

# Biomedical Research in Idaho

Theodore A. Walters, MD  
Clinical Research Director, St.  
Luke's/MSTI  
Director, MSTMRI

# Background Information

- No medical school, still need the latest science/technology for our patients
- Small schools, not enough opportunity for exchange of information
- Difficult to set up new biotech companies with few trained employees

# St. Luke's Response - 1

- Strengthened ACMEC (with SARMC)
  - Ada/Canyon Medical Education Consortium
- Developed MSTI in 1969
  - Dr. M. Burkholder
- Began to do clinical cancer research

# Why Research at MSTI

- Keep doctors up on newest information
- Need for new treatments for our patients
- Get the latest drugs
- Be part of a national research process

# Research at MSTI

- Developed a Research Dept., both Adult and Pediatric
- Became affiliate of SWOG, CTSU, RTOG
- Joined national studies – PLCO, Select, NLST
- Recruited pharmaceutical company trials

# Research at MSTI

- Currently have 80+ trials for all major kinds of cancers
  - New chemo drugs, new combinations of older ones (if you read it in the paper, we've had it for a year)
  - Bone Marrow “Transplant”
  - New ways to give radiation

## St. Luke's Response - 2

- Received donations for basic science research, looked for ways to cooperate with other institutions
- Got input from physician staff
- Formed MSTMRI

**MSTMRI**

**Mountain States Tumor and Medical  
Research Institute**



# MSTMRI - overview

- A consortium of St.Luke's Medical Center/MSTI and the Boise VA Hospital
- Formed 1999 (MSMRI began 1994)
- Purpose: To support, conduct, and foster basic and clinical biomedical research and provide research opportunities for Idaho clinicians, basic scientists and students.

# MSTMRI

- Ted Walters, MD - Director
  - Hematologist/Oncologist
  - Director of Clinical Research, MSTI
- Richard Olson, PhD - Associate Director
  - Scientist, Pharmacologist, Boise VA Hospital
  - Assoc. Professor, U of WA Med School

# MSTMRI - facilities

- St Luke's Med. Ctr.
  - Office, admin. personnel, funds
  - Clinical trials
- VA Hosp.
  - Basic science labs, scientists
  - Animal facility

# MSTMRI - overview

- Other Institutions Represented
  - Boise State University
  - Idaho State University
  - Albertson College of Idaho
  - Northwest Nazarene University
  - (U of I = WAMI)

# MSTMRI -overview

- Activities not limited to cancer
  - administered Albertson Foundation education grant for schools
  - support research on aging, cardiovascular, infectious disease
  - support other sciences such as biochemistry, psychology, etc

# MSTMRI - activities

- Administer grants, awards, and donations
- Burkholder Lectureship
  - brings nationally known speakers
    - James Doroshow, MD
- Provide student research fellowships
  - Increase Medical School admissions
  - Expose students to working science

# MSTMRI - activities

- Provide scientific small-project grants
  - Allow for expansion of projects
  - Bring in larger research \$
- Provide bridging funds to scientists
  - Keep scientists in the region
  - Help bring in new researchers

# MSTMRI - Plans

- Seek additional grants, donations, etc
- Work with other organizations such as BioIdaho
- Help to develop expanded research facilities
- Expand scientific education, sharing of knowledge



# Future value to Idaho

- Better patient care
- Better education for our professionals
- Better recruitment of scientists
- Better recruitment of biotech companies