



New Website Helps Cancer Patients Explore Fertility Preservation

When a woman, man or teenage girl or boy is diagnosed with cancer, there is only a brief window of time to learn about options for preserving his or her fertility before treatment. Cancer therapy often has irreversible effects on a patient's fertility.



Teresa Woodruff

It hasn't been simple for patients and their families to get information. Oncofertility -- the intersection of oncology and reproductive medicine -- is a new, rapidly advancing field, and many physicians aren't familiar with the latest developments.

Northwestern University has launched a new interactive Web site, MyOncofertility.org, to meet that growing need. The Web 2.0 style site teaches patients about the potential effect of cancer and treatments on their fertility, options to preserve their fertility and offers resources for discussing these issues with their doctors.

The site is an educational project of the Feinberg School of Medicine's national Oncofertility Consortium. The consortium is headed by [Teresa Woodruff, PhD](#), chief of the Feinberg School's fertility preservation division and the Thomas J. Watkins Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The consortium is a \$21-million research, clinical and education program targeting fertility threats posed by cancer treatment.

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Fight Cancer without Fighting the Crowds



Do your holiday shopping at ShopforCancerCures.org and help the Lurie Cancer Center and the Cancer Research Alliance fight cancer. A percentage of each purchase made from more than 600 leading online merchants supports groundbreaking cancer research that will help save lives.

Highlights of the online shopping mall include:

- Hundreds of discounts and coupons from more than 600 merchants
- Free shipping offers
- Special, limited-time offers
- Comparison shopping across 20 million products

ShopForCancerCures.org

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Cancer Center News and Notes

Translational Cancer Research Minisymposium Held

Close to 140 people attended October's Translational Cancer Research minisymposium "From Mice to Humans: Application of Animal Models to Translational Research," co-sponsored by The Tumor Invasion, Metastasis and Angiogenesis Program and the Lurie Cancer Center. Keynote speaker Kelly McNagny, PhD, professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at the Biomedical Research Centre, University of British Columbia, discussed "The CD34 Family as Essential Regulators of Adhesion in Development and Disease."

Opening comments were made by [Jill Pelling, PhD](#), Associate Director for Translational Cancer Research at the Lurie Cancer Center and professor in the Department of Pathology at the Feinberg School of Medicine, followed by presentations by [Ming Zhan, PhD](#), [Khashayarsha Khazaie, PhD, D.Sc](#) and [Jennifer Koblinski, PhD](#).



Jill Pelling, PhD

Love/Avon Army of Women Campaign to Aid Breast Cancer Research

The Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation and the Avon Foundation have joined forces to launch the *Love/Avon Army of Women*, a groundbreaking initiative that will partner women with breast cancer researchers to find the cause of breast cancer and take science beyond a cure to prevention. This call to action will recruit one million women of all ages and ethnicities to join the "Army" and be available to take part in research studies.

The *Army of Women* will serve as an online resource providing researchers with much-needed access to healthy women - a critical component to prevention research. At the same time, the program offers women the opportunity to play a significant, direct role in helping eradicate breast cancer. Virtually all women not currently undergoing breast cancer treatment, including healthy women, breast cancer survivors, and women who are at high risk for developing breast cancer, can enroll in the Love/Avon Army of Women online.

By joining, a woman is simply stating her willingness to hear about research studies that need volunteers. At the same time, scientists are invited to submit related research studies. As opportunities become available, a call for volunteers is sent to the *Army*.

Visit www.armyofwomen.org to learn more about this new resource.

Girlfriends Night Out

An evening of fun, pampering, prizes and helpful health information!

Hosted by Northwestern University's Women's Health Initiative, the Lurie Cancer Center and GIRLFRIENDS Health Guide.

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Prentice Women's Hospital
3rd Floor Atrium



Raffle prizes, cooking demonstrations, wine tasting and pampering. Presentations by Northwestern's medical experts on heart health, ethnic skin care, cancer and more...

Information and registration at cancer.northwestern.edu/girlfriends

Chicago 5K Lung Run

A team of Northwestern's doctors, nurses, patient care technicians and family members ran along Chicago's lakefront for the 4th Annual Chicago 5K Lung Run. The event raises lung cancer awareness as well as funds for research. Team members wore t-shirts that said "Running for our Patients" across the back.



Awards and Honors

H. Hunt Batjer, MD, Michael J. Marchese Professor and chair of Neurological Surgery, is chair of the American Board of Neurological Surgery.

Curt M. Horvath, PhD, professor of medicine and biochemistry, molecular biology and cell biology, was awarded the Jean Ruggles Romoser Chair of Cancer Research.

Seema A. Khan, MD, professor of surgery in Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, has been named the Bluhm Family Research Professor of Breast Cancer. She is co-leader of the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center and director of the Bluhm Family Program for Breast Cancer Early Detection and Prevention.

Katie Lawler, RN, and **Maureen Swiderski, RN**, both achieved Oncology Nurse Certification through the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation.

June McKoy, MD, MPH, JD, assistant professor of medicine, received a 5 year Career Development Award from the NCI to study Adverse Reactions in Geriatric Cancer Patients. She is mentored in this research by Steven Rosen, MD, and Charles Bennett, MD, PhD. In addition, Dr. McKoy was recently elected to the board of directors of the American Cancer Society's Illinois Division and H.O.M.E., Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly.

David M. Mahvi, MD, who joined Northwestern in July as chief of Gastrointestinal and Oncologic Surgery, has been named the James R. Hines Professor in Surgery.

Colleen O'Leary, RN, MSN, OCN, AOCNS received her Advanced Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist certification from the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation.

Pam Palmentera LCSW, Bereavement Coordinator for Home Hospice, was elected to the Bereavement Professionals Steering Committee of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Translational Research Funding Opportunity

The Mary Kay Ash Foundation is soliciting applications for innovative translational research projects in breast, cervical, ovarian, or uterine cancer. Grants are for 2 years, \$100,000 total. Only one application can be submitted from Northwestern University. An ad hoc committee from the Lurie Cancer Center will review the submitted materials and select an investigator to prepare an application for submission. The due date for the full application to the Mary Kay Ash Foundation is Friday, Feb. 13.

Those interested in applying should submit an abstract proposal and a biosketch by **Monday, Dec. 22**. To e-mail proposal or for additional information, please contact **Benette Phillips, PhD**, at schallma@northwestern.edu.

Leonidas C. Platanias, MD, PhD, Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin, and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology, is serving as president of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research for 2008-09.

Sarah Witt, RN, BSN, OCN, received the 2008 Recent Graduate Achievement Award from the Michigan State University School of Nursing. The award is in recognition of her contributions to the community as well as professional accomplishments.

Teresa K. Woodruff, PhD, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is the 2008 recipient of the Alumnae of Northwestern Award. This award is presented annually to an alumna who has made outstanding contributions and received international recognition in her field. She is a recognized leader in fertility research worldwide.

Travel Award Winners

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

Christine Ackerman (CGM)
Jing Chen (KMR)

Post-Docs

Lorena Benseñor, PhD (CGM)
Monica Boen, MD (CP)
Zan Huang, PhD (KMR)
Ganesan Keerthivasan, MD (KMR)
Kim Rice, PhD (KMR)

The committee would also like to thank everyone who applied for Travel Fellowship Awards. The next deadline to apply for a Travel Fellowship Award is **Friday, March 6, 2009**.

* For questions about the Katten Muchin Rosenman Travel Scholarship Program, please contact either Dr. Susan Winandy at 312.503.3075 or s-winandy@northwestern.edu or Denise Marshall at 312.695.1392 or d-marshall4@northwestern.edu.

* For questions about the Center for Genetic Medicine Travel Fellowship Awards, please contact either Dr. Peter Kopp at 312.503.1394 or p-kopp@northwestern.edu or Anna Shepherd at 312.503.5600 or a-lampien@northwestern.edu.

* For questions about the Cancer Prevention and Control Travel Scholarship Program, please contact Dr. Susan Gapstur at 312.908.0306 or sgapstur@northwestern.edu.

Visit the Lurie Cancer Center's web site at cancer.northwestern.edu for more information about the Travel Fellowship Awards and upcoming educational events.

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

Continuing Trends in Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma CME Program (Post-ASH)*

January 16, 2009

Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium

Chair: [Steven Rosen, MD](#)

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)

NCCN Breast Cancer Guidelines / San Antonio Review*

January 30, 2009

Feinberg Pavilion, 3rd floor

Chair: [William Gradishar, MD](#)

H Foundation Basic Science Symposium

May 15, 2009

Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium

Chairs: [Kathleen Green, PhD](#) and [Carole LaBonne, PhD](#)

Pain and Palliative Care Conference*

March 13, 2009

Feinberg Pavilion, 3rd floor

Chair: [Judy Paice, RN, PhD](#)

* Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program

Sneak Preview of May 15th's Annual Basic Science Symposium...

The topic of 2009's H Foundation Annual Basic Science Symposium is "Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition (EMT)", featuring work that uses state-of-the-art imaging techniques to study tumor cell dynamics and EMT. The slate of speakers includes: John Condeelis (Einstein), Jean Paul Thiery (Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology IMCB, Proteos), Lynn Matrisian (Vanderbilt), Steve Weiss (University of Michigan), Raghu Kalluri (Harvard), Denise Montell (Johns Hopkins), and [Carole LaBonne](#) (Northwestern).

The symposium, which attracts a broad audience of researchers and physicians from around the region and country, discusses topics of relevance to tumor biology and cancer. It will be held on Friday, May 15 in the Hughes Auditorium of the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Chicago Campus. Symposium co-chairs are [Kathleen Green, PhD](#) and [Carole LaBonne, PhD](#).

Registration Open for Pain and Palliative Care Conference

On Friday, March 13, 2009, the Lurie Cancer Center and Northwestern Memorial Hospital will host the *4th Annual Pain and Palliative Care Conference* in the 3rd floor Conference Center of Feinberg Pavilion. The conference, which attracts a broad audience of nurses, physicians, social workers, chaplains, psychologists, and other therapists from around the region, will address providing care to patients with life-threatening illnesses and caregiver support. Additional information and registration are available at cancer.northwestern.edu/pain.

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 (formerly Cancer Information Fair)

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

Jan. 14, 2009 - Rare cancers & cancer in minority populations

Feb. 24, 2009 - Supportive care for cancer patients & family

Mar. 11, 2009 - Colorectal cancers & covering the cost of care

Girlfriends Night Out*

Health education, fun and a little pampering

January 27, 2009, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Prentice Women's Hospital - 3rd Floor Atrium

cancer.northwestern.edu/girlfriends

* see page 2 for more information

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.

December 26 No Grand Rounds-Winter Holiday

January 2 No Grand Rounds-Winter Holiday

January 9 **CML: Myths, Mutations and More**

Tariq Mughal, MD, FRCP - Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

January 16 **Mitotoxicity-The Cause of Chemotherapy-Evoked Peripheral Neuropathy?**

Gary J. Bennett, PhD - Professor and Canada Senior Research Chair Department of Anesthesia
McGill University, Montréal, Canada

January 23 **Skeletal Complications of Cancer Therapy: Fractures and Osteonecrosis of the Jaw**

[Beatrice Edwards, MD](#) - Associate Professor, Division of Geriatrics
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

January 30 No Grand Rounds—NCCN Breast Cancer Guidelines / San Antonio Review

February 6 **Topic TBA**

[Gail Gamble, MD](#) - Medical Director, Cancer Rehabilitation
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

February 13 **Topic TBA**

Aaron Rapoport, MD - Director
Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, Baltimore, MD

February 20 **MPD Associated Mutations: Impact on Diagnosis and Therapy 2009**

Ruben Mesa, MD - Associate Professor, Department of Hematology
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

February 27 **Advances in Surgical Therapy of Metastatic Colorectal Cancer**

[David Mahvi, MD](#) - James R. Hines Professor, Department of Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

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

- December 18** **Student Lecture-Regulation of Cell Death by BCL-2 Family Members**
Emelyn Shroff, IGP Student - Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- December 25** **No Tumor Cell Biology Seminar-Winter Holiday**
- January 1** **No Tumor Cell Biology Seminar-Winter Holiday**
- January 8** **Topic TBA**
Raymond Bergan, MD - Associate Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- January 15** **Topic TBA**
Irina Budunova, MD - Associate Professor, Department of Dermatology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- January 22** **Gene Regulatory Networks Regulating Hematopoietic Cell Fates**
Harinder Singh, PhD - Louis Block Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- January 29** **Topic TBA**
Michael Wargovich, PhD, FACM - Professor, Department of Cell and Molecular Pharmacology and Director,
Cancer Chemoprevention Program
Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
- February 5** **F-BAR Proteins in Diabetes and Cancer: The Invagination Monologues**
Seth Corey, MD - Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL
- February 12** **Desmosomes: At the Crossroads of Adhesion and Signaling in Differentiation and Disease**
Kathleen Green, PhD - Joseph L. Mayberry Senior Professor, Department of Pathology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- February 19** **TBA**
- February 26** **Cell-cell Adhesion Signaling via Beta-Catenin**
Meghan Thorne-Maher, IGP Student - Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care (Dr. Cara Gottardi's Lab)
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

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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:

Shuo Ma, MD, PhD, is assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research focus is on understanding the pathogenesis, genetic alterations and mechanism of drug resistance in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and developing novel experimental therapeutics in chronic lymphoid malignancies. Her clinical interests include CLL, Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia and low-grade lymphoma. Her office is at 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 850.

Contact Dr. Ma at 312.908.5250 or shuo-ma@northwestern.edu

Brian J. Mitchell, PhD, is assistant professor in the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His primary interest is addressing the molecular regulation of centriole duplication. Centriole duplication is typically tightly linked to the cell cycle and is often aberrant during cancer progression. His office is at 303 E. Chicago Ave., 8-090.

Contact Dr. Mitchell at 312.503.9251 or brian-mitchell@northwestern.edu

Halla Nimeiri, MD, is assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research interest is in refining potential molecular biomarkers for Vitamin D intervention contributing to cancer prevention, specifically in colon cancer, among high risk minority populations. Her office is in 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 850.

Contact Dr. Nimeiri at 312.695.4381 or h-nimeiri@northwestern.edu

Colby Shad Thaxton, MD, PhD, is assistant professor in the Department of Urology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focus is on translational nanotechnology and controlling the synthesis of structures that naturally interface with biological systems to develop targeted, practical, safe, and effective nanoparticle therapeutics, imaging agents, and biosensors. His office is at 303 E. Chicago, 16-703.

Contact Dr. Thaxton at 312.503.1826 or cthaxton003@md.northwestern.edu

Eugene Y. Xu, PhD, is assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Feinberg School of Medicine. His primary research interests are in the genetic mechanisms of key steps of germ cell development; in particular germline stem cells and meiotic regulation. His office is at 303 E. Superior St., 7-117.

Contact Dr. Xu at 312.503.0481 or e-xu@northwestern.edu



Record Attendance for 11th Annual Oncology Nursing Conference

The Lurie Cancer Center and Northwestern Memorial Hospital hosted the *11th Annual Oncology Nursing Conference: Exploring the Scope of Oncology Nursing* at the Wyndham Chicago Hotel on December 5. The conference attracted 235 total attendees from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Topics included lymphedema, head and neck cancers, venous thromboembolic events, acute myelogenous leukemia, managing the adverse effects of EGFR inhibitors in cancer, caring for caregivers, and a panel presentation focusing on the effects of cancer on the family.

Save December 4, 2009 for the *12th Annual Oncology Nursing Conference!*

w e l c o m e



s t a f f

Sandra Patterson has joined the Lurie Cancer Center as Manager for Accounting and Finance Operations. Formerly, Sandra served as the Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance for the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois – Chicago, where she oversaw all business aspects of the College including budget preparation, construction and renovation projects, developed and performed financial modeling to optimize the College's assets, and provided forecasting for all of the College's divisions. She can be reached at, s-patterson@northwestern.edu or 312.695.1325

Terri Dillon has joined the Feinberg's Office of Medical Development as Senior Associate Director, Oncology. Terri recently relocated from Indianapolis where she worked as a Major Gifts Officer for the American Cancer Society. She also held gift officer positions at Bands of America, St. Vincent Hospital Foundation, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and here at Feinberg. Terri will work closely with the Lurie Cancer Center fundraising for our programs. She can be reached at, terri-dillon@northwestern.edu or 312.503.4837

Christy Anton
Research Technologist 1
Pathology Core
c-anton@northwestern.edu

Jennifer Brock
Protocol Coordinator, CRO
jennifer-brock@northwestern.edu

Christopher Curtin
Coordinator, CRO
c-curtin@northwestern.edu

Donna Emge
Histology Technical 2
Pathology Core
d-emge@northwestern.edu

Benjamin Fleischer
Data Assistant 2, CRO
b-fleischer@northwestern.edu

Michael Gurley
System Analyst / Programmer
Bioinformatics
m-gurley@northwestern.edu

Lijun Huang
Histology Technician 2
Pathology Core
lijun-huang@northwestern.edu

Elizabeth Kordeluk
Data Assistant 2, CRO
e-kordeluk@northwestern.edu

Melanie Laz
Data Assistant 2, CRO
m-blaszak@northwestern.edu

Jalpa Patel
System Analyst / Programmer
Bioinformatics
jalpa-patel@northwestern.edu

Rebecca Wee
Department Assistant 1, Grants
r-wee@northwestern.edu

Karen Zwicky
Protocol Coordinator, CRO
k-zwicky@northwestern.edu

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center News

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

Director - Steven T. Rosen, MD, FACP

Director, Public Affairs and Communications -
Sharon Markman

Editorial Advisor - Tim Volpe

Managing Editor - Jennifer Bowker

Design - Michael Miller

Send news and events to the editor:
j-bowker@northwestern.edu or 312.695.0502

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.