Obliteride 2014 gained momentum in its second year as cancer survivors, researchers and others determined to end cancer cycled on August 8th–10th to raise money for Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. In its inaugural year, Obliteride 2013 raised nearly $2 million for lifesaving cancer research at Fred Hutch, and with the community’s help, organizers hope to collect even more in 2014.

Participating cyclists choose their ride distance (25 mile, 50 mile, 100 mile or 150 mile), register for a small fee, and then raise the money or fund themselves (each distance corresponds to a different minimum fundraising amount). The 25 mile route is a beautiful ride along Lake Washington and is perfect for beginners, while the other three routes offer options for more experienced riders.

This year, several Department of Surgery faculty and staff participated in Obliteride and were excited to share their experiences.

Drs. Benjamin Starnes, Professor and Chief, Vascular Surgery Division and Matthew Sweet, Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery Division, along with Danielle Slota, Administrative Specialist, Vascular Surgery Division and her husband Kevin, cycled the 50 mile route in a team Dr. Starnes titled “UW Vascular for Alec Clowes.” The Vascular Surgery Division and Department of Surgery recently learned that one of our faculty surgeons, longtime mentor and close friend, Dr. Alexander W. Clowes has been diagnosed with glioblastoma. Dr. Clowes has devoted his professional life to vascular surgery and research in the field of vascular biology, contributing greatly to our understanding of vascular graft stenosis/restenosis, for which he is world renowned. He has helped train hundreds of residents and fellows, and treated countless patients.

Drs. Starnes and Sweet came in first place for the 50 mile race, completing the route in three hours and three minutes (a route that is over 3,000 feet elevation and estimated five hours to complete). The UW Vascular for Alec Clowes team has raised over $10,500 to date. Read the UW Vascular for Alec Clowes teams’ respective Obliterate web pages: Dr. Benjamin Starnes – Dr. Matthew Sweet – Danielle Slota – Kevin Slota

On another team titled “Mothers and Daughters”, Dr. Heather Evans, Associate Professor, Trauma, Critical Care and Burn Division, participated in the 50 mile race with her mother, Nancy Evans. Dr. Evans shared a personal story as to why the Obliteride event is special to her:

“My mom, Nancy Evans, is a cancer survivor. Shortly after she moved to Seattle a few years ago, she was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma. Fortunately, her particular type of lymphoma is rather indolent, and she did not need to undergo chemotherapy, but she benefited tremendously from the knowledge and expertise at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.”

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Plastic Surgery Division, did his magic and plated her fractures - thanks to him, Drs. Janelle Sousa, Chief Resident, Plastic Surgery Division, and Mitch Pet, Resident, Plastic Surgery Division, she was able to recover in time to ride yesterday! It was hard to be out of town while she had surgery, but everyone was just so wonderful to her. Mom just can’t stop raving about Harborview."

Please join us and donate to the Obliteride teams, UW Vascular for Alec Clowes and Mothers and Daughters, before the event’s donation window closes on September 30th, 2014. Visit Obliteride’s Donation page (http://getinvolved.fhcrc.org/site/TR?fr_id=1340&pg=pfind), click on the “Teams” tab, enter the team name UW Vascular for Alec Clowes and/or Mothers and Daughters, click “Donate”, then complete the online Gift Information form.

Our faculty contributed more than $10,000 towards this year’s Obliteride event. We want to congratulate Drs. Evans, Starnes and Sweet as well as Nancy Evans, and Danielle and Kevin Slota and let them and those who contributed know how happy and how extraordinarily proud we are of their participation and efforts in this important event!

About 5 weeks ago, my mother had a bike accident on the Myrtle Edwards trail trying to avoid some pedestrians and sustained a tripod fracture (left zygoma, lateral wall of maxillary sinus, floor of orbit). Dr. Kari Keys, (pictured left), Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery, saw her in the emergency room and was just so wonderful. Dr. Keys answered all our questions and led us through the CT scan findings. A week later, while I was out of town in Virginia, mom called to say she was having surgery the next day. Dr. Joe Gruss, (pictured right), Professor,