



Walk the Walk

It's not too soon to circle **Sunday, June 7th** on your calendar and begin planning with family and friends to attend the Lurie Cancer Center's 16th Annual Cancer Survivors' Celebration & Walk. The leisurely four-mile, non-competitive walk along Chicago's lakefront begins in Grant Park at the corner of Columbus and Balbo Drives. The \$15 registration fee (\$25 the day of the walk) includes refreshments, t-shirt, entertainment for all ages and a chance to sign the dedication wall. **No pledges are required.**

More than 3,500 people are expected to take part in the walk, honoring survivors and all those whose lives have been touched by cancer. The event, held each year on National Cancer Survivors Day, also celebrates the efforts and achievements of the Lurie Cancer Center's physicians, scientists and health care team.

For additional information or to register online through June 5th, visit cancer.northwestern.edu/walk or call 312.695.1304.



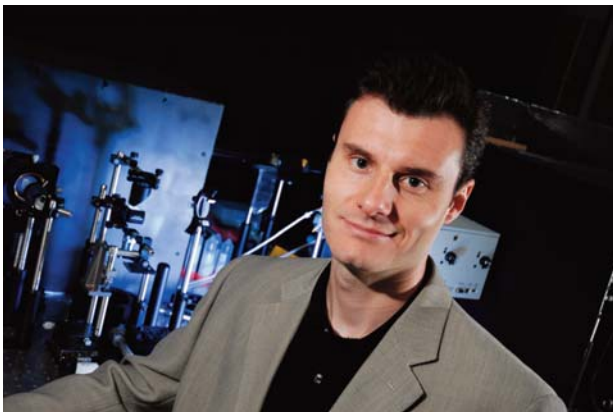
Nanoscopic Changes to Pancreatic Cells Reveal Cancer

A team of researchers led by [Vadim Backman, PhD](#), has developed a way to examine cell biopsies and detect never-before-seen signs of early-stage pancreatic cancer.

Though the new technique has not yet proven effective in double-blind clinical trials, it may one day help diagnose cancers of the pancreas and, potentially, other organs at their earliest and most treatable stages, before they spread.

This new technique, which Backman's team calls "partial wave spectroscopic microscopy," allows them to examine cell samples taken from people who have undergone screening for pancreatic cancer to detect signs of the disease.

Currently, only 7 percent of people with pancreatic cancer are diagnosed in the earliest stages of the disease, when the cancer is still confined to its primary site. More than half of all people with the disease are not diagnosed until it has already metastasized. The new technique measures nanoscopic changes to the interior architecture of cells -- changes that may signal signs of cancer even in cells that look normal under the microscope.



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Cancer Center News and Notes

Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute Established to Improve Patient Survival and Quality of Life

The Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute (NBTI), a collaboration of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Feinberg School of Medicine and the Lurie Cancer Center, was established to provide brain tumor patients with the best possible treatment and care. Merging medical research with state-of-the-art, comprehensive care, the NBTI's therapeutic approach emphasizes preserving quality of life in addition to extending life.

"Currently less than one-third of adults survive five years after being diagnosed with a primary brain tumor," says **Jeffrey Raizer, MD**, co-director of the NBTI and associate professor of neurology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. "Our mission is to improve patient survival through clinical and scientific research."

The institute's three-pronged approach rests upon surgery, medical treatment and clinical research. With surgery for example, advanced neuro-imaging techniques, neuro-navigation and brain mapping makes brain tumor surgery more precise than in years past. And, through minimally invasive endoscopic skull-based procedures, some brain tumors can be accessed through the patient's nose, eliminating the need to split the face and skull.

The neuro-oncology team offers an extensive range of chemotherapy options; many through clinical trials. In addition, medical treatment is uniquely integrated with psychosocial therapy options like monthly support groups and a brain tumor resource center. The rapid growth of Northwestern's clinical neuro-oncology programs has led to the natural evolution of growth within the sciences.



James Chandler, MD, the institute's other co-director and associate professor of neurological surgery at Feinberg, notes, "Our multidisciplinary approach encompasses research, neuro-oncology, neurosurgery and clinical programming in such a way that we hope to set forth new global standards for effectively managing the disease as well as a model of care with potential to improve outcomes and hopefully contribute to finding a cure."

Angela Park has joined the NBTI as Administrative Director, following many years experience as an administrative assistant in NMFF's Department of Neurosurgery. "I look forward to supporting the efforts of the NBTI as it continues to develop and excel," she says.

Contact Angela at angela-park@northwestern.edu or 312-695-2523.

"Our mission is to improve patient survival through clinical and scientific research."

Jeffrey Raizer, MD
Co-Director



Check out the new NBTI Web site to learn more! - braintumorinstitute.org

Fun, Food and Health Education Combined for Successful Girlfriends Night Out

More than 150 women braved the cold to take part in "Girlfriends Night Out" in January. Presented by the Lurie Cancer Center, Northwestern's Institute for Women's Health Research and GIRLFRIENDS Health Guide for Women of Color, the event combined pampering, prizes and health education --resulting in a great evening for everyone who attended.

Alexis Thompson, MD, the Lurie Cancer Center's Associate Director for Health Disparities and Special Population Initiatives, hosted the evening which included presentations by Northwestern experts on ethnic skin care, heart health and the Illinois Women's Health Registry, to a healthy cooking demonstration (and tasting) by Christian Watson, Executive Chef at Prentice's Fresh Market on Fairmont. The evening concluded with Chaz Ebert, wife of film critic and cancer survivor Roger Ebert, speaking about the "Strategy of Hope."



Cancer Center News and Notes

Karen Giammicchio New Nurse Manager of Lurie Clinical Cancer Center

Karen Giammicchio, BSN, MSN, has joined the Lurie Clinical Cancer Center as Nurse Manager. Most recently, Karen was Director of Prevention and Early Detection at Alexian Brothers Hospital Network. She gained extensive management experience at Alexian's Cancer Center, Women's Center and Genetics program where her work included oversight of multiple oncology services such as prevention, early detection, imaging, and infusion. Prior to her tenure at Alexian, Karen worked as both a medical and surgical staff nurse, as well as an instructor.

Working closely with each division represented on Galter 21, as well as NMFF and Lurie Cancer Center management teams, Karen oversees and supports the Lurie Clinical Cancer Center's clinical practice, programs and services.

She can be reached at 312.695.2512 or kgiammic@nmff.org.

Integrative Medicine Program

As part of Northwestern's Center for Integrative Medicine and Wellness, the Integrative Medicine Program combines conventional and complementary therapies to aid in the healing process. It engages the mind, body, spirit and community and focuses on lifestyle choices. "The Center's philosophy maintains that healing is possible even if curing the disease is not," says program director, [Melinda Ring, MD](#).

Services offered include:

- Integrative Medicine Consults to develop a wellness plan
- Naturopathic Consults and Functional Nutrition Consults
- Traditional Chinese Medicine/acupuncture
- Mind-Body therapies such as relaxation therapies, biofeedback, guided imagery and cognitive-behavioral therapy with trained Health Psychologists
- Energy Therapies including Reiki and Healing Touch
- Massage Therapies including Deep tissue, Relaxation, Craniosacral Therapy and Manual Lymphatic Drainage
- Dietary supplements, herbal therapy and homeopathy

For additional information or an appointment call 312.926.9355 or visit www.nmpg.org Appointments can be made by physician referral or self-referral.

SUCCEED Program Launched to Support Breast Cancer Survivors

The Breast Cancer Survivor Comprehensive Care, Empowerment and Education Program (SUCCEED) was launched in February to address the problems that many breast cancer survivors face, including: infertility due to premature ovarian failure, hot flashes, sexual dysfunction, osteoporosis, lymphedema, neuropathy, cardiac dysfunction, depression, cognitive impairment, sleep disorders, and metabolic syndrome.

Located in Prentice Women's Hospital, within the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Cancer Center, the program is led by Associate Professor of Medicine, [Vincent Cryns, MD](#). A multidisciplinary team of physicians, nutritionists, exercise therapists, psychologists and others work with each survivor to provide education and comprehensive care. Patients referred to the program will receive a "survivorship care plan" and will follow up annually with SUCCEED, in addition to their surgical and medical oncology team, for at least two years. Please contact Dr. Cryns with questions at v-cryns@northwestern.edu or schedule an appointment at 312.472.4720.

CURE Program Accepting Applications

CURE (Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience Program), a program that gives underserved college students the opportunity to work alongside top cancer researchers, will continue accepting applications through **March 31, 2009**. Since 1999, the Lurie Cancer Center has accepted over 80 college students to work alongside top researchers in its state-of-the-art laboratories. The scientists act as mentors and work with students on nationally funded projects and all aspects of laboratory research during the eight-week summer program. Students are also introduced to the basics of cancer research through seminars presented by faculty on a wide variety of research topics.

For additional information and application, please visit cancer.northwestern.edu/cure.

Awards and Honors

Stephanie Bradley, PCT, was awarded the Compassionate Care Award in the Cancer Program; an acknowledgment given annually to caregivers who exemplify compassionate care. Stephanie developed and facilitates a weekly activity program for patients and families.

Linda Feldmann, RN, received the 2008 Vicki Maurer Nursing Award. Established in 2004, the award honors a nurse for their knowledge, thoughtfulness and patient care. The donor of this award named it in honor of his nurse, Vicki Maurer, who exemplified hard work and compassion to him.

Katie Lawler, RN and **Charlotte, Patten, RN**, were selected to mentor inpatient oncology nurses new to NMH, as part of the hospital's new program designed to ease the transition.

Vicki Maurer, RN, BSN, OCN, was presented with an honorary Vicki Maurer Nursing Award by the Clinical Cancer Center in recognition of the annual award established in Vicki's name by a grateful patient.

Chad A. Mirkin, PhD, has received two prestigious awards. The Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest from the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), recognizes a chemist whose scientific and technical work has contributed to the public well-being and has thereby communicated positive values of the chemical profession.

The Havinga Medal from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, is given to an outstanding chemist every other year by the University of Leiden. Last year's recipient was Nobel Laureate Robert Grubbs.

Martella Stevenson, received the 2008 JoAnn Jones Award, awarded to a support staff member for their knowledge, thoughtfulness, and overall care of patients.

The award was established this year in honor of former support staff employee, JoAnn Jones, who exemplified hard work, compassion, and dedication to the mission of the Lurie Cancer Center.

Samuel Stupp, PhD, will receive an honorary doctorate from Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) in The Netherlands April 24.

Stupp is being honored for his revolutionary research into soft matter and applications for complex molecular systems in biomedical technology. His findings are being used in areas such as regenerative medicine, cancer therapies and functional materials.

Maureen Swiderski, RN, was chosen to receive funding from the Chapman Nurse Scholar program, which supports nurses and staff educators as they research ways to enhance nursing practice and improve patient care. She will study whether what is commonly referred to as a "death rattle" is a good indication of imminent death.

Jeffrey Wayne, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine, has been appointed Cancer Liaison Physician at Northwestern Memorial Healthcare Corporation by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer (CoC). A consortium of professional organizations, the CoC is dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care.

Professional Programs & Patient Events

Throughout the year the Lurie Cancer Center offers professional education programs on various cancer related topics. Below is a list of programs scheduled through June 2009. For additional information about these programs, visit cancer.northwestern.edu/education or call 312.695.1304.

Professional Programs

Muscling in on Mouse Genes, Modifiers and Mutations

March 13, 2009, 12:00 p.m.
Children's Memorial Research Center
Wolfson Conference Room A

Pain and Palliative Care Conference **

March 13, 2009
Feinberg Pavilion, 3rd floor
Chair: [Judith Paice, RN, PhD](#)
cancer.northwestern.edu/pain

High-throughput Epigenomic Analysis of Ependymomas

March 26, 2009, 12:00 p.m.
Children's Memorial Research Center
Wolfson Conference Room A

6th International Chicago Lymphoma Symposium *

April 17 and 18, 2009
The Mid America Club
Chairs: [Andrew Evens, DO](#) and
[Sonali Smith, MD](#) (University of Chicago)
chicagolymphoma.com

H Foundation Basic Science Symposium

Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition (EMT)
May 15, 2009
Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium
Chairs: [Kathleen Green, PhD](#), [Carole LaBonne, PhD](#) and
[Cara Gottardi, PhD](#)
cancer.northwestern.edu/bss

International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)

June 4 and 5, 2009
Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium
Symposium Organizers:
[Judith A. Paice, RN, PhD](#)
Rae F. Bell, MD, PhD, BA Hons
Eija A. Kalso, MD, PhD, DMed Sci
Olaitan A. Soyannwo, MMed, DA, FWACS
cancer.northwestern.edu/iasp

** Continuing Nursing Program by ANCC

* **Accreditation Statement:** Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Patient Programs and Events

The Lurie Cancer Center is committed to educating the public about cancer prevention and treatment, and offers a wide range of community events and patient programs throughout the year. For more information about these programs, visit cancer.northwestern.edu/events or call 312.695.1304.

Cancer CONNECTION Days

Galter Pavillion, 21st Floor - 11 am to 2 pm

March 11, 2009
Colorectal cancers & covering the cost of care

April 09, 2009
Head, neck, mouth & oral cancers & rehabilitative therapy

May 13, 2009
Survivorship & sun protection/skincare

June 10, 2009
Gynecological cancers & genetic testing

National Brain Tumor Society Family Caregiver Workshop

April 18, 2009, 8 am to 4:30 pm
Prentice Women's Hospital, Canning Auditorium

4th Annual Prevention Program on Cancer

May 5, 12 and 19, 2009, 5:30 pm to 7 pm
Prentice Women's Hospital, Conference Room L North
Hosted by: NMH Health Learning Center

Ask the Doctor About Lymphoma

May 14, 2009, 5:30 pm to 8 pm
Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium
Host: [Leo Gordon, MD](#)

Cancer Survivors' Celebration & Walk

June 7, 2009, 8 am
Grant Park, Columbus and Balbo Drives
cancer.northwestern.edu/walk

Grand Rounds

Grand Rounds are on Fridays from 8 am to 9 am in the Gray Seminar Room of the Lurie Research Medical Center, 303 E. Superior, Chicago, IL (unless otherwise noted). Contact Denise Marshall at 312.695.1392 or d-marshall4@northwestern.edu.

- March 6** **Gene Therapy of Platelet Disorders**
Gilbert White, II, MD - Executive Vice President, Blood Research Institute
Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
- March 13** **No Grand Rounds**
- March 20** **Amyloidosis-Not So Rare**
Merrill Benson, MD - Professor, Department of Medical Genetics
Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
- March 27** **No Grand Rounds**
- April 3** **Advances in Management of Thyroid Cancer**
Manisha Shah, MD - Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- April 10** **Changing the Tide for Symptom Management**
Debra Barton, RN, PhD, AOCN - Associate Professor, Department of Oncology
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- April 17** **TBA**
[William Gradishar, MD](#) - Professor, Department of Medicine
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- April 24** **TBA**
[Hau Kwann, MD, PhD](#) - Professor, Department of Medicine
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- May 8** **TBA**
George Atweh, MD -Lillian and Henry M. Stratton Professor, Department of Medicine
Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, NY

Accreditation Statement: Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation Statement: The Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine designates this educational activity for a maximum of *1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Tumor Cell Biology Seminars

Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium, 303 East Superior, Chicago, IL
Thursdays - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm - cancer.northwestern.edu/cme

- March 5** **Activation and Inhibition of Interferon Responses**
Curt Horvath, PhD - Professor, Department of Biochemistry/Molecular Biology/Cell Biology
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- March 12** **Signal-regulated Gene Expression: From Single Molecules to Genomes**
W. Lee Kraus, PhD - Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- March 19** **Identification and Elimination of Drug-resistant Leukemia**
Dario Campana, MD, PhD - Professor, Department of Pediatrics
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN
- March 26** **Loss of Mitochondrial Integrity in SIRT3 Knockout Primary Cells Results in a Tumor Permissive Phenotype**
Davis Gius, MD, PhD - Chief, Molecular Radiation Oncology Section
National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD
- April 2** **TBA**
- April 9** **Student Lecture-Maintenance of Intracellular Calcium Homeostasis is Critical for the Regulation of Desmoplakin Assembly for Desmosomes**
Ryan Hobbs, IGP Student - Department of Pathology (Dr. Kathleen Green's Lab)
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- April 16** **TBA**
Marsha Rosner, PhD - Charles B. Huggins Professor, Director, Ben May Department for Cancer Research
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- April 23** **Regulation of Normal and Malignant Hematopoietic Stem Cells**
Daniel C. Link, MD - Associate Professor, Division of Oncology, Stem Cell Biology Section
Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MD
- May 7** **TBA**
Jay Hess, MD, PhD - Carl V. Weller Professor and Chair, Department of Anatomic Pathology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

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Cancer Center Appoints New Members

Steven T. Rosen, MD, FACP, Director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, announces the following full member appointments:

Surendra Basti, MD, is Associate Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focus includes ocular complications of graft versus host disease, ocular surface stem cell biology, and ocular toxicity of cancer medications--particularly for EGF receptor inhibitors. His office is in Galter Pavilion, 675 N. St. Clair, Suite 15-150.

Contact Dr. Basti at 312.908.8152 or sbasti@northwestern.edu

Alan Buchman, MD, MSPH, is Professor in the Department of Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His clinical research focuses on patients with intestinal failure, including a significant number of patients with radiation enteritis. The results of his investigations are relevant to the cancer patient receiving parenteral nutrition or maintaining central venous access. His office is in 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1400.

Contact Dr. Buchman at 312.695.4514 or a-buchman@northwestern.edu

Noshir Contractor, PhD, is Professor in the School of Engineering, School of Communication and the Kellogg School of Management. He is investigating factors that lead to the formation, maintenance, and dissolution of dynamically linked social and knowledge networks in communities; including researchers studying smoking and obesity. His office is at 2145 Sheridan Road, TECH D241 in Evanston.

Contact Dr. Contractor at 847.491.3669 or nosh@northwestern.edu

Jennifer Koblinski, PhD, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. Her lab studies the role of matrix proteins in breast cancer metastasis to one and brain. Her office is in the Lurie Medical Research Center, 303 E. Superior, Room 4-105.

Contact Dr. Koblinski at 312.503.0794 or j-koblinski@northwestern.edu

Phillip Messersmith, PhD, is Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the McCormick School of Engineering. Current research projects include studies of biological adhesives, the design of biomimetic adhesive polymers, development of novel biomaterials for regenerative medicine, antifouling polymer surfaces, and nanoparticles for cancer cell targeting. His office is at 2145 Sheridan Road, TECH E374 in Evanston.

Contact Dr. Messersmith at 847.467.5273 or philm@northwestern.edu

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Lurie Cancer Center Weekly Updates

Information to be considered for inclusion in the 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.