Platanias Appointed Director of Lurie Cancer Center

LEONIDAS PLATANIAS, MD, PhD, has been appointed Director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, a position he has served in interim since January. Platanias joined the Feinberg School of Medicine in 2002, as the Lurie Cancer Center’s first Deputy Director and the Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology.

“Leon has already contributed greatly to the Lurie Cancer Center, through both his leadership and his scientific achievements,” said Eric G. Neilson, MD, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean. “As permanent Director, he will continue in that vein, driving the center’s expansion and maintaining its reputation as a premiere venue for research, clinical care and collaboration.”

Dr. Platanias will oversee both the clinical operations in the Lurie Cancer Center and growing basic science research programs, including programs to translate basic and clinical research into personalized medicine. “I am very excited about the future of the Lurie Cancer Center and of Northwestern Medicine,” said Dr. Platanias. “We are developing programs that bridge basic science and clinical care and will establish Chicago as a global leader in the delivery of personalized cancer treatment. We are extremely fortunate to have the enduring support of remarkable philanthropic partners in all our endeavors, and I am particularly grateful to Ann Lurie whose continuous passionate commitment to the Lurie Cancer Center has a profound impact on cancer research and the clinical care of our patients.”

Dr. Platanias’s molecular biology and biochemistry research, spanning more than 20 years and highlighted in more than 250 published papers, focuses on signaling pathways in cancer cells and developing therapies that target those pathways to treat malignancies. He is well known for his work involving cytokines, which are specific proteins within the blood that have the ability to fight cancer.

“The Lurie Cancer Center has been instrumental in establishing Northwestern Medicine’s recognition as a leading destination for cancer treatments,” said Dean M. Harrison, President and Chief Executive Officer of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare. “We look forward to working with Dr. Platanias in his new leadership role and continuing to advance Northwestern Medicine’s reputation for innovation and excellence in cancer care.”

Among his many career honors, Dr. Platanias received the Seymour & Vivian Milstein Award for Excellence in Interferon and Cytokine Research in 2013. A member of various scientific societies, Dr. Platanias served as President of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research in 2010-2011. He currently serves on the board of directors of the International Cytokine Society.

Continued on Page 3
New Leadership Appointments to Advance Research, Collaboration and Clinical Care at the Lurie Cancer Center

Lurie Cancer Center Director, Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, has named Francis Giles, MB, MD, FRCIP, FRCPath, as Deputy Director and Milan Mrksich, PhD, as Associate Director for Research Technology and Infrastructure.

**AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR,** Giles will report to Dr. Platanias and oversee Northwestern Medicine’s clinical research cancer programs and developmental therapeutics initiatives. Giles previously served as the Lurie Cancer Center’s Associate Director for Translational Research and Developmental Therapeutics, and has been Director of the Northwestern Medicine Developmental Therapeutics Institute since 2013.

Giles is a global leader in the field of developmental therapeutics with a specific emphasis on personalized therapies for patients with cancer, an approach that utilizes advanced molecular technologies to match patients with targeted treatments that optimize chances for response.

"Frank has already made major contributions to the Lurie Cancer Center," said Platanias. "He brings exceptional expertise and experience in clinical and translational research and has a major interest in education and mentorship of faculty in developmental therapeutics and personalized medicine. He will play a key role in the expansion of our clinical and translational programs and our efforts to establish Northwestern as a global leader in the delivery of personalized cancer care."

"Our Lurie Cancer Center and Northwestern Medicine communities are expanding in a particularly exciting manner," Giles said. "We have ambitious goals for the next few years, and our rapidly evolving translational programs will establish the Lurie Cancer Center as a national and international destination for tailored developmental therapeutics."

**AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR** for Research Technology and Infrastructure, Mrksich will be responsible for oversight of the Lurie Cancer Center’s research shared resource facilities. Currently, 15 shared resource facilities are supported by the Lurie Cancer Center, including the Center for Advanced Microscopy, Medicinal & Synthetic Chemistry Core, Targeted Transgenic & Mutagenesis Laboratory, and the High Throughput Analysis Laboratory.

In this new role, Mrksich will assess existing needs and priorities, and facilitate the development of new shared facilities to support the research initiatives of Lurie Cancer Center investigators. In addition, he will provide leadership for the development of innovative research tools and technologies.

"Milan is a highly distinguished scientist and will play a key role in the expansion and strengthening of the Lurie Cancer Center’s research capabilities," said Platanias. "I am delighted that he has joined our Senior Leadership."

"I am very pleased to join the Lurie Cancer Center’s leadership team," said Mrksich, the Henry Wade Rogers Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry and Cell and Molecular Biology, with appointments in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and Feinberg School of Medicine. "The Lurie Cancer Center has always been a leader in bringing new technologies to advance the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and I’m excited to bring tomorrow’s technologies to our community of researchers and clinicians."

» Read more
Screening for Psychosocial Distress to Launch December 1

ON DECEMBER 1, the Lurie Cancer Center’s two outpatient clinics—on the 21st floor of Galter Pavilion and on the fourth floor of Prentice in the Maggie Daley Center for Women’s Cancer Care—will implement an electronic patient-reported outcome (ePRO) system using the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) for precise, valid measurement of common cancer-related symptoms. Electronic health record (EHR) integration will notify the health care team and triage for identified problems, informing “real-time” delivery of supportive oncology services and treatment.

Unrecognized and neglected symptoms related to cancer and its treatment are missed opportunities to improve our patients’ quality of life. Many patients are reluctant to discuss physical and emotional concerns unless they’re asked, and some clinicians assume that patients will initiate the conversation.

A team led by Lynne Wagner, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Social Sciences at Feinberg and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center, developed and pilot-tested patient-reported symptom assessments into gynecologic oncology clinics at the Maggie Daley Center for Women’s Cancer Care. A total of 636 outpatients completed PROMIS evaluations of fatigue, pain, physical function, depression and anxiety prior to clinic visits using EPIC MyChart, the EHR patient communication portal, or in clinic using an iPad. Checklists identified psychosocial concerns, as well as informational and nutritional needs.

The Lurie Cancer Center supports the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC) mandate which requires routine distress screening for patients at all CoC-accredited cancer centers by January, 2015. Following the Lurie Cancer Center’s expansion of the pilot program, the symptom assessments will be introduced at all Northwestern Medical Group oncology clinics in future months.

“Advances in health information technology can dramatically improve our ability to rapidly assess and triage patients, ultimately improving our ability to provide personalized psychosocial and clinical care,” said Wagner.

Agulnik Named Director, Clinical Research Office

MARK AGULNIK, MD, has been appointed Director of Lurie Cancer Center’s Clinical Research Office (CRO). A leader in the field of medical oncology with a focus on sarcomas, head and neck cancers, and endocrine cancers, Agulnik is an Associate Professor in Medicine and Director of the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program at the Feinberg School of Medicine. He serves on NCCN and ECOG committees and panels focused on sarcomas, head and neck cancers, and rare tumors, and has been a recipient of several awards, including awards from ASCO and ESMO.

“We would like to thank Timothy Kuzel, MD, for his outstanding service and leadership in this role for over 15 years,” said Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center. Kuzel will assume additional new responsibilities in the Lurie Cancer Center’s expanding cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, genitourinary malignancy, melanoma, and immune modulatory programs.

Platanias Appointed Director (Continued from Page 1)

He is currently an associate editor of Leukemia and Lymphoma and the Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research and he sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Biological Chemistry. He has been a chair or member of many review committees at the NIH, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America.

Dr. Platanias’s research is funded by four R01 grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and a Merit Review grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is also the principal investigator of a NCI T32 training grant in signal transduction and cancer and of the American Cancer Society Institutional Review Grant, which provides funding for junior investigators at Feinberg.

"I am very pleased that Leon was selected to carry forward the strong traditions of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center as its new director," said Ann Lurie, President of Lurie Holdings, Inc. "I am sure he is the right leader for these exciting times. He will be an exceptional advocate for the serious work ahead to find more enduring cures for cancer."
Woodruff Building Tissue Chip Model of Female Reproductive System for Safer Drug Screening

FEINBERG HAS RECEIVED a grant to build a microphysiologic platform to predict drug safety and effectiveness in humans better than current in vitro and animal models. The work is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Tissue Chip for Drug Screening initiative.

Lurie Cancer Center member, Teresa Woodruff, PhD, Thomas J. Watkins Memorial Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and colleagues developed tissue chips – miniature models of living organ tissue on transparent microchips – to imitate the function and structure of the female reproductive tract’s five organs: the ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus, cervix and vagina.

“We are very excited by our progress during the first two years of funding. We’ve established 3-D cultures of female reproductive tissues that respond physiologically to female sex steroids, estrogen and progesterone,” said Woodruff. “Importantly, we add them in a pattern that mimics the human menstrual cycle over 28 days. Our culture models allow us to assess changes across the cycle and in the presence of potentially disruptive compounds, such as chemotherapy and environmental toxins.”

Currently, about 80 percent of drugs fail in human clinical trials: Animal models do not always predict human response accurately, nor do isolated cell models that lack the typical complexities of human physiology. Those complexities can vary by sex. Woodruff’s efforts to include sex-specific biology in the tissue chip project could help correct the frequent exclusion of females from clinical trials and basic science research. In drug development, this omission can lead to undetected adverse effects for female patients.

» Read more

Drug Discovery 100 Times Faster

MILAN MRKSICh, PhD, Professor in Cell and Molecular Biology at Feinberg, has created a tool and a startup company to measure enzyme reactions 100 times faster than a big pharmaceutical company can, let alone a few scientists in a lab.

SAMDI, which stands for self-assembled monolayers desorption ionization, can assess the biochemical activities of 100,000 compounds a day to see how thousands of proteins interact to make a cell function. With SAMDI, scientists can screen enzyme interactions to develop drugs, and study how proteins function in organs to pinpoint disease risk. In a nutshell, the tool makes it possible to test unlimited biological reactions quickly and cheaply.

An expert in nanotechnology and materials science, Mrksich is also an entrepreneur with a technology company that runs tests using the SAMDI platform. “We are now able to grow a cell culture, generate a lysate from those cultures and test the lysate for a broad range of enzyme activities. By comparing the patterns of activities in normal and diseased cells, we get clues as to what may drive disease and, in turn, what targets may be suitable for developing drugs against the disease,” he said.

Mrksich, the Lurie Cancer Center’s Associate Director for Research Technology and Infrastructure, spends about a third of his time on the Chicago campus, much of it collaborating with other Feinberg scientists. “By having a lab downtown, my group can take our recent tools and apply them to exciting medical problems,” said Mrksich. “These are problems where an advance can translate into a huge impact for a patient population.”

» Read more
New Insights for Therapeutic Intervention

THE RECENT DISCOVERY of the re-expression of Nodal, an embryonic growth factor that governs the growth, pattern and position of tissues, in several aggressive and metastatic cancers has highlighted its critical role in self-renewal and maintenance of the stem cell-like characteristics of tumor cells such as melanoma. However, the signaling pathway receptors utilized by melanoma cells to propagate Nodal’s effect remain mostly anecdotal and unexplored.

The laboratory of Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD, President and Director of the Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute, made the novel discovery that embryonic stem cells and metastatic melanoma cells share a similar repertoire of receptors known as Type I serine/threonine kinase(s), but diverge in their Type II receptor expression. Further testing indicated that metastatic melanoma cells and embryonic stem cells use different receptors for Nodal signal transduction. These findings reveal the divergence in Nodal signaling between embryonic stem cells and metastatic melanoma that can impact new therapeutic strategies targeting the re-emergence of embryonic pathways in cancer.

“Nodal-expressing tumor cells don’t respond favorably to conventional therapies, supporting the premise that a combinatorial approach to targeting Nodal subpopulations within tumors, along with a front-line therapy, would constitute a more rational approach for treating aggressive cancer,” said Hendrix, the William G. Swartchild, Jr. Distinguished Research Professor at the Lurie Cancer Center.

» Read more

Lurie Cancer Center and Northwestern Medicine Developmental Therapeutics Institute Enter Into a Strategic Alliance with Perthera

THE LURIE CANCER CENTER and Northwestern Medicine Developmental Therapeutics Institute (NMDTI) have entered into a strategic alliance with Perthera, Inc., a precision cancer therapy firm, to conduct a translational research program designed to assess the utility of integration of next generation sequencing (NGS), proteomic, and phospho-proteomic data in oncology developmental therapeutics and clinical practice.

The Lurie Cancer Center and NMDTI will work with Perthera on clinical protocols that incorporate Perthera’s approaches and methodologies to cancer protocol treatment and will assess the impact on overall disease management and patient outcomes.

“Our alliance with Perthera is a key component of the Lurie Cancer Center’s focus as a pioneering institution in the application of personalized medicine at both the individual patient and the research protocol levels,” stated Leonidas C. Platanias, MD, PhD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center.

“Our rapidly expanding programs offer increasing opportunities to tailor cancer treatment to the specific genetic abnormalities and their consequences that drive human malignancies. The rapid identification of cancer drivers and the attendant continuous expansion of our pipeline of cognate therapies that are directed at these targets is a major focus within our institutes,” said Francis J. Giles, MD, the Lurie Cancer Center’s Deputy Director and Director of the NMDTI.

Perthera provides advanced molecular diagnostic testing, profiling and analysis services to create a detailed, actionable analysis of a patient’s unique cancer. By pairing proteomics with targeted genomic analysis in the context of patient history, Perthera bridges the gap between molecular testing and patient therapy to help oncologists identify personalized treatment options for each individual patient.

» Read more

Lurie Cancer Center Name and Logo Usage

When referring to the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University in print or media, please use the full name on first reference. Second and subsequent references should be to the Lurie Cancer Center.

For questions regarding usage of the Lurie Cancer Center name, logo and co-branding, please contact:

Sharon Markman
s-markman@northwestern.edu or 312.695.1305
Prostate Cancer SPORE Specimens/Data Requests

The SPORE in Prostate Cancer (PI: William Catalona, MD, P50 CA090386) is currently in a no-cost extension; a renewal application is pending at the NCI.

The Prostate SPORE repository has more than 50,000 specimen aliquots from more than 4,500 consented patients with prostate cancer treated at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and NorthShore University Health System. In addition to frozen tissue on nearly 3,500 patients, the repository has blood (serum, plasma, peripheral blood mononuclear cells, and blood spots) and urine samples.

Sample accrual has been expanded to include not only patients undergoing surgery, but also non-surgical patients with advanced disease who are undergoing radiotherapy or chemotherapy, thus spanning the spectrum of disease. Corresponding formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue is available on each prostatectomy case, and biopsies are available in most cases as well. More than 50 tissue microarrays have been generated and are available to interested investigators for research studies. Detailed clinical and pathologic data associated with each specimen is uploaded by data coordinators into the SPORE database sample management systems with appropriate protection of patient confidentiality.

» Details and online specimens / data requests

Faculty Wins Grant to Develop Sensors That Prevent Smoking Relapse and Overeating

THE FEINBERG SCHOOL of Medicine has been awarded a grant to develop wearable health sensors as part of a new National Institutes of Health (NIH) Big Data initiative. The National Center of Excellence for Mobile Sensor Data-to-Knowledge (MD2K), comprised of scientists from 12 institutions, aims to build tools that make it easier to gather, analyze and interpret health data generated by mobile and wearable sensors.

Bonnie Spring, PhD, Co-Leader of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer Prevention Program, will lead the MD2K team at Feinberg, studying Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions to help patients quit smoking and eat healthier.

"By having the ex-smoker wear an array of sensors on a wristband and a chest band, we can mine the data to learn the patterns of movement and physiology that show when the person is smoking," said Spring. "At this moment we can tell with very high accuracy from the wristband alone when the person is smoking. But we want to add more sensors that can reliably identify the 5 to 10 minutes before someone lights up."

» Read more

Signal Transduction and Molecular Regulation Journal Club

November 7, 21 and December 5, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Pancoe Pavilion Pavilion, 4103
2200 Campus Drive
Evanston Campus

Breakfast provided

Sponsored by Signal Transduction in Cancer (STIC)

Contact: RollMandhana2015@u.northwestern.edu
Awards & Honors

David Cella, PhD, Chair of Medical Social Sciences and Director of the Center for Patient-Centered Outcomes at Feinberg, received the John Ware and Alvin Tarlov Career Achievement Prize in October at the International Society of Quality of Health Care Conference in Rio de Janeiro. The award, given by the Health Assessment Lab/Medical Outcomes Trust, honors Cella as a leader in the development, promotion and education of patient-reported outcome measures.

Throughout his 30-year career, Cella has focused his scientific work on the vision that understanding the patient’s perspective optimizes health and health care. By gathering and assessing information about patients’ symptoms from the patients themselves, clinicians and researchers can improve quality of life for people affected by chronic illness.

“I am deeply moved to receive this award, especially because it comes from peers I admire and respect. Together, we share the goal of putting the patient’s voice squarely into the middle of what we do in health care,” said Cella, who is Associate Director for Prevention and Control Research at the Lurie Cancer Center.

Mark Hersam, PhD, Bette and Neison Harris Chair in Teaching Excellence and Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the McCormick School of Engineering has been named a 2014 MacArthur Fellow. A member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Cancer and Physical Sciences Program, Hersam teaches the innovators of tomorrow and works across scientific boundaries to develop novel materials, including nanotubes that may impact cancer diagnostics and therapeutics.

Congratulations! The Lurie Cancer Center’s Outpatient Infusion Center on Galter 21 was Northwestern Medicine’s “Excellence in Process Improvement” (EPI) winner for Patient Satisfaction and Timely Care, demonstrating a 30% increase in patients roomed within 15 minutes of their appointment time, and a 91% reduction in patients waiting more than 60 minutes.

Compassionate Care Award Nominations

Lurie Cancer Center Director, Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, is soliciting nominations for the 2015 Nora Cooney Marra Compassionate Care Awards. In 1991, in conjunction with a generous gift from The Woman’s Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, an endowment was established for the annual awards. One award will be presented recognizing the efforts of exemplary cancer-care providers in each of the following categories:

- Attending Staff
- House officers and Fellows
- Nursing and Allie dHealth Professionals

Please submit a letter of nomination outlining the qualifications of the candidate by Friday, November 21, 2014. Please be brief, but include specific details and descriptions regarding the efforts of the nominee. In addition, please include your thoughts on how the nominee is perceived within their discipline and the multidisciplinary team in which they work. In addition to a plaque recognizing their efforts, each recipient will receive a $1,000 cash award.

“I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize the efforts of exceptional care givers and reinforce the importance we all need to place on truly humanistic, patient-focused care,” said Platanias.

Submit your nomination to:
Marleana Cross
Administrator, Woman’s Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital
mcross@nm.org or 312.926.9127

Read more

Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center and the Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology at Feinberg, was honored as the 2014 Most Distinguished Greek-American in the Field of Medicine at the United Hellenic Voters of America (UHVA) 40th Annual Dinner and Awards event in October. Platanias was recognized for his achievements in cancer biology research and his “contributions in medical science resulting in significant advancements toward the treatment of cancer.”
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. Below is a list of programs scheduled through December 2014.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT cancer.northwestern.edu or call 312.695.1390

**Cancer Connections**

**Saturday, November 8, 2014**  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Feinberg Pavilion

Offered quarterly, this series of public education programs introduces patients, caregivers and health care professionals to tools and strategies for improving health and quality of life before, during and after cancer treatment.

**T-Cell Lymphoma Patient Education Forum**

**December 10, 2014**  
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center

Lurie Cancer Center experts Joan Guitart, MD, Timothy Kuzel, MD, Maria Estela Martinez-Escala, MD, and Adam Petrich, MD will discuss T-cell lymphoma therapies and clinical trials, and at this free program for patients and caregivers.

**Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation 5K**

**Saturday, November 8, 2014**  
Diversey Harbor

Join the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation for their first annual 5K run and walk! All proceeds will support breast cancer research and educational programs at the Lurie Cancer Center and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

**CHILL with the Lynn Sage Foundation An International Wine & Culinary Event**

**Thursday, November 13, 2014**  
The Merchandise Mart

Enjoy a selection of wines from around the globe paired with cuisine from 40 distinguished chefs at this event benefiting the Lynn Sage Foundation and their support of the Lynn Sage Scholars Program.
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, the Lurie Cancer Center offers professional education on various cancer related topics. Below is a list of programs scheduled through December 2014.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT cancer.northwestern.edu or call 312.695.1391

Cancer Connections
What’s Next: Life after Treatment
November 8, 2014
Feinberg Pavilion, Conference Room A
Speaker: Shaina Rozell, MD, MPH
Northwestern Medicine

Empowering Communities: The Importance of Cancer Support & Long Term Survivorship
November 8, 2014
Chicago State University
Cordell Reed Student Union
1901 S. King Dr., Chicago

Nano Boot Camp for Clinicians
November 12, 2014
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium

November 17, 2014
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium
Speaker: Michael Seiler, PhD
Taconic Biosciences, Inc.

Center for Molecular Innovation & Drug Discovery
Early Stage Drug Discovery Workshop
November 18, 2014
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Searle

Compass 3D Patient Anatomy-Based Dose Verification in IMRT and VMAT
Chair: V. Sathiaseelan, PhD
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine
November 29, 2014
Galter Pavilion, LC-178

17th Annual Oncology Nursing Conference Survivorship:
From Diagnosis and Beyond
November 21 and 22, 2014
Feinberg Pavilion, Conference Rooms A-D

*CEU and SW CEUs available
Chairs: Mary Callaghan, MN, RN, AOCNS, APN
Gayle Homberg, MSN, RN, AOCNS, ACNS-BC
Kristin Smith, BS

Keynote Presentation:
What Happens Now?
The Re-Entry Phase for Cancer Survivors
Nancy Jo Bush, MN, RN, MA, AOCN
UCLA School of Nursing

This conference will bring oncology nurses and social workers together to discuss advances in cancer care and survivorship. Topics include psychosocial distress, cultural sensitivity, pain and palliative care, and mindfulness-based practices. View the conference agenda at cancer.northwestern.edu/nursing

Weekly Lectures
GRAND ROUNDS
Wednesdays: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m
Sponsored by the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Feinberg School of Medicine and the Lurie Cancer Center. This activity has been approved for 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™

» Schedule at cancer.northwestern.edu/grandrounds

TUMOR CELL BIOLOGY SEMINARS
Thursdays: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

» Schedule at cancer.northwestern.edu/tcb

To receive weekly reminders about Grand Rounds or TCB Seminars please contact Denise Marshall at d-marshall4@northwestern.edu.
Funding Opportunities

Travel Grants

Travel Fellowship Awards

The Katten Muchin Rosenman Travel Scholarship Program allows doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to present the results of their basic cancer research.

The Center for Genetic Medicine Travel Fellowship allows doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to present the results of their basic cancer research showing its genetics relevance.

The Cancer Prevention Travel Scholarship Program allows doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to present the results of their laboratory, clinical, population or behavioral research with implications for cancer prevention.

The next available deadline to apply for 2014 Travel Fellowship Awards is November 7, 2014. The following deadline is March 6, 2015.

» Details and application here

Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium Oncology Trial Concepts

The Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium (BTCRC) is actively seeking concepts for highly translational oncology trials that leverage the scientific and clinical expertise of Big Ten universities. The BTCRC is setting the goal to receive at least one new concept from each institution during 2014.

Once submitted, concepts will be discussed through a clinical trial working group mechanism. These disease-specific working groups are another way to increase collaboration across the BTCRC institutions and provide an opportunity for senior investigators to mentor junior investigators throughout the development of these translational trials.

» Details & application here

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.

» Details and application here

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.

» Details and application here
Welcome New Members and Staff

Lurie Cancer Center Appoints New Members

**Alan Hauser, MD, PhD.** is a Professor of Microbiology-Immunology at Feinberg. His research is focused on three bacterial pathogens that are particular problems for neutropenic cancer patients: Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter baumannii, and Klebsiella pneumoniae. Other interests are the use of genomic approaches for the identification of novel virulence determinants and the development of novel translational approaches to treat bacterial infections.

Contact Dr. Hauser at ahauser@northwestern.edu or 312.503.1044

**William Karpus, PhD.** is a Professor of Pathology and Microbiology-Immunology at Feinberg. His laboratory studies the cellular and molecular mechanisms of immunopathogenesis of T cell-mediated central nervous system (CNS) demyelinating diseases, the chemokine regulation of cell migration and host responses to mucosal bacterial infection, and the role of chemokines in the migration of B cell lymphoma.

Contact Dr. Karpus at w-karpus@northwestern.edu or 312.503.1005

**Siobhan Phillips, PhD, MPH.** is an Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine at Feinberg. Her research interests include understanding the biopsychosocial mechanisms underlying the relationship between physical activity, health and disease outcomes in cancer survivors; identifying the determinants of physical activity behavior change and maintenance; the intersection of cancer, aging, and multiple chronic conditions; the role of physical activity in the primary and secondary prevention of cancer, and the translation of research in these areas to practice using technology and innovative study designs and methods.

Contact Dr. Phillips at smphillips@northwestern.edu or 312.503.4235

**Ali Shilatifard, PhD.** is a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at Feinberg, known for his fundamental work in molecular epigenetics. After discovering the function of ELL early in his career, Shilatifard focused his lab’s research on understanding the molecular properties of the protein and its partner, the MLL gene. This research has been a springboard for a large body of work, including the identification of a gene called SET1 within its complex, which Shilatifard named COMPASS, and many additional studies involving chromatin biochemistry and transcription. Currently, Shilatifard is the principal investigator of three R01 grants funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Contact Dr. Shilatifard at ash@northwestern.edu or 312.503.6061

**Ronen Sumagin, PhD.** is an Assistant Professor of Pathology at Feinberg. His research focus includes the contribution of immune cells, particularly neutrophils (PMNs) to tumorigenesis under conditions of acute or chronic inflammation. Dr. Sumagin’s long-term goal is to better understand the mechanisms that regulate leukocyte trafficking, and define the consequent effects of PMN migration and accumulation in tissue on endothelial and epithelial function. This will aid in design of new and improved therapies to improve resolution of inflammation and alleviate the associated risks of cancer and tumor metastasis.

Contact Dr. Sumagin at ronen.sumagen@northwestern.edu or 312.503.4468

**Xiao-Di Tan, MD.** is a Research Professor of Pediatrics in Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Feinberg. His primary research focus is on inflammation, tissue injury and repair, and cell differentiation. Dr. Tan’s laboratory recently initiated a project to explore the role of inflammation in carcinogenesis in the colon and liver.

Contact Dr. Tan at xtan@northwestern.edu or 773.755.6380

New Staff

**Tarnesha Amos** has joined the Lurie Cancer Center as a Patient Services Representative. Most recently, Tarnesha helped patients with the coordination of their care as a Patient Services Associate at the Family Christian Health Center. She has extensive experience in electronic medical record systems, and was instrumental in managing the implementation of the first electronic system in her previous clinic.

Contact Tarnesha Amos at tamos2@nmh.org or 312-695-0636
Share the Holiday Spirit!

The Lurie Cancer Center is collecting NEW, unwrapped toys for patients from the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago treated in our Radiation Oncology Center at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Boxes are available for drop off through January 9, 2015 at the locations below:

• Galter, 21st floor near staff elevator
• Prentice, 15th floor in staff lounge
• Prentice, 4th floor
• 676 N. St. Clair, suite 1200
• Lurie Medical Research Center, 3rd floor

Thank you and happy holidays!

what’s new

Lurie Cancer Center
Office of Public Affairs and Communications
676 N. St. Clair
Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60611
312.695.1304

Director
Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD

Director,
Public Affairs and Communications
Sharon Markman

Interim Associate Director, Administration
Aleksander Zafirovski, MBA

Managing Editor
Jennifer Bowker

Designer
Victoria Spah

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 two weeks in advance. Submit suggestions to Denise Marshall at d-marshall4@northwestern.edu.