



Lurie Cancer Center Team Honored for Contributions to caBIG

A team from the Lurie Cancer Center was honored for significant accomplishments and contributions at the cancer Biomedical Informations Grid (caBIG) Annual Meeting 2008 Recognition Awards ceremony in Washington D.C.

Pan Du, Gilbert Feng, Dong Fu, Warren Kibbe, Simon Lin, Eric Odulio, Rhett Sutphin, Renee Webb, and Sean Whitaker were presented with the caBIG Delivering Results Award in recognition of superior use of caBIG applications and the use of shared data from caGrid to address specific research questions.



From left: Gilbert Feng, Pan Du, Warren Kibbe, Simon Lin and Rhett Sutphin

Additionally, Rhett Sutphin and Sean Whitaker received the caBIG™ Teamwork Award for their work with the caBIG™ Clinical Trials Suite Team. Dong Fu, Warren Kibbe and Andrew Winter were also presented with the caBIG™ Teamwork Award for their efforts with the Prostate SPORE Informatics Team. (continued on page 4)

Lurie Cancer Center Receives \$1,050,000 From AVON Foundation

The sixth annual Avon Walk Chicago was an overwhelming success, raising \$9.1 million and drawing participants from 40 states, including 289 breast cancer survivors. The Lurie Cancer Center received \$1,050,000 to support access to breast care for medically underserved populations at the Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Erie Family Health Center. In addition, the funds support research at the Lurie Cancer Center's Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Research Laboratories focused on identifying markers for breast cancer prevention and treatment response, and characterizing molecular mechanisms of breast cancer growth, survival and metastasis.

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Take a look at the
new look of the
Lurie Cancer Center
website

cancer.northwestern.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Lurie Cancer Center News - 1
- Professional Programs - 4
- Patient Events - 4
- Awards and Honors - 5
- Tumor Cell Biology Seminars - 6
- Grand Rounds - 7
- New Members and Staff - 8

Cancer Center News and Notes

David Mahvi, MD, Joins Northwestern as Chief of Surgical Oncology

David M. Mahvi, MD, has joined Northwestern as Chief of Surgical Oncology and Professor in the Department of Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine, and as a member of the Lurie Cancer Center.

Dr. Mahvi is on the medical staff of Northwestern Memorial Hospital. His clinical interests include the surgical treatment of upper gastrointestinal malignancies (liver, pancreas and stomach) and the combinations of surgery and liver tumor ablation for colorectal cancers.

"We are thrilled to have him join us at Northwestern - he is a distinguished figure in surgical oncology and brings impressive clinical and leadership skills to our institution," said Dr. Steven Rosen, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center. Most recently, Dr. Mahvi was the Chief of Surgical Oncology at the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center. His research interests include gene therapy for the treatment of cancer and the development of devices to treat liver cancer.



CIS Moves to Lurie Cancer Center

The National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service (CIS) Heartland Region's Chicago office has moved to the Lurie Cancer Center. For more than three decades, the CIS has provided the latest, most accurate cancer information to health professionals, patients and the public. As part of the CIS Partnership Program, the Chicago office works collaboratively with state and community-based organizations to reach minority and medically underserved populations in an effort to reduce the burden of cancer in Illinois. "We are extremely pleased with the opportunity to continue to grow our partnership with this NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, which shares our mission of reducing cancer-related health disparities," said Hope Krebill, Heartland Region Program Director. (continued on page 4)

CMS Recognizes NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it will recognize the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Drugs & Biologics Compendium as a mandated reference for establishment of coverage policy and coverage decisions regarding the use of drugs and biologics in cancer care. The NCCN Compendium will be used by CMS for national coverage determinations. The major application will be in determinations about coverage for the use of drugs and biologics in oncology beyond the FDA approved indication.

This recognition comes on the heels of a recent announcement that UnitedHealthcare would base its coverage for chemotherapy drugs used in outpatient settings on the NCCN Drugs & Biologics Compendium. Recognition from CMS, the nation's largest health insurer, is another positive outcome of adapting and transcribing the recommendations from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology to a compendium format.

MBP Program Expanding in 2008

The Master of Biotechnology Program (MBP), a 15 month (five quarter) full-time program (with a part-time option) leading to a MS in Biotechnology degree, is designed to prepare biologists, chemists and engineers for careers in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. It is distinguished from other Masters of Biotechnology programs by the integration of biology and engineering combined with extensive hand-on research in Northwestern University faculty laboratories.

The MBP program is expanding in 2008, making the class entering in September the largest since its inception in 2003. Most of the incoming students are recent graduates with undergraduate majors split evenly between biological science, biotechnology, chemical and biomedical engineering, and chemistry.

The MBP curriculum emphasizes the integration of biology and bioprocess engineering and includes comprehensive molecular biology / protein biochemistry and bioprocess operations laboratory classes. Seminars are offered on the legal,

regulatory and ethical aspects of biotechnology, as well as instruction in written and oral communication—many presented by industry professionals and members of the Lurie Cancer Center.

For information on joining the faculty preceptors conducting research in the life sciences, chemical and biological engineering, biotechnology, biomedical engineering, biomaterials science and translational research, please contact Arthur Felse (afelse@northwestern.edu), Igor Kourkine (ikourkine@northwestern.edu) or Bill Miller ([wmiller@northwestern.edu](mailto:wmillier@northwestern.edu)) or visit their website at MBP.northwestern.edu. The MBP is administered by the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering.

Cancer Center News and Notes

\$7.5 Million NCI Grant Awarded to Vadim Backman

Lurie Cancer Center member Vadim Backman, PhD, who has developed optical technology shown to be effective for the early detection of colon cancer, has received a \$7.5 million grant over five years from the National Cancer Institute to further study an instrument that potentially could become a routine colon cancer screening test.

Colon cancer, the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, can be easily treated if detected early. But no existing population-wide screening test can accurately predict the presence of the disease with adequate sensitivity. Backman, principal investigator for the grant and professor of biomedical engineering at Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, believes the technology he has developed could lead to the first such test. A major part of the NCI grant is to validate the technology being developed for an inexpensive, non-invasive test for routine colon cancer screening, and have it ready for use.

Backman's optical technique takes advantage of certain light scattering effects and is minimally invasive. The method can detect abnormal changes in cells lining the colon long before those changes can be seen under a microscope, and even before polyps form.



Onco-Biotechnology Summit

July's *Onco-Biotechnology Summit: The Future Starts Now*, hosted by the Kellogg Center for Biotechnology Management and the Lurie Cancer Center, focused on recent advances in cancer diagnostics and therapeutics, from innovations to regulatory environment and markets. More than 140 people participated in presentations and panel discussions of research and clinical challenges in disease areas, research fields (such as nanotechnology), dialogues on patient adherence and safety, payer perspectives and investment partnerships. Richard Pazdur, MD, Director of the Office of Oncology Drug Products, Center for Drug Evaluation at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration discussed The FDA perspective on Onco-Biotechnology. Other keynote speakers included Howard "Skip" A. Burris III, MD, Chief Medical Officer of the Sara Cannon Research Institute and Piotr Grodzinski, PhD, Director of Nanotechnology for Cancer Programs at the Nanotechnology Alliance of the National Cancer Institute.

Gail L. Gamble, MD, Named Medical Director of Cancer Rehabilitation Program



Gail L. Gamble, MD, has been appointed Medical Director of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's (RIC) Cancer Rehabilitation Program, bringing cancer rehabilitation expertise acquired over more than 20 years at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Gamble's appointment launches the formal expansion of the RIC Cancer Rehabilitation Program.

Founded on the belief that patients overcoming cancer hope for more than just survival, the RIC's Cancer Rehabilitation Program is focused on improving the abilities that increase the quality of life and on helping patients to thrive. As the cancer survival rate increases, the aggressive medical treatments used to treat the disease frequently result in physical weakness and disability.

As Medical Director, Dr. Gamble will collaborate with the Lurie Cancer Center, NMH and the Feinberg School of Medicine, to advance RIC's patient care program, education and clinical research. She will develop and recruit additional top medical and scientific talent to the Cancer Rehabilitation Program. She is the past president of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, a previous member of the Advisory Committee to the National Center of Medical Rehabilitation Research (NIH), and a member of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Review Committee (RRC) of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Contact Dr. Gamble at g-gamble@ric.org or 312.238.7670.

Professional Programs & Patient Events

Throughout the year the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University offers Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs on various cancer specialties. Below is a list of programs scheduled for the remainder of 2008. For specific dates or more information about these programs, visit cancer.northwestern.edu/education or call 312.695.1304.

Professional Programs

10th Annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium

The Fairmont Hotel, Chicago
October 23-26, 2008
Chair: William Gradishar, MD
lynnsagebreastcancer.org

Berlin Lecture

Lurie Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium
November 11, 2008, 3 pm to 4 pm
Timothy Rebbeck, PhD

11th Annual Oncology Nursing Conference

The Wyndham Hotel, Chicago
December 5, 2008
Co-Chairs: Colleen O'Leary, RN, BSN, OCN and Sarah Witt, RN, BSN, OCN
cancer.northwestern.edu/nursing

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 Information Fairs

Galter Pavillion, 21st Floor - 11 am to 2 pm
September 10, 2008 - Featured topic: Myeloma
October 7, 2008 - Featured topic: Breast Cancer
November 4, 2008 - Featured topic: Lung Cancer
December 10 and 11, 2008 - Featured topic: Survivorship

Frankly Speaking About Colorectal Cancer

Prentice Women's Hospital
September 18, 2008, 5 pm to 8 pm
cancer.northwestern.edu/fsacc

Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Town Hall Meeting

Fairmont Hotel, Chicago
October 26, 2008, 1 pm to 4 pm
Chair: William Gradishar, MD
cancer.northwestern.edu/townhall

NMFF Welcomes New Administrative Director to Lurie Cancer Center

On September 22, Rebecca Caires will join the Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University at Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation as Administrative Director. Caires has twenty years of successful management experience in academic and community healthcare systems, focused in oncology clinical, research and administrative operations, including several positions at the H. Lee Moffit Cancer Center and Research Institute. Her office will be on the 21st floor of Galter Pavilion.

(CIS Move - from page 2)

For more information about CIS or the Partnership Program, contact Partnership Program coordinators Erica Vassilos at 312-695-8169, or Gwendolyn West at 312-695-8170, or visit www.cancer.gov/cis.

(caBIG - from page 1)

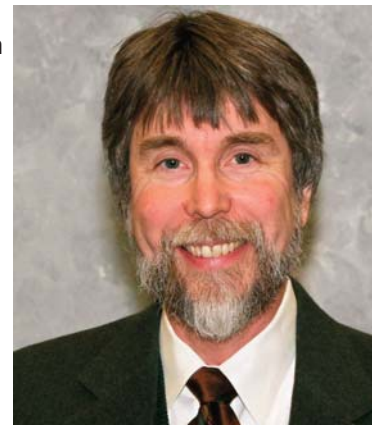
Overseen by the National Cancer Institute for Biomedical Informatics and Information Technology, caBIG was conceived to address the needs of all constituencies in the cancer community - researchers, clinicians, patients - to share data and knowledge, simplify collaboration, speed research to get diagnostics and therapeutics from bench to bedside faster and more cost-effectively, and ultimately realize the potential of Personalized Medicine. caBig also addresses a critical problem facing both basic and clinical researchers today - an explosion of data that requires new approaches for collection, management and analysis.

Awards and Honors

Al B Benson, III, MD, Associate Director for Clinical Investigations, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, was honored with an ASCO Statesman Award. The award, created in 2007, is meant to recognize extraordinary dedication on the part of an ASCO member who has given 20 or more cumulative years of service to the Society.

Chonghui Cheng, MD, PhD, has been awarded the 2008 AACR-Genentech BioOncology Career Development Award for Cancer Research on the HER Family Pathway, as well as the BC075550 Dynamic Regulation of Alternative Splicing in Breast Cancer Development Award from the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) of the Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) US Army.

Lynne Wagner, PhD's, presentation on "Relation between perceived cognitive function and neuropsychological performance in survivors of breast and colorectal cancer" (co-author is Janet Vardy) was selected for the Best of ASCO at the June meeting in Chicago.



The V Foundation for Cancer Research Named **Dean Ho, PhD**, as a V Foundation Scholar for his research of Active Nanodiamond Hydrogels for Directed Chemotherapeutic Delivery.

Maribeth Mielnicki, RN, Kim Mrock, RN, and Colleen O'Leary, RN, received their Master of Science in Nursing degrees.

Ken Carson, MD, has been awarded the 2008 ASCO Foundation Merit Award.

Michelle Young, CMSRN, earned her Medical Surgical certification from the Academy of Medical Surgical Registered Nursing.

Joanna Lamott, RN, was named Nurse Liason for NMH.

19th Annual Scientific Poster Session

The 19th Annual Scientific Poster Session, provided an opportunity for students and fellows to display their work, socialize with peers, and learn about current cancer-related research. Students and postdoctoral fellows from Lurie Cancer Center labs presented over 60 poster presentations.



Katten Muchin Rosenman Travel Scholarship Program Recipients with Vincent A.F. Sergi, National Managing Partner, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP (second from right) and Steven T. Rosen, MD, FACP (far right). Photo by Nathan Mandell

Travel Scholarship Awards

The Katten Muchin Rosenman Travel Scholarship Program (KMR), the Center for Genetic Medicine Travel Fellowship (CGM) and Cancer Prevention and Control Travel Scholarship Program (CP) review committee congratulates the following recipients of Travel Fellowship Awards:

Graduate Students - Christa Chatfield (CGM), Anthony Kowal (CGM), Sang-Min Lee (KMR), Emily Pentzer (KMR), Callie Pollock (KMR), Emelyn Shroff (KMR), Hong Zhang (KMR)

Post-Docs - Ramakrishnan Balasubramanian, PhD (KMR), Anat Ben-Zvi, PhD (CGM), Sihem Khelifa, PhD (CP)

The next deadline for applications is November 7, 2008. Forms are available online at cancer.northwestern.edu/education/.

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

- September 25 The Interplay of MYC and HIF in Metabolism and Tumorigenesis**
Chi Dang, MD, PhD - Professor, Department of Medicine, Cell Biology, Oncology and Pathology
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
- October 2 Discovery of Recurrent Gene Fusions in Prostate Cancer: A New class of Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets**
Arul Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD - Associate Professor, Departments of Pathology and Urology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- October 9 Student Lecture-Regulation of Notch by Ikaros During T-cell Development and Leukemogenesis**
Sheila Chari, PhD - Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Microbiology/Immunology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- October 16 Fibrosis Coupled with Mti-MMP Driven Collagenolysis Promote Tumor Cell Invasion**
Surabhi Dangi-Garmiella, PhD - Research Associate, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- October 23 Functional Role of the Loss of the Ets Factor PDEF During Cancer Progression**
Dennis Watson, PhD - Professor, Department of Molecular Cellular Biology and Pathobiology Program
Medical College of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
- October 30 TBA**
- November 6 TBA**
Marcelo Bento Soares, PhD - Professor and Director, Cancer Biology and Epigenomics Program
Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL
- November 13 TBA**
Richard Carthew, PhD - Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- November 20 Definition of a SERM and Clinical Relevance of SERM Behaviors**
Geoffrey Greene, MD - Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Professor and Vice Chair, The Ben May Department of
Cancer Research
University of Chicago, 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.

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.

- September 5 Providing Care for Survivors of Childhood, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers**
Melissa Hudson, MD, Director, Cancer Survivorship Division
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis TN
Host: Karen Kinahan, RN, MSBC
- September 12 HIV and HPV Infections in Rwandan Women: Implications for Global Policy**
Diljeet Singh, MD, DrPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- September 19 CML: Myths, Mutations and More**
Tariq Mughal, MD, Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
- September 26 Ophthalmologic Conditions Seen in Oncology Patients**
Surendra Basti, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
- October 3 Polycythemia Vera and Germ Line Mutations Causing Polycythemia**
Josef Prchal, MD, Professor, Department of Anatomic Pathology and Hematology
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
- October 10 Therapeutic Alternatives for Patients with Lymphoma Who Relapse After Autologous Transplantation**
Cesar Freytes, MD, FACP, Professor, Department of Medicine and Director, Adult Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Program
University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX
- October 17 Primary and Metastatic Intrathoracic Germ Cell Tumors: Models for Multidisciplinary Cancer Therapy**
Ken Kesler, MD, Professor, Department of Surgery and Surgical Director, IU Thoracic Oncology Program
Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN
- October 24 Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium**
- October 31 Leptomeningeal Metastases: Evaluation and Treatment**
Marc Chamberlain, MD, Professor, Department of Neurology
University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle, WA
- November 7 Controversies and Emerging Strategies for Diagnosis, Prophylaxis and Treatment of Fungal Infection in the Stem Cell Transplant Patient**
Hillard Lazarus, MD, Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH
- November 14 TBA**
Eva Kimby, MD, PhD,
Karolinska Institute, Huddinge University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
- November 21 ASH Poster Presentations**
- November 28 Thanksgiving Holiday**

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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:

Olga Frankfurt, MD, MSCI is assistant professor in the Department of Hematology / Oncology, Feinberg School of Medicine. Her interests include developing novel therapeutic strategies in patients with hematological disorders, with emphasis on MDS and AML in older patients. Her office is in 676 N. St. Clair, #850.

Contact Dr. Frankfurt at 312.695.6180 or o-frankfurt@northwestern.edu.

Laura Kulik, MD, is assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research has focused on HCC, specifically in patients intended to proceed to transplant. Future studies will concentrate on selection criteria for various treatments for HCC. Her office is in Galter, 675 N. St. Clair, #15-250.

Contact Dr. Kulik at 312.695.9286 or lkulik@nmff.org.

Joseph Shega, MD, is assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine. His primary research is the role of physical symptoms in physical disability, particularly among older adults. Cancer and cancer-related treatments may predispose patients to these conditions. As a palliative care consultant, he focuses on patient concerns regarding symptoms, goals of care, coordination of care, and care at the end of life. His office is in 676 N. St. Clair, #850.

Contact Dr. Shega at 312.695.4181 or jshega@gmail.com.

David Mahvi, MD, is Chief of Surgical Oncology and professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology, Feinberg School of Medicine. His research interests include gene therapy for the treatment of cancer and the development of devices to treat liver cancer. His clinical interests include the surgical treatment of upper gastrointestinal malignancies (liver, pancreas and stomach); the multidisciplinary treatment of breast cancer and the combinations of surgery and liver tumor ablation for colorectal cancers. His office is in Galter, 201 E. Huron, #10-105.

Contact Dr. Mahvi at 312.695.1419 or dmahvi@nmh.org.

Team Survivor

Team Survivor, comprised of members of the NMH Brain Tumor Support Group, families and friends, raised \$51,233--more than any other team--for the recent Brain Tumor Path to Progress 5K run/walk. 100% of the the event's proceeds, sponsored by the American Brain Tumor Foundation, support brain tumor research programs.



w e l c o m e

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s t a f f

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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-marhsall4@northwestern.edu.