Investment Opportunity:
Institute for Advanced Cancer Therapeutics
Forty years ago, a cancer diagnosis came with a roughly 50-50 chance of surviving for five years. Advancements in diagnosis and treatment made possible by clinical research have increased those odds to nearly 70 percent. Expanding the cutting-edge clinical research conducted at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, through a planned Institute for Advanced Cancer Therapeutics, will help shape the future of cancer care while giving today’s cancer patients greater hope.

The Promise of Clinical Research
This year alone, nearly 1.7 million Americans will hear the dreaded words, “You have cancer.” Roughly 600,000 will die from it. Despite expectations that cancer will overtake heart disease as the No. 1 cause of death in the United States within the next 15 years, there is reason to hope.

About 14.5 million Americans with a history of cancer are alive today thanks to improvements in diagnosis and treatment. Since 1947, when physicians in Boston achieved the first-ever remission of pediatric leukemia, clinical research conducted in hospitals and medical centers around the world has brought about steady progress in the war against cancer.

More than 170 drugs are now available to fight cancer, compared to only a handful decades ago. Most of the new drugs have been approved in the last 10 years.

Early this century, the first “targeted” cancer treatments became available, enabling oncologists to attack malignant cells without harming nearby healthy cells. Around the same time, scientists finished decoding the human genome, ushering in the era of personalized medicine, in which treatment can be tailored to the biology of the individual patient and tumor.

Now, cancer care is on the threshold of dramatic change. Clinical oncologists predict the field will advance more rapidly in the next 20 years than it has in the past 50 thanks to advances in clinical research.

Accelerating Access to New Therapies
Currently, fewer than 5 percent of Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center patients are enrolled in clinical trials. We aim to triple the center’s research capacity, thus ensuring more patients have access to this leading-edge care.

Doing so, however, requires a dedicated infrastructure, with specialized space, experienced staff, meticulous data collection, and blood- and tissue-sample collection and storage facilities.

An estimated 32,440 of this year’s newly diagnosed cancer patients will be Arizona residents, and an additional 231,000 of them will live in a bordering state. With the support of a generous community willing to invest in establishing the Institute for Advanced Cancer Therapeutics at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, we will be able to tell them, Hope Starts Here.
With these elements in place, Banner MD Anderson will create an Institute for Advanced Cancer Therapeutics, a cutting-edge clinical research program exclusively devoted to cancer.

The institute will shorten the time between the discovery of new therapies and their delivery to patients. For some patients, especially those with rare and difficult-to-treat cancers, the institute will represent hope for an extended lifespan or a cure.

**Spotlighting Rare Cancers**

About 10 percent of Banner MD Anderson patients have rare types of cancer (those with fewer than 3,000 occurrences nationally per year). Because they are rare, these cancers have not received the attention of the pharmaceutical industry and, as a result, there often is no standard treatment available.

A focus of the Institute for Advanced Cancer Therapeutics will be advancing treatment options for rare cancers, rare subsets of common cancers and cancers that have been resistant to treatment. The aim is to understand the biology and genetic footprint of those cancers and devise the most promising treatment approaches, offering patients new hope.

**The Power of Partnership**

Banner's partnership with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center provides a unique advantage in the Arizona hospital's role as a rare-cancer research specialist. MD Anderson operates the largest cancer clinical trial program in the nation.

Last year, more than 8,000 patients were enrolled in over 1,100 clinical trials at MD Anderson in Houston. Together, The University of Texas MD Anderson and Banner MD Anderson Cancer Centers will accelerate the development of new therapeutics for patients with difficult-to-treat and rare cancers. A master research agreement and Institutional Review Board reciprocity agreement already are in place.

The Institute for Advanced Cancer Therapeutics also will attract additional partners, including biotechnology firms, pharmaceutical companies and other regional academic partners. Thus, its impact will extend well beyond the walls of Banner MD Anderson.

**Moon Shots Program**

In 2012, MD Anderson launched its “Moon Shots” program—inspired by President John F. Kennedy’s 1962 challenge to land a man on the moon by the end of the decade. In this case, the 10-year goal is to rapidly and significantly reduce mortality from six cancers: breast and ovarian, leukemia AML, leukemia CLL, lung, melanoma and prostate.

The Moon Shots Program is built upon a game-changing paradigm for attacking cancer that brings together the best attributes of academia and industry. Cross-functional teams are working to convert knowledge into tests, devices, drugs and policies that can benefit patients as quickly as possible.

The Institute for Advanced Cancer Therapeutics will make Banner MD Anderson a key player in the cancer Moon Shots Program.

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