

FOUR DIAMONDS FORUM



the four diamonds fund
Conquering Childhood Cancer

The Four Diamonds Fund Newsletter

Fall 2003

Pediatric Cancer Research Institute Update

Conquering childhood cancer is the mission of The Four Diamonds Fund. And because of the generosity of so many people who share this vision, the Four Diamonds Pediatric Cancer Research Institute at Penn State College of Medicine became a reality in 1999. Since then, research conducted here has been shared with members of a national network, Children's Oncology Group, that collects and shares data pertaining to pediatric cancer including the most current childhood cancer treatment protocols.



Kenneth G. Lucas, M.D. and Qi Sun, M.D., Ph.D.

On September 1, 2003, The Four Diamonds Fund was pleased to welcome Kenneth G. Lucas, M.D. and Qi Sun, M.D., Ph.D. to Penn State Children's Hospital and Penn State College of Medicine.

Lucas joined the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology as an associate professor of Pediatrics

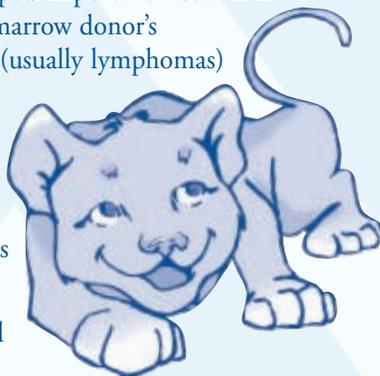
and director of Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation. He will hold the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon chair for Pediatric Cancer Research, overseeing the Four Diamonds Pediatric Cancer Research Institute laboratory.

Lucas received his medical degree from the State University of New York, completed his residency at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital, and his fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering where he developed a research interest in immunotherapy and bone marrow transplantation.

For the past six years Lucas headed the pediatric bone marrow transplant program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also developed important research in cytotoxic T lymphocytes—a technique where a bone marrow donor's immune cells are activated against the patient's tumor (usually lymphomas) and then used to specifically attack tumor cells.

In the laboratory, Lucas is joined by Qi Sun, M.D., Ph.D. Sun is a research colleague from Alabama who is an immunologist and virologist and will be exclusively doing laboratory work. Both Sun and Lucas have been recipients of national grants for research.

Under Lucas' direction, Penn State Children's Hospital will be expanding the transplant unit to four beds and extending services to include matched unrelated donor bone marrow and cord blood transplants. This will allow Lucas and his team to perform nearly any kind of transplant at Children's Hospital and better serve our childhood cancer patients. Penn State Children's Hospital and The Four Diamonds Fund will also likely attract new patients seeking innovative transplant choices.



Save the Date

November 16, 2003 Noon
THON™ Family Reunion Carnival
University Park, PA

December 3, 2003 6:30 p.m.
Friends of Four Diamonds Meeting
Academic Support Building

December 5, 2003 7:00 p.m.
Northern High School Mini-thon
Dillsburg, PA

January 7, 2004 6:30 p.m.
Friends of Four Diamonds Meeting
Academic Support Building, Room 2008

January 17, 2004 10:00 a.m.
THON™ 2004 New Family Orientation
Penn State University Fitness Center, Hershey, PA

January 28, 2004 6:00 p.m.
THON™ 2004 Kick-off Dinner
Penn Stater Hotel, University Park, PA

Please visit our web page at www.fourdiamonds.org for additional events not listed above. If you have any questions about Four Diamonds events, please contact the Four Diamonds office at 717-531-6086.

Information provided to Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine is kept in the strictest of confidence. Please write to us if you wish to have your name removed from future publications. Upon notification, all reasonable efforts will be taken to adhere to your wishes.

Making a Difference

Each year, 80-90 newly diagnosed pediatric cancer patients are treated at Penn State Children's Hospital. In order to maintain our standards of world-class care for each Four Diamonds patient, the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, with support from The Four Diamonds Fund, has added two new clinical pediatric oncologists to its team, James R. Powell, Jr., M.D. and Kristen Britton, D.O.

Britton received her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. She completed her residency at the Children's Medical Center, Morristown Memorial/Atlantic Health Systems, Morristown, New Jersey. During this time Britton did an internship at the Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

Before coming to Hershey, Britton was a pediatric hematology and oncology



Kristen Britton, D.O.

attending physician for the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Britton will pursue her special interest in the long-term follow-up care of pediatric cancer patients. She will also be a member of the bone marrow transplant team.

Powell received his undergraduate degree from Penn State University where he danced in THON™, and his medical degree from Penn State College of Medicine. He completed his pediatric residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for

fellow at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine at the Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City. As an assistant professor of Pediatrics and



James R. Powell, Jr., M.D.

1998. Powell was an associate in Pediatrics at the Geisinger Medical Center, Janet Weis Children's Hospital in Danville, PA from 1999-2001, and was an attending physician at several hospitals in New Jersey from 2002 to June 30, 2003. As an assistant professor of Pediatrics and attending physician for the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Powell's area of interests include solid tumors, neuro-oncology, novel therapeutic agents, and sickle cell disease.

Children in Philadelphia, PA in 1995, and his fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology from Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina in

Touching Lives

“When I was 13 years old I did a science experiment with my sister dealing with Ewing Sarcoma which involved injecting cancer cells into mice. We worked with Carol Stine, senior

research technician, in the Pediatric Cancer Research laboratory at Penn State College of Medicine. Carol was a great asset in helping with our project

by making sure that we took the proper steps in making our experiment a success. Unfortunately, the sarcoma cells didn't take and we did not get the desired results, but I saw how it was to work in a lab and deal with cancer cells. It was at that moment I knew that I wanted to become a pediatric oncologist. Now at age 17 my mind has not changed a bit.



Four Diamonds patient and cancer survivor, Aubrey Minnaugh, age 17, and John E. Neely, M.D., division chief, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Penn State Children's Hospital.

“Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

- James Barrie

I currently attend Bishop McDevitt High School and I am ready and waiting to start trying to rid the world of cancer.”

- Aubrey Minnaugh, Harrisburg, PA

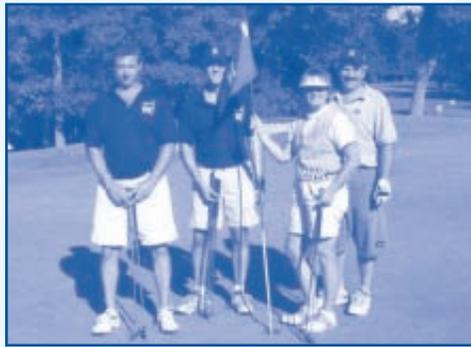
Thank You to...



Jonathan Grula Check Presentation

Jonathan Grula Memorial Foundation for sponsoring the fourth annual Jonathan Grula Memorial Golf Tournament on Sunday, July 27. Greg Baiocchi, Four Diamonds social worker, was pleased to accept the check for \$15,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Grula. The total amount raised year-to-date from this annual fund-raiser to benefit The Four Diamonds Fund is \$50,000.

Friends of Four Diamonds, and all those who sponsored baskets and door prizes for their basket bingo, which was held on June 22 at the Hershey Italian Lodge. Proceeds from the event totaled \$4,283.06 and will be used to fund special projects at Penn State Children's Hospital, which will benefit the pediatric oncology patients.



Drew F. Comrey Memorial Golf Foursome

Trinity E. C. Church and friends of the Drew F. Comrey family for organizing the **first annual Drew F. Comrey Memorial Golf Outing**. The tournament was held on September 6 at the Manada Golf Club, Grantville, PA and raised \$4,000. Pictured, left to right, are Doug Foust, Harry Comrey, and Brenda and Joe Solonoski.

Londonderry Fire Company No. 1 and the Londonderry Fire Co. Auxiliary, Middletown, PA, for sponsoring a basket bingo on October 5 and raising over \$4,000 for the Fund in honor of Christian Bucher, a Four Diamonds patient. Special thanks to Kim Dodson and Sherry Mentzer for organizing the event.



Classical Indian Dance

Vatsala Srinivas, director of **Natya Kala Mandir, Inc.** school of dance and her students for presenting an evening of classical Indian dance (Bharatha Natyam) at the DeMeester Theatre at York College, York, PA on July 19. Their impressive performance raised \$2,225 for the Fund.

Central Penn Doll Collectors for raising \$1,353.98 at their annual luncheon, which was held on June 28 at the Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn.

Correction: In the Summer 2003 edition of *Four Diamonds Forum*, we incorrectly referred to Andrew Black as David Black. We apologize for this error.

Although we are unable to recognize everyone in the newsletter, we want you to know how much we appreciate your continued support.

GivingOnline

Making an online gift to The Four Diamonds Fund can be done **today** by visiting the Four Diamonds web site at www.fourdiamonds.org. Follow the prompts in the *How To Help* section. After making your gift, you will receive an online confirmation followed by an acknowledgment in the mail. Make a difference in a child's life by giving a gift today.

The Four Diamonds Fund Honored by Readers of *Harrisburg Magazine*

The Four Diamonds Fund was recognized as "Readers' Choice" for Best Charity in the sixth annual *Simply the Best* readers' poll issue of *Harrisburg Magazine*.

To qualify for the Readers' Choice Award, the organization had to receive a minimum of 40 percent of the total votes. A gala recognizing the winners was held on Thursday, September 18, 2003, at the Harrisburg Hilton.



2004 Holiday Cards & Cubbies

It's not too late to purchase 2004 Four Diamonds Holiday cards or find a new home for a Penn State Children's Hospital cubby! Contact the Four Diamonds office at 717-531-6086 if you are interested in purchasing these items.



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Four Diamonds Cookbook

If you are looking for a special recipe to impress your family and friends over the holidays, then you will want a copy of *The Four Diamonds Friends & Family Cookbook!* With the help of over 100 Four Diamonds families, staff, and volunteers, this culinary treasure contains 200 recipes, which includes appetizers, breads and rolls, soups and salads, main dishes, vegetables, desserts, cakes and cookies, and potpourri. You will find the traditional stand-bys, such as scalloped potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and vegetable soup, as well as recipes to tempt the more adventurous cooks.

Pictured on the cookbook cover and throughout the cookbook are Emily Barno, Robby Schweitzer, and Kristin Gillead-Cotton, three of the many Four Diamonds patients who have been supported by The Four Diamonds Fund. All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will directly benefit the Fund.

If you would like to purchase a copy of *The Four Diamonds Friends & Family Cookbook* for yourself, or for those on your holiday shopping list, contact the Four Diamonds office at (717) 531-6086.

