



January 2010

Indiana Cancer Consortium kicks off Cancer Control Week; releases five-year plan

The Indiana Cancer Consortium (ICC) kicked off Indiana Cancer Control Week and officially launched the Indiana Cancer Control Plan 2010-2014 at the IU Simon Cancer Center on Jan. 25.

Cancer is the second leading cause of adult death in Indiana, with approximately 12,688 Hoosiers dying each year. Approximately 2.6 million Hoosiers will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes.

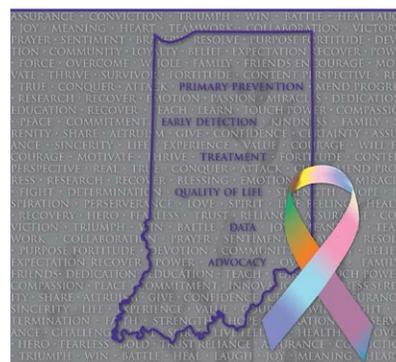
Developed by the ICC, the Indiana Cancer Control Plan 2010-2014 is a comprehensive blueprint for the actions that will guide cancer control efforts and promote collaborations between organizations and the citizens of Indiana.

The Indiana Cancer Control Plan 2010-2014 consists of six focus areas:

- primary prevention
- early detection
- treatment
- quality of life
- data
- advocacy

The late Stephen Williams, MD, founding director of the IU Simon Cancer Center, was instrumental in the establishment of the ICC. He worked with the American Cancer Society and Indiana State Department of Health in forging the Indiana Cancer Control Plan 2005-2008 to ensure Indiana received federal funding for comprehensive cancer control. Under his leadership, the ICC grew from a few organizations interested in cancer control to a statewide partnership of 79 member organizations.

INDIANA CANCER CONTROL PLAN 2010 - 2014



Today the ICC has 83 member organizations and more than 400 individuals whose mission is to reduce the cancer burden in Indiana through the development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive plan that address cancers across the continuum from prevention through palliation.

To download a copy of the Indiana Cancer Control Plan 2010-2014 and to learn more about the ICC, visit [Indiana Cancer Consortium](#).



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News briefs

NCI offers new online course for health professionals

The NCI has announced the availability of "Including Clinical Trials in Your Practice," a new interactive, online course for oncology professionals. This free tutorial is geared toward healthcare professionals who are interested in incorporating clinical trials into their oncology practices. With this course, oncologists will understand the process and steps involved in including NCI-sponsored clinical trials into their practice. It can also serve as an orientation or a refresher to oncology staff on the best practices of including clinical trials into practice. To access the course, see [Including Clinical Trials in Your Practice: An Overview](#).

Nominations open for the 2010 Dr. Paul Janssen Award for Biomedical Research

Nominations are open for the Dr. Paul Janssen Award for Biomedical Research. The award salutes individuals whose efforts have made significant transformational contributions towards the improvement of human health. Candidates will be evaluated by an independent selection committee of top researchers from around the world. Nomination forms are available at www.pauljanssenaward.com and will be accepted until Feb. 15. The winner will receive a \$100,000 cash prize and broad international recognition for his or her achievements.

The Dr. Paul Janssen Award was established by Johnson & Johnson in 2004 in honor of the legacy of Dr. Paul Janssen. Known to his colleagues as "Dr. Paul," Janssen was one of the 20th century's most gifted and passionate researchers, a physician-scientist who helped improve millions of lives through his contribution to the discovery and development of more than 80 medicines, four of which are on the World Health Organization's list of essential medicines. Janssen Pharmaceutica, N.V., which Janssen founded in 1953, joined the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies in 1961.

Fulbright Scholar joins Wells Center Cancer research team

Carlo Vascotto, PhD, research associate in molecular biology, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Technologies, University of Udine in Udine, Italy, recently joined the Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research pediatric hematology/oncology research group as a Fulbright

Research Scholar. His appointment is for six months.

Summer Research Program applications available

Do you know of high school and college students interested in exploring a career in cancer research? If so, encourage them to apply for this summer's IU Simon Cancer Center Summer Research Program. The cancer center's annual program places students with a mentor physician or researcher for nine weeks (June 1-July 31). The students will work with faculty who are doing research in the most progressive areas of cancer research. Students interested in the Summer Research Program can find additional information and an online application at www.cancer.iu.edu/srp. Applications are due March 1, 2010.

Cancer center members in the news

- In the [*International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*](#), **Achilles Fakiris**, MD, **Patrick Loehrer Sr.**, MD, and **Peter Johnstone**, MD, MA, report on their analysis of SEER registry data to determine the impact of postoperative radiotherapy for thymoma and thymic carcinoma.
- Shivani Srivastava**, MD, and colleagues evaluated the methods and collection techniques currently used in stem cell mobilization for patients undergoing autologous transplantation. The optimal mobilization strategy is still unknown; however, colony-stimulating factors remain the most commonly used mobilization agents. Currently, chemotherapy or plerixafor in combination with G-CSF is a reasonable option in heavily pretreated and hard-to-mobilize patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and multiple myeloma. Their study was published in the [*Annals of Pharmacotherapy*](#).
- Kathy Miller**, MD, and colleagues investigated the safety of the combination of sunitinib and paclitaxel in an exploratory study of patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer (MBC). Sunitinib has shown single-agent activity in patients with previously treated MBC. The investigators report in the Dec. 23 [*Annals of Oncology*](#) that the data indicate that sunitinib and paclitaxel in combination are well tolerated in patients with locally advanced or MBC.
- Ahmad Safa**, PhD, and colleagues report in the [*Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*](#) on their studies that have added direct in vitro and in vivo visual information on how P-glycoprotein (Pgp), a member of the ATP-binding cassette transporter family, processes anticancer compounds and how Pgp inhibitors modulate multidrug resistance in resistant cancer cells. Also,



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Safa and colleagues write in [Molecular Pharmacology](#) about important insights into how etoposide mediates apoptotic signaling and how targeting these pathways may lead to the development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of neuroblastomas.

- **Gabriela Chiorean, MD**, and colleagues evaluated the safety, maximum-tolerated dose (MTD), pharmacokinetics (PKs), pharmacodynamics, and preliminary anticancer activity of ramucirumab (IMC-1121B), a fully human immunoglobulin G1 monoclonal antibody targeting the vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR)-2. They reported objective antitumor activity and antiangiogenic effects were observed over a wide range of dose levels, suggesting that ramucirumab may have a favorable therapeutic index in treating malignancies amenable to VEGFR-2 inhibition. The study appeared in the [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#).
- **Stephen Beck, MD, Richard Foster, MD, Lawrence Einhorn, MD, Jackie Brames, RN**, and colleagues report in the [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#) that patients obtaining complete remission after first-line chemotherapy can be safely observed without postchemotherapy retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (PC-RPLND). Relapses are rare and potentially curable with further treatment.
- **Douglas Rex, MD, FACP, FACG**, spoke at the State of Colorectal Cancer Screening and Prevention forum in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 28.



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