



August 2011

IU Simon Cancer Center certified for providing top-quality care

IU Simon Cancer Center has received recognition from the world's leading oncology society for achieving the highest levels of quality for the care provided to its patients.

The IU Simon Cancer Center is the first in central Indiana to achieve the three-year certification from the Quality Oncology Practice



Initiative (QOPI) Certification Program, an affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

“QOPI certification is a reflection of our absolute commitment to provide our patients with the highest quality of oncology care. It also shows our determination to continue monitoring our performance and identifying the opportunities to improve our patient-centered care,” said [Jose Azar, MD](#), medical director for quality improvement and patient safety at the IU Simon Cancer Center and assistant professor of clinical medicine at the IU School of Medicine. “When patients visit the IU Simon Cancer Center, they can be assured they will receive comprehensive cancer care according to the most stringent national safety and quality standards.”



Azar

QOPI is a voluntary, self-assessment and improvement program launched by ASCO in 2006 to help hematology-oncology and medical oncology practices assess the quality of the care they provide to patients. Through the QOPI program, practices abstract data from patients' records up to twice per year and enter this information into a secure database. More than 700 oncology practices have registered in the QOPI program.

The QOPI Certification Program (QCP) was launched in January 2010. This certification for outpatient oncology practices is the first program of its kind for oncology in the United States. Oncologists can achieve certification by demonstrating practice consistent with the highest standards of care. The QCP seal designates those practices that not only scored high on the key QOPI quality measures, but meet rigorous safety measures established by ASCO and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS).

“IU Simon Cancer Center is proud to receive QOPI certification

from the American Society of Clinical Oncology because it underscores our commitment to our patients,” said [Doug Schwartzentruher, MD](#), associate director for clinical affairs for the IU Simon Cancer Center and system medical director for IU Health Cancer Services. “Our top priority is to provide the highest quality of cancer care to our patients by providing the most innovative treatments and meeting the most rigorous standards for quality and safety.”

QOPI analyzes individual practice data and compares these to more than 100 evidence-based and consensus quality measures. The information is then provided in reports to participating practices. Individual practices are also able to compare their performance to data from other practices across the country. Based on this feedback, doctors and practices can identify areas for improvement.

To become certified, practices have to submit to an evaluation of their entire practice and documentation standards. The QCP staff and steering group members then verify that the evaluation and documents are correct and that the practices met core standards in all areas of treatment, including:

- treatment planning
- staff training and education
- chemotherapy orders and drug preparation
- patient consent and education
- safe chemotherapy administration
- monitoring and assessing of patient well-being

“Cancer patients and their families should expect nothing less than accountability and the highest standards from their cancer care providers,” said Allen S. Lichter, MD, CEO of ASCO and president of the QOPI Certification Program. “QOPI participation reflects a commitment to quality of care that leads to fundamental changes in the clinical practice of oncology. Oncology practices that commit to quality and safety are those that provide the most optimal cancer care. The Certification Program helps practices determine whether they are providing the best treatment and care possible to their patients and demonstrates a commitment to excellence and ongoing quality improvement in the hematology-oncology outpatient practice.”



August 2011

News briefs

Purdue hosts "Drug Delivery and Cancer" in October

Purdue University Center for Cancer Research is hosting "Drug Delivery and Cancer: Challenges and New Directions for Cancer Therapy" Oct. 10-

11. The objective



of this workshop is different than most: rather than discuss recent successes in drug delivery, it focuses on unsolved problems that impede progress and to determine why so many promising leads have failed to produce major improvements in cancer chemotherapy. An international panel of experts will present their perspectives on practical problems in drug delivery. By holding an honest and introspective discourse on the present limitations in drug delivery research, we can better define the factors that have kept promising drug delivery systems from achieving their full potential.

The registration deadline is Sept. 30. The fees are \$20 for undergraduate and graduate students; \$40 for non-students/professionals. To register, visit www.conf.purdue.edu/DDC. For more information, visit www.cancerresearch.purdue.edu/events/ddc.

ACS launches Cancer Prevention Study-3

The American Cancer Society's third Cancer Prevention Study (CPS-3) will be enrolling participants from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6 and Friday, Oct. 7 in the Indiana Cancer Pavilion lobby (535 Barnhill Drive). As part of enrollment, individuals who choose to participate will simply fill out a comprehensive survey about health history, provide a small blood sample (to be collected by trained phlebotomists), and provide a waist measurement. Enrollment will take approximately 45 to 60 minutes. From that point forward, study participants will be followed over time to update information via periodic, mailed surveys. Your involvement in CPS-3 will help American Cancer Society researchers understand the causes of and ultimately determine ways to prevent cancer.

If you are willing to make a long-term commitment to the study (which involves completing follow-up surveys periodically over the next 20 to 30 years), are between the ages of 30 and 65, and have never been diagnosed with cancer, you are eligible to participate in this study.

If you don't meet the eligibility requirements, your significant participation comes from telling everyone you know about the opportunity to help prevent cancer.

Visit www.cps3indy.com, call 1-888-604-5888, or e-mail cps3@cancer.org to learn more about the difference you can personally make in the fight against cancer.

Cancer center members in the news

- **Andrew Saykin**, PsyD, and **Brenna McDonald**, PsyD, MBA, are presenting at the Chemo Brain: Mechanisms & Assessments International Conference Oct. 12-14 at the University of Kentucky. The symposium's participants will be better able to identify the causes of chemo brain, to be vigilant with their patients, and to prescribe/change regimens for patients to deal with this side effect. To register, visit <http://www.cecentral.com/live/3078>.
- **Rafat Siddiqui**, PhD, and colleagues wrote "Migration of MDA-MB-231 Breast Cancer Cells Depends on the Availability of Exogenous Lipids and Cholesterol Esterification" for *Clinical & Experimental Metastasis*. Their research substantiates the association of lipid accumulation with aggressive behavior in an estrogen receptor negative breast cancer cell line. Also, Dr. Siddiqui and colleagues wrote in the July 2 online issue of *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*: "Our data suggest that the 2,6-diisopropylphenyl-docosahexaenoamide (DIP-DHA) conjugate exhibits significantly more potent effects on CEM and Jurkat cells than that of DIP or DHA alone. These conjugates have potential use for treatment of patients with T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia."



Siddiqui
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) presented a Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award to **Rafat Abonour**, MD, in late July at the NCI Translational Research Conference in Washington, DC. The award, presented to 12 investigators, recognizes exceptional contributions to the advancement of new therapies through collaborative team science.

- **George Sledge, MD, and Kathy Miller, MD,** wrote “A Phase II Pilot Trial Incorporating Bevacizumab into Dose-dense Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide Followed by Paclitaxel in Patients with Lymph Node Positive Breast Cancer: A Trial Coordinated by the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group,” which appeared in the [Annals of Oncology](#).
- **Debra Burns, PhD, MT-BC,** in a story distributed by Reuters, was quoted about music therapy and cancer patients. Read the [story](#).
- **Mark Kelley, PhD,** edited “DNA Repair in Cancer Therapy,” expected to be published Sept. 1 by Elsevier. This comprehensive and timely reference focuses on the translational and clinical use of DNA repair as a target area for the development of diagnostic biomarkers and the enhancement of cancer treatment.
Melissa Fishel, PhD, John Turchi, PhD, Michael Vasko, and **Millie Georgiadis, PhD,** collaborated with Dr. Kelley.



Burns

Reminders

- **Membership criteria changes**
 IU Simon Cancer Center membership criteria, benefits, and responsibilities have been updated. Membership in the IU Simon Cancer Center is open to full-time faculty of Indiana University or IUPUI who contribute on some level to the overall mission of the cancer center in areas of research, education, patient care, or community outreach. [Learn more](#).
- **Grants available to researchers**
 For the latest grant opportunities, visit the [Funding Opportunities](#) page on the IUSCC Web site.