

Summer 2007 Impact

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Thanking those who make a difference.



Nancy Lurie Marks and family establish new cancer imaging center

Recognizing that the future of developing effective cancer therapies depends largely on utilizing cutting-edge imaging techniques, Nancy Lurie Marks and the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation recently made a transforming gift of \$16 million to establish the Lurie Family Imaging Center and the Nancy Lurie Marks Professorship in Medicine at Dana-Farber. This gift will enable investigators to develop sophisticated imaging techniques to rapidly evaluate promising new drugs for the treatment of cancer. Construction on part of the center has already begun at the Institute's Harbor Campus in South Boston, Mass.

Nancy Lurie Marks and the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation have long been supporters of Dana-Farber. Their close relationship with the Institute, extending over many years, began with Nancy Lurie Marks' late husband, Morris J. Lurie, who was a patient of Institute founder Sidney Farber, MD.

"Because of the profound impact of cancer on my immediate and extended family, we are pleased to support cutting-edge research at Dana-Farber," said Mrs. Marks. "We look forward to the day when results from the center's research will transform directly into helping patients in the clinic. There is a great future in imaging."

Nancy Lurie Marks and her family chose the imaging program as the vehicle to support DFCI's \$1 billion capital campaign—*Mission Possible: The Dana-*



Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, the Institute's chief scientific officer, speaks at the opening of Dana-Farber's Harbor Campus in South Boston, Mass., where the Lurie Family Imaging Center will be located, while DFCI President Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, looks on.

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Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer—partly because research imaging of the brain could potentially provide new insights into autism, which is also a focus of their foundation.

A new era in cancer treatments

Cancer therapies are currently focused on targeting specific pathways that allow tumors to survive and flourish. Supported by this gift, DFCI scientists will use imaging technology, such as positron emission tomography (PET) scans, to examine these pathways' molecular and genetic characteristics, thereby allowing them to quickly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the prospective treatments. Additionally, the center will use this technology to develop "molecular beacons"—radioactive agents that help scientists track the activity of the prospective treatments. Thanks to Nancy Lurie Marks and her family, the center has already started to acquire the state-of-the-art imaging equipment.

"Progress in cancer research, whether basic or clinical, will depend more and more on advanced imaging techniques," said Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber's chief scientific officer. "Nancy Lurie Marks had the insight to understand this, and this generous gift will have an enormous and immediate impact on the way we conduct science at the Institute, accelerating the pace of discovery throughout our research program." ■