ONLY SYLVESTER

2023 IMPACT REPORT

50 YEARS of SYLVESTER CANCER RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE

SYLVESTER COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HEALTH SYSTEM

NCI Designated Cancer Center

Contents

Words of **Gratitude**

Dear colleagues and supporters, when I look back at 2023, it is heartening to see the amount of dedication and impact we had. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. We have a lot to celebrate. This year's Impact Report mirrors our "Only Sylvester" campaign, emphasizing our commitment to patients from diagnosis to survivorship. In 2023, we laid the foundation for transformative change that will guide our trajectory over the coming year.

First, our University received high recognition as one of the newest Association of American Universities (AAU) members. This honor underscores our devotion to research excellence while addressing global challenges as we train students to be the next generation in science.

I am also thrilled to welcome Jayne Malfitano as our new Board of Governors chair. Jayne's story with Sylvester has been years in the making. As president of the Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation and daughter of philanthropist Harcourt M. Sylvester Jr., Jayne is continuing her father's legacy with unwavering support, and this position is a testament to her advocacy for South Florida cancer patients.

Highlighting our half-century mark of advocacy for cancer patients, we celebrated with a 50th-anniversary gala that raised $3.2 million for cancer – 100% of the funds went directly to our Kenneth C. Griffin Cancer Research Building.

We look forward to the completion of this state-of-the-art facility, which will double our research footprint and will be a hub for cancer research in South Florida. With the second-highest cancer burden in the U.S., Florida will benefit from the state's most significant stand-alone building for cancer research.

We also expanded this year to Naples, Fla., opening our first satellite office, extending services to even more residents, and officially making Sylvester a bicoastal advocate for cancer care.

Our commitment to cancer advocacy and collaboration took shape at the Cancer Survivorship Summit hosted by U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and first lady Dr. Jill Biden. Strides are being made, especially in our involvement with the American Association for Cancer Research's Project GENIE, contributing genomic data to advance precision medicine—this is where we excel and are changing the course of treatment.

We are moving at great speed to elevate cancer treatment. In 2023, our superior surgical practice standards and enhanced patient care earned us designation as an ACS Surgical Quality Partner by the American College of Surgeons.

In closing, let's carry this momentum into the coming year, fueled by the Dolphins Challenge Cancer, The Pap Corps and Kenneth C. Griffin donations. While this annual Impact Report reflects calendar year 2023, with extreme gratitude, we want to acknowledge Mr. Griffin´s generous $50 million gift received in March 2024 for the renamed Kenneth C. Griffin Cancer Research Building.

Together, we can continue our relentless pursuit of a cancer-free future.

Thank you for your steadfast support.

With gratitude,
Stephen D. Nimer, M.D.
Director, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Throughout 2023, my first year serving as chair of the Board of Governors, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center continued to set the standard for excellence in cancer research, patient care and community impact. Our collaborative and multidisciplinary approach enhances the understanding that the battle against cancer requires a comprehensive and united effort.

The outstanding success of the Dolphins Challenge Cancer XIII on February 25, 2023, with a then record-breaking 5,641 participants and more than $10 million raised, showcased the community's collective ability to mobilize and provide substantial support for Sylvester's initiatives. We continue our commitment to healthcare research and care that responds to the needs of our community, emphasizing our dedication to addressing its uniqueness.

The Pap Corps continued to demonstrate its unwavering support and partnership with a historic donation of $8.4 million, part of the organization's $50 million, 10-year pledge. This commitment highlights the organization's enduring dedication to advancing groundbreaking cancer research and fostering a legacy of hope and healing within our community.

In November of 2023, we celebrated a milestone with Sylvester's 50th anniversary gala. The evening not only marked a half-century of steadfast dedication but also served as a beacon of hope for continued progress in the fight against cancer.

Four remarkable individuals who embody the spirit of innovation and commitment were honored for their outstanding contributions. Jashodeep Datta, M.D., was named the DiMare Family Endowed Chair in Immunotherapy, a testament to his groundbreaking research developing novel immunotherapies to treat pancreatic cancer. Pasquale W. Benedetto, M.D., was awarded the Robert J. and Marian G. Fewell Endowed Chair in Medical Oncology Research. Created by Carole Fewell in honor of her parents, Robert J. and Marian G. Fewell, the commitment recognizes their deep appreciation for Dr. Benedetto's kindness, compassion and skill. Bruno Nahar, M.D., received the Eric and Elizabeth Feder Family Endowed Chair in Urologic Oncology Research, created to ensure that leading-edge research into urologic

cancers will continue in perpetuity. The commitment to excellence continued with the recognition of Neha Goel, M.D., M.P.H., who was honored with the John K. and Judy H. Schulte Endowed Chair in Cancer Research for her dedication to advancing translational research, particularly in the realm of breast cancer.

Despite the remarkable progress made in recent years, the fight against cancer is far from over. None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our team, the support of our community and the collaboration with our partners.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Sylvester.

With gratitude,
Jayne S. Malfitano
Chair, Board of Governors
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Anatomy of Impact

Glioblastoma Neuro–Oncology: Our researchers are more accurately targeting glioblastoma therapies by pairing machine learning with MRI-guided radiation therapy.

Skin Cancer: Tony Beyer's successful melanoma treatment at Sylvester led him to fund the Beyer Family Skin Cancer Prevention Initiative.

Lung Thoracic Cancers: Sylvester's new scoring system links social determinants of health and survival outcomes in lung cancer patients undergoing surgery and treatment.

Breast: The FastER clinical trial will examine if exercise and fasting restore circadian rhythms and enhance treatment tolerance in advanced breast cancer survivors.

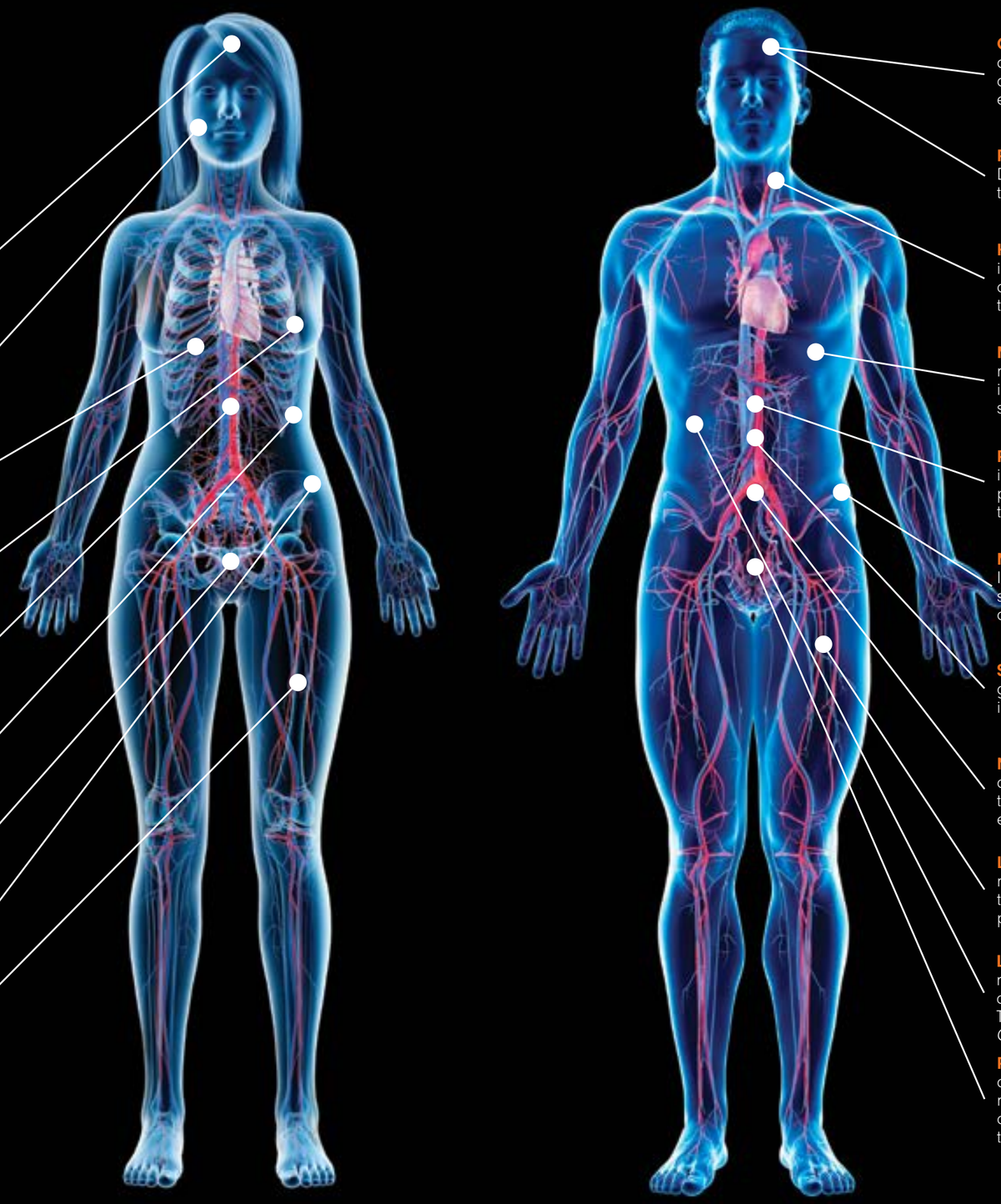
Pancreatic–Gastrointestinal: A combination of targeted therapies with immunotherapy was found to address one of the significant reasons pancreatic cancer is so notoriously treatment-resistant.

Lymphoma: Our researchers showed whole genome sequencing detects DNA structural variations and provides more precise data to track mutations associated with Hodgkin lymphoma.

Endometrial–Gynecological: U.S. Black women have higher endometrial cancer rates than French Caribbean women. Sylvester researchers found that diet and health care access, not just ancestry, affect these rates.

Transplant and Cellular Therapy: 28 open studies with stem cell transplant patients.

Sarcoma: Joel Horowitz's donation established the Horowitz Solitary Fibrous Tumor Initiative thanks to the outstanding care received from Sylvester.



Glioblastoma–Neuro-Oncology: Our scientists pioneered a machine-learning algorithm that can combine large datasets from multiple sources to pinpoint cancer-driving enzymes and potentially target them for treatment.

Pediatric: A $3.5 million commitment will establish the Dwoskin Children's Cancer Research Fund to support transformative research on brain tumor therapies.

Head and Neck: Our researchers introduced an inexpensive and non-invasive oral rinse screening that could be essential in the early detection of mouth and throat cancers.

Mesothelioma (Lung)–Thoracic Cancers: Sylvester researchers demonstrated how reducing health disparities in patients with mesothelioma can improve their overall survival by 30% when treated early.

Pancreatic–Gastrointestinal: Published research identified immature neutrophils as the main culprit pancreatic tumors use to promote immunosuppression and treatment resistance.

Multiple Myeloma: Our Sylvester Myeloma Research Institute revealed the risks of multiple myeloma treatments, shedding light on potential future malignancies from aggressive blood cancer therapies.

Stomach–Gastrointestinal: Country of birth, not just geographic region, is a crucial risk factor for gastric intestinal metaplasia, a precursor of stomach cancer.

NET Tumors: Dr. Aman Chauhan's addition to Sylvester as its Neuroendocrine Tumor Program leader shows the cancer center's commitment to its depth of research expertise.

Leukemia: The Appelbaum Foundation, Inc., awarded our researchers a total of $600,000, divided over two years, to research graft-versus-host disease in leukemia patients, post allogenic transplants.

Liver Cancer: In a collaborative study, Sylvester researchers helped identify racial and ethnic differences and emerging trends for this highly fatal disease. The review was published in the journal *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.

Prostate–Genitourinary: Despite Black men having a higher risk of developing prostate cancer, Sylvester researchers discovered they are less likely to get early comprehensive genetic profiling of their tumors compared to Caucasian males.

See More Stories of Impact.

We Discover

Our Research. The work to achieve the best for the most.

Our unique location in Miami, at the crossroads of the Americas and the Caribbean, provides a distinct advantage for our researchers. Our proximity to diverse communities and populations enables scientists to study a wide range of cancer types and responses to treatment. It also allows them to share their knowledge to help collaboratively discover cancer cures.

With a spirit of team science, our scientists tackled complex challenges to drive innovation forward in 2023 and emphasize clinical approaches. For example, researchers shared decades of data from NCI-funded studies showing how stress reduction therapies, such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and relaxation training, can improve outcomes for cancer patients. Similarly, an extensive analysis underscored the correlation between unmet needs and poorer clinical outcomes.

At this year's American Society of Hematology (ASH) conference, we presented a myriad of studies with promising results, such as a study on novel combinations of antibody therapies for high-risk follicular lymphoma patients and another on myelofibrosis, a rare form of blood cancer characterized by scar tissue formation in the bone marrow. There was also a review of quizartinib for acute myeloid leukemia, which was found to prolong survival and enhance patients' quality of life. In lymphoma treatment, observations of patients entering remission before receiving cell therapy sparked intrigue and potential new avenues for study, as did a presentation on cellular therapy in real-world conditions.

We are moving the needle on cancer discoveries. One area of focus is in clinical trials on combination immunotherapeutic drug therapies. To support this area, we have created a specialized triaging unit to help handle challenging cases. The Immune-Related Adverse Events (irAE) program improves patient safety and exemplifies our dedication from bench to bedside. Along those lines, a phase 3 clinical trial on imetelstat showed clear advantages for those without other viable options, offering hope for patients with deadly cancers of the blood-producing marrow cells.

Each clinical trial moves treatments closer to a future where cancer is more manageable and prevented. Through multifaceted tactics for cancer research and patient care, we continue to yield encouraging results and shape the oncology landscape.

Access Sylvester´s Research

163
publications in peer reviewed journals (Impact Factor >10)

$14,933,248
in NCI* peer-reviewed funding

$12,188,262
in other NIH** peer-reviewed funding

$6,946,344
in other peer-reviewed funding

$25,028,931
in non-peer reviewed funding

72 projects and
$17,314,429
annual direct costs of multi-PI grants

144
R01 studies

*National Cancer Institute
**National Health Institute

Data **Forward**

Stephan Schürer, Ph.D., is the lead investigator on a $7.5 million grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute's Molecular Phenotypes of Null Alleles in Cells program, a comprehensive effort to understand the function of every human gene. His team includes researchers from the University of Miami, the European Bioinformatics Institutes, Queen Mary University, and the University of Washington. They will build the MorPhiC Data Resource and Administrative Coordinating Center at the University of Miami, one of five being developed around the country during the program's first phase.

Fueling **Discovery, Granting** Hope

Remarkable achievements are made when funding offers new research possibilities. The following lists grants, exceeding $1 million, that Sylvester's team of researchers secured in 2023. The relentless pursuit of groundbreaking research continues to redefine the landscape of oncology at Sylvester and promises brighter futures for patients worldwide.

01

Co-lead Study on Lifestyle Interventions in Older Cancer Survivors

Tracy E. Crane, Ph.D., RDN, will collaborate with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute on a $7 million grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. The study will show how diet and exercise impact mental and physical functioning in older cancer survivors and their caregivers.

02

Understanding the Benefits of Fasting and Exercise for Patients with Advanced Breast Cancer

Sylvester's Carmen Calfa, M.D., Dr. Crane and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute secured a $4 million National Cancer Institute grant for a five-year trial. Both teams will examine the effects of overnight fasting and exercise on advanced breast cancer patients.

03

NIH Grant Funds Efforts to Improve Glioblastoma Detection

The National Institutes of Health awarded $3.3 million to Eric A. Mellon, M.D., Ph.D., and Emory University for a five-year project on using spectroscopic MRI to better detect and potentially eradicate glioblastoma.

04

Defining the Role of Export Proteins in Cancer

Justin Taylor, M.D., received a five-year, $1.92 million award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to study the functions of XPO1, a nuclear export protein, and its role in multiple myeloma.

05

U.S. Department of Defense Study Seeks to Advance Lymphoma Therapies

A $1.5 million award from the U.S. Department of Defense will be shared by Jonathan H. Schatz, M.D., Francesco Maura, M.D., and Juan Alderuccio, M.D. The researchers will aim to identify drivers of resistance for patients whose diffuse large B-cell lymphomas did not respond to initial chemotherapy or suffered a relapse after treatment.

06

Florida Funds Data Project to Accelerate Cancer Research

Sylvester's Data Portal will provide the foundation for the Florida Platform for Accelerating Collaborative Computational Cancer Research. The project is backed by $1.5 million in state funding from the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program Florida Infrastructure Grant.

07

Department of Health Grant Will Help Construction Workers Quit Smoking

Taghrid Asfar, M.D., M.S.P.H., will lead efforts in developing novel smoking cessation methods in construction workers, study these interventions and determine best practices, thanks to a $1.4 million grant awarded by the Florida Department of Health.

A Show of **Support**

Cancer patients with unmet supportive care needs are more likely to experience worse clinical outcomes, including more emergency department visits and hospitalizations, according to new research from Sylvester.

As reported in a paper published in June 2023 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Sylvester researchers found that Black race, Hispanic ethnicity, and factors such as anxiety, depression, pain, poor physical function and low health-related quality-of-life scores were associated with a greater number of unmet needs, leading to increased risk for ED visits and hospitalizations. Unmet needs include financial, informational, psychological and physical challenges, but may vary across diagnoses.

"This is one of the first studies that assessed patients of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds coming into a comprehensive cancer center for symptoms such as pain, fatigue, poor physical function, depression and anxiety," said Frank J. Penedo, Ph.D., Sylvester's associate director for Cancer Survivorship and Translational Behavioral Sciences and lead author of the JAMA article.

According to the American Cancer Society, advances in early detection and treatment have led to an increase in cancer survivorship. By 2032, there will be an estimated 22.5 million cancer survivors in the United States, a 24% increase over today. A recent systematic review found that up to 79% of survivors report at least one unmet need.

"Our findings support what we expected: that such unmet needs predict emergency room visits and hospitalizations," said Dr. Penedo, who noted that researchers need to better understand the specific mechanisms and how the needs are related to clinical outcomes.

This retrospective analysis involved 5,236 patients treated at Sylvester's various ambulatory cancer sites who used the My Wellness Check assessment, an electronic health record system that monitors patients' emotional, physical and psychosocial needs. Patients are asked to complete the assessment 72 hours before most of their appointments. When a patient's needs are identified, providers are notified in real time.

The study's results also suggest that efforts to address unmet needs should target specific populations. Hispanics comprised almost 48% of study patients, while other racial groups included Black people, Caucasians, Asians, American Indians, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. Moreover, social constructs, limited resources for racial and ethnic minority populations, and racism are associated with disparate health outcomes.

Solving **Disparities**

A new study led by researchers at Sylvester and published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* has identified significant disparities in federal cancer research funding.

"Some cancers with high mortality rates in minority populations received relatively lower research funding," said Shria Kumar, M.D., a colorectal cancer researcher. "Our study highlights the need for federal research funds to be equitably distributed, especially given the discrepancies in cancer incidence rates and outcomes for minorities, particularly in the more underfunded cancers."

In the study, the Sylvester researchers evaluated NCI funding distribution to the most common cancers, using data from NCI's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results, United States Cancer Statistics database, and funding statistics between 2014 and 2018. For each year, the researchers identified the incidence rate and mortality rate per 100,000 persons for the 19 most common cancer sites, as well as NCI funding for each cancer. The incidence and mortality rates were also analyzed by race and ethnicity.

"We also evaluated funding-to-lethality and cancer incidence and mortality rates within individual racial and ethnic groups," said Dr. Kumar. "We found that NCI funding correlated highly with cancers afflicting a higher proportion of non-Hispanic whites, such as breast cancer, leukemia and lymphoma, compared with stomach, uterine and liver cancers, which have high incidence rates in minority populations." For example, Black Americans, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders are two to three times more likely to die from stomach cancer than non-Hispanic whites. As for uterine cancer, white and Black women are diagnosed at similar rates, but Black women are twice as likely to die from it.

Dr. Kumar noted the study's importance as "NCI funding is the driver of research that can help unlock answers in our quest to improve outcomes for our entire population."

Ancient Virus **Drives Brain Tumors**

It can be tempting to blame ancestors for inherited health risks. Consider a new study showing that fragments of a retrovirus that became part of the human genome approximately five to six million years ago play a role in the proliferation and progression of glioblastoma.

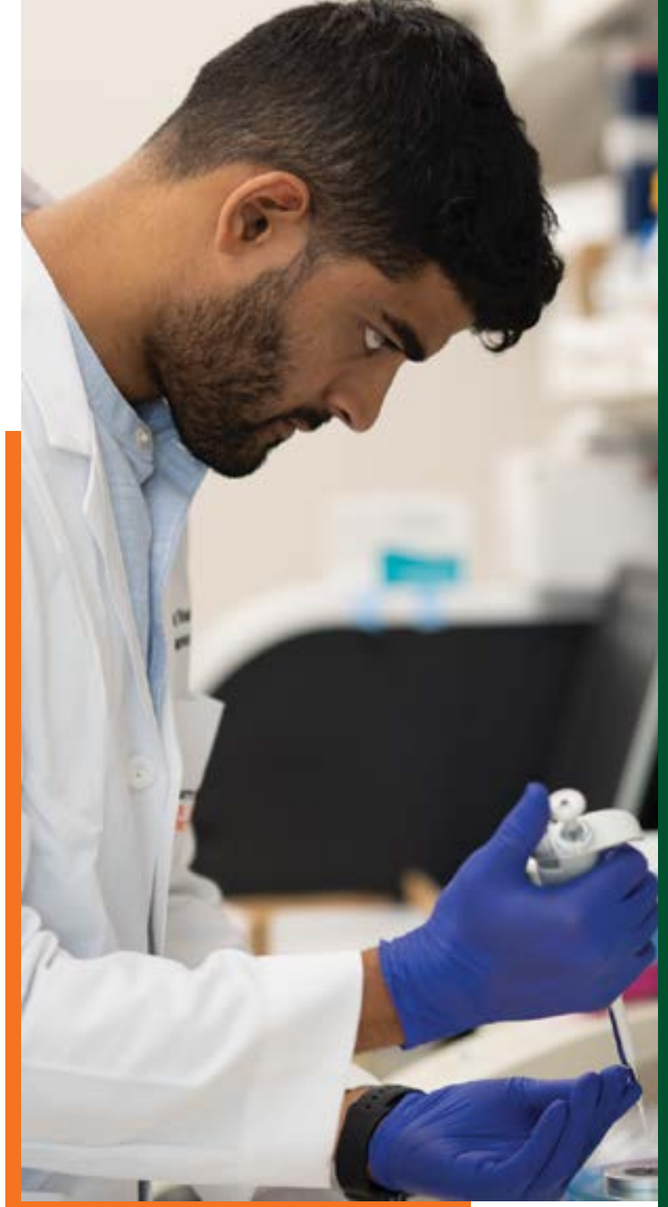
Glioblastomas are the most aggressive primary brain tumors, leaving patients with a median survival rate of 14 months, despite conventional surgical resection and chemoradiation treatments. In a quest to understand their proliferation, resistance and recurrence, physician-scientists including Ashish H. Shah, M.D., collaborated to find new ways to treat the deadly brain tumors.

Several studies have suggested that human endogenous retrovirus-K (HML-2) may play a role in oncogenesis through various mechanisms, but definitive answers remain elusive on the presence and function of HML-2 in glioblastoma.

Dr. Shah and his study colleagues identified that the evolutionary dormant retrovirus from millions of years ago contributes to brain tumor formation.

"Researchers have shown this viral particle is actually overexpressed in certain cancers, but it has never really been described in brain tumors like glioblastoma," said Dr. Shah, who is also an assistant professor of neurosurgery and director of clinical trials and translational research for Sylvester's Brain Tumor Initiative. "Our lab found that HML-2, a subtype of HERV-K, contributes to brain tumor formation. We demonstrated for the first time that this virus, when reactivated, plays a role in defining the stem-cell state of high-grade gliomas, promoting an aggressive form of cancer."

Dr. Shah said HML-2 viral fragments, long believed to be innocuous junk DNA, while not infectious, are not uncommon. Eight percent of our genome is made up of these viral sequences, including many other human endogenous viruses that entered our genome.



HML-2 makes glioblastomas more challenging to treat, explained Dr. Shah. The particle promotes pluripotency, or the ability of cancer stem cells to differentiate into many different types of cells or tissues within the body.

"That is a hallmark of cancer," said Dr. Shah, lead investigator of the study published online in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

Understanding the challenges that HML-2 presents, Dr. Shah's study proposes that gene therapy may be one possibility for targeting glioblastoma. The study also suggests that existing antiretroviral agents may be a promising option.

Digital Technology **in Cancer**

Tracy E. Crane, Ph.D., RDN, director of lifestyle medicine and digital health in cancer survivorship at Sylvester, is among the principal investigators of the new $3.5 million, five-year National Institutes of Health grant "Managing symptoms and psychological distress during oral anti-cancer treatment." She will be collaborating with fellow principal investigators Alla Sikorskii, Ph.D., at Michigan State University, and Terry Badger, Ph.D., from the University of Arizona.

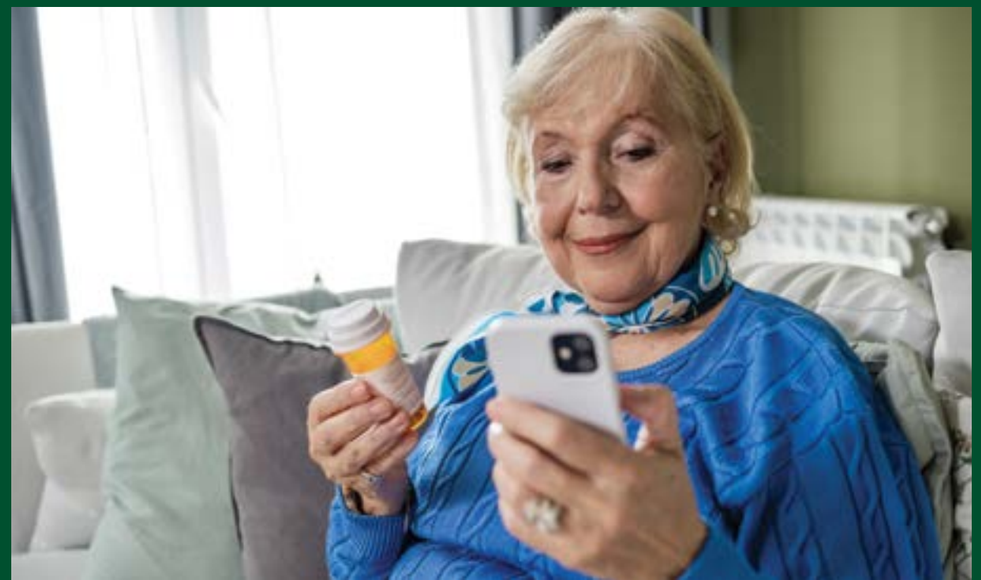
The research project grant (called an R01) is through NRG Oncology, a part of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Community Oncology Research Program that focuses on moving cancer research from cancer centers to the community. That's important because the community is where the bulk of today's cancer care happens, according to Dr. Crane, who is also co-leader of the Sylvester Cancer Control Research Program.

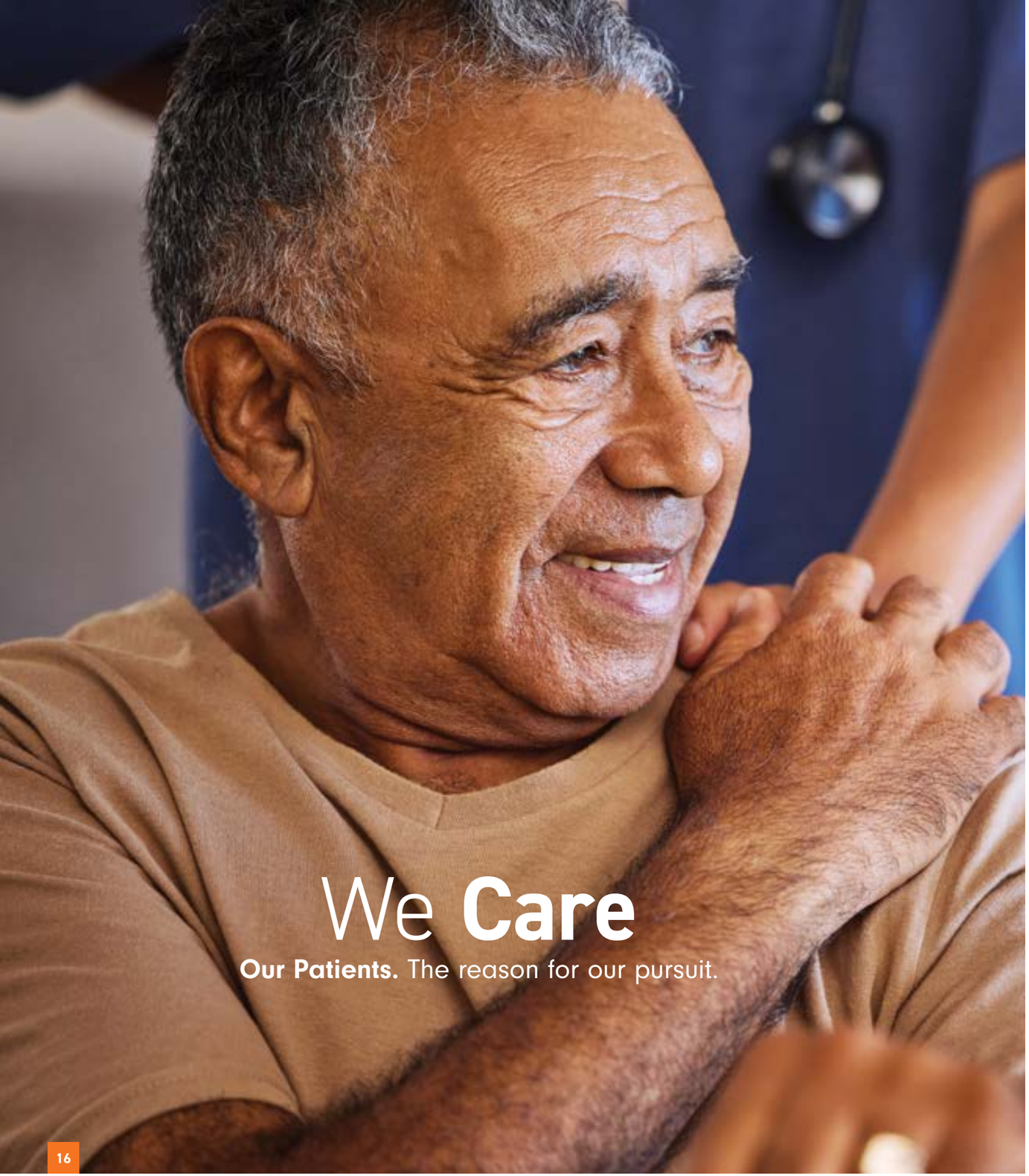
"More and more of the care provided by the nation's cancer centers is moving into the home. For example, in this study, patients are taking their chemotherapy drugs orally rather than intravenously in the hospital. We're looking at managing anticancer therapy-related toxicities in the home, using a technology we developed at Sylvester," Dr. Crane said. The research will delve into how to use technology to provide quality health care in the home.

Sylvester researchers will deliver the grant's digital intervention, an automated, interactive voice response system that is part of the University of Miami's proprietary software platform, My Wellness Research. My Wellness Research is a research management and communication platform that incorporates data from wearable devices and leverages machine learning to gain insights and improve patient care. The interactive voice response system is one feature of this platform, available in both English and Spanish, which calls patients weekly, asking about potential physical symptoms from anticancer therapy, as well as psychosocial concerns like anxiety and depression.

"Sylvester's technology also integrates with NRG Oncology and NCI's data system, so if we find that this intervention works, cancer centers could use it to manage cancer patients nationwide," Dr. Crane said.

The study will also examine efficiency in clinical care, "A technology that helps them manage potential toxicities in the community setting while providing quality care could make a huge difference," Dr. Crane said.





We **Care**

Our Patients. The reason for our pursuit.

Hundreds of patients came through our doors in 2023. Many left forever changed and healthy with a new lease on life. At the core of our National Cancer Institute facility is access to clinical trials. But that is just one part of our story. We also address unmet needs and the emotional toll of cancer—from the very young to the elderly.

The Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) Care Program acknowledges that just feeling natural in social situations can be a struggle, so the program provided events to help, such as a workshop on normalizing non-alcoholic drink options and fostering a caring environment.

Empathy, however, is universal for all patients. Jessica Nurquez said Sylvester is "family" as she emphasized the help her family received when her husband, Eddie, a two-time cancer survivor, came back for a clinical trial. The clinical trial put Eddie's cancer in remission so he could have a bone marrow transplant to save his life.

Maria Corral's story is similar. When she had a recurrence, she too enrolled in a clinical trial. After undergoing innovative CAR T-cell therapy, Corral achieved immediate remission. She expressed her gratitude, with her family surrounding her, for our personalized care.

We underscore that patients are not alone. Juan Davila knows this firsthand as a survivor of lymphoma. He discussed the hidden emotional toll of his illness. Despite maintaining a positive outward appearance, he struggled. Cancer Survivorship Service's My Wellness Check, an innovative assessment tool, helped identify and address Davila's emotional needs in real-time to get the care he needed from Cancer Support Services.

To help even more patients like Davila, our Cancer Support Services department continues to expand its offerings with integrative oncology services and therapies to help patients and caregivers comprehensively.

It's this eye for detail that offers us unique distinction; for example, we have the only Comprehensive Lymphatic Center of Excellence in South Florida, and The Fields Galley Cancer Survivorship Emotional Wellness Clinic launched Sept. 2023 will help address the profound psychological challenges faced by cancer survivors and their families.

Defined by the sum of all our parts, we provide unwavering compassion at every step—physical, emotional and spiritual. Because cancer does not discriminate, this steadfast empathy serves as a beacon of hope, illuminating paths of kindness for all who cross this journey with us.

View Our Patient Services and Clinical Trials

Clinical trials (interventional treatment) that were open for enrollment:

129 phase 1 and 1/2

122 phase 2 and 2/3

62 phase 3

4,918
participants in clinical research studies (interventional and non-interventional)

616
accruals to interventional treatment trials

205 accruals to phase 1, 1/2 clinical trials

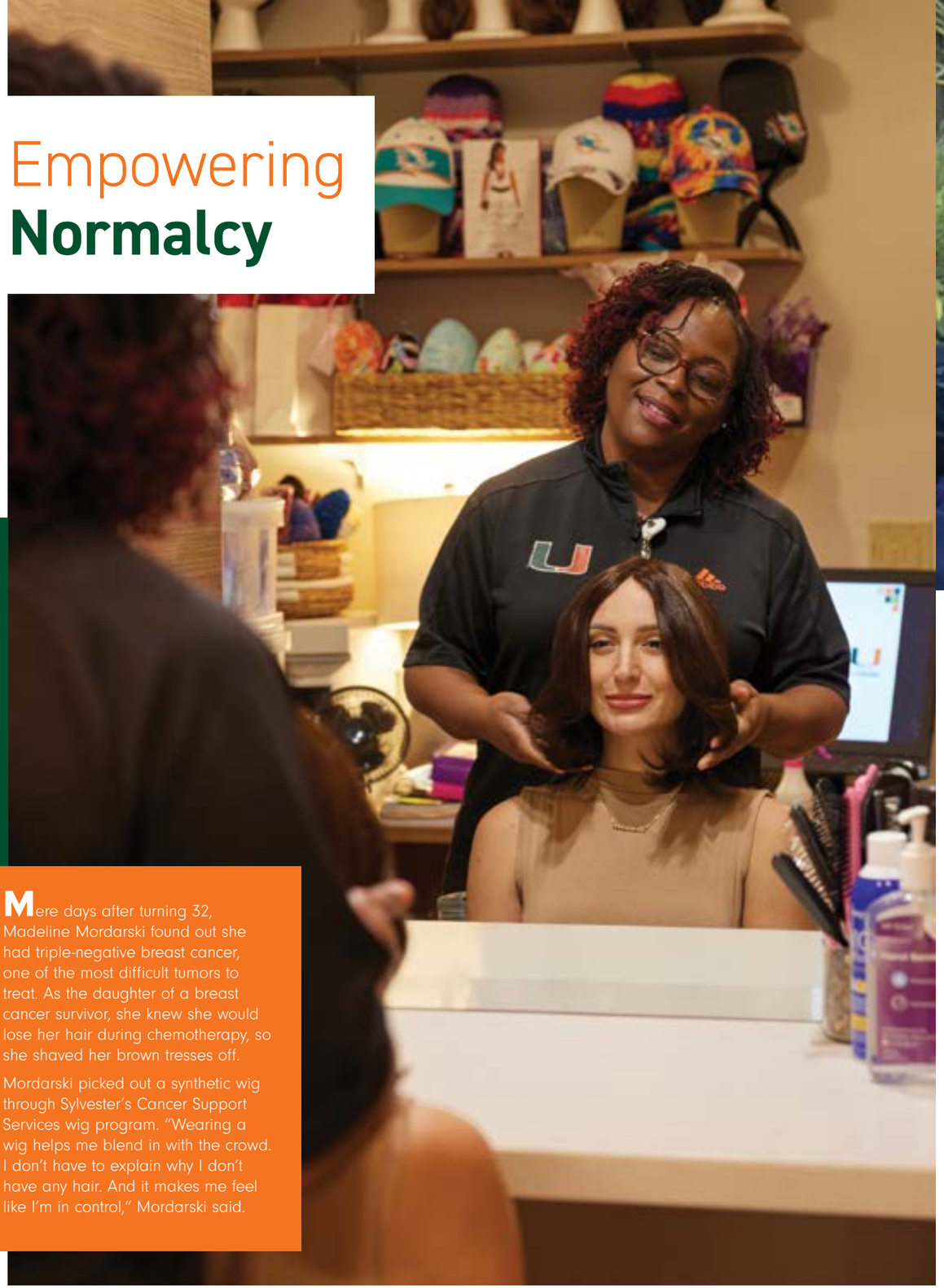
871
patients received genetic counseling services

4,150
acupuncture appointments

4,272
massage therapy appointments

1,808
exercise physiology appointments

Empowering **Normalcy**



Mere days after turning 32, Madeline Mordarski found out she had triple-negative breast cancer, one of the most difficult tumors to treat. As the daughter of a breast cancer survivor, she knew she would lose her hair during chemotherapy, so she shaved her brown tresses off.

Mordarski picked out a synthetic wig through Sylvester's Cancer Support Services wig program. "Wearing a wig helps me blend in with the crowd. I don't have to explain why I don't have any hair. And it makes me feel like I'm in control," Mordarski said.

David Rodriguez (left) with his son Allan.

Support **Lifeline**

When David Rodriguez was diagnosed with stage 3 prostate cancer November 2022, his world fell apart. He broke down in tears when a nurse delivered the news. He kept crying when he called his sister from the parking lot. He couldn't bring himself to call his mother or grandmother that day. His son was serving in the Marines, so he didn't tell him, either, so his boy could focus on his mission.

As the days passed, Rodriguez's body started to break down. He constantly threw up. It was a struggle to get in and out of his car. "I could be talking to someone, having a great time, and then I'd collapse from exhaustion," says Rodriguez, 57.

A few weeks later, Rodriguez was referred to Sylvester and introduced to the cancer support services available. One by one, Rodriguez was connected to specialists, psychiatrists, therapists, and a pastor who have helped Rodriguez navigate the medical, financial and emotional rollercoaster of a cancer diagnosis.

He also found peace while creating art in the center's art therapy classes. He relaxed while playing drums in the center's music therapy classes, relished the massage therapy that helped his body cope and gained spiritual insight from long talks with the center's pastor.

And he met Zelde Espinel, M.D., a psycho-oncologist who serves as a psychiatrist for cancer patients. Dr. Espinel talked Rodriguez through his anxiety and took it upon herself to manage his complicated case.

Rodriguez is one of the thousands of patients who have gone through the cancer support services, a collection of 28 full-time employees certified to treat cancer patients through 10 kinds of services.

As Rodriguez continues on his road to recovery, he says he's found a new family at Sylvester. "Finding anyone who helps you is a big challenge," he says. "Finding an entire team of people like that, it's pure magic. If you don't live it, you can't believe it."

Strength Over **Strength**

John McGuire's battle with prostate cancer turned out to be a protracted one. First diagnosed at the end of 2011, the cancer has come back twice. The last time, the treatment weakened McGuire, and his physical recovery was further complicated when he fell during one of his daily walks, hitting his face and tearing his rotator cuff.

But more than two years ago, when he began exercise classes offered by the Cancer Survivorship Program — both one-on-one and group sessions — he noticed a change. "The exercise has allowed this 77-year-old to keep in shape as much as I can, especially after what I've gone through," McGuire said. "The objective was to recover my strength, and I have.

Just **Sing It**

While Joyce Pole was recovering from treatment for multiple myeloma, she wanted to find a special project to help her deal with her new situation. The retired health-care manager found that opportunity when her music therapist suggested she join a choir.

Not just any choir, however. One composed of people who have experienced cancer.

So, in the summer of 2017, she went to her first practice of the Sylvester Singers Survivorship Choir, directed by Mary Adelyn Kauffman, DMA, MT-BC, NMT, and music therapist at Sylvester. The decision proved life-changing. "It's brought me so much satisfaction," says Pole, 70. "Sometimes my thoughts go round and round with worry about the future, but when I'm singing, I live in the moment. Everything else is on the back burner."

That's precisely what Dr. Kauffman intended when she started the choir. A choral conductor before she returned to college to pursue an advanced degree in music therapy, Dr. Kauffman was well aware of the power of music and created the survivorship choir during her graduate internship in 2017.

"Singing," she says, "changes people's moods. I've seen how happy they get and how their mood changes. Music uplifts. It provides joy for both the singer and the audience."

This is particularly important during the long road that is cancer recovery and survival. Or as another choir member, Nancy Lou Capizzi-DeMeo, puts it, "This is the kind of thing you don't know you need until you do it. It takes you somewhere outside yourself."

The Sylvester choir is made up of more than survivors. Some singers are still in treatment. Others are caregivers who decide to join because they like to sing and because it's a fun activity to do with their loved ones, separate from what may feel like endless rounds of clinic visits.

The benefits of joining the choir go beyond singing. Members become friends. "You form a fellowship with different folks because you're having fun together," Pole says. "It has changed my outlook. I'm calmer. I'm a little more relaxed, and I feel more refreshed."

We **Engage**

Our People. The power behind our purpose.

Through our people, we engage. Employees are the backbone of our organization, providing the skills, dedication and commitment necessary to achieve goals. The collective contributions of our researchers, physicians, nurses and support staff play a pivotal role in our cancer center. Their collective contributions foster interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation to improve cancer outcomes and fulfill our mission as a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center.

Our mission includes everyone and does not maintain a singular focus on luminary scientists and their significant contributions. We understand that today's research funding organizations look to promising young investigators as the next generation of scientific leaders and provide their support accordingly. Knowing this, we actively nurture the research careers of our junior faculty members through grants from the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute. This ensures our thought leadership for the future.

We also maintain strong leadership for personal growth and resilience. In 2023, several researchers garnered accolades and top positions with U.S. cancer organizations. Frank Penedo, Ph.D., associate director for population sciences, has been elected to serve on the National Advisory Council on Minority Health Disparities, further amplifying our presence and influence in addressing critical issues in cancer prevention, control and health disparities at the national level. In the new role, Dr. Penedo will help set national research priorities at the National Institutes of Health for addressing health disparities. Peter Hosein, M.D., an oncologist and researcher at Sylvester, was appointed to the scientific and medical advisory board of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) for a three-year term. Dr. Hosein's expertise, particularly in immunotherapy, aligns with PanCAN's goal of improving patient outcomes and early detection initiatives through innovative research approaches.

Our thought leaders are also mentors, and this is crucial for cancer research as it ensures the transfer of knowledge, expertise and best practices from those with experience to the next generation of scientists. Additionally, mentorship provides invaluable support and guidance for early-career researchers, helping them navigate the complex landscape of cancer research and professional networks.

While the mentor-mentee structure is a cornerstone of our center, all scientists are encouraged and supported. This year's Zubrod Memorial Lecture celebrated exceptional cancer research featuring Sylvester faculty members and introduced a new award category for early-stage investigators. The event also showcased more than 100 scientific posters, highlighting the breadth and depth of our innovative research in the field.

We engage with our patients through our employees with medical expertise, hope, empathy and unwavering support. While we pursue cancer cures, we are determined to equip survivors with resilience and optimism. Through compassion, we seek understanding and are committed to empowering all who come to us.

3,160+
physicians; physician-scientists, nurses and clinical and research staff

34
new physicians and physician-scientists

276
employees nominated for Sylvester Stars Employee Recognition Program

18
endowed chairs (2006-2023)

$4.2M in training grants for 42 projects

860+ trainees:

112 high school students

112 undergrads/ postbaccalaureate

367 graduate/medical students

271
postdoctoral/ residents/Fellows

Learn About Careers with Sylvester

Luminary **Recruits**

Danny Reinberg, Ph.D., a biochemistry and molecular mechanisms expert, is currently the only Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator in Florida — a prestigious designation that indicates the powerful impact of his studies. He is also the associate director of faculty training and recruitment and a distinguished professor at the Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Reinberg is part of an elite group of 260 HHMI scientists representing only 58 U.S. research institutions who tackle difficult research questions that may take years to answer.

Aman Chauhan, M.D., assumed leadership of Sylvester's Neuroendocrine Tumor Program with a vision to revolutionize patient outcomes and advance the understanding of this often-overlooked cancer. He aspires to transform the landscape of neuroendocrine cancer care through leading-edge research and innovative treatments, serving international patients seeking pioneering therapies in the field. Through his collaborative efforts, he is working to redefine the standard of care for neuroendocrine cancer. With a steadfast focus on research, he continues to pave the way for the next generation of therapeutic interventions.

Nima Sharifi, M.D., joined Sylvester as a medical oncologist and physician-scientist and was also named scientific director of the Miller School of Medicine's Desai Sethi Urology Institute. Dr. Sharifi works collaboratively with Sylvester to treat genitourinary cancers and conduct the high-level research, improving outcomes for patients. While his area of focus is on prostate cancer, his expertise and leadership will drive impactful research beyond genitourinary cancers. Dr. Sharifi and his team are bridging laboratory research on prostate, kidney and bladder cancers to human studies.

Behind **Research**

Maria Figueroa, M.D., has spent her career studying the blueprint of blood cells to understand how they generate diseases and cancers. Yet two decades into that career, she feels like she's just getting started.

That's because her time as a scientist has coincided with revolutionary advances in understanding the human genome and exponential leaps in computing power that are allowing her and her team at Sylvester to truly understand what they're seeing.

When Dr. Figueroa completed her medical training in Buenos Aires in 2003, the human genome was just being mapped for the first time. Top-of-the-line experts in her field of hematology were running experiments one gene at a time. Collaboration between scientists meant picking up the phone, placing a long-distance call and making revisions to their research by hand.

Now, Dr. Figueroa's studies use advanced algorithms that examine more than three million locations of the genome at a time as she collaborates virtually in real-time with labs around the world.

"I'm always blown away by what we're experiencing as scientists," she says. "The aspects of disease biology that have been uncovered, and the consequences that we've had for patients, I consider myself lucky and fortunate to be part of science at this time."

The result, she hopes, is a deeper understanding of how genes function in blood cells paired with new technologies that will allow scientists to turn them "on" and "off" as needed.

"It's the beginning of an era," she says.

Dr. Figueroa uses the example of a computer to describe the effects of aging on the human body. Over time, a computer's software will become corrupted by viruses and repeated use. The epigenome – which controls and commands a person's genes – works in much the same way. "Our software gets corrupted, too, as we age," she says.

Her team's biggest challenge is finding enough samples to study some of these rare blood cancers. Her work requires a variety of samples to capture the high heterogeneity of these disorders so she can identify patterns and pinpoint genes common among patients suffering from similar diseases. To get that many patient genomes, Dr. Figueroa has established relationships with research institutions throughout the United States and Europe. Currently, she is working with cohorts of 250 patients, but she's always looking for more.

That level of instant collaboration and the computational power required to study so many genomes at once is a far cry from where she started. Dr. Figueroa remembers being ordered to write her notes in black pen so they could be photocopied. She taught herself how to use Microsoft Excel and her bookshelf is lined with computer programming manuals that she used to learn how to write the algorithms needed for her work. "Now I run a computational lab," she says with a laugh.

A Few **Accolades...**

2012-2013

Stephen D. Nimer, M.D., was named BioFlorida "Researcher of the Year." BioFlorida, a statewide association for Florida's life sciences industry, represents 8,600 establishments and research organizations in biopharmaceuticals, medical technology, digital health and health.

Frank J. Penedo, Ph.D., received the International Society of Behavioral Medicine's 2023 Distinguished Scientist Award. The ISBM is a scientific society that serves the needs of all health-related disciplines concerned with the integration of psychosocial, behavioral and biomedical sciences.

Tracy Crane, Ph.D., RDN, co-lead of the Cancer Control Research Program and director of lifestyle medicine, prevention and digital health, has taken on a significant leadership position as vice chair of NRG Oncology's Cancer Prevention and Control Committee.

2014-2015

Sylvester's Radiation Oncology Clinic received Press Ganey's 2022 Pinnacle of Excellence Award for the fourth consecutive year, recognizing its unwavering commitment to patient satisfaction and innovative clinical care, even through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Glen Barber, Ph.D., Eugenia J. Dodson Chair in Cancer Research at Sylvester, was honored with Columbia University's Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize for his groundbreaking contributions to biology and biochemistry, particularly in the field of immunology.

2016-2017

Jashodeep Datta, M.D., distinguished cancer researcher and associate director of translational research at Sylvester Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute, was awarded the prestigious DiMare Family Endowed Chair in Immunotherapy, recognizing his pioneering contributions to developing novel immunotherapies for pancreatic cancer.

Pasquale Benedetto, M.D., a renowned cancer researcher and physician, was the first recipient of the Robert J. and Marian G. Fewell Endowed Chair in Medical Oncology Research.

2018-2019

Dr. Neha Goel, M.D., M.P.H., was honored with the John K. and Judy H. Schulte Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, allowing her to continue her groundbreaking translational research focused on breast cancer, funded by the Schultes' generous endowment.

Bruno Nahar, M.D., received the Eric and Elizabeth Feder Family Endowed Chair in Urologic Oncology Research. He is a member of both Sylvester and Desai Sethi Urology Institute. Dr. Nahar specializes in focal therapy and robotic surgery for prostate, kidney and bladder cancers.

Macarena de la Fuente, M.D., chief of neuro-oncology at Sylvester, was elected as the first Hispanic Neurology Board Representative for the Society of Neuro-Oncology. Dr. de la Fuente plans to leverage her position to foster collaboration between basic and clinical neuro-oncology disciplines, with a focus on improving treatments for brain tumor patients.

Thought Leadership **on Overall Survival**

The design of clinical trials is an ongoing discussion among researchers and one that deserves discourse, especially regarding overall survival. While it seems like a simple metric, providing conclusive data on overall survival is rather complex.

To discuss overall survival and the factors that can make accuracy challenging, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the American Association of Cancer Researchers (AACR) and the American Statistical Association partnered to sponsor a workshop, "Overall Survival in Oncology Clinical Trials," in July, 2023, and Mikkael Sekeres, M.D., chief of the Division of Hematology at Sylvester and professor of medicine, chaired the workshop's first session.

"Determining overall survival — how long somebody lives — is much more difficult than you might guess," said Dr. Sekeres, "You would think calculating survival wouldn't be rocket science, but it turns out that it is."

What is overall survival? According to the National Cancer Institute, it is the length of time from either the date of diagnosis or the start of treatment for a disease, such as cancer, that patients diagnosed with the disease are still alive. Dr. Sekeres has spent years working with the FDA and others to refine clinical studies.

Making Things **Simple**

Shanta Dhar, Ph.D., FRSC, assistant director of technology and innovation and associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology identifies how to overcome barriers to precisely target mitochondria—the part of each cell that generates the energy needed for biochemical reactions.

"I have always looked to make things simple," said Dr. Dhar, a full member of Sylvester's Translational and Clinical Oncology Program and co-leader of the Engineering Cancer Cure Program.

In 2023, Dr. Dhar was named a National Academy of Inventors Fellow, yet another milestone of her trailblazing career. It reflects her accomplishments in technologies for mitochondrial nanomedicine and the development of prodrugs with modulated mechanisms of action.

Dr. Dhar and her team recently worked on an anti-cancer compound to help overcome prostate cancer tumors' resistance to standard chemotherapy drugs, such as cisplatin. Her team also showed that the compound Platin-L could be loaded in targeted nanoparticles, making the compound available orally. The journal ACS Central Science published the research in July 2023.

Mentoring **the Future**

Kaylie Cullison, a dual-degree candidate at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Medical Scientist Training Program, is leading some of strategic research in the lab of Dr. Eric A. Mellon, M.D., Ph.D., co-leader of Sylvester's Neurologic Cancer Site Disease Group and radiation oncologist. She has been Dr. Mellon's mentee since 2018.

"I first did a research rotation with Dr. Mellon, and I knew he would be my mentor," she said. "I have been given the opportunity and support to lead my research projects, advance my professional development, and witness firsthand the grit and determination that it takes to become a successful physician-scientist in the process." With Dr. Mellon's guidance, Cullison is currently working on determining if daily monitoring of tumor changes during a course of MRI-guided linear accelerator therapy could result in early prediction of treatment response.

Shining **Stars**

The Sylvester Stars Employee Recognition Program is headed by Sylvester's Board of Governors. Launched in 2021, it recognizes employees who have gone above and beyond.

Nadelyn Harris, Manager of Summer Programs

As soon as one of the participants in Sylvester's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program fell ill, **Nadelyn Harris** immediately stepped in to help. Her act of service ensured that the young participant, who was miles away from home, was safe and well taken care of during their hospital stay. For Harris, this effort was simply her doing her job, an act she always takes seriously.

Corinna Povoli, Registered Nurse

When a patient at Sylvester suddenly choked, **Corinna Povoli** sprang into action to perform the Heimlich maneuver and clear the patient's airway. Although the former ICU nurse now works in cancer care, her skills and training show the impact nurses have on patient outcomes.

Chris McHugh, Director of Hospital Operations

In January 2023, **Chris McHugh's** brilliant display of business operations was put to the test when 2,800 pieces of linen in the Sylvester at Deerfield Beach facility weren't up to code. While the news was alarming, McHugh relied on his 30 years of experience at Sylvester. Within the weekend, he found an authorized linen vendor and replaced all of the linens.

Daliah Dawkins, Site Administrator, Hollywood

Daliah Dawkins understands the power of compassion and the difference it makes. That is why she has implemented a system to check on patients, update them about any delay and wait times, and offer water and snacks while waiting to receive medical care. "I understand the importance of providing a personalized touch. Working at Sylvester has allowed me to partner and collaborate with an amazing team that consistently delivers excellent patient/family-centered care."

Another First **for Sylvester**

For the past 20 years, Jessica MacIntyre has significantly impacted cancer care at Sylvester and in the community, and she will now use her Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) presidency to help prepare early-career nurses and nurse practitioners to care for the next generation of oncology patients.

In April 2024, she became the next president of the ONS, Sylvester's first-ever nurse to serve in this position, and will continue to transform cancer care. "I am honored and look forward to contributing to this great organization that has supported me through the early stages of my career and beyond," said MacIntyre, D.N.P., ARNP, NP-C, AOCNP, and executive director for Sylvester's clinical operations.

The ONS represents 100,000 nurses, and its 35,000 members include nurses, nursing students, nurse practitioners, scientists and educators. They work together to advance their learning and careers, understand and contribute to oncology science and best practices, and advocate for improvements in oncology care.

MacIntyre became interested in cancer care when she was in high school. Her grandmother was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. She loved her grandmother's intimate connection with her nurses and how they treated her compassionately toward the end of her life.

"The relationship oncology nurses develop with patients and their families is unique," said MacIntyre. "We work with patients from prevention to cancer survivorship, becoming their advocates and helping them access care and resources. We use our knowledge in the latest research, technology and treatment options to ensure optimal care."

MacIntyre graduated from nursing school in 2000 and fulfilled her dream of working at Sylvester two years later. She quickly became the first nurse navigator for Sylvester's pancreatic/gastrointestinal group, guiding patients through their complex care.

For the last seven years, she has worked in a dual role as a practicing clinician and administrator. She oversees several clinical programs, including oncology social work, cancer support services, cancer survivorship, cancer prevention, and phase I research clinic.

"At Sylvester, we don't just treat the disease; we treat the person," she said. "I love that I have an opportunity to help cancer patients every day."

We **Commit**

Our Community. The promise to make an impact.

Focus translates intentions into tangible results. Throughout 2023, our efforts concentrated on innovation, accessibility and patient-centered care. As the 71st NCI-designated cancer center, we made meaningful strides on behalf of the community, reaffirming our mission to lead the way to improved cancer outcomes.

Along these lines, UHealth – University of Miami Health System's IT and health information experts secured a CIO 100 Award for the third consecutive year. This recognition came from efforts to enhance our Game Changer vehicles with wireless Epic electronic medical record system capabilities to log those screened on the mobile units. This digital record bridges critical gaps in access to health information and technology, essential for advancing health equity.

Similarly, to promote equal access to timely and effective care, our lead of evidence-based survivorship supportive care, Patricia I. Moreno, Ph.D., joined a White House Cancer Moonshot briefing in April. She discussed initiatives to enhance cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment in vulnerable communities through the National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) Cancer Stage Shifting Initiative.

Vulnerability was also a concern for our researchers, who contributed to a climate change commentary published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. They highlighted that all the nation's NCI-designated cancer centers had faced climate-related disasters over the past decade, such as wildfires, floods, hurricanes, severe ice, snowstorms and extreme heat events. The researchers emphasized the need for emergency preparedness plans to help patients continue to thrive when destructive natural events occur.

Research forms the backbone of our work, and defining care is essential to unifying cancer centers nationwide through disaster preparedness or clinical trials. Our physician-researcher and chief of the Division of Hematology Leukemia Section, Mikkael Sekeres, M.D., M.S., led a workshop organized by the FDA, AACR, and ASA to help make clinical trials better and create a consensus on overall survival. This event continues the conversation on how physicians and researchers can improve care.

Improved care has been a goal for us since our inception. In 2023, we continued our commitment to the World Health Organization's global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer. As the first WHO partnering centre in the world, we highlighted our actions and pivotal role in overcoming health barriers to provide women with essential tools to prevent and manage the disease.

For our cancer researchers, alleviating human suffering and saving lives provides a profound sense of responsibility and compassion. When every advancement brings hope, the decision to commit is effortless.

Be Part of Our Events

88,000+ residents across South Florida engaged in **430+** cancer community education events

250+ women screened for Human Papilloma Virus

360+ men and women screened for colorectal cancer

nearly **1,000** South Floridians screened for cancer

186 Game Changer vehicles screening events organized

400+ men screened for prostate cancer

200+ screenings for gastric, lung and skin cancer, and navigation to mammography

Anigci Satti Rodriguez, breast cancer survivor.

Winning!

Anigci Satti Rodriguez, a breast cancer survivor, was invited to ring the "Last Chemo" bell at the Oct. 7 Miami Hurricane's Pink Game, which is held annually in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"I'm here. I'm a survivor of cancer. I'm so glad to have had a good team. I feel super, super happy!" said Rodriguez.

From left, Daniel A. Sussman, M.D., M.S.P.H., Carmen Calfa, M.D., Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Felicia Marie Knaul, Ph.D., Alejandra T. Perez, M.D., Frank J. Penedo, Ph.D., and Jayne Malfitano.

Advocating for High-Risk Patients

By improving access to genetic testing and preventive care, the "Reducing Hereditary Cancer Act" could save the lives of millions of women and men at high risk for inherited cancers, according to U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-25).

"We must address cancer through early detection using all the tools available," she said at a March 14, 2023, press conference at Sylvester. "Treating cancer is far more expensive than the cost of genetic tests."

More than 50 advocates for the bill joined the congresswoman, including Sylvester physicians and researchers, cancer survivors, philanthropic supporters, and community partners. She was welcomed by Frank J. Penedo, Ph.D., professor of psychology and medicine; associate director for Cancer Survivorship & Translational Behavioral Sciences; director, Cancer Survivorship and Supportive Care; and the Sylvester DCC Living Proof Endowed Chair in Cancer Survivorship, who praised her "commitment to providing exceptional care for those at higher risk of cancer."

Alejandra T. Perez, M.D., associate professor of clinical medicine, and director of the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute, added, "I share her dream that we will no longer treat cancer, but prevent it."

Screening, early diagnosis and preventive care are vital for women at risk of breast cancer, according to Carmen Calfa, M.D., medical co-director, Cancer Survivorship & Translational Behavioral Sciences; associate director of community outreach; and assistant professor of clinical medicine at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center-Plantation. "About 10% of breast cancers result from genetic mutations," she said at the conference. "This bill will provide increased access to personalized care and clinical trials that lead to better outcomes."

A longtime advocate for cancer screenings and preventive care, Rep. Wasserman Schultz is a co-leader of the recently re-introduced bipartisan act to extend Medicare coverage of potentially life-saving genetic counseling, testing, screening and risk-reducing interventions. Currently, Medicare only covers genetic testing for individuals already diagnosed with cancer, regardless of family cancer history or a known genetic mutation in the family. The act also covers increased cancer screenings and risk-reducing surgeries for qualifying patients.

"We have long understood the importance of genetic screening and testing and fully support the bill," said Mustafa Tekin, M.D., professor and interim chair of human genetics; director, Division of Clinical and Translational Genetics at the John T. Macdonald Department of Human Genetics and the Hussman Institute for Human Genomics. "While genetic testing has improved dramatically in the past few years, access has not always been equitable. This bill aims to give more individuals access to services that will help them take charge of their own health."

Along with BRCA mutations, predisposition genetic testing can uncover other types of cancer risks, said Daniel A. Sussman, M.D., M.S.P.H., professor of clinical medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, at the Miller School. One example is Lynch syndrome, a hereditary type of colon cancer. "Passage of this act would be of tremendous value in finding cancers early so that we can perform life-saving procedures," he said.

Global **Impact**

New research studies, training opportunities and improved clinical care are key goals for a growing collaborative relationship between Nigerian health care institutions and Sylvester.

"We are committed to global health equity and look forward to strengthening our international relationships with our colleagues in Nigeria," said Sophia George, Ph.D., Sylvester's associate director for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences in the Miller School's Division of Gynecologic Oncology.

In 2023, Sylvester leaders hosted a 25-person delegation representing eight universities and the Nigerian Universities Commission in a week-long visit to the Coral Gables and medical school campuses, in partnership with UM's Center for Global Black Studies.

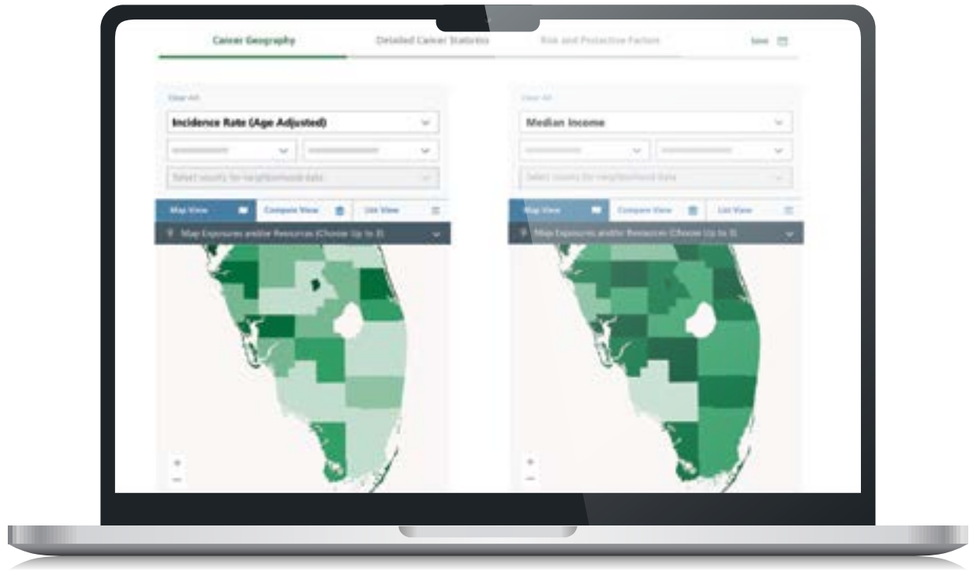
The week-long convening represents the continued strengthening of Sylvester's research and patient care collaborations with a large network of institutions of higher education in West Africa, added Matthew P. Schlumbrecht, M.D., M.P.H., professor of clinical obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences; vice chair of global and community health; and director, Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship at Sylvester.

"Our ability to recognize shared challenges and work together to develop constructive solutions in the fields of science and medicine is really a testament to the importance of global approaches in understanding our local communities and the multiple intersections of humankind," he said.

Dr. George has been collaborating with Dr. Schlumbrecht and Nigerian researchers for the past four years on genetic studies related to ovarian cancer. Dr. Schlumbrecht also mentors gynecologic oncology fellowships through the International Society of Gynecologic Cancer, which provides in-depth oncology training for physicians in Lagos and Zaria in northern Nigeria.

Leaders from Sylvester and the Miller School with delegates from Northeast Nigeria.

AND



Local **Action**

To unravel the complex tapestry of cancer burden, researchers need comprehensive, easily accessible data, and that's precisely what SCAN 360 delivers. SCAN 360 is a web-based platform that harnesses the power of big data and technology to give clinicians and researchers extensive information about cancer in Sylvester's catchment area and beyond.

Established in 2016, the platform — proprietary to Sylvester— utilizes records from multiple sources to provide valuable information about cancer incidence in specific communities. It's free, and anyone who navigates to the website can use it.

"SCAN 360 is critical to our mission," said Erin Kobetz, Ph.D., M.P.H., associate director, community outreach and engagement at Sylvester and the John K. and Judy H. Schulte Senior Endowed Chair in Cancer Research. "It helps me monitor the catchment area, a requirement of our Cancer Center Support Grant, and identify communities with higher-than-expected disease burden. Sylvester's outreach team then engages community partners to determine the best next steps for collaborative science."

The site, a model for other National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers around the nation, can filter data by 18 cancer types, geography, ethnicity, gender, age and other factors to provide detailed graphics showing how cancer may be affecting people in a specific community. For example, in Coral Gables, Fla., breast cancer incidence for white women ages 20 to 64 is 101 per 100,000 people. For Hispanic women, it's 83 per 100,000.

SCAN 360 also contains vital information about cancer risk and clinical factors, social determinants of health, cancer staging, risk behaviors, screening efforts, environmental factors, health insurance access and much more — an informational gold mine for researchers.

This ability to gather and filter detailed demographic information about cancer incidence is paying big dividends in research and community outreach, allowing Sylvester and other organizations to better focus their efforts.

Erin Kobetz, Ph.D., M.P.H.

4 Ways **We Committed** in 2023

We are committed to the overall well-being of cancer patients, and in 2023, we implemented and continued several impactful initiatives to improve the health of fire investigators and address disparities in Africa, the Caribbean and the U.S. Through our proprietary programs, collaborative approaches and leadership in research, we made significant progress that will help shape our future trajectory.

1

Sylvester partnered with the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) to launch an online reporting tool. This tool is designed to address health and safety risks faced by fire investigators by enabling them to document accidents and near misses. The initiative is aimed at improving conditions for these vital first responders and follows the successful implementation of a similar database with firefighters.

2

In 2014, a collaboration began as an experiment. The Florida Academic Cancer Center Alliance (FACCA), led by Sylvester, Moffitt Cancer Center, and the University of Florida Health Cancer Center, was formed to enhance cancer care for the state of Florida. Almost a decade later, the 2023 FACCA Retreat took place in Miami, and the alliance continues to leverage statewide resources and pursue groundbreaking research initiatives to address Florida's significant cancer burden. Pictured (from left), FACCA co-directors: Stephen D. Nimer, M.D., director of Sylvester; Jonathan D. Licht, M.D., director of the University of Florida Health Cancer Center; and John Cleveland, Ph.D., director of Moffitt Cancer Center.

3

Sylvester hosted the International Agency for Research on Cancer and Pan-American Health Organization's Caribbean public health workshop on cancer screening. The conference's goal was to enhance awareness, accessibility and impact of cancer screening programs in the Caribbean. Cancer and public health leaders from eight Caribbean countries, along with World Health Organization agencies, attended. Pictured: Mauricio Maza, M.D., M.P.H., regional advisor for cancer prevention and control at the Pan American Health Organization.

Researchers and clinicians from Sylvester played leading roles at the 2023 African Caribbean Cancer Consortium (AC3) conference in Kenya, which aimed to improve awareness and outcomes of cancer in populations of African-descent. Sylvester's involvement underscored its commitment to global cancer research, particularly in gynecological, breast and liver cancers, showcasing its dedication to serving vulnerable populations internationally.

4

Art is **Medicine**

Every year, the Art Basel fair hosts hundreds of exhibits from leading galleries around the world to Miami. Art lovers will see some of the best in contemporary art and contemplate the creations and artist-led experiences at one of the city's most notable creative events.

Sylvester tied into the 2023 event with the launch of its own second annual "Art is Medicine" installation, highlighting research and the intersectionality of art, science and people.

Patients and community members visiting Sylvester had the opportunity to enjoy "Science & Safari," which blends photographs of Africa with the scientific research Sophia George, Ph.D., is conducting worldwide to control and prevent cancer in the Black community. The Namibia photographs join walking galleries that feature art from physicians, staff, patients and the community.

Desert Horse-Grant, Sylvester's chief transformation officer, conceptualized and curated the installation and new Namibia exhibit. "Our gallery is a message of hope, in a place of healing," she said. "May the newest exhibit teleport and provide respite to the anxious. Having visual breaks from medical imagery in a cancer center is of utmost importance to any patient."

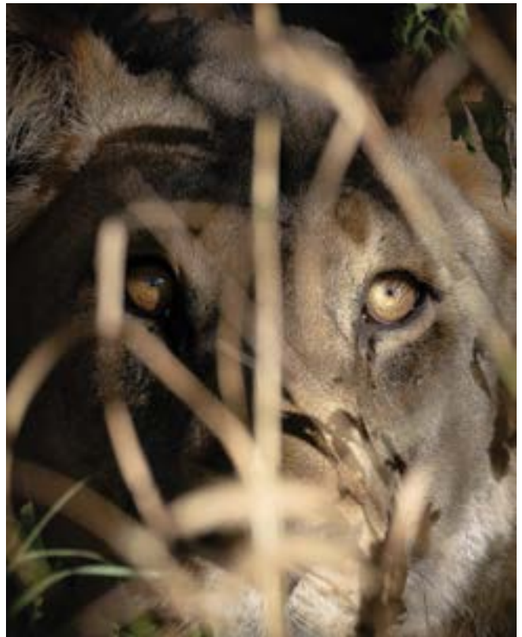
Until recently, most genomic research has focused on people of European descent. Dr. George, Sylvester's associate director for diversity, equity and inclusion, and her colleagues are part of an international effort to change that. Joining cancer centers worldwide, they are working to decode Black genomes and study the issues that are cancer-specific to populations across the African diaspora. Studies are designed to discern the reasons those of African descent face a higher risk of aggressive breast, ovarian and prostate cancers, and the reasons these diseases often develop in this population at younger ages. The underlying driving factors are not well understood.

Sophia George, Ph.D., and other Sylvester researchers are studying cancer-specific issues that affect populations across the African diaspora.

Sylvester's Chief Transformation Officer Desert Horse-Grant, here at Dorob National Park during the "Science & Safari" trip, said the exhibit "is a message of hope, in a place of healing."

According to Dr. George, this exhibit "captures the genetic landscape of the African diaspora by working collaboratively with native Africans. Our work traverses the places where people in the U.S. and the West develop aggressive cancers. We are contextualizing the data and meeting the people in their settings, identifying uniqueness, sameness, and in awe of the terrain."

Photographer Craig Butts traveled with Dr. George in Namibia, one of 14 countries enlisted in the African Cancer Genome Registry Study, a global clinical trial Dr. George launched to research the genetic makeup of cancer tumors.



We **Hope**

Our Donors and Partners. The gratitude for the gifts that save lives.

4,917 total donations

1,377 first-time donors

428 donors increased their giving

685 donors made more than two donations

Donors come from **44 states** (plus Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.) and **7 countries**

60 donors to the Kenneth C. Griffin Cancer Research Building

13 Estate Gifts

251 faculty or staff donors

555 alumni donors

In the pursuit of cancer cures, the generosity of donors fuels access to cutting-edge treatments and offers vital support to patients and families. In 2023, we celebrated the impactful donations received from various sources, large and small, monetary and meaningful.

Events, from fundraisers like the Castaways Against Cancer, to personal stories of survival, like Tony Beyer, serve as powerful catalysts for cancer donations. They ignite empathy, solidarity and a collective determination to find a cure.

Bikers, kayakers and runners have donated more than $2.3 million through Castaways Against Cancer over the last 25 years, and the organization has promised another $1.5 million over the next five years. The Beyer family is focused on a cure for melanoma as the Beyer Family Skin Cancer Prevention and Control Initiative supports innovative research led by José Lutzky, M.D., and Natalia Jaimes, M.D.

Research support is essential, as are awareness and cancer support services. Pubbelly Sushi knows that and partnered to donate a portion of sales from its Two Timing Tuna Roll to fund wigs for patients, uniting the community and helping survivors feel better.

We are determined to find cancer cures, and through the new Kenneth C. Griffin Cancer Research Building, our physician-scientists will work to discover treatments from the bench to bring them bedside. Slated to open in 2025, it will be a 12-story, 244,00-sq.-ft., state-of-the-art facility on UHealth's Miami campus.

Flora Schnall understands the need for a center like the Griffin Cancer Research Building, and her generous donation will foster cancer discoveries and accelerate scientific progress.

But it isn't always the most significant monetary amount or building that makes an impact; many times, it's the feeling and message of hope for our youngest patients. Andrea's Smiles for Hope, founded in memory of Andrea Camps, delivered joy to pediatric cancer patients through care packages, bringing smiles to families at their most difficult times.

Hope and renewed vigor in patients' cancer stories are crucial. They can offer the momentum to help move science. This is why Kathleen Garafola, inspired by the groundbreaking work of Jashodeep Datta, M.D., DiMare Family Endowed Chair in Immunotherapy, has made a planned gift to support future research for a pancreatic cancer cure.

We celebrate the generosity of our donors, our hope, and the dedication of scientists, our heroes, who are making breakthroughs possible. Together, they illuminate the path toward a future free of cancer and filled with possibilities for survivors.

Support Us

Honoring **Austen**

Throughout Austen Prescott's cancer journey, his parents, Catherine and Andrew Prescott, asked family and friends to pray for their son at 6:20 a.m. and 6:20 p.m. each day, alluding to Austen's June 20 birthday.

When it became clear that his young life would be cut short at age 18 because of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), an extremely rare and highly aggressive brain tumor, the Miami family established a research fund to honor their son's legacy.

Team 620 quickly became the most successful University of Miami 'CaneFunder on record, raising $86,928 in just nine days to support DIPG/DMG research at Sylvester. Confident that a cure is within reach, the Prescotts donated Austen's tumor to Sylvester scientists. World-renowned Sylvester pediatric neuro-oncologists Antonio Iavarone, M.D., and Anna Lasorella, M.D., experts in glioblastoma and other aggressive brain tumors, are leading that research. They have been able to use the tumor tissue to replicate cancer cells and conduct drug screenings.

"Being able to study Austen's tumor is a crucial step in moving potential treatments forward," said Dr. Iavarone, deputy director of Sylvester and professor of neurological surgery and biochemistry and molecular biology at the Miller School. "By comparing the tumor from his biopsy to the tumor after it became resistant to treatment, we can get a better understanding of how tumors evolve."

The Prescotts say they have faith in the neuro-oncology team at Sylvester. They've witnessed the strides these physician-researchers are making toward finding a cure for gliomas that have a median survival rate of nine to 11 months and impact 300 to 400 children each year in the United States.

"If somebody is diagnosed with DIPG and they live in South Florida, there is nowhere else to go," said Andrew. "You want to be with the people who know more about it than anyone else and have seen more cases than anyone else in town, and that would certainly be Sylvester."

Generous donations from Team 620, which was established with an initial gift of $50,000, fuel Sylvester's work. Andrew and Catherine presented an additional gift of $10,000 on Give Miami Day last November, which was matched by a gift of $15,000.

"We cannot be more grateful to this family," said Dr. Lasorella, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the Miller School. "When they were facing such a difficult time, the loss of their son, they chose to help other children and families by donating his brain tissue. Their selflessness is immeasurable."

The family believes Austen would not have wanted it any other way. "Even in his lowest moments, Austen found empathy for others," said Catherine. "He often expressed how badly he felt for kids younger than him who had to endure the same disease. Austen always wanted them to have hope. Our hope is that through Team 620's support, Sylvester's incredible scientists will find effective treatments and, one day, a cure for these devastating brain tumors."

Give Miami Day 2023 (from left): Aditi Dhir, M.D., Andrew Prescott, Sebastian, the University of Miami mascot, Catherine Prescott and Bradley Gampel, M.D.

50 Years **and Thankful**

Through the creative theme of Art is Medicine, Sylvester celebrated 50 years of incredible advances and inspiring work of physicians, researchers, nurses and staff at SUPERBLUE, an immersive art experience. The anniversary gala raised $3.2 million for the Kenneth C. Griffin Cancer Research Building, a 12-story, 244,00-sq.-ft., state-of-the-art facility dedicated to research and clinical care.

Sylvester Director Stephen D. Nimer, M.D., welcoming gala attendees.

Jayne S. Malfitano, second from left, and gala co-chairs (from the left) Kinga Lampert, Lisa Heiden-Koffler and Georgia Nimer.

A Legacy **of Service**

A longtime advocate for South Florida cancer patients, Jayne S. Malfitano became the new chair of the Board of Governors of Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine.

"It is truly an honor to take on this leadership role on behalf of Sylvester's outstanding professional team," said Malfitano. "Every day, our physicians, nurses, therapists and other health care professionals go the extra mile to deliver compassionate personalized care and support to patients, family members and survivors facing the life-changing challenge of cancer."

Malfitano has been a member of Sylvester's Board of Governors since 2001, serving most recently as vice chair. She succeeded Adam Carlin, managing director at Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management, who recently retired as chair but continues to serve on the board.

Malfitano is the daughter of Harcourt M. Sylvester Jr., whose several multimillion-dollar gifts in the 1980s allowed the University of Miami to open Sylvester on the medical school campus in 1992. Since then, she has remained steadfast in her commitment to making exceptional cancer care available throughout South Florida, and she calls it an honor and privilege to carry on her father's legacy.

As the president of the Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation, a philanthropic foundation with a commitment to Sylvester for more than three decades, Malfitano is focused on helping Sylvester create a larger impact and broader reach to help those who are underserved or lack access to screening and care. Endowment funds from the foundation, together with funds from The Pap Corps Champions for Cancer Research, have helped establish the Sylvester Game Changer vehicles that provide mobile screening for cancer, as well as open 10 satellite centers. In total, the foundation has given more than $62 million to the University of Miami. Most recently, the foundation provided a $5 million gift to Sylvester's research and clinical services to support survivorship. In addition to her work with the foundation, Malfitano is an active member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees and the UHealth Board of Directors.

A Historic **Donation**

In the pursuit of cures that not only save patients but also improve their quality of life, The Pap Corps Champions for Cancer Research made a historic annual donation to Sylvester, continuing a remarkable partnership seven decades in the making.

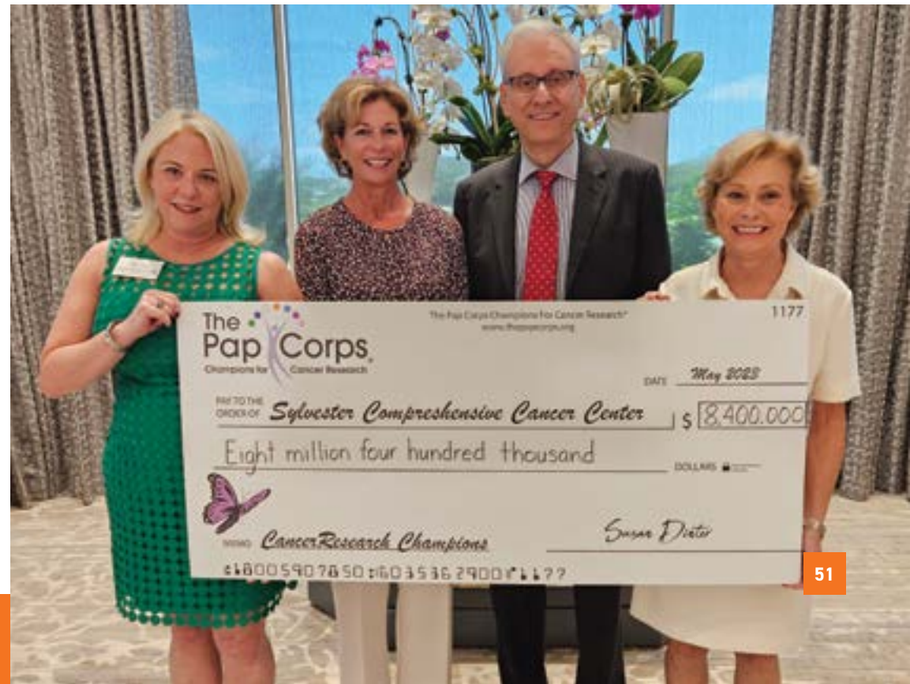
Thanks to its members' ceaseless work in the past year, they presented a ceremonial check for $8.4 million to Antonio Iavarone, M.D., the deputy director of Sylvester, during its annual president's meeting on May 18. The amount is the group's largest yearly donation to Sylvester, which is South Florida's only NCI-designated cancer center.

"Today was one of the most exciting days in the history of The Pap Corps," said Susan Dinter, chair of The Pap Corps. "We are so grateful for the remarkable support of our members, who work tirelessly year after year to fund these multimillion-dollar donations, and to our benevolent donors, whose commitment to our mission inspires us all! For 70 years, we have supported cancer research and will continue to do so until a cure can be found."

The donation is part of The Pap Corps' landmark 2016 pledge of $50 million to Sylvester, which named Sylvester at Deerfield Beach as The Pap Corps campus. A portion of this year's gift will be used for the construction of Sylvester's Griffin Cancer Research Building, a 12-story, cutting-edge facility on the University of Miami medical campus that will double Sylvester's research footprint and change the face of cancer research in South Florida. It is scheduled to open in 2025.

Named after Dr. George Papanicolaou, who introduced the Pap smear in 1928, The Pap Corps was started in 1952 by five visionary women who were driven by the lack of early detection and treatment of cancer. Today, it is South Florida's largest volunteer fundraising organization, with more than 22,000 members and 52 chapters, and it has raised more than $110 million for cancer research at Sylvester.

It is because of the strong partnership between The Pap Corps and Sylvester that UHealth has been able to open 10 locations throughout South Florida, including The Pap Corps campus.



Sally Berenzweig, CEO of The Pap Corps; Jayne Malfitano, president and director, Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation and chair of the Sylvester Board of Governors; Antonio Iavarone, M.D.; and Susan Dinter, chair of The Pap Corps.

Teaming **Up**

DCC and Autonation have partnered to address the links between social, economic and environmental factors and breast cancer mortality. Their new partnership will fund a $1 million, four-year Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) project at Sylvester.

DOLPHINS CHALLENGE CANCER **KEEPS ON GIVING**

Once again, thousands of community members rode, ran and walked to support Sylvester at the 13th Dolphins Challenge Cancer (DCC) event in February 2023, raising $10.5 million. Since its inception in 2010, the DCC has gifted more than $64 million, donating 100% of funds to Sylvester.

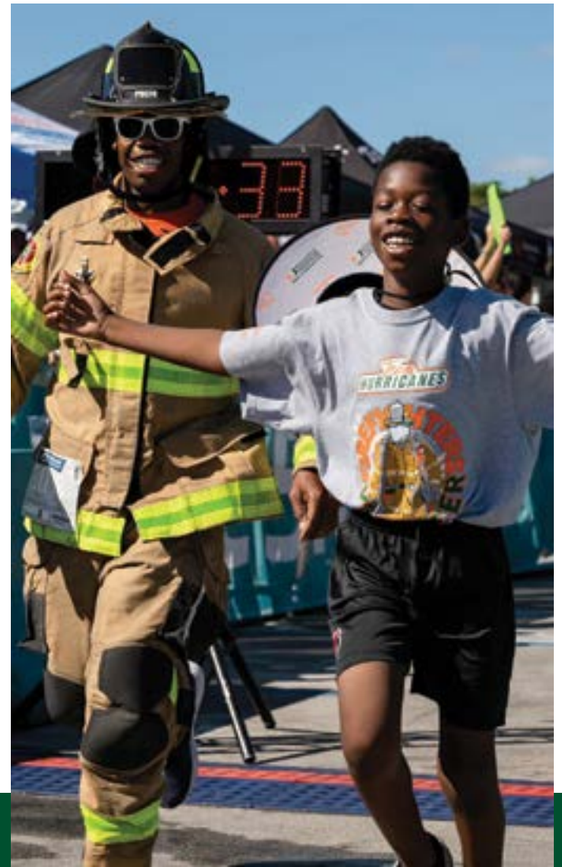
DCC XIII IMPACT (2023)

#1
Team fundraising event in the NFL

1M+
Miles conquered

$64+M
raised since 2010

5,642
Participants



Driving **Health Access**

Dave and Hilary Gershman made a $1 million gift to benefit the research of University of Miami Health System physicians. The majority of the gift will be used to create the Sylvester Community Outreach and Engagement Fund to support health equity initiatives, including the Game Changer vehicles, which brings cancer screenings and health information to underserved communities across South Florida.

Healthy **Again**

At 59 years old, Luis Rios was diagnosed with an inoperable stage 4 pancreatic cancer. After two years of chemotherapy treatment, his cancer became resistant. At that point, Peter Hosein, M.D., co-leader of the Gastrointestinal Cancers Site Disease Group at Sylvester, decided to try immunotherapy. After 24 months, Rios showed no sign of disease and remains cancer-free.

"Dr. Hosein saved my life," he said. That's why he and his wife, Mari Tere Brolley, made a significant gift to Sylvester to support research in immunotherapy.

Proactive **Prevention**

Jon Diamond believes that knowledge is power and that early detection saves lives. After his uncle died as a result of both pancreatic and breast cancers, Diamond and his family signed up for genetic testing. The results revealed what Diamond feared: He and his three children are BRCA 2 positive, putting them at a greater risk of developing breast, ovarian, prostate, pancreatic and skin cancers. The question now was, what could be done to prevent cancer before it occurs?

As previvors, a term used to describe individuals with a hereditary predisposition who don't yet have cancer, the family made a $5 million gift to Sylvester to establish the Diamond Hereditary Cancer Prevention Initiative. A key component of the initiative is the establishment of the Diamond Protocol, which will focus on prevention, risk reduction, early diagnosis, lifestyle management and research in high-risk populations for hereditary cancers. This includes families of Ashkenazi Jewish descent, like the Diamonds, who have a higher incidence of inheriting a BRCA gene mutation.

"We hope the Diamond Protocol will provide people with an easy channel to be prudent with their health and get on a regular program of preventative actions, such as exercise, nutrition, and diagnostic screenings," said Diamond, a 66-year-old entrepreneur who lives half the year in South Florida.

"Ultimately, we want to create better outcomes for those who get diagnosed with a genetic predisposition, like Jonny and our children," Susan Diamond said. "We want our gift to be an impetus to not only identify potential patients but also to create a protocol for people who have a hereditary predisposition or even a future diagnosis of cancer so they can have better outcomes."

The Diamonds are confident that Sylvester has the means to make that happen. That is why they have put their faith and philanthropy behind three of its highly renowned physician-researchers, Daniel Sussman, M.D., M.S.P.H, Tracy Crane, Ph.D., RDN, and Frank Penedo, Ph.D. '99, to develop the Diamond Protocol. "Sylvester has done a phenomenal job of recruiting top talent from around the country to position itself as a leading cancer hospital in the country," Josh Diamond said.

The Diamonds have allocated a portion of their gift to create the Diamond Award Endowment Fund. It will be used to support a competitive peer-reviewed grant program that will award internal grants, known as "Diamond Awards," to Sylvester's physician-researchers to support translational research in genetic predisposition, genetic testing and lifestyle management for risk reduction.

A Sweet **Treat**

It all began when Judy Aguirre´s cousin, Jani, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2005. She started baking cookies for Jani's doctors and nurses during treatments. Encouraged by the response, she created "Cookies for Jani" and in 2008 started donating the proceeds to support research at Sylvester, where years earlier, her father had been treated for squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. "I firmly believe what makes Sylvester stand out is the targeted treatments and compassionate care provided to all their patients," said Judy, who is also a Sylvester breast cancer survivor.

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Joan Scheiner
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Lally Graham Weymouth
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The Washington Post

Executive **Leadership**

Stephen D. Nimer, M.D.
Director, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Oscar De La Renta Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
Executive Dean for Research, Miller School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Professor of Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering

Antonio Iavarone, M.D.
Deputy Director, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor of Neurology, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Craig H. Moskowitz, M.D.
Physician in Chief, Oncology Service Line, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Chair, Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Lazara Pagan, M.S.N.
Sr. Associate Vice President, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, UHealth Oncology Services

Desert Horse-Grant
Chief Transformation Officer, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jesse Rodriguez, M.S., M.H.A
Assistant Vice President, Medical Development and Alumni Relations

Rhonda Curry
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

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Professor and Chair of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

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Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Dorothy Graves, Ph.D.
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George S. Grills
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Erin Kobetz, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Chief Health Equity Officer & Vice President for Health Equity, University of Miami
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John K. and Judy H. Schulte Senior Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
Professor of Medicine, Public Health Sciences and Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Frank J. Penedo, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Population Sciences, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Co-Leader, Cancer Control Research Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Director, Cancer Survivorship Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor of Psychology and Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Jonathan Trent, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Director, Clinical Research, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Co-Director, Musculoskeletal Center, Sarcoma Medical Research Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Program **Leaders**

Tracy Crane, Ph.D., R.D.N.
Co-Leader, Cancer Control Research Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Assistant Director for Faculty Development, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

C. Ola Landgren M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Leader, Translational and Clinical Oncology Program Research Program Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Chief of Myeloma Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

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Co-Leader, Cancer Control Research Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Director, Cancer Survivorship Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor of Psychology and Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

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Director, Medical School Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program
Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology

Ramin Shiekhattar, Ph.D.
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Chief, Division of Cancer Genomics and Epigenetics, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Professor of Human Genetics, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Scott Welford, Ph.D.
Co-Leader, Tumor Biology Research Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Assistant Director for Faculty Development, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor and Biology Division Chief of Radiation Oncology

Oncology **Service Leaders**

Alvaro J. Alencar, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Javier Milian
Associate Vice President, Oncology Satellite Operations and Recruitment, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Site Disease **Group Leaders**

Breast Cancer	**Susan B. Kesmodel, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **Carmen Calfa, M.D. -** Clinical Research **Lluis Morey, Ph.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Cutaneous Oncology	**Jose Lutzky, M.D. -** Clinical Research **Jennifer Tang, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **Zelia Correa, M.D., Ph.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Endocrine Tumors	**Mark Jara, M.D. -** Clinical Research **Josefina Farra, M.D., FACS -** Clinical Lead
Gastrointestinal Cancer	**Peter Hosein, M.D. -** Clinical Research **Lorraine Portelance, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **Jashodeep Datta, M.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Genitourinary	**Marijo Bilusic, M.D., Ph.D. -** Clinical Research **Matthew C. Abramowitz, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **Sanoj Punnen, M.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Gynecological Cancer	**Mathew Schlumbrecht, M.D. -** Clinical Research **Aaron Wolfson, M.D. -** Clinical Lead
Head & Neck Cancer	**Donald Weed, M.D. (Surgery) -** Clinical Research **Stuart Samuels, M.D., Ph.D. (Radiation Oncology) -** Clinical Lead **Paolo Serafini, Ph.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Hematology	**Gerald Soff, M.D. -** Clinical Research
Leukemia	**Justin Watts, M.D. -** Clinical Research **Namrata S. Chandhok, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **Justin Taylor, M.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Lymphoma	**Izidore Lossos, M.D. -** Translational Science Lead **Craig H Moskowitz, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **Juan Alderuccio, M.D. -** Clinical Research
Myeloma	**C. Ola Landgren, M.D., Ph.D. -** Translational Science Lead **Dickran Kazandjian, M.D. -** Clinical Research
Neuro-Oncology	**Macarena de la Fuente, M.D. -** Clinical Research **Michael Ivan, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **Eric Mellon, M.D., Ph.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Pediatric Cancer	**Julio Barredo, M.D. -** Translational Science Lead **Warren Alperstein, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **Aditi Dhir, M.D. -** Clinical Research
Sarcoma	**Jonathan Trent, M.D., Ph.D. -** Clinical Research **Gina D'Amato, M.D. -** Clinical Lead **David Benner Lombard, M.D., Ph.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Thoracic Cancers	**Raphael Yechieli, M.D. -** Clinical Research **Estelamari Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H. -** Clinical Lead **Taghrid Asfar, M.D. -** Translational Science Lead
Transplant Cellular Therapy	**Amer Beitinjaneh, M.D. -** Clinical Research

Our **Locations**

Sylvester's specialists are available across South Florida in locations from South Miami-Dade to North Broward, to provide you with convenient access to our expert cancer care.

1 SYLVESTER AT DEERFIELD BEACH
THE PAP CORPS CAMPUS

2 SYLVESTER AT CORAL SPRINGS

3 SYLVESTER AT FT. LAUDERDALE

4 SYLVESTER AT PLANTATION

5 SYLVESTER AT HOLLYWOOD

6 SYLVESTER AT AVENTURA

7 SYLVESTER AT DORAL

8 SYLVESTER COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER - MAIN CAMPUS

9 SYLVESTER AT THE LENNAR FOUNDATION MEDICAL CENTER

10 SYLVESTER AT KENDALL

● SYLVESTER CANCER CARE COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICE IN NAPLES

NAPLES

Coming soon

11 SYLVESTER AT DORAL EXPANSION

12 SYLVESTER AT SOLÉ MIA

13 SYLVESTER COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER - KENNETH C. GRIFFIN CANCER RESEARCH BUILDING

PREDICT THE FUTURE? WE CREATE IT.

Only Sylvester matched my desire to research the most effective cancer treatments and my dream of saving and improving people's lives. With hundreds of ongoing clinical trials, we have access to the latest treatments aimed at your specific cancer. Our expertise in research and medicine leads to more cures for more cancer patients.

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of UHealth – University of Miami Health System, is South Florida's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)–designated cancer center.

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Commission on Cancer®
National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer

CANCER CENTER of EXCELLENCE
Florida HEALTH

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Find out more at sylvester.org