Dr. David Sharp
Combating Kidney Cancer

Acknowledging Longtime Donors & New Donors

Interstitial Cystitis Research Proposed

Distinguished Visitors Bring National Perspective
Dave Longaberger was never one to accept limitations. He struggled through school (even repeating fifth grade three times), yet he was determined to and did graduate from high school. He stuttered badly as a young man but took a job as a door-to-door salesman to overcome it. And he began a successful business — The Longaberger® Company — with a vision that customers would appreciate the handcrafted quality of the baskets his father had woven for years.

But if you had asked Dave what he considered his greatest accomplishment, the answer would have been no surprise to anyone who knew him: “What gives me the greatest pleasure is having the ability to make a difference in peoples’ lives.” The Longaberger Company’s mission statement, To Stimulate A Better Quality Of Life™, is a reflection of his proudest accomplishment and continues to this day.

Through Longaberger, Dave helped make a difference for thousands. The company has enabled tens of thousands of independent home consultants throughout the U.S. to start their own Longaberger businesses, being their own boss and setting their own standards for success. And the company has provided thousands of jobs to Ohioans living in Dresden, Dave’s hometown, and dozens of surrounding Ohio communities.

Dave’s entrepreneurial skills date back to the early 1960s when he purchased a local diner in Dresden, complete with two booths, two tables and eight stools. Later, he acquired a defunct grocery store and reopened it so local residents wouldn’t have to drive 15 miles or more to purchase a loaf of bread. Through those early business ventures, Dave discovered three key elements he said are essential for success: listening to others, having trust in others and maintaining a sense of humor.

Dave kept those three points in mind when he came up with the idea of selling baskets made the way his father, J.W. Longaberger, had handcrafted them 20 years earlier. It was this successful idea that ultimately gave him the ability to make a difference in the quality of life for so many.

“People appreciate personal service and high quality,” said Dave. “That’s what Longaberger is all about. Our associates come to your home to help you understand the unique heritage of our products, and we work hard to ensure those products are of the absolute highest quality.”

Dave and his daughters, Tami and Rachel, formalized their commitment to touching the lives of those in need by establishing The Longaberger Foundation in 1997. The Foundation provides funding for projects and programs aimed at strengthening communities, families and individuals. It has provided leadership gifts for educational institutions and literacy efforts in Ohio as well as a number of other charitable causes.

Dave was known for his friendly demeanor and unpredictable sense of humor, and he encouraged others to keep a lighthearted attitude as well. “Every day should be at least 25 percent fun” is one of his most widely quoted principles.

Dave passed away on March 17, 1999. Through his vision of the future and the many initiatives he began at The Longaberger Company, his legacy continues.

Founded in 1973, The Longaberger Company is America’s premier maker of handcrafted baskets and offers other quality home and lifestyle products, including pottery, wrought iron and fabric accessories. A favorite American guest destination, Longaberger is based in Newark, Ohio, and approximately 45,000 Independent Home Consultants nationwide who sell Longaberger products directly to customers.

To learn more about the extraordinary life of Dave Longaberger, read Longaberger: An American Success Story. Published by Harper Collins, this autobiography was launched in March 2001; or visit www.longaberger.com.
Three New Endowment Funds Created

Thanks to generous donations and kind hearts, the Department is pleased to announce the creation of three new endowment funds over the past four months. OSU Urology LLC, in appreciation of these generous gifts, will match these donations.

The Ervin and Bonnie Babbert fund is in honor of these two longtime contributors and beloved friends of Urology. The endowment fund will support program enhancement in the areas of research, medical education/training, faculty development/recruitment, and patient outreach. For further reading about the Babberts, see Volume 2, Issue 1 of our newsletter located at http://www.urology.osu.edu/13705.cfm.

Robert (Bob) D. and Margaret (Peggy) M. Walter made a donation to the Department of Urology for the creation of The Robert C. Walter Memorial Endowment Fund, in honor of his late father. Bob Walter is pictured with his mother, Elaine Walter, and Dr. Robert Bahnson. This inaugural gift, when it reaches the minimum funds needed, will go towards the creation of a professorship in Urology.

Michael & Janis Bloch, longtime supporters of the James Cancer Hospital and OSU, have generously donated funds for the creation of the Janis B. and Michael D. Bloch Endowment Fund in Urology. The fund is designed for the unrestricted support of the department for ongoing needs, program enhancement, and to strengthen initiatives.

“Our Department continues to benefit from the largesse of our friends. We are honored by their philanthropy and resolve to make them proud of their gifts to us,” stated Dr. Bahnson.

Mr. Skestos founded Homewood Corporation in 1963 and spent 25 years at the helm of the company. He retired from the firm in 1988. During his tenure as CEO, Homewood constructed more than 10,000 multi-family and approximately 16,000 single family homes. With its primary focus on residential construction, the company also engages in land development and commercial construction.

He is actively engaged in community and charitable service besides his corporate board memberships. Mr. Skestos served as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University for nine years as well as Trustees’ Board representative to The Ohio State University Hospital. Formerly, he was a member of the Board of Directors of Central Benefits, Midland Insurance Company and Huntington Bancshares of Columbus. Presently, he is on The Ohio State University Hospital East Board and The Ohio State University Medical Center Business Advisory Group. He also heads the two foundations he established: IHS Foundation, which is devoted to helping the homeless, and Salem Lutheran Foundation, which provides scholarships for young men studying for ministry within the Wisconsin Synod. He also was a board member of Columbus Association for Performing Arts, and the Columbus Airport Authority.

A native of Owosso, Michigan, Mr. Skestos earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Degree, a Master of Business Administration Degree, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan. He served as Lieutenant in the United States Navy from 1954–1956. He has four children, George, Stephanie, Jason, & Alex, and 4 grandchildren.

Rodney Wasserstrom...has made yet another generous donation to support cancer related activity at OSU, The James, and the Department of Urology. His continued generosity is an inspiration to us all.

W. Peter Williams...of Columbus, OH and Vero Beach, FL has kindly included us in his charitable giving. Pete and his family are tremendous civic contributors to our community.

To read more about this annual charity event that supports the Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, visit: www.cancer.osu.com/waystogive/about/specialevents/roof/pages.
We honor two great men. Both have suffered devastating urological infirmity. More important, both are bound by a common disposition to promote the well-being of others. I believe if you study their portraits you will observe the benevolence of both men. We hope their likenesses in oil will remind future generations of the critical contributions they made to our department and to this great university.

-Dave Longaberger Chair, Robert R. Bahnson, MD

“The names ‘Longaberger’ and ‘Skestos’ are synonymous with Ohio State. Such profound friendships are essential to the life-changing work being done at Ohio State. As partners, we will deliver on Ohio State’s great promise. Involvement of alumni and friends is one of our University’s greatest sources of strength.”

-OSU President E. Gordon Gee

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-Dave Longaberger Chair, Robert R. Bahnson, MD
Photos

Left Page
Top Row: Rodney Wasserstrom, Pete Geier, & Dave Schuller; Bunch Case, David Williams, & Robert Bahnson; George Skestos, Hagop Melkjian & Richard Murphey 2nd Row: Ennio Chiocca, Ehud Mendel, George Skestos, & Manny Tzagournis; George Skestos, Tami Longaberger w/son Matt, & Bernie Kosar; Michael Knopp & E. Gordon Gee 3rd Row: Bob Walter & Robert Bahnson; Manuel Tzagournis & David Frantz; Julia Boughman, Pete Geier, Tims Nagy & Elizabeth Seeley 4th Row: Tina Skestos, Steve & Pat Gabbe; Greg Lashutka & Tina Skestos

Bottom Row: George Skestos & Elaine Walter

Right Page
Dr. Bahnson and the nursing staff, Brandy, Tina, and Tammy show their Buckeye spirit the O-H-I-O way. Another way that Dr. Bahnson, faculty, and staff of the department show their giving and caring spirit is by giving back to the department through the annual Campus Campaign fundraising event. We have had a 100% participation rate since becoming a department in 2005.

December Donor Event
Longaberger & Skestos

UROLOGY GIVING FUNDS

Bladder Cancer Research Fund (Fund # 312290) Dr. Kamal Pohar.
Endourology Urologic Research and Education Fund (Fund # 313015) Dr. Bodo Knudsen.
Jack Taylor M.D. Urology Lectureship Fund (Fund # 607120) This fund supports an annual lecture (or lectures).
Michael W. Curran Research Fund (Fund # 660588) This fund was established to support prostate cancer research.
Minimally-Invasive/Robotic Urologic Research and Education Fund (Fund # 313014) Dr. Geoffrey Box.
Oncologic and Molecular Urology/Robotic Surgery Research & Education Fund (Fund # 313013) Dr. Ahmad Shabsigh.
Robotic Urologic Surgery Research & Education Fund (Fund # 312951) Dr. Ronney Ahaza.
Ronald and Ernesta Fay Endowment Fund to Support Research in Prostate Cancer and Brachytherapy (Fund # 662122)
Sara Lee Youngs Memorial Fund (Fund # 311931) This fund was established to support a bladder cancer lectureship.
Urology Education Fund (Fund # 306315) This fund is used for teaching and for partial funding of urology research projects.
Urologic Oncology/Robotic Surgery Research and Education Fund (Fund # 313017) Dr. David Sharp.
David Sharp, MD considers himself fortunate to have trained with many leaders in Urology while a medical student at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, as a resident at The Cleveland Clinic, and as a fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. During residency, he spent a year of research in minimally-invasive surgery and advanced laparoscopy.

He is hopeful that with this initial work, the team of researchers at the James Cancer Hospital and Wright Center for Imaging at Ohio State University can make important gains in the detection, management, and cure of patients with renal cancers. When guiding residents through a difficult abdominal surgery for advanced testicular cancer, in treating a complex renal tumor, or in evaluation and management of prostate cancer, Dr. Sharp demonstrates the use of his surgical training and expertise in clinical care to improve the lives of his patients. He is committed to resident education and thoroughly enjoys working with residents of such high caliber that have come to Columbus for their urologic training. Watching residents develop surgical acumen and sound clinical judgment in caring for patients is one of the most rewarding aspects of his job.

Dr. Sharp enjoys robotic and laparoscopic surgery as well as open surgery when minimally invasive techniques are no longer the best option. He is committed to being able to offer patients a full range of treatment options and techniques depending on their particular cancer. This coincides with the James Cancer Hospital's aim of "treating just one type of cancer: yours."

For information on supporting Dr. Sharp’s research in Urologic Oncology/Robotic Surgery please call (614) 366-2811

The love for advances in surgery and new techniques instilled in him continues in his practice today. The potential for applying minimally invasive surgery to urologic cancer care led him to pursue further fellowship training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Although he and his family are originally from Texas, he was eager to get back to Ohio when recruited to join the faculty at Ohio State University over two years ago.

Dr. Sharp is an ardent supporter of treating kidney tumors with kidney-sparing surgery whenever feasible. He is an expert in open, laparoscopic, and robotic kidney surgery. In conjunction with Dr. Bahnson, he was one of the highest recruiters in a successful national, multi-institutional clinical trial evaluating PET/CT and a special radiolabeled antibody as an advanced renal imaging modality to detect clear cell renal cell carcinoma.

Bryce Hensley, a 31-year-old manager of a successful auto body shop, had a wake-up call following his mother’s stroke. He went from an inactive lifestyle of smoking and poor eating habits to a lifestyle of exercise, resulting in a loss of 100 pounds. While exercising he noticed a bulge in the middle of his abdomen. It was later diagnosed as an incarcerated hernia, which required surgery. Pre-op testing revealed an unusual abnormality on one of his kidneys, and Dr. Sharp was recommended. Growing up near Kenton, OH, he was familiar with the James Cancer Hospital and their successes treating cancers. When Dr. Sharp was able to communicate with both Bryce and his family in terms they could understand, Bryce was sure he had made the right decision.

Being diagnosed with kidney cancer was very traumatizing, but with the thoughtful guidance of Dr. Sharp, he found the whole experience a lot less frightening. Any concerns he voiced to Dr. Sharp were handled with efficiency and compassion. On Jan. 2009, he underwent a partial nephrectomy. After discharge, Dr. Sharp and his team continued to use personalized solutions that worked for him. In describing Dr. Sharp, Bryce says “He was professional but also caring and understanding.” He was especially impressed that following discharge he received a call to check on him.

Bryce just completed his one-year CT scan and remains clear of cancer. He will continue to undergo periodic scans to be sure there is no recurrence. Bryce credits Dr. Sharp’s skill and expertise with his survival. Bryce feels his positive attitude of believing in God and believing in himself did a lot to enhance his outcome.

Interstitial Cystitis Research Proposed

C. A. Tony Buffington, DVM, PhD

Dr. Tony Buffington, a professor in the OSU Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, is interested in the role of stress and disease in companion animals and humans. Dr. Buffington’s NIH-funded research focuses on idiopathic cystitis in cats as a naturally occurring disease analog of interstitial cystitis (IC) in human beings, and on the role of neurogenic inflammation and stress in the pathogenesis of these diseases. While serving on the urology special emphasis panel of NIDDK, his contributions included identification of bladder, systemic sensory and efferent abnormalities in cats with IC. These findings support results of companion studies in humans, and support the utility of cats with IC for mechanistic studies of the underlying abnormalities present in patients with IC.

Dr. Buffington is currently working with Dr. Bahnson to submit a grant to NIH to support research on a biomarker of this important disease.

WILEX Comes to a Successful Close

The WILEX study was designed to explore the feasibility of tumor burden quantification of resected renal specimens via PET/CT imaging.

Cathy Mojzisik, RN, MS, Research Nurse: “Ohio State University was the third-highest enrolling site (35 patients) in this Phase III clinical trial. The success of the trial was due largely in part to the “can-do” attitudes of all participants in their support of clinical research.”

Michael V. Knopp, MD, PhD, Dept of Radiology: “Congratulations to the whole team! This has been truly an interdisciplinary and most innovative project with the passion from many to make it happen. Without Dr. Bahnson's great enthusiasm as PI and Cathy's great passion, this cool trial would not have been as successful as it now is. It has opened and demonstrated a new frontier of interdisciplinary clinical trials and advanced patient care. It has been truly pushing us forward in line with the overall OSUMC vision, mission and goals. A great team effort, a Buckeye spirit BRAVO to all!”

Robert R. Bahnson, MD: “The Department of Urology is eager to extend this molecular imaging research in collaboration with Dr. Knopp’s Wright Center of Innovation and Biomedical Imaging.”
**New Robotics Fellow**

In July of this year, OSU Urology will welcome Daniel Mulligan, MD as its new robotic urology fellow. Dr. Mulligan completed a 5-year urology residency training program at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in Akron and will spend one year at OSU for his fellowship.

The fellowship program, under the direction of Dr. Ronney Abaza, is dedicated to training fellows in robotic surgery for prostate, kidney and bladder conditions. Dr. Mulligan will have the opportunity to work with several OSU urology faculty performing robotic surgery, including Dr. Abaza, Dr. Ahmad Shabsigh, Dr. David Sharp, Dr. Geoffrey Box, and Dr. Jason Gilleran. Dr. Mulligan will also have the opportunity to be involved in research to prepare him for an academic career in urologic robotics, including a porcine laboratory study for which he has applied for a grant, and a canine prostatectomy being done on a grant.

**Multidisciplinary Robotic Surgery CME**

Helping to Explore Robotic Surgery Beyond Urology

OSU Urology continues to take a leadership role in propagating the benefits of robotic surgery beyond just the field of urology. On February 26, a full-day continuing medical education (CME) program entitled “What's New in Robotic Surgery Across Specialties” was held for the first time at OSU that covered the role of robotic surgery in urology as well as all surgical specialties.

The course was designed and directed by Dr. Ronney Abaza and gynecologic oncologist Dr. Jeffrey Fowler in conjunction with the Center for Minimally-Invasive Surgery. Drs. Jason P. Gilleran and Geoffrey N. Box were members that included Dr. Mani Menon of Henry Ford Hospital, Dr. Matthew Gettman of Mayo Clinic, and Dr. Jihad Kaouk of Cleveland Clinic. The course remains the only one of its kind and is offered free of charge to the trainees with plans to continue it annually.

**Robotic Training Unique Opportunity**

A major priority for OSU Urology remains its dedication to training the next generation of urologists, which particularly includes robotic surgery given its increasing prominence in the field. Residents have been able to benefit from dry lab training as well as animal laboratory training to better simulate the surgical experience prior to performing robotic surgery in the operating room.

Residents Achal Modi, MD and David Prall, MD were able to spend over 3 hours under the guidance of OSU faculty member Dr. Ronney Abaza performing robotic pyeloplasty and nephrectomy. They learned the finer details of human anatomy and dissection needed for these procedures in a way not possible in dry and animal laboratory training.

“...we did an anastomosis… Outstanding!”

Geoffrey N. Box, MD

The next skills lab is scheduled for June 2010.

**Second Annual Robotic Preceptorship**

In 2009, OSU Urology hosted the first and only educational program designed for Urology residents and fellows to learn about advances in robotic surgery. The course was held again this year on April 16 and 17 and included over 50 residents from training programs around the country.

Live surgeries were performed by OSU Urology faculty as well as didactic sessions by OSU and guest faculty members that included Dr. Mani Menon of Henry Ford Hospital, Dr. Matthew Gettman of Mayo Clinic, and Dr. Jihad Kaouk of Cleveland Clinic. The course remains the only one of its kind and is offered free of charge to the trainees with plans to continue it annually.

The next skills lab is scheduled for June 2010.

**Pediatric Urology Medal Awarded**

Stephen A. Koff, MD, Chief of the Section of Pediatric Urology at Nationwide Children's, was recently notified at the American Academy of Pediatric's Section on Urology meeting that he is to be the recipient of the prestigious Pediatric Urology Medal at the annual American Academy of Pediatrics meeting in San Francisco in October 2010.

**Faculty Recognized for Lecture**

Drs. Jason P. Gilleran and Geoffrey N. Box were congratulated for the “fantastic” program that aired on MedNet webcast. Their presentation entitled "Genitourinary Infections" was presented in November 2009.

MedNet 21 represents the next stage in the evolution from our OMEN programs and is the longest continually running CME program in the country, now for 45 years.

**Faculty Member Honored**

At the last semi-annual medical staff meeting Dr Steven Gabbe, CEO, OSU Medical Center, recognized Dr. Geoffrey N. Box as one of the top four physicians in the OSU system as far as patient satisfaction scores were concerned.

“...Dr. Box is certainly deserving of the recognition. Congratulations!” said Robert LaFollette, OSU Urology's Department Administrator.
**DISTINGUISHED VISITORS**

**Grand Rounds Speaker**

W. Bedford Waters, MD, FACS

is Professor of Urology at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. He will present From Lance Armstrong to 2010: Advances in Testes Cancer at the March 30th Department of Urology Grand Rounds.

Dr. Waters has extensive experience in the treatment of urologic cancers and has served as a leader of many regional and national organizations. He has served as a member of the Examination Committee of the American Board of Urology, Inc. (1995-1999). Dr. Waters is a past Trustee (2003-2009) and President of the American Board of Urology (2008-2009). He chairs the ABU maintenance of certification committee.

**Youngs Lectureship**

Seth P. Lerner, MD, FACS

has been chosen as this year’s speaker for the Sara Lee Youngs Lectureship in Bladder Cancer. He is a Professor of Urology and Beth and Dave Swalm Chair in Urologic Oncology.

He has special clinical interests in bladder, testis, prostate, and kidney cancer and in reconstructive surgery, especially continent urinary diversion.

His research interests are focused on bladder cancer chemoprevention, molecular markers, and gene therapy; and on clinical trials of novel treatment strategies for local and advanced bladder cancer. The title of his presentation will be Bladder Cancer--Surgical Quality and Therapeutic Innovation.

**Winter Visiting Professor**

Christopher J. Kane, MD, FACS,

Chief, Division of Urology and Director, Urology Residency Training Program at University of California, San Diego has been chosen to present at the 14th Annual Winter Visiting Professor Lectureship taking place on October 15, 2010.

Dr. Christopher J. Kane is a specialist in prostate cancer and renal cell carcinoma and is internationally recognized for his expertise in robot-assisted and other minimally invasive procedures for urologic surgery. Dr. Kane has recently been selected as one of San Diego’s Top Doctors in 2009 by the San Diego County Medical Society; in partnership with San Diego Magazine.

“Dr. Kane will bring a different perspective to our already robust robotics and oncology experience due to his interest in minimally invasive treatments for prostate and renal cell carcinomas,” states Dr. Achal Modi.

Dr. Kane has published more than 145 peer-reviewed scientific articles and 125 scientific abstracts and invited commentaries. He contributes extensively to the medical and general communities as a presenter and educator.

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**MEET OUR NEW RESIDENTS**

**David Ludlow, MD**

“Camaraderie is the word of choice when describing the Urology Department at the Ohio State University. It was something that I felt amongst faculty and residents on interview day, and that feeling has perpetuated during my first year here. Everybody works hard, but works together in an effective manner to provide the best care for our patients. I have absolutely no doubt that Ohio State provides all the resources and role models, as well as an incredible breadth of surgical exposure, to give me every possibility to exceed as a urologist. It is just a bonus that Columbus is also an excellent place to live and raise a family.”

**Andrew Smock, MD**

“I identified Urology as my chosen field early on in medical school, and was impressed by Ohio State’s strong reputation. During my interviews, OSU stood out with its strength of leadership, unsurpassed operative experience, and a camaraderie amongst the residents that was unmatched. My wife and I are loving Columbus, and I could not be more excited to continue my training as aurologist here at The Ohio State University.”

**Jeffrey Wilson, MD**

“Ohio State Urology is an ideal place to train, and it is exciting to match here. From the start, the faculty, residents, and staff emphasize learning and personal growth. There is a collegial work environment that facilitates success. Moreover, Ohio State has the financial backing to provide the newest technology, and is insistently looking to improve. I will be a confident, able clinician by the end of my training, due to my personal motivation, combined with the educational atmosphere at this program.”

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**2010 RESIDENCY MATCH**

The Interns have been selected for next year. They will begin a one year general surgery internship followed by four years in the urology program. We welcome them to The Ohio State University!

Abhishek P. Patel, MD - University of Missouri

Targhee J. Morris, MD - University of South Dakota

Yasser M. Ads, MD - University of Michigan
Update on Pint-Sized Philanthropy Article

Our Fall 2009 Newsletter featured a story on one of our patients, a homeless man who, thanks to a local elementary class and Cathy Mojzisik (Clinical Research Specialist), had his wish for dentures fulfilled.

Raymond now has his dentures and is going to enroll in college. He is looking forward to a trip to Ponderosa with Cathy. We are all truly happy for Raymond and wish him many meals with all the people that care about him.

For the full story visit www.urology.osu.edu, click on About Us. Along the left side bar choose Newsletters and view Fall 2009, Volume 2, Issue 2.