

she decided that she would be a source of knowledge for other women with ovarian cancer.”

Bernice had a severe setback in July 2001, and she agreed the time probably had come to engage hospice. But she rallied remarkably, tore up the hospice papers, and survived another year with a reasonably good quality of life. She died in July 2002.

“She was a survivor,” says Averette. “She had the perfect positive attitude to do what she had to do to be with her family until the very end.”

In memory of Bernice and her tireless efforts to help others, the family created a fund in her name for contributions to cancer research—the Bernice Kraslow Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.

“Both Bernice and I were determined to create a program to support research at UM/Sylvester,” says Kraslow, “and at the time of her death, I was convinced that this was the thing to do. This fund is in concert with everything that she had done during the course of her illness.”

Kraslow, in fact, believes wholeheartedly that more individuals should support cancer research. This notion has even trickled down to other members of his family. For his Bar Mitzvah project, grandson Ryan Dandes solicited collectibles from the Hurricanes and other sports teams, which he raffled off to raise money for his grandmother’s fund. The effort raised more than \$600.

“Not only did we create the fund as a way to memorialize Bernice, it was a way of creating a vehicle to support

research dedicated only to ovarian cancer,” says Kraslow. “It’s not a closed fund by any means; we welcome any penny that comes in.”

R. KIRK LONDON

R Kirk Landon truly believes in cancer research and feels strongly that South Florida deserves a world-class cancer research center. So strongly, in fact, that he’s put the financial support of his family’s foundation behind the facility he says is among the best in the Southeastern United States.

Landon understands that research is what ultimately will find a cure for cancer. And, he knows that financial support is key to advancing that research. Thus, when charged with the responsibility of administering the Kirk A. and Dorothy P. Landon Foundation, Landon approached UM/Sylvester about establishing a prize program for cancer research. The



R. Kirk Landon

foundation was established by a bequest from his stepmother who willed that her estate be committed to medical research, especially cancer research.

That meeting, and several that followed, became the foundation for the Landon-AACR Prizes for Cancer Research, two of the world’s most lucrative prizes for cancer research. Early next year, UM/Sylvester, along with the Landon Foundation, will host the second annual ceremony awarding two, \$200,000 prizes for cancer research. The first will be given to Charles J. Sherr, M.D., Ph.D., from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, who will

receive recognition for basic cancer research in the area of tumor cell biology. The second, for his work in translational cancer research, will be given to Dennis J. Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., from the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCLA. The 2004 event will take place January 16.

As part of the program, and because of Landon’s deep regard for the important work under way at UM/Sylvester, the award recipients spend time in Miami exchanging ideas with UM/Sylvester faculty. Landon realizes it is UM/Sylvester that is truly advancing cancer research in the region, something he believes is absolutely vital to the well being of the community, which he adores.

“UM/Sylvester has recruited some of the country’s most outstanding cancer researchers,” he says. “As they continue to add to that program, they will continue to do more and more in the fight against cancer.”

Landon says giving “constantly and continually” to cancer and cancer research is essential. “The more we can do, the better we can be,” he says. “When it comes to cancer, it’s not a question of if, it’s a question of when. The numbers are staggering; everyone has had some kind of cancer experience, somewhere in their family.”

Landon praises the recent strides made at UM/Sylvester to advance basic and translational research.

JOHN AND JUDY SCHULTE

It takes a few tries to get John Schulte to agree to talk about the contributions that he and his wife, Judy, have made to the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. He shies away from the spotlight,

uncomfortable discussing the business acumen that has allowed him to be a donor today. Ignoring the Schultes' story, though, would mean missing the chance to bring attention to this couple's strong belief that people need to get involved and stay involved.

"John is extremely private about his involvement," says Joaquin Blaya, chairman of UM/Sylvester's Board of Governors. "But his commitment is unbelievable. His actions are a stronger statement than anything that could be said verbally."

Since becoming members of the Founders' Society five years ago and more recently the Ashe Society, John and Judy Schulte have become an impressive force in the fight against cancer. Each year, the Schultes contribute to cancer research in the hope that others will benefit from their gifts. Their goal is to renew their Founders' Society membership each and every year.

When John was named to the Board of Governors last year, he renewed his commitment to help improve every facet of cancer care at UM/Sylvester.

"We consider ourselves to be very ordinary people who live very private lives," John says. "Along the way, we have been blessed to be able to make extraordinary contributions to such an important cause."



Judy and John Schulte

THE SPRING FAMILY

In 1989, Jeanne Spring was diagnosed with squamous cell cancer. Following surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy, multiple complications developed. During the next four years, the Spring family spent endless hours waiting to see the best doctors New York had to offer.

"When a person is informed they have cancer, after the initial shock, they think in terms of finding the best medical care possible. Many think of going North to a well-known hospital," says husband Richard. "Our personal experiences show this may not be the best. The renowned hospitals are often overcrowded and appointments are difficult to get."

In 1994, Jeanne and Richard moved to Boca Raton. At that time, Jeanne's condition worsened, requiring extensive surgery. She was cared for by a number of doctors and hospitals in Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale—each prescribing different medications and treatments—but her health steadily deteriorated. At that point, everyone had just about given up hope.

At the suggestion of a friend, the Springs scheduled an appointment with a team of physicians at UM/Sylvester. These doctors performed additional surgery, and oversaw her treatments and medications.

The coordinated team approach worked. This team of doctors saved her

life. Today Jeanne is cancer-free, enjoying her family and new grandchild.

"No question, the best line of attack is going to a major medical center," says Richard. "For those living in Florida, UM/Sylvester is the place to go to get the best, state-of-the-art treat-



Left to right: Jennifer Spring, Jill and Adam Spring, Jeanne and Richard Spring, Jean Marc de Silva, and Daniel Spring.

ment, as well as providing your loved one with the best chance for recovery."

In gratitude, the Spring family has donated to UM/Sylvester substantially in both money and effort. Richard sits on the Board of Governors, the Scientific Steering Committee, and chairs the Cancer Research Committee. Children Daniel and Jennifer are involved with Friends for Sylvester. Richard and Jeanne were inducted into the Ibis Society last year, and this year Daniel and Jennifer became Grand Founders. Son Adam and wife Jill are Founders and soon will become Grand Founders.

To date, the Spring family has donated more than \$500,000 to fund UM/Sylvester's cancer research effort, all with the hope of helping others, just as they were helped.