On November 5th 2015 we celebrated 12 years of success in the fight against thyroid, head & neck cancers. We also took this opportunity to honor our heroes at “A Starry Night” Gala at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Chris Cuomo, anchor of CNN’s “New Day” was the Master of Ceremonies.

Over 500 guests marveled at works by Van Gogh, Monet, Cezanne, and an exhibition of Pablo Picasso’s innovative three-dimensional pieces. They savored delectable hors d’oeuvres provided by a team of globally renowned chefs and restaurateurs including Donatella Arpaia, Daniel Boulud, Daniel Humm, IBM’s Chef Watson, Stephen Lewandowski, and John Mooney.

We were privileged to honor Michael Tuttle M.D., Endocrinologist and Professor of Medicine at The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Tuttle is an internationally recognized leading expert and innovator in the management of thyroid cancer. His research continues to center on better defining the risk of recurrence and the role of observation in low risk thyroid cancer. He is closely involved in the establishment and continued modification of the clinical practice guidelines of both the American Thyroid Association and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

Eva Grayzel, cancer survivor, moved us with her personal story of recovering from advanced oral cancer. Eva is a nationally recognized Master Storyteller and performance artist who made a remarkable recovery, regained her deep vibrant voice and used her stage skills to communicate the depth of her journey in a uniquely personal way. Eva became an advocate for early detection and initiated the Six-Step Screening campaign to increase awareness of early signs of oral cancer.

Kaley Clavell inspired us with details of her heroic journey which started following the discovery of an aggressive tumor in her jaw during a visit to the local oral surgeon for a scheduled wisdom teeth removal. Kaley’s tumor was removed and the lower jaw was reconstructed during surgery. This young lady engaged us not only with her contagious smile but the courage with which she stayed positive in the face of adversity.

Under the leadership of co-chairs Margie and Steve Black and Liz and David Hirsh, gala supporters contributed $929,546 toward the THANC Foundation’s mission. We are committed to supporting research and education in the early detection and treatment of thyroid and head and neck cancer, to advancing new therapies, and to alleviating the suffering and functional impairment of patients who undergo treatment.

“A Starry Night” was an undeniable success. You have earned our heartfelt gratitude and our sincerest pledge that we will pursue our mission with the utmost commitment and dedication.
Karen Donikowski wanted to hold an event to raise money via email with a clear-cut plan. She and her mother, Hanley Dawson, found out about the THANC Foundation and approached the University of Chicago—Comer Children’s Hospital, which is rare and aggressive. Shortly thereafter, Caitlyn and the Children’s Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation. The Dawson Family, The THANC Foundation, the research of Dr. Susan Cohn of the Comer Children’s Hospital and the Children’s Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation (CNCF).

In 2005 their son, Duke, was diagnosed with a very aggressive tumor—a neuroblastoma in his neck, the size of an orange, just two weeks before his third birthday. Shortly thereafter, 98% of the tumor was successfully removed. A few months later, Duke relapsed and was put on therapy to fight widespread disease. In August 2007, Duke was declared cancer free—and since then the family has been celebrating his life by supporting the THANC Foundation and the work of Dr. Cohn. The Dawson family has put their focus on helping others in the face of unbelievable adversity and hardship by inviting their family has put their focus on helping others in the face of unbelievable adversity and hardship by inviting their family to fight it. Cat recently produced a four-minute video for a media project at Siena College. She also participated in THANC’s spin event this past spring, which raised over $13,000 for the Foundation.

Erika Rauscher
Executive Director

David Hirsh
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Devin Okay, DDS

Mark S. Persky, MD

Jason Spodek

Linda Swalling

Executive Director

Wynn Plaut

Chairman

We are committed to supporting research and education in the early detection and treatment of thyroid and head and neck cancer, to advancing new therapies, and to alleviating the suffering and functional impairment of patients who undergo treatment.

BIENNIAL GOLF OUTING IN CHICAGO

Hanley and Bridget Dawson have supported the work of the THANC Foundation for the past eight years. On Monday, September 21, 2015 over 100 golfers at the Glen Club in Glenview, Illinois demonstrated their support of the Dawson Family, The THANC Foundation, the research of Dr. Susan Cohn of the Comer Children’s Hospital and the Children’s Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation (CNCF). In 2005 their son, Duke, was diagnosed with a very aggressive tumor—a neuroblastoma in his neck, the size of an orange, just two weeks before his third birthday. Shortly thereafter, 98% of the tumor was successfully removed. A few months later, Duke relapsed and was facing six months of intensive chemotherapy, a stem cell transplant, and radiation to fight widespread disease. In 2007, Duke was declared cancer free—and since then the family has been celebrating his life by supporting the THANC Foundation and the work of Dr. Cohn. The Dawson family has put their focus on helping others in the face of unbelievable adversity and hardship by inviting their entire community. This year’s golf outing collected nearly $200,000 in support of the THANC Foundation, the University of Chicago—Comer Children’s Hospital, and the Children’s Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation.

THYROID CANCER SURVIVOR SHARES HER STORY FOR COLLEGE MEDIA CLASS PROJECT

At the age of 15, Catherine (Cat) Cazzari was hit in the neck during a Mahopac Varsity Girls basketball game and immediately fell to the ground. Cat spent her 16th birthday in the hospital. She underwent months of tests and scans, when finally a biopsy was performed which diagnosed thyroid cancer on August 26th, 2011. Two weeks later she had surgery. Her thyroid and a number of lymph nodes were removed. The perseverance Cat demonstrated as an athlete helped her to make it through the difficulties of cancer treatment. Cat defied the odds and did what no one expected, she played basketball again. Although Cat had cancer, that did not mean she could not still enjoy the things she loved—basketball, family and friends, school and simply having fun. Cat graduated from high school and is in her second year at Siena College in Albany, NY. She shares her story to inspire and guide others. Cat has become involved with a variety of non-profits to help raise awareness. Cat was recognized at THANC’s 2013 Gala as a Faces of Courage honoree—a Thyroid, Head and Neck Cancer conqueror who displays the strength to face it and the tenacity to fight it. Cat recently produced a four-minute video for a media project at Siena College. She also participated in THANC’s spin event this past spring, which raised over $13,000 for the Foundation.

FUNDRAISING

THANC SUPPORTERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

PENNPAC PRO BONO CONSULTATION GRANT

L ast summer, the THANC and TCCC teams applied to PennPac, the University of Pennsylvania pro bono alumni consulting organization, for a grant to assist in strategic planning for the TCCC. PennPac’s mission is to “harness the intellectual talents and professional skills of UPenn alumni in a meaningful and socially beneficial way.” PennPac brings together alumni to help nonprofits address specific challenges they may be facing. They work to provide palpable results with clear cut recommendations for each nonprofit based on need. Together with the THANC Foundation team, PennPac worked for several months to isolate a range of expansion avenues in the private sector aimed at helping to ensure long term growth. By the end of the project, the PennPac team delivered a high level business plan outline and financial model, as well as a feasible assessment for evaluating a path to long-term sustainability for the TCCC. THANC had the privilege to work with this group of professionals who devoted their time and knowledge to provide meaningful advice and perspectives for the TCCC program, and we are extremely thankful for their expertise.

Since the meeting, the TCCC has begun the process of following up on their recommendations and is looking forward to bringing key aspects of their plan to fruition. The benefits of the work done with PennPac will be felt throughout all of 2016 and beyond.

RUN WITH US. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Learn more & sign up to race the Farmers St. Paddy’s Day 5K or the Novo Nordisk Half & Full Marathon.

FUNDRAISING

THANC SUPPORTERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

CITIZEN LEADERSHIP & SOCIAL CHANGE PROJECT

Virginia Tech student of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Natalie Beden, recently completed a course that focused on exploring citizen leadership concentrating on social change.

STUDENT & THANC SUPPORTER COMPLETES

As part of her course, Natalie conducted one 60-minute interview with THANC staff, several field observations, volunteer work and research. Natalie decided to focus her efforts on helping to improve THANC’s head and neck cancer guide resource by providing feedback on the website, specifically the teen and children sections. The information has been extremely valuable in improving the website and THANC is grateful for her efforts.
**WELCOME**

**SAMI MOUBAYED**

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Sami Moubayed to the Head and Neck fellowship program, where he will train with Drs. Urken, Likhterov, and Chai for the next year. Dr. Moubayed joins us from the University of Montreal, where he completed his residency, and is working towards a PhD in Experimental Surgery from McGill University.

**ROSALIE MACHADO**

Rosalie Machado is a recent addition to the Research Associate team. She is from Lawrenceville, NJ and graduated in the spring of 2015 from the University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in Health and Societies. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, photography, and exploring New York City. She plans to attend medical school.

**MARCELA OSORIO**

Marcela Osorio joined the Research Associate team in July 2015 after graduating from Williams College, with a degree in American Studies and minors in Africana Studies and Public Health. From Norwalk, CT, she is the oldest of three girls and hopes to become a certified doula during her gap years before attending medical school.

**RESEARCH & PATIENT SUPPORT**

**THYROID CANCER CARE COLLABORATIVE: UPDATE**

*We started the year the TCCC and ended it the TCC!* While we are still very much focusing on thyroid cancer, we have also expanded the mission of the site to cover all thyroid related disease. This will allow us to help care for even more patients, as well as gather important data for research.

This was a big year in other ways, as well. We crossed the very important 1000 patient record threshold, and then went further, ending the year with more than 1500! And we could not have gotten that much patient data added without an influx of new doctors enrolling. We now have more than 150 enrolled.

A monumental effort was undertaken in 2015 to make the site user friendly for an international audience. We also added a set of tools to allow large hospitals with many doctors and office staff to set up their own accounts. This speeds up the onboarding process and ensures that caregivers in the same institution have the freedom and flexibility to confer on patients in the TCCC the same way they do in their day to day work. These changes have made the TCCC easier to use for everyone.

After making the cover of the journal, *Thyroid* in February with a story about the site, the TCCC was contacted by the National Institute of Health about participating in a thyroid study they were conducting. We are proud to report that the system was a major contributor to the patient data being used by the NIH for their study and his business partner, Heather McDermott plan and organize these races in order to give back to the community and local charities. Since 2010 they have raised nearly $150,000.

Upon learning of the connection between his dad’s battle with cancer and the work of the THANC Foundation, Chris was excited to partner to help spread THANC’s mission while raising funds to support our cause. What a wonderful way to honor Mr. Joseph Russo’s life —by celebrating his belief that our lives are not measured by the number of years lived, but by the deeds and goals accomplished.

As a result of this relationship, THANC is partnering with Superhero Events to host a team for the upcoming St. Paddy’s Day 5K race.

We hope you will JOIN TEAM THANC TODAY by registering for the ST. PATRICK’S DAY 5K in memory of JOSEPH A. RUSSO. The race will take place on MARCH 12, 2016 in MORRIS TOWNSHIP, NJ.

**FOUNDATION NEWS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATHLETIC EVENTS**

**TEAM UP WITH THANC THIS ST. PATRICK’S DAY**

When planning our next athletic event to support the foundation, THANC discovered Superhero Events, a company that specializes in planning, promoting and directing running races in NJ. We immediately made a connection to its owner and founder, Chris Russo, who lost his beloved father Joseph Russo on July 31, 2012 after a long and courageous battle with head and neck cancer. Since their inception in 2010, Superhero Events has held 18 races with over 40,000 attendees. Chris and his business partner, Heather McDermott plan and organize these races in order to give back to the community and local charities. Since 2010 they have raised nearly $150,000.

Patient information gathering was improved over the course of the year by adding tablet based forms that can be filled out in the waiting room with the data being reviewed and submitted into the database by the doctor with one click. To make it even more of a help to busy clinics, the waiting room forms were translated into Spanish, French and Russian so patients can use their native tongue to deliver information that is then translated back into English by the TCCC for the doctor automatically. We are planning to add Hebrew and Arabic in 2016!

We appreciate your support and are grateful for your help in spreading the word to doctors and patients alike. And to keep up with news all the time, visit thyroidccc.org regularly.

**Research Update**

**YEAR IN REVIEW // 2015**

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<tr>
<th>Functional Outcomes Studies</th>
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<td>Instrumental Swallow Evaluations</td>
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<td>Total Nº of Participating Patients</td>
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<td>Functional Assessments</td>
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## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2016

Sign up for the e-newsletter and stay current on news & events from THANC. Visit: [www.thancfoundation.org](http://www.thancfoundation.org) for information or to RSVP to attend any of our events.

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<th>MARCH 24</th>
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<td><strong>ST. PADDY'S DAY 5K (SuperHero Events)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPOHNC MEETING</strong></td>
<td><strong>ORAL CANCER SCREENING</strong></td>
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<td>Manhattan Chapter 10 Union Sq. East 5th Floor NYC</td>
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<td><strong>2016 NOVO NORDISK NEW JERSEY MARATHON &amp; HALF MARATHON</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPOHNC MEETING</strong></td>
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<td><strong>THANCSGIVING GALA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>STAY TUNED!</strong></td>
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