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Nationwide clinical trial tests effectiveness of drug that slows cancer growth

A drug that slows the growth of cancer in women with metastatic breast cancer will soon be tested in newly diagnosed patients across the country to determine if it will have a similar effect.



Miller

Kathy Miller, MD, is the principal investigator of the phase III trial called E5103 coordinated by the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, a network of cancer researchers, physicians and health-care professionals at public and private institutions around the nation.

The clinical study, which will enroll 4,950 women and men at sites across the country over the next 2½ years, is the first to add the drug bevacizumab (Avastin®) to the current standard chemotherapy treatment in patients with newly diagnosed breast cancer.

In 2005, Miller discovered that adding Avastin to the standard chemotherapy treatment nearly doubled the time it took for cancer to grow in women whose breast cancer had metastasized to other parts of the body, compared with women who received standard treatment alone.

Because of that discovery, Miller and her colleagues believe that adding Avastin to chemotherapy for newly diagnosed women – those women without metastasized cancer – may also be successful in treating breast cancer.

Researchers at the IU Simon Cancer Center have been the leaders in anti-angiogenic research for breast cancer. George Sledge, M.D., was the principal investigator of the first nationwide phase I and phase II trials with the drug in 1997 and 1999, respectively.



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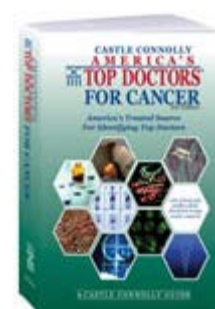
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"America's Top Doctors for Cancer" recognizes 18 IUSCC physicians

Eighteen physicians with the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center have been recognized as the best in their field.

The 18 are among 21 in Indiana included in the most recent edition of "[America's Top Doctors for Cancer](#)." The new guide identifies the nation's most outstanding physicians for the diagnosis and treatment of cancers in adults and children.



"The IU Simon Cancer Center strives to excel in patient care and treatment with dedicated physicians who are recognized nationally for their expertise," IU School of Medicine Dean D. Craig Brater, M.D., said. "This expertise reflects both our culture and our environment -- a culture of always trying to generate new knowledge and apply that to patient care and an environment of collaboration and team work among all health professionals at our partner hospitals -- Wishard Health Services, the Roudebush VA Medical Center and Clarian Health -- and our colleagues at other campuses such as IU Bloomington, Purdue and Notre Dame. It is said that hard work is its own reward, but acknowledgment of a job well done by 'America's Top Doctors' is always appreciated."

"America's Top Doctors for Cancer" include:

- Dennis Blom (surgery)
- John J. Coleman III, MD (plastic surgery)
- Lawrence H. Einhorn, MD (medical oncology)
- Robert J. Fallon, MD (pediatric hematology-oncology)
- Richard S. Foster, MD (urology)
- Robert J. Goulet Jr., MD (surgery)
- Jay L. Grosfeld, MD (pediatric surgery)

Valerie P. Jackson, MD (diagnostic radiation)

- Keith D. Lillemoe, MD (surgery)
- Patrick J. Loehrer, Sr. MD (medical oncology)
- Katherine Look, MD (gynecologic oncology)
- Scott Shapiro, MD (neurological surgery)
- George W. Sledge Jr., MD (medical oncology)
- Frederick B. Stehman, MD (gynecologic oncology)
- Allan Thornton Jr., MD (radiation oncology) Thornton is with the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute in Bloomington, which is affiliated with the IU Simon Cancer Center.
- Thomas M. Ulbright, MD (pathology)
- Terry A. Vik, MD (pediatric hematology-oncology)
- Stephen D. Williams, MD (medical oncology)

Published by Castle Connolly, the guide contains detailed profiles of more than 2,200 of America’s leading cancer specialists across more than 40 medical specialties. The doctors are selected by a physician-led research team based on comprehensive national surveys of physicians and medical leaders.



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Wade Clapp
"Preclinical Testing of Targeted Therapies for
Neurofibromas"
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Brittney-Shea Herbert
"Inhibition of Ovarian Cancer by MicroRNA-Mediated
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DOD



iuscc research news

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News Briefs

Johnstone begins Dec. 1 as radiation oncology chair

Peter A. S. Johnstone, MD, has been named chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Indiana University School of Medicine, effective Dec. 1. Johnstone most recently was professor of radiation oncology and hematology/oncology at Emory University School of Medicine and director of the Cancer Survivorship Program at the Winship Cancer Institute. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1975 to 2003. He earned his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., and a master's degree in communications from the University of Oklahoma in Norman. He completed a residency in radiation oncology at the National Cancer Institute, and he also has received specialized training in medical acupuncture at UCLA. Johnstone is president of the Society of Integrative Oncology and editor of *Current Problems in Cancer*. He serves on several committees within the American College of Radiology, the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, and the American Radium Society. Johnstone succeeds James G. Morphis II, M.D., who served as interim chair and then chair of the IU Department of Radiation Oncology since 2004.



Johnstone

Hanna leads Hoosier Oncology Group

Nasser Hanna, MD, has been elected chair of the [Hoosier Oncology Group](#) Inc. (HOG). He will oversee the research matters of the organization, including research site development, clinical trial conduct and industry relationships. Hanna replaces Chris Sweeney, MBBS, who is returning to his native Australia to be director of cancer clinical trials at Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Center in Adelaide.

Tissue bank picks chief operating officer

Jill Henry has been named the chief operating officer of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center. An active volunteer with the Indianapolis affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Henry holds an MBA from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Ohio State University. The tissue bank is a collection of blood and breast samples taken primarily from women without breast cancer.



Henry

Sledge co-chairs Miami breast cancer symposium

George Sledge, MD, is serving as co-chair of The First Annual North American Symposium on Personalized Therapies for Breast Cancer Jan. 19-20 in Miami. He will present "Prediction of Therapeutic Response and Prognosis Utilizing OncotypeDX®" and "Angiogenesis Inhibition: Therapeutic Individualization for Breast Cancer with Drugs That Do Not Target Cancer Cells."

Kelley presents at San Francisco

Mark Kelley, PhD, presented "DNA Repair as a Therapeutic Target" Nov. 29 during the GTCbio's third Modern Drug Discovery & Developmental Summit in San Francisco.

LCWG seeks proposals

The Lung Cancer Working Group (LCWG) of the IUSCC invites proposals for collaborative translational projects focused on lung cancer. [Read](#) the full details.

Update: Supplemental funding

The IU Simon Cancer Center's program for supplemental funding for newly funded NCI grants will end for those grant proposals with a start date of July 1, 2008, or after. For the full details, visit [here](#).

New IUSCC homepage makes its debut

The IUSCC Web site has a new look. The new [homepage](#) debuts with images a mother, a soccer coach, and a gardener -- all of whom were treated by IU Simon Cancer Center physicians and celebrate full, energetic lives. On a related note, the Web site's [News & Events](#) section has been revamped for easy

reference. News releases are displayed prominently and an archive of past issues of this newsletter can be found there.

Miles for Myeloma update



After running for nearly 12 hours from Indianapolis, Rafat Abonour, MD, makes his way through a human tunnel at IU Bloomington's Memorial Stadium during pre-game football festivities Nov. 3. More than 500 patients, their families, IU cheerleaders and others formed the tunnel to welcome Abonour as he completed the first leg of this year's Miles for Myeloma. Abonour cycled back to Indy the next day. In all, his feet and bike tires traveled 117 miles, and his efforts has raised more than \$275,000 for research devoted to finding a cure for multiple myeloma.
