

September 2007

From the Director

Last month, I discussed the preparation of the competing renewal of our Cancer Center Support Grant. I am happy to report that the application has been completed and submitted. More than 30 individuals participated in a major way in its preparation and all of our external advisors participated in the review prior to submission. Thanks to everyone who participated in this difficult task. In my opinion, this application was by far the strongest we have ever submitted and honestly represents the great accomplishments we have made during the current funding cycle.

Here are several things I think are of particular note:

- Most important, of course, are the scientific accomplishments we have made in the fight against cancer. Our members have made noteworthy discoveries in such areas as the pharmacogenetics of vincristine and hormonal therapies for breast cancer, strategies for stem cell transplantation, and new treatments for children with plexiform neurofibromatosis. In a soon-to-be published paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Kathy Miller, MD, describes an important breast cancer trial that has improved therapy for women with advanced disease and may have impact for adjuvant therapy. This therapy arose from the laboratories and early clinical studies of IUSCC investigators. Other studies suggest new ways to increase mammography usage and colorectal cancer screening, both of critical importance.
- The IU Simon Cancer Center is a great place to work. Over the years, I think that because of our members and facilities, we have become more attractive to the scientists and clinicians that we seek to recruit.
- At the core of these successes is the superb institutional commitment that the Indiana University leadership provides to us and the priority that they placed on cancer research and patient care.

We still have the site visit to go on Jan. 9, but we go forward with the conviction that we have made great accomplishments and are well-placed for a highly successful review by our peers.

[Stephen Williams, MD](#)

HH Gregg Professor of Oncology

Director, IU Simon Cancer Center

News Briefs

Miller named interim associate director of clinical research

Kathy Miller, MD, has been named interim associate director for clinical research at IU Simon Cancer Center, effective Oct. 1. Miller will be charged with setting the overall direction and development of the cancer center's clinical research program. She will be responsible for recognizing promising areas of research and providing direction to faculty in pursuing research objectives. Miller will replace Chris Sweeney, MBBS, who will return to his native Australia to be director of cancer clinical trials at Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Center in Adelaide. A national search remains open for Sweeney's replacement.



Miller

Loehrer chairs Third Annual Oncology Congress

Pat Loehrer, MD, served as chair of the Third Annual Oncology Congress earlier this month in San Francisco. He presented "Internal Medicine for the Oncologist," "Testicular Cancer: Early Stage Disease," and he participated in a debate, "Is There a Role for Radiation in Local Advanced Pancreatic Cancer?" Loehrer will serve again as chair during next year's Oncology Congress in San Francisco. Also, George Sledge, MD, presented "Therapeutic Individualization in Breast Cancer" during the Third Annual Oncology Congress.

Little Red Door honors Goulet Oct. 17

Little Red Door Cancer Agency will present Robert Goulet Jr., MD, with the Lawrence H. Einhorn MD Award for his exceptional impact in the lives of breast cancer patients in central Indiana during the Revel with a Cause charity concert Oct. 17 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The award is given annually to a person in central Indiana who has contributed exceptionally in the fight against cancer. If you know someone who has been helped by Dr. Goulet, please contact radio host [Ann Duran](#) at 107.9 The Track. Those comments will be compiled into an audio montage that will be heard during the event. During Revel with a Cause, you'll travel back to the 1960s and 70s with performances from Gary Puckett, The Diamonds, and The Association. Tickets are \$75; proceeds fund mammography services for underserved women in central Indiana. To reserve your tickets, contact Little Red Door at 925-5595 or dshelby@littlereddoor.org. Visit www.pinktober.org for more details. A pre- and post-event reception will be hosted by the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center and Clarian Health.



Goulet

ACS Institutional Research Grant deadline is Nov. 14

The deadline for applications for the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant is Nov. 14.

Funds from this ACS grant are usually allocated in amounts of up to \$25,000. The purpose of the grant is to assist young investigators in the ranks of assistant professor, research assistant professor, and assistant scientist in starting their independent research projects and to foster cancer research at the Indiana University School of Medicine campus in Indianapolis and at the regional centers of the medical school. Applications from research assistant professors and assistant scientists require a letter from the department chair certifying that the research proposal is independent of the research program of the laboratory P.I.

The applications (8-10 pages, no recycled R01 applications) will be reviewed by the ACS Institutional Research Grant Committee. The body of the proposal should not exceed 10 pages. Proposals need to follow these formatting guidelines: Helvetica or Arial fonts, 11 points or larger, half-inch margins, double-spaced.

The investigators who receive grants must submit an interim and a final progress report as required by the ACS. Applicants with prior funding from the ACS are not eligible to apply. Applicants with significant funding from other sources are not eligible to apply. Limited support for partial salary may be allowed. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or submit proof of approval for a green card. The funding period is Jan. 1, 2008, to Dec. 31, 2008.

[Download](#) an application. Questions? Please contact [Elizabeth Parsons](#), grants coordinator, at (317) 278-0078. An electronic copy in PDF format should be submitted to Parsons.

Kathy Miller is first author of Phase 2 study

EntreMed Inc., a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company developing therapeutics for the treatment of cancer and inflammatory diseases, recently announced the presentation of interim results for its Phase 2 clinical study of MKC-1 in patients with metastatic breast cancer. The data were presented by EntreMed collaborators during the 2007 Breast Cancer Symposium "Integrating Emerging Science into Clinical Practice," held Sept. 7-8 in San Francisco. Kathy Miller, MD, is the first author. The Phase 2 single-agent study is being conducted at multiple centers across the United States to evaluate the safety and efficacy of MKC-1 in metastatic breast cancer patients who have failed therapy with anthracyclines and taxanes. Results from the first stage of the single-agent study demonstrate that orally-administered MKC-1 is well-tolerated without evidence of cumulative toxicity in anthracycline/taxane refractory metastatic breast cancer patients. Of the 35 evaluable patients, one complete response (CR), two partial responses (PR), and three stable diseases (SD) of greater than four months were observed. This study has proceeded to the second stage and is continuing to enroll up to 53 evaluable patients to confirm safety and assess the extent of objective responses in this patient population.

IUSCC in the news

Thomas Gardner, MD, was a guest on the *Amos Brown Show* (WTLC-FM) Sept. 18, promoting free prostate screenings at the IU Simon Cancer Center. Gardner and Chandru Sundaram, MD, performed the screenings.

In October, Clarian Health's A Call to Change will again focus on mammography in recognition of Breast

Cancer Awareness Month. As such, the print ads with patient Cindi Hart and her physician, Kathy Miller, MD, will appear again throughout central Indiana. The radio spots with Robert Goulet, MD, talking about the importance of a second opinion and the symptoms of breast cancer also will be repeated. The ads and radio spots first aired last spring. A second cancer campaign focusing on the importance of colonoscopy will be introduced in late October to early November. The colon cancer campaign is set to feature Pat Loehrer, MD, and Doug Rex, MD, FACP, FACG. Both cancer campaigns emphasize the importance of early detection through screenings.

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New Members

The following people are new members of IU Simon Cancer Center:

Holly Knoderer, MD, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, affiliate member

Kevin Rand, PhD, assistant professor of psychology, affiliate member

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New Grants

The following IU Simon Cancer Center members recently received the following grants:

Janice Blum, PhD

“Manipulation of Host and Virus Genes to Promote Protective Immunity Against Poxviruses”

Department of Defense

Janice Blum, PhD

“MHC Class II-restricted Cytoplasmic Antigen Presentation”

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Harikrishna Nakshatri, PhD

“Animal Model for Local Inflammation-Induced Breast Cancer”

NCI

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Upcoming Events

Hard-hat tours available

Tours of the IU Simon Cancer Center are currently underway. Tours are available every first and third Tuesday during regular working hours and a limited number of evening tours are also being offered. Participants must wear full-length pants and closed-toe shoes to tour the new facility. Hard hats and safety glasses will be furnished and must be worn at all times. To schedule or participate in a tour, contact [Cindy Arndt](#), 278-9902.

Lungs for Life run, walk

The [Lungs for Life 5K Run/Walk and One-Mile Family Walk](#) begins at 9 a.m. Sept. 29 in front of the Indiana Cancer Pavilion.

Miles for Myeloma

Rafat Abonour, MD, takes to the roads on foot and bike from Indy to Bloomington and back for [Miles for Myeloma](#), Nov. 3-4. This year's event, dubbed the Bloomington Boomerang, features an opportunity for patients, families, friends, and **all IU Simon Cancer Center employees** to be a part of a human tunnel Saturday, Nov. 3. All are invited to join IU cheerleaders in forming a welcome tunnel on the Hoosiers' football field during the IU vs. Ball State pre-game festivities. Abonour will run through the tunnel as he completes the first leg of Miles for Myeloma. Free tickets are available. Contact [Theresa Vernon](#), (317) 274-7409. Also, all are invited to a finish-line celebration at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4 in the Indiana Cancer Pavilion atrium.

