cancer Research Center (CRC), we are working on new therapies that will detect, target, and destroy tumors. Our genetically modified, non-toxic Salmonella CRC2631 specifically targets, infiltrates, and persists in mouse, canine, and human cancer cells but not in healthy tissues. We have engineered CRC2631 to carry and concentrate anti-cancer drugs that cannot target tumors directly to maximize their cancer killing effects while minimizing unwanted side effects on healthy tissues.

Genetic Sequencing and Analysis of Cancer-Targeting Salmonella

Safety is of the utmost concern as we develop CRC2631 into an effective tumor targeted therapy. With safety in mind, we began sequencing the DNA of therapeutic Salmonella CRC2631 that had successfully targeted and colonized prostate tumors in our mouse models to definitively show that CRC2631 remains non-toxic and safe at the genetic level (Figure 1). This level of scrutiny is necessary to obtain regulatory clearance for use of our cancer-targeting therapy in the clinic. When we prove the safety of our clinical treatment at the genetic level, physicians are also more likely to partner with us to use our cancer therapy to help patients, whether they be dogs suffering from lymphoma up to human patients who need targeted cancer therapy.

In 2016, Dr. Robert Kazmierczak and University of Missouri Biological Engineering undergraduate Duy Nguyen teamed up with Dr. Aaron Best, the Harrison C. and Mary L. Visscher Professor of Genetics at Hope University in Michigan. Our shared goal was to track and analyze each of Salmonella’s 4000+ genes to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of CRC2631 before, during, and after the completion of cancer targeting bacterial therapy. Under Dr. Best’s guidance, researchers at the CRC were able to determine that there were four genes that mutated in the majority of our tumor-targeted Salmonella CRC2631. None of these genes were mutated in CRC2631 isolated from non-tumor sites, implying that these mutations were kept because they confer a selective advantage to therapeutic Salmonella in the tumor environment. None of these genes are implicated in toxicity, confirming that our CRC2631 strain is safe and effective to use under our current treatment protocol.

Analyzing genetic sequences of our CRC2631 Salmonella that have been in the tumor environment allows our researchers to identify new Salmonella genes that enhance targeting, invasion, and persistence in tumors.

Figure 1. Salmonella Genomic Data Analysis. DNA was prepared from Salmonella recovered from tumors to validate the safety of our therapy. Over 35 million data points were taken from each sample analyzed to produce an accurate genetic map for comparison to our original strain CRC2631. A section of the map is shown in this figure.
For example, one of the *Salmonella* genes we found to be preferentially selected for in the tumor environment controls the production of biofilms, structures that bacteria make to help them survive an inhospitable environment, much like how barnacles produce glue to stick to the sides of a ship. This is very interesting because it may explain how therapeutic *Salmonella* CRC2631 can spread and persist throughout the tumor mass, a characteristic we want to enhance. By identifying genes that improve tumor-destroying capabilities, we can further engineer our strain and in turn improve our cancer-targeting therapy. We will continue this work in 2017 and hope to not only confirm that our therapy is safe for long-term use in patients but also generate the standard by which cancer-targeting bacterial therapies are evaluated for safety in patients.

**Establishing Clinical Treatment of Lymphomas in the Veterinary Clinic**

In 2016 we met with collaborators from Veterinary Oncology at the University of Missouri to establish a clinical treatment program for companion dogs suffering from cancer. In 2015 we showed that CRC2631 could effectively target and kill both B and T cell canine lymphoma. This is a major development as there are currently few good options for treating lymphoma in dogs. Our next step is to develop B and T cell canine lymphoma cancer models in mice to show that CRC2631 is safe when targeting canine cancers in living mammalian models, a necessary step to permit dosage testing in healthy dogs as well as dogs that suffer from B and T cell lymphoma. Using the local veterinary expertise of the Veterinary Oncology department greatly reduces the expense of clinical canine treatments and the Cancer Research Center is glad to have access to their medical expertise in developing clinical programs.

**Using *Salmonella* CRC2631 to Deliver Anti-Cancer Drugs Directly to Tumors**

Regular injections of *Salmonella* bacteriotherapy CRC2631 alone into our prostate cancer mouse models (Figure 2), reduced the size of prostate tumors by more than 30% in under 4 months. In order to get complete cancer remission using CRC2631, we are investigating which anti-cancer therapeutic drugs, specifically ones that cannot target tumors on their own, would be most effective when delivered using our cancer targeting *Salmonella* therapy.

We have previously engineered CRC2631 to carry or synthesize anti-cancer drugs that cannot specifically target tumors. By targeting and concentrating these drugs at the tumor site, we expect to amplify their anti-cancer properties and reduce unwanted side effects that would occur if they were allowed to accumulate throughout the patient’s body without tumor targeting. The ability of CRC2631 to infiltrate the tumor mass gives our therapy an advantage over other therapies, as it can deliver carried anti-cancer drugs evenly throughout the tumor mass, ensuring a uniform, clinically effective dosage.

We have successfully engineered our *Salmonella* to produce violacein, a purple pigment produced by *Chromobacterium violaceum* bacteria with known anti-cancer properties. Violacein has been shown to effectively kill human skin, lung, colon and blood cancers.

![Figure 2. *Salmonella* Mediated Reduction of Prostate Cancer in Mouse Models. Purple stained tissue (marked with an arrow) is prostate cancer protruding into the prostate ducts. Treatment of the mice with our CRC2631 *Salmonella* alone reduced the size of prostate tumors by approximately 30%, potentially translating to increased quality of life for patients. Our next step is to engineer our tumor targeting *Salmonella* to deliver known anti-cancer drugs directly to these tumors.](image-url)
Our target for CRC2631-Violacein combination therapy is pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer is the 12th most common cancer in the United States and the fourth leading cause of cancer-related death in both men and women. The National Institute of Health reports that from 2005-2011, the 5-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer was 7.2%.

In 2016 our Lab Manager, Alison Fea, performed essential groundwork to show that CRC2631 can target human pancreatic cancer cell lines and limit their growth with only minimal interactions with healthy cells. In order to completely kill pancreatic cancer, we plan to arm CRC2631 with violacein to finish the job of destroying the tumor and measure the dosage of CRC2631-Violacein combination therapy needed to completely destroy human pancreatic cancer cells. This work in 2017 will pave the way for testing our tumor-destruction therapy against pancreatic tumors in animal models.

Conclusion:
Genetic analysis of *Salmonella* cancer targeting bacterial therapy before and after successful targeting and invasion of prostate cancers in our mouse cancer models is essential for showing the safety of CRC2631 and will ensure acceptance of the therapy in veterinary and human cancer clinics.

Partnerships with other researchers are key to faster discovery and development of cancer therapies. Presenting our work at the American Society for Microbiology meeting in Boston (read more about this on page 11) allowed us to meet new potential collaborators and continue ties with current collaborators. Meanwhile in Columbia, we have successfully shown that CRC2631 targets and kills canine lymphoma cells, allowing us to continue our partnership with the University of Missouri Veterinary Oncology department for eventual clinical treatment of canines with lymphoma. This important step allows us to prove safety and clinical effectiveness of our cancer targeted *Salmonella* bacteriotherapy in large mammals and is essential work we are continuing in 2017.

Finally, we are synthesizing and devising delivery systems using CRC2631 for proven anti-cancer drugs that cannot target cancer cells on their own. Such a system ensures delivery of potent anti-cancer drugs to tumor sites without causing toxic side effects in normal healthy tissue. Our first drug to deliver using our cancer-targeting *Salmonella* is violacein and we are excited to test this cancer-targeted combination against human pancreatic cancer.

We eagerly look forward to continuing the development of cancer-targeting *Salmonella* bacteriotherapy in 2017 and are immeasurably grateful for your support.

### Published Peer-Reviewed Papers by Cancer Research Center Scientists 2016

- **Salmonella bacterial therapy reduces autochthonous prostate tumor burden in the TRAMP mouse model.**
  - **Authors:** Robert A. Kazmierczak, Bettina Gentry, Tyler Mumm, Heide Schatten and Abraham Eisenstark
  - **Journal:** PLOS One

- **Strains, mechanism and perspective: Salmonella-based cancer therapy.**
  - **Authors:** Cheng-Zhi Wang, Robert A. Kazmierczak and Abraham Eisenstark
  - **Journal:** International Journal of Microbiology

- **Solar Ultraviolet Radiation and ROS: Observations from Studies with Bacteria**
  - **Authors:** Abraham Eisenstark and James Hoerter
  - **Book Title:** Reactive Oxygen Species in Biology and Human Health
  - **Volume Editor:** Shamim Ahmad.
  - **Book Publisher:** Taylor & Francis Group
In June of 2016 we were invited to present our research at the American Society for Microbiology General Meeting in Boston. We thank the CEO of BIOLOG, Barry Bochner, for extending the invitation to us.

Our presentation was titled “Selection of Therapeutic Salmonella after Tumor Invasion: Developing Efficacy & Safety Assessment Frameworks for Cancer Bacteriotherapies” In this presentation we described our systems to ensure patient safety while they receive our cancer-targeting, drug delivering bacterial therapy. Our talk was warmly received and there were constructive discussions on how to improve our cancer-targeting technology afterward.

The location of the meeting in Boston gave us an opportunity to give our presentation jointly with Elizabeth Choe, the former Roma Eisenstark Scholar essential to helping us complete this stage of the project. Elizabeth is now the Executive Producer of the MIT+K12 Video Program at the MIT Office of Digital Learning that connects science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-oriented grade school students with MIT educational programs and research.

During our time at the general meeting we had many face-to-face connections with colleagues and collaborators, including Barry Bochner, Elio Schaechter, Stanley Maloy, Steve Finkel, and Aaron Best. We discussed current projects and planned new projects that will improve the safety and effectiveness of our cancer-targeting technology.

We also had the honor of attending keynote research presentation sessions with the research laboratories that created the CRISPR genetic engineering tools that are becoming common in molecular biology laboratories and can be used to precisely and efficiently improve our cancer-targeting technology.
To date pancreatic cancer has been the focus of significantly fewer research efforts than nearly all other cancer types and the current “gold standard” treatments (chemotherapy, radiation & surgery) are often unable to gain the upper hand against this swift moving cancer.

Recognizing the need for enhanced treatment options and building on our previous success with therapeutic Salmonella strain CRC2631 targeting melanoma, prostate, breast and colon cancer we hypothesized CRC2631’s targeting abilities could extend to pancreatic cancer as well.

To put CRC2631 to the test we first chose two pancreatic cell lines: hTERT-HPNE, a normal pancreatic ductal line and PANC-1, a malignant ductal pancreatic line and conducted invasion assays. We found that CRC2631 was able to successfully invade pancreas cells and after an initial attraction, invasion of the normal hTERT-HPNE cells leveled off but invasion of malignant PANC-1 increased more than two fold between 30 minutes and two hours. From this we concluded CRC2631 is able to successfully target and invade pancreatic cancer cells.

In 2016 we moved on to time course co-incubation experiments to evaluate the interaction of CRC2631 with pancreatic cells over time. We observed modest killing and an impressive growth retardation effect on PANC-1 and only minimal interactions with hTERT-HPNE (normal) cells. In fact, at the end of 25 hours CRC2631 PANC-1 pancreatic cancer treated samples contained approximately half the number of cancer cells as the untreated controls (Figure 1). A crucial win for pancreatic cancer bacteriotherapy.

However, pancreatic cancer is a tough nut to crack and it did not escape our notice that despite impressive tumor retardation, pancreatic cancer cell killing was tempered when compared to other cancer types we have investigated. CRC2631 is an amazing cancer-fighting tool but even heroes need a sidekick and our research to date has shown CRC2631 is likely going to need to carry or produce an anti-tumor substance to completely resolve and not merely shrink pancreatic tumors.

We are not alone in this line of thought. As the field of bacteriotherapy as a whole has matured, it has become apparent that the combination of targeted bacteria and a therapeutic payload will likely be the answer to complete tumor destruction. The problem with developing such a system with CRC2631 is that our strain kills cultured cancer cells so quickly it has made studying CRC2631 as a drug-carrying vector or combination therapy very difficult. In prostate cancer for example, we found that after eight hours of co-incubation with CRC2631 malignant prostate cells are well on their way to destruction due to mitochondria-crippling cristae destruction [1].

So, it would seem the silver lining of CRC2631’s slower therapeutic action on pancreatic cancer cells is that it affords us a much larger window to investigate the anti-tumor affects of CRC2631 alone and in combination with a chemotherapeutic (anti-cancer drug). This larger window will also increase our chances of working out the mechanism of tumor killing, something no other bacteriotherapy researchers have been able to do.

The idea of using CRC2631’s targeting talents to deliver companion drugs directly to tumors is very exciting as many chemotherapeutics are toxic not only to cancer cells but to healthy cells as well. Therefore, a system by which chemotherapeutics could hitch a ride on CRC2631 or be made by CRC2631 at the tumor site would greatly reduce side effects while amplifying the anti-tumor effects of the therapeutic Salmonella. Recognizing the potential benefits of such a system we set about developing a scaffold system to attach therapeutic molecules to CRC2631 for transport a few years ago [2]. This tool is now ready and waiting in our toolbox should we select a chemotherapeutic that cannot be synthesized by Salmonella.
We have a short list of potential chemotherapeutic candidates to team up with CR2631 and at the top of the list is violacein. Violacein is a striking purple pigment produced by *Chromobacterium violaceum*, a bacterium found in the Amazon River in Brazil, that has been shown to have anti-tumor and other disease fighting properties. The “recipe” for this purple pigment is encoded in a 14.5 kilobase (kb) DNA fragment that when cloned into CRC2631 gives our strain the ability to produce the tumor killing pigment as well. Meaning, everywhere CRC2631 goes to target cancer cells violacein is automatically delivered as well. Pretty slick huh? Teaming up CRC2631 with a chemotherapeutic partner will also advance our research into a treatment for other cancer types as well. In fact, our most recent clinical mouse prostate study revealed CRC2631 by itself as a “monotherapy” reduces prostate tumor size but tumor progression is not halted and tumors are not completely eradicated [3]. We believe that as part of a combination therapy CRC2631 will have the tools it needs to not only shrink but resolve tumors while targeting anti-tumor agents to minimize side effects.

In 2017 we are excited to explore the action of violacein on pancreatic cancer alone and in concert with CRC2631. In a two-part plan of attack we will first evaluate the anti-tumor action of CRC2631 producing violacein on pancreatic cancer cells and later this combination therapy will be tested on mouse tumors. Like peanut butter and chocolate, we expect the pair will be better together.

While the benefits of a successful combination therapy are priceless, our suppliers are very good at putting a price on what it takes to ask the questions that will get us there. For this reason the Cancer Research Center is very grateful to our generous donors for providing the funding that allows us to continue to explore and build on our successes as we close in on the ultimate goal of sharing CRC2631 with the world as a non-toxic cancer treatment. We truly couldn’t do what we do without you!

References:
Discovering New Communications and Tumor Destruction Mechanisms  
Dr. Bakul Dhagat-Mehta, Raymond W. Freese Fellow

All our work in the past few years has confirmed that our genetically modified, non-pathogenic *Salmonella* specifically targets, infiltrates, and persists in mouse, canine, and multiple kinds of human tumor cells without harming normal, non-cancerous cell tissues. However, full understanding of the mechanisms behind these actions is still not clear. As we have summarized in previous years we are taking advantage of modern day technology to address this ambiguity.

In the past we constructed tools (sub-clones) to over-produce some *Salmonella* proteins. The part of DNA that regulates expression/production of these proteins was found to be activated when *Salmonella* was inside the tumors. This work, reported by another group of scientists (Nabil Arrach, et al), led us to believe that these proteins may have some role in targeting and killing of cancer cells by *Salmonella*. In 2016 we asked the question; if we force *Salmonella* to over-produce one of these proteins, would it result in an increase or decrease in tumor-targeting by *Salmonella*?

In order to test our idea the first step was to transform the tools (sub-clones) that we had constructed into our *Salmonella*. Once the sub-clones’ presence in *Salmonella* was confirmed, the next step was to instruct *Salmonella* to produce an abundance of our protein of interest and then confirm its production. Finally, after these preliminary steps, it was time to find out if the cancer targeting ability of our transformed *Salmonella* was any different when compared to the non-transformed ones. This was done with help of a quite simple but elegant assay. Since most of our data in the past has been testing prostate cancer and normal cells, they were the best choice for such an experiment. The assay involved incubating both normal prostate and cancer cells with (1) non-transformed (2) transformed but not over producing protein of interest and (3) transformed and over-producing the protein of interest; for 30 min and 2 hours. After respective time points, the cells were washed and then incubated with antibiotic containing media. The idea here, being that, the bacteria that is inside the cultured mammalian cells, would not be affected by antibiotic as they are protected by the cell wall. However, *Salmonella* that are freely floating outside the cells would be killed by the antibiotic. The prostate cancer cells and normal cells are then washed, their cell walls ruptured and then samples were plated on agar plates. Only the bacteria that were inside the prostate cells would survive and grow. Based on the number of bacterial colonies we obtained for each control and experimental samples we calculated the percentage of *Salmonella* that invaded prostate cancer and normal cells.

The data from the invasion assays reiterates the fact that *Salmonella* invades prostate cancer cells preferentially. This was comforting as it told us that our assay had worked, results being consistent with the previous ones. The results also indicated that we do see an increase in the percentage of bacteria that invade the cancer cells between 30 mins and 2 hour.

When we compare the percentage of transformed bacteria with the non-transformed ones, the results indicate an increase in the number of population of bacteria that invade prostate cancer cells. However, the transformed *Salmonella* whether over produced our protein of interest or not, does not seem to make any difference in the number of population invading prostate cancer cells (Figure 1).

*Salmonella* has an innate ability to produce these protein(s) of interest. Forcing it to produce even more of the same may not be a very efficient tool to determine differences in its cancer targeting. Therefore, in the coming year we plan to switch our strategy and construct tools that will eliminate the expression/production of these protein(s). This means that *Salmonella* would either be not producing any, or very small amounts of our protein(s) of interest. We feel that the loss of function as a result of the lack of such protein(s) may result in a more drastic difference in cancer targeting and invasion, hence being a little more easily noticeable.
In the coming year we are confident that with help of our new strategy, we may have a better insight into not only the mechanism of cancer targeting by Salmonella but would also have a few more candidates that may be manipulated to improve our therapeutic strain.

![Percentage of Salmonella Population Invading Prostate Cell Lines](image)

**Figure 1.** Normal prostate and cancer cells were incubated with 1- *Salmonella*, 2– transformed *Salmonella* but not over producing protein, 3- transformed *Salmonella* and over producing protein of interest. After 2 hours, cells were ruptured, plated on agar plates. Based on the number of bacterial colonies recovered percentage of invasion of *Salmonella* was calculated.
CRC in the News... in a story issued jointly by the News Bureau of the University of Missouri and the Cancer Research Center, Dr. Robert Kazmierczak and Dr. Abraham Eisenstark discussed their recent paper presented to the American Society For Microbiology General Meeting in Boston this past June 17th. Dr. Kazmierczak and his associate, Ms. Elizabeth Choe, illustrated *Salmonella*'s unique characteristic that allows the bacteria to target, penetrate and spread throughout solid tumors. Scientists at the Cancer Research Center have developed a non-toxic strain of *Salmonella* called CRC 2631. This strain will invade cancer cells without damage to the host. Results from this study could lead to promising new treatments that actively target and control the spread of cancer.

This press release appeared in 147 international, national, broadcast and online media outlets and more than 136.7 million people had the opportunity to view stories online or in print. A partial list of international, national, state and federal social media placements is shown below.

**International Placements:**
The Sun, London, U.K. (#1 newspaper in the U.K.; 3 million daily circulation; 5,621,334 unique visitors per month)  
News-Medical.net (Australia) (717,151 unique visitors per month)  
ComputerHoy.com (Spain) (48,398 unique visitors per month)  
National Geographic (Indonesia)  
The Tribune India, Chandigarh, India (91,236 unique visitors per month)

**National Placements:**
ScienceDaily (#2 most visited science news website; 9,844,602 unique visitors per month)  
Futurity (#17 most visited science news website; 1,188,417 unique visitors per month)  
Medical Xpress (part of the Science X network, with a monthly readership of 2.5 million)  
Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News (75,526 unique visitors per month)  
Reddit.com (93,587,006 unique visitors per month)  
Raw Story (4,456,402 unique visitors per month)  
AOL News (18,950,749 unique visitors per month; AOL News provides online news to 500 million monthly global customers)  
Prostate Cancer News Today  
ALNMag.com (12,384 unique visitors per month)

**State Placements:**
Kansas City Star, Kansas City, MO. (Circulation, 176,197; 927,705 unique visitors per month)  
KOMU-TV (NBC) – Columbia, MO. (519,698 unique visitors per month)  
KMOV-TV (CBS) – St. Louis, MO. (587,261 unique visitors per month)  
Hannibal Courier-Post, Hannibal, MO. (8,340 daily circulation; 20,897 unique visitors per month)  
The Maneater, Columbia, MO. (44,737 unique visitors per month)

**Social Media Placements:**
EurekAlert (#8 most visited science news website and #43 most visited science blog): 4,177 views

**Newswise:** 1,016 views  
GEBN social media shares: Facebook, 811; LinkedIn, 22; Google+, 3  
AOL social media shares: Facebook, 214; Pinterest, 3; Google+, 1  
RawStory social media shares: Facebook, 19  
ALNMag.com social media shares: Facebook, 42; LinkedIn, 11; Google+, 1  
The Maneater social media shares: Facebook, 38; LinkedIn, 2  
Futurity social media shares: Facebook, 14; LinkedIn, 4; Google+, 16  
National Geographic (Indonesia) social media shares: Facebook, 14; Pinterest, 1
Cancer Research Center uses *Salmonella* to target tumors

CRC Research Director Abraham Eisenstark: “We’ll have a double-whammy. We have the cargo vehicle, the bacteria, and we have the cargo to do some destruction.”

By Brendan Crowley

Nov. 2, 2016

Researchers at the Cancer Research Center in Columbia found that a modified strain of *Salmonella* can be used to target and infiltrate cancerous tumors. Abraham Eisenstark, the research director at the CRC, said that the bacteria can be engineered to act as a cargo vehicle and carry cancer-fighting drugs into tumors.

“We’ll have a double-whammy,” Eisenstark said. “We have the cargo vehicle, the bacteria, and we have the cargo to do some destruction.” Eisenstark said the CRC is now working on loading their strain of *Salmonella* with cancer-fighting cargo. He said a lab in Texas has sent them a snake venom with anti-cancer properties. “It has other effects, of course,” Eisenstark said. “But we can take the cancer-fighting genes from this venom and put them in the bacteria. Then the bacteria will multiply the venom over and over and over again, inside the tumor.”

Robert Kazmierczak, a researcher at the CRC, said that using *Salmonella* as a vehicle for the drugs could make chemotherapy more effective and cause less severe side effects. *Salmonella*-carrying, cancer-fighting drugs would be injected into the bloodstream, Kazmierczak said. *Salmonella* would circulate through the body and accumulate inside tumors. The bacteria would then multiply, filling the tumor with cancer-fighting drugs. “You will get the drug concentrated there at the tumor where it will do the most good, where it’s actually supposed to be,” Kazmierczak said. Because of that concentration, he said, drugs carried by *Salmonella* could kill tumors with a lower dose and would not spread to healthy tissue, reducing many of the side effects of chemotherapy.

The CRC recently sequenced and patented the genome of their *Salmonella* strain. That means they can pick and choose which genes to engineer.

Eisenstark said the CRC’s *Salmonella* strain has two major advantages as a vehicle for cancer-fighting drugs. First, toxic genes that cause the symptoms associated with *Salmonella* infection have been selectively removed from the strain. Second, Eisenstark said researchers at the CRC have engineered the bacteria to feed on the same nutrients as tumors. This makes the bacteria better at targeting cancerous tumors and enables it to starve tumors. “This takes time, these experiments,” Eisenstark said. “So we are constantly developing the strain.”

The development of the CRC’s strain stretches back over 60 years and across the Atlantic. A Swedish scientist sent an isolated strain of *Salmonella* to the bacteriologist Joshua Lederberg, who passed it along to Milislav Demerec at the Carnegie Institution for Science in New York. As a postdoctoral researcher, Eisenstark worked with Demerec at the institution. He said that organism was the first *Salmonella* genome mapped by scientists.

Eisenstark inherited the collection of *Salmonella* strains from Demerec. In the 1990s, when researchers discovered that *Salmonella* seemed to preferentially accumulate inside tumors, Eisenstark began engineering his strains to be less toxic and better at targeting cancerous tumors.

Kazmierczak took the baton when he joined the CRC in 2006. He took the best strain Eisenstark had developed and continued to engineer it. Last year, Kazmierczak studied the effects of the strain on prostate cancer in mice. He said he wanted to know if the strain was non-toxic and how well it targeted tumors.

Kazmierczak injected mice with the strain one a week for 13 weeks. *Salmonella* in the wild can be deadly to mice, he said, but the CRC’s strain did not appear to affect them. The size of the mice’s tumors shrunk visibly, proving the *Salmonella* had been targeting and starving tumors.

“So I can give this to mice and they’ll run around like nothing is happening while their immune system cleans up the *Salmonella* from non-cancerous cells,” Kazmierczak said. “At the same time, the *Salmonella* will circulate through the mice and actively move toward and invade tumors.”

Eisenstark said the CRC faces one barrier in its research. “Let’s call it ‘less than optimal funding,’” he said. There are plenty of potential researchers at MU, Eisenstark said. “Problem is, they demand salaries,” he added, laughing.

The CRC is a private, nonprofit organization, so that means they rely on donations and federal grants, which are increasingly rare, CRC Director Marnie Clark said. Eisenstark said his research was fully funded by the National Institute of Health for more than 50 years. “I never had to worry about money. I just had to take the time to write the proposals,” he said. “That gave us confidence in our research. We knew they would fund our proposals, we just had to do the work.”

For Eisenstark and the CRC, that security is gone, but the work continues.

Edited by Claire Mitzel | cmitzel@themaneater.com
In addition to our primary focus on developing novel cancer therapies and moving them to the clinic, CRC researchers devote significant time to train and mentor talented students to become the next generation of medical researchers. Students who have had a research “apprenticeship” at the CRC have become cutting-edge researchers in the scientific fields of genetics, biochemistry, bioengineering and nanotechnology. Not only are we proud to have played a role in the beginning of our students’ professional development, many of these fully-trained researchers are eager to collaborate with the CRC in the search for better cancer therapies.

Hunter Bowles

I was born and raised in Columbia, MO by parents, Doug Bowles and Yvette Nieto. In school, my classes are definitely a bit biology heavy being enrolled in zoology, and two biomed courses offered at the career center, though I am also taking programming classes along with Spanish. In my free time I still keep pretty busy with the Hickman Boys Lacrosse Club, disc golfing, and playing guitar. As a junior I don’t have a concrete college plan, though in a perfect world I would be attending Georgia Tech studying biomedical engineering.

Cristina Tobias

Hello! My name is Cristina Tobias, 17 years of age and soon-to-be proud graduate of Hickman High School. I was born in Mississauga, Ontario, though my life so far has given me pieces of home in British Columbia, California, Kansas, and (of course!) Missouri. My family is Filipino, a heritage I consider to be a large part of who I am and who I have my parents - Rowel and Mimi - to thank for. Currently, I am finishing up my high school career, taking courses spanning from the sciences to British literature to theatre. In terms of extra-curriculars, I am an active member in Hickman’s Health Sciences Club, Biology Club, and Science Honor Society. Post-graduation, I’m considering attending MU, UMKC, or the University of British Columbia as a Biology or Health Sciences major. In the long-term, I hope to work as a physician in psychiatry.

Anna Vaclavek

My name is Anna Vaclavek, and I have lived my entire life in Columbia, Missouri, with my parents Sheryl and John Vaclavek. I am currently a senior at David H. Hickman High School, taking two AP science classes along with three other AP classes. In addition to high academics, I have played varsity softball for two years, and am a member of my school’s steering committee as the activities chair. Next year I hope to be attending college at Vanderbilt University, Northwestern University, or Washington University in St. Louis, and plan to major in biological sciences or biomedical engineering, with hopes of post-graduate entrance to medical school.

“I have had the privilege of being a mentor at CRC. What made me love mentoring students is seeing them light up about science. I watched them grow through the process of exploring a possible career in microbiology. I watched them go on to achieve their goals in their education. They challenged me in return! Mentoring is a win-win position to be in, both for the students and their mentors”.

~ Jacki Kian Mehr
I first met Professor Abraham Eisenstark when he came to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to give a seminar to the Microbiology Department, where I was a grad student in Professor Stanley Maloy’s lab. Abe presented his most recent research on the archived strains of *Salmonella enterica* Typhimurium that are housed at the CRC. These strains have been stashed in vials and sealed tight at room temperature since the 1950’s. He talked about how he and his collaborators were discovering major differences in these strains compared to non-archived *Salmonella*. My project in grad school was trying to understand the newly discovered concept that the chromosomes of some strains of *Salmonella* undergo large rearrangements. In some cases, genes would “flip” from one end of the chromosome to the other! For most other life forms (including humans), the chromosome structure is stable and any changes would normally be detrimental, if not deadly. For these strains, however, the rearrangements seemed to have no effect. Because all cancers begin with DNA mutations, Abe thought it would be interesting to see if his archival *Salmonella* strains had undergone these large-scale chromosome “flips.” He thought that maybe we could see if chromosome irregularities in these archived strains were consistent with mutations in some types of cancer, and so he invited me to come work at the CRC after I finished my PhD work. An invitation I gladly accepted!

I came to the CRC in 2003, where I was graciously funded by the Raymond W. Freese Doctoral Fellowship. It was a genuine pleasure working at the CRC and working under Abe’s leadership. The scientific team and the administrative staff at CRC were incredibly welcoming and very good at their jobs. Working for Abe was a treat not only because of the research we were doing, but also because of Abe’s experience over the decades. He has had (and continues to have) collaborators all over the world and counts Nobel laureates among his colleagues and friends. There are some notebooks at the CRC that contain the work of many of Abe’s former students and postdocs that harbor experimental results of cutting edge research. These notebooks could just as easily be stored in a “Who’s Who of Microbial and Cell Biology” archive. Additionally, the *Salmonella* strains that are curated by Abe at the CRC contain a treasure trove of information that even now has yet to be fully tapped. I have always said that each one of these vials could easily be an individual research project. In fact, at least one of these strains has shown promise as an anti-cancer tool. Fortunately, these strains continue to be explored by Abe’s current research team at CRC.

When I left the CRC to further my career in microbiology and biological safety in Chicago I brought along the experience and scientific connections that I obtained while working at the CRC under Abe’s training. I am now a biosafety officer at the University of Chicago. I work with other researchers who are doing work with pathogenic microorganisms (such as *Salmonella*) and human cancer cells ensuring that they keep themselves and the campus, safe from these biohazards while doing their experiments. In my job it’s very important to understand what the most recent techniques are and to keep up with the current literature. My time at CRC helped prepare me for these challenges because of what I learned and the connections I made while working under Abe’s guidance.
Jim Kidwell Memorial Gala

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Larry Atterberry Jr.
Owner, Auctioneer & Personal Division Manager

MUSIC:
Crazy Music

RAFFLES:
Garry Banks

SILENT AUCTION:
Alison Dino & Stephens College Event Planning Class

PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Penny Lattin & Alycia McGee

USHERS:
Cindy Hazelrigg

Front Row: Abby Ntalamu, Jane Otis, Alexandria Massie-McDowell
Back Row: Cindy Hazelrigg, Alessa Wolf, Brittany Wise & Sally Russell

Stephens College Event Planning Class:
Asya Hristova, Cindy Hazelrigg & Ali Tranchilla

Gala Photographer:
Penny Lattin
Alison Dino, Alycia McGee, Marnie Clark and Jack Bozarth having fun with instruments courtesy of Crazy Music

Bill Barnhouse from Crazy Music

Brian & Carla Wilson, Phyllis & Greg Kludac, Bruce Ragsdell, Abraham & Joan Eisenstark

Garry Banks, Emily Brady & Steve Lee

Robert & Karen Kazmierczak

Larry & Judy Atterberry, Sr. & Marla & Larry Atterberry, Jr.
Auctioneer John Payne Harrison with his grandson, Brock Webb, who also helped with the auction as a Ringman.

Missouri State Representative Stephen Webber presented Nancy Wilson with a State Proclamation in honor of Bruce Wilson.

“There are no such things as incurables; there are only things for which man has not found a cure.”

Bernard M. Baruch
John Carlton gave a moving account of his journey as a cancer survivor.

Dee Baker along side Christian Jared Gregory

Stacy Tatiersky, Rhonda Durham & Dulcienia Kidwell

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Gary & Carol Smith

Mr. Kidwell was a lifelong resident of Boone County and he graduated from Hickman High School. In 1965, he met Howard Eiffert and Raymond Freese and became an employee of Boone County Lumber Company.

In 1984, Mr. Kidwell was recruited by his good friend Mr. Freese to assist with the annual CRC banquet. Mr. Kidwell had been diagnosed with cancer, and he was relentless in his efforts to raise funds for CRC’s local cancer research. He was honored numerous times for having sold the most tickets to the annual dinner - regularly over 200 single-handedly.

In 1990, Mr. Kidwell succumbed to cancer.

Since 1990, the annual Cancer Research Center (CRC) banquet has been named in memory of Jim Kidwell.
Sheriff Dwayne Carey and wife, Leslie

Charlie & Kathy Diggs with Carol & Gary Smith

Nancy Badger & Deborah Daniels

Back Row: Ray Boothe, Alycia McGee, Nancy Wilson, Charlotte Boothe, Judith Lee
Front Row: Lena Carter & Bill Burnett

Connie Weable, Donna & Fred Martz and Jim Frech
Garry Banks and Fred Parry entertain the crowd with a raffle drawing.
Live Auction Items, Donors and Purchasers

1a. Restaurant Tour
A sampling of gift certificates to the area’s finest restaurants for your dining pleasure! Package includes: a $100 Red Lobster Gift Card, Dinner for 2 (2 entrees & 1 dessert) at Abigail’s in Rocheport, 2-$25 Ria’s Restaurant & Lounge in Jefferson City Gift Cards, 5-$20 Gift Certificates to Cafe Berlin, $25 Gift Certificate to Range Free on Orr Street, 3-$50 Gift Certificates to Murry’s and Dinner for 4 at The Country Club of Missouri.

Donated by: Area Restaurants & Gala Volunteer Committee Members
Purchased by: Farm Power Lawn & Leisure

1b. Truman’s Happy Hour
Donated by: Truman’s
Purchased by: Gary VanRiper

2. 50” Vizio E-Series TV
Donated by: Aaron’s Mid-MO (Cleck’s Inc.)
John Cleek
Purchased by: Lynn McIntosh

3. His & Hers Belair Dress Watches
Donated by: Marnie & Michael Clark
Purchased by: Toni Klick

4. Henry Repeating Arms Co. Golden Boy .22 Rifle
Donated by: Jack & Ann Bozarth
Purchased by: Kevin Staveley-O’Carroll

5. Weekend at the Kansas Speedway!
Race Weekend A (Night races!)
Donated by: Lloyd & Kathy Farris & CRC
Purchased by: Emily Brady
Race Weekend B.
Donated by: Lloyd & Kathy Farris & CRC
Purchased by: Emily Brady

6. Mossberg Silver Reserve Field O/U 12 Gauge Shotgun
Donated by: Jack & Ann Bozarth
Purchased by: Steven Webber

7. St. Louis Cardinals Vs. Philadelphia Phillies Tickets with Parking Pass
Donated by: Russell Chambers
Purchased by: Brent Gibson

8. Child’s Ride with Truman the Tiger on Truman’s Taxi
Before a MU Home Football Game
Donated by: Boone County Fire Protection Dist.
Purchased by: Nancy Wilson & Judith Lee

9. Kansas City Royals Vs. Atlanta Braves Tickets
Donated by: John Manning
Purchased by: Ray Boothe

10. Celebration of the Arts Framed Posters
Set A: Black Background Posters
Purchased by: Lisa Gibson
Set B: White Background Posters
Purchased by: Joseph Keifi
Donated by: Emily Brady, Office of Cultural Affairs and The Frame Shop on Orr Street.

11. Weekend Bobcat Rental
Donated by: Bobcat of St. Louis-Columbia
Purchased by: Farm Power Lawn & Leisure

12. EU200I Honda Camo Portable Generator
Donated by: Travis & Yolanda Burnett
Purchased by: Mike & Melissa Quast

13. Brady Brothers Glass $1,500 Residential or Commercial Services Gift Certificate
Donated by: Brady Brothers Glass - Josh, Ryan & Sean Brady in memory of Doris Brady.
Purchased by: Connie Leipard

14. Golfer’s Package
Donated by: Columbia Country Club, The Country Club of Missouri & The Club at Old Hawthorne
Purchased by: Lynn McIntosh

15. Les Bourgeois Tour & Wine Tasting for 10
Donated by: Les Bourgeois Vineyards
Purchased by: John Carleton

16. Patio Planter
Donated by: Rost Landscaping
Purchased by: Mike & Melissa Quast

17. CRC Table Portrait “Flask of Ribbons”
Donated by: Alycia McGee
Purchased by: Mike, Melissa & Sierra Quast
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The A&P Card Shoppe - Alycia McGee & Penny Lattin
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The Frame Shoppe on Orr Street - Shan & Carla McElroy
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White Horse Antiques
Yates Bed & Breakfast - Conrad & Dixie Yates

Spirit Raffle winners
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1005 Club Village Drive
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Scott & Brianna Lennon
The photo booth was a success… look at those smiles!

Thanks to The A&P Card Shoppe, Crazy Music and Hockman’s Interiors for the props!
Bryce & Lisa Edwards

Garnett & Charles Payne

Charlotte & Ray Boothe

“Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.”
— Emily Dickinson

Cancer Research Center

Join us on Facebook!
To become a fan, go to www.facebook.com.

Our page has been created to share with you our research advancements, photos from our annual Jim Kidwell Memorial Gala & Outreach events, along with our enthusiastic visitors.
Sierra Haley with her mother Melissa Quast. Sierra was the high bidder in the Live Auction for the “Flask of Ribbons” photograph by Alycia McGee honoring Cancer Survivors.
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I love helping seniors and have many years of experience in selling real estate.

"I highly recommend Terri"

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**Roma Eisenstark Scholarships and Internships.**
In conjunction with our research mission, Dr. Eisenstark engages promising students in order to enhance their scientific backgrounds. We have programs for high school students, undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Each category has opportunities to participate in our research to one degree or another. For more information, contact Dr. Abraham Eisenstark.

**Ray Freese Memorial Fellowship in Cancer Research.**
This Fellowship supports a postdoctoral scientist who engages in basic research at CRC in the development of a professional career finding ways to reduce cancer deaths. Dr. Bakul Dhagat-Mheta is the most recent Raymond W. Freese Fellow at the CRC.

**The Pamela Dunn Legacy of Hope.**
Due to her dedication and contributions to cancer research, the CRC’s Dr. Pamela Dunn Legacy of Hope was created in her honor. The legacy is used to recognize individuals, businesses and foundations who demonstrate a tangible interest in supporting the CRC. Income from these funds provide for instruments, books, and support for our scientists who receive fellowships, stipends and other financial help based on their training and experience.

We are very fortunate to receive tremendous support from fraternal organizations around the state. The Fraternal Order of the Eagles, The Order of the Eastern Star, and the Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club of Columbia have for years generously supported our work. Friends of the CRC frequently obtain their employer’s help to make outright donations or participate in a company’s matching funds programs. When you participate in our annual Jim Kidwell Memorial Gala, whether by buying a table or sponsoring the event, your contribution goes to our biggest fundraiser of the year. Donations can be made through our once yearly direct mail appeal, through our website’s PayPal page or with a memorial donation in memory of a loved one. An additional way you can contribute to our research is through a simple bequest in your will.

Your generous bequest can bring us all closer to the day when the terrible disease of cancer is finally eradicated from our society. It doesn’t matter whether your bequest to the Cancer Research Center is quite small or very large. All bequests have the real potential to save lives and to help thousands of people avoid the physical, mental and emotional suffering of cancer. We invite you to take advantage of the free gift planning services of our Development Office.

Our experienced and knowledgeable staff can help you plan a bequest or trust that will accomplish all your specific estate objectives and give you the great personal satisfaction of knowing you have made a truly meaningful contribution to America’s ongoing war against cancer. Your personal situation will determine whether any type of bequest would be advantageous to you as well as the Cancer Research Center.

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Freese Memorial Fellowship

Raymond Freese, a local builder, developer, and president of Boone County Lumber Company, was a member of the CRC Board of Trustees for 21 years, beginning in 1973. He worked tirelessly to secure funding and support for various CRC projects and was especially devoted to the CRC Gala. Ray lost his sister and several close friends to cancer and decided to do what he could to fight this lethal disease. Unfortunately, he lost his own battle with cancer in 1994. After his death, the CRC Board of trustees set up the Raymond W. Freese Memorial Fellowship. This fellowship is awarded to promising postdoctoral scientists for an initial one year appointment, with reappointment for additional years based on performance. The stipend is comparable to those awarded by the Health Sciences Center at the University of Missouri - Columbia. The major research project is prostate tumor therapy with genetically altered Salmonella. Applicants are expected to have (1) expertise in molecular genetics of bacteria, (2) willingness to develop a mouse testing model, (3) skills in writing grant proposals and manuscripts, (4) skills in presenting research results at national meetings, and (5) skills to develop projects independently and creatively.

Resumes may be submitted via one of the following:
Dr. Abraham Eisenstark
E-mail with attachments to eisenstarka@missouri.edu
Fax to: (573) 443-1202 or
Mail to: Cancer Research Center, 3501 Berrywood Dr., Columbia, MO 65201

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The Plaza Event Center Parkade Plaza
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Event Begins at 5:30 pm

For more information contact:
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jackbozarth@cancerresearchcenter.org
(573) 875-2255

All proceeds will benefit local cancer research projects through the Raymond Freese Memorial Fellowship Fund.