



## Coleman Family Establishes a Fellowship in Stephen Y. Coleman's Memory

The Coleman family knows just how devastating a brain cancer diagnosis can be. In 2011, Stephen York Coleman, son of Steve and Brenda Coleman, lost his three-year, courageously fought battle against brain cancer. He was only 37. Inspired by Stephen's journey, his brother and uncle led the Coleman family in establishing a fellowship in medical oncology at The University of Tennessee Medical Center and the UT Graduate School of Medicine in Stephen's memory. With more than 22,800 people in the United States expected to receive a malignant brain or spinal cord tumor diagnosis this year, according to the American Cancer Society, the fellowship is vitally important.

Stephen inspired those who knew him daily — and even those who did not — as he lived his life in the Maryville community. He was a four-year letterman athlete at Maryville High School in both football and baseball. After graduating from Maryville College, where he also played baseball and had a stellar career, he became the fourth generation in his family to join Anderson Lumber Company and Home Center as Chief Executive Officer in sales and marketing. His passion for sports and teamwork, his friendliness and integrity influenced many in the Maryville community and East Tennessee region.

Since his death, Stephen's family, the community of Maryville and many who knew and loved him, have found ways to remember Stephen and the life he led. While they grieve for his loss, they find inspiration in supporting other cancer patients, their families and the physicians who cared for Stephen.

The family created Tailgating Against Cancer, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the Cancer Institute at The University of Tennessee Medical Center and the programs at the UT Graduate School of Medicine. The organization created unique Tailgating Against Cancer t-shirts, which are sold throughout the community. They also host an annual golf tournament, which raised more than \$30,000 in 2015.

The desire to leave a permanent legacy in Stephen's memory is what inspired the family to fund the newly created fellowship in medical oncology. Once fully funded at \$500,000, the fund will support a fellow in the discipline of medical oncology.

Oncology is the field of medicine that is devoted to cancer. Medical oncology is the specialty of cancer that treats patients with various medications, including chemotherapy. This fellowship, which is a 36-month program accredited by the American Board of Internal Medicine, will offer specialized training in medical oncology. This specialty training will allow these newly trained physicians to be eligible for board certification in this discipline.

The fellowship program typically involves an initial year of intensive clinical training, followed by two or more years of in-depth clinical and/or basic research training. The Stephen Y. Coleman Fellowship in Medical Oncology is the first of its type at the medical center.

Stephen's obituary read that he "fought his illness with perseverance, courage, determination and dignity." His legacy will continue as the family raises funds in his memory to train additional specialists in the field of medical oncology. For more information about the Cancer Institute or Fellowship programs and how you can help support the cause, please contact the Development Office at [development@utmck.edu](mailto:development@utmck.edu) or call 865-305-6611.