1980s

Our researchers began to crack the cancer code, revealing it as a disease caused by an accumulation of genetic mistakes. This became the paradigm for much of modern cancer research, ushering in the age of molecular cancer biology with new gene-targeted therapies and paving the way for gene-based screening tests for cancer.

1980
Drug 4-HC makes self-marrow donor transplants possible

1981
Neuro-oncology study group formed

Acyclovir proven effective against herpes simplex virus infections, a common complication of bone marrow transplant

1982
Pediatric neuro-oncology program started

Dual chromosome losses linked to Wilm's tumor

1984
Taxol refined and made safe for cancer treatment

CD34 antibody makes marrow stem cell collection possible

1985
Nursing research program established

Patient and Family Services established

1986
Stereotactic radiosurgery performed

Time sequential therapy improves leukemia remissions

Joann Rockwell Memorial House opened

1989
Cancer revealed as a genetic disease

Radioactive seeds used in lung cancer, then prostate cancer

Drug regimen for pediatric ALL moves survival from 50% to 90%

GVAX, first therapeutic cancer vaccine developed

Nurses design cancer specific chemo infusion pump

1988
"Hot spots" of DNA methylation identified in human cancer

Hackerman-Patz House opens

1987
Surgically implanted polymers deliver drugs to brain cancers

Steve Jobs launches Apple's first Macintosh.