



*Thomas C. Wilmot, Sr.*

*Judy Wilmot Linehan*

## THE WILMOT FAMILY

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For more than 35 years, the Wilmot family has been dedicated to supporting cancer research and care for the Rochester community. Their generosity is unmatched by any single donor in the Institute's history. What started with the vision of James P. Wilmot—establishing a foundation to fund the Wilmot Fellowship Program to advance cancer research—has blossomed into extraordinary leadership, advocacy, and generosity that have helped transform the Wilmot Cancer Institute into the region's leading provider of cancer care and promising therapies.

There have been more than 100 Wilmot Fellows making a global impact, as the young physicians and scientists have gone on to dedicate their lives to cancer research and better treatments for patients at institutions around the world. Many have remained here in Rochester at the Wilmot Cancer Institute to provide the foundation for excellent cancer care for patients.

Tom, Judy, and the late Bill—and multiple generations of the family—carry on their father's legacy of expanding the frontiers of cancer research and treatment. They have lost not only their father, but mother, Loretta, brother, Jim, and other family members, including 23-month-old Crosby, to cancer.

Among their generous contributions is establishing the Wilmot Distinguished Professorship in Cancer Genomics, a relatively new discipline that is transforming the study of cancer. Large-scale genomic analyses are guiding cancer diagnosis and treatment, focusing on a person's genetic makeup as well as the genomics of their specific cancer. The Wilmots' support will be monumental for the cancer genomics program, helping us understand the changes that occur in cancer cells and develop new therapies to advance through clinical trials, in order to provide precision cancer care for patients.

The Wilmot Distinguished Professorship in Cancer Genomics will serve as a powerful recruitment and retention tool for the Wilmot Cancer Institute; attracting a new faculty member of established distinction in cancer research and bioinformatics specialties, and making the Wilmot name synonymous not only with regional excellence, but also with national—and likely international—excellence as well.

With this new gift, the Wilmot family continues to help transform cancer care and research in Rochester and around the world and bring hope to future generations of patients.

# Help Us Move *Cancer Research Forward*

Every gift we receive makes a difference and impacts our ability to attract and retain world-renowned researchers and faculty, develop new cancer therapies, preventions, and cures, and ensure excellence in treating and caring for our patients. The following is a sampling of how you can help.

## ENDOWED AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS

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Professorships honor acclaimed leaders who perform groundbreaking research, mentor PhD candidates and junior faculty, and attract talented medical students and residents. They are among the most coveted and defining rewards that a faculty member can receive, recognizing and fostering excellence. They also serve as a powerful recruitment tool for the Wilmot Cancer Institute, drawing new faculty and researchers of established distinction from around the world. Donors who establish professorships create a legacy that links them to quality medical education, research, and patient care in perpetuity. Your generosity allows us to advance medical science and do more for human health in the future than we have been able to do in the past.

## ENDOWED PROGRAM SUPPORT

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With your support, we can move forward with strategic investments in multidisciplinary cancer research programs, grow our regional and national leadership in clinical trials, and increase patients' access to promising therapies. Your investment will directly impact the lives of patients locally and globally, whether your interest is supporting the innovative research of our scientists, fellows, laboratory technicians, and graduate students, the technology that speeds the path to new therapies, or our team of caregivers who deliver state-of-the-art, personalized care.

## PILOT PROJECTS/SEED FUNDS

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New ideas need exploration and nurturing before they can be developed into successful application for the NIH, large foundations or other traditional avenues of support. Gifts for seed funding are “risk capital” for a promising researcher who has the potential to make groundbreaking discoveries that will impact people here and around the world. Funds invested today in innovative research help provide state-of-the-art cancer care for patients tomorrow. They can also be leveraged many times over, bringing external funding, jobs, and economic growth to the Rochester community.

## GEORGE EASTMAN CIRCLE

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The George Eastman Circle recognizes those who pledge annual gifts of at least \$1,500 a year for five years, or more, to the Wilmot Cancer Institute. As a member, you will not only honor the legacy of one of our greatest benefactors and establish a new tradition to inspire others, but you will also provide the flexible programmatic support that allows us to take advantage of new opportunities in cancer research and care.

For more information about how your gift can make an impact, please contact the Wilmot Advancement team at: (585) 276-4717 or visit: [Wilmot.urmc.edu](http://Wilmot.urmc.edu)





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CANCER INSTITUTE

# RESEARCH: THE KEY TO LIFESAVING CANCER TREATMENT AND CARE



Research drives advances in cancer treatment and elevates the level of patient care. Because of research, more people are surviving cancer and living better after treatment than ever before. From basic science to clinical trials, research has played a critical role in advancing the prevention and treatment of cancer, and hopefully the opportunity for cure.

Our researchers are revolutionizing the way we fight cancer. Every day, 100 dedicated individuals at the Wilmot Cancer Institute work hard to answer key questions about how cancer cells develop and spread, how to keep cancer survivors healthy, and how to provide targeted approaches for a new generation of precision cancer treatment—one with higher success rates and lower toxicity. Our investigators conduct national clinical studies of new drugs and have more than 100 clinical trials actively enrolling patients.

Research differentiates us from other providers in upstate New York. Our unique collaborative culture is the key to strong research, and helps us to attract top talent from across the world. Today, in order to make a big discovery, you need many scientists working together on a common problem. Among the many research programs our scientists and clinicians are focused on are: hallmarks of cancer, immunotherapy, and cancer control and survivorship. You can read more about them in this publication.

We have a rich history of discovery, innovation, and collaboration at the Wilmot Cancer Institute and are committed to staying at the forefront of research and cancer care for individuals throughout the greater Rochester region and to those who travel here from across the nation. In order to move forward in our quest to cure cancer, we are asking for your involvement and support. Nearly everyone has been touched by cancer personally or through a friend, neighbor or family member. You can lead us to a future enabling us to better understand cancer, develop new life-saving discoveries that hold the keys to eradicating this disease, and in which more and more patients are cancer survivors.

Best Regards,

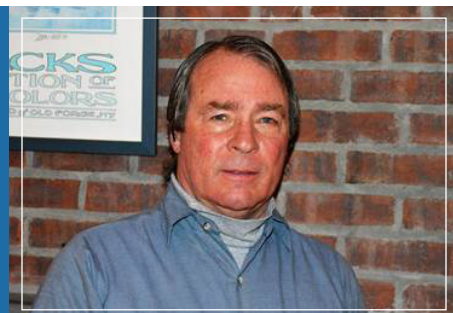
JONATHAN FRIEDBERG, MD, MMSc  
Director, Wilmot Cancer Institute

HARTMUT "HUCKY" LAND, PhD  
Director of Research and Co-Director,  
Wilmot Cancer Institute

DAVID LINEHAN, MD  
Director of Clinical Operations and Co-Director,  
Wilmot Cancer Institute  
Chair of Surgery, University of Rochester Medical  
Center

*"I have never met a more dedicated group of people than I met during my treatment at the Wilmot Cancer Institute. They treated the 'whole patient' with care and kindness and the research being done there in finding new treatments and possible cures is truly wonderful."*

—Bruce Bolger, treated for lymphoma



**ON THE COVER:** Jacqueline P. Williams, PhD, FASTRO, Professor of Environmental Medicine and Radiation Oncology, investigates how radiation therapy impacts surrounding structures in the body, such as the brain, lungs, and skin. She is looking for ways to predict which people are more likely to suffer harm from radiation.

# RESEARCH PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE

The Wilmot Cancer Institute has long set the standard for excellence in cancer care in our community and beyond. We and clinicians will focus on three key research programs: the hallmarks of cancer, immunotherapy, and cancer control.

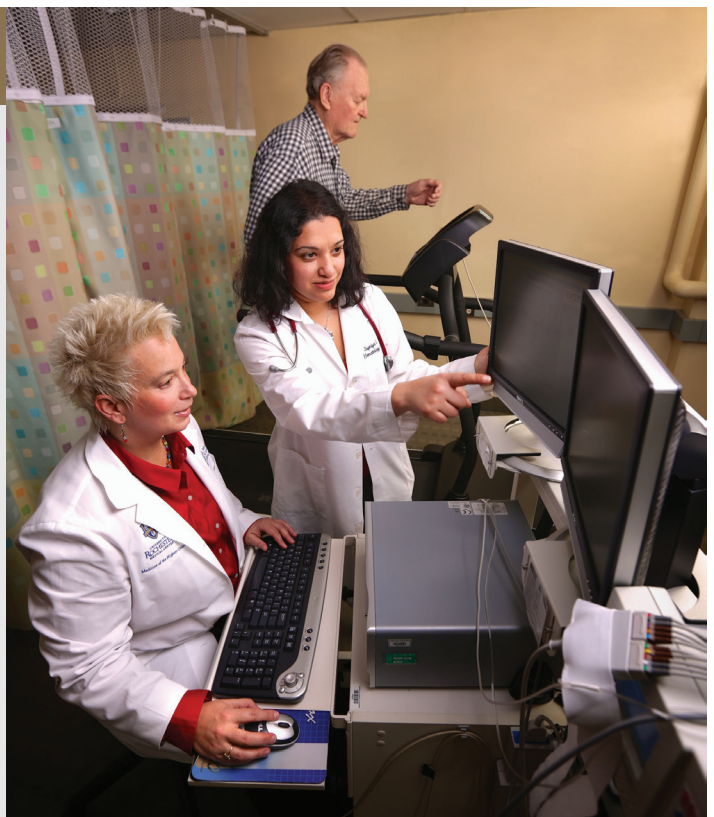
## HALLMARKS OF CANCER

Each of us has a unique genetic makeup—and sometimes a genetic susceptibility to cancer. Instead of focusing on single mutations within each cancer subtype, our scientists are searching for the molecular flaws many cancers have in common. We believe these common hallmarks hold the key to future treatments. We envision a day, for example, when cancer will be diagnosed through its genetic features instead of an association to the pancreas, lung, breast, or another organ. Meanwhile, we search databases for current, approved drugs that might target these genetic abnormalities. We work to discover affordable precision treatments that disrupt core functions of cancer—offering personalized medicine that can be applied to broad groups of people, striking cancer in new and more effective ways.

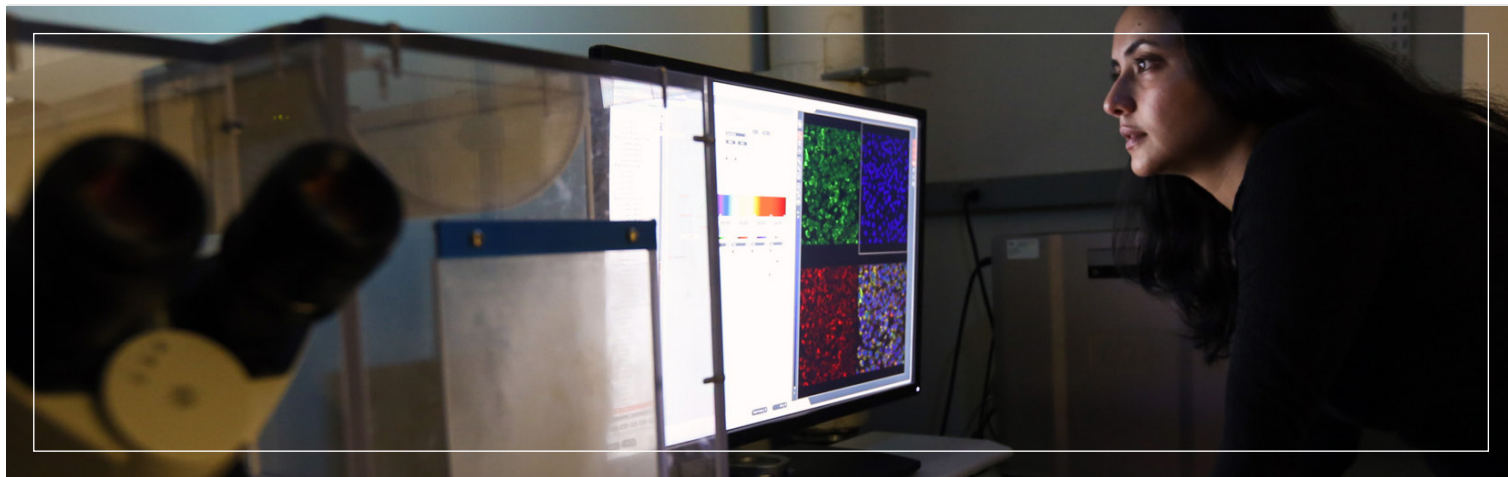


## CANCER CONTROL AND SURVIVORSHIP

Thanks to significant research advances in the past decade, there are nearly 15.5 million cancer survivors—and the numbers grow every day. Survivorship will grow to more than 20 million by 2026. The Wilmot Cancer Institute has a rich history in cancer survivorship research deepening our understanding of the risks of second cancers after treatment, post-treatment brain fog, sleep disorders, and nausea. We are now looking at specific ways to reduce the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation, and developing personalized models to predict who will benefit most from various therapies.



We will focus on what is essential to improve future care—growing our research programs. Our talented researchers  
ol and survivorship.



*“To me it’s very simple. Without research, there is no treatment.  
All the treatments we have today come from research.”*

—Hartmut “Hucky” Land, PhD  
Director of Research and Co-Director, Wilmot Cancer Institute



## IMMUNOTHERAPY AND TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT

Immunotherapy is driving rapid progress in the treatment of many cancers. At the Wilmot Cancer Institute, our scientists are developing new approaches to leverage the immune system to fight cancer, and through clinical trials, our patients have access to the latest immunotherapies.

Wilmot is committed to investing in immunotherapy and research that investigates the impact of the tumor microenvironment on cancer. The tumor microenvironment consists of the normal cells, molecules, and blood vessels that surround and feed a tumor cell. A tumor can change its microenvironment, and the microenvironment can affect how a tumor grows and spreads. Immunotherapy is defined as any treatment that alters the response of the immune system, which is often ineffective at fighting cancer, to help it attack tumors with the sophistication and effectiveness it demonstrates when fighting other diseases.