

# The Triumph Fund

Supporting Cancer Clinical Trials at the Medical College of Wisconsin

Summer - 2018

## The Triumph Fund – Supporting Innovative Research in Action

The Triumph Fund was established in 2013 by John Hovel, his wife, Janis, and their two daughters, in appreciation of Dr. James Thomas for care provided during John’s diagnosis and treatment for colon cancer and to provide funding for the scientists and researchers who devote their lives to achieving triumph over cancer. John once said, “It dawned on me early in my diagnosis that I’m in a fortunate position, and I have a moral obligation to assist in the fight against cancer,” a testament to his generous spirit and the deep values that guided him.



A dinner, called “Honoring the Lorax” with references to the Dr. Seuss character who teaches that any one person can make a difference, raises donations for the Triumph Fund. While no dinner is scheduled in 2018, the Triumph Fund remains an active giving vehicle, available to anyone who wants to support cancer clinical trials at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin.

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## The Growth of Cancer Clinical Trials at MCW

Since 2013, when the Triumph Fund was established, the number of interventional cancer clinical trial enrollments at MCW has increased from 187 to 487 last year. Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin now has more cancer clinical trials than any other medical center in Wisconsin with 226 protocols offered during the past 12 months. The Early Phase trial program became available in 2014 and was able to offer 42 trials over the most recent 12-month period, with an enrollment of 84 patients. This includes Phase I trials, which are treatments that have been tested in the laboratory and in animal studies and are now being used in people for the very first time. As such, they represent the most innovative type of cancer clinical trial.



## The Hope from Clinical Trials

Most recently, Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin physicians and researchers successfully used a new immunotherapy, chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, to extend the life of a 52-year-old Wisconsin man. Bret C., 52, of Appleton, is the first patient to participate in this novel clinical trial developed and offered only at the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center. He was diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system, in 2011. Despite chemotherapy, stem cell transplants, medications and other clinical trials, his cancer kept returning. Just six weeks after receiving this clinical trial option, the cancer was no longer detectable in his body. This story and lifesaving therapy give great hope to many people.

## Additional Program Support

The Triumph Fund has supported the following programs:

- Initial seed funding for the research study “Hypofractionated Radiation for Sarcomas of the Extremity,” led by Meena Bedi, MD, Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology, Medical College of Wisconsin. Hypofractionated radiation therapy is treatment in which the total dose of radiation is divided into large doses and treatments are given over a shorter period (fewer days or weeks) than standard therapy. The delivery of larger, fewer radiation doses means reduced healthcare costs and increased convenience for patients.
- Funding for an annual Clinical Research Symposium, an interactive event that supports the development and advancement of clinical research staff by exploring topics related to regulatory policies, registration and application processes, patient consent, enhanced collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry and the challenges of expanded access. John’s commitment to education for the clinical research staff has been especially impactful to this highly skilled group of professionals.

## How to Give

Like the Lorax, you, too can make a difference for cancer patients today ... and tomorrow. It is only through clinical research that new cancer treatments will be developed. These treatments bring with them the promise for a future free of cancer.

You can contribute to the Triumph Fund online at: <https://mcwsupport.mcw.edu/triumphfund> Or, checks made payable to the Medical College of Wisconsin with “Triumph Fund” in the memo line can be mailed to: Office of Development, Medical College of Wisconsin, 8701 Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226. More information about the Triumph Fund is available at <http://www.thetriumphfund.org>

*Unless someone like YOU cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.*

Dr. Seuss, “Honoring the Lorax”