

# Donor Spotlight



**G. Russell "Russ" Bell, PhD**, president of the Beckman Coulter Foundation since its formation in September 2007, has nothing but praise for his friend and physician, UCLA Urology's Dr. Leonard Marks. "Lenny is a very inspiring guy," Dr. Bell says.

The two met in 1990 when Dr. Marks was collaborating with Hybritech, a San Diego-based company headed by Dr. Bell that was doing pioneering work in prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing. The company was later acquired by Beckman Coulter, but the relationship continued. "We shared the belief that not all men with prostate cancer need to have surgery or radiation; rather, they need to be monitored over a period of years," recalls Dr. Bell. "That got us started."

UCLA Urology was developing its program of active surveillance for patients with low-risk prostate cancer who were choosing the "watchful waiting" approach. "We brought our foundation board members to UCLA, they were very impressed, and we began directing funds to the program," Dr. Bell explains. "It's important for the foundation to fund research that will push the envelope and researchers who will come through."

At about the same time the Beckman Coulter Foundation began funding the UCLA Active Surveillance for Cancer of the Prostate program, Dr. Bell's PSA level shot up. "With Lenny's encouragement, I came to UCLA as one of the first patients for the targeted prostate biopsy program [see cover story]," says Dr. Bell, who retired as Beckman Coulter's chief scientific officer in 2009. "My experience as a patient at UCLA was unbelievably great. I've referred 8-10 executives to Dr. Marks, and I've talked to a number of candidates about my personal experience. You might say I'm an ex-officio UCLA urologist."

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