

ENDOWMENT REPORT

Fiscal Year 2018



George and Barbara Bush Endowment for Innovative Cancer Research

V. Craig Jordan, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Breast Medical Oncology

How Your Gift is Making Cancer History®

Thanks to the generous support of the George and Barbara Bush Endowment for Innovative Cancer Research, we have established two major advances in women's health: 1) The creation of a new group of medicines called selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs), to treat and prevent multiple diseases in women (breast and endometrial cancer, osteoporosis, stroke and coronary heart disease) with a single tablet, and 2) The discovery of a new mechanism of drug resistance in breast and prostate cancers where long-term anti-hormone therapy creates cancer cell populations that can be killed by low doses of a woman's own estrogen in breast cancer and for men, testosterone in prostate cancer. The program in the cancer cells that facilitates the killing is already present in normal human cells buried in the DNA. We are creating a unified principal to unlock this program in cancer and produce new therapies for patient care.

Such discoveries are not possible without top-flight educational opportunities. The future of medical research is in jeopardy with a failure to invest in a new generation of outstanding leaders in cancer research. As a successful principal investigator, it is

my responsibility to train the best and the brightest to excel.

Young medical scientists are being mentored and trained to excel at the highest levels of research and discovery. Your endowed funds support a recent medical school graduate — Balkees Abderrahman, M.D. Not only has she excelled above all other trainees I have mentored over the past 45 years, but she is a pioneer for MD Anderson. She is the first to register for a Ph.D. program at the University of Leeds in the U.K., while performing her Ph.D. work in my laboratory at MD Anderson. She will complete her degree in two more years and return to her clinical training. She has contributed to more than 30 publications in literature over the past two years. The dozens of publications that we have produced would not have been possible without your support. We are an internationally recognized research program and this knowledge has been spread in our quest to save lives.

The Bush Endowment has been a vital component of my work. I want to thank you for your support and your partnership in our mission to end cancer.

