

JOIN THE BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE

CAITLIN ROBB FOUNDATION

AT THEIR

4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

DuPONT COUNTRY CLUB // OCTOBER 12, 2009

TOURNAMENT FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

TO REGISTER VISIT: <http://caitlinrobb.golf2009.golfreg.com>

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL AGAIN BENEFIT THE NEMOURS CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH. SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE.

Thanks to the generosity of **Koons Lexus of Wilmington**, attendees will have an opportunity to enter a drawing to play in the **Lexus Champions for Charity Championships** at **Pebble Beach Golf Resorts** in December 2009. Information on raffle tickets is shown on the web site.

The Foundation has already raised more than a million dollars for pediatric cancer. In the Delaware Valley, Caitlin Robb Foundation assists world-class organizations as they work to find a cure for childhood cancers and helps to make life easier for families whose children are battling the disease. The generosity of our community already has made it possible for the Foundation to donate more than \$100,000 to the Nemours Center for Childhood Cancer Research.

Caitlin Robb Foundation COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A remarkable group of Delaware volunteers continues a legacy of love that began more than thirteen years ago.

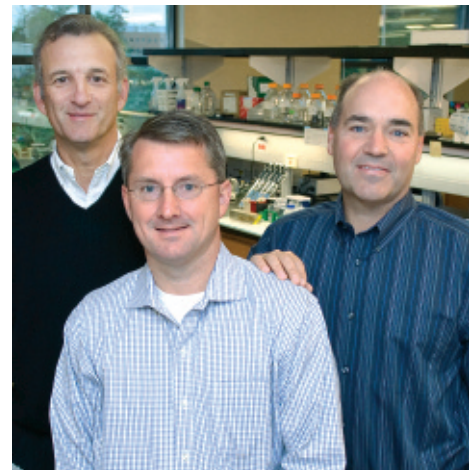
After Ross and Jennifer Robb of Tempe, Arizona, lost their precious two-year-old daughter Caitlin to neuroblastoma, they dealt with their grief by establishing a foundation in her memory. Ross says, "At first, the Caitlin Robb Foundation was really a memorial to my daughter. We had no idea we would achieve this level of success." The Foundation has a very clear mission: to provide financial assistance for families and help fund pediatric cancer research.

In 2000, a new branch of the Foundation took root in Delaware, thanks to a few friends from Arizona who had moved there. President Jack Jones says, "We wanted to find a research center in our backyard that had great credibility and attracted the best scientists, so we chose Nemours. It's what we call a 'round trip' for donors. They can see and touch what they are supporting." In the past two years, the Delaware chapter of Caitlin Robb has contributed \$85,000 raised from an annual

golf tournament and silent auction, as well as a wine-tasting event and private donations, to the Nemours Center for Childhood Cancer Research. Says Ross, "Our mantra has always been: 'Pediatric cancer is serious business, but raising money for it doesn't have to be.'"

The combined chapters of the Foundation have raised and gifted over \$1.5 million since inception, funding research efforts at major hospitals across the United States and supporting organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware. A great source of satisfaction for board members is the impact they have had on families and children.

"Research really offers the best long-term hope for children," says Craig Keaney, a Delaware board member. "To meet short-term needs, we work with the hospital social worker to provide direct financial assistance to families. We also partner with Precision Hair, a salon in Newark,



(L-R) Founder Ross Robb with Delaware Chapter board members Craig Keaney and Jack Jones at the Nemours Center for Childhood Cancer Research.

Delaware, to fit children with wigs after they have lost their hair to chemotherapy. Perhaps the most memorable moment was when we took a 10-year-old cancer patient to Yankee Stadium. The game was rained out, but he was invited to the clubhouse to meet Baseball Hall of Famer Phil Rizzuto. What a special moment for this boy fighting cancer."

For more information about the Caitlin Robb Foundation, visit www.caitlinrobb.org.

Hope Through Research

Ayyapan Rajasekaran, PhD, has an extraordinary vision. He can see a day in the not too distant future when nearly all childhood cancers will be cured or even prevented—a single-minded optimism that drives his work as the Director of the Nemours Center for Childhood Cancer Research.

The Center for Childhood Cancer Research, with its main laboratory located in Wilmington, Delaware, is actually an enterprise-wide effort for Nemours. At the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, and Nemours Children's Clinic locations in Jacksonville, Orlando, and Pensacola, Florida, oncology research, clinical trials, and patient care comprise what is known as translational or “bench-to-bedside” medicine.

Across Nemours, nearly 250 new cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed annually. “Childhood cancers are different from adult cancers which can often occur after mutations in the cells have developed over decades,” says Dr. Rajasekaran. “Leukemia, neuroblastoma and other cancers may actually begin developing long before a baby is born.”

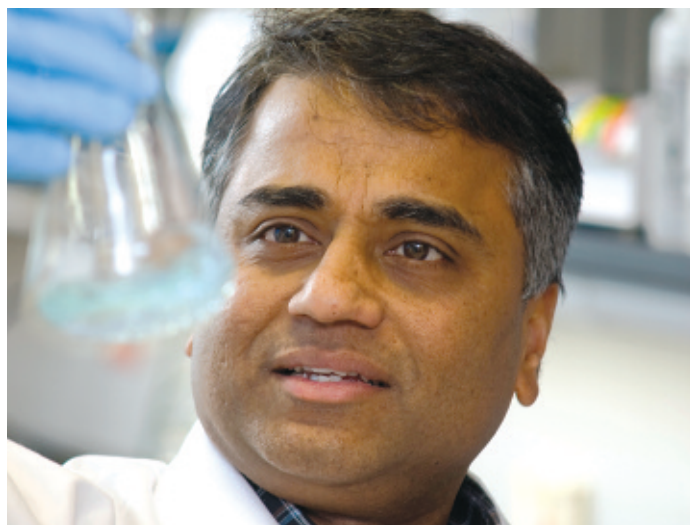
“We are interested in knowing where cancer occurs and how frequently,” says Dr. Rajasekaran. “Our researchers are exploring the molecular basis of changes in genes. We are working to understand the mechanisms by which cancers survive, grow and invade healthy tissue, as well as how the immune system can control cancer.”

“We must all work together to conquer childhood cancer,” concludes Dr. Rajasekaran. “I am very hopeful that this can be achieved in the near future.”

“One of my goals is to start a tumor bank—samples of biological material from pediatric cancer patients,” says Dr. Rajasekaran. “This would be a huge asset allowing us to compare healthy children (control samples) and children with cancer, as well as different children with the same type of cancer. Researchers can analyze proteins in the cells called biomarkers. These biomarkers may lead to screening tests for children that involve only a blood draw, rather than an invasive test such as a spinal tap. Eventually these screening tests could be conducted periodically by community pediatricians.”

Another important aspect of research at Nemours is drug discovery, as well as testing which drugs are likely to work, and conducting clinical trials. “Because childhood cancer is much rarer than adult cancers, there is no financial advantage for pharmaceutical companies to develop new drugs,” comments Dr. Rajasekaran. “Most of the drugs used in pediatric cancer patients were developed for adults decades ago. Consequently, we are constantly searching for new, effective drugs.”

Dr. Rajasekaran has a holistic view of the effect cancer can have on a family. “It is absolutely devastating for families when there is a diagnosis of cancer—whether it is the child losing a parent or sibling or the parents losing a child. It really takes all of the resources of the family and the community to cope with cancer.”



Ayyapan Rajasekaran, PhD, in the lab at Nemours Center for Childhood Cancer Research, Wilmington, Delaware.

The recent Nemours Childhood Cancer Awareness and Education Symposium drew together a prestigious group of experts in basic and clinical research, oncology, patient education and advocacy, and family support. A new collaboration between Thomas Jefferson University and the University of Delaware was announced at the symposium, with their respective presidents on hand to formally sign the agreement.

Collaboration in research is extremely important to Dr. Rajasekaran. In addition to the research conducted at four Nemours locations, the Center for Childhood Cancer Research is integrated with the University of Delaware Center for Translational Cancer Research, Thomas Jefferson University Kimmel Cancer Center, Christiana Care Helen F. Graham Cancer Center and the Delaware Biotechnology Institute.

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