



February 2012

## Nearly 700 women donate to Indy's Super Cure breast tissue collection event

Nearly 700 women, 46 percent of whom represented minority populations, selflessly donated healthy breast tissue during Indy's Super Cure Jan. 28 and 29 at the IU Simon Cancer Center.

Indy's Super Cure, an initiative between the 2012 Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee and the [Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at IU Simon Cancer Center](#), successfully reached its goal of increasing minority participation among donors. African Americans represented 36 percent of the donors, Latinas 7 percent, and other minorities 3 percent. From past collection events, African American women represented only 3.5 percent, while Latinas represented less than 1 percent.

"I'm overwhelmed by the tremendous response," Anna Maria Storniolo, MD, co-director of the tissue bank and professor of clinical medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine, said. "In a typical year, about 500 women take time to donate a precious piece of themselves. In one weekend, a year's worth of donors showed up. It's still amazing to me, but it demonstrates the determination of women to contribute to finding a cure for breast cancer."

The Indy's Super Cure initiative also increased awareness and exceeded a \$1 million fund-raising goal for the tissue bank. Awareness increased through considerable news coverage as well as grass-roots efforts to reach targeted populations. In fact, more than 1,900 women are now on the tissue bank's interested donor list. More than \$1.5 million was raised for the tissue bank by individuals as well as sponsorships, table sales, and a silent auction at a November gala.

The Komen Tissue Bank is the first and only healthy breast tissue bank in the world. By using samples from women without breast cancer, researchers may be able to determine the differences between healthy and cancerous tissue, which will lead to a better understanding of the disease.



**Susan Clare**, MD, PhD, (far right), co-director of the tissue bank, meets Dr. Lisa Wilde (far left), director of research at the Breast Cancer Campaign, and Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, CEO of the Breast Cancer Campaign, in the Palace of Westminster's Robing Room. Three people with the Breast

Cancer Campaign Tissue Bank, the United Kingdom's first national cancer tissue bank, came to the IU Simon Cancer Center to watch Indy's Super Cure unfold.



February 2012

## Core spotlight

### Therapeutic Validation

In the so-called “valley of death,” the abyss left behind by the diverging clinical and basic research, promising new discoveries die before attracting needed funding for continued development.

**Nagendra Prasad**, BVSc, PhD, director of the [Therapeutic Validation Core](#), said the core can help to cross the valley of death by helping to meet the challenges of translating basic science discoveries to clinical care. Dr. Prasad said the core’s purpose is to enable investigator-initiated hypothesis-driven clinical research by helping physician scientists to incorporate cutting-edge biological correlative assays in clinical trials of new drugs and treatments.

The core’s services include:

- consultation on correlative aspects
- help develop/prepare grant applications
- budget and feasibility analysis
- new assay development and optimization
- generation of preliminary data
- data analysis, help with publications, and research reports

The core is set up as a collaborative resource to assist physician scientists with subsidized fees for IU Simon Cancer Center members.

### Therapeutic Validation

The Therapeutic Validation Core is located in Walther Hall, C343.

Questions? Contact Dr. Nagendra Prasad, PhD, core director, at 278-6608 or [nkprasad@iupui.edu](mailto:nkprasad@iupui.edu).

You can find all of the IU Simon Cancer Center cores [here](#).

The Therapeutic Validation Core can also help physician scientists by serving as a liaison with other IU School of Medicine and Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (ICTSI) cores.

To date, the core – which was established in June 2010 -- has been involved in nearly 40 projects for consultation. Three projects were completed in 2011 and six projects are currently in progress.



February 2011

## News briefs

### IUSM ReSEARCH Connect is online

The IU School of Medicine has implemented a powerful new research tool for investigators. IUSM ReSEARCH Connect is a database system that enables IUSM researchers to identify new funding opportunities and potential collaborators within academia, industry, and the broader health sciences community. This resource helps investigators develop "bench-to-bedside" studies and foster novel areas of investigation, leading to strong translational and clinical applications. IUSM ReSEARCH Connect is an essential mechanism in promoting Indiana University and its clinical partners -- Indiana University Health, Eskenazi Health, and the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center -- as international leaders in biomedical research and patient care. IUSM ReSEARCH Connect can be accessed at [www.experts.scival.com/indiana](http://www.experts.scival.com/indiana) or via the menu on the IU School of Medicine research Web page at [medicine.iu.edu/research](http://medicine.iu.edu/research).

### Becker's Hospital Review recognizes IU Simon Cancer Center

The IU Simon Cancer Center is among *Becker's Hospital Review's* "70 Hospitals and Health Systems with Great Oncology Programs." The editorial staff of *Becker's Hospital Review* recognized these hospitals as leaders in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research. To develop the list, the *Becker's* editorial team analyzed data from various sources, including *U.S. News and World Report*, HealthGrades, American Nurses Credentialing Center, the National Cancer Institute, and the American College of Surgeons. After examining national rankings and reviews, the editorial team performed additional research into each hospital. The result is a final list of 70 hospitals from around the country that have demonstrated continual innovation in treatments and services, patient-centered care, and the achievement of clinical milestones and groundbreaking discoveries. The full list is [here](#).

### Wanted: Pre-docs wishing to pursue a cancer research career

Pre-doctoral students wishing to pursue a career in cancer research are encouraged to apply to the Translational Cancer Biology Training Program (TCBTP), which is designed to enhance the training received in any individual laboratory or department. Trainees are exposed to a broad range of cancer-related research, encompassing both basic and clinical aspects of the disease. CBTP pre-doctoral students fulfill the requirements of their individual basic science departments and complete the cancer biology minor. Pre-doctoral CBTP trainees attend both a basic science and a clinical seminar series, co-sponsored by the IU Simon Cancer Center, and participate and present in the monthly meeting of trainees and in the IU Simon Cancer Center's annual [Cancer Research Day](#).

Support for training pre-doctoral students is provided by the IU Simon Cancer Center. These CBTP stipends are available on a competitive basis for trainees conducting their research in the laboratory of a CBTP preceptor. Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Indiana University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority applicants are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is April 16.

For full details and an application, visit <http://www.cancer.iu.edu/education/training/cbtp/>.

***Faculty Innovator's Guide to Technology Transfer* offers blueprint for entrepreneurship, commercialization**

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, Indiana University Research and Technology Corp. and IU School of Medicine have released a new guide to assist research faculty in navigating the complicated waters of technology transfer, intellectual disclosure and commercialization. To download the *Faculty Innovator's Guide to Technology Transfer*, visit [www.indianactsi.org/site/guides/facultyinnovatorsguide.pdf](http://www.indianactsi.org/site/guides/facultyinnovatorsguide.pdf).

### Miles for Myeloma generates \$1.7 million for research

Thanks to the efforts of IU myeloma patients, friends and families, \$242,045.38 was raised last year through [Miles for Myeloma](#). In the past seven years, more than \$1.7 million has been raised. This fall, **Rafat Abonour**, MD, will embark on his eighth annual Miles for Myeloma trek, covering more than 200 miles in the southeast corner of Indiana. On Sept. 28, he begins near Cincinnati and finishes the next day in Bloomington.

### Cancer center members in the news

- **Paul Haut**, MD, has been named chief medical officer of Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health.
- **Indra Das**, PhD, has been appointed an associate editor of the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics (IJROBP)*, known in the field as the Red Journal, which publishes original laboratory and clinical investigations related to radiation oncology, radiation biology, medical physics, and both education and health policy as it relates to the field.
- **Anna Maria Storniolo**, MD, **Lang Li**, PhD, and **David Flockhart**, MD, PhD, wrote "Predictors of Aromatase Inhibitor Discontinuation as a Result of Treatment-Emergent Symptoms in Early-Stage Breast Cancer," which appeared Feb. 13 in the [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#).
- In an editorial in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, **Lawrence Einhorn**, MD, concluded: "It is remarkable that salvage chemotherapy can reproducibly cure patients when used as second- or third-line chemotherapy; the cure rate with high-dose chemotherapy, when applied as third-line therapy, has a higher cure rate than any first-line chemotherapy regimen in any other solid tumor." The editorial appeared in the [Jan. 30 issue](#).
- **Bryan Schneider**, MD, has been named to the *Indianapolis Business Journal's* annual list of Forty Under 40. [Read Dr. Schneider's profile here](#). The IBJ selection committee evaluated nearly 250 applications. Criteria included the level of success nominees have achieved in their chosen field, their accomplishments in the community and the likelihood that they will stay in Indianapolis and build on those achievements.
- **Daniel Sliva**, PhD, and colleagues concluded: "Our results confirm that ProstaCaid™ is not toxic and inhibits growth of human prostate cancer cells *in vivo*" in the [International Journal of Oncology](#).
- **Anna Maria Storniolo**, MD, **Susan Clare**, MD, PhD, and colleagues wrote "The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center: A Unique Resource for Defining the 'Molecular Histology' of the Breast," published online Feb. 17 in [Cancer Prevention Research](#). The authors discuss the importance of studying normal breast tissues, assess the strengths and limitations of studying normal tissues obtained from different sources, and summarize the features of the Komen Tissue Bank.



Das



Storniolo

### New members

**Brian Calvi**, BS, MA, PhD

Department of Biology

Full member, [Tumor Microenvironment and Metastases](#) & [Hematopoiesis, Microenvironment, and](#)

[Immunology](#)

**Tao Lu**, PhD

*Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology*

Associate member, [Experimental and Developmental Therapeutics](#)

**Akira Moh**, MD

*Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*

Associate member, [Tumor Microenvironment and Metastases](#)

**G. David Roodman**, MD, PhD

*Department of Medicine*

Full member, [Hematopoiesis, Microenvironment, and Immunology](#)

**Sharon Stack**, PhD

Scientific Director, Harper Cancer Research Institute

*IUSM-South Bend*

Full member, [Tumor Microenvironment and Metastases](#)

**William Wooden**, MD

*Department of Surgery*

Affiliate member

**Baohua Zhou**, PhD

Department of Pediatrics

Full member, [Hematopoiesis, Microenvironment, and Immunology](#)

**Matthew Ziegler**, MD

Department of Surgery

Affiliate member

**Kim Ziner**, RN, PhD

*IU School of Nursing*

Associate member, [Breast Cancer](#)