The Christus Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research
1965 Dr. John S. Stehlin, a distinguished surgical oncologist, pioneers the complex, extensive procedure to remove lymph nodes during colorectal surgery, vastly improving the patient’s chances for recovery.

1966 Dr. Stehlin becomes the first surgeon to publish an article on the psychological aspects of patients with cancer. He stresses personalized care, meaningful communication based on truthfulness and trust, and hope as key to patient recovery.

1969 After 10 years heading the breast and melanoma treatment programs at M.D. Anderson Hospital, Dr. Stehlin and Mr. Evans Attwell, a lawyer at Vinson & Elkins LLP, establish the Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research. The Foundation is based on involving patient, physician and researcher in the treatment of cancer.

1969 Dr. Beppino C. Giovanella, a cancer biologist at McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research at the University of Wisconsin, agrees to serve as Laboratory Director for The Stehlin Foundation. “Dr. G,” instrumental in developing the noted anticancer drug 5-Fluorouracil, supports the philosophy that all cancer research should be applied directly to improving patient treatment.

1969 Dr. Stehlin establishes an exclusive relationship with St. Joseph Hospital based on his respect and affection for Sister Mary David Gorman and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. In 1980, this oncology unit introduced the prototype of the Living Room, providing therapeutic forms of art, spirituality, music and conversation for patients and families.

1969 Dr. Stehlin is the first to combine heat and chemotherapy (hyperthermic perfusion) for the treatment of patients with advanced melanomas of the arms and legs, virtually eliminating amputations and improving survival rates by 300%.
Welcome to
The Christus Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research

Even for an organization committed to progress, The Christus Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research is going through exciting times.

2010 marked our 40th year changing the lives of people with cancer. Based on the vision of the legendary surgeon and humanitarian John S. Stehlin, M.D., we have dedicated our work to improving treatment for people suffering from the disease of our lifetimes, cancer.

As shown by the many “firsts” in the accompanying timeline, we have much to be proud of and grateful for in our history.

Today, as we move into a larger, more sophisticated research facility, we are focused on the future. Our new laboratory will allow us to expand our research, recruit additional talent and continue to forge new ground in cancer treatment.

We invite you to read our story and understand the unique focus of The Christus Stehlin Foundation.

Your interest and support are vital to our efforts to continue what Dr. Stehlin advocated: offer hope to those suffering from this disease. Thank you for playing a key role in our story.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Anderson
President
1970 Dr. Giovanella pioneers the development of a unique strain of mouse which lacks normal immune defenses, thus is able to "host" various human cancers for research purposes. Today Dr. G's "nude mouse" represents the final nonhuman studies required by the National Cancer Institute in determining the effectiveness of all anticancer drugs.

1970 Dr. Stehlin becomes one of the first two physicians in North America to treat breast cancer with breast-conserving surgery involving partial mastectomy (lumpectomy) rather than radical mastectomy. By 1990, lumpectomy is regarded as the treatment of choice.

1971 The Stehlin Foundation becomes the first organization to bring clinical medicine directly into the laboratory, introducing the concept of "translational" research, which is now commonplace. For 10 years, the Stehlin Foundation was the only lab devoted exclusively to the study of human tumors.

1973 The National Cancer Institute engages The Stehlin Foundation to establish the first xenografts of human breast cancers in nude mice. The Foundation successfully establishes 62 human breast cancers (primary and metastatic), which today provide more than 50% of the human breast cancer xenografts used for breast cancer research.

1980 The Stehlin Foundation Educational Scholarship Program is launched to provide practical experience and financial support to high school and college students interested in pursuing medical and research careers. Through 2010, approximately 300 students have participated in the program.

1980 Mr. Michael Meagher forms the Friends of the Stehlin Foundation to raise funds to support research, treatment and educational programs conducted by the Foundation. The annual Friends galas set a new standard in both fun and fundraising.
In the 1960’s, Dr. John S. Stehlin was a distinguished surgical oncologist with a markedly different approach from that of mainstream medicine. His deep empathy for patients led to immediate connection with the holistic healing of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word serving at downtown Houston’s St. Joseph Hospital.

The Sisters, in fact, were one of the reasons Stehlin moved his private practice to “St. Joe’s” in 1969. But he also had a very bold vision: to foster collaboration between science and medicine and develop the most effective treatments for the patient suffering from cancer.

He recruited Dr. Beppino Giovanella, a promising cancer biologist from the University of Wisconsin, to serve as Laboratory Director. It was Dr. G. who conducted the Foundation’s first experiment in a converted space near St. Joseph’s maternity ward.

One year later Robert F. Anderson joined the Stehlin staff as clinical research associate and executive director.

The rest is truly history.

Combining Clinical Care & Laboratory Research

From the beginning Dr. Stehlin and Dr. Giovanella were dedicated to reducing the time lag between the research bench and the patient’s bedside. They established what was thought to be the first laboratory anywhere to concentrate solely on human cancers.

In 1970 Dr. Giovanella developed the now famous “nude” or
1987 The Stehlin Foundation is asked by Dr. Dennis Slamon at UCLA and Genentech, a biotechnology firm, to perform the critical testing on the earliest versions of Herceptin, an antibody that has proven effective in treating certain aggressive breast cancers.

1988 The Foundation publishes one of the largest studies of liver cancer ever conducted by a single institution, involving 414 patients.

1989 The first paper published by Dr. Giovannella and Stehlin staff in *Science* magazine shows the effectiveness of camptothecin, an anticancer drug derived from a native Chinese tree, against colorectal cancer, one of the cancers most resistant to treatment.

1995 The Foundation wins federal approval to start clinical human trials with 9-Nitrocamptothecin (9NC) for the treatment of cancers of the pancreas. Through 2010 two patients treated with 9NC for incurable pancreatic cancer are alive after 15 and 13 years, respectively.

1995 The Foundation’s development of the camptothecin family of drugs receives an endorsement from the prestigious scientific organization, the New York Academy of Sciences.
immuno-deficient mouse, which provided an ideal vehicle for growing human tumors and testing anticancer drug compounds and treatments. Meanwhile, Dr. Stehlin continued to develop innovative methods of administering therapy and treating patients.

Through this combination of clinical practice and scientific research, the Stehlin Foundation earned an impressive track record as a pioneer in the battle against cancer.

The remarkable breakthroughs from the Stehlin lab resulted in more than 500 medical research papers and published findings, as well as coverage in local and national publications and news media, including The New York Times, LIFE Magazine, USA Today, NBC’s “Today Show,” and ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

In fact, many of the methods initiated at the Foundation have become the “gold standard” of modern medicine and cancer research.

Most importantly, countless people are alive because of the work at the Christus Stehlin Foundation.

"I think it has been too easy to overlook what a progressive physician Dr. John Stehlin was, and how pivotal he was for the humane treatment of individuals with cancer. He changed the cancer landscape forever, and his work continues with the research the Christus Stehlin Foundation is doing today."

- Dr. Peter de Ipolyi, Surgical Oncologist, 2010

**Pioneering Drug Research**

Over the last four decades the research team at the Christus Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research has tested the effectiveness of hundreds of revolutionary anticancer treatments. Their studies have been integral to pivotal drugs and breakthroughs in cancer treatment, including the oral administration of anticancer drugs, the use of Herceptin to treat some aggressive breast cancers, and
2004 Stehlin researchers publish an article in *Houston Medicine* delineating the nude mouse as an unparalleled tool in cancer research and therapy.

2004 Impressed with quantity and quality of research performed, Dr. Thomas C. Royer, Chief Executive Officer of CHRISTUS Health, initiates discussions with Robert Anderson, Executive Director of The Stehlin Foundation, regarding a mutually beneficial alliance.

2006 CHRISTUS Health, a Catholic faith-based nonprofit health system headquartered in Dallas, becomes the corporate sponsor of The Stehlin Foundation, endorsed by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

2007 After testing more than 200 camptothecin derivatives, CHRISTUS Stehlin researchers identify several compounds that are highly effective cancer killers.

2008 The FDA approves the Foundation’s 2,800-page Investigational New Drug (IND) application for the camptothecin derivative CZ48. Of the 5,000-10,000 oncology products discovered, only five (less than 1/10th of 1 percent) go on to win FDA approval to enter clinical (human) trials.
hyperthermia as a treatment for certain cancers. The Stehlin team’s development of thymidine was the first to demonstrate that an anticancer drug could be totally nontoxic.

Stehlin researchers were among the first to work with the camptothecin family of drugs, an anticancer compound derived from a tree native to China. Their early successes with camptothecins on the most virulent strains of tumors led to worldwide recognition from cancer experts.

In 2008, the Foundation overcame enormous odds and received approval from the FDA to begin Phase I (human) trials on CZ48, a promising camptothecin compound. The study continues at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Beyond drug development, the Christus Stehlin staff currently has projects underway on prostate and breast cancer, the effects of hyperthermia (heat) on cancer cells, and a new program on Metformin, a common drug for diabetes shown to have anticancer activity.

All of the work supports the original vision of John Stehlin and Beppino Giovanella — using both the research bench and the physician’s office to improve cancer patient treatment.

**Building for the Future**

After a long career in clinical medicine, Dr. Stehlin retired in 2002 at the age of 79, and left his life’s work in the hands of capable staff.

In 2006, the Stehlin Foundation became part of CHRISTUS Health, a nonprofit Catholic health system. Backed by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston, this corporate sponsorship provides stability and support for the process of cancer research. Due in large part to these loyal supporters, the Foundation was able to move into a fully equipped modern laboratory in 2011, greatly
2009 Researchers at the CHRISTUS Stehlin Foundation publish an article in Cancer Research magazine, the official scientific publication of the American Association for Cancer Research, on the strong anticancer activity of CZ48.

2010 The Foundation finalizes plans to make the move to a renovated 27,000 square foot research center near Reliant Stadium, supported by CEO Dr. Tom Royer and the leadership team of CHRISTUS Health, and by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and their Congregational Leader, Sister Lillian Anne Healy.

2010 Research studies expand programs on the effects of hyperthermia (heat) on cancer cells, and launch new programs on Metformin (a common drug for diabetes shown to have anticancer activity) and prostate cancer.

2010 The Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research celebrates forty years of excellence in clinical research.

2011 The Foundation moves laboratory operations to its new home. The story continues...
enhancing the possibilities for future collaboration and innovation.

Despite continuous growth and change over the past 40 years, The Christus Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research remains focused on alleviating suffering in the patient. In that respect, Dr. Stehlin’s vision lives on.

Your Help is Needed and Put to Good Use

Unlike most cancer research institutions, which are sponsored primarily through university medical schools and government grants, the overwhelming majority of support for the Christus Stehlin Foundation comes from private sources.

The Christus Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research is a tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations of any amount go directly toward supporting the Christus Stehlin Foundation’s unique, innovative approach to the fight against cancer.

“Dr. Stehlin has been right about cancer for more than 40 years… He achieved his remarkable success by carefully observing the behavior of cancer. He found order where others had only seen chaos. He found rules where others said there were no rules. And he spared hundreds of patients the disfiguring consequences of radical surgery.”

- Dr. Richard Evans, General Surgeon, 2007

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This brochure's cover image is taken from the "Trees of Hope" donor wall in The Christus Stehlin Foundation conference room.

"There is only one antidote for the debilitating worry and fear – emotions that inevitably accompany cancer – and that is hope. Hope is the very essence of life."

- Dr. John S. Stehlin, 1967