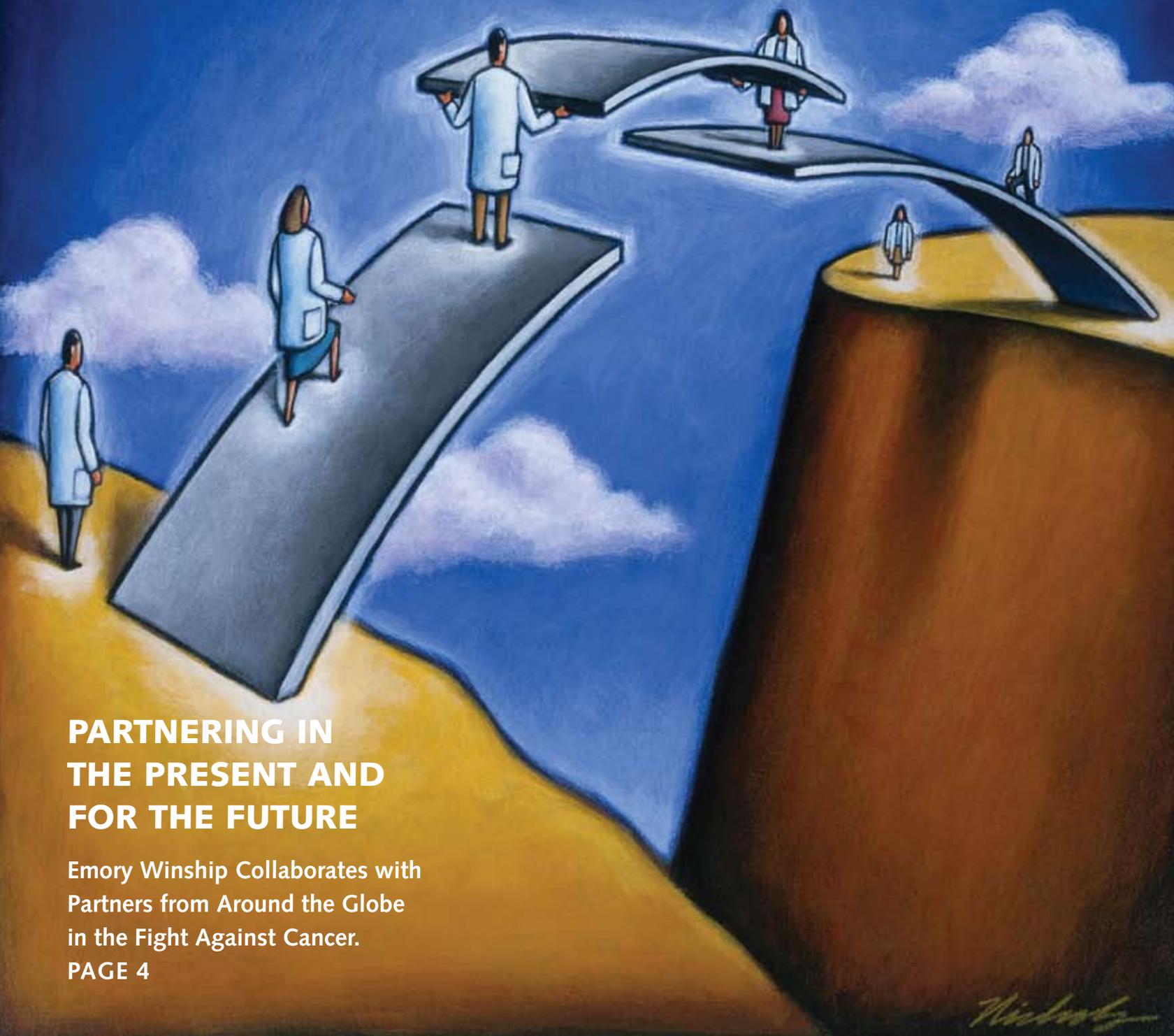


# EMORY

# winship

WINTER 2009



## **PARTNERING IN THE PRESENT AND FOR THE FUTURE**

Emory Winship Collaborates with  
Partners from Around the Globe  
in the Fight Against Cancer.

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*Emory Winship Report is published quarterly by the Emory Winship Communications Office for patients, families, staff, and friends. If you have story ideas or feedback, please contact alandre@emory.edu.*



Leukemia, which will be held in February.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Learn more about Emory Winship at [www.cancer.emory.edu](http://www.cancer.emory.edu).

Warm regards,

**Brian Lelyand-Jones, MD, PhD**  
*Executive Director, Emory Winship Cancer Institute*  
*Associate Vice President, Woodruff Health Sciences Center*

Thank you for taking time to read through the Winter 2009 issue of Emory Winship.

This edition highlights how our commitment to exceptional patient care and ground breaking research extends well beyond the borders of Emory University. We are committed to educating and collaborating in order to benefit not only our own patients, but patients and physicians around the globe. We believe firmly that extending our reach enables us to teach and learn from others who are also engaged in the fight against cancer.

In addition, we've included information on our patient support programs, which now feature meditation classes for cancer patients and survivors who still suffer from the stress of a cancer diagnosis.

Finally, Emory Winship is honored to participate in upcoming events including the Charles Harris Run for

## Support Groups

Support groups provide a unique opportunity for patients with specific cancer types to talk and learn more about treatment options, improve quality of life, and make friends.

Emory Winship Cancer Institute hosts cancer-specific and topical support groups throughout each month on the Emory campus. These groups are facilitated by licensed social workers, registered nurses, and other professionals. To find more support groups, please visit [www.cancer.emory.edu](http://www.cancer.emory.edu).

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Meets last Tuesday of each month 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. **Location:** WCI Building C, Patient Resource Center, Conference Room, C1166B, 1st floor **Facilitator:** Pamela Butts, MDiv. *RSVP appreciated to Pam at (404) 778-4691.*

### CANCER AND FAITH JOURNEY SUPPORT

Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm. **Location:** Patient Resource Center, C1166B, 1st floor. **Facilitator:** Pamela Butts, MDiv. *For more details, call Pam at (404) 778-4691.*

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on Wednesday, twice a month, 12:30 pm-2:00 pm. A support group designed to provide guidance and understanding for those who take on the privilege of supporting the patient. **Facilitators:** Jim Hankins, MSW, LCSW and Sherry Meltz, PsyD, LPC, NCC, DAPA. *For meeting location, Rsvp to William (404) 778-5933.*

### JUST WRITE

This is an expressive, therapeutic writing support group. **Facilitator:** Jean Rowe, LMSW. *Call Jean to register at (404) 778-1202.*

### LOOK GOOD...FEEL BETTER

Meets 4th Monday of each month, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. **Location:** Patient Resource Center, C1166B, 1st floor. In a comfortable setting, learn about skincare and the use of cosmetics. **Facilitator:** Tiffany Hope. *RSVP appreciated to Shanna Lee (404) 582-6123.*

### NUTRITION SUPPORT GROUP

Call for dates and times. **Location:** Patient Resource Center, C1166B, 1st floor. A group for developing good eating habits for cancer patients. **Facilitator:** Tiffany Barrett, MS, RD, LD. *For more details, call Tiffany at (404) 778-5646.*

### SURVIVORSHIP

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. **Location:** Patient Resource Center C1166B on the 1st floor. **Facilitator:** Jim Hankins, LCSW and Allison Schaffer, LMSW.

## National Institutes of Health Awards Emory \$7.4 million for Studies of Oxidative Stress and Colon Cancer

The five-year \$7.4 million grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), a division of the NIH, will support work examining the links between oxidative stress and colorectal cancer, the second deadliest cause of cancer in the United States.

Diet, environmental pollutants, radiation, and drugs can all influence the body's oxidative stress level, says Paul Doetsch, Professor of Biochemistry, Radiation Oncology, and Hematology and Oncology and the grant's principal investigator.



Oxidative stress comes from an imbalance between reactive oxygen species and the body's ability to detoxify them. Reactive oxygen species can drive cancer formation by damaging cells' DNA, leading to mutations and genetic instability that unleash out-of-control growth.

At the same time, major sources for reactive oxygen species exist within the body, Doetsch says. Internal sources of reactive oxygen species

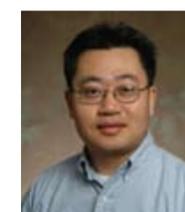
include mitochondria, the body's mini-power plants, and NADPH oxidase, a chemical weapon the immune system uses to deploy reactive oxygen species against bacterial and fungal invaders.

The NIEHS grant will fund several projects studying the contribution of mitochondria and NADPH oxidase to oxidative stress and cancer, and the ability of DNA damage caused by oxidative stress to influence colon cancer formation.

Participating Emory faculty include Doetsch, David Lambeth, Professor of Pathology, Gray Crouse, Professor of Biology, and Yoke Wah Kow, Professor of Radiation Oncology. Also participating is Gerald Shadel, a former Emory faculty member who is now Professor of Pathology and Genetics at Yale University School of Medicine.

## Emory Scientist Earns ACS Grant to Fight Multiple Myeloma

Emory cancer researcher Jing Chen has earned a \$720,000 award from the American Cancer Society to support his work on new drug targets in multiple myeloma.



Multiple myeloma is one of the most common blood cancers found in patients over 65 with more than 15,000 new cases diagnosed each year.

"Current chemotherapy and even newer reagents are inadequate in treating this disease," Chen says. "This award will help us to extend our work finding and validating critical signaling effectors that could be therapeutic targets in the future."

Chen is an Assistant Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Emory

University School of Medicine and the Emory Winship Cancer Institute.

He and his colleagues recently identified ribosomal S6 kinase 2 (RSK2) as one of the key growth circuits in multiple myeloma cells. Abnormalities in the fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3) gene are present in around 15 percent of multiple myeloma tumors, and the overproduction of FGFR3 activates RSK2.

Chen says he plans to study RSK2's role in driving out-of-control growth and to test inhibitors of RSK2 for their ability to block multiple myeloma. The award is \$180,000 per year for four years.

## Walter Curran Named Lawrence Davis Chair of Radiation Oncology

Dean Thomas Lawley recently announced that Walter Curran, Jr. will hold the inaugural Lawrence W. Davis Chair of Radiation Oncology.

Curran is Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Emory University's School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Emory Winship Cancer Institute.



Curran currently is the group chairman and principal investigator of the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, a National Cancer Institute-funded, international, multi-institutional cooperative group dedicated to advancing patient treatment and care through cooperative clinical trials and research.

Curran has been a principal investigator on numerous groundbreaking National Cancer Institute grants, and he has authored or co-authored more than two hundred abstracts and scholarly papers, as well as several dozen presentations, reviews and book chapters. He is chair or co-chair of approximately 19 clinical protocols and a reviewer for 12 national and international journals.

The Lawrence W. Davis Chair of Radiation Oncology was established in October 2004. During his 17-year tenure as chair of the department, Davis has led radiation oncology in establishment of a residency program, a new Division of Cancer Biology to enhance research in the department, and has grown the faculty to 26 members, including 16 radiation oncologists.

"Emory's Department of Radiation Oncology has grown to international prominence under Dr. Davis' guidance," said Lawley, "and we look forward to continuing and expanding upon this positive trajectory under Dr. Curran's leadership."

## PARTNERING IN THE PRESENT AND FOR THE FUTURE: *Emory Winship Collaborates with Partners from Around the Globe in the Fight Against Cancer*

Several physicians meet around a small table within Emory Winship to discuss patient cases. This is a regular meeting and much like many others that happen every day.

A look around the table, however, provides an insight into the diversity among Emory Winship's health care providers. Not only does this meeting bring together physicians and researchers from different disciplines such as medical oncology, radiation oncology, and surgical oncology, but many nationalities are represented here as well.

"The international diversity of Winship's faculty lends us a wide-ranging expertise from which we draw knowledge and understanding," says Fadlo Khuri, Chair of Hematology and Medical Oncology. "In addition, we are actively engaged in international outreach – both to educate and to learn."

Radiation oncologist, Natia Esiashvili, offers one example of the proactive initiatives that build critical medical and research collaborations.

"Education and training have increasingly become global enterprises," says Esiashvili. "Globalization will broaden our scope of input on virtually all aspects of health care in this



country, so it is important to be aware of the process and opportunities that are available in so many different countries."

Esiashvili, who is originally from the country of Georgia, took advantage of a long-standing Emory relationship with the former Soviet republic. The Atlanta-Tbilisi Healthcare Partnership began in 1989 when an agreement was signed between Emory and the Republic of Georgia, as it was then called. That partnership works closely with Georgia's Ministry of Health in assessing the state of the health care system and planning for change.

Thanks to Esiashvili, recent developments within this initiative include a focus on oncology services. The Eastern European nation's oncology and therapeutic radiology services are years behind the curve in recent advances in those fields. Esiashvili met with the president and first lady of Georgia and outlined a joint program to improve oncology standards.

"Georgia currently has 4.5 million citizens," says Esiashvili, "and while there are several small oncology centers, they are widely dispersed with one main oncology hospital in the capital, Tbilisi."

Members of Emory's Radiation Oncology

Department made their first trip to Georgia in 2005. A more recent journey included a multidisciplinary team comprised of faculty from radiation oncology, gynecologic oncology, pediatric hematology and oncology, and the Rollins School of Public Health. In addition to providing expert presentations and panel discussions, the team provided on-site seminars and training in specific areas requested by oncologists in the Tbilisi Cancer Clinic.

Since Esiashvili began this oncology initiative, the Georgian government has increased spending for cancer services and has purchased two new linear accelerators. The new technology has prompted additional need for training. With grant support from the International Union Against Cancer, a medical physicist from Tbilisi spent two months at Emory learning linear accelerator-based radiotherapy techniques and treatment planning. Last year two Georgian physicians and a medical physicist trained at Emory on current radiotherapy techniques.

"This younger generation of specialists will hopefully be a leading force for future oncology programs," says Esiashvili. "Everyone who is involved in this effort is learning."

International relationships such as this

have been in place for many years at Emory University. One such long-standing relationship is the Emory-Tibet Partnership, which began in 1998 and has since expanded to include a groundbreaking Emory-Tibet Science Initiative to develop and implement a comprehensive science education curriculum for Tibetan monastic institutions.

The latest advancement in this partnership involves senior lecturer in the Emory Department of Religion, Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, and Charles Raison, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. In 2005, the two decided to meld their respective educational and cultural backgrounds and their common interests in Tibetan Buddhist practices into an initial study of "compassion meditation," which is a traditional Tibetan technique that combines relaxing breathing exercises with powerful imagery that can change the way we perceive and react to daily stress.

Raison and Negi applied for, and received, funding to begin a study with students at Emory that focused on the effect of compassion meditation on inflammatory, neuroendocrine and behavioral responses to stress.

"We found that by reducing deleterious stress responses, compassion meditation may improve health and may be of benefit for coping with stress, especially in the face of serious medical illnesses such as cancer," says Raison.

Their findings have encouraged them to begin compassion meditation classes for patients at Emory Winship, which began in January. These classes are part of Winship's Support Services Program, and are offered to patients and caregivers who are currently undergoing treatment as well as patients who have completed treatment and are still feeling the stress that accompanies a cancer diagnosis.

"Emory can be a destination for global health and a place that is 'external destination oriented,'" says Esiashvili. "We can continue sending students and staff members overseas to learn and serve. We feel that the Department of Radiation Oncology and members of Emory's Winship Cancer Institute and others have made a major commitment to provide both education and learning opportunities in exchange for the satisfaction of helping others globally. We hope these experiences serve as a resource for other departments desiring to build or to continue international collaborations."

## Cancer Care from Atlanta to Kenya



Three Emory Winship nurses traveled 8,000 miles to a remote Kenyan village to serve the medical needs of a former patient, Isabella Robi and her 600 "adopted" children.

Oncology nurses, Joan Giblin, Rebecca Rabinowitz, and Teri Gregerson, joined Winship pharmacist, Mike Bloomfield, on his annual trek to Mountain Park Academy (MPA) in Nakuru, Kenya, to complete physical exams on more than 600 students, 30 teachers, and dozens of acutely ill villagers.

Isabella Robi, a Kenyan woman, began taking children from the streets into her home to teach them. Her son, a minister in the Atlanta area, attends Mountain Park United Methodist Church in Stone Mountain, where Bloomfield is a member. The church partnered with Robi and began sponsoring children, and building a school campus.

Robi's breast cancer was detected upon physical exam in May 2007. Oncologists Fadlo Khuri, Ruth O'Regan, and surgical oncologist, Charles Staley, along with Emory University Hospital and The Emory Clinic, agreed to cover her treatment and care. Robi flew to Atlanta for care in late 2007. She received a mastectomy, and recovered after only six weeks. She declined radiation therapy and returned to her loving children and villagers who sang songs of joy upon her arrival.

The Emory Winship team witnessed how, in just two years, and under the direction of Robi, the school's aggressive feeding program had nursed the children from a state of severe malnutrition to health. Now, many of the children are healthy enough to fend off dreaded parasites and infections that typically ravage Kenyan children. The Emory Winship team also saw how HIV/AIDS has made much of Africa a continent of orphans, many of whom roam the streets in search of food and shelter.

"Our team walked through the nearly completed MPA Children's Home that will house many of those orphans beginning in 2009," said Bloomfield. "But the best sight of all was for our team to see how a life saved by the care and generosity of Emory Winship helped to save the lives of hundreds of children," said Bloomfield.



### Support the *Healing Arts* at Emory Winship

Impressed by evidence that beautiful, natural environments reduce stress and promote healing and recovery, Emory Winship is working to create a therapeutic atmosphere for our patients and families by displaying artwork inspired by nature through the *Healing Arts* program.

This program is supported by gifts of \$250 or more, and it allows us to acquire art that pleases the eye, engages the mind, and soothes the soul. Individual pieces of artwork may be

sponsored in honor of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion, and mention of the honoree will be included in the framed piece or on a plaque adjacent to the artwork display.

For more information about making a gift to the *Healing Arts* at Emory Winship, please contact Lindsay Cropley, Director of Annual Giving, at (404) 778-1250 or at [lindsay.cropley@emory.edu](mailto:lindsay.cropley@emory.edu).

### Emory Announces Endowed Chair for Breast Cancer Research

Invasive breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, striking nearly 180,000 each year. To aid in the battle against this disease, Emory Winship recently announced establishment of The Jean Sindab Chair in Breast Cancer Research, funded specifically to promote discovery of new genetic targets in the fight against breast cancer.

“This endowed chair is a lasting tribute to the vision and dedication of Dr. Jean Sindab, for whom it is named,” said executive director Brian Leyland-Jones. “We are honored to be able to contribute to Dr. Sindab’s important legacy through focused scientific research into new targeted therapies. We are uniquely positioned at Emory to bring together national leaders in the field to advance progress in breast cancer research.”

The Jean Sindab Chair was made possible by



a \$2 million gift from an anonymous donor in 2005, whose initial contribution established the Jean Sindab Breast Cancer Research Endowment Fund. This fund continues in perpetuity and honors Dr. Sindab’s memory with its support of research on aggressive breast cancers and poor survival rates, particularly among pre-menopausal black women.

Dr. Sindab was an African-American scholar and activist who spent her life working on environmental and racial justice. In 1995 at age 50, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and died 13 months later. The research chair that is

funded in her name is designed to focus specifically on oncopharmacogenomics, the science of discovering new targets for cancer therapy based on the genetic composition of cancer cells. Oncopharmacogenomics is the leading edge of research into personalized therapies.



### Calling all Runners!

The 29th Charles Harris Run for Leukemia is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009. This annual 10K road race originated in 1981 in memory of Dr. Charles E. Harris. An all-star football player, Dr. Harris was awarded “unsung All American” honors at the University of Georgia before playing at the professional level. He returned to Georgia to teach history and coach football, and later became Principal of Shamrock High School. Respected by the community and devoted to his family, Dr. Harris lost his life to leukemia at the age of 49.

Through the efforts of his oldest son, Chuck Harris, and dedicated running comrades, the Charles Harris Run now ranks as the 4th largest in participation among 600 annual road races throughout Georgia. It is also the second oldest 10K road race in the state.

Speaking on behalf of his brother Scott Harris and his sister Terrie Harris Jernigan, Chuck Harris said: “While our father could not defeat leukemia, he would be honored to know that the Charles Harris Run serves to help others win their battle against the disease.”

Last November, Chuck, Scott, Terrie, and their families and friends presented a \$24,500 check from the Harris Run to the Emory Winship, where all the funds from the race directly support leukemia research. To register for the race, go to [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). For more information, please call Skip Breerer at (770) 518-8002.

# Have a plan.



**EDYE BRADFORD** fell in love with the people at Emory Winship Cancer Institute during her treatment for colon cancer in 2006. The surgeon gave her hugs. The nurses made her laugh. Her care team fought so fervently to restore her health, she called them “the three musketeers.”

Emory Winship is known for its expertise, and Bradford is now cancer-free. Deeply moved by the experience, she has left her estate to Emory Winship to fund cancer

research. “In my small way, I am providing a means to knowledge,” she says, “and that is my real gift.”

Learn how you can support Emory Winship in your estate plans. Call 404.727.8875 or visit [www.emory.edu/giftplanning](http://www.emory.edu/giftplanning).

**Plan to invest in healing.**



# EDITH HONEYCUTT

WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HER SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION BY THOSE SHE MENTORED



*“Edith was the nurses’ nurse,  
but most of all she was  
the patients’ nurse—there for  
them and their families  
across time and circumstance”*



**E**dith Folsom Honeycutt, 39N, a beloved member of the School of Nursing, died July 22. She was 91 and had been suffering from renal and heart failure. She is survived by her daughter, Dianne McAfee, her granddaughter, and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, and by her son, Danny.

Honeycutt is best known for her service to Emory University Hospital (EUH), where she was a longtime oncology nurse, and to the Woodruff family, including the school’s namesake, Nell Hodgson Woodruff.

“Edith was the nurses’ nurse, but most of all she was the patients’ nurse—there for them and their families across time and circumstance,” says

Marla Salmon, former dean of the nursing school, who first met Honeycutt when she interviewed at Emory. “Edith was guided by an unflagging belief that she needed to do what was right and to live out her potential, regardless of how many barriers, setbacks, or tragedies she encountered. Through it all, she never stopped striving or counting her blessings.”



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[www.cancer.emory.edu](http://www.cancer.emory.edu)  
1-888-Winship

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