Alexis Thompson named Associate Director for Health Disparities and Special Population Initiatives

Alexis Thompson, MD, MPH, has been named Associate Director for Health Disparities and Special Population Initiatives at the Lurie Cancer Center. In this new senior leadership position, Dr. Thompson will strengthen the community outreach and service programs of the Office of Health Disparities and Special Population Initiatives (HDSPI) and enhance the efforts of Shaan Trotter, MS, who serves as HDSPI’s administrative director.

Dr. Thompson is currently the Medical and Scientific Director of Hematology at Children’s Memorial Hospital and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

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15th Annual Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk to be held on Sunday, June 1st (National Cancer Survivors Day)

If the Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk is approaching, summer can’t be far away. Sunday, June 1, 2008 marks the 15th anniversary of the Lurie Cancer Center’s salute to cancer survivors and the strides made in cancer treatment and research.

The leisurely four-mile, non-competitive walk celebrates survivors and all those whose lives have been touched by cancer, as well as the physicians, scientists and health professionals who work on their behalf. The festivities are held in Grant Park at the corner of Columbus and Balbo Drives, with the walk stepping off at 9 a.m. and continuing along Chicago’s lakefront.

The family friendly event includes an opportunity to sign the Dedication Wall, a picnic lunch, music, entertainment and more. No pledges are required. The $15 registration fee covers a t-shirt, refreshments and all the fun.

Registration is $20 on Walk day. Children in strollers are admitted free.

Registration is available online until May 30th at cancer.northwestern.edu/walk.

For additional information call 312.695.1304.

Check your member profile on the Cancer Center Website at:

www.cancer.northwestern.edu
Chicago City Council Approves Plans for Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Including Heliport

The City Council approved plans for the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago to be located in Northwestern's Chicago Campus. Named in recognition of philanthropist Ann Lurie's $100 million gift, the hospital is scheduled to break ground this spring and open in 2012 pending government approval.

“This is a historic day for our institution and the community as we take one step closer toward a new facility that will enable us to continue to provide top quality health care for children of our region for generations to come,” said Patrick Magoon, the hospital's President and CEO. Children’s Memorial must turn away a significant number of critically ill children each year because an appropriate bed is not available. The new facility, located on the campus of its partner medical school, Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, will help Children’s Memorial to continue to recruit and retain top physicians and scientists. Its adjacency to Northwestern Memorial’s new Prentice Women’s Hospital will offer convenience for families and direct clinical interaction to benefit newborns. Proximity to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Northwestern Memorial Hospital will improve transitional care for children with chronic illnesses into adult care.

The City Council’s approval includes the permitted use of a rooftop heliport at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. An average of 73 critically ill and injured children are transported to Children’s Memorial by helicopter each year when clinicians deem it a medical necessity and pilots determine that conditions are safe for flight. The hospital has operated a rooftop heliport at its Lincoln Park facility for 20 years and has engaged in extensive studies with top experts to ensure that the new heliport will be safe.

Steven Rosen, MD, named Editor-in-Chief of Oncology News International

Steven Rosen, MD, FACP, Genevieve Teuton Professor of Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine and Director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University has accepted the position of Editor-in-Chief for Oncology News International.

“I am very proud to follow in the footsteps of my dear friend and mentor Marty Abeloff, a great role model for all oncologists,” Dr. Rosen said. “I hope to sustain the high quality of the journal and seek the guidance of our readership to ensure that the most important issues affecting our field are communicated in a timely and scholarly manner.” Dr. Abeloff, who died last year, was the Director of the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, served as Editor-in-Chief of Oncology News International from its inception in 1982.

(continued on page 8)
Professional Programs & Patient Events

Throughout the year the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University offers Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs on various cancer specialties. Below is a list of programs scheduled for the remainder of 2008. For specific dates or more information about these programs, visit cancer.northwestern.edu/education or call 312.695.1304.

Professional Programs

**2007 ASH Review**
March 7, 2008
Prentice Women’s Hospital
Chairs: Leo Gordon, MD, Seema Singhal, MD and Martin Tallman, MD

**FSM Alumni Conference**
April 25, 2008
Chair: Steven Rosen, MD

**5th International Chicago Lymphoma Symposium**
Lurie Medical Research Center
April 26, 2008
Chairs: Andrew Evens, DO and Sonali Smith, MD

cancer.northwestern.edu/lymphoma

**H Foundation Annual Basic Science Symposium**
Evanston Campus
May 14, 2008
Chairs: Richard Carthew, PhD, Erik Sontheimer, PhD and Tom Volpe, PhD

cancer.northwestern.edu/bss

**Distinguished Lecturer**
Lurie Medical Research Center
June 3, 2008
Michelle LeBeau, PhD

**Scientific Poster Session (Posters and Wine)**
Lurie Medical Research Center
June 25, 2008

cancer.northwestern.edu/posters

**ASCO Review**
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Mecklenburg Conference Room
June 27, 2008

**Onco-Biotechnology Summit**
Lurie Medical Research Center
July 24-25, 2008

cancer.northwestern.edu/onco-biotechnology

**10th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium**
The Fairmont Hotel, Chicago
October 23-26, 2008
Chair: William Gradishar, MD

cancer.northwestern.edu/lynnsgagebreastcancer.org

**12th International Conference on Differentiation Therapy and Innovative Therapeutics in Oncology**
November 1-4, 2008
Chairs: Jonathan Licht, MD and Martin Tallman, MD

**Berlin Lecture**
November 11, 2008
Timothy Rebbeck, PhD

**11th Annual Oncology Nursing Conference**
December 2008

cancer.northwestern.edu/nursing

Patient Programs and Events

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. For more information about these programs, visit cancer.northwestern.edu/events or call 312.695.1304.

**Monthly Cancer Support & Advocacy Information Fairs**
*Galter Pavilion, 21st Floor - 11 am to 2 pm*
March 12, 2008 - Featured topic: Colorectal cancers
April 3, 2008 - Featured topic: Oral, Head and Neck and Thyroid
May 15, 2008 - Featured topic: Survivorship
June 9, 2008 - Featured topic: Prostate Cancer
July 9, 2008 - Featured topic: Pancreatic Cancer

**CTCL Public Education Symposium**
March 5, 2008 - Chair: Steven Rosen, MD

cancer.northwestern.edu/CTCL

**Thyroid Cancer Public Education Symposium**
April 22, 2008 - Chair: Peter Kopp, MD

cancer.northwestern.edu/thyroid

**15th Annual Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk**
Grant Park
June 1, 2008

cancer.northwestern.edu/walk

**Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Town Hall Meeting**
Fairmont Hotel, Chicago
October 26, 2008 - Chair: William Gradishar, MD

cancer.northwestern.edu/townhall
Northwestern University has been awarded a $6.25 million grant from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to investigate blood cancers and find new ways to treat them. Jonathan D. Licht, M.D., Johanna Dobe Professor and Chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, will lead the Consortium for the Study of Chromatin Biology and Epigenetic Targeting in Hematological Malignancies. The consortium is one of only three research groups around the country to be awarded the new Marshall A. Lichtman Specialized Center of Research grant offered by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Each group will receive $1.25 million per year for the next five years.

Three caregivers at Northwestern Memorial Hospital received the prestigious “Compassionate Care Award in the Cancer Program,” an acknowledgment given annually to caregivers who exemplify and serve as role models for the humanistic and compassionate care of cancer patients. One recipient is selected from each of the following categories: attending physician, resident or fellow, nursing and allied health professionals. This year’s recipients who were honored at a ceremony in January are: surgical oncologist Jeffrey D. Wayne, MD, FACS, medical oncology / palliative care fellow Tara Sanft, MD and staff educator, hematology & stem cell transplant, Sarah Witt, RN, BSN.

The V Foundation for Cancer Research named Dean Ho, PhD as a 2007 V Foundation Scholar for his research of “Active Nanodiamond Hydrogels for Directed Chemotherapeutic Delivery.”

Steven T. Rosen, MD and June M. McKoy, MD were elected to the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society.

Paul J. Grippo, PhD, received the 2007-2009 Nancy Daly Riordan PanCAN-AACR Career Development Award for Pancreatic Cancer Research. The funds that accompany the award will support research to determine if a common genetic mutation in pancreatic cancer (in a gene called Kras) is required for the development and maintenance of both early precancerous lesions (PanINs) and cancer.

The following proposals were selected for funding ($20,000 for one year) by the Lurie Cancer Center's American Cancer Society-Institutional Research Grant:

Chonghui Cheng, MD, PhD - Role of Aberrant Alternative Splicing in Cancer

Jacqueline Jeruss, MD - The Oncogenic Relationship Between Smad 3 and Cyclin Dependent Kinases in Breast Cancer

Jennifer Koblinski, PhD - The role of JUN, tenascin-C, and early growth response-1 in breast cancer metastasis to the brain

David Bentrem, MD - Quality measures in cancer surgery

The Lurie Cancer Center received $310,000 from the H Foundation to support basic science research. Over the past six years, the foundation—comprising a volunteer group of LaGrange-based business owners and friends—has donated more than $1.4 million in philanthropic support, enabling the Lurie Cancer Center to award “bridge” funding and incentive grants to scientists pursuing highly innovative cancer studies.
Tumor Cell Biology Seminars

Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium, 303 East Superior, Chicago, IL
Thursdays - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

March 6  Of Growth Factors, Nutrients, mTOR Complex 1 and Cancer
Sara Kozma, PhD, Associate Professor
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
Host: Leon Platanias, MD, PhD

March 13  Student Lecture: ICSBP Haplo-Insufficiency Synergizes with SHP2-Activation For Apoptosis Resistance and Cytokine Hypersensitivity in Meloid Progenitors
Iwona Konieczna, PhD Student, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

March 20  GABP Transcription Factor is a Key Regulator of Myeloid Cell Development and the Cell Cycle
Alan G. Rosmarin, MD, Gladys Smith Martin Professor of Oncology
Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA
Host: Jonathan Licht, MD

March 27  Signature-based Approaches to Small Molecule Discovery for Cancer
Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
Host: Jonathan Licht, MD

April 10  Student Lecture: The Desmosomal Cadherin Desmoglein 1 Regulates Human Epidermal Differentiation and Morphogenesis via Adhesion Dependent and independent Mechanisms
Corey Simpson, Graduate Student, Departments of Pathology and Dermatology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

April 17  Probing the Onset and Regulation of Erythroid Cell Specific Gene Expression
James J. Bieker, PhD, Professor, Department of Development and Regenerative Biology
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY
Host: John Crispino, PhD

April 24  Student Lecture: TBA
Jessica Reimer
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine - Chicago, IL

May 1  Discovery of Bcl-2 Family Inhibitors for the Treatment of Cancer
Stephen Fesik, PhD, Divisional VP Cancer Research, Global Pharmaceutical Research & Development
Abbott, Abbott Park, IL
Host: John Crispino, PhD

May 8  Cancer Cell DNA Replication: Implications for Biomarker and Molecular Target Discovery
Linda Malkas, MD, Professor, Medicine
Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
Host: Leon Platanias, MD, PhD

May 15  Student Lecture: TBA
Terry Fitzpatrick
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine - Chicago, IL

Accreditation Statement: Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation Statement: The Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
Grand Rounds are on Fridays from 8 am to 9 am in the Gray Seminar Room of the Lurie Research Medical Center, 303 E. Superior, Chicago, IL (unless otherwise noted). Contact Denise Marshall at 312.695.1392 or d-marshall4@northwestern.edu.

March 7  The Role of Palliative Sedation in the Care of Cancer Patients  
Janet Abraham, PhD, Division of Adult Psychosocial Oncology - Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston MA

March 14  Thyroid Cancer Beyond Radioiodine: What to Target and When to do It  
James A. Fagin, MD, Chief, Endocrinology Service - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY  
Host: Peter Kopp, MD

March 21  Making Sense of What We Have-Treatment Strategies and Trial Designs in Advanced Colorectal Cancer  
Axel Grothey, MD, Attending, Mayo Clinic - Rochester, MN

March 28  Special Grand Rounds in Honor of Dr. David Green  
Nigel Key, MD, ChB, FRCP - Robert Montgomery, MD - Gerald Soff, MD  
Host: Anaadriana Zakarija, MD  
* Please note: event will be held in the Baldwin Auditorium

April 4  Role of JAK-STAT Singaling in Myeloproliferative Disorders  
Ross Levine, MD, Attending - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY  
Host: John Crispino, PhD

April 11  Cerebral Cavernous Angiomas: Malformations or Tumors  
Issam A. Awad, MD, MSc, FACS, MA (hon), Professor and Vice-chairman  
Department of Neurological Surgery - Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

April 18  TBA  
Charles Schiffer, MD, Professor of Medicine and Oncology and Leader of Leukemia/Lymphoma Group  
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute - Detroit, MI  
Host: Martin Tallman, MD

April 25  Changes in the Management of Follicular Lymphoma in the Rituximab Era  
James Friedberg, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Hematology/Oncology  
University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, MN

May 2  GM-CSF Secreting Leukemia Cell (GVAX) Vaccinations After Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation for Advanced Myeloid Malignancies  
Vincent Trien-Vinh Ho, MD, Instructor, Department of Adult Oncology  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA  
Host: Hau Kwaan, MD, PhD

May 9  Oncology Training Group  
Host: Robin Leikin, PhD

May 16  Cancer and Thrombosis-Epiphenomenon or Oncogenic Relationship?  
Frederick Rickles, MD, FACP, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology  
The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Host: Hau Kwaan, MD, PhD

May 23  The Expanding Role of Chemotherapy and Targeted Therapies for High Grand Gilomas  
Warren Mason, MD, Division of Neurology - Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Ontario Canada  
Host: Jeffrey Raizer, MD

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Cancer Center Appoints New Members

Steven T. Rosen, MD, FACP, Director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, announces the following full member appointments:

Jessica Altman, MD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine. Her primary research interest is the study and treatment of hematologic malignancies. Her laboratory efforts are focused on the understanding of signal transduction and specifically the mTOR pathway in acute myeloid leukemia. Her office is in the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, 303 E. Superior St, 5-111, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Altman at 312.503.1817 or j-altman@northwestern.edu

Spiro Getsios, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Dermatology, Feinberg School of Medicine. His lab studies the relationship between cell adhesion and signaling pathways in order to understand how normal epithelial cells receive and respond to contextual cues in intact tissues. His office is in Ward, 303 E. Chicago Avenue, 9-332, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Getsios at 312.503.4137 or s-getsios@northwestern.edu

Mary Beth Madonna, MD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research is focused on growth factor pathway effects on neuroblastoma behavior (both EGF and NGF). Specific interests include the factors that make neuroblastoma cells resistant to stress, specifically chemotherapeutic induced stress. Her office is in Children’s Memorial Hospital, 2300 Children’s Plaza, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Madonna at 773.880.4422 or mmadonna@childrensmemorial.org

(Thompson named Associate Director- from page 1)
Her clinical interests include hemoglobinopathies, bone marrow failure syndromes, and stem cell transplantation in pediatric patients. Her laboratory research is focused on developmentally regulated genes in early hematopoiesis.

In 2001, Dr. Thompson was named the A. Watson and Sarah Armour Endowed Chair for Blood Diseases and Cancer at Children’s Memorial Hospital. She has served on the Board of Directors for the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), and is currently on the Medical Advisory Boards for the Cooley’s Anemia Foundation and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois. In her current position, Dr. Thompson is an investigator on NIH-funded multi-center clinical trials as well as her own institutional clinical studies in thalassemia, sickle cell disease and hemophilia.

(Rosen named Editor-in-Chief of ONI - from page 2)
Dr. Rosen has worked with Oncology News International in the past as an editorial advisor and is lead author of the non-Hodgkins Lymphoma chapter of the Cancer Management Handbook, a publication of the group that produces Oncology News International.

“We’re extremely pleased to have Dr. Rosen on board as Editor-in-Chief,” said John C. Hayes, editorial director. “He brings a level of energy, knowledge and experience that will be of tremendous value to Oncology News International and its readers.”
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center News
Office of Public Affairs and Communications
676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1200 - Chicago, IL  60611 - 312.695.1304

Director
Steven T. Rosen, MD, FACP

Director, Public Affairs and Communications
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Michael Miller

Send news and events to the editor:
j-bowker@northwestern.edu or 312.695.0502

Lurie Cancer Center Weekly Updates
Information to be considered for inclusion in the Cancer Center’s weekly e-mail updates must be received at least one week in advance. Submit suggestions to Denise Marshall at d-marhsall4@northwestern.edu.

new staff
Derek Davis
Program Assistant
Administration

Kristen Lehner
Research Financial Analyst
Clinical Research Office

Xiaoyan Liang
Research Technologist
Monoclonal Facility

Allen McMillen
Protocol Coordinator
Clinical Research Office

Shraddha Shrestha
Senior Research Study Program Coordinator
PathCore Quality Assurance

Bill Stuart
Coordinator, Clinical Research
Clinical Research Office