Accelerating the Defeat of Cancer

It is an unprecedented time in the advancement of cancer research, treatment, and prevention, each of which has evolved rapidly over the last 20 years. This deadly disease, which has touched so many lives and communities, is not a one-dimensional affliction. It is complex and dynamic, and its defeat will require aggressive, multidisciplinary approaches.

A national leader in cancer, the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center is uniquely positioned to become the epicenter of curative discovery. Renowned physicians and scientists at this interdisciplinary center conduct groundbreaking biomedical and prevention research, develop innovative technologies, and advance novel therapies that are leading us closer each day toward beating cancer.

LEADING THE WAY
Unparalleled Expertise, Innovative Partnerships, and Extraordinary Results

Established in 1999 with a generous gift from St. Louis philanthropists Alvin and Ruth Siteman, Siteman Cancer Center has risen rapidly to become one of the most widely recognized cancer programs in the United States.

Siteman holds the prestigious Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). And we are one of only a handful of centers nationwide to earn the NCI’s highest rating: exceptional. Siteman also is a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Center Network, a nonprofit alliance of top cancer centers that work together to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of cancer care.

Siteman’s leadership position is bolstered by parent institutions Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine, which are consistently ranked among the best in the country by U.S. News & World Report. At Siteman, distinguished scientists, physicians, and other health-care experts from both institutions come together to address
the challenges of cancer. Collaboration extends across Washington University—drawing expertise from 26 university departments and six schools—and involves academic and clinical partners throughout the region, including St. Louis Children’s Hospital and our joint Siteman Kids program.

This cross-disciplinary teamwork breaks down barriers and allows Siteman to move forward faster to deliver research, prevention, and treatment advances that benefit cancer patients around the globe.

RESEARCH
Discovering Powerful New Knowledge

More than 450 Washington University scientists and physicians affiliated with Siteman hold more than $150 million in grants for cancer research and related training. They work together, along with the talented trainees they mentor, to move discoveries from the laboratory to the patient’s bedside, a process known as translation.

Among Siteman’s most significant translational research initiatives are efforts to harness the power of the immune system to fight cancer. Siteman researcher Robert Schreiber and colleagues published the first conclusive evidence that the immune system plays a role in controlling cancer. Building on that landmark work, scientists and clinicians at Siteman are leading the way in the development of cancer immunotherapy, including personalized vaccines for breast, brain, and other cancers, and gene therapy, which supercharges a patient’s own immune system to kill cancer cells without harming healthy cells.

Similarly, pioneering work to sequence the complete DNA of a cancer patient, first performed by Siteman scientists at Washington University’s McDonnell Genome Institute, laid the groundwork for ongoing translational research to identify the genetic alterations that occur in various cancers and design treatments that target individual tumor mutations.

Clinical trials, the last step in the translational research process, allow scientists and physicians to test the safety and effectiveness of new treatments in patients. Siteman has one of the country’s largest clinical research programs, offering more than 500 therapeutic clinical trials each year. More than half of the center’s newly diagnosed patients are enrolled in clinical trials. By participating in a clinical trial, patients can gain access to experimental therapies that are not yet available to the public.

TREATMENT
Innovative Patient Care for Better Outcomes

Siteman clinicians who specialize in medical, surgical, and radiation oncology, as well as other forms of treatment, provide care for more than 50,000 patients each year, including nearly 10,000 newly diagnosed patients, making the center one of the largest clinical cancer programs in the country.
As a result, Siteman has broad experience in treating both common and rare forms of the disease.

Technology is critical when it comes to cancer diagnosis and care. Siteman has pioneered the development of many tools that help physicians detect and treat the disease more precisely, including:

- High-tech goggles that enable surgeons to see cancer cells and remove only diseased tissue
- The world’s first single-vault proton beam radiation therapy system, which delivers targeted treatment to tissue near the spine, brain, heart, and eyes
- Sophisticated radiological imaging systems that allow physicians to pinpoint the smallest cancers and detect whether the disease has spread

In addition to treating patients, most Siteman physicians are scientists as well. Through their involvement in laboratory and clinical research, they advance new techniques and treatments that are adopted by other care providers. Siteman physicians:

- Developed an aggressive and creative treatment regimen for certain types of pancreatic cancer that has increased survival dramatically
- Are among only a handful of teams in the country to use internal radiation therapy to successfully treat early-stage rectal cancer without surgery
- Developed unique genomically guided personal treatments for patients with leukemia and lymphoma

Prevention and control initiatives led by Siteman include efforts to:

- Enhance the effectiveness of state-funded cancer prevention and control programs
- Improve prescription adherence for low-income patients coping with the high cost of medications
- Address disparities in cancer screening, incidence, and mortality among underserved populations in both rural and urban areas throughout the Midwest

Partnerships play a key role in Siteman’s ability to extend our prevention and control initiatives throughout the region. The center recently launched the Siteman Cancer Network, an affiliation with regional medical centers that will expand access to prevention, screening, and education programs, as well as clinical trials and genomic testing, which are not widely available in rural areas.

Prevention

Reducing the Cancer Burden for Entire Communities

Working with the knowledge that 50 percent of all cancer is avoidable, Siteman’s renowned prevention and control experts are profoundly motivated by the field’s promise for improving human health. As with all of our endeavors, these experts approach their work through research, using science to create knowledge and programs that reduce disparities, increase access, address public policy limitations, and improve community education programs.

Hope

Taking the Fight to the Next Level

Cancer takes many forms and affects each person differently. Conquering this elusive foe will be difficult. But now, more than at any other time in history, scientists and physicians understand what drives cancer, making it possible to develop prevention and treatment strategies that improve disease management and offer hope for a cure.

Siteman is one of the few institutions in the country with the depth of experience and comprehensive resources to take the fight against cancer to the next level. Most important, our team of experts has the determination to defeat the disease, for the benefit of patients in our region and around the globe.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Provide Hope for a World Without Cancer

In recent years, generous donors have stepped forward with gifts that have enabled Siteman Cancer Center to make critical advances in research, prevention, and treatment. These investments make it possible for us to work on the cutting edge of science to save lives and improve human health. To ensure that the center can continue its remarkable momentum, we must increase funding for our renowned experts and programs.

We seek the involvement and philanthropic support of individuals, corporations, and foundations to help us fully realize Siteman’s potential to eliminate the scourge of cancer. Gifts can be designated for specific programs or for unrestricted purposes to benefit areas with the greatest need, including:

- **SEED FUNDING**: Initiates novel research studies
- **BRIDGE FUNDING**: Continues promising research after initial grants have ended
- **PHYSICIAN SUPPORT**: Helps recruit and retain scientists and physicians who are leaders in their field
- **INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING**: Supports patients and their families

PLEASE JOIN us in accelerating the defeat of cancer worldwide. Together, we can lessen the burden of this terrible disease on future generations.

TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT, CONTACT:
Siteman Development Office  friendsofsiteman@wustl.edu
314-935-4725 or 877-552-1506  www.siteman.wustl.edu/siteman-development-office
“The Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center is leading the way in an exciting new era of discovery in cancer. Our scientists and physicians are at the forefront of groundbreaking efforts to identify the genetic roots of the disease, develop more precise diagnostic tools, deliver personalized treatment, and advance effective prevention strategies. Our allies in the community play a critical role in this work. Your support strengthens our resolve and funds innovative research that might not make it to the clinic otherwise. That’s where the benefit to our community, our loved ones, and the world is truly felt.”