

# what's new



ROBERT H. LURIE  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER  
OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

NEWS OF THE LURIE CANCER CENTER

SUMMER 2011

## Cancer Survivors' Celebration & Walk Breaks Records



*Cancer Survivors' Celebration & Walk*

THE 18TH ANNUAL CANCER SURVIVORS' CELEBRATION & WALK was a record-breaking event in more ways than one! Close to 4,000 cancer survivors, friends, family members and caregivers—more than ever before-- took part in the event on National Cancer Survivors Day, Sunday, June 5th.

Picture-perfect summer weather was the backdrop for the sea of purple (worn by cancer survivors) and white-t-shirts seen along the lakefront walk and enjoying the picnic and entertainment in Grant Park.

The Lurie Cancer Center set another record at this year's walk, as well. "Break Cancer," is an online campaign started by the LIVESTRONG Young Adult Alliance which partners with organizations across the country, including the Lurie Cancer Center, to raise awareness and offer support to young adults affected by cancer. 29-year-old lymphoma survivor, Jenna Benn, saw a "call for ideas" on the Lurie Cancer Center's Facebook page, and came up with the suggestion of having "The Most People Dancing to Twist Out Cancer."

» [Read more](#)

## *inside this issue*

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**Save the Date:** Sunday, June 3, 2012 for the 19th Annual Cancer Survivors' Celebration & Walk!

# Lurie Cancer Center News & Notes

## New iPhone App Tells Doctors How to Save Cancer Patients' Fertility



Northwestern launches app and micro-website for healthcare providers and patients

CANCER TREATMENT CAN destroy a patient's fertility, but not all physicians are familiar with the risks and options to preserve it. Now there's an app for that.

A new iPhone app will give oncologists a quick reference guide for preserving the fertility of children, women and men diagnosed with cancer. The information for physicians and patients also is available on the new micro-website [savemyfertility.org](http://savemyfertility.org).

The app and website were created by the Oncofertility Consortium of Northwestern University, a national group of physicians and scientists dedicated to saving the fertility of cancer patients through research and education.

"Deciding how to best protect an adult's or child's fertility should be part of every physician's discussion with a newly diagnosed cancer patient," said Teresa Woodruff, Director and founder of the Northwestern Oncofertility Consortium, "We created the app and SaveMyFertility to help patients and their physicians have this vitally important discussion and make much more informed decisions about fertility preservation. Now a physician can quickly access this information when he or she is with a cancer patient. And it also allows a doctor to e-mail a fact sheet in English or Spanish to a patient."

## Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program at Lurie Cancer Center



16-YEAR-OLD MAYRA Martinez wants to make a difference in people's lives and contribute ideas to the world of science and medicine. "I want to be a leader and an example to show the people in my

neighborhood how you can make anything happen if you set your mind to it," says Martinez, a rising sophomore at Westinghouse College Prep who hopes to one day earn a PhD in Chemistry. She is one of six students from the Chicago Public School who received a symbolic white coat during a ceremony celebrating the inaugural class of the Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program at Westinghouse College Prep.

Each year, a select group of Westinghouse freshmen will be accepted into the program that is designed to cultivate talented and diverse students from the school and encourage them to become physicians and biomedical scientists. Physicians and researchers like Erica Marsh, MD, an Assistant Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Feinberg School of Medicine and Member of the Lurie Cancer Center will provide mentorship and support to the students from Chicago's Garfield Park neighborhood.

July's *Summer Intensive 2011: Cancer 101*, based at the Lurie Cancer Center, includes a series of lectures, tours and projects designed to expose the Westinghouse students to career opportunities in cancer research and medicine from a basic science, clinical and public health perspective. "Our hope is that they really get a sense of what it means and what it takes to become a researcher or a physician," says Marsh, who is also a reproductive endocrinologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. "We are challenging these students to continue to put in hard work and letting them know that we are standing there offering them a helping hand along the way."

For more information on the Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program at Westinghouse College Prep contact Maria Lin at 312.926.9531 or [mlin@nmh.org](mailto:mlin@nmh.org).

# Lurie Cancer Center News & Notes

## ASCO Reception Attendees Tour Site of the Future Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

PHYSICIANS, RESEARCHERS AND HEALTH CARE professionals from around the world attended a reception on June 5th at Prentice Women's Hospital celebrating the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago. Steven T. Rosen, MD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center, described the event as "a chance to reunite, make new friends, and enjoy our beautiful city."



*Steve Rosen and Ann Lurie*

The highlight of the evening, hosted by the Lurie Cancer Center in cooperation with Northwestern | University Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and Children's Memorial Hospital, was a series of tours of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago scheduled to

open in June, 2012. Ann Lurie set the stage for the tours of the new hospital, named in recognition of her \$100 million gift, by sharing some of her personal history and motivation to help children by providing access to state-of-the-art facilities, technology and care.

Even before setting off in their hardhats, guests learned about some of Lurie Children's benefits and innovations, including the fact that the 23 story facility, built with 10,000 tons of building steel, will be the world's tallest children's hospital. To learn more about plans for Lurie Children's, visit their website at [childrensmemorial.org](http://childrensmemorial.org).

# Research

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## Cancer Survivors Can't Shake Pain, Fatigue, Insomnia, Foggy Brain



Lynne Wagner

WHEN PEOPLE FINISH TREATMENT for cancer, they want to bounce back to their former vital selves as quickly as possible. But one of the largest survivor studies ever conducted reveals that many survivors still suffer moderate to severe problems with pain, fatigue, sleep, memory and concentration three to five years after treatment has ended.

"We were surprised to see how prevalent these symptoms still are," said study co-investigator Lynne

Wagner, PhD, Associate Professor of Medical Social Sciences at the Feinberg School of Medicine and a clinical health psychologist at the Lurie Cancer Center. "This is one of the first looks at what's really happening for survivors in terms of symptoms and treatment among community-based treatment settings across the U.S."

The persistent pain in survivors who are cancer-free and no longer receiving any treatment is particularly puzzling, Wagner noted, because good treatment exists. "It seems we haven't come a long way in managing pain despite a lot of medical advances," she said. "This is eye opening. It tells us we need to be better in clinical practice about managing our survivors' pain."

The most common symptoms reported by survivors were fatigue (16 percent), disturbed sleep (15 percent), cognitive difficulties (13 percent) and pain (13 percent). Wagner presented the findings June 4th at the 2011 American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting in Chicago.

[» Read more](#)

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## Researchers Discover Link between Obesity Gene and Breast Cancer



Virginia Kaklamani

NEW RESEARCH AIMED to better identify the genetic factors that lead to breast cancer has uncovered a link between the fat mass and obesity associated gene (FTO) and a higher incidence of breast cancer. According to the study, people who possess a variant of the FTO gene have up to a 30 percent greater chance of developing breast cancer. Research to identify why the link exists is ongoing, but experts say the finding takes us one step closer to personalized medicine

based on genetic risk which would allow for better monitoring and prevention of illness, as well as targeted treatment.

"This is a fascinating early finding, which fits with the known connections between obesity and breast cancer," said Virginia Kaklamani, MD, DSc Associate Professor of Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine, co-Director of the Cancer Genetics Program at the Lurie Cancer Center and lead author of the study.

Each individual carries the FTO gene, but only 18 percent have this variant of the gene. Kaklamani says testing for the FTO variant is not available currently, but it may be available in the future, similar the testing for the BRCA gene mutation that exists today.

"This knowledge helps us better identify who is at an increased risk so one day, we can counter that risk through preventative measures and advanced screening."

# Research

## When Rising PSA Means Prostate Cancer is in Patient's Future



*William Catalona*

A MAN'S RISING PSA (prostate-specific antigen) level over several years – which has been seen as a possible warning sign of prostate cancer – has recently come under fire as a screening test because it sometimes prompts biopsies that turn out to be normal.

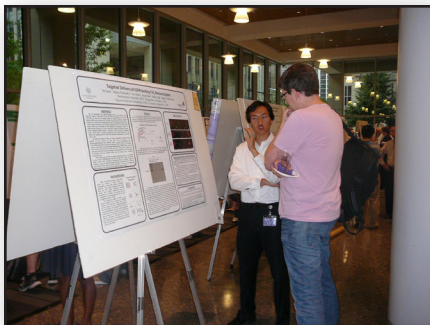
A new study, however, shows nearly 70 percent of men who had rising PSA levels and subsequent normal biopsies were eventually

diagnosed with prostate cancer. The trend of a PSA level over several years is called PSA velocity.

"Our findings show an elevated and rising PSA level or velocity should lead a clinician to follow a patient more closely, even if he has a negative biopsy," said lead investigator William Catalona, MD, Professor of Urology at the Feinberg School of Medicine and Director of the Clinical Prostate Cancer Program at the Lurie Cancer Center. "One negative biopsy isn't the end of the road."

The findings were presented May 18 at the American Urological Association 2011 Annual Meeting.

» [Read more](#)



*Students and postdoctoral fellows in the laboratories of Lurie Cancer Center members had the opportunity to learn, socialize, and display their work at the 22nd Annual Scientific Poster Session on June 22nd.*

## Can Topical Skin Gel Shrink Some Breast Cancer Tumors?



*Seema Khan*

CAN A GEL APPLIED to the skin of a woman's breast provide the same cancer-fighting benefits as tamoxifen but reduce the side effects?

Researchers at the Lurie Cancer Center are conducting a clinical trial to see if a gel containing an active form of tamoxifen, an anti-estrogen therapy, can provide the drug's benefits with decreased risk of adverse health effects compared to those who take the oral tamoxifen.

The new study drug is being tested on participants recently diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), the earliest form of non-invasive breast cancer. Women who are treated for this type of cancer are usually advised to take oral tamoxifen for five years if their DCIS is hormone sensitive. In this research study, half the women receive the study gel and half the women receive the oral tamoxifen.

Tamoxifen, when taken as a pill for five years, reduces the risk of cancer recurrence in the same spot by a third and prevents the occurrence of half of new breast cancers. The therapy, however, has an increased risk of blood clots, uterine cancer and hot flashes. As a result, many women decline the treatment.

"The gel is a way to minimize exposure to the rest of the body and concentrate the drug in the breast where it is needed," said principal investigator Seema Khan, MD, co-leader of the Breast Cancer Program at the Lurie Cancer Center and a surgical oncologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. "Delivery of the drug through the skin of the breast means there will be very little drug circulating through the bloodstream and the body. This should reduce the possibility of blood clots."

» [Read more](#)

# Awards & Honors

Al B. BENSON III, MD, received the 2011 Rodger Winn Award. Presented at the NCCN Annual Meeting in March, the award is given to one NCCN Guidelines panel member each year who exemplifies Dr. Winn's leadership, drive, and commitment to the development of evidence-based guidelines tempered by expert judgment. The recipient provides a voice for the core mission of the NCCN, improving the quality of care for patients. Specifically, the award recognizes service in the development of clinical practice guidelines, promotion of collegiality in NCCN activities, commitment to excellence, and dedication to multidisciplinary care

JOHN CRISPINO, PhD, was selected as the 2011 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Illinois Researcher of the Year, receiving the Pamela B. Katten Memorial Leukemia Research Foundation (PBK Foundation) Award for this achievement. Funds raised by the PBK Foundation support research focused on the diagnosis, treatment and eventual cure of leukemia and lymphoma.

PHILIP GREENLAND, MD, received the 2011 Tripartite Legacy Faculty Prize in Translational Science and Education, presented annually to one faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in research that emphasizes translational approaches, teaching and mentoring, and leadership.

Friends, family and colleagues joined together to celebrate the investiture of WILLIAM GRADISHAR, MD, as the inaugural Betsy Bramsen Professor of Breast Oncology. Gradishar currently serves as the director of the Maggie Daley Center for Women's Cancer at the Lurie



*Monica Morrow and William Gradishar at his investiture*

Cancer Center and is the chair of the annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium.

"I want to applaud Bill Gradishar, whose leadership and scholarship have brought distinction to our cancer center and have helped to advance the care of women with breast cancer around the world. He embodies

the best aspects of our profession, leads by example, and is respected for his knowledge and generosity," said Steven T. Rosen, MD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center.

The INTERVENTIONAL ONCOLOGY Section's academic achievements were apparent at the Society of Interventional Radiology Annual Meeting in April where 42 presentations were made by its members. "Based upon these objective measures, Northwestern was clearly the dominant institution at this international meeting. I am especially proud of our trainees as they suggest a very bright future for our dynamic specialty," said Reed Omary, MD, Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Radiology.

In addition, trainees at the medical student and resident level received the following awards:

ANDREW GORDON--Dr. Constantin Cope Medical Student Research Award and Featured Abstract

DAVID MAGILL--Dr. Constantin Cope Medical Student Research Award

JEET MINOCHA--2010 Clinical JVIR Paper of the Year

SAMDEEP MOULI--Resident / Fellow Research Award

MICHAEL JEWETT, PhD, received the Agilent Early Career Professor Award from Agilent Technologies Inc. The prize is awarded annually to recognize and encourage excellence in measurement research, with a focus this year on the field of systems biology.

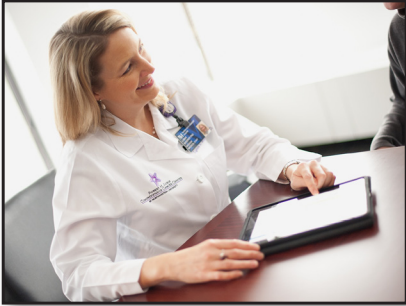
JUDITH PAICE, RN, PhD, received the 2011 Distinguished Service Award, recognizing outstanding and dedicated service to the American Pain Society at their Annual Scientific Meeting in May.

STEVEN T. ROSEN, MD, has been elected to the national Board of Directors of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. His term will run through June 30, 2014.

JAMIE H. VON ROENN, MD, has been named recipient of the 2011 ASCO-American Cancer Society Award and Lecture for her pioneering work in palliative medicine and for her substantial contributions to oncology care and cancer pain management. As a Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Co-Director of the Cancer Control Program at the Lurie Cancer Center, Dr. Von Roenn has focused her career on the integration of palliative medicine skills and principles into oncology care, and breast oncology. She also has been a leading proponent for developing palliative care training for oncologists. The award was bestowed at the annual ASCO meeting in Chicago in June.

"Jaime has been a remarkable advocate for the integration of palliative care into oncology practice," said Judith Paice, RN, PhD, Director of the Cancer Pain Program. "She truly practices what she teaches, providing extraordinary oncology care while attending to the patient's emotional and social concerns with the greatest empathy."

# Awards & Honors



*Lynne Wagner*

LYNNE WAGNER, PhD, has been selected to receive the 2011 Young Investigator Award from the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG). The award, which recognizes a young investigator who has made a substantial contribution to ECOG, was announced at the

ECOG Group Meeting in Boston.

All previous recipients of the Young Investigator Award have been MDs. Wagner, the first PhD to receive the honor, is Chair of the ECOG Patient Outcomes and Survivorship Committee, providing leadership at the national level in overseeing the measurement of patient-reported outcomes in cancer clinical trials and in advancing a program of psychosocial and cancer survivorship research. Through ECOG, Wagner serves as the lead investigator or co-investigator on cancer clinical trials to assess health-related quality of life throughout treatment for various types of cancer.

“Dr. Wagner has dedicated herself to improving the quality of life of people being treated for cancer,” says David Cella, Chair of the Department of Medical Social Sciences at the Feinberg School of Medicine and Associate Director for Cancer Prevention and Control Research at the Lurie Cancer Center. “She has championed the cause of cancer survivorship by focusing on issues such as the cognitive and dermatologic side effects of treatment, and the emotional health of our patients and their families. She has elevated the awareness of the entire group to better appreciate the psychosocial impact of cancer and cancer treatment.”

# Professional Programs

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, the Lurie Cancer Center offers professional education on various cancer related topics. Below is a set of programs scheduled through September 2011. For more information or to register, visit [cancer.northwestern.edu](http://cancer.northwestern.edu) or call 312.695.1304.

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## Neuro-Oncology Symposium

**July 15**

Prentice Women's Hospital  
Chair: Sean Grimm, MD

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## Prostate Cancer Education Symposium

**September 10**

Robert H. Lurie-Medical Research Center  
Chair: Chung Lee, PhD

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## Oncofertility Consortium Conference

**September 12-14**

Prentice Women's Hospital  
Chair: Teresa Woodruff, PhD

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## 13th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium

**September 15-18**

The Fairmont Chicago  
Chair: William Gradishar, MD  
[lynnsagebreastcancer.org](http://lynnsagebreastcancer.org)

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## Breast Cancer Achievement Awards Program for Fellows and Residents

FELLOWS AND RESIDENTS are invited to apply for the Breast Cancer Achievement Awards Program. A limited number of applicants will be accepted into the program, which will take place in conjunction with the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium, Sept. 15 - 18.

The Breast Cancer Achievement Awards Program is an annual opportunity for residents and fellows to ascertain the latest clinical and scientific advances in breast cancer research through their attendance at the symposium. It is an unrivaled opportunity to collaborate with esteemed colleagues in the breast cancer field and meet breast cancer experts from around the world.

The application deadline is August 1, 2011.

[Click here](#) for additional details and to access the online application.

## Grand Rounds and TCB

TUMOR CELL BIOLOGY SEMINARS (TCB) and Grand Rounds will resume in September. Details will follow in the next issue of this newsletter and on our website at [cancer.northwestern.edu](http://cancer.northwestern.edu).

**Grand Rounds** take place on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Gray Seminar Room of the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, 303 E. Superior St. (unless otherwise noted).

**Tumor Cell Biology Seminars** are held on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Baldwin Auditorium of the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, 303 E. Superior St.

Contact Denise Marshall at 312.695.1392 or [d-marshall4@northwestern.edu](mailto:d-marshall4@northwestern.edu).

IF YOU WOULD like to receive weekly email reminders for Grand Rounds and /or Tumor Cell Biology Seminars, please notify Denise Marshall, [d-marshall4@northwestern.edu](mailto:d-marshall4@northwestern.edu).

# Patient & Public Programs

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, the Lurie Cancer Center offers patient education and public programs on various cancer related topics. Below is a set of programs scheduled through September 2011. For more information or to register, visit [cancer.northwestern.edu](http://cancer.northwestern.edu) or call 312.695.1304.

## Cancer Connections

An opportunity for patients and families to learn about local support groups, educational programs, wellness activities and community resources —11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Wednesday, July 13**, Galter Pavilion, 21st floor

**Wednesday, August 3**, Prentice Women's Hospital, 4th floor

**Thursday, September 8**, Galter Pavilion, 21st floor

## Gilda's Club Chicago at the Lurie Cancer Center

PATIENTS AND FAMILIES at the Lurie Cancer Center have on-site access to a wide range of programs and activities offered by Gilda's Club Chicago. Designed to be fun, informative and reduce stress, all the activities are offered free of charge. No reservations are necessary — patients and families can drop by any time.

Yoga, Art as Relaxation, Breathing and Meditation, and a Caregiver Workshop are just a few of the options offered in Galter Pavilion and Prentice Women's Hospital. Some activities do not meet every week.

» [View schedule](#)

## Look Good...Feel Better

A FREE WORKSHOP that teaches beauty techniques to women who are actively undergoing cancer treatment, to help them combat the appearance-related side effects of radiation and chemotherapy.

Prentice Women's Hospital  
5th floor, Suite 520

» [View schedule](#)

# Fundraising Events

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## NO SUGAR TONIGHT: An evening of stand-up comedy starring Jeff Garlin

A Night of Laughs to Benefit the Lurie Cancer Center's Lymphoma Research Program

**July 12, 2011**

5:30 pm–VIP Patron Private Reception  
BOKA Restaurant  
1729 N. Halsted Street

7:30 pm–Performance  
Steppenwolf Theatre Company  
1650 N. Halsted Street, Upstairs Theatre

» [View details](#)

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## The 4th Annual David T. Burrowes Memorial Golf Outing

Benefiting the Lurie Cancer Center's Lymphoma Research Program

**July 23, 2011**

Glenview Park Golf Club  
800 Shermer Road, Glenview

» [View details](#)

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## Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute *Minds Matter* Benefit Dinner

The Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute will celebrate its 3rd annual gala, *Minds Matter*, with special guest actress, comedienne and television producer Bonnie Hunt.

**September 30, 2011**

Ritz-Carlton, Chicago  
160 East Pearson Street

» [View details](#)

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## 11th Annual Goombay Bash

The H Foundation's Caribbean-style party, featuring live music and entertainment, great food, and a live and silent auction, supports basic science research at the Lurie Cancer Center.

**August 6, 2011**

Navy Pier Grand Ballroom, Chicago

» [Read more](#)

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## Race Against Cancer / CiC 5k Run/Walk

The Cancer is Colorblind (CiC) campaign seeks to raise awareness and funds for pediatric and adult cancer prevention and treatment, while honoring cancer survivors and fighters who have made an impact in the local community. All proceeds from the Race Against Cancer benefit the Lurie Cancer Center and the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation.

**August 6, 2011**

Soldier Field, Chicago

» [Register here](#)



# New Members

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## Cancer Center Appoints New Members

Steven T. Rosen, MD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center, announces the following full member appointments:

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**Rajeshwar Awatramani, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His research interests include the role of Wnt signaling in midbrain dopamine neuron production and the role of microRNAs in Schwann cell differentiation. [Contact Dr. Awatramani at 312.503.090 or r-awatramani@northwestern.edu.](mailto:r-awatramani@northwestern.edu)

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**Linda Broadbelt, PhD**, is a Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. Her research interests are in the areas of multiscale modeling, complex kinetics modeling, novel biochemical pathways, and polymerization / depolymerization kinetics. [Contact Dr. Broadbelt at 847.491-5351 or broadbelt@northwestern.edu.](mailto:broadbelt@northwestern.edu)

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**Mehmet Dokucu, MD, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Feinberg School of Medicine and Director of Cancer Psychiatry Services at the Lurie Cancer Center. His research interests include psychiatric illness in a cancer setting, diagnosis, screening and prevention of cancer-related depression and anxiety, treatment of cancer-related depression and anxiety using Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation, and developing programs to prevent burnout of clinical oncology staff. [Contact Dr. Dokucu at 312.503.3196 or m-dokucu@northwestern.edu.](mailto:m-dokucu@northwestern.edu)

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**Beatrice Edwards, MD, MPH, CCD**, is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine, and Director of the Bone Health and Osteoporosis Program at Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation. Her research interests focus on improving quality of life for cancer survivors by preventing fractures. As a member of the Research on Adverse Drug Events and Reports (RADAR) pharmacovigilance team, Dr. Edwards' research interests include development of clinical care pathways to prevent skeletal complication of cancer care. [Contact Dr. Edwards at 312.695.4961 or bje168@northwestern.edu.](mailto:bje168@northwestern.edu)

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**Karen Kaiser, PhD**, is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Social Sciences at the Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research interests include social, behavioral and economic factors that lead to delayed diagnosis and inadequate treatment of breast cancer. [Contact Dr. Kaiser at 312.503.3521 or k-kaiser@northwestern.edu.](mailto:k-kaiser@northwestern.edu)

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**David Klumpp, PhD**, is an Associate Professor of Urology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focus includes bladder inflammation and pelvic pain resulting from bacterial insult or neuro-immune interactions. [Contact Dr. Klumpp at 312.908.1996 or d-klumpp@northwestern.edu.](mailto:d-klumpp@northwestern.edu)

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**Adam Murphy, MD, MBA**, is a Clinical Instructor of Urology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His primary research interest is in health disparities related to prostate cancer and other urologic conditions, including the role of vitamin D deficiency and of allostatic stress load on men diagnosed with prostate cancer. [Contact Dr. Murphy at 312.695.1690 or a-murphy@northwestern.edu.](mailto:a-murphy@northwestern.edu)

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**Teri Odom, PhD**, is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and of Materials Science and Engineering in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. Her research focuses on controlling materials at the 100-nanometer scale and investigating their size and shape-dependent properties. Her lab is designing a platform based on anisotropic gold nanoparticles whose properties can be exploited in biomedical applications such as imaging and cancer therapeutics. [Contact Dr. Odom at 847.491.7674 or todom@northwestern.edu.](mailto:todom@northwestern.edu)

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**Kurita Takeshi, PhD**, is a Research Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focus is on understanding the mechanisms underlying reproductive anomalies and cancers through developmental biology. [Contact Dr. Takeshi at 312.503.0525 or t-kurita@northwestern.edu.](mailto:t-kurita@northwestern.edu)

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**Daniel Toft, MD, PhD**, is an Instructor of Medicine-Endocrinology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. Combining his training as a clinical endocrinologist and research scientist, he plans to use nanotechnology to design and test novel pro-apoptotic treatments for cancer. [Contact Dr. Toft at 312.695.7970 or djtoft@northwestern.edu.](mailto:djtoft@northwestern.edu)

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**Jeffrey Wayne, MD, FACS**, is an Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology, Chief of Melanoma and Soft Tissue Surgical Oncology in the Division of Gastrointestinal and Oncologic Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine, and Associate Medical Director of the Lurie Cancer Center. His clinical and research interests include the multidisciplinary management of melanoma, soft tissue sarcoma, and upper gastrointestinal tumors. [Contact Dr. Wayne at 312.695.4853 or jwayne@northwestern.edu.](mailto:jwayne@northwestern.edu)

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**Sarah Wignall, PhD**, is Assistant Professor of Molecular Biosciences in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. Her research goal is to identify proteins that promote the proper segregation of chromosomes during meiosis and mitosis, since defects in the process can lead to aneuploidy, one of the principal causes of cancer in humans. [Contact Dr. Wignall at 847.467.0386 or s-wignall@northwestern.edu.](mailto:s-wignall@northwestern.edu)

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**Yanming Zhang, MD**, is an Associate Professor of Pathology and Director of the Cytogenetics Laboratory at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His research interests include studying common chromosome abnormalities such as translocations in the pathogenesis of leukemia and lymphoma, and their clinical significance to disease progression. [Contact Dr. Zhang at 312.503.3191 or yanming-zhang@northwestern.edu.](mailto:yanming-zhang@northwestern.edu)

# Welcome New Staff

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**Elmear Curran**

Grant & Contracts Assistant  
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**Julie Karpus**

Associate Director  
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**Piotr Kulesza**

Faculty Director  
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**Saira Jahangir**

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**Tiffany Patel**

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CRO  
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## what's new

**News of the Robert H. Lurie  
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Northwestern University**

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**Designer**

Daniel D. Cooper

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## Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation Welcomes Vicki Diep and Deborah Rimmel to the Lurie Cancer Center

**Vicki Diep**, MHA, joins the Lurie Cancer Center as Senior Practice Manager of Operations. Vicki brings extensive experience in cancer center clinical operations and quality improvement to this position.

Vicki's responsibilities will include management of medical records, check-in, check-out, new patient coordinators, financial counseling, phone room liaison, infusion scheduling, and service excellence inquiries for both Clinical Cancer Centers.

Contact Vicki at 5-1143 or [vdiep@nmff.org](mailto:vdiep@nmff.org)

**Deborah J. Rimmel**, RN, BSN, OCN, joins the Lurie Cancer Center as Infusion Supervisor in the Maggie Daley Center for Women's Cancer Care. Deb has more than 20 years of experience in oncology private practice.

Deb is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the infusion suite on the fourth floor of Prentice and supervises the nursing teams for both hematology /oncology and gynecology / oncology.

Contact Deb at 2-5371 or [drimmel@nmff.org](mailto:drimmel@nmff.org)

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## Help Wanted: Reporters

PLEASE SEND SUGGESTIONS for this newsletter to Jennifer Bowker,  
[j-bowker@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-bowker@northwestern.edu)

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## Lurie Cancer Center Weekly Updates

INFORMATION TO BE CONSIDERED for inclusion in the Lurie Cancer Center's weekly e-mail updates must be received at least one week in advance. Submit suggestions to Denise Marshall at [d-marshall4@northwestern.edu](mailto:d-marshall4@northwestern.edu).