“They saved my life.”

– Cathy Raba Wolfe, cancer patient
Cover Story

President’s Gala
Inspiring hope

ON THE COVER: Through the selfless commitment and generosity of Bill Greehey and the Greehey Family Foundation, student scholarships, community outreach programs, and faculty recruitment and retention are made possible at the UT Health Science Center – all aimed at the goal of making lives better in San Antonio and the world. This year, a $5 million gift from the foundation pushed the university’s Campaign for the Future of Health over its goal of $500 million. Greehey’s spirit of giving has inspired many, including local engineer and businessman Carl Raba Jr., Ph.D. But Dr. Raba had an even greater reason for giving – his daughter, Cathy Raba Wolfe. “We can never repay the good doctors at the Health Science Center for saving Cathy’s life. But our gift is a small way we can help and inspire others to help keep them here in San Antonio where they can multiply their lifesaving care in future patients.” This year, Dr. Raba gave a $500,000 gift to name an endowment for one of Cathy’s surgeons.

Cover photo by Greg Harrison
Donors’ generosity makes our missions possible

As the new year begins, we are reminded that it is our commitment to transformational research, education, clinical care and community service that animates each of our endeavors at the UT Health Science Center. A critical factor facilitating our success is the enthusiastic, heartfelt support of our donors. Throughout this issue of Mission, we highlight the many and varied avenues of philanthropy that underlie our excellence.

This year’s gala was the perfect venue for extending our deep gratitude to Bill Greehey and the Greehey Family Foundation for their exceptional generosity that pushed the Health Science Center’s Campaign for the Future of Health over its $500 million goal. Not only is Bill Greehey a champion for our university but, throughout his career, he has extended himself and his resources to instilling hope in those in need.

Also at the core of the campaign and the foundation for its fullfillment is the UT Health Science Center’s Development Board. Ed Kelley serves with distinction as our board chair. His leadership follows in the footsteps of our former chairs: John T. Montford, Joci Strass and Glenn Biggs. Each has played a significant role in the success of our campaign. Together, with our community, what we have accomplished is unprecedented, and buoys our Health Science Center as a beacon of hope for our community. I hope you will enjoy reading in this issue about some of the successful fundraising efforts over the past year, and about the dedicated volunteers and generous donors who make these successes possible.

Only with the steadfast support of our community can we continue to strive for preeminence in our missions of biomedical research discovery, educating the next generation of physicians, dentists, bioscientists, nurses and health care professionals; invaluable service to our community, especially for those in greatest need; and excellence in compassionate patient care. Our sincerest thanks go to each and every benefactor. Every gift makes a difference.

As we wish you a healthy and fulfilling new year, we thank you for contributing to the success of our missions. With your commitment, we will continue to be the place where superb science, learning and patient care intersect to serve the people of our communities, here in our city, across South Texas and throughout the world.

Sincerely,

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP
President
Professor of Medicine
UT Health Science Center at San Antonio

Teamwork produces outstanding book for students, teachers

Frank Weaker, Ph.D., professor of cellular and structural biology, has authored “Structures of the Head and Neck,” a brilliantly illustrated book for dental hygiene and dental assisting students and teachers. Dr. Weaker is co-course director for Dental Histology and course director for Structures of the Head and Neck that is taught to first year dental and dental hygiene students.

Working with David Baker, medical illustration supervisor in Creative Media Services, who has worked at the Health Science Center for 18 years, Dr. Weaker developed the book over the course of three years, but “the textbook represents the culmination of 38 years of professional school teaching,” Dr. Weaker said. “I thought that through this book I could be influencing the education of students outside the walls of the Health Science Center is a wonderful sense of accomplishment.”

Baker said he had had opportunities to work with faculty members on a few books at the Health Science Center during his tenure. “Faculty members who write books go above and beyond the call of duty as they are also tasked with teaching, conducting research and providing clinical care. There are very few who are able to accomplish it,” Baker said. “It’s quite an achievement for both the author and the artist to see a book published and available.”

The $12 page book, published by F.A. Davis Company, was printed in September and is available for purchase at the Health Science Center bookstore and worldwide online.

Vulcan Funshoot celebrates 20 years

More than 350 turned out this fall for the 20th annual Vulcan Funshoot which this year raised more than $69,000 in net proceeds for the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTR). The sporting clay fundraiser has been a labor of love since 1994 for the employees and leaders of the aggregates company and has raised more than $2 million over the years to support the CTRC’s mission to conquer cancer through research, prevention and treatment.

Vulcan Material’s Company employees organize and work the Vulcan Funshoot to benefit the CTRC. (Left to right) Tom Kendall, CTRC board member and retired president of Vulcan SouthWest Division; Leon M. Thompson Jr., M.D., director of the CTRC; Jeff Loft, Vulcan vice president and general manager; Steve Guertin, Vulcan sales representative; Clay Latchbury, Vulcan director of human resources; and Pat Blevins, Vulcan manager of statewide transportation.
“To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; this is to have succeeded.”

For decades, the verse of 19th century American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson has rung true for many who reach out to help others in need. Bill Greehey is among those. Some might say Greehey is the epitome of Emerson’s philosophy, making it his life’s work to lift up the less fortunate. At the UT Health Science Center, Greehey shines as a beacon of hope and a leader in advancing the university’s mission to “make lives better.”

President’s Gala

Inspiring hope
Greehey, donors model commitment to community

By Natalie Gutierrez

“We needed a champion back then, and we found one in Bill Greehey,” declared William L. Henrich, M.D., UT Health Science Center president, at the university’s sixth annual President’s Gala, “An Evening of Hope,” held this past fall in San Antonio. Dr. Henrich announced a $5 million gift that night from the Greehey Family Foundation to the university, which pushed the Health Science Center’s Campaign for the Future of Health over its goal of $500 million.

Dr. and Mrs. Henrich were joined by more than 1,500 community and academic leaders and students in attendance at the gala, which paid tribute to Greehey, one of the world’s most admired businessmen and philanthropists. Greehey is chairman of the board of NuStar Energy, L.P., one of the largest petroleum pipeline and terminal operators in America.

Greehey has been a longtime and steadfast supporter of the Health Science Center. In 2007, a historic gift of $25 million from the Greehey Family Foundation launched the momentum for the university’s Campaign for the Future of Health. In full circle fashion, the $5 million gift announced at the gala from the Greehey Family Foundation closed the campaign.

“It’s only fitting that our campaign culminates with a major gift from him,” Dr. Henrich said.

Promoting community health

The 2013 communitywide gala raised almost $600,000 to establish two funds named for honoree, Bill Greehey and The Greehey Family Foundation.

The Greehey Family Foundation Endowment for Community Service will support faculty and student programs directly benefitting the health and well-being of the community.

The Greehey Family Foundation Fund for Community Service and Patient Needs “The Hope Fund” will support the university’s mission of service by addressing patients’ urgent lifesaving medical needs.

With the foundation’s emphasis on supporting health and human welfare, children’s causes, education and the homeless, Greehey said the foundation’s partnership with the university allows both entities to make more lives better.

Providing for the poor and homeless

“We are proud of our partnership with the UT Health Science Center. By joining forces, the foundation and the university can continue to make a greater difference in the health and well-being of men, women and children – not just in San Antonio, but in communities across the world – thanks to the world-class research that is being done at the Health Science Center,” Greehey said. “And, I am also proud of our collaborative work to provide health and dental care to the working poor and homeless in our community.”

Dr. Henrich said the Health Science Center hosts the community wide gala to showcase the university’s missions, raise funds to support the work of the faculty and students across the university, and honor exceptional leaders who work to make a difference locally, regionally and nationally.

Nationally ranked business leader

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Dr. Carl Raba supports lifesaving care

Dr. Carl Raba supports lifesaving care

and other’s in attendance at the gala and also joined them in advancing the university through philanthropic support.

A $500,000 gift from Dr. Raba established the Carl Raba Family Chair in Neuro-Oncology at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center. John R. Floyd III, M.D., assistant professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, is the holder of the chair. Dr. Raba said he made the gift because “San Antonio needs physicians like Dr. Floyd and his colleagues. I have witnessed their remarkable skills and compassion firsthand. They saved my daughter’s life.”

In the fall of 2011, Dr. Raba’s daughter, Cathy Raba Wolfe, the youngest of his five children, began suffering from severe headaches, problems with her vision and other unusual symptoms. What doctors at the Health Science Center found shocked Cathy, Dr. Raba and their entire family. A massive tumor had developed in her skull and sinuses cavities and was placing painful pressure on her optical nerves. Subsequent biopsies revealed the tumor was cancerous. Cathy was diagnosed with Esthesioneuroblastoma (ENB), also known as olfactory neuroblastoma, a rare growth of cancerous tissue originating in the nasal cavity. Approximately only 1,000 cases have been identified since the first instance was described in 1924.

“I learned that about only 10 people a year in the world are diagnosed with this type of cancer,” Cathy said. “I was in disbelief and, initially, felt desperate. Why and how could this have happened to me?” But Cathy said her husband, Bob, and her father never gave up hope and encouraged her to have faith. “They had complete confidence in the Health Science Center doctors and with good reason,” she said. “They saved my life. After the initial shock of the diagnosis, I realized I needed to be an active participant in my treatment if I was to survive. Dr. Otto would call our home to check on me and my family. He reassured us that we were in good hands.”

Collaborative, compassionate care

Dr. Randy Otto, M.D., is professor and chair and the Thomas Walthall Folbore, M.D., Endowed Chair in Otolaryngology at the Health Science Center. He joined Dr. Floyd, Andrew Brenner, M.D., Ph.D., medical oncologist at the CTRC; Tony Eng, M.D., radiation oncologist; Howard T. Wang, M.D., associate professor and chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery; and Carlos Rosende, M.D., the Herbert F. Mueller Chair in the Department of Ophthalmology, in leading Cathy’s diagnosis, surgery and care.

On Feb. 24, 2012, as Cathy lie on the gurney at University Hospital ready to be rolled into her operation, Dr. Otto held her hand and told her he and the team and her family were all praying for her. “After a 20-plus-hour surgery, four days in the Intensive Care Unit and two weeks at University Hospital recovering, Cathy was able to go home. She has undergone subsequent treatment and care and is now doing very well. Her life is returning to normal one step at a time,” Dr. Raba said. “Her doctors are the best. We have been overwhelmed by their exceptional skills as surgeons as well as by their sensitivity and compassion. San Antonio needs more doctors like them. Patients, like Cathy, don’t have to travel outside of the city for this kind of care. It’s right here.”

Inspired to help others

Dr. Raba, who earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in civil engineering from Texas A&M University and is an avid Aggie and football fan, said a quote from the late UT Austin Longhorn football coach Darrell Royal has inspired his philosophy of giving.

“The late coach once said, ‘You’ve got to dance with the one who brung ya.’ I have always incorporated his wisdom in my philosophy of life. Remember those who have helped you along the way and find a way to help them in return. We can never repay the good doctors at the Health Science Center for saving Cathy’s life. But our gift is a small way we can help and inspire others to help keep them here in San Antonio where they can multiply their lifesaving care in future patients.”

To see a video and to learn more about Bill Greehey’s and Cathy Raba Wolfe’s inspiring stories, visit youtube.com/uthealthsacommunication.

Catherine Duncan contributed to this story.
Family’s goal to beat cancer results in new endowment for hematology/oncology

By Saren Spicer

When Harold McDonald was diagnosed with late-stage pancreatic cancer, rather than “just get his affairs in order” as was suggested, he decided to fight the disease. With treatment at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) at the UT Health Science Center, he was able to spend more quality time with his family and participated in many activities including walking his daughter down the aisle at her wedding.

It was during his treatment that McDonald met several fellows in the Division of Hematology/Oncology. A fellow in hematology/oncology is an M.D. who has completed three years of internal medicine residency upon entering the three-year hematology/oncology program. McDonald enjoyed and appreciated the company of these “bright young people.” “The fellows were so compassionate and full of optimism,” said his son John McDonald, D.D.S. “They buoyed his spirits and gave him hope.”

In memory of their father and to honor their mother, Sara, and her loving support, the three McDonald children – Linda McDonald Rowe, Kathleen Herman and Dr. John McDonald – decided to create a permanent endowment bearing their parents’ names for the Division of Hematology/Oncology in the School of Medicine. This endowment establishes an award to support the fellows’ activities in oncology research. Each year an outstanding fellow will be named a McDonald Scholar.

Sara McDonald said, “We want to support the research of these brilliant and immensely talented doctors so they may apply their strengths in cancer research with opportunities for discovery that touch the lives of thousands.”

Sara McDonald speaks highly of the award’s first recipient, Lindsay Peterson, M.D. Dr. Peterson studies pancreatic tumor suppression and increased chemotheraphy response. “I am so impressed with Lindsay and all her accomplishments and research,” she said.

Endowments such as the McDonald’s are crucial to the support of breakthrough research. Their gift not only advances the innovative research by outstanding, young investigators but also brings the promise of hope to future patients.

ASCOS lauds prostate cancer studies

By Elizabeth Allen

The American Society of Clinical Oncology has designated a Health Science Center researcher’s work as among the most significant practice-changing studies of 2013.

The long-term follow-up to a groundbreaking finasteride study of 19,000 men, both of which were led by Cancer Therapy & Research Center director Ian M. Thompson Jr., M.D., confirms that a drug developed for hair growth has no impact on lifespan but reduces the risk of prostate cancer by more than a third.

Reducing the risk of prostate tumors by about 30 percent – and low-grade tumors by 43 percent – means thousands of men can avoid a cancer diagnosis and subsequent treatments that significantly affect quality of life, Dr. Thompson said. “If you look at the number of prostate cancers that are diagnosed annually and multiply that by 30 percent, that’s the number of cancers we might be able to prevent each year,” he said.

That’s more than 71,000 men. That’s more than 175 jumbo jets full of men who won’t get cancer, who won’t face treatments with side effects like sexual dysfunction,” Dr. Thompson said. “There’s nothing like disease prevention. Nothing comes close.”

The Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial, funded by a National Cancer Institute grant, began in 1993. It was coordinated by SWOG, an international network of research institutions. Researchers were at first concerned that it increased some deadlier prostate cancers.

The follow-up study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed that finasteride did not increase mortality rates, and it decreased low-grade prostate cancer even more than originally thought. It was chosen for ASCO’s Clinical Cancer Advances 2013: ASCO’s Annual Report on Progress Against Cancer, an independent annual review of the state of clinical cancer research that have the greatest potential to improve patients’ survival and quality of life.

In today’s medical climate, many men with low-grade tumors are unnecessarily treated, Dr. Thompson noted, and those treatments carry a considerable burden for the patient and for society. “If we can free thousands of men each year from that burden,” he said, “we could use those resources for other important medical interventions, reducing death and suffering from disease.”

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-Ian M. Thompson Jr., M.D.
A call to heal, a call to serve
Alumnus gives back through mentoring and more

By Tina Luther

Implementing an externship was a long dream of James L. “Larry” Holly, M.D., Class of 1973. This past summer, his vision of educating students and serving on the faculty came to fruition when Summer Scavone, a fourth-year medical student, entered his practice, South East Texas Medical Associates (SETMA), to embark on a four-week patient-centered medical home externship. “My experience with Dr. Holly, in one word, was inspiring,” said Scavone. “This rotation helped me see the difference between technician and healer – two things that any physician can be. The environment that Dr. Holly and his colleagues have built is one that I would like to work in and emulate in my future.”

Dr. Holly’s path to becoming the exemplary physician he is today and the extraordinary journey which led him there began many years ago with his initial calling as a physician. While in graduate school, he and his wife, Carolyn, knew his vocation was one of service. Initially, he considered becoming a minister, but after careful discernment, “I saw a mission and ministry in being a physician,” he said. “Both vocations help meet the desperate needs of people.”

Upon attending the Health Science Center, he fell in love with biochemistry and physiology. “It was new and exciting,” he said, comparing it to his undergraduate background in history and philosophy. “There was no part that I didn’t like.” In addition to being active in several student organizations on campus, he served on the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) executive committee as its first student member, where he voted on the Health Science Center’s medical school accreditation. Among his mentors, he credits Marvin S. Forland, M.D., former associate dean for clinical affairs in the School of Medicine; Elliot Wexler, M.D.; summae professor of medicine; and F. Carter Parrell, M.D., former dean of the School of Medicine. Their guidance inspired him to become a mentor and later establish the externship at SETMA where he would in turn become a mentor to future physicians.

George Crawford, M.D., MACP, professor of medicine and associate director of the Internal Medicine Program, was elected governor of the Southern Texas Region of the American College of Physicians (ACP). He will be installed as the governor-elect at the national ACP meeting in April 2014. Dr. Crawford is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases and has been a faculty member at the University of Texas School of Medicine since 1992.

Carlos Roberto Juan, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP, professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, was elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in October. Elective to the IOM is one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Dr. Juan is a family physician whose research on improving patient-centered care and community health has drawn international acclaim.

Leslie Myatt, Ph.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the Center for Pregnancy and Maternal Health Research, was named a Fellow at Eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists this fall in London, England. This prestigious designation is awarded to only five individuals per year who are not members of the college and have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the science or practice of obstetrics and gynecology.

Ronald M. Stewart, M.D., FACS, professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, trauma surgeon at University Hospital, and physician with UT Medicine San Antonio, was appointed the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as the next chair of the ACS Committee on Trauma. The committee is dedicated to all phases of injury care from prevention to rehabilitation.

For more information
The extensive Patient-Centered Medical Home Externship Syllabus, developed by Dr. Holly, can be viewed at setma.com/senior- medical-student-externship/SETMAS-MS4-Patient-Center-Medical-Home-Selective-Syllabus.

Key to the Cure supports CTRC
For the fifth consecutive year, Saks Fifth Avenue San Antonio selected the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) at the UT Health Science Center as the beneficiary of its Key to the Cure charity shopping weekend in October. Saks donated a percentage of its store sales during the four days of shopping and 100 percent of the net proceeds from the sale of the 2013 Key to the Cure limited-edition T-shirt designed by Errol Pucci. Over the past four years, Saks has donated more than $70,000 to the CTRC to support breast cancer research and treatment. This year’s event was celebrated with a luncheon chaired by CTRC Board members Nancy Torgerson and Merline Wood. Saks presented three Key to the Cure awards in recognition of exemplary service. Award recipients were Pam Burdick, president of the Cancer Center Council; Lupita Martinez, L.M.S.W., M.B.A., OSW-C, CTRC’s social worker; and Jessica McCray, RN, breast cancer survivor and neuro-oncology nurse at the CTRC.

Steve Welstein, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Institute for Drug Development at the CTRC, congratulates Pam Burdick, president of the Cancer Center Council, on her award for exemplary service to the CTRC. Saks Fifth Avenue presents three awards each year to its Key to the Cure event to deserving CTRC volunteers or staff members.

Dr. Holly congratulates Summer Scavone on her completion of the patient-centered medical home externship he developed.

The Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly legacy at the Health Science Center includes the following endowments:
• Dr. & Mrs. Holly Distinguished Professorship in Patient-Centered Medical Home
• School of Medicine Class of 1973 Endowed Scholarship
• School of Medicine Class of 2009 Endowed Scholarship
• Dr. & Mrs. Holly Distinguished Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynecology
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Ours is a story of hope. Compassion and joy. Commitment, vision and inspiration. We engage our minds and talents, and give from our hearts, to help and heal. We touch the lives of thousands, to serve those in need, here and around the world. And, through it all, we work to make lives better.

Thank you for all you do to make our story so remarkable. You’re the reason we’re able to write the next chapter.

uthscsa.edu