Welcome Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 9, the Lurie Cancer Center will welcome our academic partner, the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital), when it opens the doors to its new, world-class hospital at 225 E. Chicago Ave.

Named in recognition of Ann Lurie’s historic $100 million transformational gift, the 23 story facility, widely recognized as the world’s tallest pediatric hospital, will offer innovations in medical care and technology, enhanced clinical programs, advanced research and improved family amenities. The new location on the campus of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine will enable the hospital to recruit top pediatric specialists, and its close proximity to Prentice Women’s Hospital will expedite the care of critically ill newborns.

“One of the unique things about our model of care is that we work very closely with the Lurie Cancer Center,” says Advanced Practice Nurse Karina Danner-Koptik, RN, MSN, APN, CPON. “That will give us even more opportunities to work collaboratively with their researchers as well as the adult clinicians at Northwestern. This means better treatments and targeted research, a smoother transition into adult care, and ultimately, the most expert treatment options and cures for our patients.”

Watch “Transforming Pediatric Cancer Care” for a preview of Lurie Children’s led by Morris Kletzel, MD, Professor of Pediatrics at Feinberg, Head of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children’s Memorial Hospital, and member of the Lurie Cancer Center.

Join us Sunday, June 3 and Spread the Word!

JOIN US ON Sunday, June 3, at the 19th Annual Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk, the Lurie Cancer Center’s tribute to cancer survivors-and the strides being made in cancer treatment and research!

No pledges are required. The event begins in Chicago’s Grant Park and includes a non-competitive walk along the lakefront, picnic, family entertainment, t-shirt, 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! Registration is $15 in advance and $25 the day of the walk.

Watch video highlights from last year’s event, find details about pre-event registration / t-shirt pick up options, and register online at cancer.northwestern.edu.
New Drug Prevents Spread of Prostate Cancer Cells

A NEW DRUG developed by Northwestern Medicine scientists prevented human prostate cancer cells from spreading to other tissues without any toxic effects to normal cells or tissues. The drug turns off the "go" switch in the cancer cells and immobilizes them. “This is an extremely promising new therapeutic that locks down aggressive prostate cancer cells so they don’t move,” said Raymond Bergan, MD, Director of Experimental Therapeutics for the Lurie Cancer Center. The drug works by binding to and disabling proteins in the cancer cell that instruct it to move, said Bergan, Professor of Medicine at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine and a physician at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. “We envision that this drug, if shown to be effective in clinical trials, could be used to treat men diagnosed with prostate cancer, so they wouldn’t need more aggressive procedures. Or, the drug could augment the effectiveness of surgery and radiation.”

The research was presented April 3 at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting 2012 in Chicago by Li Xu, a Research Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Feinberg School. She helped develop the drug, along with Karl Scheidt, an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and member of the Lurie Cancer Center.

Tiny Hitchhikers Attack Cancer Cells

NANOTECHNOLOGY OFFERS powerful new possibilities for targeted cancer therapies, but the design challenges are many. Northwestern University scientists now are the first to develop a simple but specialized nanoparticle that can deliver a drug directly to a cancer cell’s nucleus -- an important feature for effective treatment. They also are the first to directly image at nanoscale dimensions how nanoparticles interact with a cancer cell’s nucleus.

“Our drug-loaded gold nanostars are tiny hitchhikers,” said Teri W. Odom, PhD, who led the study of human cervical and ovarian cancer cells. “They are attracted to a protein on the cancer cell’s surface that conveniently shuttles the nanostars to the cell’s nucleus. Then, on the nucleus’ doorstep, the nanostars release the drug, which continues into the nucleus to do its work.”

Odom is the Board of Lady Managers of the Columbian Exposition Professor of Chemistry in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer and Physical Sciences Program.

Using electron microscopy, Odom and her team found their drug-loaded nanoparticles dramatically change the shape of the cancer cell nucleus. What begins as a nice, smooth ellipsoid becomes an uneven shape with deep folds. They also discovered that this change in shape after drug release was connected to cells dying and the cell population becoming less viable -- both positive outcomes when dealing with cancer cells. The results are published in the journal ACS Nano.

Since this initial research, the researchers have gone on to study effects of the drug-loaded gold nanostars on 12 other human cancer cell lines. The effect was much the same. “All cancer cells seem to respond similarly,” Odom said. “This suggests that the shuffling capabilities of the nucleolin protein for functionalized nanoparticles could be a general strategy for nuclear-targeted drug delivery.”

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Nanocombinatorics Helps Scientists Identify Key Information Rapidly

Scientists at Northwestern University have developed a powerful analytical method that they have used to direct stem cell differentiation. Out of millions of possibilities, they rapidly identified the chemical and physical structures that can cue stem cells to become osteocytes, cells found in mature bone.

Researchers can use the method, called nanocombinatorics, to build enormous libraries of physical structures varying in size from a few nanometers to many micrometers for addressing problems within and outside biology. Nanocombinatorics holds promise for screening catalysts for energy conversion, understanding properties conferred by nanostructures, identifying active molecules for drug discovery or even optimizing materials for tissue regeneration, among other applications. Details of the method and proof of concept is published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"With further development, researchers might be able to use this approach to prepare cells of any lineage on command," said Chad A. Mirkin, PhD, who led the work. "Insight into such a process is important for understanding cancer development and for developing novel cancer treatment methodologies.” Mirkin is the George B. Rathmann Professor of Chemistry in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Medicine, Chemical and Biological Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering, and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center. He also is the Director of Northwestern’s International Institute for Nanotechnology (IIN).

» Read more

Former NFL Linebacker Chris Draft Visits the Lurie Cancer Center

Former NFL Linebacker and Chicago Bear, Chris Draft, visited the Lurie Cancer Center to learn more about advances being made in lung cancer research and treatment.

Team Draft, part of the Chris Draft Family Foundation, was created by Chris and his late wife, Keasha, during her year-long struggle with lung cancer. Since Keasha’s death last December, Chris has renewed his commitment to saving lives by changing the face of lung cancer; increasing awareness and crucially needed research funding by shattering the misconception that lung cancer is a “smoker’s disease.”

Chris was not surprised to learn from thoracic oncologist, Jyoti Patel, MD, that 30% of lung cancer patients treated at the Lurie Cancer Center are non-smokers. “Keasha never smoked. The association with smoking makes patients feel guilty, and makes it harder for patients and caregivers to grieve. We were blessed by the strength and love of our family and friends,” he adds. “Keasha and I didn’t want the stigma to keep other lung cancer patients from receiving support when they need it most.”

Chris toured the Lurie Cancer Center, Keasha’s iPad in hand, with Dr. Patel, thoracic surgeon, Malcolm DeCamp, MD, radiation oncologist, Minesh Mehta, MD, and Senior Practice Manager, Karen Giamicchio, MSN, APN, AOCNS. In addition, Chris visited the Lurie Cancer Center’s inpatient units in Northwestern’s Prentice Women’s Hospital with Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Barb Gobel, RN, MS, AOCN, and met with Raymond Bergan, MD, to learn about research related to chemoprevention of lung cancer.

At each stop along the way, he took off the cover to show a photo of Keasha, including her in the experience. “The purpose of Team Draft is not just to honor my wife,” he said. “It’s an extension of her passion and spirit.”
Young Adult Cancer Survivors Connect With Nature and Each Other

CANCER DOESN’T CARE how old you are, David Victorson, PhD, realized as a psychosocial oncology fellow in 2005. “I vividly recall meeting one afternoon with a patient who had a very poor prognosis and maybe had a few weeks to live. He was talking about something banal, and then mid-sentence, he stopped himself and said, ‘Hey, didn’t you say that you have a 1-year old daughter at home?’ When I said ‘yes,’ he reached over and grabbed me by my shirt and said, ‘Go home, now.’ I did, and I remember actually running home from the train. Those words still help me tune into what’s really important.”

Victorson, Assistant Professor at Feinberg’s Department of Medical Social Sciences and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center, was inspired by his interactions with patients not much older than himself to start True North Treks in 2008.

Get EmPOWERed: Life After Cancer for Adolescent & Young Adult Survivors

More than 75 adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer survivors, ranging in age from 13 to 40 years old, gathered along with family members and friends at LaSalle Power Company on April 14 to share experiences and learn strategies for embracing life after treatment with confidence.

Get EmPOWERed was developed as part of the Lurie Cancer Center’s ongoing commitment to addressing the unique needs of AYA cancer survivors. Following the afternoon program, the conversations continued at the VIP (very important patient) after-party held at Gilda’s Club Chicago.

1st Annual Chicago SUP YACS Classic: Race, Ride & Glide to benefit Young Adult Cancer Survivors

JOIN YOUNG ADULT cancer survivors, families and supporters on Sunday, July 29 at Montrose Beach from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The 1st Annual Chicago SUP YACS Classic, a stand up paddleboard (SUP) race, and ride and glide along Chicago’s lakefront, is an ideal way to make the most of a summer day.

A combination of surfing and paddling, stand up paddleboarding is an increasingly popular way to play on the water--and offers a great full body workout. The race begins at 9:00 a.m. followed by a clinic for beginners and other beach activities at 10:00 a.m., and concludes with a post-race awards ceremony and celebration of young adult cancer survivors (YACS).

Nearly 70,000 individuals between the ages of 15 and 39 are diagnosed with cancer each year. In addition to occupying the ‘no man’s land’ that exists between pediatric and adult oncology, these individuals face unique, long-term side effects that often go unaddressed.

True North Treks and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, members of the LIVESTRONG Young Adult Alliance, have joined forces with the Surfrider Foundation and Kayak Chicago to host this unique event. Funds raised will support Young Adult Alliance initiatives to effect positive change for young adults with cancer by increasing awareness, outreach and collaboration.

Beginners and families are welcome and rentals will be available.
Read The Cancer Letter Wherever You Are

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 at: http://www.cancerletter.com/categories/content.

Remote access requires
user name: TCL@northwestern.edu
password: 123456

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.

New Research Center Addresses Equity Issues, Preventive Medicine

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Feinberg School of Medicine has received a three-year, $4.3 million dollar federal grant to establish the Center for Advancing Equity in Clinical Preventive Services. The center, one of three National Centers of Excellence established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services’ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, focuses on creating innovative solutions to help practices reduce disparities in the use of clinical preventive services.

The Center was funded to conduct three initial projects, and the group plans to expand the portfolio further with pilot projects. These projects will act as prototypes to develop and test solutions in private practices and community health centers in Chicago and throughout the United States. “Our hope is by working with this wide variety of clinics we can come up with real world solutions that can then be disseminated across the country to decrease disparities in use of preventive services,” says David Baker, MD, MPH, Principal Investigator for the Center, Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, and Michael A. Gertz Professor of Medicine at Feinberg.

The new Center will develop multifaceted interventions to address patient, provider, and system-level barriers to improving quality of care and outcomes. “We’ve created multimedia programs to develop tools to explain to people why they need to be screened for colorectal cancer, and at the same time, we’ve worked on methods to use electronic health record systems for accurately identifying those patients who need to be screened,” says Baker, who is also a member of the Lurie Cancer Center.

One of the first projects in the Center, led by Dr. Baker, brings these lines of research together to conduct an electronic health record-supported outreach program to promote colorectal cancer screening among predominantly Spanish speaking Latino patients cared for by Erie Family Health Center in Chicago. The study will use low-cost and sustainable interventions such as text messages and automated calls to motivate people to be screened.

Dr. Harry Miller, Hematologist, Oncologist and Hospice Pioneer, Dies at 86

Harry J. Miller, MD, died of prostate cancer on April 13, 2012. Miller, Associate Professor Emeritus of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and former Head of Hematology at Evanston Hospital, retired in 1995.

A pioneer in the field of hospice care, Miller died at home, surrounded by his wife and five children. Dr. Martha Twaddle, Miller’s former student at Feinberg and longtime friend, became his doctor and oversaw his hospice care.

Read more about Dr. Miller’s contributions to hospice care.
Serdar Bulun, MD, George H. Gardner Professor of Clinical Gynecology, has been named the new Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and Obstetrician-Gynecologist-in-Chief at Northwestern Memorial’s Prentice Women’s Hospital. The laboratory research of Bulun, a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Women’s Cancer Program, is focused on studying progesterone and estrogen action, estrogen biosynthesis and metabolism, in particular aromatase expression, in hormone-dependent human diseases such as breast cancer, endometriosis and uterine fibroids.

JoAnne Kus celebrated 20 years at the Lurie Cancer Center in April. Associate Director for Administration, Tim Volpe, says his Administrative Assistant is “a vital member of the team that supports the Lurie Cancer Center’s status as an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. JoAnne has incredible depth of knowledge about the Lurie Cancer Center’s overall mission and operations. Her dedication and commitment over the past 20 years has contributed greatly to our continuing success.”

Elizabeth Tarasewicz, a PhD student in the laboratory of Jacqueline Jerruss, MD, PhD, received a Ruth Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Cancer Institute.

Lynne Wagner, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Social Sciences, and Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Feinberg, is co-author of a paper featured in the Journal of Clinical Oncology special series, Caring for the Whole Patient: The Science of Psychosocial Care. The article, written by Wagner, a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer Control Program, with Paul Jacobsen, PhD, Moffitt Cancer Center, discusses emerging standards for distress screening in cancer care.

Teresa Woodruff, PhD, Director of the Oncofertility Consortium and Thomas J. Watkins Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Feinberg, has been elected to the presidency of The Endocrine Society. Woodruff, a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer Control Program, will assume her new role in June at the Society’s Annual Meeting in Houston.

### Northwestern Imaging Joins Elite Club

NORTHWESTERN’S NIKON IMAGING Center-Cell Imaging Facility (NIC-CIF) is the first American imaging center to become a member of the EuroBioImaging Consortium, according to NIC-CIF Director Teng-Leong Chew, PhD, Research Associate Professor in Cell and Molecular Biology at the Feinberg School of Medicine and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center.

The EuroBioImaging Consortium is a large, multinational imaging network of 39 imaging centers from 12 countries across Europe. Labs included in the consortium are able to share imaging equipment through talent and technology exchanges. “Northwestern has a collaborative environment with an effective pipeline for nascent instrumentation development to be transferred into biomedical needs,” Chew says.

» Read more

### Honoring our Nurses

THE COMPASSION and dedication of the nursing staff is almost always among the first things patients emphasize when asked about their experience at the Lurie Cancer Center. During Oncology Nurses Month and National Nurses Week (May 7-11), the Lurie Cancer Center celebrates and honors our extraordinary nurses.
**Fundraising Events**

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

**Saturday, May 12**  
The Park at Lakeshore East  
Randolph Street & Field Drive

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.

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

**Recipes and Stories Honor a Mother’s Memory**

“*A Blending of Bittersweet Memories*” celebrates the fusion of food and memories. The book combines delicious recipes with loving, relatable recollections. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to advance breast cancer research at the Lurie Cancer Center.

**Send Mom an Ecard and Support Breast Cancer Research**

Help support the Lynn Sage Foundation and celebrate all the mothers in your life. For every donation of $25 or more, the Lynn Sage Foundation will send an Ecard wishing that special someone a Happy Mother’s Day with the news that a donation has been made in her honor to find a cure for breast cancer. Mesirow Financial has offered to match all donations up to $15,000 between now and Mother’s Day.

Can you think of a better way to let all the mothers in your life know you are thinking of them?

**Eisenberg Madness**

**Sunday, June 3**  
Windy City Fieldhouse  
2367 Logan Blvd., Chicago

Proceeds from the 5th Annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament supports GI cancer research at the Lurie Cancer Center.
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.

George Assimos Lectureship
Speaker: Michael Wang, MD
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
May 24, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
Chair: Leo Gordon, 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

2012 Oncology Review:
Coverage of the 2012 ASCO Annual Meeting
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 at: http://www.cancer.northwestern.edu/grandrounds

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 at: http://www.cancer.northwestern.edu/tcb

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.

Lymphoma Workshop: Understanding Lymphoma Basics and Current Treatment Options
May 12
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
The Westin River North, Chicago

This free annual lecture and discussion with Dr. Steven Rosen and Dr. Shuo Ma 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.

Cancer Connections
July 21
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Prentice Women’s Hospital, 3rd Floor, Room L

This program includes tools, techniques and services that can improve overall health and wellbeing during and after cancer therapy. 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.

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

Make the Cut

More than 60 hair donors took part in the first “Make the Cut” event, held on Sunday, May 6 in the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center. Hosted by employees from Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s oncology units, the Lurie Cancer Center, and members of the Oncology Nursing Society’s Chicago Chapter, “Make the Cut” collected over 130 ponytails to be made into free, real-hair wigs through Beautiful Lengths, a partnership created by Pantene and the American Cancer Society (ACS). ACS distributes the wigs to women across the country who have lost hair due to cancer treatments; including many here at Northwestern.

From left: Nurses Barbara Gobel, Lindy Afeld, Stevie Hatakeyama, Lorena Elano, Kaitlin Haaning, Patricia Strimmel, Gina Barasa, Lauren Bere, Kendra Calawerts, and Kelly Harrington at “Make the Cut”

The event included free on-site styling, information and refreshments. The planning committee was led by oncology nurse Kendra Calawerts, BSN, RN, who says that the experiences she and her colleagues share with patients often makes them wish they could do more to help. “I’ve donated my hair three times in the past, but this time felt more personal as my career has allowed me to see first-hand the impact that hair donation has on a patient. I had chills as I looked around during the countdown before the “initial cut” and saw the excitement and love in everyone’s faces.”
Lurie Cancer Center Appoints New Members

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

William Kath, PhD, is Professor of Engineering Sciences and Applied Mathematics at the McCormick School of Engineering. He is Director of the Physical Sciences-Oncology Center’s Project 4, “Dynamic Nucleosome Signatures in Epigenetic Memory and Cancer Development,” a combined experimental/theoretical investigation of the importance of epigenetic effects in cancer. Dr. Kath’s interest includes using network analysis and computational modeling to compare different states of gene expression in both normal and cancer cells.

Contact Dr. Kath at 847.491.8784 or kath@northwestern.edu

New Staff

Herbert Brown
Research Lab Manager 2
Pathology Core Facility
herbert.brown@northwestern.edu

Lizbeth Gutierrez
Histology Technologist 2
Mouse Histology & Phenotyping Lab
lizbeth-gutierrez@northwestern.edu

Gary Holtz
Systems Analyst/Programmer
Northwestern University Biomedical Informatics Center
garyh@northwestern.edu

Stephanie Kinsey
Data Assistant 2
Clinical Research Office
stephanie.kinsey@northwestern.edu

Claudia Vintilescu
Data Assistant 2
Clinical Research Office
claudia.vintilescu@northwestern.edu

Northwestern faculty are encouraged to invite colleagues coming to Chicago for the 2012 ASCO Annual Meeting to the Lurie Cancer Center’s reception hosted by Steve Rosen, MD.

Sunday, June 3, 2012 / 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Radisson Blu Aqua Chicago
221 N. Columbus Drive

RSVP by May 29 to cancer.northwestern.edu/asco

Please call 312.695.1392 if you would like print invitations to mail.