



IUSCC news

September 2014

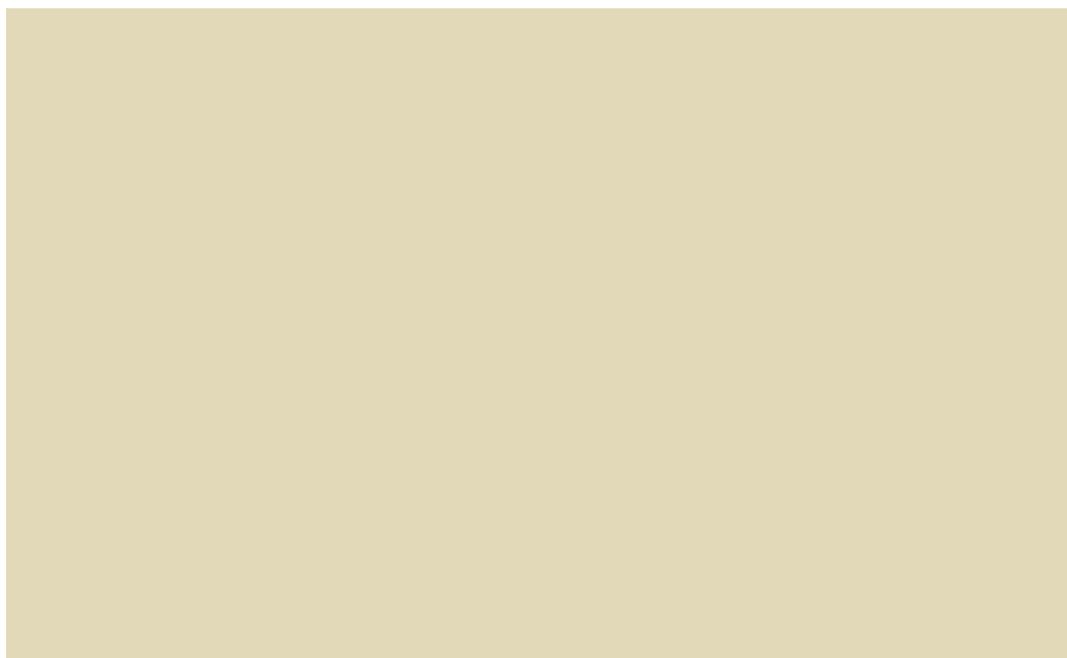
\$1 million raised in honor of Dr. Einhorn on 40th anniversary of milestone

Gifts totaling \$1 million in honor of the 40th anniversary of the cure for testicular cancer were announced Sept. 27 at a celebration for the physician scientist who developed the treatment.

Family, friends, colleagues, and men grateful for their lives gathered Saturday evening at the Indianapolis Museum of Art to honor Lawrence Einhorn, M.D., Indiana University Distinguished Professor and Livestrong Foundation Professor of Oncology at the IU School of Medicine and a researcher at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center.

It was in September 1974 when Dr. Einhorn tested the platinum-based drug Cisplatin with two additional drugs that were effective in killing testis cancer cells. The combination became the cure for this once deadly disease. There are now more than 300,000 survivors today because of Dr. Einhorn's research.

"When Dr. Einhorn began his work four decades ago, there was no term 'cancer survivor,'" Patrick J. Loehrer, M.D., director of the IU Simon Cancer Center, said. "Now thanks to his research and leadership, 95 percent of the most common cancer in young men is curable. Today, the IU Simon Cancer Center is uniquely positioned to develop a program of significant magnitude for all cancer survivors."





Larger than life. This skywalk banner at Michigan and Blackford streets celebrates Dr. Einhorn and his discovery.

Bruce Hetrick photo

The new survivorship research program will use gene sequencing technology. Dr. Einhorn's personalized medicine approach will allow a treatment team to evaluate the risks for adverse side effects before therapy and map a treatment plan that reduces toxicity and anticipates and manages unavoidable complications throughout each patient's lifetime.

A total of \$700,000, which will launch the program, has been contributed by multiple grateful patients and friends of Dr. Einhorn. This includes a leadership gift of more than \$500,000 from A. Farhad Moshiri of Monaco. Mr. Moshiri had previously created the Lawrence H. Einhorn Chair with a \$2 million gift. The Einhorn Chair will be held by the survivorship program director.

The children of Sidney and Lois Eskenazi also have pledged \$300,000 to honor Dr. Einhorn and celebrate their parents' 60th wedding anniversary. The gift from Sandy, Dori (Meyers), and David Eskenazi and their spouses establishes the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at the IU School of Medicine.

"IU is home to unique expertise in personalized medicine that focuses on genetic risks for side effects, and blending genetics data for both tumor and patient will be the 'platinum' standard of future treatment and lifelong health management for survivors," Dr. Loehrer added.

[Watch the Platinum Anniversary celebration video.](#)

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ACS hosts open house, luncheon Oct. 30

Cancer center members are invited to a lunch presentation and open house hosted by the American Cancer Society on Thursday, Oct. 30.

Associate members of the cancer center and those who have received funding from ACS (either Institutional or National) are strongly encouraged to attend.

The open house is 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with the presentation and lunch beginning at noon in Walther Hall (R3, 303/305). Lunch is provided.

During the luncheon, you'll learn more about the society's research program, which has provided more than \$4 billion in research funding since 1946; its national advocacy efforts to support increased funding from the federal government for cancer research; and ways that you can become involved locally.

Also, the luncheon will cover:

- Understand how the ACS conducts and funds research, including:
 - Extramural and intramural research program overview
 - Types of research grants funded
 - Peer review process
 - Funding mechanisms
 - Clinical Research Professor Awards
- Provide a national overview on the current state of federally funded cancer research
- Discover ways to become involved with local AC Society activities, including volunteer leadership roles, advocacy efforts in Indiana, as well as research fundraising opportunities such as Relay for Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
- Leverage the ACS network of health systems staff to promote cancer prevention and clinical trial availability throughout Indiana

Speakers include Carolyn Bruzdinski, PhD, vice president, Lakeshore Division, Health Systems; and David Pugach, federal

relations director, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

An RSVP is required. [Click here to register](#).

Questions? Contact Dr. Harikrishna Nakshatri at hnakshat@iupui.edu
or Lori Morrison at lori.morrison@cancer.org.

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IU physician scientist to celebrate 10 years of Miles for Myeloma with 300-mile, 3-day bike ride

Sept. 30, 2014

INDIANAPOLIS -- An Indiana University physician scientist will soon settle onto his bicycle's saddle, setting out on a 300-mile journey to raise awareness and funds for a rare form of blood cancer.

For the 10th consecutive year, [Rafat Abonour](#), M.D., professor of medicine and of pathology and laboratory medicine at the IU School of Medicine and a researcher at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center, will embark on [Miles for Myeloma](#) -- this year dubbed a "Decade of Dedication" tour -- on Friday, Oct. 3.

Dr. Abonour and his fellow riders -- many of whom have personal connections to myeloma -- will set off at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 3, from Fesler Circle, on the north side of Michigan Street and the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute, on the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis campus. [Parking is available in the Vermont Street garage.](#)

To date, the annual ride has raised more than \$2.5 million for multiple myeloma research at the IU Simon Cancer Center.

Ten years ago, multiple myeloma was a vastly different disease than it is now. There's still no cure, but treatment and management of this rare and little-known form of blood cancer have seen significant advances, resulting in improvement to patients' life expectancy and quality of life.

Part of that improvement can be attributed to Dr. Abonour and the volunteers who created the annual event. A decade ago, when a group of his patients wanted to organize a 5K to benefit his research, Dr. Abonour, who enjoys running and cycling, decided to do both to various parts of Indiana. He rationalized that his patients travel from different corners of the state to see him, so he could also travel to them.

He's been going ever since. In all, his feet and bike tires have touched more than 1,700 miles of Hoosier asphalt. This year, he'll be cycling for three days, traveling more than 300 miles from Indianapolis to Spencer, Ind., to Terre Haute. He'll return to Indianapolis for a finish-line celebration at 4:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N. Meridian St. More than 500 patients and family members are expected to greet him and the other cyclists who will be riding with him.

Dr. Abonour and his fellow myeloma experts at the IU Simon Cancer Center are exploring how the marrow microenvironment and myeloma patients' abnormal immune systems contribute to tumor growth, bone destruction and chemotherapy resistance.

The cause or causes of multiple myeloma are unknown, but people who contract the disorder are typically over age 65. Other risk factors include being male, African American and related to someone already affected by myeloma. The disease is akin to leukemia and lymphoma in that it originates in a person's bone marrow and then can spread throughout the body, weakening bones and potentially damaging vital organs and compromising the immune system. Dr. Abonour said myeloma's complexity and tendency to attack multiple body sites make it particularly tricky.

"What's perplexing is that it's not really one disease," he said. "What we are trying to figure out is how to have a definition of the different subtypes. Some are easier to treat and sometimes can be cured. And our goal is to identify those patients and treat them differently.

"When I started working on multiple myeloma, we had one or two drugs with which to treat it; now we have six and should have a couple more by the end of the year. So I'm not as pessimistic as I used to be. This is a

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Rafat Abonour, M.D.

 [Print Quality Photo](#)

Media Contacts

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cancer that is rare, but we can find a cure.”

Miles for Myeloma history:

- **2014 Miles for Myeloma:** Decade of Dedication: 300 miles by bike from Indianapolis to Spencer, Ind., to Terre Haute, to Indianapolis
- **2013 Miles for Myeloma:** 225 miles by bike from Niles, Mich., to Indianapolis
- **2012 Miles for Myeloma:** 185 miles by bike from Cincinnati to Indianapolis
- **2011 Miles for Myeloma:** Tours for Tomorrows: 200 miles by bike from Louisville to Indianapolis
- **2010 Miles for Myeloma:** Ride for Research: 234 miles by bike from Fort Wayne to Indianapolis
- **2009 Miles for Myeloma:** Trek for Treatment: 207 miles by bike from Evansville to Indianapolis
- **2008 Miles for Myeloma:** The Bloomington Boomerang Part II: 60-mile run from Indianapolis to Bloomington and 60-mile bike ride from Bloomington to Indianapolis
- **2007 Miles for Myeloma:** The Bloomington Boomerang Part I: 60-mile run from Indianapolis to Bloomington and 60-mile bike ride from Bloomington to Indianapolis
- **2006 Miles for Myeloma:** The South Bend Tour: 40-mile run from Carmel to Kokomo and a 100-mile bike ride from Kokomo to South Bend
- **2005 Miles for Myeloma:** The Fort Wayne Tour: 60-mile bike ride from Carmel to Marion and a 60-mile run from Marion to Fort Wayne

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News briefs

CTO takes “top performance” award

The IU Simon Cancer Center's [Clinical Trials Office](#) (CTO), formerly the Clinical Research Office, has earned a “top performance” award from Forte Research Systems, host of the Research Resonance Network.

The award recognizes sites for their efforts to improve clinical research operations by contributing and comparing their metrics to an anonymized aggregate of peer organizations in the network.

The scores of each organization were determined by combining metrics across all categories and by comparing an organization's percentile rankings to those of similar organizations. The metric categories cover several areas in the study start-up process such as IRB Cycle Time, PRMC Cycle Time, and Open-to-Accrual-to-First-Patient-In Cycle Time.

“By using Research Resonance Network, we’ve been able to decrease our IRB cycle times by two weeks,” Kerry Bridges, CTO administrator, said. “The tools help us visualize areas that need improvement, which assists us with reaching our performance goals.”



Bridges

The [Research Resonance Network](#) is a collaborative community of sites that are committed to the pursuit of excellence in clinical research operations. Tools available through the network assist sites with their continuous improvement, resource allocation, and study selection goals. The awards are intended to highlight members for their achievements and encourage collaboration.

The other two top performers were Iowa University Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center and Levine Cancer Institute of Carolinas HealthCare System.

BCOG colloquium is Nov. 13-14

The BCOG November Colloquium, “Implementation of Healthcare System Change and the Role of Technology” is Nov. 13-14 at the Hyatt Regency, 1 S. Capitol Ave.

David H. Gustafson, PhD, professor of industrial engineering and preventive

medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is the keynote speaker on Thursday, Nov. 13.

Speakers on Friday, Nov. 14 include:

- David Haggstrom, MD, MAS, associate professor of medicine, IU
- Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, associate professor of medicine, IU; CEO, Center for Health Innovation and Implementation Science
- Larry Cripe, MD, associate professor of medicine, IU; service line chief, hematology oncology, IU Health Physicians

The colloquium is free. To RSVP and view the agenda, [visit here](#).

BCOG -- Behavioral Cooperative Oncology Group - is a consortium of behavioral scientists at IU, Ohio State University, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan.

Haggstrom named CPC co-leader

[David Haggstrom](#), MD, MAS, has joined [Jiali Han](#), PhD, as co-leader of the [Cancer Prevention and Control research program](#).



Haggstrom

Dr. Haggstrom is an associate professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine and a research scientist at the Regenstrief Institute and VA Center for Health Information & Communication. He is the founding director of the IUPUI Center for Cancer Population Analytics and Patient-Centered Informatics.

His research focuses upon reducing the burden of cancer through health services research and population-based approaches to health care delivery, as well as promoting patient-centered care through medical informatics. He has clinical research interests in the quality of medical and surveillance care among cancer survivors. With support from the Livestrong Foundation, he has developed a survivorship care plan/personal health record for colorectal cancer survivors.

Prior to joining the faculty at Indiana University, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the NCI and earned a master's of clinical research from the University of California, San Francisco. While at Indiana University, he has been named a VA/Robert Wood Johnson Physician Faculty Scholar.

Dr. Haggstrom succeeds [Victoria Champion](#), Ph.D., who remains the associate director of population science at the IU Simon Cancer Center.

Thanks to Dr. Champion, the Cancer Prevention and Control program earned "excellent" – its highest score in the existence of the cancer center -- during the site visit by the NCI earlier this year.

KTB readies for Baylor event

Earlier this month, staff from the [Komen Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center](#) traveled to Houston to the Baylor College of Medicine to meet their counterparts to continue plans for the February 2015 breast tissue collection there. The KTB also met with their partners at the [Komen](#)

[Houston Affiliate](#) and the [Pink Ribbons Project](#). The site visit allowed the KTB staff to map out the flow of the event at the site, cultivate relationships with



TISSUE BANK AT THE
IU SIMON CANCER CENTER

the February 2015 breast tissue collection there. The KTB also met with their partners at the [Komen](#)

the Houston medical community, make connections within the minority community to facilitate donor recruitment, and begin to recruit volunteers. In August, several patient advocates and a breast radiologist from Baylor participated in and observed the breast tissue collection here.

Save the date: Palliative care symposium set for Nov. 17-18

On Nov. 17-18, the IU Simon Cancer Center's Mary Margaret Walther Program in Palliative Care Research and Education will host a two-day symposium entitled, "[Passages and Promises: Innovations in Palliative Care Research Education and Practice](#)." The focus of the symposium is on research for improving communication among patients, family members, and clinicians in the context of advanced cancer.

Please contact Mary Lynn Hoffmann at hoffmaml@iu.edu for more information and questions.

Darling named to Minnesota's external advisory board



Darling

Mike Darling, MHA, associate director of administration for the cancer center, has been named to the external advisory board at the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center. Board members -- composed of national experts in basic, clinical and population-based research -- participate in an annual external scientific review of the Masonic Cancer Center's activities. Darling also serves on the external advisory boards at the University of Kansas Cancer Center and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

New members

[Shelley Johns](#), PsyD
Department of Medicine
Associate member, [Cancer Prevention and Control](#)

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