

Working Together to FIND A CURE . . .



Optimist International is committed to “providing the care and finding the cure” for childhood cancer and pleased to be partnering with Johns Hopkins in this effort. This dedication is evident in the generous contributions received from Members, Clubs and Districts.

On September 11, Past International President Jack Creswell, Sue Creswell and Guy Templin from the Atlantic Central District presented a check for \$100,000 to the staff at Johns Hopkins. The funds were donated as part of the Optimist International Innovative Research Fund, which will expand clinical and research programs in childhood leukemias, pediatric brain tumors, sarcomas and other solid tumors and bone marrow transplantation.

The Optimist guests received a tour of the facility and learned more about the innovative work being done by Johns Hopkins researchers.



(from left) Lauren Murphy, Special Events Coordinator and Donald Small, MD, PHD, Director at Johns Hopkins Division of Pediatric Oncology, Optimist Guy Templin, Past President Jack and Sue Creswell and Dr. Colleen Annesley, MD, Instructor, Johns Hopkins Division of Pediatric Oncology toured a research lab where advancements are being made toward a cure.

Meet Allison Martin, MD, Our 2013-2014 Optimist Fellow...

As a trainee in pediatric oncology who plans to specialize in the care of children with brain tumors, I am dedicated to improving treatment outcomes for these patients through research. Brain tumors are the most common solid tumors in children, and despite advances in pediatric neuro-oncology, these tumors continue to be the leading cause of cancer death in children. Moreover, standard therapies often leave children with significant impairments, including severe neurocognitive problems.



Thanks to the generous support of Optimist International, I will continue to seek new approaches to treatment that will reduce these side effects by going beyond the traditional paradigm of chemotherapy and radiation. I hope to improve outcomes for these patients by reducing the toxicity of treatment and offering longer disease-free survival through the durability of the immune response.

\$500,000 pledge

\$132,000 donated



Optimist International contributed \$32,000 during the 2012-2013 year. On September 11, an additional \$100,000 was donated to Johns Hopkins.

A Word of Thanks From Johns Hopkins...

Dear Optimist Members –

The Johns Hopkins Division of Pediatric Oncology is dedicated to saving the lives of children with cancer. A place for brilliant research and compassionate care, it is also a place of laughter and tears, wins and losses, hopes and prayers. Here, superb caregivers do the toughest jobs of all with skill, courage and amazing grace.

Advances in combined modality treatments have reversed the odds and today nearly eighty percent of children can be cured. This has required an enormous investment, but this investment will continue to richly pay off. Every day, children are saved. But still, twenty percent of those children entrusted to us will die. This intolerable thought motivates our researchers toward understanding how cancers grow. The urgent challenge is to conceive more effective and less toxic ways to diagnose, cure and ultimately prevent cancer.

There is nothing more beautiful than seeing research lead to cures.

The molecular tools and the growing understanding that biomedical science has put at our command is incredibly powerful. The time is here to give these children an even better fighting chance of survival.

“There is nothing *more beautiful* than seeing research **LEAD TO CURES.**”

This is why our partnership with Optimist International is so critical. The Optimist International

Innovative Research Fund and the Scholar program allow us the opportunity to develop new treatments for those patients who have not been cured. With your continued support, we will give these children a future of dreams, possibilities and accomplishments.

Thank you!

Stephanie Rice Davis, MSW
Sr. Associate Director
Johns Hopkins Pediatric Oncology