

HOPE

THE CHRISTUS STEHLIN FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

JULY 2006

CHRISTUS Health, Sisters of Charity and Stehlin Foundation Announce Partnership to Combat Cancer



Sister Olive and Sister Kevin, (from left) of Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, were joined for the signing ceremony at the Villa de Matel by CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation executive director Bobby Anderson and Sally Anderson.

National Health System to Provide Support for Cancer Research

On May 15, CHRISTUS Health, a Catholic, faith-based, not-for-profit health system headquartered in Dallas, announced it will become the corporate sponsor for the Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research.

CHRISTUS Health, the former owner of CHRISTUS St. Joseph Hospital, is sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston and San Antonio. The system is comprised of more than 40 hospitals, inpatient and long-term care facilities in more than 70 cities in the U.S. and Mexico.

In recognition of the important legacy of Dr. John S. Stehlin, surgical oncologist and founder, the name will be the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research. The Foundation will retain its organizational structure and the 18,000 square foot laboratory currently

located on the 12-city block CHRISTUS St. Joseph campus.

"It's a vote of confidence to be retained by this strong organization," said Bobby Anderson, executive director of the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation.

"Throughout our existence, we have received steady and strong support for our work from both CHRISTUS Health and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. We are honored that they have recognized our accomplishments and our potential."

The Tripartnership Continues

In 1968, Dr. John Stehlin decided to practice solely at CHRISTUS St. Joseph Hospital due to his deep respect and affection for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. He established the Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research in 1969. Frustrated with the traditional approach to cancer treatment and research,

A Relationship of Mutual Respect

A ministry in health care for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word began in 1866 when the first three Sisters arrived in Galveston from Lyons, France. They were answering Bishop Claude Dubuis' call to serve the "multitude of sick and infirm of every kind."

These Sisters opened the first hospital in Texas, and several other Catholic hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes thereafter as well as schools and orphanages. Today their health system, CHRISTUS Health, is ranked among the top ten Catholic health systems in the U.S., employing 25,000 people.

Sister Olive Bordelon, board member of CHRISTUS Health and General Superior of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word congregation, spoke recently about the relationship between the Stehlin research team and CHRISTUS:

"The founding statement of our order is to extend the healing ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ. To carry out this deep religious tradition, we realize that we must find new and creative ways of responding to people who are sick.

"This is exactly the purpose research serves – finding new opportunities and ways to ease suffering. We are very pleased that the good that has happened at the Stehlin Foundation will continue."



Partnership continued from page 1

he developed a tripartnership concept between clinician, research scientist and patient, in which everyone works together to provide the best overall treatment for the patient.

Today, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston continue their healing mission through the CHRISTUS Health system. They are extremely pleased with the new relationship.

“The Stehlin group has been a lifetime friend to us,” remarked Sister Kevin Keating, Assistant General of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, “primarily because our missions are

LEFT: Laboratory Director Beppino Giovanella, Ph.D., with Sister Lillian Anne at the closing ceremony. Sister Lillian Anne was recently elected General Superior of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. She began her four-year term on June 26.

The FAQs

Bobby Anderson, executive director of the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research, discusses the implications of the new ownership.

Q. What prompted this move?

A. In 2004, Dr. Tom Royer, the President and CEO of the CHRISTUS Health system, asked us about joining this organization. We were very interested, and the discussions continued, since we felt the advantages were mutual.

Q. What appealed to CHRISTUS about the Stehlin Foundation?

A. CHRISTUS Health has always been a friend and supporter. A member of their board of directors, Robert Z. Gussin, Ph.D., a retired senior scientist from Johnson & Johnson, toured the Foundation in April 2005. After a three and one-half hour meeting and inspection of the laboratory, Dr. Gussin congratulated us on the high quality of research being done here. I think that helped us.

Q. Will there be any change in staff or operations?

A. We don't anticipate any change – we'll be in the same facility, we'll have the same exemplary staff, our work will continue, and most importantly, our mission of shortening the time required to bring safe and effective treatments from the research lab to the physician's office will not change one bit.

Q. How did Dr. Stehlin react to the news?

A. John was aware of the events as they happened, and he was thrilled that we were able to continue with CHRISTUS and the Sisters. He felt this was a logical progression of what he began, creating a mutually beneficial relationship for the respective members of each organization.

Q. What about financial support?

A. CHRISTUS has made a three-year pledge to help support drug development, with the idea of expediting the time it takes to get effective therapies to patients. They will also fund a major updating of equipment at our lab and allow us to increase our staff by 20 percent. This is a very meaningful and significant amount of support.

However, we are still responsible for all other expenses, including \$1 million - \$1.5 million in operating expenses each year.

Q. So the need to raise additional funds will continue?

A. Absolutely. The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation has many research projects that fall beyond the “drug development” scope. The more funds we can apply toward our research and other ongoing projects, the more advances we can make to help people with cancer.

Q. What will happen with the Friends of the Stehlin Foundation?

A. I hope absolutely nothing. They have been the most loyal, supportive group any nonprofit organization could ask for over the past 26 years. Beyond raising money for cancer research, they are committed to hosting the year's best gala in terms of entertainment value.

This year, we're very excited to have the Young Texans Against Cancer join with us for our event as they did in 2004. We're busy preparing for October 27 at the Westin Galleria (*see invitation back page*) Some things will never change!



Thomas C. Royer, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Dallas-based CHRISTUS Health, was recently named to the annual "top 50" list of most powerful physician executives in healthcare by Modern Healthcare magazine. Dr. Royer first approached the Stehlin Foundation about joining the CHRISTUS organization in 2004.

merged."

She continued, "I have been so impressed with the great respect shown by the staff for each individual person as they discuss their research. Of course, cancer research is a key area in which to reach out."

Continuing the Battle

Since 1969, the Foundation has launched innovative life-saving research and treatments for patients with cancer, including the development of a promising family of anticancer drugs, the Camptothecins. CHRISTUS Health looks to provide continuity and institutional support for the Foundation as they continue this important Camptothecin research.

"CHRISTUS Health looks forward to continued success in partnering with the Stehlin Foundation in researching innovative cancer treatments and therapies," said Dr. Tom Royer, chief executive officer, CHRISTUS Health. "CHRISTUS is committed to funding cancer research. Our plan for the new CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation is to continue their urgent mission of finding and developing more effective treatments for patients suffering from cancer in the shortest period of time." □



Dr. Richard Robbins (second from right), chairman of the Department of Medicine at Methodist Hospital, visited the research lab in May. Pictured with Dr. Robbins are Mr. Dana Vardeman, laboratory supervisor, Dr. Ethan Natelson, trustee, and Dr. Beppino Giovannella, laboratory director.

A Study in Collaboration

Collaborative Project with MD Anderson Gets Underway

In collaboration with Dr. Robert Newman of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation recently launched a series of experiments exploring the anti-cancer potential of an extract of a well-known plant in the Houston area, the oleander.

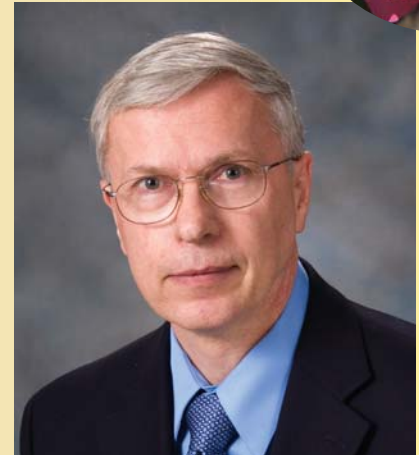
Oleandrin, the active ingredient derived from the oleander, belongs to a family of compounds known as "cardiac glycosides" because of their effectiveness in treating heart failure (other members of this family include digitalis and ouabain). Interestingly, it has been suggested that these drugs may be effective against human tumors.

Dr. Newman, a professor of cancer medicine and co-director of the Pharmaceutical Development Center at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, has been studying the anticancer effects of oleandrin as well as other cardiac glycosides for several years. Recently his group developed a potent concentrated extract of oleander specifically formulated for oral administration.

The next step is to launch the research on the nude mice model at the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation. Said Dr. Newman, "The expertise and skill of the Stehlin group in performing these types of preclinical analyses of drug efficacy is well known. I welcomed the opportunity for our institutions to work together."

The Nude Mouse Test

Initial experiments will include oral dosing of tumor-bearing and non-tumor-bearing



Robert A. Newman, Ph.D., professor of Cancer Medicine with the Department of Experimental Therapeutics at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, is collaborating with Stehlin scientists on determining the effectiveness of Oleandrin as a potential anti-cancer drug.

mice to assess toxicity. Once a non-toxic dose is established, experiments will be conducted to treat melanoma tumors grown on the mice, assessing tumor regression.

If all goes according to plan, the oral formulation of oleander could be ready for clinical Phase I trial later in 2006.

Researchers at both institutions are keenly focused on the outcome. Constantine Markides, Ph.D, and research scientist at the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation summarized, "We look forward to adding our expertise in xenograft methodology to this potential anticancer activity. We are excited about the potential." □



2005 Gala: Love Was in the Air



On October 15, 2005, the Friends of the Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research hosted their annual benefit gala – for the 25th year. The 25th gala, held at the Westin Galleria Hotel, maintained the long-standing tradition of being a fun evening, above all else.

Headliner Neil Sedaka entertained the crowd of 580 with his classical piano as well as his classic pop hits from the 60s through the 90s. Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes provided the backbeat for dancing and toe-tapping. Shara Fryer emceed the program, which honored long-time Friends Nancy Ames and Danny Ward.

Sally and Bobby Anderson chaired the event, which boasted some of the best auction items ever, including luxury vacations, signed celebrity guitars and deluxe sports and entertainment packages.

In all, the 2005 “Love Will Keep Us Together” gala netted more than \$270,000 – a sum which goes directly to fund the Foundation’s research and clinical battles against cancer. This brings the net proceeds donated by the Friends of the Stehlin Foundation since 1981 to almost \$8 million.

You can’t have better Friends than that!



Dear and Cherished Friends,

We were more than humbled to be honored by you at the Stehlin Foundation's Silver Anniversary Gala last October. You should know that all the credit for the success of the evening belongs to Sally & Bobby Anderson and the Friends who worked so tirelessly to raise funds in the middle of consecutive national disasters that sapped our country's and Houston's philanthropic coffers dry. Bless you all for persevering through such adverse conditions.

Thanks to our guests & friends Eileen & George Hricik, Irvin & Schnitzer Levy, Shara Fryer & Barry Silverman, Cindy & Randy C and Vince, Mary & Kelli Kickerillo ,, all of whom sent in donations, donated their time & talent and bid up a storm in the auctions.

For those of you who weren't there, the Kickerillos bought one of two signed Paul McCartney concert guitars for \$10,000 - and then gave it to us! There are not enough words to express our gratitude for such generosity.

Thanks also go to all those who couldn't attend but wrote us sweet notes & emails (John, Audrey Williams sends love!) and to Ann H Joann Sowell, Bobby Sue Cohn, John Tsacrios and Anne & Dr. J Mendelsohn among others for their thoughtful contributions in our

Finally, we wax nostalgic about our long-time admiration for our precious friend John Stehlin, applaud Mike Meagher for establishing the Friends, remember with great fondness the early days of Carol Bill Forney and Sally & David Harvin's leadership along with the F.O.S. pioneers and continue heart-felt appreciation for today's lovely members ... all of whom remind us of the powerful commitment we share with the founder and his mission. Our esteem for the brilliant doctors & researchers who have made such enormous strides in cancer treatment and patient care is paramount and we are ever optimistic about the breakthroughs they will make in the future.

Thanks you all for keeping the faith and delivering hope . . . love will keep us together!

Nancy & Danny

