



## iuscc research news

July 2009

### IUSCC among the "best," according to U.S. News & World Report

One cancer program in Indiana has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2009 publication of America's Best Hospitals.

Cancer clinical care programs at Clarian Health/Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM), including those at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center, ranked #32 in the magazine's "America's Best Hospitals" guide. The IU Simon Cancer Center is the only cancer center in Indiana ranked in the guide. It was ranked #34 last year.



The guide is accessible online at [www.usnews.com/besthospitals](http://www.usnews.com/besthospitals).

Nine clinical programs at Clarian Health/IUSM are ranked among the top 50 national programs. Clarian's Methodist Hospital and Indiana University Hospital are the only Indiana hospitals included in the rankings and are among only 174 hospitals recognized out of the 4,861 evaluated nationwide.

Published in the July 21 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, the guide ranks clinical programs at Clarian in nine of the 16 specialties evaluated.

This is *U.S. News'* 20th year of ranking America's elite medical centers "to help patients find the best hospital when the need is great"; it is Clarian/IUSM's 12th consecutive appearance in the guide.



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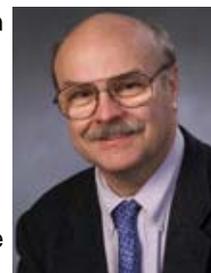
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### **Flockhart study: Tamoxifen with certain antidepressants doubles breast cancer risk**

A new study finds that women taking the cancer drug tamoxifen with certain antidepressants double their chances of the disease returning.

David A. Flockhart, MD, PhD, and colleagues recently

announced their findings at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.



Flockhart

Tamoxifen has long been prescribed to breast cancer patients because it blocks the effects of estrogen in breast tissue. Estrogen is known to increase the risk of breast cancer and to fuel the growth of many breast cancers.

A side effect of Tamoxifen, however, is hot flashes that result from the loss of estrogen's effects in women. "They (hot flashes) can be so uncomfortable that they prevent women from sleeping and they prevent women from taking the drug. Tamoxifen is a life-saving drug," Flockhart said.

Many women turn to prescribed antidepressants to better manage the hot flashes as well as depression. Some antidepressants also act to inhibit the enzyme CYP2D6, which helps tamoxifen work.

Dr. Flockhart and team found that women taking both a CYP2D6 inhibiting antidepressant and Tamoxifen had a 13.9 percent chance of their breast cancer returning over two years, while those taking just tamoxifen had a 7.5 percent.

The study examined 945 women taking tamoxifen and 353 taking tamoxifen with antidepressants that are classified as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI/2D6), which interfere with tamoxifen.

For those women taking both drugs, Dr. Flockhart advises switching to another antidepressant.

"If you need an antidepressant for depression or hot flashes, then don't use one of the drugs that blocks the enzyme," Dr. Flockhart said. "Specifically, don't use Paxil, Prozac, or Wellbutrin."



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### Core Spotlight

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#### Immunohistochemistry Core

The [Immunohistochemistry Core](#) provides high-quality immunostaining on cell lines, animal models, and human tissue for translational science biomedical research.

Located in the Clarian Pathology Laboratory at 350 West 11th St., the core is available for consultations and review of microscopic lesions and immunohistochemical stain results.

To ensure timely completion of large projects (those involving analyses from more than 30 animals), please contact the core one month prior to sample submission to discuss the goals of pathologic analysis, research questions posed, and types of analyses. Contact Lee Ann Baldrige at 491-6324 to schedule a time.

The core's offerings include:

- IHC and IMF for formalin fixed tissues (developed protocols)
- Macrophages: Mac-1, Mac-2, CD68, HAM 56, F4/80, myeloperoxidase
- Apoptosis: Cleaved Caspase 3, PARP
- Proliferation: Ki67, PH3, Cyclin B1, and PCNA
- Vascular Markers: Factor VIII, vWF, CD31, CD34, CD105, VegF, iNOS,
- Cell Signaling Pathway Markers: b catenin, GSKb3, and Stat3.
- Development of new IHC and IMF protocols for detection of antigens in frozen or formalin fixed tissues

The core also assists in routine immunohistochemistry staining and in the development of protocols for novel antibodies.

For more information about the core, contact Dr. George Sandusky at 278-2304.



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### News Briefs

#### IUSCC goes to the Indiana State Fair

Colon cancer test kits, a cancer study, healthy cooking demonstrations, UV bracelets, and more will be offered by the IU Simon Cancer Center during the Indiana State Fair. [Read the news release.](#)



#### Share your memories; win Indians tickets

We are approaching the home stretch of the one-year anniversary of the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center's new patient care building. In celebration, a drawing will be held to win four tickets to the Indianapolis Indians game on Saturday, Aug. 8. Go to [www.cancer.iu.edu/memories](http://www.cancer.iu.edu/memories) and provide your reflections on the new building and what it has meant to you. Or you can write your reflections and drop it into the anniversary box located in front of the Gift Box (the gift shop) in the new building. The drawing will be held Wednesday, Aug. 5.

#### Walkers needed for this weekend's Relay for Life

The IU Researchers team for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life needs you Saturday, Aug. 1 or Sunday, Aug. 2. People are needed to walk one hour during the 24-hour Downtown Indy Relay for Life event. To sign up:

1. Go to [www.relayforlife.org/downtownindyin](http://www.relayforlife.org/downtownindyin)
2. Select: **Sign Up**
3. Select: **Join an Existing Team**
4. For team name type in: **IU Researchers** (Leave Team Company/Organization blank); select "Search for a Team"
5. Select **individual fee-team member** and decide how you want to pay your \$10 registration fee
6. Invite your friends or family to be a part of our team

For more information, contact Cindy Bell, team captain, at [cyjbell@iupui.edu](mailto:cyjbell@iupui.edu).

#### E-letter for public begins

The IU Simon Cancer Center has launched an e-letter, *Journey*, geared toward the public. The three yearly issues will provide readers with inspiring stories about cancer survivors, helpful health tips, and more. If you're interested in subscribing, [visit this page](#). The next issue will come out this winter. [See the debut issue.](#)



#### Cancer center members in the news

During Indiana Black Expo's INShape Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair July 16-19,

141 women and 79 men participated in IU-CABS (Indiana University Cancer Biomarker Study) led by **Noah Hahn**, MD. The study, which will continue at this year's Indiana State Fair, will help identify genetic and environmental risk factors that lead to the development of cancer. Since early 2007, Dr. Hahn and colleagues have worked closely with Indiana Black Expo and the Indiana State Department of Health to involve minority populations in research studies during various events. Thus far, nearly 1,600 men and women have participated with nearly 400 individuals from minority populations.

**Nasser Hanna**, MD, tells the [NCI Cancer Bulletin](#) that maintenance therapy for patients who have advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is not necessary for the majority of patients.

**D. Wade Clapp**, MD, has been appointed chair of the Department of Pediatrics, effective Sept. 15. Dr. Clapp joined the school in 1991 as an assistant professor of pediatrics and

a physician and researcher at the Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research. As a physician, he has practiced in the neonatal intensive care units at Riley Hospital for Children and Wishard Health Services, where he served as director of the unit for five years. He is director of developmental hematology-immunology at the Wells Center, director of the Tumor Microenvironment Program at the IU Simon Cancer Center, and director of the Medical Scientist Training Program. Dr. Clapp, a cum laude graduate of Hanover College, received his medical degree from IU in 1982. He was a pediatrics resident at IUSM from 1982 to 1986 and then served fellowships at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland before returning to Indianapolis. Dr. Clapp will succeed Richard L. Schreiner, MD, who is retiring after serving more than 21 years as chair of the Department of Pediatrics.



Clapp

A team of researchers, including **Mu Wang**, PhD, has demonstrated that a new method for detecting and quantifying protein biomarkers in body fluids may ultimately make it possible to screen multiple biomarkers in hundreds of patient samples, ensuring that only the strongest biomarker candidates will advance down the development pipeline. The researchers have developed a method with the potential to increase accuracy in detecting real cancer biomarkers that is highly reproducible across laboratories and a variety of instruments so that cancer can be caught in its earliest stages. The results of the Clinical Proteomic Technology Assessment for Cancer (CPTAC) study, which is sponsored by the NCI and partner organizations, appeared online June 28 in *Nature Biotechnology*. [Read more.](#)

### **Cancer center members serve as mentors during Summer Research Program**

Sixteen students (below) spent their summer vacations exploring possible careers as cancer researchers in the nine-week (June 1-July 31) IU Simon Cancer Center Summer Research Program, gaining hands-on experiences by working with physicians and researchers at the cancer center. During the program, the following IUSCC members served as mentors: **Jake Y. Chen**, PhD; **David Haggstrom**, MD; **Brittney-Shea Herbert**, PhD; **Mircea Ivan**, MD, PhD; **Kurt Kroenke**, MD; **Daniela Matei**, MD; **Lindsey Mayo**, PhD; **Marc Mendonca**, PhD; **George Sandusky**, PhD; **Bryan Schneider**, MD; **Shivani Srivastava**, MD; **Attaya Suvannasankha**, MD; **Clark D. Wells**, PhD; **Qi-Huang Zheng**, PhD.

