

Celebrating 75 YEARS

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, I have had the opportunity to look back at old photos and read historical documents to learn more about the visionaries that provided the Cancer Foundation's leadership since it was established in 1949.

Born of Lillian Taylor Converse's idea that Santa Barbara County residents shouldn't have to travel far to receive cancer care, Elisha Converse, Dr. Henry Ullmann and Evans S. Pillsbury offered guidance and governance during that first quarter century which created the framework that many of their successors relied on to encourage technical and programmatic innovation. During the next 25 years, trustee, physician and staff leadership expanded opportunities for state-of-the-art treatment and innovative programs. Since 1999, the Cancer Foundation has built on its core values by staying at the forefront of modern cancer care and, most recently, bringing the first of its kind digital PET/CT and SPECT/CT equipment to the Central Coast.

We are so grateful to everyone who has shared their time and expertise over the past 75 years to develop the strong base on which we continue to build. The programs and services offered today – made possible by your donations and our funding – impact lives on a daily basis.

Thank you!



Lori Willis
Executive Director





Tuesday, October 22

7:30 PM

The Granada Theatre

NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING BIOCHEMIST

Dr. Jennifer Doudna **CRISPR Gene Editing and the Future of Human Health**

In celebration of our 75th anniversary, the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara is pleased to support a presentation with Dr. Jennifer Doudna.

Biochemist Jennifer Doudna's co-discovery of CRISPR-Cas9 with collaborator Emmanuelle Charpentier changed human and agricultural genomics research forever. A novel weapon in the fight against cancer and genetic diseases, the simple yet high-precision practice of editing an organism's DNA using an RNA-guided protein found in bacteria has become one of the most revolutionary advancements in modern biology. The co-author of *A Crack in Creation*, a reflection on the responsibility of such a discovery, Doudna continues to lead public discussion on the ethical implications of genome editing. She is the subject of Walter Isaacson's 2021 bestseller *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*.

For tickets, call (805) 893-3535 or visit ArtsAndLectures.UCSB.edu.

Co-Presented by UCSB Arts & Lectures and the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara Triathlon

This summer, the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara was named the beneficiary of the 2024 Santa Barbara Triathlon & Beach Festival. Since its inception in 1981, the Santa Barbara Triathlon has become a highly anticipated annual event. This year's triathlon featured 10 events, offering views of the Channel Islands, the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Ynez mountains.

As part of its commitment to philanthropy, the Santa Barbara Triathlon contributed \$5,000, alongside participant donations, to the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara. These contributions will aid the Foundation's mission to ensure superior cancer for all residents of Santa Barbara County.

"We are grateful to the Santa Barbara Triathlon for their incredible support. Their generosity enables us to fund critical oncology supportive care programs and make a tangible difference in the lives of our community members."

– Lori Willis, Executive Director of the Cancer Foundation



As the Cancer Foundation celebrates its 75th anniversary, these are a few highlights from the past three quarters of a century. The Cancer Foundation is tremendously grateful to all of the trustees, physicians and staff who provided guidance and leadership since its inception.

OUR HISTORY

1949



- Memorial Research Foundation founded to receive the gift of a one million volt x-ray machine (worth \$60K), the seventh in the US
- Elisha Converse donates funds to purchase one million volt x-ray machine in memory of his wife Lillian Converse
- Memorial Cancer Foundation names Henry J. Ullmann, MD, a nationally known radiologist, as Medical Director

1964

1964

Memorial Cancer Foundation raises almost \$1M to build new location at 300 W. Pueblo Street at Cottage Hospital

1966

- Memorial Cancer Foundation changes its name to the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara
- Construction is completed at 300 W. Pueblo Street and Cancer Foundation Board of Trustees authorizes lease for 50 years + three 10 year renewals



1968

- Cancer Foundation opens Schools of Technology in Radiation Oncology and Nuclear Medicine
- Cancer Foundation participates in its first clinical research study regarding the relationship of breast cancer and bone cancer

1993

Walk/Run begins. Originally called Terry Fox Run, the event is held for 30 years and raises more than \$4M



1994

Cancer Foundation introduces Well-fit Exercise Program in conjunction with Julie Main and the Santa Barbara Athletic Club

1999

The Cancer Foundation implements the Wellness Program, which includes yoga and art classes



2001

The Cancer Center Board of Trustees approves the purchase of the Shea property at 540 W. Pueblo Street along with surrounding parcels

2012

The Cancer Center of Santa Barbara patient operations merges with Sansum Clinic; the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara re-emerges as the Cancer Center's independent fundraising partner



2017

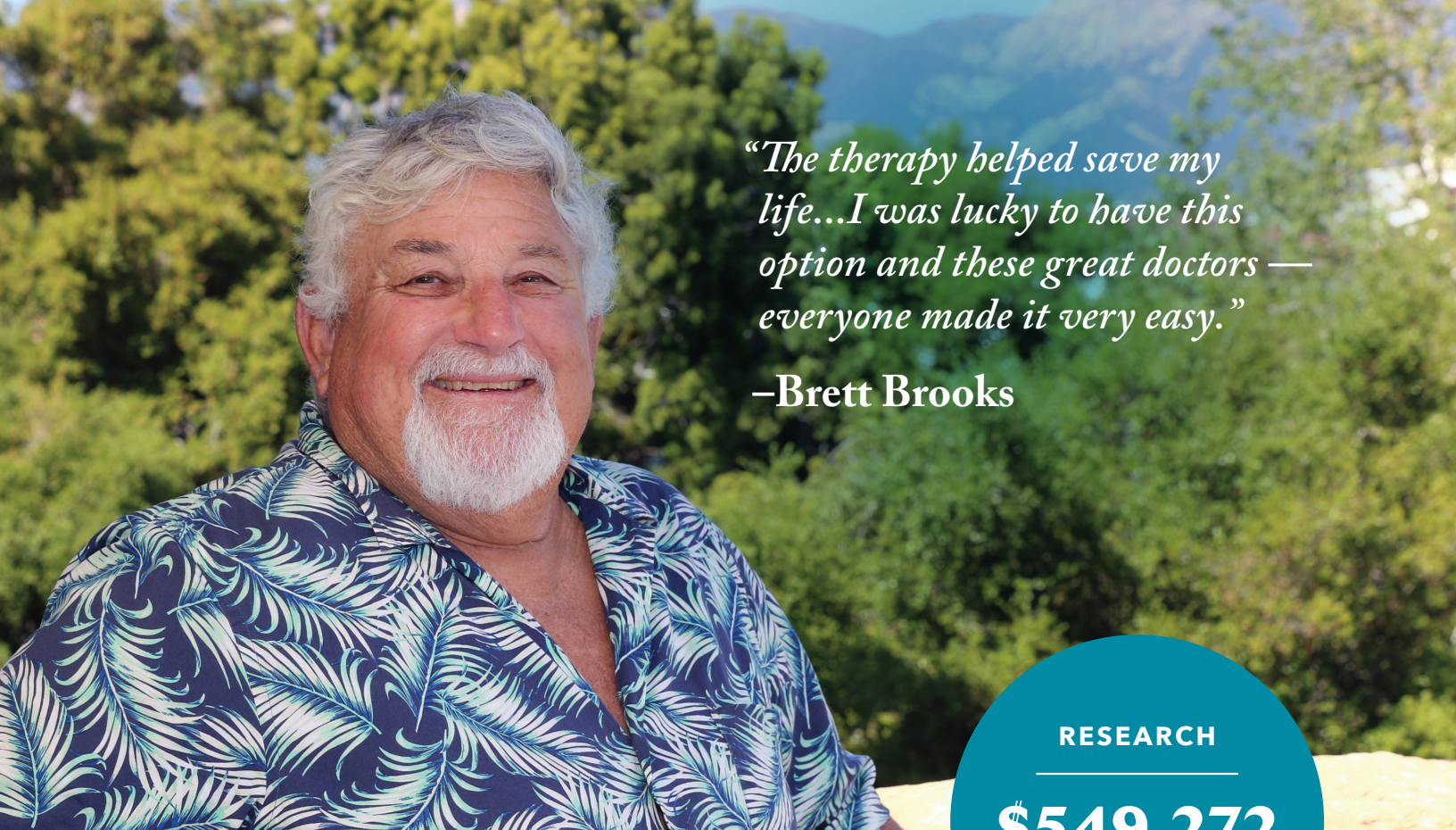
- The new Ridley-Tree Cancer Center opens its doors, on time and on budget, after the completion of a two-year \$48M capital campaign in conjunction with Sansum Clinic
- Cancer Foundation names Lori Willis Executive Director, its first female leader

2024

Cancer Foundation completes the installation of a digital SPECT/CT machine which completes nearly \$10M in renovations and equipment upgrades to the Ridley-Tree Cancer Center's Nuclear Medicine Department located in Cottage Hospital.



75 YEARS



“The therapy helped save my life...I was lucky to have this option and these great doctors — everyone made it very easy.”

—Brett Brooks

RESEARCH
\$549,272
2024 AWARD

BRETT BROOKS

Clinical Research Participant

Brett Brooks was sixty years old when the slow-growing cancer he was diagnosed with years prior presented with renewed vigor. Brett admits he “dropped the ball” enjoying life, working hard, and waiting nearly eight years to return to the doctor for regular check-ups.

By the time Brett arrived at the emergency room, his ankles were swollen, his kidneys were failing, his bladder was full, and his PSA (prostate-specific antigen) numbers were through the roof. He was immediately admitted to the hospital where he stayed for about one week. The prostate cancer had metastasized and was inoperable.

Brett learned that he was a candidate for a randomized clinical trial offering radioligand therapy through the nuclear medicine department at Ridley-Tree Cancer Center.

“It was all timing — I just happened to get diagnosed when this trial was coming out and they needed a volunteer,” said Brett. “I thought why not participate? I was lucky to have this option and these great doctors — everyone made it very easy.”

The treatment Brett was randomized to receive is Lutetium-177, a radioactive treatment given by IV infusion every six weeks for 36 weeks. It specifically targets a molecule on the surface of prostate cancer cells called PSMA. The infusion lasts approximately 15 minutes and Brett said that he never experienced any discomfort or pain. It was administered in addition to Brett’s regular standard of care treatment and he was monitored closely by his physician, Dr. Newman and the clinical research coordinator assigned to him, Karen Fu. Brett’s biomarkers and scans are reviewed regularly to assess how he responded to therapy and he continues on study with his standard of care therapy following completion of his Lutetium-177 infusions.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Lutetium-177 in combination with the standard of care treatment for patients with prostate cancer. The research team and physicians work with Brett and collect data points that are reported to the clinical trial sponsor, Novartis. Ridley-Tree’s nuclear medicine department is 1 of 164 study locations worldwide offering this trial. Having access to participate in this study at Ridley-Tree allows patients to receive care locally and not have to travel for a clinical trial.

Ridley-Tree Cancer Center is a trusted research site able to access cutting-edge research because of the reputation it has built over time. This reputation is thanks to the motivated physicians and RTCC staff that work alongside the research team in order to provide the best care to the members of our community.

Ongoing grants from the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara, which supports the research efforts at Ridley-Tree Cancer Center, make it possible for RTCC to participate in groundbreaking studies like Brett’s.

“If our research department didn’t exist then patients might have to travel in order to obtain the benefit of a clinical trial we can offer here. We exist to serve our community,” said Karen Fu. “It was a privilege to work with Brett,” she added. “He has a larger-than-life personality and brings good energy and laughter.”

“If I can help inform the research and help other people stay alive then that’s my good karma,” said Brett. “I pray a lot, and between God and Drs. Koper and Newman, and Karen, they saved my life. I also want to thank the team at Ridley-Tree Cancer Center and its nuclear medicine department.”



It's Time to Look at Your IRA

Fall is the season when many people manage their IRAs and any required minimum distributions (RMD). If you've reached a certain age, you may be required to withdraw funds from your IRA, regardless of whether you prefer to keep the funds invested, are facing economic challenges, or would like to continue contributing.

However, there is a good alternative. Rather than take the distribution yourself and pay income tax on the amount, contact your IRA administrator and ask to make the distribution to the Cancer Foundation. This is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). If you are 70 ½, you may distribute up to \$105,000 from your IRA each year to charity. Your spouse can too if he or she has a separate IRA. The QCD may satisfy your RMD up to \$105,000. While you will not receive an income tax deduction for the gift, you will not have to pay income tax on the distribution. Your administrator must make the distribution directly to the Cancer Foundation.

For more information or questions please call Lori Willis, Executive Director of the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara, at (805) 898-2187.



Elaine & Edward Stepanek Legacy Society

Members of the Elaine and Edward Stepanek Legacy Society are donors who support the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara's long-term success through a planned gift. After you've taken care of those close to you, we invite you to consider ensuring quality cancer care on the central coast through a gift in your estate. While cash contributions are always appreciated, there are other creative and flexible giving options, such as real estate, stocks or marketable securities.

Whether it is naming the Cancer Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or other liquid or non-liquid assets, we encourage you to consult with your financial advisor to discuss the options. By considering the "Four P's," people, property, plans and planners, you can ensure a lasting legacy.

Please let us know if you've already included us in your estate, intend to, or would like to discuss the many options available which provide income or tax savings. Please contact Lori Willis at (805) 898-2187 or lwillis@cfsb.org.

MAKING A SPECIAL GIFT

- ✓ Are you looking for a gift for a special someone?
- ✓ Do you want to honor or recognize a person who made a difference in your life?

Tribute tiles or named seats make the perfect gift!

Nestled in the back of Ridley-Tree Cancer Center's half-acre Healing Garden and under the shade of sycamore trees, is our Tribute Wall. Comprised of tiles honoring patients, physicians, donors and loved ones, the Tribute Wall provides a personalized way to create a permanent remembrance for patients, families, caregivers and staff to enjoy. Or you may prefer to sponsor a seat in The Wolf Education & Training Center, an 80-seat, theater-style center for continuing education of physicians, nurses and the community. Whether sponsoring a seat with your name or honoring someone special, your donation will be commemorated with a personalized plaque, mounted on the armrest of a seat, for all to see for years to come.

Sponsor your seat or create a tribute tile today!

Prices begin at \$2,500 and gifts may be made over multiple years.

Please contact Stephanie Carlyle at the Cancer Foundation at (805) 898-2116.

