This is a special time for the team at the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research. Forty years ago in May, Laboratory Director Dr. Beppino Giovanella, fresh from the University of Wisconsin a year earlier, conducted the Foundation's first experiment in a converted space next to the maternity ward at what was then St. Joseph Hospital in downtown Houston.

The rest, as they say, is history. The story began with a single man and a very bold vision: to foster collaboration between science and medicine and develop the most effective treatments for the patient suffering from cancer. This vision remains intact today, and there is much to celebrate.

**Emphasizing Humanity**

Dr. John Stehlin became a distinguished surgical oncologist in the 1950 - 60’s, but his approach was markedly different from that of mainstream medicine. His deep empathy for his patients led to immediate connection with the holistic healing of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word serving at what was affectionately known as “St. Joe's” Hospital. This relationship was one of the reasons Stehlin moved his private practice to St. Joseph’s in 1969.

“If there was anything we learned from John, it was to care about the person,” commented Robert Anderson, Executive Director and a colleague of Dr. Stehlin's from the early years. “He always said, ‘I don't treat cancer, I treat people who unfortunately have cancer.’” This humane approach has distinguished the Foundation for 40 years.

**Science Serving People**

Dr. Stehlin was also dedicated to reducing the time lag between the research bench and the patient's bedside. He established what was thought to be the first laboratory anywhere to concentrate solely on human cancers.

Dr. Giovanella's development of the now famous “nude” or immuno-deficient mice provided an ideal vehicle for growing human tumors and testing anticancer drug compounds, while Dr. Stehlin continued to develop innovative methods of administering therapy and treating patients.

Through this combination of clinical practice and scientific research, the Stehlin Foundation earned an
Always Pushing Boundaries: Stehlin, Giovanella and the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation is doing today.

“...I think it has been too easy to overlook what a progressive physician Dr. John Stehlin was, and how pivotal he was for the humane treatment of individuals with cancer,” summarizes Dr. Peter de Ipolyi, a surgical oncologist. “He changed the cancer landscape forever, and his work continues with the research the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation is doing today.”

**THEN**

One of the first two physicians in North America to treat breast cancer with breast conserving surgery involving partial mastectomy (lumpectomy), axillary dissection and radiation therapy rather than radical mastectomy.

First to recognize that a recurrence of breast cancer post-lumpectomy did not affect survival rates.

**Popularized use of hyperthermia (heat) combined with chemotherapy for advanced melanoma of the extremities, virtually eliminating amputations and dramatically improving survival rates.**

First surgeon to publish an article on the psychological aspects of patients with cancer, focusing on the importance of personalized care, meaningful communication based on truthfulness and trust, and hope in patient recovery.

Pioneered the concept of The Living Room, a comfortable getaway for patients and family to enjoy games, music, art, and conversation.

Brought clinical medicine directly into the laboratory.

Established the only lab devoted exclusively to the study of human tumors.

Pioneered the complex, extensive surgical procedure to remove lymph nodes during colorectal surgery, vastly improving the patient’s chances for recovery.

Successfully established and serially transplanted 62 human breast cancers (primary and metastatic) in the nude mouse. The total absence of primary human breast cancer xenografts (transplanted tumors) in mice prior to this time had limited the study of this disfiguring and deadly disease.

First in the country to test non-water-soluble camptothecin, a promising anticancer drug in human clinical trials.

First to establish a colony of nude mice for cancer research.

Researchers requested by Dr. Dennis Slamon at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) to perform the crucial testing for effectiveness of an antibody he discovered for aggressive breast cancers overexpressing the HER2/nu gene.

One of the first to advocate an aggressive multidisciplinary approach in the field of cancer therapy, combining the best of surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, and hyperthermia.

The Educational Scholarship Program was established in 1980 to provide practical and financial support to high school and college students interested in pursuing careers in health. Students are paid for their work with the understanding that funds will be applied toward the cost of education.

The first Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor (DSRCT) cell line was not reported in medical literature until 2002. In 2005 DSRCT patient Patrick Scranton and his family championed a new study on this highly fatal and rare disease through The Stehlin Foundation.
THE ANNUAL FRIENDS GALA MADE COUNTRY COOL
Mamma Mia! The 2010 Friends Gala Finds Magic with Adbacadabra!

On May 20, more than 100 guests joined 2010 gala co-chairs Tamara and Harrison Bibb and Becca and Philip Weigand at the home of Sally and Bobby Anderson to officially launch the season for the next annual Friends of the Stehlin Foundation gala.

It’s shaping up to be a fabulous anniversary event, with world-renowned adbacadabra, an ABBA tribute band based in Las Vegas, as the stars of the show. ABBA, one of the most popular bands from the 1970’s and 80’s, has become one of the best-selling bands of all time, thanks to the much-loved play and film “Mamma Mia!”

Adbacadabra promises to deliver the group’s greatest hits in full ABBA fashion and flair. Listening to greats like S.O.S., Super Trooper and Voulez Vous will take you back and have you on the dance floor in no time!

It was recently announced that Band X from Atlanta, Georgia will provide the dance music after the main show. With a nine-piece ensemble, the popular Band X plays music from the 60s to today.

Stay tuned for more details as the planning continues, all you Dancing Queens!
Since 1971, the research of the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation has taken place in an 18,000 square foot renovated auto parts facility at the corner of Chenevert and Pierce Streets in downtown Houston. Over the years, this rather humble setting entered the vanguard of modern cancer research.

A new environment, however, is in the works, thanks to the generosity, support and encouragement provided by CHRISTUS Health.

In June, with the enthusiastic support of the CHRISTUS leadership team, a 10-year lease was negotiated for the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation in a 27,000 square foot laboratory space near Reliant Stadium. The CHRISTUS team included Tom Royer, CEO, Peter Maddox, Senior Vice President Strategic Planning & Advocacy, Anne Messbarger-Eguia, Senior System Director, Strategy, Research & Innovation and Julia Fetzer, Systems Director, Facilities Planning and Construction. The support of Sister Lillian Anne Healy and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word underpinned this monumental effort.

Plans are to move into the freshly renovated facility in December of 2010. The building, built in 1985, was originally occupied by a biotechnology firm that was absorbed into a larger company, leaving it vacant for three years. Because the activities were similar to those of The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation, many of the required laboratory conditions already exist. In addition, the landlord has agreed to donate a good portion of the equipment on the site for the Foundation’s use.

Summarized CHRISTUS CEO Dr. Royer, “I have been constantly impressed not only with the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation’s rich legacy of transformative research, but also the tenacious commitment of foundation staff to the vision of Dr. Stehlin.

“A connection between this vision and the mission of our sponsoring congregations was immediately clear, as both seek not only to treat illness, but also honor the dignity inherent in every person.

According to Peter Maddox, “One of the many remarkable things about the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation is that its tremendous contributions to the field of cancer research have all been made in the relatively humble surroundings. The move to a new and more modern lab will elevate this very important ministry and accelerate the discovery journey.”

Anne Messbarger-Eguia also commented, “This research organization has moved mountains and saved countless lives, while operating from a very humble laboratory that they had obviously outgrown. We believe they had earned the right to a dynamic new setting that will allow them to expand their research, recruit additional talented people and move forward to support clinical trials. We can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

Sister Lillian Anne Healy, CCVI, Congregational Leader for Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, commented, “After many years of working in a converted auto parts garage, the relocation of the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation is long overdue. The new facility is an appropriate setting for an organization that has made an enormous contribution to the ongoing battle against cancer.”

The proposed schematic for the new CHRISTUS Stehlin laboratory, located at 10301 Stella Link.
In January 2010, the Young Texans Against Cancer (YTAC) made another huge contribution to the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation with a (literally giant) check for $155,000. The gift was the result of the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation's status as YTAC's Charity of Choice for 2009, meaning that the entire year’s fundraising efforts went toward the Foundation’s mission of shortening the time between the research bench and the patient’s bedside for those suffering from cancer.

Commented Bobby Anderson, “This is simply the latest in generous gifts we have received from this dedicated group of young people, who are passionate about changing the prognosis for people who have been affected by cancer. We are so fortunate to have them on our team.”

Energy + Hard Work

With four chapters in Texas, the Young Texans Against Cancer was founded by people whose lives had been touched by cancer. Members now conduct a number of fundraising activities to raise awareness and involvement for people between 22-45 years old.

The relationship between YTAC and The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research began in 2002, when the Foundation was chosen to be the recipient of YTAC’s initial fundraising efforts. Since that time, the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research has been able to count on the Young Texans Against Cancer for substantive support. Members either chaired or co-chaired the annual galas sponsored by the Friend of the Stehlin Foundation in 2004, 2006 and 2008!

According to Amy Donovan, past President of YTAC, “We are delighted that our work can help support the research and progress made by the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation in the fight to eliminate and improve treatments for cancer. It’s gratifying to see how directly these dollars are put to work.”

Amy Donovan, past president of YTAC, presents a donation representing 2009 fundraising efforts to Bobby Anderson of the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation.

Roger Henry Jenswold, long time supporter of The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research, passed away on April 13, 2010. Mr. Jenswold had been a hardworking board member of the Foundation for 25 years. For many years, he acted as the chair of the Board’s Investment Committee.

Mr. Jenswold was born in 1930 in Minnesota, graduated from Texas A&M University in 1952 with a bachelor’s degree in Finance and earned his masters degree in business administration from the University of Texas. He served with the US Army in Korea and was awarded a Bronze Star for merit. After many years as an executive in the banking and insurance industries, in 1981 he founded Roger Jenswold & Company, a private investment management firm, where he continued to work until his passing.

In addition to his work with the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation, Roger was active with the Texas A&M College of Liberal Arts Advisory Board and was a past member of the UT Permanent School Fund. Upon his retirement in 2005, Roger relocated to College Station.

The Stehlin Foundation wishes to express its condolences to Roger’s surviving spouse Helen and to the rest of his family. We are very grateful for the time and expertise he brought to our organization. He will be sorely missed.
impressive track record as a pioneer in the battle against cancer. All breakthroughs from the Stehlin team have been communicated to the medical community through more than 500 medical research papers and published findings, as well as coverage in local and national publications. As a result, many of the methods initiated at the Foundation have been adopted as the "gold standard" of modern medicine and cancer research. Most importantly, countless people are alive because of the work at the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation.

**Hope for the Future**

Over the last four decades the research team at the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research has been involved with hundreds of projects testing the effectiveness of various anticancer treatments. Their studies have been integral to several pivotal drugs and breakthroughs in cancer treatment that are commonplace today (see “Always Pushing Boundaries,” pages 2-3).

One of the most promising involves the camptothecin family of drugs, an anticancer compound derived from a tree native to China. Stehlin researchers began to work with camptothecin in 1987, and their early successes treating some of the most virulent strains of tumors transplanted to the Foundation’s nude mice led to worldwide recognition and endorsements from cancer experts.

In 2008, after four years of dedicated study, the Foundation overcame enormous odds and received approval from the FDA to begin Phase I (human) trials on CZ48, one of the most promising of the camptothecin compounds. The purpose of a Phase I study is to determine (1) toxicity and (2) starting doses for Phase II studies, which are designed to determine the effectiveness of the drug.

“We have always felt that CZ48 holds tremendous promise as a cancer treatment, which is why we have worked so diligently,” said Dr. Giovanella, who remains with the Foundation after 40 years. “CZ48 represents the original vision of John Stehlin — using both research bench and the physician’s office to improve the treatment of the patient suffering from cancer.”

**Evolution of a Dream**

In 2006, the Stehlin Foundation entered into a new era when it became part of CHRISTUS Health, a nonprofit Catholic health system. Backed by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston, this corporate sponsorship continued the relationship initiated by Dr. Stehlin in the beginning. It has also provided stability for the Foundation and support for the very expensive and time-consuming process of drug development.

As far as the intensity of the mission and the day-to-day passion of the people of the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation, however, nothing has changed. Summarizes Bobby Anderson, “Our staff has worked tirelessly to maintain both our position as a leading research institution and our relevance to today’s cancer treatment.”

He sees many of the recent developments, including the progress with camptothecin trials, as a dream realized for John Stehlin, M.D. “What made us different in the beginning was our focus on alleviating suffering in the patient,” says Anderson. “In that respect, our focus has not changed one iota.”

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**THE CHRISTUS STEHLIN FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

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713.659.1336

Unlike most cancer research institutions, which are sponsored primarily through university medical schools and government grants, the overwhelming majority of support for the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation comes from private sources.

The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research is a tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations of any amount go directly toward supporting the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation’s unique, innovative approach to the fight against cancer.

Contributor ___________________________ Please send an acknowledgement of this gift to:

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☒ Enclosed is my check to the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation
Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

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Name on card ____________________________________________
Total $ __________________

Signature ___________________________

The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.
A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As you will see inside this edition of the HOPE newsletter, The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research is at an important crossroads. First, we are marking 40 years of changing the lives of people with cancer. Second, after decades of working in a very serviceable but modest laboratory, we are moving to a large, modern lab with the equipment to take our research to the next level.

Like most “overnight successes,” this has been a long time coming, and many people have made it possible. Dr. John Stehlin, with his vision of combining research, clinical medicine and patient care, established a legacy that broke new ground. Dr. Beppino C. Giovanella has consistently advanced our research on improving patient treatment. The leadership team of CHRISTUS Health, led by Dr. Tom Royer, provided a more secure future through their support and financial underpinning. And throughout our history, starting in 1969 with Sister Mary David Gorman and continuing today under the leadership of Sister Lillian Anne Healy, the Order of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word has been our unwavering advocate, and a source of faith.

In addition, others have worked tirelessly to advance our mission:

Our Board. Over the years, talented people have provided the Stehlin Foundation with a solid infrastructure in terms of legal counsel, business, medicine, science and social services. Their commitment to making this an accountable and functional organization have kept us on solid footing for 40 years.

Our Donors, Named and Unnamed. Our work consists of years of careful, painstaking study, interspersed by moments of breakthrough. Throughout our history, generous and caring people have donated millions of dollars to keep us going. Some wished to remain anonymous; our goal is to honor them in the results we produce.

Our Friends. This energetic group of activists has literally kept us alive for 30 years, with some of the most spectacular events ever produced for a nonprofit organization. They have been our lifeblood.

Our Staff & Interns. The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation has been extremely fortunate in the quality of people we have retained (with an average tenure of over 20 years), starting with “Dr. G” through to the talented young students who work with us each summer. Our prestigious role in the treatment of cancer is due to the dedication of our wonderful staff.

This dedicated army of people has brought us to where we are today. To all of you, heartfelt thanks!

Our Pledge

The CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation is honored to be at this exciting threshold. Our promise is to use your gifts and apply our expertise wisely, both to retain your trust and to help ease the suffering of the millions of people with cancer. This, I assure you, will never change.

With sincere thanks for your continued support and encouragement,

Robert F. Anderson
Executive Director