

Summer/Fall 2020

## Division continues to advance clinical care, translational research, and support for patients despite challenges in FY20

Richard Gorlick, M.D., division head and chair of Pediatrics, presented the Fiscal Year 2020 State of the Division

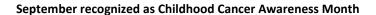
Address online Sept. 14. He said that faculty and staff rose to the occasion and produced excellent results in clinical care, translational research, laboratory science and publications, support services and administrative programs despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among safety precautions implemented institutionally were a reduction of visitors on campus and the cancellation of several activities, including the Children's Cancer Hospital's Annual Prom Party Palooza for patients and their families. The institution temporarily closed laboratories and many staffers began working remotely. Approximately 52% of Pediatrics division employees and faculty now spend at least part of their time working offsite. The division navigated the onset of the pandemic and its impact to our financial portfolio well and ended the year with a \$1.8 million positive operating margin to budget. In recognition of how important the division's clinical success is to the institution, Pediatrics was among the first services allowed to clinically recover by adding more patient appointments once safety precautions were solidly in place. Some of those patient encounters included MyChart video visits, which are new telehealth capabilities rolled out this year. The MyChart Video Visits further reduce viral exposure to our patients and workforce. \*continued on page 4

## Pediatrics involved in MD Anderson's fifth consecutive magnet designation



The American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program awarded MD Anderson its fifth consecutive Magnet Designation. Pediatrics nurses played a role in landing the designation that was delivered Oct. 13. Magnet status is the gold standard in nursing and honors hospitals that meet the most rigorous standards of nursing in patient care, research, leadership and community service. Silvia Saenz, B.S.N., R.N., nurse transplantation coordinator at the Child and Adolescent Center and Tina Folloder, B.S., R.N., outpatient clinical nurse at the Child and Adolescent

Center, were Magnet champions in Pediatrics. **Angela Yarbrough, D.N.P., A.P.R.N., F.N.P.-B.C., C.P.H.O.N.**, advanced practice registered nurse in Pediatrics, was the A.P.R.N. Magnet Champion Co-Chair and **Tiambe Kuykendall, B.S.N., R.N.**, clinical nurse on G9, served as the inpatient nurse Magnet champion and lead host for the site visit. These leaders educated their peers on the accreditation process, terminology, documentation requirements, and how to confidently and succinctly answer questions from appraisers. -continued on page 5





The Children's Cancer Hospital used social media to share information about pediatric and young adult oncology during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September. We shared statistics on the disease, information about the large number of clinical trials we offer to improve treatment options, and featured survivor stories. Those posts included then-5-year-old Parker (left) who started Kindergarten online, 12-year-old "Hallie B" who shared a rap video she created with her mom about her osteosarcoma diagnosis, and 18-year-old Julia who is doing very well after a stem cell transplantation earlier this year. It was part of her therapy for acute myeloid leukemia. Julia now works in a law office in Midland and attends college.

This year, many of the fun activities for September had to be virtual. The Support Services team worked with employees, faculty, and donors to offer patients events such as the Teddy Bear Clinic that



was broadcast live to inpatient rooms from the Pedi Dome. The interactive experience included employee volunteers who 'treated' bears at the direction of patients who could see and speak to their 'treatment assistants' via video. Another event was the Farris Foundation-supported "Let there be Gold" show (right) that featured a video party of singing, dancing, comedy, and magic.

### Fellows graduate in the era of COVID-19, still excited about what's next



Congratulations were well-deserved for our 2020 class of graduating Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellows for completing their training program. The division sponsored a socially distanced ceremony to give all employees the opportunity to participate. Additionally, a generous faculty member hosted a car parade in front of his home, which allowed the grads to include their families in the celebration. What's next for these outstanding subspecialists? **David McCall, M.D.,** joined Pediatrics as an assistant professor to care for leukemia patients. Fellows **Avis Harden, M.D.** and **Usman Baig, M.D.,** are continuing with us for one year as advanced fellows focusing on specific diseases and

treatment options. Graduate **Sana Mohiuddin, M.B.B.S.**, is evaluating many options on her next move. After completing hospice and palliative care training in pediatrics, **Nelda Itzep, M.D.**, has already started a similar program in adult care.

## Research postdoctoral fellows and students graduate, publish, win substantial awards

Several of our **research trainees** were recognized at our **Nov. 4 Town Hall** for their accomplishments, including presentations, publications, and leadership roles. A <u>presentation</u> featuring their scientific and academic accomplishments is on the division's SharePoint Teams homepage.

#### **Savage wins Schissler Foundation Fellowship**

Congratulations to **Hannah Savage**, a graduate research assistant in the Schadler Lab, for winning a Schissler Foundation Fellowship from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The award covers her full stipend, tuition, and fees for the 2020-2021 school year. Savage's project is titled, "Aerobic exercise as a novel method to remodel tumor vasculature and increase therapeutic efficacy." She plans to graduate in May 2022 with a doctorate in Cancer Biology, and career plans include staying in academia as an independent investigator of exercise oncology.

## Figueroa earns American Society of Hematology achievement award

Mary Figueroa, graduate research assistant in Pediatrics-Research, received a 2020 Minority Graduate Student Abstract Achievement Award from the American Society of Hematology in recognition of research that she submitted to the conference's 62nd Annual Meeting and Exposition. It took place virtually from Dec. 5-8, 2020. Figueroa's abstract is titled, "Cigarette Smoke or Cigarette Condensate Exposure Enhances Growth of FLT3-ITD AML Models and Alters DNA Methylation and Leukemic Gene Expression." Congratulations, Mary!

# Always more to learn: division expands educational opportunities for oncologists to sub-specialize

Pediatrics recently launched two, one-year training programs to give pediatric oncologists opportunities to gain more clinical experience and work on research projects and publications. **Karen Moody, M.D., M.S.**, associate professor of Pediatrics, is the program director for the new Pediatric Palliative Care Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program. It was certified by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in April 2020. **Sajad Khazal, M.B.Ch.B.**, assistant professor of Pediatrics, is program director for the new Pediatric Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Program. It was certified by the Texas Medical Board in May 2020.

#### Survivorship research recognized at symposium

Pediatrics research was lauded at the Seventh State of the Science Cancer Survivorship Symposium, an annual event organized by MD Anderson's office of Cancer Survivorship last fall. The purpose of the event was to highlight the emerging evidence-based research and empirical data on clinical practice in cancer survivorship care. Trainees, staff, and faculty submit abstracts to be reviewed and selected as finalists to present at the interactive poster sessions and be recognized for their work. Last November, prior to COVID-19, **Angela Yarborough, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.**, advanced practice registered nurse working with our Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) population, was selected for the staff award for her clinical research entitled, "Long-Term Survival Among 5-Year Survivors of Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer." **Maria Swartz, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Pediatrics, was selected for the faculty award for her research entitled, "Effect of Active Video Game Intervention on Physical Function in Breast Cancer Survivors."

Several of our faculty and trainees applied for grants, published manuscripts, and gave virtual presentations sharing data that has potential to improve cancer research and treatment. Many of those who were *first* or *last* authors in publications, awarded grants, or earned accolades are listed below.

#### **Publications:**

- Zhichao Zhou, Yuanzheng Yang, Fei Wang and **Eugenie S. Kleinerman**. Neuronal Repressor REST Controls Ewing Sarcoma Growth and Metastasis by Affecting Vascular Pericyte Coverage and Vessel Perfusion. Cancer. In press.
- MA Kohorst, CA Nunez, P Tewari, D Petropoulos, KM Mahadeo, SS Neelapu, EJ Shpall, S Khazal. Br J Haematol. Primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma in paediatric and adolescent patients: emerging questions in the era of immunotherapy. 2020 May 29. doi: 10.1111/bjh.16761.
- Izhar S Batth, Long Dao, Arun Satelli, Abhisek Mitra, Sofia Yi, Hyangsoon Noh, Heming Li, Zachary Brownlee, Shouhao Zhou, Jeffrey Bond, Jing Wang, Jonathan Gill, Giselle S Sholler, **Shulin Li.** Cell Surface Vimentin-Positive Circulating Tumor Cell-Based Relapse Prediction in a Long-Term Longitudinal Study of Post remission Neuroblastoma Patients. Int J Cancer, 6/2020. PMID: 32506485.
- Fiorela N. Hernandez Tejada, M.D., Alejandro Zamudio, M.D., Mario L. Marques-Piubelli, M.D., Branko Cuglievan, M.D., and Douglas Harrison, M.D. Advances in the Management of Pediatric Sarcomas. Current Oncology Reports. Accepted.
- Branko Cuglievan MD, Amy Berkman MD, Seyedeh Dibaj Ph.D, Jian Wang Ph.D, John A. Livingston MD, Jonathan Gill MD, Archie Bleyer M.D., and Michael Roth, M.D. Impact of lag time, health insurance type and income status at diagnosis on the long-term survival of adolescent and young adult cancer patients. Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology. Accepted.
- Holland AA, Clem MA, Lampson E, Stavinoha PL. Auditory attention late effects in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Child Neuropsychol:1-16. e-Pub 2020. PMID: 32475222.
- Eugenie Kleinerman, Richard Gorlick (Eds.) Current Advances in Osteosarcoma Clinical Perspectives: Past, Present and Future. Springer. Jun/2020.
- D Ragoonanan, SJ Khazal, J Wang, A Payne, M Kohorst, A Harden, P Tewari, D Petropoulos, B Shoberu, P Kebriaei, KM Mahadeo, and FP Tambaro. Improved detection of sinusoidal obstructive syndrome using pediatric—AYA diagnostic criteria and severity grading. Bone Marrow Transplantation. 2020 Jul 14.
- Izhar S. Batth; Qing Meng; Qi Wang; Keila E. Torres; Jared Burks; Jing Wang; Richard Gorlick; **Shulin Li**. Rare osteosarcoma cell subpopulation protein array and profiling using imaging mass cytometry and bioinformatics analysis. BMC Cancer, 8/2020.
- P Hingorani, V Dinu, X Zhang, et al. Transcriptome analysis of desmoplastic small round cell tumors identifies actionable therapeutic targets: a report from the Children's Oncology Group. Sci Rep. 2020;10(1):12318. Published 2020 Jul 23.
- Maria C. Swartz, Alaina K. Teague, Stephanie J. Wells, Theresa Honey, Min Fu, Kris M. Mahadeo, Laura S. Kabiri, Joya Chandra, Karen Moody, Keri Schadler. Energy Balance Data Repository: Feasibility & Acceptability Findings from an Ongoing Study. JCM, 7/2020
- Cavan P Bailey, Mary Figueroa, Achintyan Gangadharan, Dean A Lee, Joya Chandra. Scaffolding LSD1 inhibitors impair NK cell
  metabolism and cytotoxic function through depletion of glutathione. Frontiers in Immunology, section Nutritional Immunology.
- Kleinerman, Eugenie S., Gorlick, Richard (Eds.) Current Advances in the Science of Osteosarcoma Research Perspectives: Tumor Biology, Organ Microenvironment, Potential New Therapeutic Targets, and Canine Models. Springer. 2020.
- Nadya Koshkina, Yuanzheng Yang, Eugenie S Kleinerman.
  - The Fas/FasL Signaling Pathway: Its Role in the Metastatic Process and as a Target for Treating Osteosarcoma Lung Metastases.
  - o Current Advances in the Science of Osteosarcoma Research Perspectives: Tumor Biology, Organ Microenvironment, Potential New Therapeutic Targets, and Canine Models. Springer. 2020.
- **Grace Nehme** and **Nancy Gordon**. Autophagy in Osteosarcoma. Current Advances in the Science of Osteosarcoma Research Perspectives: Tumor Biology, Organ Microenvironment, Potential New Therapeutic Targets, and Canine Models. Springer. 2020.
- Kerri Wolf-Dennen and Eugenie S Kleinerman. Exosomes: Dynamic Mediators of Extracellular Communication in the Tumor Microenvironment. Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology
- Nidale Tarek, Rabih Said, Clark R. Andersen, Tina S. Suki, Jessica Foglesong, Cynthia E. Herzog, Nizar M. Tannir, Shreyaskumar Patel, Ravin Ratan, Joseph A. Ludwig, Najat C. Daw. Primary Ewing Sarcoma/ Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumor of the Kidney: The MD Anderson Cancer Center Experience. Cancer, 2020.

## **Other Grants**

- **Joya Chandra, Ph.D.,** was awarded a grant "Evaluation of Novel Dually Targeted Kinase Inhibitors for Therapy of Adult and Pediatric High-Grade Glioma." The project period is 6/1/2020- 5/31/2022 and the total award inclusive of direct and indirect costs is \$701,480.
- **Joya Chandra, Ph.D.**, principal investigator, was awarded a two-year \$252,500 NIH R21, Defining and leveraging nutritional and circadian dependencies to augment acute leukemia therapy.
- Kris Mahadeo, M.D., M.P.H., received a \$277,000 grant from Jazz Pharmaceuticals for Critical Care Complications of Pediatric Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy: Simulation Workshop. This is a medical education grant which supports the training of pediatric transplant, cell therapy and critical care nurses, advanced practice providers, fellows and junior faculty members. Mahadeo will partner with Priti Tewari, M.D., associate professor of Pediatrics and director of the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program, along with Pediatric Critical Care faculty and teams from Nephrology and Neuroradiology—in conjunction with our MD Anderson Simulation Center and international content experts to coordinate a didactic and first-of-its-kind virtual simulation platform in this area.

### Cuglievan wins grant to study device that attempts to test white blood cell counts without a drop of blood

Branko Cuglievan, M.D., assistant professor of Pediatrics, was co-awarded a \$100,000 grant to study a non-invasive device that patients can use at home to monitor for signs of neutropenia, a frequent and often life-threatening side effect of cancer. A group of biomedical engineers formed at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) share the award with Cuglievan. Investigators say patients can place their fingers in the equipment, allowing light to help the machine capture images of the skin around their fingernails to identify blood cells flowing through superficial capillaries. The device uses algorithms to determine whether white blood cell levels are too low, prompting the patient or family members to seek medical assistance. The Center for Advancing Point of Care Technologies (CAPCaT), a partnership between the University of Massachusetts Medical School at Worcester and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, received funding for this investigation from the National Institutes of Health Point-of-Care Technologies Research Network (POCTRN). The network's goal is to help speed up the development of medical equipment that patients can easily use on their own.

#### E-cookbook approved for content and technology makeover

The Children's Cancer Hospital's e-cookbook, called @TheTable, is undergoing a technology and content makeover. Goals are to improve accessibility for visually and hearing-impaired users and to allow the Energy Balance team to revise some content to more closely follow National Cancer Institute (NCI) guidelines for nutritional management of oncology patients. The division's Executive Leadership Council approved the update in September.

Professional chefs, members of the community, as well as MD Anderson employees and patient families have contributed to the database, which has been used in past and ongoing research. The website, <a href="https://document.org">atthetable.mdanderson.org</a>, was launched in 2012, after receiving funding support from the James B. and Lois R. Archer Family Charitable Foundation, Gerber Foundation, Santa's Elves Parties, David and Cathy Herr, MD Anderson's Children's Art Project, and the Farrah Fawcett Foundation. The e-cookbook was produced by MD Anderson's e-Health Technology Program, which is also performing the modifications now.

Recipes are organized to help families select options based on symptoms, color, texture and taste. The selection is also categorized by healthy meals that can be made quickly and meals that kids like most. Tip sheets are available in different languages.

#### State of the Division-continued from page 1

Gorlick highlighted clinical trials that launched in the last year and talked about studies under development for FY21. He detailed how the division revised its communications plan to promote trials through new e-newsletters and e-postcards. The new communications tools are distributed to pediatric oncologists and other specialists across the country on a quarterly and monthly basis. The division head discussed the virtual fellowship graduation and lauded the accomplishments of the outgoing class. In fact, he commended all medical fellows who published papers and won grants. One such high-achieving fellow was Sumit Gupta, M.D., who won as a co-awardee with Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, M.D., professor of Neuro-Oncology-Research, a \$247,594 Chance for Life Foundation grant to study treatment options for diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas (DIPG). The State of the Division also celebrated some of the milestones of our research trainees in the last year. This includes Keri Wolf, who earned a doctorate in Cancer Biology; Ajay Sharma, who was accepted into a Cancer Biology doctorate program at the University of Virginia; and research assistants Meredith Buzbee and Sofia Yi, who were accepted into medical schools at Sam Houston State University and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, respectively. Mary Figueroa became part of the first University of Texas fellowship cohort designed to develop tomorrow's future leaders in health care today. The division head said several of our faculty have been providing care for young oncology patients at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital since January 2020. By the end of August, division oncologists had seen 29 patients, some of whom were transferred to the MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital to participate in clinical trials. Gorlick praised the work our expanding critical care team is doing to support patients who undergo treatments which often require a higher level of expert inpatient care. He thanked the Support Services team and others who created innovative wellness initiatives for employees, such as inspirational chalk art messages near building entrances, virtual instructor-led yoga sessions and musical telegrams, and a host of online activities for patients and their families. Division faculty and employees can review the entire FY20 State of the Division Address anytime. The slide deck is also located on the Pediatrics SharePoint Teams homepage under Announcements.

## Board of Visitors Advisory Group 2020 meeting biggest attendance ever to hear divisional updates

The Board of Visitors Advisory Group for the Children's Cancer Hospital convened virtually for its annual meeting on Nov. 6, hosting a total of 55 participants—including faculty and staff. **Theda Williams**, program manager of Development outreach for Pediatrics, **Cecilia Aguerre**, **Ph.D.**, program manager in Pediatrics Administration, and **Tara VanDerpoel**, **B.B.A**, program coordinator for Support Services, planned the online event. Special thanks to VanDerpoel, who coordinated the main session, several breakout groups, and a successful wrap-up session on Zoom. **Richard Gorlick**, **M.D.**, head of Pediatrics, presented the State of the Division to our BOV Advisory Group. Breakout sessions were held on specific topics: research, network opportunities, support programs, and patient care and operations.

#### Homecoming queen and clinical trial patient making plans for college and road trips



"I'm making so many plans and have so many goals that dying is not an option. Despite all the reports and labs and scans, I continue to believe that I will be cured and live a wonderfully exciting life," said Logan Lowrey, who was crowned Homecoming Queen at Shawnee East Mission High School in Prairie Village, Kansas, following an Oct. 15 soccer game. Her brother Garrett (in photo) and her mother Gina served as escorts. Logan's comments reflect the very positive attitude and lovely personality that her oncologist, **Najat Daw, M.D.**, professor of Pediatrics, describes. Logan is receiving care at the Children's Cancer Hospital for recurrent osteosarcoma of the bone that has spread to her lungs. She participated in a Phase I clinical trial of umbilical cord blood-derived natural killer (NK) cell therapy for malignant solid tumors. Study number 2017-0085 is only offered at this institution. The donated cells were collected at birth from healthy babies and stored at MD Anderson's Cord Blood Bank. NK cells from the most suitable donor cord blood unit were expanded and multiplied in the laboratory. Logan received preparative lympho-depleting chemotherapy that created a space for the infused NK cells to expand and potentially exert their potential anti-tumor activity. She will now continue that course following the trial. The 17-year-old's most recent appointment with Daw was conducted virtually. The video visit was made possible when the teen's mom drove from Kansas to Missouri, where such

telehealth visits are allowed. "Logan wants me to let her know if we have any further experimental options for her. She wants to continue to try. I am privileged to have the opportunity to know Logan and provide care for her," said Daw. For Logan, everything is about frame of mind and planning, like when she learned she'd been nominated for homecoming court. "I thought, 'Oh God, I'm going to have to buy a dress,'" she recalled. Her brother Garrett and mom Gina served as proud escorts. Due to COVID-related safety precautions, there was no dance or parade.

Now, Logan is thinking about graduation and beyond. "I plan on heading to college, likely the University of Kansas. I want to heal people and animals with alternative medicines, so I've got a lot of work to do," she said. A couple other things on her list are making new friends in college and keeping up with friends she has known for a while and fondly refers to as partners in crime. "We're planning road trips—Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Vancouver, British Columbia are my most anticipated adventures," Logan said. We hope she'll tag us in some of those pictures!

#### Magnet Nursing- continued from page 1

Other G9 nursing staff involved in the Magnet site visit preparation included Hannah Warr, M.S.N., B.S.N., R.N., who disseminated information to staff starting in March 2020, along with Emily Young, B.S.N., R.N., and Carmen Sittig, B.S.N., R.N. Additionally, Joanne Greene, M.S.N., R.N., advanced practice registered nurse in Pediatrics served as a Magnet Host for the site visit. During the visit in August, appraisers interviewed employees and patients to learn about our entire nursing community. They went to inpatient units, ambulatory centers and procedural areas via iPads on wheels to conduct virtual meetings instead of inperson encounters. "All of the nurses within Pediatrics participate in the Magnet mission everyday by demonstrating evidence-based practice, collaborating with interprofessional teams and disseminating and implementing new knowledge," said Yarbrough. During the accreditation process, clinical staff developed projects to further improve patient care and increase efficiency. For example, Robin Cannon, B.S., R.N., the clinical nurse at the Child and Adolescent Center who performs many of the port accesses, and Bonny Bowen, R.N., C.H.P.P.N., a clinical nurse in the Pediatric Ambulatory Treatment Center, both learned how to administer tissue plasminogen activator to occluded ports and central lines—and cross-trained fellow nurses to do it when they are not available.

"Their training makes it possible for our patients to have this service performed in the clinic rather than requiring them to go to the Infusion center," Yarbrough explained. MD Anderson's Magnet <u>application</u> took over two years to write and included more than 80 sources of evidence, highlighting examples of evidence-based interdisciplinary practice, nurse-driven excellence in quality measures, and nursing research. Studies show that Magnet hospitals tend to have lower mortality and infection rates, as well as higher patient satisfaction and nurse staffing levels. As part of the Magnet Commission's findings, the organization recognized eight examples of exceptional performance, including:

- The CARTOX Program, which oversees care for MD Anderson's CAR T cell therapy patients
- The <u>Hemovigilance Unit (HVU)</u>, a collaborative effort between the Nursing, Laboratory Medicine and Information Technology departments to monitor cancer patients before, during and after blood transfusions
- The organizational <u>response to COVID-19</u> in which MD Anderson quickly enacted proactive strategies and precautions to monitor the impact of the pandemic and protect its patients and workforce
- Data exceeding benchmarks in patient experience and chemotherapy extravasations in ambulatory settings

Organizations must reapply for Magnet recognition every four years. Interviews and documentation reviews happen within a year of submission—so mark your calendars for another review in 2025.

### You might already know our newest faculty member



**David McCall, M.D.**, joined our faculty in November as an assistant professor who will provide care to leukemia and lymphoma patients. He graduated from the Children's Cancer Hospital's Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program in June. Accomplishments during his training include serving as chief fellow and winning an MD Anderson Outstanding Trainee Achievement Award, among others. McCall says he wanted to become a doctor because it would allow him to combine his love of science and medicine with his desire to serve people.

# Consider donating blood to help our patients

MD Anderson is experiencing a shortage in blood donations. Employee, faculty, and community members are being asked to help as our patients need approximately 200 units of red blood cells and 600 units of platelets each day.

Most blood and platelet units are used to help our patients with blood cancers, such as leukemia and lymphoma. Some replace blood lost during surgery. But all blood donations are critically important to our cancer patients' recovery. Who is eligible to donate? People who are at least 17, weigh at least 110 pounds, and can present a photo identification. People taking certain medications for diabetes and high blood pressure are eligible. You cannot donate if you are taking antibiotics for an active infection. Follow this <u>link</u> to learn more about who cannot donate blood. If you are well and able to donate, please consider making an appointment by logging onto <u>www.mdandersonbloodbank.org</u>. Go to the bottom of the page to find the best donation location for you. If you have questions, call the Blood Bank at 713-792-7777.

### Team #GoldenBoots does it again—but if you missed it, there's still time!

The Children's Cancer Hospital had 22 virtual participants in the Fifth Annual MD Anderson's Boot Walk to End Cancer, held the first Saturday in November to raise money for cancer research.



The 1.2-mile walk usually begins in the heart of the Texas Medical Center, but due to COVID-19 safety precautions, participants were asked to walk in their own neighborhoods with families from their own households. Team #GoldenBoots raised \$7,557. In the photos (I-r) are Theda Williams, survivor Isaiah Gamble (Tomika Gamble's son), "J," (Dr. Maria Swartz's daughter), Nicole Rosburg and family, and Katrina Burton with her mom and youngest daughter. If you didn't get to participate that weekend, you still have time to donate. Boot Walk continues through the end of December. Please feel free to visit <a href="http://mdacc.convio.net/goto/CCHGoldenBoots">http://mdacc.convio.net/goto/CCHGoldenBoots</a>, if you'd like to contribute.

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