Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk—and New 5K Run—Sunday, June 2

IF YOU’VE NEVER been part of the celebration, make this the year you join us as we honor cancer survivors and the strides being made in cancer treatment and research! A timed 5K Run along the lakefront has been added as an option in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Lurie Cancer Center’s signature event.

The Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk is expected to draw close to 4,000 participants to Grant Park; bringing cancer survivors, family and friends together with you—the physicians, scientists and health professionals who support them. Festivities for the family includes, a picnic, t-shirt, music, entertainment, an opportunity to sign the Dedication Wall and more. Donations are not required.

Please consider volunteering—either prior to or at the event on June 2. If you’re willing to help us spread the word, we’ve posted fliers and links to Facebook, Twitter, and e-mail on our website. Registration and details are available here.

» Read more

Grad Students Contribute to Novel, Networked Physical Sciences Approach to Cancer Research

TWO NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY graduate students, Dhwanil Damania (Biomedical Engineering) and Yolanda Stypula (Interdepartmental Biological Sciences), are among the authors of a novel study—involving experiments conducted in 20 different laboratories across the country—to map the physical differences between cancer and normal cells.

Teams of physical scientists and oncologists from 12 Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OC) found that metastatic cells are more physically flexible and stress-tolerant than non-tumorigenic cells. The PS-OC investigators were able to model potential linkages between the molecular and physical characteristics of the cell lines using molecular network analysis.

A better understanding of the physical mechanisms underlying cancer could lead to improved diagnostics and therapeutics as well as open up new directions for research.

The findings were published April 26 by the journal Scientific Reports in a paper titled “A physical sciences network characterization of non-tumorigenic and metastatic cells” by the Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers Network.

This paper tells the story of how the collaborative efforts of this multidisciplinary network of 12 research centers across the U.S. are beginning to lead to a better understanding of the role physical processes, such as mechanics and dynamics, play in cancer initiation and metastasis.

» Read more about Northwestern’s role in the study
New Chemo Drug Gentler on Fertility, Tougher on Cancer

A NEW GENTLER chemotherapy drug in the form of nanoparticles has been designed by Northwestern Medicine scientists to be less toxic to a young woman’s fertility but extra tough on cancer. This is the first cancer drug tested while in development for its effect on fertility using a novel in vitro test.

The scientists designed a quick new in vitro test that predicts the toxicity of a chemotherapy drug to fertility and can be easily used to test other cancer drugs in development as well as existing ones. Currently the testing of cancer drugs for fertility toxicity is a time and resource intensive process.

“Our overall goal is to create smart drugs that kill the cancer but don’t cause sterility in young women,” said Teresa Woodruff, PhD, a Co-Principal Investigator of the study and Chief of Fertility Preservation at the Feinberg School of Medicine.

The scientists hope their integration of drug development and reproductive toxicity testing is the beginning of a new era in which chemotherapy drugs are developed with an eye on their fertotoxity (fertility toxicity). As cancer survival rates increase, the effect of cancer treatments on fertility is critically important to many young patients.

Woodruff and Thomas O’Halloran, PhD, also a Co-Principal Investigator and Director of the Chemistry of Life Processes Institute at Northwestern, are a wife and husband team who developed and tested the drug. O’Halloran also is the Associate Director for Basic Sciences Research at the Lurie Cancer Center and Woodruff, also a member of the Lurie Cancer Center, is the Thomas J. Watkins Memorial Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Feinberg.

Genes Identify Breast Cancer Risk and May Aid Prevention

A NEWLY IDENTIFIED set of genes may predict which women are at high risk for getting breast cancer that is sensitive to estrogen and, therefore, would be helped by taking drugs to prevent it, reports a new Northwestern Medicine study.

“We now have the possibility of predicting if a preventive drug will work for a woman at high risk of breast cancer, so that we don’t expose women to the risks and side effects of this drug if it won’t help them,” said Seema Khan, MD, Professor of Surgery at Feinberg and Co-Leader of the Women’s Cancer Research Program at the Lurie Cancer Center.

Drugs such as tamoxifen and raloxifene are available to prevent breast cancer in women who are at high risk based on having a close relative with breast cancer, or certain types of benign change in the breast identified on biopsy — but the drugs are only effective against breast cancer that is sensitive to estrogen, known as hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. They fail to prevent breast cancer that is not sensitive to estrogen, called hormone receptor-negative breast cancer. Young women and African American women are at highest risk for this type of cancer.

Until now, it has not been possible to predict which of these two major types of breast cancer will occur in a particular high risk woman. Since the breast cancer prevention drugs also have side effects, many women have chosen not to take the drugs. The newly discovered genes, many of which are involved in fat metabolism, were present at a higher level in the healthy breasts of women with hormone receptor-negative breast cancer. The discovery potentially would allow women to make an informed decision based on better information about the type of breast cancer for which they are at risk. “Identifying these genes also gives us a target for new therapies,” Khan said. “Once we understand what regulates these genes, we can try to develop a therapy to switch them off.”

» Read more

» Read more
PERSONALIZED PSA TESTING using genetic variants could account for an 18 percent reduction in the number of men who likely would have undergone unnecessary biopsies, according to a new study from Northwestern Medicine.

The high survival rate of men with prostate cancer is largely a reflection of PSA testing, but support for the widespread use of the screening method has been the topic of recent debate because of its limited specificity. For 98 percent of the men, genetic adjustment of PSA levels did not change the outcome of their screening. But genetic correction was important for the 17 men who were reclassified as no longer meeting biopsy criteria and the three whose condition was up classified, and it was recommended they get a biopsy, based on their genetic adjustment.

“If our results are validated, genetic adjustments could potentially prevent 15 to 20 percent of prostate biopsies,” said William J. Catalona, MD, senior author of the study. “Since it has been estimated that more than 1 million biopsies are performed in the United States annually, this could translate into 150,000 to 200,000 potentially unnecessary biopsies every year.” In addition to cost savings, fewer biopsies mean fewer adverse outcomes, such as infection, sepsis, and hospitalization, he said. Catalona is a Professor of Urology at Feinberg, Director of the Clinical Prostate Cancer Program at the Lurie Cancer Center, and an urologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Variants in genes, like those that help determine your height, are responsible for higher or lower levels of PSA expression. Recent studies have identified genetic variants associated with increased serum PSA concentrations, raising the possibility that a man’s genetic make-up could interfere with an accurate PSA reading.

» Read more

PIONEERING BIOPHOTONICS technology developed at Northwestern University is the first screening method to detect the early presence of ovarian cancer in humans by examining cells easily brushed from the neighboring cervix or uterus, not the ovaries themselves.

A research team from Northwestern and NorthShore University HealthSystem conducted an ovarian cancer clinical study at NorthShore. Using partial wave spectroscopic (PWS) microscopy, they saw diagnostic changes in cells taken from the cervix or uterus of patients with ovarian cancer even though the cells looked normal under a microscope.

The results have the potential to translate into a minimally invasive early detection method using cells collected by a swab, exactly like a Pap smear. In previous Northwestern-NorthShore studies, the PWS technique has shown promising results in the early detection of colon, pancreatic and lung cancers using cells from neighboring organs. If commercialized, PWS could be in clinical use for one or more cancers in approximately five years.

PWS uses light scattering to examine the architecture of cells at the nanoscale and can detect profound changes that are the earliest known signs of carcinogenesis. These changes can be seen in cells far from the tumor site or even before a tumor forms. “We were surprised to discover we could see diagnostic changes in cells taken from the endocervix in patients who had ovarian cancer,” said Vadim Backman, PhD, who developed PWS at Northwestern. “The advantage of nanocytology — and why we are so excited about it — is we don’t need to wait for a tumor to develop to detect cancer.”

Backman is Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center. “The changes we have seen in cells have been identical, no matter which organ we are studying,” Backman said. “We have stumbled upon a universal cell physiology that can help us detect difficult cancers early. If the changes are so universal, they must be very important.”

» Read more
Brian Hoffman, PhD, Professor of Chemistry at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, received the 2012 Joseph Chatt Medal from the Royal Society of Chemistry. Hoffman is a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer and Physical Sciences Program and the Women’s Cancer Program.

Phillip B. Messersmith, PhD, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, received the Clemson Award for Basic Research from The Society for Biomaterials at their Annual Meeting in April. The award is given to researchers who have “contributed to the basic knowledge and understanding of the interaction of materials with tissue... evidenced by significant research, important original publications in the literature and/or frequent reference to and reliance on this work by subsequent researchers.” Messersmith is a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer and Physical Sciences Program.

Amy S. Paller, MD, Walter J. Hamlin Professor and Chair of Dermatology, and Professor of Pediatrics at the Feinberg School of Medicine, has assumed the role of 2013-2014 Women’s Dermatology Society President. Paller is a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Tumor Invasion, Metastasis & Angiogenesis Program.

Eric J. Russell, MD, FSIR, FACR, Professor and Chair of Radiology at Feinberg, will receive the American Society of Neuroradiology’s Gold Medal at the group’s annual meeting in San Diego. The medal honors individuals—neuroradiologists, scientists, and/or physicians—who have greatly contributed to the specialty area through exceptional service and achievement.

“I am humbled and deeply honored to receive this prestigious award from the society that means so much to me,” says Russell. “The ASNR represents the best in the world in neuroradiology, and its leaders and members are widely recognized as great innovators, researchers, and clinicians; to be acknowledged by such an esteemed group is the highlight of my career.”

Alexander Stegh, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neurology at Feinberg, has been awarded the 2012 “Young Investigator” Grant by the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy, Inc. The grant will support a study into a potential new treatment for brain cancer. Stegh is a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Translational Research in Solid Tumors Program (TRIST).

Sadie Wignall, PhD, Assistant Professor of Molecular Biosciences at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, was one of seven young scientists chosen as a 2013 recipient of the prestigious Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. The award funds cancer research by exceptionally creative thinkers with high-risk/high-reward ideas who lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding. Wignall, named the Lau/Palihapitiya Innovator, is a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer Cell Biology Program.

BriteSeed Wins Top Awards at the 2013 Rice Business Plan Competition

Two business teams founded in Northwestern University’s NUvention entrepreneurship courses took first and second place at the Rice Business Plan Competition in April, walking away with more than $1 million combined in cash and investments. It is the second straight year that Northwestern teams have won the competition.

One of these teams, BriteSeed, a medical startup, introduced their product SafeSnips, technology that can be integrated into surgical tools to detect blood vessels during surgery and prevent unintended bleeding. The device came out of Northwestern’s NUvention: Medical Innovation course during the 2011-12 academic year.

SafeSnips was created by a team of four students representing three Northwestern schools: Mayank Vijayvergia, a graduate student in McCormick’s Department of Biomedical Engineering; Paul Fehrenbacher, a medical student at the Feinberg School of Medicine; Muneeb Bokhari, an alumnus of the Law School; and Jonathan Gunn, a current Law School student.

Other BriteSeed team members are Hariharan Subramanian, an alumnus of McCormick’s biomedical engineering program and a research professor in the lab of Lurie Cancer Center members Vadim Backman, PhD, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science and David Mahvi, MD, James R. Hines Professor and Vice Chair of Surgery and Chief of Gastrointestinal and Oncologic Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine.
THE LURIE CANCER CENTER is committed to educating the public about cancer prevention and treatment, and offers a wide range of community events and patient programs throughout the year. Below is a list of programs scheduled through July, 2013.

**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT**
cancer.northwestern.edu or call 312.695.1304.

**Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors: Day of Learning**
Sunday, May 5, 2013
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium

**Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy Public Forum**
Saturday, May 11, 2013
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium

**20th Annual Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk**
Sunday, June 2, 2013
Grant Park

**Cancer Connections**
Saturday, July 13, 2013
Prentice Women’s Hospital, 3rd floor
Patients and families learn about techniques and services to help them eat well, move more, and manage stress and fatigue during and after treatment. In addition to workshops the interactive program includes opportunities to connect with support programs and experience the benefits of massage therapy.

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**The H Foundation is the Charity of the Month**

**The H Foundation** is the featured Charity of the Month at The Signature Room at the 95th! The H Foundation will receive 10 percent of sales from the restaurant’s Charity of the Month menu throughout the month of May. We’re certain that the meal and the view from the Top of the John Hancock Center will be even more spectacular knowing that The H Foundation will use the funds raised to support research at the Lurie Cancer Center.

The H Foundation is a group of friends committed to raising money for basic cancer research. In just 12 years they’ve raised over $4.5 million; donating nearly every dollar to the Lurie Cancer Center as seed money for basic science cancer research projects. The H Foundation honors the belief that, “Together we can make a difference.” Visit the Signature Room at the 95th and join them.
Fundraising Events

Cards for a Cure
Send an e-card to the special mothers in your life and help the Lynn Sage Foundation support breast cancer research.

» Read more

Magellan Development Chicago Spring Half Marathon, 10K and Junior Dash
Sunday, May 19, 2013
The Park at Lake Shore East, Chicago
Run and support the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute!

» Read more

Your Next Step is the Cure 5K Walk/Run
Sunday, May 19, 2013
Montrose Harbor, Chicago
The Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation

» Read more

Summer Lovin'
Friday, June 21, 2013
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
The Auxiliary Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital has pledged its support to an innovative bone marrow transplant study.

» Read more

Chicago SUP YACS Classic
Saturday, July 27, 2013
Montrose Beach, Chicago
Stand Up Paddleboard Race, Ride & Relay benefits Young Adult Cancer Survivors.

» Read more

The Goombay Bash
Saturday, August 3, 2013
Navy Pier, Chicago
The H Foundation’s Caribbean-themed event supports basic science research at the Lurie Cancer Center.

» Read more
Professional Programs

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, the Lurie Cancer Center offers professional education on various cancer related topics. Below is a list of programs scheduled through July, 2013.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT cancer.northwestern.edu or call 312.695.1304.

Malkin-Kraft Lectureship
Cancer Genetic Dependencies Targeted by Small Molecules
Tuesday, May 21, 2013
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium
Chicago Campus

Human Biology and Chemical Biology Addressing
Wednesday, May 22, 2013
Pancoehall, Tech Auditorium
Evanston Campus
Speaker: Stuart L. Schreiber, PhD

Profiling the Immune Repertoire Using High-throughput Sequencing
May 30, 2013
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
Speaker: Catherine Sanders, PhD
Host: Khashayarsha Khazaie, PhD, DSc

8th Annual Northwestern Radiosurgery Symposium
Thursday & Friday, May 30-31, 2013
Prentice Women’s Hospital, 3rd Floor, Room L
Co-Chairs: John Kalapakal, MD, and James Chandler, MD

3rd Annual Les Turner Symposium on ALS and NeuroRepair
Common and Unique Biology Between Cancer and Neurodegeneration
May 31, 2013
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium

H Foundation Basic Science Symposium
The Dynamic Nucleus of the Cell: Chromatin, Chromosomes and Disease
June 5, 2013
Norris University Center, McCormick Auditorium,
Evanston Campus
Chairs: John Marko, PhD, Steven Kosak, PhD, and Jindan Yu, PhD

8th Annual Pain and Palliative Care Conference
June 13, 2013
Prentice Women’s Hospital, 3rd Floor, Room L
Chair: Judith Paice, PhD, RN

24th Annual Scientific Poster Session
June 19, 2013
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Ryan Atrium

2013 Oncology Review
June 27, 2013
Feinberg Pavilion, 3rd Floor, Conference Room A
Chair: William Gradishar, MD

5th Annual Lurie Cancer Center Symposium
July 10, 2013
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium
Moderator: Cara Gottardi, PhD

Oncofertility Virtual Grand Rounds

The Oncofertility Consortium has created a series of Virtual Grand Rounds, primarily for the clinical community, to increase reproductive education among oncology and reproductive providers.

» View the Oncofertility Virtual Grand Rounds Schedule here

Grand Rounds & Tumor Cell Biology

GRAND ROUNDS
Fridays: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00a.m
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
303 E. Superior, Chicago
Gray Conference Room (unless otherwise noted)

Presented by the Division of Hematology/Oncology and the Lurie Cancer Center, the weekly Grand Rounds update physicians and healthcare personnel on developing trends and techniques in medicine.

» View the Grand Rounds Schedule here

TUMOR CELL BIOLOGY
Thursdays: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
303 E. Superior, Chicago
Baldwin Auditorium (unless otherwise noted)

The Tumor Cell Biology Seminars present weekly updates on novel translational cancer research in the areas of tumor biology, biomedical informatics and cancer prevention and diagnosis.

» View the Tumor Cell Biology Seminar Schedule here

If you would like to receive weekly reminders about the Grand Rounds and/or TCB Seminar schedules please contact Denise Marshall at d-marshall4@northwestern.edu.
Funding Opportunities

Travel Fellowship Awards

The Katten Muchin Rosenman Travel Scholarship Program (KMR), the Center for Genetic Medicine Travel Fellowship (CGM) and the Cancer Prevention and Control Travel Scholarship Program (CP) Review Committee would like to congratulate the following Travel Fellowship Awards recipients:

**Graduate Students**
- Kevin Bohannon (KMR)
- Jeane Chen (KMR)
- Jung Kim (KMR)

**Post-Docs**
- Adi Dara Dubash, PhD (KMR)
- Oukseub Lee, PhD (CP)
- Jean-Francois Poulin, PhD (CGM)

The Katten Muchin Rosenman Travel Scholarship Program allows doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to present the results of their basic cancer research.

The Center for Genetic Medicine (CGM) Travel Fellowship allows doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to present the results of their basic cancer research showing its genetics relevance.

The Cancer Prevention Travel Scholarship Program allows doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to present the results of their laboratory, clinical, population or behavioral research with implications for cancer prevention.

The next deadline to apply for 2013 Travel Fellowship Awards is **Friday, July 21, 2013.**

Basic Sciences Research Division

**H Foundation Incentive Awards** provide funding for faculty who have submitted and received a score on a RO1 grant to the NCI for the first time in their career. If additional funds are available, awards will be made to other faculty for new, first-time NCI RO1 submissions, which are scored but not yet funded.

**H Foundation Bridge Awards** provide up to $20,000 of support for competing renewals of NCI-sponsored RO1 research that missed the payline.

Applications for **H Foundation Incentive and Bridge Awards** are reviewed on a rolling basis and accepted until funds for the year are expended.

» Details and Application Process

**Lea Charitable Trust Equipment Grants**
Through the generous support of the **Lea Charitable Trust**, a pool of funds is available to full members of the Lurie Cancer Center affiliated with one of the Basic Sciences Research Programs for use by multiple investigators or to support small equipment grants for collaborative research projects.

**Lea Charitable Trust Equipment Grants** are made on a rolling basis as funds become available.

» Details and Application Process
Welcome New Members and Staff

Lurie Cancer Center
Appoints New Members

Neda Bagheri, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. Her lab integrates experimental data with novel computational strategies to elucidate fundamental properties governing intra-cellular dynamics and inter-cellular regulation.

Contact Dr. Bagheri at 847.491.2716 or n-bagheri@northwestern.edu

Grant Barish, MD, is Assistant Professor of Endocrinology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. The long-term objective of his research is to uncover the genomic regulatory mechanisms that program cellular response to environmental flux, and the dysregulation in this response that underlies chronic inflammation, metabolic disease, and cancer. Dr. Barish is also Scientific Co-Director for Northwestern’s Next-Generation Sequencing Core.

Contact Dr. Barish at 312.503.5134 or grant.barish@northwestern.edu

Jason Fangusaro, MD, is Associate Professor of Pediatrics-Hematology, Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His primary area of research interest is in the development of clinical trials, novel therapeutics and relevant biologic correlates in pediatric brain tumors in an effort to improve survival outcomes and minimize toxicities.

Contact Dr. Fangusaro at 312.227.4846 or jfangusaro@luriechildrens.org

Hau Kwaan, MD, is Professor of Hematology/Oncology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. He is actively engaged in the study of the role of microparticles in three malignant disorders: acute promyelocytic leukemia, malignant lymphoma and myeloproliferative neoplasms. His research includes the factors that contribute to the morbidity of these conditions.

Contact Dr. Kwaan at 312.503.1358 or h-kwaan@northwestern.edu

Harris Perlman, PhD, is Associate Professor of Rheumatology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focuses on the role that macrophages play in the development, persistence and resolution of acute and chronic inflammation. Dr. Perlman’s laboratory collaborates with various groups to determine the role that macrophages play in cancer, especially in lung and prostate cancer.

Contact Dr. Perlman at 312.503.1955 or h-perlman@northwestern.edu

Hyewon Phee, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Microbiology-Immunology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. Her long-term research goal is to define signal transduction pathways that integrate cytoskeleton and signaling network during immune cell migration and activation in normal and pathological conditions.

Contact Dr. Phee at 312.503.5240 or hyewon.phee@northwestern.edu

Dong-Hyun Kim, PhD, is Research Assistant Professor of Interventional Radiology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His research is focused on magnetic therapeutic carriers for treatment of various types of cancer. A recent study involved a new novel magneto-mechanical cancer therapy.

Contact Dr. Kim at 312.503.1307 or dhkim@northwestern.edu

Northwestern faculty are encouraged to invite colleagues coming to Chicago for the 2013 ASCO Annual Meeting to the Lurie Cancer Center’s reception hosted by Steven Rosen, MD.

Sunday, June 2, 2013
Howells and Hood
Chicago Tribune Tower
435 North Michigan Ave
RSVP by May 29 to cancer.northwestern.edu/asco
Welcome New Members and Staff

New Staff

Benjamin Coatney
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what’s new

Office of Equity and Minority Health Internships Provide First-Hand Experience for Northwestern Undergrads

A growing public health workforce shortage at the local, state and federal levels is emerging, unfortunately, as higher morbidity and mortality rates for preventable diseases emphasize the need for quality health services in medically underserved areas.

With the understanding that the best way to make a difference in Chicago’s medically underserved communities is to see and experience their challenges first-hand, the Office of Equity and Minority Health (OEHM) has developed a comprehensive Public Health Professions’ Pipeline Program. In cooperation with the Chicago Field Studies Program (CFS) in the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences their goal is to provide student interns interested in Public Health with exposure to careers they might be might be interested in pursuing after graduation. The internship program will also enable OEHM to connect organizations in the community with these talented student interns—who can contribute to their projects and help them meet their objectives.

Northwestern University undergads, Julie Whyte and Tirth Patel are the OEMH’s outstanding new interns.

» Read more