

# Local foundation gives \$10,000 to Stamford Hospital cancer center

STAMFORD — Stamford Hospital's Carl & Dorothy Bennett Cancer Center recently received a \$10,000 donation from The Craig D. Tifford Foundation, located in Stamford.

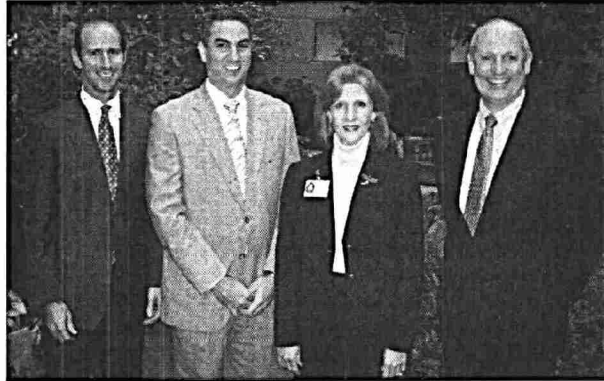
The funds have been earmarked for testicular cancer research at the Bennett Cancer Center, which annually offers about 40 clinical trials for a variety of cancers.

The Craig D. Tifford Foundation was created in 2003 by Dr. Craig Tifford and his wife, after Tifford survived choriocarcinoma, a highly malignant and very aggressive form of testicular cancer. After being diagnosed in 2002, Tifford was initially treated at the Bennett Cancer Center, where he learned of a promising clinical trial at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. After participating in the trial, he was rendered disease-free, and established the Foundation to fund research, increase public awareness, and further education and support for patients with testicular cancer.

"Testicular cancer is a significantly under-represented area of research," said Tifford. "Since only approximately 7,000 new cases of testicular cancer are diagnosed in the U.S. each year, it is considered rare – and yet, it is the most common form of cancer in young men between the ages of 18 and 35. Unfortunately, because it is so rare, testicular cancer does not receive the same amount of research funding that, for example, breast and lung cancer do."

This is the foundation's second donation to the hospital. Two years ago, the Bennett Cancer Center received a \$5,000 grant from the foundation to launch a testicular cancer awareness program in the Stamford School System. The grant also allowed for the purchase of anatomical models to be used as a teaching aid in the presentations as well as in each of the school-based health centers. As part of the program, Tifford and Stamford Hospital urologist Dr. Michael Nurzia annually meet with senior high school boys to explain and discuss testicular cancer. At the same time, oncologists visit with the high schools' girls to discuss breast cancer.

Affiliated with Stamford Hospital, Tifford is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in arthroscopy and reconstructive surgery of the knee and shoulder. He is the managing partner in NYCONN Orthopaedic & Rehabilitation Specialists, which has offices in Stamford and West Harrison, Bronx, and Manhattan, N.Y. Tifford's wife, Gail, helps run the Foundation while he divides his time between his practice and



Contributed photo

**FURTHERING CANCER RESEARCH** From left, Dr. Craig Olin, chairman of Stamford Hospital's medical staff, Dr. Craig Tifford, founder and president of the Craig D. Tifford Foundation, Liz Manfredo, cancer services administrator at Stamford Hospital's Bennett Cancer Center, and Brian G. Grissler, CEO and president of Stamford Hospital, gather at a recent dedication ceremony marking the hospital's receipt of a \$10,000 donation from the Craig D. Tifford Foundation. The funds have been earmarked for testicular cancer research at the Bennett Cancer Center.

advocacy work.

"Dr. Tifford survived a particularly challenging time for him and his family, and has become a positive role model and outspoken advocate for testicular cancer research," said Dr. Salvatore Del Prete, Stamford Hospital's director of oncology who also oversees cancer clinical trials. "The rate of testicular cancer has increased over the last few decades, for reasons not yet understood. We look forward to launching a trial in the coming year to test a new pharmaceutical drug or treatment specifically for testicular cancer."

On average, 12 percent of the Bennett Cancer Center's patients enroll in a clinical trial, which is significantly higher than the national average of 3 percent. Many patients cite that they would rather enroll in a clinical trial locally than travel long distances to New Haven or New York.

