“GETTING UNDER YOUR SKIN” takes on a brave new meaning thanks to Northwestern University research that could transform gene regulation. A team led by a physician-scientist and a chemist— from the fields of dermatology and nanotechnology—is the first to demonstrate the use of commercial moisturizers to deliver gene regulation technology that has great potential for life-saving therapies for skin cancers.

The topical delivery of gene regulation technology to cells deep in the skin is extremely difficult because of the formidable defenses skin provides for the body. The Northwestern approach takes advantage of drugs consisting of novel spherical arrangements of nucleic acids. These structures, each about 1,000 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair, have the unique ability to recruit and bind to natural proteins that allow them to traverse the skin and enter cells.

Early targets of the novel treatment are melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma, the common inflammatory skin disorder psoriasis, diabetic wound healing and a rare genetic skin disorder that has no effective treatment (epidermolytic ichthyosis). Other targets could even include wrinkles that come with aging skin.

“The technology developed by my collaborator Chad Mirkin, PhD, and his lab is incredibly exciting because it can break through the skin barrier,” said Co-Senior Author Amy S. Paller, MD, the Walter J. Hamlin Professor, Chair of Dermatology and Professor of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She also is Director of Northwestern’s Skin Disease Research Center and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center. “We can target our therapy to the drivers of disease, at a level so minute that it can distinguish mutant genes from normal genes.”

14th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium, October 4-7

THE 14TH ANNUAL Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium continues its tradition of attracting a faculty of experts from around the world; providing a forum for presenting breakthroughs in laboratory and clinical research and discussing the care of patients with breast cancer.

Chaired by William Gradishar, MD, the powerful and engaging four-day event is held at the Fairmont Chicago from October 4-7, 2012. Symposium Co-Chairs are V. Craig Jordan, OBE, PhD, DSc and Monica Morrow, MD.
Clinical Trial Targets Cancer Cells in Spinal Fluid

IN TWO TO FIVE percent of women with breast cancer, tumor cells migrate into the spinal fluid invading the tissue surrounding the brain and spinal cord called the meninges. While a rare complication, the condition is challenging because there is no agreed-upon standard of treatment, leaving little hope for patients affected. Northwestern Medicine researchers are currently examining a novel approach to delivering an FDA approved drug that they hope will advance research for this type of cancer and lead to discoveries that may improve outcomes in the future.

As part of the clinical trial, the drug Trastuzumab is directly injected into the spinal fluid in hopes of stopping the growth of the cancer cells in patients with HER-2 positive breast cancer. Jeffrey Raizer, MD, Co-Director of the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute (NBTI), is the Principal Investigator for the trial which he developed.

“When cancer spreads to the spinal fluid and tissues surrounding the brain, called leptomeningeal metastases (LM), there are very limited therapeutic options,” said Raizer, who is also Medical Director of Neuro-Oncology at Northwestern Memorial and Associate Professor of Neurology at Feinberg. “This rare condition typically occurs in later stages of cancer and often the benefits of treatment are small and may be counteracted by its side effects. For women with HER-2 positive breast cancer, they often have well-controlled disease in their body when this complication occurs.”

Raizer explains that drugs cannot easily penetrate from the blood stream into the spinal fluid because of the blood brain barrier, making the condition difficult to treat. In this trial, the antibody will be delivered directly into the spinal fluid using a device that is placed under the scalp called an Ommaya reservoir. A small catheter is inserted into a fluid-filled space allowing fluid to be removed and for the drug to be instilled into it. Women with HER-2 positive breast cancer that has spread to their spinal fluid are currently being enrolled in the clinical trial.

Strategies Converge on Target in Rare Leukemia

Integrated approach points to drug for AMKL

FOR MOST CELLS, more than two copies of the entire genome can be a telltale sign of cancer. But for megakaryocytes – bone marrow cells that can give rise to thousands of platelets – having several genomic copies is normal. In their healthy state, these cells can harbor as many as 64 copies of the full complement of human DNA, a state known as polyploidy. When the normal development of megakaryocytes goes awry, they can lose this unique feature and start down the path toward a rare form of cancer known as acute megakaryoblastic leukemia (AMKL). Researchers can spot these cellular changes, but the underlying causes – and how to reverse the course of disease – have been difficult to pinpoint.

In AMKL, megakaryocytes divide unchecked and fail to produce their characteristic extra genomic copies. Therefore, the research team was interested in finding compounds that could reverse both of these defects. “What’s most exciting about this project is that it makes advances both in basic science and in translational medicine. Very little is known about what causes the switch from a progenitor cell to become polyploid and differentiate,” said John Crispino, PhD, Robert I. Lurie, MD, and Lora S. Lurie Professor of Medicine at Feinberg, Associate Director for Education and Training at the Lurie Cancer Center, and a senior author of the paper. “We now have a wealth of information about what regulates this pathway. And we’ve also discovered targets and compounds that could potentially be therapies for this leukemia.”

In order to treat AMKL in patients who do not respond to current therapies, researchers need a protein target at which to take aim. In an ongoing collaboration with the Broad Institute, Northwestern University researchers have identified such targets, and findings point to the potential of a drug currently under clinical investigation for the treatment of other forms of cancer. The results of this research appear in the most recent issue of the journal, Cell.
CURE Program Offers Opportunities for Undergraduate Students

TRAINING THE NEXT generation of clinicians and scientists is at the center of the Lurie Cancer Center’s mission. Our summer research programs give students the opportunity to learn and become active participants in cancer research.

This summer, the fourteenth year for the Lurie Cancer Center’s CURE (Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience) Program, twelve underserved undergraduate college students interested in pursuing careers in the biomedical sciences spent eight weeks conducting cancer research in the laboratory under the guidance of a Lurie Cancer Center faculty mentor. In addition to their laboratory training, the students met every Friday for an educational seminar series on various topics in cancer research and career counseling.

At the end of the Program, CURE students gave an oral presentation of their research projects to faculty and members of the various participating laboratories. “It’s exciting to see the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for medical research the students have gained at Northwestern,” said Robin Leikin, PhD, Program Director of the CURE Program that has enrolled over 130 students and gone through three competitive renewal applications since its inception in 1999.

The CURE students participating in 2012 were preparing to continue their education at the University of Chicago, Spelman College, Oberlin College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, Brown University, Morehouse College, Smith College, Loyola University, Washington University and the University of Pittsburgh.

The CURE Program is a funded supplement to the Lurie Cancer Center’s Support Grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Related Studies Help Uncover the Rules Governing Gene Transcription

A TRIO OF GROUNDBREAKING publications from Northwestern University’s Physical Sciences-Oncology Center (PS-OC) researchers report important methodological advances that will enable a better understanding of how gene expression is regulated, both in normal cells and in cancer cells. This knowledge could lead to the development of more effective therapeutic agents to treat cancer patients.

The three papers, published recently in the journals Nature Genetics, Nature Biotechnology and Nature, focus on nucleosomes, a basic unit of DNA packaging, and may help to uncover the rules governing gene transcription.

The late Jonathan Widom, PhD, of Northwestern is senior author of the Nature paper that describes a new method for mapping nucleosomes. His longtime collaborator Eran Segal, PhD, of the Weizmann Institute in Israel is senior author of two papers that build on his and Widom’s earlier discovery of a “second DNA code.”

“It is becoming increasingly clear that acquired mutations in the machinery that underlies the way in which DNA is packaged into chromatin are major drivers of the development of tumors in humans,” said Jonathan Licht, MD, the Northwestern PS-OC’s senior investigator. Chromatin is a complex of DNA and proteins that when compacted forms chromosomes.

“The work of the PS-OC, including these new studies, has allowed the elucidation of the normal rules by which chromatin is arranged in the cell,” he said. “This will help us to understand what’s going wrong in cancer and how that might be remedied.” Licht is the Johanna Dobe Professor and Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology at Feinberg and Associate Director for Clinical Sciences Research for the Lurie Cancer Center.

» Read more
National Glioblastoma Clinical Trial Studies Vaccine Created from Patient Blood Cells

RESEARCHERS AT Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute (NBTI) are seeking to understand if a vaccine made from a patient’s own blood cells may slow the growth of a type of brain tumor. The trial is studying the vaccine’s effect on glioblastoma multiformes (GBM), the most common and aggressive type of primary brain tumor. The trial is an example of a growing trend in cancer research that seeks to understand if vaccines can be used to turn a person’s own immune system into a weapon against cancers by slowing the growth of tumors.

GBMs, which occur in up to 10,000 Americans annually, are typically treated with surgical resection of the tumor followed by chemotherapy and radiation treatment. “Glioblastomas are complicated to treat because they are aggressive, fast-growing tumors that are often resistant to standard treatment,” said Principal Investigator James Chandler, MD, Co-Director of the NBTI, Professor of Neurological Surgery at Feinberg, and Surgical Director of Neuro-Oncology at Northwestern Memorial. “In this trial, a vaccine is made using the person’s own white blood cells, which we hope will have the power to stimulate an immune response to kill brain tumor cells.”

The vaccine, called ICT-107, is created by collecting the participant’s white blood cells through a process called apheresis, which separates the components in the blood. The white blood cells are then treated to recognize the tumor cells turning them into immune cells, which early research indicates may be able to recognize and attack the tumor cells. Patients receive the vaccine in addition to standard treatment.

The phase II trial will examine both safety and efficacy of the ICT-107 vaccine. Researchers seek to enroll approximately 225 participants nationally who are newly diagnosed with a GBM.

CRO Welcomes New Clinical Trials Recruitment Coordinator

Peggy Gilbertsen, RN, is the Clinical Trials Recruitment Coordinator, a newly-created position within the Lurie Cancer Center’s Clinical Research Office (CRO). In this role, Gilbertson will develop a clinical trial recruitment program focusing on minority and underrepresented patients, and those patients historically excluded from participation in clinical trials.

Gilbertsen, an experienced Clinical Research Nurse with a long history at the Lurie Cancer Center, will create and distribute culturally-appropriate clinical trial educational materials for newly-diagnosed patients of all literacy levels. In addition, she will work closely with the Lurie Cancer Center’s Office of Health Disparities and Special Population Initiatives to strengthen existing community partnerships and help establish new outreach initiatives.

Contact Peggy Gilbertsen at 312.695.1102 or cancertrials@northwestern.edu

Northwestern Plans Innovative Research Facility

CHICAGO HAS AN opportunity to become a global leader in medical research and lead the way in finding tomorrow’s cures by allowing Northwestern University to build a new state-of-the-art research center on the site of the old Prentice Women’s Hospital. The geographical positioning of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine near world-class partners – industrial, commercial, entrepreneurial and academic – provides rare opportunities for discovery that few universities can even consider.

With the new research facility, the University would attract an additional $150 million a year of new medical research dollars, create 2,000 new full-time jobs and generate an additional $390 million a year in economic activity in Chicago. A special website has been created to help members of the Northwestern Community stay informed about these ongoing efforts and how to help.

» Read more
Awards & Honors

Carina DeCroes RN, APN, C-ANP and Arati Jairam-Thodla MSN, CNP have both earned Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP) credentials.

Chad Mirkin, PhD, was the guest of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) as part of the Lee Kuan Yew Distinguished Visitor Programme. In Singapore, Mirkin received an honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering and delivered a lecture on “Revolutionizing the Field of Medicine Through Advances in Nanotechnology.”

Steven T. Rosen, MD, has been named Chair of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s (LLS’s) Medical and Scientific Advisory Board, effective July 1, 2012. Comprised of leading experts in their fields, members of the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board advise the Board of Directors on a wide range of issues. These include periodically reviewing LLS’s medical affairs and recommending funding for research grant awards. Subcommittees within the Advisory Board work on specific processes that relate to medical and scientific affairs.

Stacy Sanford, PhD, CBSM, is Certified in Behavioral Sleep Medicine by the American Board of Sleep Medicine. Certification, which Sanford earned in July, stands for the highest standard in clinical sleep medicine, behavioral sleep medicine and sleep technology.

Melissa A. Simon MD, MPH, Associate Professor in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Preventive Medicine and Medical Social Sciences at Feinberg, and Director of Patient Navigation at the Lurie Cancer Center, has been named Vice Chair of Clinical Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

W.M. Keck Foundation Grant Funds Study of Proteins

Neil Kelleher, PhD, Walter and Mary E. Glass Professor of Molecular Biosciences, Professor of Chemistry in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Director of the Proteomics Center of Excellence at Northwestern University, and member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer & Physical Sciences Program, has been awarded a $1 million grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation.

The grant will fund Kelleher’s development of a hybrid mass spectrometer, which will be used to better understand protein complexes from mitochondria in cells. Navdeep Chandel, PhD, a Professor of Medicine, and Cell & Molecular Biology at Feinberg who studies the role of mitochondria, will provide the biological drivers for the project. Chandel is a co-investigator on the Keck award and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Tumor Invasion, Metastasis & Angiogenesis Program.

The team will develop and apply beyond-state-of-the-art mass spectrometry to determine the precise composition of multi protein assemblies and how these change in models of aging and cancer. Research using the new tool will constitute a major advance in protein mass spectrometry, accelerate the understanding of disease at a molecular level and address a key challenge of this century: defining the human proteome (all the healthy proteins in tissues and organs).

» Read more
Awards & Honors

Lurie Cancer Center Scientists win Presidential Award

TWO LURIE CANCER CENTER scientists have been awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor given by the United States government to outstanding scientists and engineers who are in the early stages of their independent research careers.

C. Shad Thaxton, MD, PhD, who is developing next-generation therapeutic nanoparticles for heart disease and cancer, and Steven Kosak, PhD, who studies the organization of genomes, went to Washington D.C. to meet President Obama and attend an awards ceremony July 31 at the Natural History Museum. “Discoveries in science and technology not only strengthen our economy, they inspire us as a people,” President Obama said. “The impressive accomplishments of today’s awardees so early in their careers promise even greater advances in the years ahead.”

Thaxton, Assistant Professor of Urology at the Feinberg School, was recognized for outstanding accomplishments in the field of nanoparticles-based diagnostics and therapeutics and for pioneering research on the synthesis of bio-inspired nanomaterials for toxin sequestration and cellular regulation.

Kosak, Assistant Professor in Cell and Molecular Biology, was recognized for his novel research into how the total DNA sequence of an organism (its genome) is non-randomly packaged within the nucleus.

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Lurie Cancer Center Receives Recognition for Quality Cancer Care from ASCO

THE LURIE CANCER CENTER has been recognized by the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) Certification Program, an affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). The QOPI Certification Program provides a three-year certification for outpatient hematology-oncology practices that meet the highest standards for quality cancer care.

QOPI is a voluntary, self-assessment and improvement program launched by ASCO in 2006 to help hematology-oncology and medical oncology practices assess the quality of the care they provide to patients. Through the QOPI program, practices abstract data from patients’ records up to twice per year and enter this information into a secure database.

The QOPI Certification Program (QCP) was launched in January 2010. The first 16 practices were certified just six months later, and the program reached a milestone of more than 100 certified practices in just under two years. This certification for outpatient oncology practices is the first program of its kind for oncology in the United States. Oncologists can achieve certification by demonstrating practice consistent with the highest standards of care. The QCP seal designates those practices that not only scored high on the key QOPI quality measures, but meet rigorous safety measures established by ASCO and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS). The Lurie Cancer Center and Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation (NMFF) are deeply committed to providing the highest standard of compassionate, patient-focused cancer care. We’re proud to receive this recognition from ASCO,” said Steven Rosen, MD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center.

» Read more
Travel Grants

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

Graduate Students
Annie Bruns (KMR)
Yishan Chuang (KMR)
Sankar Narayan Krishna (CP)
Stacy Ochoa Mikrut (KMR)
Kara Nordin (CGM)

Post-Docs
Shiyuan Hong, PhD (CP)
Cynthia Rowe, PhD (KMR)

Applications for the next Travel Awards must be received by November 2, 2012

Basic Sciences Research Division

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

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

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

Lea Charitable Trust Equipment Grants

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

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

Team Science Award in Melanoma and Prostate Cancer

The Melanoma Research Alliance and the Prostate Cancer Foundation will jointly fund one sponsored team science award to simultaneously lead to clinical advances in both diseases. The amount of the award is $1.5 million, paid out over 2-3 years. Principal Investigators, who should have complementary expertise, do not need to be experienced prostate cancer or melanoma investigators. PIs can be working at the same or at different institutions. Research teams must include at least one young investigator, who will be funded at $75 thousand per year. A one-page letter of intent is due on October 15, 2012.

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant

The Lurie Cancer Center is soliciting cancer-related research proposals from junior faculty within 6 years of their first independent faculty appointment, and who do not presently have a national research grant (K award recipients are eligible). An American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant intended to allow junior faculty to generate preliminary data to attract national funding for cancer-relevant research will provide the funding.

The Lurie Cancer Center will fund three proposals this year. Two awards will support cancer-relevant projects in any of the following categories: basic/preclinical research, clinical research, or population research. The third award will fund a cancer-relevant project in one of the following categories: 1) psychosocial and behavioral research, 2) health policy or services research, 3) cancer in poor and/or underserved populations, or 4) childhood cancers. Projects will be funded for one year at up to $30,000. Recipients of ACS-IRG awards in 2010 or 2011 may apply for a second year of funding for the same project.

The application deadline is Monday, October 29. Contact Benette Phillips, schallma@northwestern.edu, for details and to apply.
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.

**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 and Monica Morrow, MD
lynn sage breast cancer.org

**Special Lecture: New Clues in Solving the Riddle of 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

**Brain Tumor CME Conference**
October 27, 2012
Prentice Women’s Hospital
Chairs: James Chandler, MD, and Jeffrey Raizer, MD

**Special Grand Rounds Lecture**
November 2, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium
Speaker: V. Craig Jordan, OBE, PhD, DSc

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

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**Grand Rounds & Tumor Cell Biology**

**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

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

» Sign up to receive weekly e-mail reminders

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**2012 International Institute for Nanotechnology (IIN) Symposium**

Thursday, October 18, 2012
Hilton Orrington Hotel, Evanston
Chairs: Chad Mirkin, PhD, and Milan Mrksich, PhD

Each year the IIN organizes and sponsors a symposium that brings together leading national and international researchers. The symposium provides a venue to enhance interactions and encourage collaborations. The IIN at Northwestern University is a global hub of excellence and currently unites over $600 million in nanotechnology research, educational programs, and supporting infrastructure.

» Details and Registration
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.

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

Spread the Word!
Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Town Hall Sunday, September 30

Do you have patients, friends and family members with questions about treatment options, nutrition and physical activity, family history, and supportive oncology services that help patients move forward after breast cancer? Tell them about the Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, September 30.

Exhibits and registration open at noon. The program takes place from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur Rubloff Building’s Thorne Auditorium, 375 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago.

Cancer 101: Preventing Cancer Through Healthy Aging
October 9, 2012
Feinberg Pavilion, Pritzker Auditorium
Speaker: June McKoy, MD, MPH, MBA

Moving Forward with Metastatic Breast Cancer
Saturday, October 13, 2012
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
Chair: Virginia Kaklamani, MD, DSc

NIM Integrative Oncology Patient Symposium
Saturday, October 20, 2012
Feinberg Pavilion
Chair: Melinda Ring, MD

Brain Tumor Patient & Caregiver Forum
Monday, October 22, 2012
Robert H Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium
Chair: Mary Koludrovic, MSW, LCSW

Fertility Preservation Patient Navigator Website Launched

NORTHWESTERN’S FERTILITY Preservation Program Patient Navigator, Kristin Smith, talks regularly with patients and clinicians about the best reproductive options for young cancer survivors. Now they can also find interactive tools, tutorials, videos of patients’ stories, and additional resources on this new website.

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.

Gilda’s Club Chicago at the Lurie Cancer Center
Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute  
**Minds Matter Benefit Dinner**  
**Friday, September 28, 2012**  
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel  
221 N. Columbus Dr., Chicago

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

> Read more

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**14th Annual Harold E. Eisenberg Foundation Dinner**  
**Tuesday, October 2, 2012**  
The Standard Club  
320 S. Plymouth Ct., Chicago

The Harold E. Eisenberg Foundation is a longtime and generous supporter of gastrointestinal cancer research at the Lurie Cancer Center.

> Read more

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**42nd Annual Lou Malnati’s Cancer Research Benefit**  
**Saturday, October 27, 2012**  
Ravenswood Event Center  
4043 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago

Get out your bell bottoms and tie dye—the theme this year is the groovy music and style of the early 1970s. Funds raised support cancer research and education at the Lurie Cancer Center, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, and the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute.

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**Friends of Marlene Hetzel Palmerson Fundraising Event**  
**Wednesday, November 7, 2012**  
Prentice Women's Hospital, 3rd floor, Harris Family Atrium  
250 E. Superior St., Chicago

Friends of Marlene celebrate her life and honor her memory by raising funds for supportive oncology programs at the Maggie Daley Center for Women’s Cancer Care.

> Read more

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**Join the Lynn Sage Foundation to Wine and Dine for a Good Cause in October!**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the perfect time to wine and dine for a good cause! The Lynn Sage Foundation, a Chicago-based organization committed to finding a cure for breast cancer, supported by corporate sponsor Mesirow Financial, has partnered with more than 100 Chicagoland establishments for the 5th Annual Chicago’s in Good Taste: A Breast Cancer Research Initiative.

Each time you dine at participating locations, donations ($1 per check - or more if you desire) will benefit the Lynn Sage Scholars Program at Northwestern University. [View the list of locations for 2012.](#)

> Read more

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**Knocking Out Breast Cancer: Fighting With Fashion**

**Sunday, October 28, 2012**  
Prentice Women’s Hospital, 3rd floor  
250 E. Superior St., Chicago

50 breast cancer survivors modeling a special collection designed by Chicago’s “Fashion Star” and breast cancer survivor, Barbara Bates, will rip the runway at this fashion show, raising funds to educate and address disparities in breast cancer care faced by women in the African American and Latino communities. The event also marks the launch of a partnership between the Barbara Bates Foundation and the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation, benefiting the Lurie Cancer Center and the Sinai Health System.

> Read more
Welcome New Members and Staff

Lurie Cancer Center
Appoints New Members

Shi-Yuan Cheng, PhD, is Professor of Neurology at Feinberg. His primary research goals are to improve understanding of the molecular mechanisms and signaling pathways of human cancer initiation, tumorigenesis, invasion, metastases and angiogenesis, and to develop novel approaches for anti-cancer and anti-angiogenesis therapies by targeting molecular pathways by which human tumors develop and progress. Dr. Cheng’s experimental approaches include molecular, cellular biology, histology, tumor xenografts in cell culture and animals model systems of human brain tumors (in particular, glioblastomas) and breast cancers.

Contact Dr. Cheng at 312.503.3043 or shiyuan.cheng@northwestern.edu

David Gius, MD, PhD, is Professor of Radiation Oncology at Feinberg. Dr. Gius’ research goals are to investigate the mechanistic connection between aging (or longevity), cellular and/or mitochondrial metabolism, and carcinogenesis focusing on the Sirtuin gene family. His group has shown that mice that lack Sirt2 and Sirt3 each develop ER+, poorly differentiated mammary tumors, as well as other types of malignancies to varying degrees, and the levels of SIRT2 and SIRT3 are also decreased in human breast cancer samples, as compared to normal tissues. As this work moves forward, these Sirt2 and Sirt3 knockout murine models will be used to pursue the identification and validation of potential molecular biomarkers and chemopreventive agents, and to determine the early genetic and biochemical events that create a tumor-permissive environment for the development of ER+, poorly differentiated mammary tumors.

Contact Dr. Gius at 312.926.2520 or david.gius@northwestern.edu

Peng Ji, MD, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Pathology at Feinberg. His research focuses on the characterizations of novel genes in the regulation of mammalian erythropoiesis. Dr. Ji’s lab also studies mDia formin proteins in the engraftment and homing of the hematopoietic stem cells as well as the role of mDia1 in the development of myelodysplastic syndromes. He has extensive expertise in erythroid cell terminal differentiation and hematopoietic stem cell biology using various genetic, molecular and cell biology techniques. Clinically, Dr. Ji is interested in hemato-pathology with special focus on the diagnosis of myeloid neoplasms.

Contact Dr. Ji at 312.503.3709 or peng-ji@fsm.northwestern.edu

Milan Mrksich, PhD, is the Henry Wade Rogers Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the McCormick School of Engineering, Professor of Cell & Molecular Biology at Feinberg, and of Chemistry at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. A Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, he is considered a world leader in engineering the interface between cells and surfaces. Dr. Mrksich’s laboratory operates at the interface of materials, biology and chemistry to create model surfaces for the discovery and study of biological principles. Current programs address the development of high throughput methods for studying protein acetylation and glycosylation and the use of extracellular matrix mimics for identifying ligand-receptor interactions in cell adhesion.

Contact Dr. Mrksich at 847.467.0472 or milan.mrksich@northwestern.edu

Frank Penedo, PhD, is the inaugural Roswell Park Professor in the Department of Medical Social Sciences, leading the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer Control and Survivorship Research Program. As Director of the research program in Cancer Control, Dr. 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. His research interests span multiple disciplines including immunology, endocrinology, social sciences, clinical psychology and behavioral medicine. He is particularly interested in neuroimmune regulation models of symptom burden in cancer and other chronic conditions. In addition, Dr. Penedo is evaluating the efficacy of group-based psychosocial interventions on quality of life and symptom management/burden among prostate cancer survivors.

Contact Dr. Penedo at 312.503.1095 or fpenedo@northwestern.edu
Welcome New Members and Staff

New Staff

Aubri S. Byrd, MMS, PA-C, has joined the Lurie Cancer Center as the Physician Assistant for the Cancer Survivorship Program, working with Judith Abramson, MD, Medical Director of Cancer Survivorship.
Contact Byrd at 312.695.2487 or 19328 (pager)

Priya Kumthekar, MD, has joined Feinberg as an Instructor of Neurology, and is a neuro-oncologist at the Lurie Cancer Center. Dr. Kumthekar treats patients with brain and spinal cord tumors at the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute.
Contact Dr. Kumthekar at 312.908.8266 or p-kumthekar@northwestern.edu

Nikki Nebauer, MD, has joined Feinberg as an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and is a gynecologist oncologist at the Lurie Cancer Center. Dr. Neubauer is also the Director of the Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery Program for Gynecologic Oncology.

Dr. Neubauer is seeing patients in the Maggie Daley Center for Women’s Cancer Care, offering women with gynecologic cancers a comprehensive approach to their care including radical surgery, minimally invasive/robotic procedures, chemotherapy treatment including participation in clinical trials, as well as all aspects of supportive care.

Dr. Neubauer’s research interests include endometrial cancer, gestational trophoblastic disease, minimally invasive surgical techniques and technology, and quality of life of cancer patients. She has authored and co-authored several articles on endometrial cancer, high-risk gestational trophoblastic disease, and ovarian cancer. She has presented research regarding minimally invasive surgery at national conferences and has several publications with this research as well.

Dr. Neubauer graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University and received her MD from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She did her OB GYN residency at Duke University Medical Center, and completed her fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.
Contact Dr. Neubauer at 312.472.3970 or nneubaue@nmff.org

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.