



# INDIANA ELKS: PARTNERS IN CANCER RESEARCH



INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
**MELVIN AND BREN SIMON  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER**



**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

Institute for Cancer Research

## ABOUT THE IU SIMON COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

Established more than 30 years ago, Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center is part of the Indiana University School of Medicine and is the central hub of all cancer research and education across Indiana University. It is home to more than 300 cancer researchers who work tirelessly to develop better outcomes for patients. The center is internationally recognized for novel research in multiple cancers and is Indiana's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center – and one of only 57 in the nation. In addition, the center is Indiana's only member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, an alliance of 33 leading cancer centers responsible for determining the nationally recognized standards of clinical care for all forms of cancer.

[cancer.iu.edu](http://cancer.iu.edu)



The Indiana Elks Association is a steadfast partner in advancing groundbreaking cancer research at both Purdue University and Indiana University. For more than 75 years, Elks lodges from communities across Indiana have worked together on their state major project to raise critical funds that fuel pioneering science — each dollar bringing us closer to defeating cancer.

With unwavering commitment, the Indiana Elks have provided more than \$11 million in support to the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research and the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center. With no administrative cost, 100% of these donations are used for research. This funding empowers world-class scientists to pursue projects that lead to lifesaving cancer solutions. It is also crucial in the recruitment, retention and success of these brilliant scientists who are provided start-up funding for their promising research careers.

Major scientific breakthroughs often begin with small but powerful ideas. At the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research, the Indiana Elks play a vital role in turning ideas into innovation by providing seed grants that launch leading-edge projects in cancer prevention, detection, and treatment. Continued support has directly contributed to new technologies, patented discoveries, and advancements in cancer medicines that are improving lives and shaping the future of oncology. Giant leaps in cancer research are being made that benefit communities within our state, across the country, and around the world. Whether it's funding to help a promising new cancer drug reach the masses, like Pluvicto®, or support to develop early-detection techniques for breast cancer, the Indiana Elks are making real-world impact, helping transform science into solutions that save lives.

Advancing cancer research is about more than today's discoveries — it's about ensuring tomorrow's scientists have the tools, mentorship, and opportunities to push the field forward. At Purdue, the generosity of the Indiana Elks Association has been instrumental in creating a state-of-the-art environment for training

Though they are opponents on the field or court, IU and Purdue act as a single team with one goal in defeating cancer. Our two institutions are grateful to have the long-time support of the Indiana Elks Association.

To learn more about how we are reaching new heights in cancer research and care together, watch Don Bryant's story by scanning the QR Code or visiting [purdue.link/Elks.support](http://purdue.link/Elks.support).

and education, as well as directly supporting student researchers who are becoming tomorrow's top cancer scientists. These young investigators are exploring bold new ideas, many of which could lead to the therapies of the future. With Elks support, they gain hands-on experience, mentorship, and the tools they need to shape the future of cancer research — and potentially change countless lives in the process.

Work funded by the Indiana Elks at the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center not only provides a foundation for cancer research and care, but it also supports courting top talent, pursuing research priorities, and launching innovative clinical trials. The Indiana Elks Young Investigators Research Endowment at IU supports young cancer researchers in launching their careers. The goal of the endowment is to ensure the children and grandchildren of Elks live in a world where they have access to highly qualified experts to treat cancer and where advances in research have made cancer a far less terrifying diagnosis than it is today.

In recent years, the Elks have also supported fellow trainees in the IU School of Medicine Division of Hematology/Oncology. These fellows are medical doctors in their final three years of training to specialize in treating cancer. Each year, IU receives hundreds of applications for their highly competitive program and only selects six new fellows per year. Elks funding has helped grow the careers of these young physician-scientists by making it possible for them to attend key conferences focused on their specific area of cancer research, hold memberships in important national organizations and submit their research to various organizations for presentations.

By helping brilliant young people launch careers in academic medicine, the Elks are ensuring that IU's long history of impactful cancer research continues. These are the doctors who will care for our children and grandchildren someday and make discoveries that change the path of cancer treatment moving forward.

## **ABOUT THE PURDUE INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

Since 1978, the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research has been a National Cancer Institute-designated basic research cancer center. Only seven institutions in the United States have earned this title. Our work focuses on investigating cancers where they begin — at the cellular level — to investigate the cause of and cure for one of the most devastating diseases of our time.

Doctors and scientists throughout the world use our discoveries to develop methods, medicines, and medical devices to save and enhance patients' lives.

Our mission is to improve lives through pioneering scientific discoveries that deepen the world's understanding of cancer. We advance cutting-edge technologies and medicines to detect, prevent, and treat cancer while empowering tomorrow's cancer research workforce.

**[purdue.edu/cancer-research](http://purdue.edu/cancer-research)**

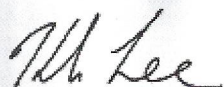
Dear members of the Indiana Elks Association,

On behalf of the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research, we extend our deepest gratitude for your decades of unwavering dedication to advancing cancer research. Rest assured your commitment to supporting life-saving science makes an indelible mark on the scientific community and, most importantly, on the lives of those affected by this devastating disease.

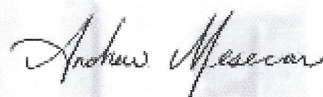
The Indiana Elks Charities, Inc. has been a pillar of support for both Purdue and Indiana University, providing critical resources that empower scientists to push the frontiers of cancer research. Meaningfully, your commitment fosters collaboration between our centers that accelerates the pace of discovery. Your impact is seen in our laboratories and is felt every day in the lives of cancer patients like Don Bryant, the patient profiled in the video linked in this brochure.

As we continue this fight, we remain inspired by your generosity and belief in our shared vision to create a world without cancer. Together, we are making strides in understanding, preventing and treating this disease. Thank you for standing with us and for your decades-long dedication to this cause.

With enormous gratitude,



**Kelvin Lee, MD**  
*Director, Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center*  
*H.H. Gregg Professor of Oncology*



**Andrew D. Mesecar, PhD**  
*Robert W. Miller Director, Purdue Institute for Cancer Research*

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