Cancer Survivors’ Celebration Walk & 5K - May 31

REGISTRATION IS open for the Lurie Cancer Center’s 22nd Annual Cancer Survivors’ Celebration Walk & 5K! Please join your colleagues, friends, and the cancer survivors and families who inspire us each day for a meaningful morning filled with entertainment, a picnic, t-shirts, and activities for the family.

The progress we are making in understanding and treating cancer is made possible by our combined efforts, and we are grateful for your help. This year’s event offers an opportunity to raise funds in support of our mission. You can create a personalized, online fundraising page on the event site at cancer.northwestern.edu/walk

It’s easy to sign up and join a team or start one of your own. Please consider asking others to join you in Grant Park on Sunday, May 31. Fundraising is voluntary and no minimum is required. We’re looking forward to celebrating with you!

New Location for NMDTI

NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE Developmental Therapeutics Institute has moved to a new location on the first floor of Olson Pavilion, 233 East Superior.

Find out more about their team of experts dedicated to providing state-of-the-art cancer care and support at dti.nm.org.
Zafirovski Named Associate Director for Administration

ALEKSANDER ZAFIROVSKI, MBA, has been named Executive Administrative Director and Associate Director for Administration for the Lurie Cancer Center. He has served as Interim Associate Director since 2014.

The Lurie Cancer Center’s Associate Director for Administration is responsible for overall administrative operations including finance and accounting, purchasing, human resources, information systems, plant operations, research safety and security, public affairs and communications, and office support systems, as well as oversight of development programs and affiliated organization relations. He is a full member of the Senior Leadership, and via membership on the Executive Committee and Leadership Group, is a key contributor to setting strategic direction, policy and priorities for the Lurie Cancer Center.

Zafirovski has previously been instrumental in driving the efforts that led to the successful launch and continuing expansion of the Northwestern Medicine Developmental Therapeutics Institute (NMDTI) in the Lurie Cancer Center. “Alex’s extensive experience and background make him an ideal match to help enhance and integrate our research, education, training and clinical efforts during this exciting time of growth,” said Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center.

Since joining Northwestern in 2001, Zafirovski has also served as Administrative Director of the School of Radiation Therapy and Director of Oncology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. His areas of responsibility were consistently rated among the highest in terms of employee engagement and patient satisfaction. He received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame. A recognized leader in oncology administration, Zafirovski is active in local, regional and national professional societies, and has given numerous related lectures.

Read more »

Shahabi to Lead Division of Gynecologic Oncology

SHOHREH SHAHABI, MD, will join the Feinberg School of Medicine as Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, effective May 2015. She will also assume a leadership role as a member of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Executive Committee and the Clinical Cancer Center’s Executive Council.

Dr. Shahabi, a noted surgeon, researcher, teacher and author, currently serves as System Chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Western Connecticut Health Network’s Danbury and New Milford Hospitals, Chair of the Reproductive Tumor Biology Research Laboratory at Danbury Hospital Biomedical Research Institute, and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Vermont School of Medicine. “I truly enjoy the partnership I share with my patients, and engage them in a multidisciplinary team-treatment approach,” stated Dr. Shahabi.

“Dr. Shahabi is an outstanding leader in gynecologic oncology, who puts her patients first. She is at the forefront of medical and surgical advances in her field, runs innovative clinical research programs and is instrumental in sharing her knowledge and experience with her residents and fellows who will be our future physician leaders,” said Serdar Bulun, MD, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Feinberg. “Her expertise provides an opportunity to broaden the scope of patient care by putting research findings into clinical practice for personalized therapies.”

Dr. Shahabi will replace John Lurain, MD, the Marcia Stenn Professor of Gynecologic Oncology, who has served as Interim Division Chief. “I’m excited to welcome Dr. Shahabi to Northwestern. She is a leader in the field of gynecologic oncology, and will play a key role in our continued growth and expansion,” said Lurie Cancer Center Director, Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD. “I would also like to sincerely thank Dr. Lurain for his interim leadership and his extensive contributions to the Lurie Cancer Center.”

Read more »
Childhood Cancer Survivors Face Chronic Health Problems

THE NUMBER OF childhood cancer survivors in the U.S. has increased, but the majority of those who have survived five or more years after diagnosis face chronic health problems related to their treatment, according to a new Northwestern Medicine study in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The study is the first to estimate the prevalence of treatment-related chronic disease among survivors of childhood cancer at a national level. It found there are nearly 400,000 childhood cancer survivors in the U.S. as of 2011, up 60,000 from 2005.

“We’ve been able to increase the number of survivors of pediatric cancer, but simply curing their disease isn’t enough,” said lead author Siobhan M. Phillips, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center. “We need a more coordinated approach to their care to help prevent or delay some of these chronic health problems that affect the quality of their lives. We want them to thrive, not simply survive.”

About 70 percent of the survivors of childhood cancers were estimated to have a mild or moderate chronic condition, and about 32 percent were estimated to have a severe, disabling, or life-threatening chronic condition. An estimated 35 percent of the survivors, ages 20 to 49, had neurocognitive dysfunction; about 13 to 17 percent of those in this age group had self-reported functional impairment, activity limitations, impaired mental health, pain or anxiety/fear.

Childhood cancer survivors should have health care providers who are knowledgeable about their increased risk of chronic health problems, Phillips said. Northwestern’s Lurie Cancer Center has a comprehensive long-term follow-up program for adult survivors of pediatric cancer. The STAR Program follows survivors through adulthood focusing on their special medical and psychological needs.

Ovary Transplantation Shows Promise for Restoring Fertility

NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE scientists have created and transplanted an artificial ovarian system that induced puberty in mouse models. The study, published recently in Biomaterials, demonstrates a first step toward a new approach to improving fertility in childhood cancer survivors.

“We started this project because there is a lack of options for preserving or restoring fertility in cancer patients, especially those who had childhood cancer,” said first author Monica Laronda, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Lurie Cancer Center member, Teresa Woodruff, PhD, Thomas J. Watkins Memorial Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the study’s senior author.

One experimental option for maintaining fertility involves removing a portion of the ovaries before cancer treatment and then transplanting the preserved tissue back into the patient’s remaining ovarian tissue after treatment. This strategy has led to success – 27 live births – but there is a risk that transplanting a patient’s original tissue could reintroduce cancer cells. Indeed, in this study Laronda and colleagues found that preserved ovarian tissue from three out of four patients with leukemia contained malignant cells.

“We knew that transplantation was a promising possibility, but we didn’t want to use the patient’s own tissue,” Laronda said. “So we looked into regenerative medicine technologies being used in other systems, which led us to decellularization.”
First IDP Foundation Research Innovation Challenge Award Recipients Announced

THE LURIE CANCER CENTER is pleased to announce the first recipients of the 2015 IDP Foundation Research Innovation Challenge Awards. Funded by a generous donation from the IDP Foundation, these awards are intended to allow teams of researchers to collect the preliminary data necessary to apply for large, collaborative NIH grants.

**PROJECT 1:**
“Effect of radiation and DNA alkylator chemotherapy on host immune response to intracranial tumor"

**Principal Investigator:**
Andrew Parsa, MD, PhD, Professor of Neurological Surgery

**Co-Investigators:**
Derek Wainwright, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery
Jeffrey Raizer, MD, Professor of Neurology
C. David James, PhD, Professor of Neurological Surgery

**PROJECT 2:**
“Development of metarrestin as a therapeutic for pancreatic cancer"

**Co-Principal Investigators**
Sui Huang, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology
H.G. Munshi, MD, Associate Professor of Hematology/Oncology

**PROJECT 3:**
“Embryonic renal tumors: a model for epigenetic transcription regulation in early stem cells"

**Principal Investigator:**
Elizabeth Perlman, MD, Professor of Pathology

**Co-Investigators:**
Samantha Gadd, PhD, Research Assistant Professor of Pathology
Jacek Topczewski, PhD, Research Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Vasil Galat, PhD, Research Assistant Professor of Pathology

Read more »

Navigators Help Patients Overcome Healthcare Inequities

TRaversing the healthcare system can be daunting for almost anyone. Add in the many obstacles that low-income uninsured populations face, and it becomes tremendously more difficult. But a new study published in the American Journal of Public Health, shows that guidance from trained navigators can help patients overcome healthcare inequities.

Community navigators worked with uninsured Spanish-speaking women in DuPage County to obtain timely follow-up care after an abnormal breast or cervical cancer screening result. Postponed diagnosis after an abnormal test can lead to less effective treatment and lower chances of survival.

The project is part of an ongoing series of studies focusing on patient navigation and barriers to care across a variety of populations in the Chicagoland area and Illinois. The work is led by Lurie Cancer Center member, Melissa Simon, MD, George H. Gardner, MD, Professor of Clinical Gynecology at Feinberg. “Healthcare reform in the United States has opened the doors for many, but millions remain uninsured. Community navigator programs may have a key role to play in improving the health of the nation’s most vulnerable populations,” said Simon, Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Preventive Medicine and Medical Social Sciences at Feinberg.

During the five-year study, six navigators worked with 477 uninsured women in DuPage County who had received abnormal breast or cervical screens. The navigators helped make appointments, provided interpreter services, referred patients to community services and gave emotional support.

Read more »
Predicting Prostate Cancer

A NORTHWESTERN University-led study in the emerging field of nanocytology could one day help men make better decisions about whether or not to undergo aggressive prostate cancer treatments. Technology developed by Northwestern researchers may allow physicians to identify which nascent cancers are likely to escalate into potentially life-threatening malignancies, and which ones will remain “indolent,” or non-aggressive.

The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test was once the recommended screening tool for detecting prostate cancer, but there is now disagreement over the use of this test because it can’t predict which men with elevated PSA levels will actually develop an aggressive form of the disease.

“If we can predict a prognosis with our technology, then men will know if their cancer is dangerous and if they should seek treatment,” said Lurie Cancer Center member, Vadim Backman, PhD, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at McCormick and senior author of the study published online in PLOS ONE. “Right now there is no perfect tool to predict a prognosis for prostate cancer. Our research is preliminary, but it is promising and proves that the concept works.”

Read more »

Targeting Growth Factor Improves Skin Cancer Therapies

THROUGH PREVIOUS research, Lurie Cancer Center member, Mary Hendrix, PhD, president and scientific director of the Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute, and her laboratory showed that a growth factor protein called Nodal is critical not only for the development of human embryos, but also for the development of metastatic melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

Now, in new a study published in Molecular Cancer Research, Hendrix’s lab has found that standard treatments for metastatic melanoma are not effective against Nodal. The study also showed that combination therapies incorporating anti-Nodal antibodies are a promising alternative.

At any time, 20 to 30 percent of melanoma tumor cells express Nodal, according to Hendrix. Their power to increase cell proliferation can even spread to nearby cells that don’t produce the growth factor. If Hendrix and colleagues can develop an anti-Nodal antibody that works in humans, the combination treatment could lead to better outcomes for patients with metastatic melanoma, a disease with an overall median survival of only six to nine months. “Nodal is still a relatively new observation – made right here at Northwestern University,” said Hendrix. “But it’s a very powerful growth factor that represents a promising cancer stem cell target.”

Read more »

New QOPI Certification for Quality Cancer Care

The Northwestern Medicine® Division of Hematology/Oncology has received a new three-year certification from the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI®) Certification Program, an affiliate of ASCO. QOPI certification is only given to outpatient hematology-oncology practices that meet the highest standards for quality.

The QOPI certification is achieved by practices that undergo a voluntary, comprehensive on-site and documentation assessment using evidence-based quality care standards. The evaluation verifies that practices meet core standards that are consistent with national guidelines for treatment.

“Our physicians share a strong commitment to providing high quality care for all our cancer patients,” said James F. Brandman MD, Medical Director of the Northwestern Medicine Cancer Quality Practice and Ambulatory Medical Director of the Lurie Cancer Center’s outpatient Clinical Cancer Center on the 21st floor of Galter Pavilion. “Our continued certification through QOPI is a clear demonstration of our continuing commitment to that goal.”

Read more »
Awards & Honors

David Bentrem, MD, the Harold L. and Margaret N. Method Research Professor in Surgery, has been appointed Chief of Surgical Service at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center.

Noshir Contractor, PhD, Jane S. & William J. White Professor of Behavioral Sciences at McCormick, received a 2014 National Communication Association (NCA) Distinguished Scholar Award. The award is given annually to recognize and reward NCA members for a lifetime of scholarly achievement in the study of human communication.

Jason Fangusaro, MD, Associate Professor in Hematology/Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation at Feinberg, has been appointed Section Head of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago.

David Gius, MD, PhD, Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology and Interim Co-Leader of the Women’s Cancer Research Program at the Lurie Cancer Center, has been named Vice Chair for Translational Research in Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine’s Department of Radiation Oncology.

Stewart Goldman, MD, has been appointed Division Head for Hematology, Oncology, and Stem Cell Transplantation at Lurie Children’s, where he also serves as Medical Director of Neuro-Oncology and Co-Director of the Falk Brain Tumor Center.

Robert Lewandowski, MD, Associate Professor of Radiology, served as Chair for both the Scientific Program and the Interventional Oncology Service Line at the Society of Interventional Radiology’s Annual Meeting in February.

June McKoy, MD, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, was selected as a 2015 Impact Center Fellow by the Women’s Executive Leadership Program Selection Committee. The year-long program is designed to accelerate leadership development for women executives during pivotal times in their career and to provide support during critical career transitions.

Melissa Simon, MD, MPH, was invested as the George H. Gardner, MD, Professor of Clinical Gynecology. Simon is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Preventive Medicine, and Medical Social Sciences, as well as the Vice Chair of Clinical Research in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Feinberg. She is also Co-Leader of the Cancer Control and Survivorship Program at the Lurie Cancer Center.

Read more »

Shaan Trotter, MSC, Administrative Director of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Office of Equity and Minority Health (OEMH), received a Public Health Champion Award from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The award honors remarkable individuals as a way to thank them for improving the health of the public and to celebrate the achievements of African Americans throughout Illinois.

Athanasios Vasilopoulos, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology, has been named the 2015 Lynn Sage Foundation Scholar.
Awards & Honors

2014 Lurie Cancer Center Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2014 Lurie Cancer Center Awards, who celebrated with colleagues at an awards ceremony and reception for faculty and staff.

Vicki Maurer Clinical Cancer Center Nursing Award

In recognition of nursing excellence, compassion and teamwork
Margo Klein, RN, BSN, Nurse Clinician, Department of Medicine, Division of Surgical/Oncology
Margaret Schwartz, MSN, APN-C, CNRN, Clinical Nurse Practitioner, Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute, Division of Neuro/Oncology

JoAnn Jones Support Staff Award

In recognition of outstanding patient service and performance excellence
Nikicia Trimuel, Patient Procedure Scheduler, Maggie Daley Center for Women’s Cancer Care

Medical Professional Award

In recognition of exceptional patient care by a clinical professional for their dedication, commitment and overall care of patients
Mariam Eldeib, MSW, LCSW, Coordinator of Supportive Oncology Education
Gerri Lucy Shipley-Sims, CMA, Medical Assistant, Maggie Daley Center for Women’s Cancer Care

“These awards allow us to honor our incredible team for their dedication to the Lurie Cancer Center and the patients we serve,” said Lurie Cancer Center Director, Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD.

Agulnik, Hamilton and Moreira Receive Compassionate Care Awards

The Woman’s Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital established the Compassionate Care Awards in 1991. Newly designated in 2014 as the Nora Cooney Marra Compassionate Care Awards, the awards recognize a physician on the medical staff, a fellow or medical resident, and a nurse or allied health professional who exemplify and serve as role models for the humanistic and compassionate care of patients at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University.

“We appreciate this opportunity to express our pride and gratitude for the efforts of our outstanding faculty and staff,” said Lurie Cancer Center Director, Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, who presented the awards to:

Mark Agulnik, MD, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Jonathan Moreira, MD, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Elizabeth Hamilton, APN, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology

From left: Leonidas Platanias, Mark Agulnik, Elizabeth Hamilton, Jonathan Moreira and Joan Moore, President of The Woman’s Board
Public Programs

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 June 2015.

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

Gist Day of Learning Chicago

Tuesday, April 14
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium

Speakers: Mark Agulnik, MD; Nisha Mohindra, MD, and Jeffrey Wayne, MD

Cancer Clinical Trials 101 and the Drug Approval Process

Saturday, April 18
US TOO Prostate Cancer Education/Support
2400 S. Finley Rd., Lombard

Speaker: Sara Duffey, Clinical Research and Education Specialist

Personalized Medicine & Recent Developments in Phase I Research

Saturday, May 16
US TOO Prostate Cancer Education/Support
2400 S. Finley Rd., Lombard

Speaker: Benedito Carniero, MD

The Art of Survivorship
An Event for Adolescents and Young Adults

Wednesday, April 8
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

The evening will include refreshments, networking, interactive art displays and a presentation on the role of creative arts in healing. Guests will also hear from other young adult survivors about how the arts impacted their own experiences and view pieces contributed by survivors from across the country in the Oncology on Canvas national competition.

22nd ANNUAL CANCER SURVIVORS’ CELEBRATION WALK & 5K
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015
GRANT PARK
cancer.northwestern.edu/walk
Swinging for a Cure

Saturday, April 18
Midtown Athletic Club, 2020 W Fullerton Ave, Chicago

Enjoy an evening of tennis, food and good company at the Carol Gollob Foundation’s annual charity tennis clinic benefitting breast cancer research at the Lurie Cancer Center.

6th Annual Minds Matter Benefit Dinner

Friday, May 1
The Hilton, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

Join the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute for an evening dedicated to advancing leading-edge research and improved outcomes for patients with brain and spinal tumors. Hosted by television personality, author and performer, Jennifer Weigel, the special evening includes live music and an exciting live auction.

Honky Tonk Woman

Friday, May 8
Gibsons Bar and Steakhouse, 1028 N. Rush St., Chicago

The Northwestern Medicine Lung Cancer Advisory Council is planning a lively evening of camaraderie and celebration. All proceeds will support the Lung Cancer Tissue Bank at the Lurie Cancer Center, an innovative program to develop new lung cancer treatments and therapies.

The H Foundation’s Goombay Bash

Saturday, July 18
Navy Pier Chicago, Grand Ballroom

The H Foundation’s Caribbean-themed party features live music and entertainment, great food, and a live and silent auction. Proceeds benefit basic science investigations at the Lurie Cancer Center.
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, the Lurie Cancer Center offers professional education on various cancer related topics. Below is a list of programs scheduled through June 2015.

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

Energy Balance and Breast Cancer: An Epidemiologic Investigation of Possible Mechanisms
Tuesday, April 7
680 N Lake Shore, 14th Floor, Stamler Conference Room
Speaker: Menghua Tao, MD, PhD, University of North Texas

Prognostic and Predictive Factors in Breast Cancer: The Breast Pathologist’s Perspective
Tuesday, April 7
Prentice Women’s Hospital, Conference Room L
Speaker: K.P. Siziopikou, MD, PhD
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

DICE: A Novel Tumor surveillance Mechanism - a Path to Cancer Therapy?
Monday, April 13
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium
Speaker: Marcus Peter, PhD
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

MALKIN-KRAFT LECTURESHIP
The Miasma of Cancer: How Tumor Ecosystems Kill the Patient
Wednesday, April 14
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium
Speaker: Kenneth Pienta, MD
Johns Hopkins Medicine

2015 STEVE ROSEN LECTURESHIP
The Role of CREB in Myeloid Leukemogenesis and as a Target for AML Therapy
Thursday, April 16
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Searle
Speaker: Kathleen Sakamoto, PhD
Stanford School of Medicine
*In conjunction with Tumor Cell Biology

Chicago Area Radiation Therapists Annual Conference
Saturday, April 25
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center
Speaker: Aleksander Zafirovski, MBA

10th Annual Pain & Palliative Care Conference
Friday, June 5
Prentice Women's Hospital, Conference Room L
Keynote Speaker: Paula Tanabe, PhD, RN, FAEN, FAAN
Duke University

STAFFILENO HEAD AND NECK CANCER GRAND ROUNDS
Drug Induced Osteonecrosis of the Jaws-DIONJ
Wednesday, June 24
Robert H Lurie Medical Research Center, Searle Conference Room
Speaker: Gregory Thomas, MD, DDS

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™

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

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 Travel Fellowship Award application deadline is July 10, 2015.

» Details and application here

Basic Sciences Research Division

H Foundation NCI Stimulus provides $20,000 of support to projects to stimulate grant applications to the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Applications 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.

Grants are made on a rolling basis as funds become available.

» Details and application here

Prostate SPORE Developmental Research Program

The Developmental Research (pilot) Program supports innovative research initiatives by providing seed money through the funding of pilot projects.

» Details & application here

Welcome New Members

New Members

Monique Hinchcliff, MD, MS, is Assistant Professor of Rheumatology at Feinberg. A rheumatologist specializing in systemic sclerosis (SSc) clinical care and translation research, her research interests involve the use of genomic approaches to molecularly phenotype patients with SSc in order to facilitate precision medicine.

Contact Dr. Hinchcliff at m-hinchcliff@northwestern.edu or 312.503.8003

Athanasiou Vasilopoulos, PhD, is Assistant Professor in Radiation Oncology at Feinberg. One of the fundamental observations in oncology is that increasing age is the strongest statistic variable that predicts for carcinogenesis. Dr Vasilopoulos' primary research focus is the study of the genetic and biochemical connection between sirtuins and carcinogenesis, as well as tumor cell resistance.

Contact Dr. Vasilopoulos at athanasios.vasilopoulos@northwestern.edu or 312.503.0727

Derek Walsh, PhD, is Associate Professor of Microbiology-Immunology at Feinberg. His research focus is the control of mRNA translation and microtubule regulation in a variety of biological processes, including infection by poxviruses and herpesviruses that are being widely studied in the development of oncolytic and gene therapy applications.

Contact Dr. Walsh at derek.walsh@northwestern.edu or 312.503.4292

Wei Zhang, PhD, is Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine at Feinberg. His research interests include the genetic and epigenetic (CpG methylation) contributions to anti-cancer drug responses. In addition, Dr. Zhang is investigating the epigenetics of pancreatic cancer. He is actively collaborating on research related to drug response in leukemia and lung cancer biology.

Contact Dr. Zhang at wei.zhang@northwestern.edu or 312.503.1040
Dear Lurie Cancer Center Colleague:

It is time to begin planning the 2015-2016 Division of Hematology/Oncology and Lurie Cancer Center Grand Rounds Lecture Series. This year, Grand Rounds will return to Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Your input is extremely important to identify speakers. Please email me at sdinner@nm.org by June 2015 with a recommendation for whom you would like to invite and host.

My staff will issue an official invitation. We will notify you regarding the speaker’s response and date availability. Please be prepared to host your outside speaker during his/her visit. We ask that you introduce the speaker on the morning of the lecture. Many hosts also arrange a dinner for the speaker the night before and set up a meeting itinerary with applicable faculty, as the speaker’s schedule permits.

Lastly, I hope that you will consider presenting some of your own work in a Grand Rounds Lecture, either alone or in a multidisciplinary presentation with sub-specialty colleagues. Please email me if you are interested. I look forward to receiving your recommendations.

Thank you,

Shira Dinner, MD
Grand Rounds Lecture Series Coordinator
sdinner@nm.org