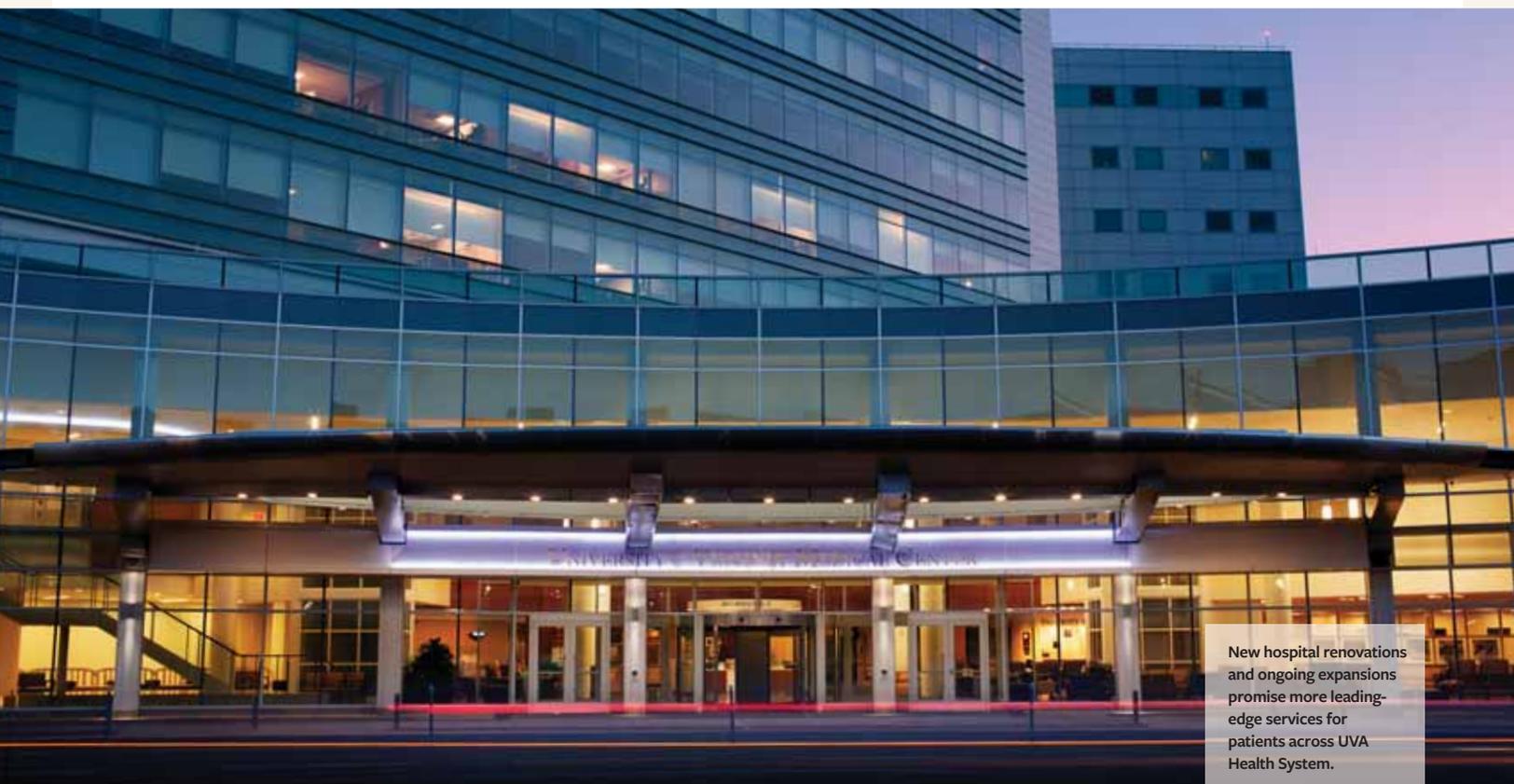


# PULSE

FALL 2013  
SPECIAL EDITION  
VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA HEALTH SYSTEM



New hospital renovations and ongoing expansions promise more leading-edge services for patients across UVA Health System.

PHIL DEJONG / JOURNEY GROUP

## CARING. LEADING. INNOVATING.

**TODD BAUER, A UVA SURGEON**, is devising ways to increase patients' safety and get them home quickly after a complex Whipple procedure. School of Nursing researchers are using mobile phone apps to help abused women report domestic violence. Medical and nursing students are honing their clinical skills on high-fidelity computerized manikins. Every day, the world of healthcare is remaking itself—and UVA is leading the way forward.

As a nationally ranked academic medical center, UVA brings together all facets of healthcare—compassionate patient care, lifesaving research, and innovations in medical and nursing education. Here, the mission isn't just providing care—it's *improving* care, developing groundbreaking new therapies and treatments, and educating the next generation of healthcare leaders. Our clinics, classrooms, and labs are filled with people who routinely go beyond what is standard practice in the pursuit of new and better ways to care for patients. Everything we do revolves around creating a better world for our patients—those who visit

our clinics today and those who will come tomorrow.

With the help of generous donors and friends, we have transformed our physical landscape. We have added critical new facilities such as the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center, the Claude Moore Medical and Nursing Education Buildings, and, on the horizon, a new children's outpatient facility, the Battle Building at UVA Children's Hospital. Today, we put that same energy to work ensuring that we have the best people and programs in place to continue to lead us forward. That means recruiting and retaining talented faculty—dedicated individuals who will pioneer clinical breakthroughs, inspire our nursing and medical students, and hold their peers to the highest standards. It means growing our participation in clinical trials to better serve our sickest patients, especially in the key areas of cancer, cardiovascular medicine, and neurosciences. In all of these ways, UVA Health System will rise to meet its full potential, offering outstanding care for our own patients and shaping the future of healthcare for patients everywhere. ●



*Everything we do revolves around creating a better world for our patients—those who visit our clinics today and those who will come tomorrow.*



### IN THIS ISSUE

2 | **EDUCATION** *Where Are the Physicians and Nurses of Tomorrow?* | 3 | **RESEARCH** *Who Are the Faces of Lifesaving Research?* | 4 | **PATIENT CARE** *How Do We Define Exceptional Patient Care?*

# WHERE ARE THE PHYSICIANS AND NURSES OF TOMORROW?



“Scholarship support makes it possible for me to pursue a career in rural practice and primary care where the need for quality medical care is high—instead of forcing me to pursue a more lucrative specialty to pay off my school loans.”  
—Andy Starr (Med '15)

PHIL DEJONG / JOURNEY GROUP

It takes exceptional faculty—individuals like Mary Worden, PhD, who works with her colleagues to design team-based medical learning programs that help students develop problem-solving skills. It takes new faculty recruits like Susan Bauer-Wu, RN, PhD, the Tussi and John Kluge Endowed Professor in Contemplative End of Life Care, who helps nursing students develop skills to treat patients with compassion and to build personal resilience in their own lives. Our faculty members must be energetic and inspiring, eager to share their passion for healthcare.

Motivated students. Inspiring faculty. Put them together, and you create energy, innovation, and momentum. The equation is not always an easy one—and it’s impossible without significant private funding. With tuition costs nationally higher than ever before, scholarships enable talented students to attend UVA, regardless of their financial circumstances. Similarly, training funds offer essential support for post-graduates in research and specialty areas. Increased faculty support is critical to ensure a teaching body of the highest caliber, especially in today’s fiercely competitive hiring environment. Added faculty support attracts the best professors and helps them advance their work once they are here. Along with innovation in education programming, it all adds up to a teaching and learning environment directed toward new levels of excellence and superior quality in patient care. ●

**Y**

ou won’t find Andy Starr sitting in a stuffy lecture hall or hidden away in a library carrel. At UVA, medical and nursing students begin caring for patients almost from day one. To hone their clinical skills, they practice in realistic simulation labs, working with lifelike manikins that look, feel, talk, and react like real patients. In high-tech classroom settings, they learn to work in teams, testing skills on actual cases, using sophisticated computer modeling to view anatomical structures, or critiquing videos of patient exams. In case simulations, nursing and medical students learn to

work together in a nationally recognized model of interprofessional education. Across the curriculum, our goal is to create the healthcare professionals that we would want to care for us and for our children, parents, grandparents, and other loved ones.

But educating the healthcare leaders of tomorrow takes more than great teaching tools.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE?



*Faculty Support*



*Student Scholarships*



*Innovation in Teaching*



JACKSON SMITH

### CAMILLE BURNETT, RN, PHD

**TITLE** *Assistant Nursing Professor and Roberts Scholar*

**RESEARCH** *Health policy and outcomes, especially changing policies and impacting services for abused women*

*“There’s a spirit of excellence at UVA— it’s quite a visionary and creative place to be.”*



#### IN HER OWN WORDS

In picking UVA, I had to make sure there was a good opportunity for scholarship, mentorship, and collaboration. It’s important to be mentored by a senior researcher, someone to teach you the ins and outs of getting grants, going through the approval process with ethics boards, and someone who understands your research and is able to steer and guide you.” ●



CHRIS TYREE / JOURNEY GROUP

## BENJAMIN "B.J." PUROW, MD

**DEPT** *Neurology*

**RESEARCH** *Targeting brain cancer cells in order to destroy them*

**POTENTIAL IMPACT** *Improving the lives of 12,000 Americans diagnosed with glioblastoma each year*

**“ IN HIS OWN WORDS**  
Most patients diagnosed with this brain cancer die within one to two years. Typical targeted cancer therapies block one or two targets, and the cancer cells adapt to find multiple escape routes. To block these routes, it is vital to identify master switches involved

*We have identified a protein that may be a ‘master switch.’*

It seems promising against cancer in general, and we have identified a drug that should enable us to move fairly rapidly to human trials. We have to move as fast as we can to bring new hope to these patients and their families.” ●

in many of the molecular signaling pathways that drive cancer. We have identified a protein that may be a master switch. Blocking this protein kills glioblastoma and other cancer cells but has minimal effects on normal cells.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE?



*Faculty Recruitment & Retention Packages*



*Lab & Personnel Support*



*Fellowship, Post-Doc, & Nursing Student Research Funds*

# WHO ARE THE FACES OF LIFESAVING RESEARCH?

**C**oleen McNamara, MD, and Angela Taylor, MD, study matters of the heart—the kind that result in coronary artery disease, the leading cause of heart attack and death in the US today. McNamara and Taylor use specialized computer imaging to study genetic and cellular factors that regulate plaque build-up in arteries. Eventually, their work could lead to a blood test for earlier detection of coronary artery disease and a chance for new treatment and preventive strategies.

Useful, lifesaving knowledge—that’s the hallmark of research conducted across UVA Health System. At UVA, medical and nursing investigators pursue ambitious research focused on new cures and therapies designed to save and improve lives. Jason Druzgal, MD, for example, studies mild traumatic brain injury in student athletes, while Jeffrey Elias, MD, looks at new ways to manage symptoms of Parkinson’s disease. Such research is increasingly expensive, especially with federal support declining steadily. Private support helps to build and expand research programs, fund pilot projects, and offer bridge support between grants. Such funding secures research programs that could turn into new,

**“**  
*The key to advancing lifesaving research is gathering the right people to work together.*  
**”**

lifesaving protocols.

The key to advancing lifesaving research is gathering the right people to work together, with the opportunity and resources to explore new ideas—and with the persistence to see those ideas through. UVA seeks out these dedicated scholars—individuals like Pam DeGuzman, RN, PhD, assistant nursing professor, who studies how environment impacts public health. Competition to recruit and keep leading researchers is intense, with institutions investing more than \$5 million to attract researchers with promising programs, especially those who are successful in attracting federal grants.

Gifts from former patients, alumni, and

other individuals fund recruitment and retention packages for star investigators, enabling them to develop breakthrough programs at UVA. Private fellowships and funding for post-doctoral students offer young and ambitious investigators opportunities to collaborate with experienced scientists, while providing a skilled work force in the lab. In the School of Nursing, private funds support undergraduate students, training them to turn observations and insights into real changes that directly benefit patients. ●



PHIL DEJONG / JOURNEY GROUP

*“We are studying novel pathways that may lead to new therapies for significantly decreasing heart attacks and death.” —Drs. Coleen McNamara & Angela Taylor*

## University of Virginia Health Foundation

PO Box 800773  
Charlottesville, VA 22908-0773  
Toll-Free (800) 297-0102  
Fax (434) 982-1984  
Email: [pulse@virginia.edu](mailto:pulse@virginia.edu)  
[www.uvahealthfoundation.org](http://www.uvahealthfoundation.org)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Charlottesville, VA  
Permit No. 164

# HOW DO WE DEFINE EXCEPTIONAL CARE?



“Anna doesn’t let her illness slow her down... Her doctor, Dr. Belyea, is more than we could have ever asked for.”  
— Krissy Pitts

PHIL DEJONG / JOURNEY GROUP

**WHEN YOU’RE TALKING** about a three-year-old girl fighting a life-threatening cancer, you measure success in smiles, in hours playing dress up, and in time spent picking strawberries with her mother. None of these things seemed possible just two years ago, when Anna was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Today, Anna takes part in all of these activities and more, thanks to the care she received at UVA.

Anna has thrived under the care of physicians and nurses who specialize in precisely her personal medical needs. She also benefits from having access to the latest treatment options and research developments available. This is exactly the kind of care that UVA strives to offer all of our patients. We also search for new and innovative treatments and cures, some of which come directly from our own laboratories. We offer and participate in multiple clinical trials that bring new hope to patients. In addition to saving lives, we work to improve the ways we deliver care, such as

*“Private support translates into doing more for our patients.”*

completing our new Battle Building at UVA Children’s Hospital to consolidate outpatient care for children and their families.

In cancer, diabetes, ophthalmology, and all across UVA Health System, opportunities exist to improve care for patients. Three patient Centers of Excellence—cancer, cardiovascular medicine, and neuroscience—are already engaged in building their capacities.

Meanwhile, in nursing, the Compassionate Care Initiative focuses on developing new models of end-of-life care for patients and creating and sustaining resilient practitioners.

Across these areas, private support translates into doing more for our patients. It also helps us look ahead to promising frontiers in clinical science and personalized medicine—ways to utilize genetics, molecular imaging, and outcomes assessment to detect diseases earlier and offer more effective, precisely targeted care. It’s all part of our commitment to offering expert care, delivered with compassion, and a future full of promise. ●

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE?



*Specialized Patient & Program Support*



*Expanded Clinical Trials*



*Investment in Clinical Research Faculty*

## TO LEARN MORE

go to [uvahealthfoundation.org](http://uvahealthfoundation.org)

## OR CALL

(434) 243-GIVE or (800) 297-0102.

Please write to us at our return address to remove your name from the list to receive fund-raising materials supporting the UVA Health System. Or, you may call us at (434) 924-8432 or (800) 297-0102.

Copyright 2013 by the UVA Health Foundation.

Printed on recycled paper.



MEDICAL CENTER, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, SCHOOL OF NURSING