Celebrate and Walk on Sun. June 3!

JOIN US AT the 19th Annual Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk, the Lurie Cancer Center’s tribute to cancer survivors, and the strides we’re making in cancer treatment and research.

Held on Sunday, June 3, National Cancer Survivors Day, the non-competitive three mile walk begins in Grant Park at the corner of Columbus and Balbo Drives and continues along Chicago’s lakefront.

The celebration includes a picnic, t-shirt, music, family entertainment, an opportunity to sign the Dedication Wall, and more. Festivities begin at 7:30 a.m., and the walk steps off at 8:30 a.m.—rain or shine.

No pledges are required. Registration and details at cancer.northwestern.edu or 312.695.1300. $15 in advance and $25 the day of the walk.

Soy Isoflavone Supplements Did Not Provide Breast Cancer Protections

SOY ISOFlavone supplements did not decrease breast cancer cell proliferation in a randomized clinical trial, according to a study published in Cancer Prevention Research, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Lead researcher Seema Khan, MD, Professor of Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and Co-Leader of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Women’s Cancer Program, said the results of this study are consistent with the findings of previous studies that were designed to test cancer prevention benefits of dietary supplements. “Simply put, supplements are not food. Although soy-based foods appear to have a protective effect, we are not seeing the same effect with supplementation using isolated components of soy, so the continued testing of soy supplements is likely not worthwhile,” said Khan.

Seema Khan
A New Screening Method for Prostate Cancer

A NEW STUDY by NYU Langone Medical Center and Northwestern University shows novel PSA velocity (PSAV) risk count testing may provide a more effective way for physicians to screen men for clinically significant prostate cancer. The study, published online Feb. 1 by the British Journal of Urology International, shows the benefits of tracking a man’s PSA levels over time to help doctors more accurately assess his risk of life-threatening prostate cancer.

“A persistently rising PSA is a harbinger for life-threatening prostate cancer,” said the study’s senior author, William Catalona, MD, Professor of Urology at Feinberg and Director of the Clinical Prostate Cancer Program at the Lurie Cancer Center. “Our study findings show looking at how much PSA changes over time helps distinguish which cancers are aggressive more so than a single PSA value.”

The new PSAV risk count screening works by monitoring fluctuations in PSA levels over time to analyze a man’s risk of prostate cancer, instead of relying on just one PSA test result to assign prostate cancer risk. The authors conclude risk count screening may be useful in diagnosing aggressive prostate cancer earlier while possibly reducing unnecessary biopsy as well as the over-diagnosis and resulting overtreatment of low-risk prostate cancer.

New Optics Technology Featured in “Breakthrough in Early Cancer Detection”

WITH FEW EARLY symptoms, ovarian cancer—like many cancers—can be difficult to detect in its early stages. “Early detection is absolutely not only key but probably the only way for us to win the war on cancer,” says Vadim Backman, PhD, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Northwestern University McCormick School of Engineering.

Backman’s research, shedding light on ways to make early detection more accurate, less costly, and less invasive, is featured in this week’s episode of Science Nation titled “Breakthrough in Early Cancer Detection.” Science Nation is a science video series commissioned by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Legislative and Public Affairs.

“We’re developing new optics technologies to learn about tissue structure and composition, and we are applying these technologies for early cancer screening,” says Backman, who is also Program Leader for Cancer Biomedical Engineering, Nanotechnology & Chemistry Program at the Lurie Cancer Center. The team’s research, supported by the NSF, funded in part through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is part of a field that’s called biophotonics, where light becomes an analytical tool for biology.

The Cancer Letter

THE LURIE CANCER CENTER has purchased a one year site license for The Cancer Letter, an award-winning weekly newsletter providing the latest on cancer research funding, legislation, policy issues, drug development and people in the news. The Cancer Letter is available to all faculty and staff using Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University and Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation e-mail addresses.

To read The Cancer Letter, login by clicking here.

To receive free updates from The Cancer Letter when new content is posted (optional), enter your e-mail address under “Join Our Mailing List” on the bottom left corner of the login page.
Judith G. Abramson Named Medical Director of Cancer Survivorship

JUDITH ABRAMSON, MD, MSCI, has joined the Lurie Cancer Center as Medical Director of Cancer Survivorship. A board-certified internist with a longstanding interest and experience in cancer survivorship and cancer risk reduction, Abramson is Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology.

In her new role, Dr. Abramson plans to develop an expanding clinical cancer survivorship program that will also serve as the platform for an array of multi-disciplinary research projects focused on improving quality of life and long-term outcomes of cancer survivors. Dr. Abramson is herself a breast cancer survivor, and is committed to providing cancer survivors with personalized comprehensive survivorship care. She will partner with existing clinical programs to create a broadened program that incorporates medical, psychological, nutritional, and exercise perspectives tailored to the unique needs of cancer survivors. “Advances in treatment mean that we have a responsibility—and an opportunity—to help our patients and families develop a plan for their long-term care,” says Steven Rosen, MD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center.

Dr. Abramson received her medical degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine and completed her medical residency at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. Her 20 years of clinical experience includes two years at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare’s Center for Medical Genetics where she created a comprehensive clinical breast health program for women at high risk for developing breast cancer. She recently completed a NCI Fellowship in Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University and earned a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI).

Dr. Abramson sees Lurie Cancer Center patients at the Maggie Daley Center for Women’s Cancer Care and the 2st floor of Galter Pavilion. Contact her at j-abramson@northwestern.edu or 312.695.1964.

Specialized Gynecologic Care for Lurie Cancer Center Patients

A DEDICATED WEEKLY clinic, led by Lee Shulman, MD, provides specialized gynecologic care to patients of the Lurie Cancer Center. Held on Wednesdays from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. in the Maggie Daley Center for Cancer Care, the clinic offers cancer survivors timely and convenient access to care for gynecologic and menopausal symptom management concerns.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 866.LURIECC or 312.695.0990.

Dr. Shulman is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Chief of the Division of Clinical Genetics at Feinberg. In addition he is Co-Director of the Northwestern Ovarian Cancer Early Detection Program and the Cancer Genetics Program.

The Cancer Genetics Program, a joint service between the Division of Hematology/Oncology and the Division of Clinical Genetics, includes genetic counselors, medical oncologists and medical geneticists who provide individualized cancer risk assessment and management recommendations to individuals and families at increased risk for cancer due to their personal and/or family history of cancer. Under the direction of Dr. Shulman (Geneticist, Division of Clinical Genetics) and Virginia Kaklamani, MD, DSc (Medical Oncologist, Division of Hematology/Oncology) the program’s goal is to prevent cancer or, should cancer occur, to detect it as early as possible by identifying individuals at increased risk.

To schedule an appointment for personalized risk assessment call 312.695.0320.

Learn more about the Cancer Genetics Program.
Recipients of the Lurie Clinical Cancer Center Awards celebrated with Mary Mulcahy, MD, William Gradishar, MD, Julian Schink, MD, and other colleagues at an awards ceremony and reception on March 7.

Diane Lee, CMA, received the Lurie Clinical Cancer Center’s inaugural 2011 Medical Professional Award. This award was established to recognize a clinical professional for their dedication, commitment, thoughtfulness and overall care of patients.

For the first time, due to the outstanding submissions they received, the selection committee named two recipients for the following awards:

- **Monica Martinez**, Financial Counselor, and **Stacey Rogers**, Procedure Scheduler, received the 2011 JoAnn Jones Clinical Cancer Center Staff Support Award, awarded to a support staff member for their knowledge, thoughtfulness, and overall care of patients. The award was established in 2008 in honor of former support staff employee, JoAnn Jones, who demonstrated all of those qualities.
- **Marcia Mickle**, ACNP, AOCN, and **Jennifer Ramirez**, RN, BSN, received the 2011 Vicki Maurer Clinical Cancer Center Nursing Award. Established in 2004, the donor of this award named it in honor of his nurse, Vicki Maurer, whom he felt exemplified hard work and compassion.

“These awards allow us to honor the hard work and dedication of our extraordinary team to the Lurie Cancer Center and the patients we serve,” says Steven Rosen, MD.

The Compassionate Care Awards, sponsored annually by the Woman’s Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, recognizes a physician on the medical staff, a fellow or medical resident, and a nurse or allied health professional who exemplify compassionate care of patients at the Lurie Cancer Center.

Lurie Cancer Center Director, Steven T. Rosen, MD, presented the 2012 awards to:

- **Michael Hoffman**, MD
  Department of Medicine, Division of Hospital Medicine

- **Ashley Vavra**, MD
  Administrative Chief Resident, Department of Surgery

- **Lisa Marshall**, RN, MS, AOCN, APN
  Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology

“The Compassionate Care Awards represent a significant opportunity to recognize the efforts of the Cancer Program’s exceptional caregivers, and to reinforce the importance we all place on truly humanistic, patient-focused care,” said Rosen.

Terri Dillon, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, was promoted to Executive Director of Development, Oncology. Dillon joined Feinberg as Senior Associate Director of Development in 2008, focusing on fund development for support of medical research and education at the Lurie Cancer Center, including faculty in the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute and the Division of Hematology/Oncology. In her expanded role, she will assume greater responsibility for donor engagement and the development of principal and major gifts for the Lurie Cancer Center and its programs.

Contact Terri Dillon at terri-dillon@northwestern.edu or 312.503.4837

» Continued on next page...
Awards & Honors

Mary Hendrix, PhD, Professor at the Lurie Cancer Center and the Feinberg School, and President and Scientific Director of Children’s Memorial Research Center, was named the sixth recipient of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Princess Takamatsu Memorial Lectureship. Hendrix will deliver her lecture, entitled Targeting the Pasticity of Metastatic Tumor Cells, on April 2nd at the 2012 AACR Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Carol Knop, RN, MS, AOCN, received the Spirit of Oncology Award from the Chicago Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society (CCONS). The award is given to honor and recognize a member who has contributed to CCONS development by sharing their time and expertise.

Kelly Edward Mayo, PhD, Professor of Molecular Biosciences at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Women’s Cancer Program, has been elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest general scientific society.

Bridget O’Brien, DNP, APN, FNP-BC, AOCNP, will discuss “Nursing Considerations: Advanced Colorectal Cancer,” and Judith Paice, PhD, RN, will speak about “Cancer Pain: Current Challenges and Breakthroughs” at the 2012 NCCN Nursing Program: Advancing Oncology Nursing held in Florida on March 14.

Karl Scheidt, PhD, Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry at Weinberg and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer and Physical Sciences Program, has been elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Scheidt is co-director of Northwestern’s Center for Molecular Innovation and Drug Discovery.

Jane Wu, PhD, Professor of Neurology at the Feinberg School and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer and Physical Sciences Program, has been elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She was honored for her contributions to understanding the role of regulated messenger RNA splicing in neural functions and the dysregulation of RNA binding proteins in neurologic diseases.

Basic Sciences Research Division Funding Opportunities

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 will be reviewed on a rolling basis and accepted until funds for the year are expended.

Lea Charitable Trust Equipment Grants

Applications for Basic Sciences Research Division Funding Opportunities should be submitted to Tom O’Halloran, PhD via Jenna Ter Molen.
Move for the Kids 5k Run/Walk

Saturday, May 12
8:00 a.m.
Children’s Memorial Hospital
2300 Children’s Plaza

This once-in-a-lifetime event will start at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Lincoln Park. Run or walk the 3.1 miles to the new Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, and be among the first to receive a tour of Lurie Children’s before its June opening! Tours will run continuously after the run/walk.

Help us welcome Lurie Children’s to their new home and honor Ann Lurie for her ongoing support. Join the Lurie Cancer Center team at heroesforlife.org
1. Top right corner of page, select Register
2. Select Form or Join a Team
3. Type in team name, Lurie Cancer Center
4. Select Join to the right of Lurie Cancer Center Team

Email cancer@northwestern.edu with any questions about the Lurie Cancer Center Team.

Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation 5k Walk/Run

Sunday, April 29th
9:00 a.m.
Lincoln Park behind the Grant Statue

Join event chairs Jyoti Patel, MD, and Alberto de Hoyos, MD, at the 3rd Annual Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation Chicago 5k Walk/Run to raise awareness and funding for lung cancer research. Participants are encouraged to welcome spring by wearing bright colors. Think peace, love, and flower power attire!

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., 10 and 20 meter kids’ dash at 8:55 a.m., and the 5k race begins at 9:00 a.m. A celebration begins at 10 a.m. with a DJ and face painting.

Register and join Team Northwestern at: lungcancerfoundation.org/events.

2012 Magellan Development Chicago Spring Half Marathon, 10k and Junior Dash

Saturday, May 12
7:00 a.m.
The Park at Lakeshore East
Randolph Street & Field Drive

The Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute (NBTI) is returning as the official charity of the 4th Annual Magellan Development Chicago Spring Half Marathon, 10k and Junior Dash.

Come out and support the NBTI as a runner, or join NBTI patients, friends and families cheering along the lakefront path. The fun includes pre-race and post-race activities for all. Start times for the races are:

- Half Marathon (13.1 miles) - 7:00 a.m.
- 10k run/walk (6.2 miles) - 7:30 a.m.
- Junior Dash (children ages 2-12) - 9:00 a.m.
- Post-race picnic and celebration at Lakeshore East

Learn more about how to support a runner or fundraising team and race registration at braintumorinstitute.org.

Make the Cut--Hair Donation

May 6, 2012
12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Atrium Lobby

Cut your hair along with other donors and receive free on-site styling. Hair donations are made into free, real-hair wigs and distributed to female cancer patients. Hosted by employees from Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s oncology units, the Lurie Cancer Center, and members of the Oncology Nursing Society’s Chicago Chapter.

For more information and to register visit cancer.northwestern.edu.
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, the Lurie Cancer Center offers professional education on various cancer related topics. Below is a list of programs scheduled through June, 2012.

For more information or to register, visit cancer.northwestern.edu or call 312.695.1304.

**8th Annual Thoracic Surgical Oncology Nursing Conference**
March 22, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital
Chair: Alberto de Hoyos, MD

**Malkin-Kraft Lectureship**
April 4, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Chicago Campus
April 5, 2012
Pancoe Hall, Evanston Campus
Speaker: Scott Lowe, PhD

**7th Annual Pain and Palliative Care Conference**
April 12, 2012
Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Feinberg Pavilion
Chair: Judith Paice, PhD, RN

**2012 Spring Translational Cancer Research Workshop**
April 18, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
Chair: Jill Pelling, PhD

**9th International Chicago Lymphoma Symposium**
April 27-28, 2012
Sofitel Chicago Water Tower
*Hosted by the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Massachusetts*
Chairs: Leo Gordon, MD, Andrew Evens, DO and Sonali Smith, MD

**Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute CME Symposium 2012**
May 11, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital
Chairs: Jeffrey Raizer, MD and James Chandler, MD

**6th Annual Connie Moskow Memorial Lectureship: Breast Cancer**
May 11, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital
Chairs: Charles Clevenger, MD, PhD, William Gradishar, MD, Seema Khan, MD

**2012 H Foundation Basic Science Symposium: How Tumors Grow**
June 8, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital
Chairs: Jessica Altman, MD, Andrew Mazar, PhD, and Karl Scheidt, PhD

**4th Annual Lurie Cancer Center Symposium & 23rd Annual Scientific Poster Session**
June 21, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
Chair: John Crispino, PhD, MBA

**2012 Oncology Review**
June 22, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital
Chair: William Gradishar, MD

**GRAND ROUNDS**
Fridays: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.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](#)

Sign up for Weekly Email Reminders:

If you would like to receive weekly email reminders for Grand Rounds and/or the Tumor Cell Biology Seminars, please notify Denise Marshall, d-marshall4@northwestern.edu.
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 or to register, visit cancer.northwestern.edu or call 312.695.1304.

Cancer Connections
Saturday, March 24, 2012
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Prentice Women’s Hospital, 3rd Floor, Room L

The focus of this program is expanding to include tools, techniques and services that can improve overall health and well-being. Patients and caregivers can experience the benefits of massage therapy and participate in workshops on topics including: Simple Strategies for Physical Fitness, Introduction to Yoga, Caring for the Caregiver and Guided Imagery / Meditation.

Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Patient Education Series
April 11, 2012
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (check-in begins at 4:30 p.m.)
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium

This free annual lecture and discussion with Steven Rosen, MD, provides patients and family members with an opportunity to learn about updates on CLL therapies, discuss quality of life issues, long-term disease management, and hear news about clinical trials. Dr. Rosen will be accompanied by hematologist / oncologist Dr. Shuo Ma.

Get EmPOWERed: Life After Cancer for Adolescent & Young Adult Survivors
April 14, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
LaSalle Power Company
500 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago

Young adult and teen cancer survivors face unique challenges and concerns. Get EmPOWERed is an opportunity for everyone under the age of 40 who has been treated for cancer (including childhood cancer survivors who are currently 13 years of age or older), along with their friends and families, to learn, share experiences, and receive support.

Brain Tumor Patient & Caregiver Forum
April 21, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Prentice Women’s Hospital, 3rd Floor, Room L

The Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute hosts this free program, led by physicians and members of the supportive oncology team. Brain tumor patients and their caregivers will learn about coping with a wide range of concerns including nutrition, symptom management, legal issues, and more.
Welcome New Members and Staff

Lurie Cancer Center Appoints New Members

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

Emily Berry, MD. is Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology—Gynecologic Oncology. Her areas of interest include intraperitoneal chemotherapy for ovarian cancer and cooperative group trials. Dr. Berry is Co-Principal Investigator of Northwestern’s Gynecologic Oncology Group, and looks forward to participating in the expansion of the program to include new affiliate members.

Contact Dr. Berry at 312.472.4684 or eberry@nmff.org

David Baker, MD, MPH. is Professor of Medicine at Feinberg. Dr. Baker is interested in strategies to promote cancer screening tests, and has a special interest in how to overcome literacy, cultural, and access barriers for traditionally underserved and vulnerable populations.

Contact Dr. Baker at 312.503.6407 or dbaker1@nmff.org

New Staff

Kranthi Kumar Akula
Data Assistant 2
Clinical Research Office
kranthi.akula@northwestern.edu

Sevim Daiva Aydemir
Research Technician 1
Clinical Research Office
sdalva@northwestern.edu

Emily Malin
Research Project Coordinator
Office of Health Disparities
emily.malin@northwestern.edu

what’s new

News of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University
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
Sharon Markman
Editorial Advisor
Tim Volpe
Managing Editor
Jennifer Bowker
Designer
Daniel D. Cooper

Help Wanted: Reporters

PLEASE SEND SUGGESTIONS for this newsletter to Jennifer Bowker, j-bowker@northwestern.edu

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.