Childhood Cancer Scars Survivors Later in Life

SCARS LEFT behind by childhood cancer treatments are more than skin-deep. The increased risk of disfigurement and persistent hair loss caused by childhood cancer and treatment are associated with emotional distress and reduced quality of life in adulthood, according to a new study led by Karen Kinahan, RN, MS, APN, and based on data from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS).

The largest study of its kind, published May 21 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, compared scarring, disfigurement and persistent hair loss reported by adult survivors of childhood cancer to their siblings, who were not childhood cancer survivors. Here are some of the study’s findings, controlling for cranial radiation, which has been linked to psychosocial distress in the past:

• Survivors with persistent hair loss were found to have increased risk of anxiety
• Female survivors with persistent hair loss had increased risk of depressive symptoms
• Survivors with a head or neck, arm or leg disfigurement had increased risk of depression

“The results show that cancer treatments can affect childhood cancer survivors’ physical appearances and their quality of life long after they turn 18,” said Kinahan, who was first author of the study. As a clinical nurse specialist specializing in pediatric oncology, Kinahan helped start the STAR Program (Survivors Taking Action & Responsibility) at the Lurie Cancer Center in 2001. The comprehensive long-term follow-up program for adult survivors of pediatric cancer cares for patients into adulthood.

» Read more

Lurie Children’s Cancer Program Named #9 in the Nation

Having successfully completed the move to their new home, the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago can celebrate being named #7 among only 12 children’s hospitals nationwide to qualify for the Honor Roll in the 2012-13 U.S. News & World Report Best Children’s Hospitals rankings released in June.

Lurie Children’s Cancer Program was ranked #9 in the country—up from #14 in 2011!

» Read more
Less Couch Time Equals Fewer Cookies
*Just two simple changes in health behavior spurs big and lasting results*

SIMPLY EJECTING your rear from the couch means your hand will spend less time digging into a bag of chocolate chip cookies. That is the simple but profound finding of a new Northwestern Medicine study, which reports simply changing one bad habit has a domino effect on others. Knock down your sedentary leisure time and you’ll reduce junk food and saturated fats because you’re no longer glued to the TV and noshing. It’s a two-for-one benefit because the behaviors are closely related.

The study also found the most effective way to rehab a delinquent lifestyle requires two key behavior changes: cutting time spent in front of a TV or computer screen and eating more fruits and vegetables.

“Just making two lifestyle changes has a big overall effect and people don’t get overwhelmed,” said Bonnie Spring, a Professor of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and lead author of the study published in *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

“Americans have all these unhealthy behaviors that put them at high risk for heart disease and cancer, but it is hard for them and their doctors to know where to begin to change those unhealthy habits,” said Spring, who also is a member of the Lurie Cancer Center. “This approach simplifies it.”

With this simplified strategy, people are capable of making big lifestyle changes in a short period of time and maintaining them, according to the study.

Spring wanted to figure out the most effective way to spur people to change common bad health habits: eating too much saturated fat and not enough fruits and vegetables, spending too much sedentary leisure time and not getting enough physical activity.

Read more

Penedo Joins Medical Social Sciences as Roswell Park Professor

FRANK PENEDO, PhD, a nationally-renowned health psychologist, has joined Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine as a Professor of Medical Social Sciences. Penedo became the inaugural Roswell Park Professor on June 11, 2012 and will lead the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer Control and Survivorship Research Program.

In this role, Penedo will be charged with bringing together the diverse talents of more than 40 Lurie Cancer Center members researching screening, treatment decision making, symptom management, and survivorship. He will also work to establish a Center for Bio-behavioral Oncology.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Penedo to the medical school,” said Eric G. Neilson, MD, Feinberg’s Vice President for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean. “His reputation as a scholar of health disparities and outcomes in ethnically diverse populations will further add to our strong standing in these areas. As Director of our Cancer Control Program, he will lead our research into the most effective ways to promote cancer prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment in local, national, and international communities.”

Most recently, Penedo served on the faculty at the University of Miami as an Associate Professor in Psychology. The principal investigator of nearly $8 million in National Cancer Institute grants, Penedo has published more than 100 articles and abstracts in his 12-year professional career. His current research is focused on prostate cancer survivorship in Hispanic populations, including the extent to which ethnic and sociocultural factors may promote or hinder chronic disease adjustment and health outcomes.

Contact Dr. Penedo at fpenedo@northwestern.edu

Read more
Salem Named Chief of Interventional Radiology

RIAD SALEM, MD, Professor of Radiology, Medicine, and Surgery, and Director of the Division of Interventional Oncology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, became Vice-Chair of Image Guided Therapy and Chief of Interventional Radiology (IR), effective July 1. "This is a new, vice-chair level role created specifically to take advantage of Dr. Salem’s skills bridging clinical excellence, innovation in programmatic development, research, and administrative expertise,” said Eric Russell, MD, Department of Radiology Chair. “The Divisions of Interventional Radiology and Interventional Oncology have grown rapidly over the past five years and Dr. Salem will be responsible for coordinating a large group of faculty and staff as we focus on quality, safety, and further building of our research portfolio.”

An internationally recognized expert in interventional oncology and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center, Salem helped develop radioembolization, a technique targeting the local treatment of tumors with radiation, sparing the harmful effects of radiation on non-targeted tissues. His current research focus is on innovative Yttrium-90 radioembolization treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma. Salem’s new responsibilities include oversight of all IR activities in collaboration with Russell.

After arriving at the Feinberg School in 2003, Salem helped build the Division of Interventional Oncology. His research has resulted in more than 145 peer reviewed papers, and he recently assumed the role of global principal investigator of a 400 patient, international, randomized phase III trial comparing radioembolization with the standard of care.

Robert Vogelzang, MD, professor in radiology, under whose expert guidance the IR division rose to international prominence, will take on a broader administrative role in the department, related to his current role as chair of the appointment, promotions, and tenure committee.

Kibbe is One of Top 25 Healthcare CIOs

WARREN KIBBE, PhD, Lurie Cancer Center Director of Bioinformatics, is featured as one of the “2012 Top 25 Healthcare CIOs” in InformationWeek Healthcare’s second annual issue honoring the nation’s leaders in healthcare information technology.

“The Lurie Cancer Center is a nationally recognized leader in combining cutting-edge cancer research with high quality cancer care,” said Kibbe, Research Associate Professor in Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS) and the Center for Genetic Medicine. “Patients have always been our focus; this award is recognition of our leadership in coupling research, outcomes and care data to directly benefit our patients.”

Kibbe is PI of the Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG) Patient Study Calendar, an open-source, standards-based software application intended for use by organizations to centrally and consistently manage study participant schedules in clinical trials. He is a proponent of Agile software development methodologies and the Agile Unified Process Framework and the application of these to biomedical research problems. In addition, Kibbe’s group developed NOTIS, the Northwestern Oncology Trial Information System (NOTIS) system used for all cancer trials at Northwestern.

» Read more
New Name, New Address — Same Great Care for Kids

Everyone is talking about the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. The location of the new hospital, on the downtown campus of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, will increase opportunities for collaboration with the Lurie Cancer Center’s academic partner.

Now that the doors are open to the world-class facility at 225 E. Chicago Ave., please keep the following in mind: When referring to the name of the hospital in written communications use the full name, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, on first reference. Second and subsequent reference is Lurie Children’s. Visit their new website and learn more at luriechildrens.org.

New Requirements for NIH Funding Acknowledgement

The National Institute of Health (NIH) requires researchers to acknowledge federal funding in peer-reviewed publications and presentations.

As of April 2012, notices of award include the requirement to specifically mention NIH, the name of the funding institute (NCI), and to include the grant number (or the intramural equivalent, or the contract number if it is research conducted under contract), in a fashion similar to this:

Research reported in this publication was supported by grant number(s) CA123456 and CA654321 from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

In addition, all grantee institutions are required to acknowledge federal funding in every news release, news story, or other story for public dissemination that features NIH-supported research, and to notify the relevant NIH communication office of the release or story before publications.

Including this information will help the NIH populate the Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool Expenditures and Results (RePORTER) tool found at report.nih.gov with compelling descriptions of the research they support, and to communicate the value of taxpayer-funded research to the media, advocates and policymakers.

Read more

Children’s Hospital of Chicago Research Center

Children’s Memorial Research Center (CMRC) has become Children’s Hospital of Chicago Research Center. The phone numbers and physical location at 2430 N. Halsted St. remains the same, but they have a new mailing address: 225 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

Visit their new website at chicagochildrenresearch.org
Biomarker for Malignant Breast Cancer Shows Promise

EARLY DIAGNOSIS of breast cancer is crucial to the long-term survival of patients. One tool upon which clinicians increasingly rely is the use of molecular markers to identify malignancies. A collaborative study involving investigators from Mayo Clinic, Children’s Hospital of Chicago Research Center (formerly Children’s Memorial Research Center), and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, led by Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD and Edith Perez, MD, investigates the clinical significance of Nodal expression in breast cancer. Nodal, a gene that is essential for cellular and structural organization in early development reappears in certain types of aggressive cancers, including melanoma and prostate carcinoma.

Read more

$10 Million Gift Advances Research in Regenerative Nanomedicine

A $10 MILLION gift from the Querrey Simpson Charitable Foundation will establish a center that will enhance Northwestern University’s global leadership position in regenerative nanomedicine.

The Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Center for Regenerative Nanomedicine will operate within Northwestern’s Institute for BioNanotechnology in Medicine (IBNAM) and support bold, risk-taking research ideas that ultimately could offer solutions to challenging human health problems as well as develop life-enhancing therapies.

The University’s global leadership in regenerative nanomedicine has inspired the transformative gift from Louis A. Simpson -- a Northwestern Board of Trustees member and a 1958 alumnus of the University’s Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences -- and his wife, Kimberly K. Querrey, through their foundation.

IBNAM Director Samuel I. Stupp, PhD and his students over the last decade, in collaboration with various clinical faculty, have blazed a trail with research in the highly promising area of nanomedicine to promote regeneration of tissues.

Read more

Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk Was a Record-Breaking Event!

THE 19TH ANNUAL Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk was filled with music, sunshine, and more than 4,000 cancer survivors, families, friends, health care providers and scientists, breaking all previous attendance records. Over 725 cancer survivors took part in the celebration on National Cancer Survivors Day, wearing purple t-shirts with pride.

The morning’s first speaker, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma Survivor Marc Chibnik, inspired 200 Walk participants to register as potential marrow donors on-site in Grant Park with “Be the Match.”

Watch Marc Chibnik video

Make plans now to be part of the 20th Annual Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk on June 2, 2013!

The Cancer Smashers, a group of kids ranging in age from 10 to 17 years old, were among the volunteers at this year’s event; cheering and placing a medal around the neck of each walker crossing the finish line. Cancer Smashers, a group of kids ranging in age from 10 to 17 years old committed to raising awareness and funds for cancer research at the Lurie Cancer Center, have been meeting on a regular basis since they first came together as volunteers at the H Foundation’s annual Goombay Bash.

The Lurie Cancer Center is grateful to have organizations like the Cancer Smashers and the H Foundation in its corner. By providing physicians and researchers with the resources needed to pursue novel ideas to detect cancer earlier and with greater precision, they improve the outlook for cancer patients and their families.

Watch Cancer Smashers video
Awards & Honors

Hossein Ardehali, MD, PhD, and Hidayatullah Munshi, MD, were elected into the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI).

Serdar Bulun, MD, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was elected into the Association of American Physicians (AAP).

John Crispino, PhD has been named the Robert I. Lurie, MD, and Lora S. Lurie Professor by the Feinberg School. Crispino is Professor of Medicine-Hematology/Oncology and Associate Director of Education and Training at the Lurie Cancer Center.

Donna Emge, ASCP-HT, Mouse Histology and Phenotyping Laboratory Manager, presented a morning lecture by invitation from the Illinois Society for Histotechnologists at their 43rd Annual State Symposium on Tissue Freezing Methods for Cryostat Sectioning.

Karen Giammicchio, MSN, APN, AOCNS, Lurie Cancer Center Senior Practice Manager, serves on the Board of Directors of the American College of Oncology Administrators (ACOA). In her role as their Education Committee Chair, Giammicchio served as program Chair for ACOA’s 2012 Oncology Update, held in Chicago June 20-22. Titled “Compassion and the Numbers,” the conference focused on balancing the dual roles of oncology administrators striving to meet the emotional needs of patients, while building programs and enhancing patient satisfaction. Lurie Cancer Center patient and volunteer, Lou Levine, opened the program with a valuable list of do’s and don’ts from a patient’s perspective. In addition Desi Kotis, PharmD, Pharmacy Director at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, discussed the frustration of drug shortages, and Jamie Von Roenn, MD, presented “The Future of Comprehensive Care: Integrated Palliative Medicine.”

Andrew Larson, PhD, is a recipient of the Academy of Radiology Research 2012 Distinguished Investigator Award. The award is given to an elite group of researchers who have attained a level of accomplishment that ranks within the top 10 percent of academic radiology faculty.

Andrew Mazar, PhD, has been invited to serve as a member of the Center for Scientific Review’s Developmental Therapeutics Study Section. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors.

Melissa Simon, MD, MPH, received the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation’s 2012 Leadership Award.

Bonnie Spring, PhD, received the Society of Behavioral Medicine’s Alere Research to Practice Award, which recognizes an individual’s contributions and exemplary work in translating or extending behavioral medicine from research into practical application, dissemination, or implementation.

Lurie Cancer Center members Kathleen Green, PhD, Jonathan Jones, PhD, David Kamp, PhD, June Robinson, MD, and Eric Russell, MD, were among the faculty members celebrating 25 years of service at the Feinberg School at a reception held on May 16.

2012 NMFF Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the Lurie Cancer Center physicians and staff who were recognized with 2012 Excellence Awards by Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation!

Administrative and Service Excellence Awards
Service Excellence: Bridget O’Brien, DNP, APN, FNP-BC, AOCNP, Hematology/Oncology
Administrative Innovation: Kristin Smith, Fertility Preservation Program Manager
Administrative Collaboration: Karen Giammicchio, MSN, APN, AOCNS, Lurie Cancer Center Senior Practice Manager
Administrative Leadership: Jesse Meyer, Division Administrator, Thoracic Surgery

Physician Clinical Excellence Awards
Community Service: June McKoy, MD, MPH, JD, Preventive Medicine and Geriatric Oncology
Clinical Collaboration: Eytan Szmuilowicz, MD, Palliative Care
Clinical Leadership: Julian Schink, MD, Lurie Cancer Center Medical Director
American Cancer Society Increases Funding to $5.5 Million for Illinois Researchers

Illinois scientists at the forefront of cancer research will receive more than $5.5 million from the Illinois Division of the American Cancer Society this year. This is the organization’s largest annual commitment to local cancer research since it began making grants in 1952 and twice the amount of last year’s research commitment of $2.4 million.

Four million dollars will go towards basic research while another $1.5 million will fund research on cancer disparities. The remaining money will allow approximately 30 young investigators to support their ideas for cancer prevention, detection and treatment at Illinois research institutions. Highlights of some of the most recent Illinois Division grants include Lurie Cancer Center members Robert Lewandowski, MD, Alexander Stegh, PhD, David Victorson, PhD, and Xiao-qi Wang, MD, PhD.

“Our investigators feel a special bond with the Society,” said Steven T. Rosen, MD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center and a member of the Illinois Division’s Cancer Center Directors Committee. “We are grateful for the partnership that works on so many levels to support our research and the well-being of the cancer patients we serve.”

Carol Southard Receives Unsung Heroes’ Award

Carol Southard, RN, was honored with the 2012 American Lung Association/Koop Foundation Unsung Heroes’ Award on June 22 at the American Lung Association Awards Ceremony in Wilmington, Delaware. Southard, a tobacco treatment specialist at Northwestern Integrative Medicine, is the first nurse to win the prestigious national award, presented annually to an advocate for tobacco control who has made significant contributions to reduce the burden of tobacco use.

“Ms. Southard has dedicated her life work to assisting individuals quit the cigarette habit,” said Harold Wimmer, president and CEO of the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest. “She has definitely helped save the lives of thousands of individuals through her smoking cessation expertise.”

Southard has frequently raised funds throughout her career to help underwrite costs for low income participants in her programs, and presents workshops in the communities of those who need help the most. She also serves as a consultant for the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A pioneer in the field of smoking cessation, Southard has helped thousands of people become tobacco-free, including Jonathan Alper who was one of the Southard’s nominators:

“I was delighted to hear about the Unsung Heroes’ Award because I happen to know one. I met her while buying 6 packs of cigarettes at a local store some 7 years ago. She tapped me on the shoulder, handed me her card, and said “You really should call me” before walking away.

» Read more
Lurie Cancer Center Receives $750,000 from Avon Walk for Breast Cancer Chicago

THE 10th ANNUAL Avon Walk for Breast Cancer season continued with the Avon Walk Chicago, June 2 & 3, raising $6.3 million to advance access to care and finding a cure for breast cancer. The Avon Walk Chicago, the fourth of nine Avon Walks this year, attracted more than 2,800 participants who joined together to raise life-saving funds and awareness for breast cancer. Grants were awarded to 10 local organizations at the Avon Walk Chicago Closing Ceremony, ensuring the funds raised immediately benefit the community.

The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, home of the Avon Foundation Breast Care Center of Excellence and the Avon Breast Cancer Research Laboratories, received $750,000 to provide access to breast care for low income women at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Erie Family Health Center. The grant also will fund three new research projects to identify and better understand the development of breast cancer and how to stop the disease.

» Read more

Move for the Kids

ON MAY 12 over 5,000 “Move for the Kids” participants ran along the path from Children’s Memorial Hospital to the new Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago in a once in a lifetime race. A team from the Lurie Cancer Center took part in the 5k run to honor Ann Lurie for her ongoing support and help Lurie Children’s meet and exceed their goal of raising $1 million dollars!

Teb’s Troops Miles for Melanoma 5k Walk/Run
Sunday, July 29, 2012
Montrose Beach, Chicago

Join the Lurie Cancer Center team at the 2012 Teb’s Troops Miles for Melanoma Chicago 5k and raise funds for melanoma research at the Lurie Cancer Center. Click on Team Lurie Cancer Center at the bottom of the page when you register.

» Read more and register

12th Annual Goombay Bash
Saturday, August 11, 2012
Grand Ballroom, Navy Pier

Hosted by the H Foundation, the Caribbean-style party features live music and entertainment, great food, and a live and silent auction. All net proceeds from the Goombay Bash directly support innovative basic science investigations at the Lurie Cancer Center.

» Read more and purchase tickets

Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute
Minds Matter Benefit Dinner
September 28, 2012
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, Chicago

The NBTI will celebrate its 4th annual gala, Minds Matter, with special guest actress, comedienne and television producer Bonnie Hunt.

» Read more and purchase tickets
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 November, 2012.

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

7th Annual Northwestern Radiosurgery Symposium: Multimodality Approach to Cranial Radiosurgery & Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy
September 7, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital, Conference Room L
Chairs: John Kalapurakal, MD

2012 Nathaniel Berlin Lectureship
Speaker: Tyler Jacks, PhD (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
September 18, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium
Chair: John Crispino, PhD, MBA

2012 Oncofertility Conference: Dialogues in Oncofertility
September 26-28, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital, Conference Room L
Chair: Theresa Woodruff, PhD

14th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium
October 4-7, 2012
The Fairmont Chicago
Chair: William Gradishar, MD
Co-Chairs: V. Craig Jordan, OBE, PhD, DSc & Monica Morrow, MD
lynnssagebreastcancer.org

Lurie Cancer Center Special Lecture: Prostate Cancer
October 5, 2012
Speaker: Donald S. Coffey, MD (The Johns Hopkins University)
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium
Chair: Chung Lee, PhD

17th Annual Drug Discovery Symposium
October 17, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium
Chairs: Raymond Bergan, MD and Karl Scheidt, PhD

15th Annual Oncology Nursing Conference
November 30, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital, Conference Room L

Grand Rounds & Tumor Cell Biology

THERE ARE NO Tumor Cell Biology Seminars and Grand Rounds scheduled for the remainder of the summer. They will resume in September at the times and locations listed below.

Details will follow in the next issue of this newsletter and on our website at cancer.northwestern.edu.

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.

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.

» Sign up to receive weekly e-mail reminders
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
July 21 and November 17
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Prentice Women’s Hospital, 3rd Floor, Room L

The focus of this program has expanded 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: Active Days & Restful Nights: Managing Cancer-Related Fatigue & Insomnia, Breakthroughs & Challenges in Cancer Pain Management, Growth, Resilience & Renewal: The Cancer Experience, Navigating Health Insurance, Creating Family-Friendly Meals from the Farmer’s Market and Hope, Happiness & Positive Thinking: Finding What Works for You.

Prostate Cancer Public Education Symposium
September 8, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin and Hughes Auditoriums
Chair: Chung Lee, PhD

Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Townhall Meeting
September 30, 2012
Rubloff Building, Thorne Auditorium
Chair: William Gradishar, MD

Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference
October 13, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
Speaker: Virginia Kaklamani, MD, DSc

Free Legal Services for Cancer Patients
The National Cancer Legal Services Network (NCLSN) has launched a new website, www.nclsn.org, featuring a national directory of organizations that provide free legal assistance for people and families affected by a cancer diagnosis. The website, which also includes training materials and resources to assist those starting new cancer legal advocacy programs, aims to increase the accessibility and availability of legal resources for cancer survivors. The platform also demonstrates the nonmedical, legal issues that cancer survivors and providers experience so visitors can better understand the significance and need for cancer legal advocacy programs.

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
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.

Borko Jovanovic, PhD, is Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine at Feinberg. In his role as Director of the Prostate Cancer SPORE’s Biostatistical /Bioinformatics Core. Dr. Jovanovic facilitates planning, development and analysis of SPORE clinical trials, biomarker studies, molecular diagnostics and high throughput technologies such as DNA/RNA microarray, tissue microarray, proteomics experiments and retrospective studies. He also serves on the Lurie Cancer Center’s Clinical Protocol Scientific Review Monitoring Committee.

Contact Dr. Jovanovic at 312-503-2008 or borko@northwestern.edu

Denise Scholtens, PhD, is Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Neurological Surgery at Feinberg. Dr. Scholtens is interested in statistical problems arising from high-throughput genomics and proteomics data as they pertain to computational biology. She is a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Biostatistics Core and collaborates on a variety of basic science and clinical cancer studies.

Contact Dr. Scholtens at 312-503-7261 or dscholtens@northwestern.edu

Xin Tong, PhD is Research Assistant Professor of Pathology at Feinberg. Dr. Tong is interested in signal transduction pathways in cancer biology, development of new strategies for cancer prevention and identification of novel targets for better cancer treatment. His current focus is on RNA-binding proteins (RBPs), miRNAs, miRNA regulation by RBPs and its implications for cancer, and on the role of AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) in modulating metabolism and cancer.

Contact Dr. Tong at 312/503-0285 or x-tong1@northwestern.edu

New Staff

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what’s new

News of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University
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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