

the National Cancer Institute

# The WINSHIP May 2012

THE NEWSLETTER FOR DONORS OF WINSHIP CANCER INSTITUTE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY • VOL.2, NO.1



# A Gift of Gratitude

\$2.5 million Halpern Chair to support Winship's excellence in head and neck cancer research.

YNNE AND HOWARD HALPERN have made a \$2.5 million planned gift to Winship Cancer Institute to recognize one of the country's most accomplished head and neck cancer researchers and support the development of new therapies for these challenging cancers. The Lynne and Howard Halpern Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Research honors Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri and recognizes his role as deputy director of Winship and his leadership of the head and neck cancer program.

Howard Halpern's successful treatment for cancer at Winship inspired this generous commitment. "Dr. Khuri and his team saved my life," Halpern said about his beloved physician and friend. "Lynne and I can hardly express the depth of our gratitude for the extraordinary care we received at Winship. Our hope is that the gift of an endowed academic chair to support Dr. Khuri's vital

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

#### Director's Update



THIS SPRING, we expect to reach another major milestone at Winship Cancer Institute as we await our first competitive National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant renewal. Last fall, an NCI team made a site visit and reviewed the progress we've made since our designation as an NCI Cancer Center in 2009.

The results are gratifying. The NCI team rated our facilities, organization capabilities, interdisciplinary collaboration, cancer focus, institutional commitment, and center director all as exceptional, excellent, or outstanding. The team also rated our application outstanding and recommended renewing NCI support for the next five years.

What will this mean for Winship and our patients? With a renewed five-year commitment, we will be able to build on the rapid progress we have made since becoming Georgia's only NCI-designated cancer center. In just three years, we have increased our NCI and overall funding, expanded collaborative studies, made significant scientific achievements, and translated Winship-initiated research ideas from the lab to the clinic.

Government grant support is only part of our funding picture. We rely on private philanthropy to fund promising new research and to provide essential services, such as the Winship Survivorship Program, which promotes hope and healing for cancer patients and their families.

In this edition of The Winship Donor, you'll find inspiring stories about how private supporters are funding innovative research and talented investigators and memorializing loved ones in meaningful ways. If you're a contributor to our annual fund, be sure to read the story on page 5 about how your gifts are being used to drive the discovery of new cancer drugs at Winship.

We deeply appreciate your gifts, which are essential to our efforts to reduce the suffering from cancer, save lives, and, ultimately, find cures. Your loyal support has been a significant factor in our NCI designation and the anticipated renewal.

Walter J. Curran Jr., MD Executive Director, Winship Cancer Institute

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### **FRIENDS OF WINSHIP ANNUAL MEETING**

The November annual meeting of the Friends of Winship marked the group's first anniversary as part of the Winship family. Now 250 members strong, Friends was formed to create greater community awareness for Winship and to raise research funds. At the meeting, chair Marietta Petters gave a wrap up of the year's accomplishments, and Kathy Bowman previewed exciting plans for 2012.



Members Susan Simpson, Kathy Bowman, and Marietta Petters organized the Friends of Winship Lung Cancer Breakfast in March as part of the group's educational mission.

The highlight of the November meeting was member and cancer survivor Bob Falkenberg's entertaining and inspiring account of his 1,700-mile Lifeblood Ride, a 29-day bike trip from Boston to Key West that raised \$18,500 for cancer research. Dr. Walter J. Curran, Winship's executive director, gratefully accepted the presentation check and closed the program with information on the institution's NCI designation status and an overview of key research currently underway. After the program, still-enthusiastic attendees enjoyed a cocktail reception.

To learn more about Friends of Winship and how to join, call Tiffany Siegel at 404.778.1769.

#### **BUFFALO'S CAFE RAISES \$40,000 FOR WINSHIP**

Buffalo's Cafe employees have a passion for finding a cure for cancer. Under the banner of "The Fight Takes Flight," the Marietta-based restaurant chain adopted Winship as its charity partner in 2010 and raised \$30,000. In 2011, Buffalo's franchises raised \$40,000 through their 'fun-raiser,' created in honor of staff, family members, and patrons who have valiantly fought, and in many cases, won the battle with cancer.

They got creative serving pink tortilla chips and even dyeing their hair pink, all to raise funds for Winship during Breast Cancer Awareness Month last October.

"The support and involvement from the community was outstanding," said Shaun Curtis, Buffalo's COO. As he received the donation check, Winship executive director Dr. Curran said, "The total commitment that Buffalo's employees put behind this effort, to raise awareness for Winship and cancer research is exceptional."

#### **SAVE THE DATE: 2012 WINSHIP 5K WALK/RUN**

OCTOBER 13, 2012

The first annual Winship "Win the Fight" 5KWalk/ Run was a big success last October, raising more than \$200,000 for cancer research at Winship. Over 1,700 participants—including many cancer survivors—ran or walked the scenic course through the Emory campus and the Druid Hills neighborhood. The enthusiasm, energy, and success of the inaugural run make the Winship 5K destined to become a popular annual event. Mark your calendar now so vou won't miss it—October 13, 2012.



Why not register now, too? Join a team or create your own with friends and family members. Enjoy the high spirits, camaraderie, and fun at this family friendly event while you make a difference in the fight against cancer. Visit http://winshipcancer.emory. edu/5K and sign up today!

#### **SUPPORT WINSHIP CANCER INSTITUTE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY**

To make a gift through the annual giving program, establish a named fund, make a bequest, or learn about other ways to give, please contact the development office at 404.778.5175. You also can learn more by visiting our website at http://winshipcancer. emory.edu/support.



The employees at Buffalo's Cafe presented Dr. Curran, Winship executive director, with \$40,000 they raised for Winship during Breast Cancer Awareness month last October.

# A Gift of Gratitude CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work will result in discoveries that save many more lives from head and neck cancers."

Dr. Khuri is an internationally renowned expert in the prevention and treatment of head and neck and lung cancers. In addition to serving as Winship's deputy director, he is a professor and chair of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology in the Emory School of Medicine and holds the Roberto C. Goizueta Distinguished Chair for Cancer Research. Prior to joining Winship, he was a faculty member at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Khuri serves as editor-in-chief of Cancer and has published more than 200 peer reviewed articles. He has been the recipient of repeated competitive, peer-reviewed grant support from the National Cancer Institute, Department of Defense, and American Cancer Society over the last two decades. His research focuses on the development of molecular, prognostic, therapeutic, and chemopreventive approaches to improve the standard of care for patients with tobacco-related cancers.

The Lynne and Howard Halpern Chair in Head and Neck Cancer Research will give Dr. Khuri and his team even greater ability to pursue its research goals. An academic chair is the most prestigious of named academic positions at Emory University. It recognizes extraordinary achievement and leadership and is invaluable for recruiting and retaining top faculty members and researchers. Endowment income from an academic chair contributes, in perpetuity, to the recipient's compensation, scholarly work, and professional activities.

Support of this kind is imperative in the face of increasing competition for talented scholars and investigators who can take Winship to the next level of medical expertise and advanced patient care. The Halpern Chair will ensure that thousands of students, patients, and researchers can benefit from Dr. Khuri's knowledge, leadership, and achievements. It is an insightful investment in the pioneering work that continues to distinguish Winship's multidisciplinary team of head and neck cancer physicians and scientists.

The team also has received a \$12.5 million 5-year SPORE (Specialized Program of Research Excellence) grant from the National Cancer Institute—the first such research grant received in Georgia. The SPORE grant and the Halpern Chair commitment are testaments to Winship's position as a national leader in research and patient care, particularly in aerodigestive cancers.

"Winship's leadership, including leading local and national clinical trials, is particularly important in the face of recent NCI statistics showing that southeastern states have the highest rates of these cancers. In more than two-thirds of cases, the disease at diagnosis is already locally advanced, with a

disappointing five-year survival rate after treatment with surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy. Our goal is to decrease the suffering, disability, and death caused by these diseases. The Halperns' generous commitment will go a long way in supporting the development of new and improved treatments for patients with head and neck cancers in this era of personalized therapy and genomic medicine. I am profoundly grateful for their friendship and deeply humbled by their generosity," said Dr. Khuri.

"As Lynne and I think about the legacy we want to leave, supporting cancer research at Winship is very important to us. We are so pleased to be able to do something to honor Fadlo Khuri and Winship," Halpern said.

If you would like to know more about planned giving, please contact Olen Earl at 404.727.8875 or go to http://emory.edu/ giftplanning.

JUNIOR FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

# Scott Kono, MD

AMONG THE MANY outstanding and dedicated faculty members who serve Winship Cancer Institute is Dr. Scott A. Kono, assistant professor of

hematology and medical oncology, who serves as principal investigator or co-investigator on several head and neck cancer clinical trials at Winship.

"You can get standard treatment anywhere, but only certain centers, such as the NCI-designated Winship Cancer Institute, emphasize

basic science research and cutting-edge clinical trial development," said Dr. Kono. "Learning more about the biology of these diseases will lead to more effective therapy, such as targeted treatments, and ultimately improve outcomes for patients."

Dr. Kono earned his medical degree at Midwestern University. He completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Kansas Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in hematology and medical oncology at the University of Colorado before joining Emory University. He has an interest in teaching and program development, which was reflected by his service as both chief resident and chief fellow in his respective training programs.

"Dr. Kono's innovative research and his role in our lung and aerodigestive cancer clinical trials offer new hope for patients with these difficult cancers," said Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri. "We are grateful for the public and private support that allows us to recruit and retain talented investigators."



4 THE WINSHIP DONOR SPRING 2012 SPRING 2012

## Cooper Foundation Gift Establishes Breast Cancer Initiative

THE COOPER FAMILY FOUNDATION has established a breast cancer initiative at Winship Cancer Institute that includes a two-part study aimed at identifying, preventing, and treating long-term side effects associated with breast cancer and its therapies. William P. Timmie Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Dr. Andrew Miller and breast cancer specialist/radiation oncologist Dr. Mylin Torres will lead The Cooper Family Foundation Breast Cancer Initiative.

Problems, including long-standing anxiety, irritability, depression, fatigue, sleep disruptions, and difficulties with memory and concentration, "occur in up to one-third of breast cancer survivors and significantly impair quality of life," said Dr. Miller. Currently there are few treatments for these behavioral problems, and those that are available have limited effectiveness.

Previous research funded by the Cooper Foundation suggests inflammation may be a major culprit in causing these complications. Inflammation is the body's natural response to the challenge of cancer treatment, but can become chronic in some individuals. This latest gift will directly benefit breast cancer patients by helping scientists identify what happens during cancer treatment to cause chronic inflammation, who is at risk, and what methods of care might block inflammation.

In addition, these studies will leverage the infrastructure that is being created as a result of the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation gift to support breast cancer research. The Cooper Foundation



Fred Cooper (center), chair of the Cooper Family Foundation, shown with Winship's Dr. Deborah Bruner and Dr. Andrew Miller, attended the Winship Quality of Life Seminar in March. His foundation is funding a study aimed at preventing and treating behavioral side effects associated with breast cancer therapies.

studies will add a behavioral layer to this effort, providing important scientific depth to the breast cancer clinical database while opening up new research opportunities for investigators focused not only on a cure for breast cancer but also on the quality of life for survivors.

"Dr. Miller's findings offer great hope that this research will lead to meaningful improvements in the quality of life of breast cancer patients. My family and I are pleased with the work Emory is doing in this vital area," said foundation chairman Fred Cooper.

### Fellowships Train Next Generation of Scientists

SUPPORTING YOUNG, INNOVATIVE SCIENTISTS is essential to cultivating the next generation of exceptional cancer researchers. The Chester P. Rochfort Fellowship endowment and the Nell W. and William S. Elkin Fellowship in Oncology endowment—long-standing philanthropic endowments at Winship—have announced their winning candidates for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Dr. William Petersen has been named the Chester P. Rochfort Fellow



The 2012-13 winners of two long-standing philanthropic endowments at Winship are Drs. Geetha Vallabhaneni and Brian Lingerfelt, Nell W. and William S. Elkin Fellows; and Dr. William Peterson, Chester P. Rochfort Fellow.

and is pursuing research in pediatric neuro-oncology. Drs. Geetha Vallabhaneni and Brian Lingerfelt have been named Nell W. and William S. Elkin Fellows. Dr. Vallabhaneni is focusing on developing breath analysis for early detection of lung cancer, and Dr. Lingerfelt is researching genital/urinary malignancies, with emphasis on renal cell carcinoma.

The Rochfort award helps support the advanced studies and research of a fellow in Winship's three-year hematology and oncology fellowship training program, which includes both hospital clinical rotations, as well as research experience. The Elkin award annually supports two extraordinary scientists or clinicians with career goals in the research and treatment of cancer.

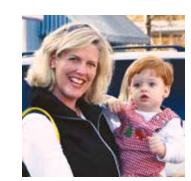
Active for many years, both fellowship endowments are investments in Winship's dedicated and promising young clinicians and investigators, enabling them to explore ideas that otherwise might go unfunded. This support gives them the opportunity to build their expertise and prepare for attaining additional private and public funding.

#### New Fund Honors Carol Maddox Forrester

EXPRESSING DEEP APPRECIATION for Carol's health care team, the Maddox family, through the Maddox Family Private Foundation, recently established an endowed fund at Winship in memory of Carol Maddox Forrester— beloved daughter, sister, wife, and mother. A native Atlantan with many interests, Forrester was known for her equestrian expertise and for her love of family, friends, and Georgia Tech athletics.

The Maddox Foundation gift, combined with dozens of memorial contributions from friends and family, has been named the Carol Maddox Forrester Brain Tumor Research Fund. It will be used to support Winship's brain tumor research program with oversight by neurosurgeon Dr. Costas Hadjipanayis. The research advances the fund makes possible will honor Forrester's legacy and aid in the discovery of new treatments for brain tumor patients.

To establish a named fund, contact the Winship Development Office at 404-778-5175.



Carol Maddox Forrester, shown here with her son Carlton Jr., has been memorialized by her family and friends with a new endowed fund to support brain tumor research at Winship.

## Brenda Nease Donates \$100,000 for Melanoma Symposium

ON ANY GIVEN THURSDAY AFTERNOON, visitors to Winship are greeted by piano music played by Winship Advisory Board member Brenda Nease. The baby grand piano was a gift through the Brenda Nease Fund, which was established to support special projects at Winship. Recently, Nease contributed an additional \$100,000 to the fund for an annual melanoma symposium in honor of Dr. David H. Lawson, her Winship physician for many years.

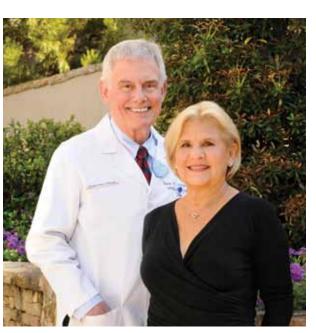
Nease credits Dr. Lawson with saving her life when she had breast cancer more than a decade ago yet has focused her gift on melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, in honor of Dr. Lawson's decision to devote much of his career to this rarer form of cancer.

"As my oncologist, Dr. Lawson always showed me so much compassion and caring," said Nease. "I wanted to do something special to honor him, something meaningful that would further his research interests. It makes me very happy to give him this opportunity to help other people."

Dr. Lawson expressed his deep appreciation for "this wonderful gift that will allow our multi-disciplinary melanoma team to accomplish something that has been on our priority list for a long time—bringing together melanoma experts from across the region to share expertise and accelerate future advances."

One of Winship's roles as an NCI-designated cancer center is to serve as a source of information and continuing education for patients, their families and also for community physicians. Symposia have the potential to improve care for thousands of patients by ensuring that medical providers have the latest information available about treat-





ment options and research advances. The symposium, to be held in February, 2013, will accomplish both educational goals at once.

"Gifts from patients to their personal physicians affirm the value of the patient-physician relationship and the level of excellence in care received," said Dr. Curran, Winship executive director. "Dr. Lawson and I are honored by Mrs. Nease's tangible and extremely generous expression of gratitude."

"Mrs. Nease faced cancer in her own life with grace and courage," said Dr. Lawson. "It is very gratifying to see the difference she makes for others through her gifts of music and philanthropy."

# Annual Donors Help Winship Discover New Drugs... and New Hope

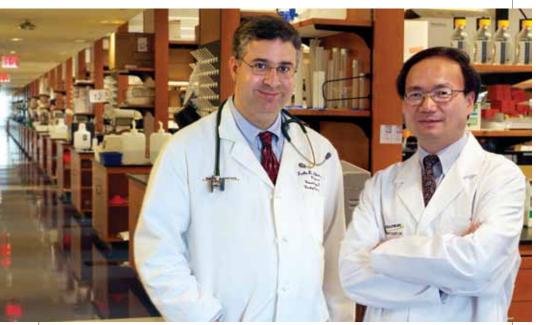
PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY of all types and sizes is essential in the fight against cancer. To maximize the impact of ongoing annual gifts, the Winship Director's Fund pools these gifts to support research priorities. Recently, a \$50,000 allocation from this fund was made to Winship's Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics Program, the primary driver of new cancer drugs at Winship.

The gold standard for cancer researchers is targeted therapy: a drug that stops the out-of-control growth of cancer cells without damaging healthy cells. Our drug discovery program emphasizes identifying new targets in cancer cells, developing compounds that work against those targets, and bringing the most promising ones into the clinic for patient therapy.

A potential drug that hits the right target has to pass a series of tests in the lab, in animal studies, and eventually in patient clinical trials before it can win FDA approval. Winship investigators have been advancing cancer drug discovery at every stage in this process. They have shown that new anti-cancer agents can come from a variety of sources, including medications used successfully to treat other diseases and from natural compounds found in plants.

Drug delivery is undergoing major advancement as well. Winship researchers are partnering with the Georgia Institute of Technology to develop exciting nanoparticle technologies that can deliver drugs to the target more effectively, as well as detect and classify tumors when they are still small.

Emory is a major player in drug discovery. In a study released last year, Emory was cited as the nation's fourth largest contributor to the discovery of new drugs and vaccines by public sector research institutions. The seven Emory products in the study include two HIV/



Dr. Haian Fu (right), shown with Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, is the Director of Winship's Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics Program. Dr. Fu was recently awarded a \$4.5 million grant for cancer drug discovery from the National Cancer Institute. His most recent work was supported, in part, by a pilot grant from the 2009 Winship Gala.

AIDS drugs that are among the most commonly used and most successful therapies for this disease.

Winship continues to strengthen existing team-driven research projects and aggressively recruit top physicians and investigators to keep the quality and depth of our scientific programs among the best in the nation. Gifts of every size from our loyal supporters make much of this possible.

To donate to the Winship Director's Fund, please contact Mark Hughes at 404.778.1288 or mthughe@emory.edu.

6 THE WINSHIP DONOR SPRING 2012 SPRING 2012 THE WINSHIP DONOR

## Breast Cancer Events Raise Awareness, Research Funds

OCTOBER 2011 WAS A VERY PINK MONTH, with many events occurring around metro Atlanta to raise awareness about breast cancer and funds for research. Among them were three major events that highlighted Winship's leadership role in the quest for a cure.

The second annual Be the Boss of You breast cancer trail ride sponsored by Boss Brothers Country Store (Loganville, GA) raised \$25,000 for Winship's Glenn Family Breast Program. This BYOH (bring your own horse) trail ride attracted more than 200 riders and spectators, who were encouraged to be their own bosses and get check-ups to catch early signs of breast cancer. After riding the beautiful wooded trails at Turnberry Bleu Farm in Monroe, Georgia, riders and other attendees enjoyed an evening of dinner, auctions, and entertainment. Dr. Sheryl Gabram-Mendola, Winship breast surgical oncologist and professor of surgery in the Emory School of Medicine, was the featured medical speaker.



Hanna Mendola, Dr. Sheryl Gabram-Mendola, and event sponsors Ken and Susan Boss of Boss Brothers Country Store welcomed more than 200 riders and spectators in the second annual Be the Boss of You breast cancer trail ride.

Also "in the pink" was BJ's Wholesale Club's annual Pink Picnic to celebrate breast cancer survivors and to raise community awareness about the disease. Among the featured speakers was breast cancer survivor and WSB-TV anchor Monica Pearson. BJ's Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of BJ's Wholesale Club, has worked closely with Winship since 2006, donating more than \$250,000 (including \$43,200 in 2011 alone) for the BJ's Breast Cancer Fund in support of Winship's Glenn Family Breast Program. "We

Breast cancer survivor and WSB-TV news anchor Monica Pearson (third from left) and Winship nurse practitioner Christine McCarthy (third from right), pictured with the BJ's Wholesale Club staff, attended BJ's annual Pink Picnic to raise awareness of breast cancer and Winship's groundbreaking research.



are honored to be among the nation's top cancer programs recognized by BJ's for excellence in breast cancer care and research," said Dr. Curran, Winship executive director.

Finally, Bloomingdale's hosted its Ready, Set, Pink educational event at Lenox Square, in partnership with Winship, to support the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Winship medical oncologist Dr. Amelia Zelnak and radiation oncologist Dr. Mylin Torres were available to answer questions, and *Friends of Winship* members were on hand to promote awareness of our breast cancer programs and *Friends* memberships.



Volunteering at Bloomingdale's breast cancer awareness event last October are Friends of Winship members Sally Montgomery, Connie Frazer (sitting), and Harriet Kirkpatrick.

#### Painting Unveiled at Winship to Honor Susan Fillmore White

WHEN SUSAN FILLMORE WHITE of Atlanta died of breast cancer in 2010, her circle of five close friends wanted to find the perfect way to honor her memory. After learning of Winship's Healing Arts Program, they decided to purchase a painting in remembrance.

Missy Craver found just the right painting at the Art House Gallery in Buckhead. She and White's other friends agreed on *Moments of Peace*, a low country marsh scene by Jan Eubanks, and began planning how to purchase it. The gallery owner, Debi Lamb, was so impressed by their dedication that she generously hosted a fundraiser for Winship in her gallery last November.

Family and friends of Susan Fillmore White honored her memory with this evocative painting, which hangs in the newly renovated Winship Breast Imaging Center waiting room.



"We had a party to celebrate Susan's life and invited all of her friends and family," said Craver. "When we showed them the painting, they contributed even more than we needed to buy it. The excess amount was donated to breast cancer research at Winship in her name."

The painting was hung in the newly renovated Breast Imaging Center waiting room and unveiled at a ceremony attended by Susan's family, friends, doctors, and oncology team. "Susan would be thrilled to see what her friends have done for her," said Nancy Merritt, friend and breast cancer survivor.

Inspired by this endeavor, artist Dianne Tuttle donated one of her own paintings to hang in the same patient area. She created her mountainscape in honor of her three friends who had survived breast cancer: Craver, Bee Sieburg, and Becky Cross

#### **Healing Arts Program Opportunities**

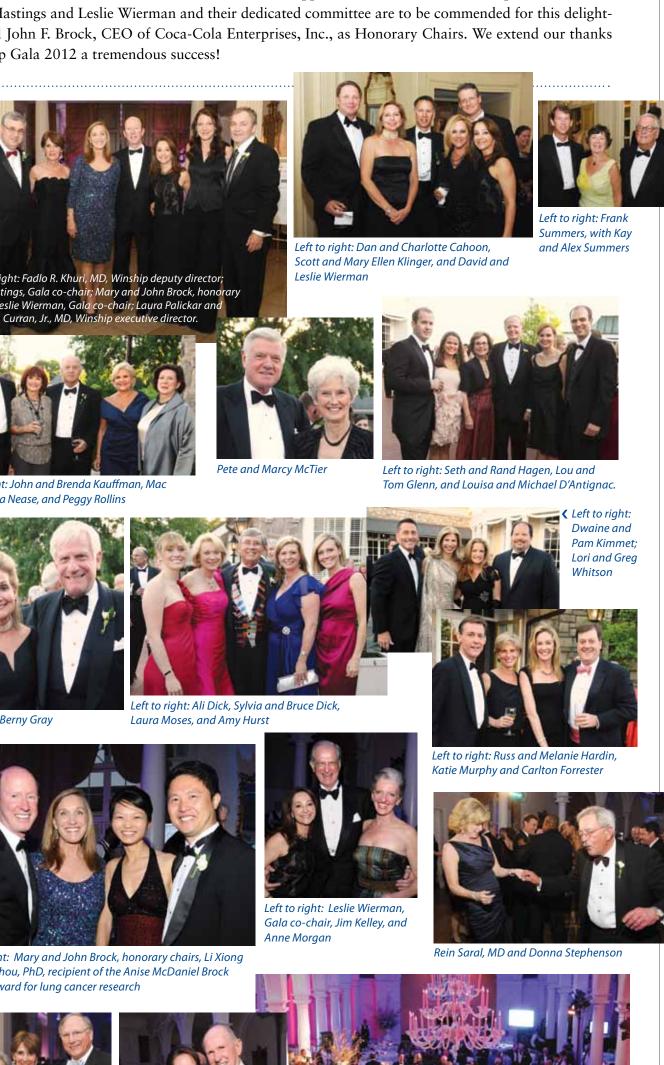
Over the course of treatment for cancer, patients and their families spend many anxious hours in waiting rooms. To create a more welcoming and therapeutic environment, Winship developed a healing arts program to decorate patient areas with artwork depicting soothing nature scenes. With a gift of \$250 or more, you can choose a beautiful piece of art or photography from our selection to honor a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. To learn more about this unique giving opportunity, contact Mark Hughes at 404.778.1288 or mthughe@emory.edu.

# Winship's Gala Raises \$600,000 for Cancer Research

ON APRIL 14TH, 400 GUESTS ATTENDED the Winship Gala 2012 at the Piedmont Driving Club—an elegant evening of dinner, dancing, and celebrating our achievements in the fight against cancer. With HOPE as its theme, this signature event, organized by our *Friends of Winship*, sold out at the patron level and raised more than \$600,000 to support cancer research at Winship. Gala co-chairs and *Friends* founding members Ann Hastings and Leslie Wierman and their dedicated committee are to be commended for this delightful event, which recognized Mary and John F. Brock, CEO of Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., as Honorary Chairs. We extend our thanks to everyone who helped make Winship Gala 2012 a tremendous success!



MORY EMORY



"A magical night for Winship" —Piedmont Driving Club Ballroom

**←** Libby and Ernie Prickett

## Have a Plan

ANN HASTINGS DEFINES SURVIVOR. She beat lung cancer and is in remission from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In the midst of her own battles, she lost her beloved husband, Paul, to bile-duct cancer in 2006.

To keep cancer at bay, Hastings makes bimonthly visits to Winship Cancer Institute, where doctors and staff treat her as family. The warmth, compassion, and expert care she receives at Winship sustain her and have compelled her to make "this little jewel" a beneficiary of her life insurance. "Any way I can, I will give back to fight this horrific disease," says Hastings.

Learn how you can support Winship in your estate plans. Call the Office of Gift Planning at 404.727.8875, email giftplanning@emory.edu, or visit http://.emory.edu/giftplanning.



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