



iuscc research news

March 2011

Dr. He, breast cancer researcher, receives \$100,000 Kay Yow Cancer Fund grant

A breast cancer researcher at the IU Simon Cancer Center has been named a recipient of a \$100,000 grant.

The [Kay Yow Cancer Fund™](#), in partnership with [The V Foundation for Cancer Research](#), will award the grant to [Chunyan He](#), Sc.D., assistant professor of public health at the IU School of Medicine and a researcher at the IU Simon Cancer Center, during the fourth annual 4Kay® Run Hydrated by POWERADE ZERO™ Saturday, April 2 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Dr. He, who studies genetic susceptibility and the role of environmental and lifestyle factors in the development of breast cancer, will examine both blood and breast tissue samples. She will use samples from the cancer center's [tissue bank](#) and the [Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center](#).

Samples from the Komen bank are especially helpful because they are from women without breast cancer. This research will help scientists to better understand breast cancer biology and provide clues as to why some women develop the disease while others do not.



He

"The Kay Yow Cancer Fund is pleased to support research efforts of exceptional professors such as Dr. He," Marsha Sharp, Kay Yow Cancer Fund executive director, said. "Coach Yow's life was extended because of research discoveries, and she strongly believed these studies will one day lead to a cure for this vicious disease."

Saturday, April 2 news conference

Dr. He is scheduled to be recognized as a recipient of a Kay Yow Cancer Fund, in partnership with The V Foundation for Cancer Research, during a news conference at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 2 at the Indianapolis Motor

Nick Valvano, CEO of The V Foundation for Cancer Research, added: "The V Foundation and Kay Yow Cancer Fund are happy to be able to fund the research of this outstanding young investigator. Dr. He's training and skills have prepared her for conducting creative and original breast cancer research."

Speedway. All are welcome to attend the news conference.

If you go

Free parking is available inside the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Please enter the track from 16th Street via Gate 2, also known as the Main Entrance. After driving under the track, take the first left and follow the road around until a staff member from IMS directs you to the correct parking lot.

The check presentation will take place on [Pagoda Plaza](#).

The Kay Yow Cancer Fund partners with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) each year to leave a \$100,000 research grant in the NCAA Women's Final Four host city.

The 4Kay Run is held in honor of the late North Carolina State women's basketball coach Kay Yow, who died of breast cancer in 2009.

"With the Women's Final Four being here in Indianapolis this year, we have looked for unique ways to tie in the unique attributes of the city to assist in helping to make our ancillary events even more special," Sue Donohoe, NCAA vice president of Division I women's

basketball, said. "To be able to host an important event like the 4Kay Run at the 'Greatest Race Course in the World,' is a tremendous opportunity for those who have dreamed of one day setting foot on the world's most famous racetrack. We are hoping the entire Indianapolis running and walking community will take part."

To learn more about the 4Kay Run, visit [Final Four Women's Basketball Schedule Information](#).



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Cancer Research Day: call for abstracts

The IU Simon Cancer Center is now accepting abstracts for posters to be presented at Cancer Research Day, which is Thursday, May 26, 2011.

Students, fellows, and faculty conducting cancer research at IUPUI, Indiana University-Bloomington, Purdue University, and the Walther Cancer Research Center at the University of Notre Dame are eligible to present their current cancer research efforts at Cancer Research Day.

Abstracts should be submitted for **basic science**, **translational/clinical research**, or **population science/epidemiology** categories. Individual laboratories may submit multiple abstracts; if space becomes limited, each laboratory will be asked to identify representative posters.

Cancer Research Day

When: May 26, 2011

Where: University Place Conference Center & Hotel, 850 W. Michigan St.

- Symposium, keynote address, and awards ceremony take place in the ballroom
- Poster session takes place in Scholars Hall

Abstract deadline: April 15, 2011

Please submit all abstracts to iuscccrd@iupui.edu by **April 15**. You can find the abstract form and more at www.cancer.iu.edu/crd.

Cash awards for best posters by graduate students, post-doctoral/medical fellows, research technicians, and clinical nurses in all three research categories will be selected by a review board.

IU Simon Cancer Center Cancer Research Day is an annual event that aims to increase understanding and awareness of IU Simon Cancer Center research endeavors and encourage collaboration with other cancer research institutions in Indiana.

Frank McCormick, PhD, FRS, director of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, will deliver this year's keynote address.

Watch for regular updates by e-mail, on the cancer center's Intranet, and in next month's *IUSCC Research News*.



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Core spotlight

Angiogenesis, Endothelial and Pro-Angiogenic Cell Core

The Angiogenesis, Endothelial and Pro-Angiogenic Cell Core (AEPCC) conducts validated and highly reproducible *in vitro* and *in vivo* angiogenesis assays. These assays function as experimental platforms for understanding the basic mechanisms of angiogenesis and discovering compounds that inhibit new blood vessel formation in tumor microenvironments.

Some of the core's services include:

- endothelial progenitor cell isolation from human umbilical cord blood (CB) and peripheral blood (PB)
- endothelial progenitor cell clonogenic assays
- endothelial cell proliferation assays
- endothelial cell migration assays

Angiogenesis, Endothelial and Pro- Angiogenic Cell Core

Contacts

- Jamie Case, PhD, director
- Julie Mund, MS, core manager

The core is located in Walther Hall, C343.

Questions? Call 278-7232

Also, the AEPCC's advanced 5- and 7-color polychromatic flow cytometry (PFC) protocol is a rapid analytical tool to separate distinct hematopoietic and endothelial cell populations, which could be used as biomarkers for many diseases.

Jamie Case, PhD, the AEPCC director, pointed out the core's staff can provide additional services.

"My staff and I are always happy to meet with the PIs to discuss tailoring certain projects, if needed," Dr. Case

said. "We can do almost any service related to angiogenesis or endothelial progenitor cells."



March 2011

News briefs

Grant writer, editor hired

Erin Gill, PhD, has started as the cancer center's research grant proposal writer and editor. In this position, Dr. Gill will work with PIs and project managers to assist in writing large multidisciplinary grant proposals. She holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master's degree in physics from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and a bachelor's degree in physics from Arizona State University. Dr.



Gill

Gill's office is located in Walther Hall (R3), Room 258B. She can be reached at 274-0262 or eringill@iupui.edu.

Drs. Guise, Abonour recruiting Coach Hep team

Theresa Guise, MD, and **Rafat Abonour**, MD, are leading a team of faculty and staff for the Coach Hep Cancer Challenge.

They would like as many to participate as possible. Proceeds benefit the IU Simon Cancer Center and [Hoosier Oncology Group](#). The Coach Hep



Cancer Challenge is Saturday, May 14 at Memorial Stadium in Bloomington. The full details are [here](#). If you are interested in joining the team, please e-mail Theresa Vernon at tm5@iupui.edu.

Former Summer Research Program student admitted into Harvard

A former participant in the cancer center's [Summer Research Program](#), Robert Hawthorne, a student at Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School, has been admitted into Harvard University. He plans to study bio-medical engineering. Congrats, Robert! The cancer center's annual Summer Research Program, held in partnership with the IUPUI Center

for Research and Learning, places students with a mentor physician or researcher for nine weeks (June 1 to July 29, 2011) on the IUPUI campus.

Cancer center members in the news

- **John Turchi, PhD, Daniela Matei, MD, and Samy Meroueh, PhD,** wrote "Targeting Ovarian Tumor Cell Adhesion Mediated by Tissue Transglutaminase" in the Feb. 17 online issue of *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.
- **Susan Clare, MD,** presents "Tissue Bank Issues: A Tool for Maximizing Research in Breast Cancer" at the National Breast Cancer Coalition's Annual Advocacy Training Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference is April 30-May 3.
- **Rafat Abonour, MD,** recently was named to the editorial board of *Advances in Hematology*.
- **Patrick Loehrer, MD, and George Sledge, MD,** are research appointees at the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas.
- **Kathy Miller, MD,** is a participant in the discussion "Real-Life Oncology: Case-Based Discussions on the Biopsychosocial Management of Patients with Breast Cancer" as part of the Research to Practice's Real-Life Oncology Symposia in Boston April 29.
- **Gabi Chiorean, MD,** and colleagues reported on a phase I, first-in-human study they conducted to determine the dose limiting toxicities, maximum tolerated dose, safety, pharmacokinetics, and preliminary activity of the hypoxia-activated prodrug, TH-302, in patients with advanced solid tumors. They wrote in the March 17 online issue of *Clinical Cancer Research*: "Based on responses in metastatic melanoma and small cell lung cancer, further investigations in these indications were initiated."
- **Noah Hahn, MD,** and colleagues concluded in the March 21 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* that cisplatin and gemcitabine (CGB) demonstrate promising overall survival and antiangiogenic treatment-related toxicities in the phase II setting of metastatic urothelial cancer (UC). The full risk/benefit profile of CGB in patients with metastatic UC will be determined by an ongoing phase III intergroup trial.



Chiorean



Hahn

- **George Sledge**, MD, was named the winner in this year's *Indiana Business Journal's* Health Care Heroes. He was the winner in the Advancements in Health Care category. [Read the IBJ profile.](#)
- **Rajiv Sood**, MD, is a recipient of the prestigious Achievement in Medicine (AIM) Award. Dr. Sood cares for and treats nearly 400 inpatient and 2,200 outpatient burn patients each year and has been cited for being "instrumental in leading patient care through innovative burn care research and ongoing positive clinical outcomes." The AIM Award recipient is selected by the St. Margaret's Hospital Guild.

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](#).
- **Miss a Combined Seminar Series?**
Did you miss a Combined Seminar Series? You can now watch it online. A full listing of past Seminar Series events is [here](#). Also, speakers for the 2010-11 academic year have been announced. You can find the schedule [here](#).
- **Grants available to researchers**
For the latest grant opportunities, visit the [Funding Opportunities](#) page on the IUSCC Web site.

New members

Peter Hollenhurst, PhD
Department of Medical Sciences
Associate member, TBM

Jean Miller, MD
Department of Medicine
Division of Hematology/Oncology
Affiliate member

Member updates

The following are now full members of the Breast Cancer Program:

Mircea Ivan, MD, PhD
Department of Medicine
Division of Hematology/Oncology

Bryan Schneider, MD

*Department of Medicine
Division of Hematology/Oncology*

Tracy Vargo-Gogola, PhD
*Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
IUSM South Bend*