



April 2011

IUSCC hosts Cancer Research Day May 26

The IU Simon Cancer Center's annual Cancer Research Day is Thursday, May 26 at University Place Conference Center & Hotel, 850 W. Michigan St.

Cancer Research Day

When: May 26, 2011

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

9-11 a.m.
Lung Cancer Symposium
Ballroom

11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Poster/abstract presentations
Scholars Hall

11 a.m.-Noon
Poster judging

3-4 p.m.
Keynote address with Dr. McCormick
Ballroom

4-4:30 p.m.
Awards presentation
Ballroom

Students, fellows, and faculty conducting cancer research at IUPUI, Indiana University-Bloomington, Purdue University, and the Harper Cancer Research Institute, a collaboration between the IU School of Medicine and the University of Notre Dame, are eligible to present their current cancer research at Cancer Research Day.

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.

Frank McCormick, PhD, FRS, director of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, will present "The Ras-MAPK Pathway in Cancer Biology and Treatment."

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.



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Report to nation finds continued declines in many cancer rates

Rates of death in the United States from all cancers for men and women continued to decline between 2003 and 2007, the most recent reporting period available, according to the latest "Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer."

The report also finds that the overall rate of new cancer diagnoses for men and women combined decreased an average of slightly less than 1 percent per year for the same period.

The drop in cancer death rates continues a trend that began in the early 1990s. The report finds, for the first time, lung cancer death rates decreased in women, more than a decade after rates began dropping in men.

The report is co-authored by researchers from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), the NCI, part of the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Cancer Society.

[Read the report.](#)



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Core spotlight

Tissue Procurement and Distribution Core

The [Tissue Procurement and Distribution Core](#) has been offering two new services since last fall.

The core -- which specializes in the collection, preservation, and distribution of human solid tumors and hematologic malignancy specimens for the IU Simon Cancer Center research community -- now offers an Aperio imaging station and tumor microarray.

The Aperio imaging station takes photographs of slides, which can then be e-mailed to researchers. "They can view the tissue before they purchase it," according to Colleen Mitchell, the core's operations manager. The imaging station also has software that grades immunohistochemistry stains, telling researchers how much antibody is attached.

Through tumor microarray, the core can provide researchers with 15 to 20 slides with up to 40 different types of tissue -- either animal or human -- on each slide.

Tissue Procurement and Distribution Core

The Tissue Procurement and Distribution Core is located in the CTSI Specimen Storage Facility in Joseph E. Walther Hall (R111).

Colleen Mitchell, the operations manager, can be reached at 274-2213.

Overall, the core contains more than 3,000 specimens that represent most types of adult solid tumors and blood cancers. It also has select non-malignant tissue (for example, inflammatory bowel disease) and some normal tissue (such as breast, colon, prostate, lung, liver,

kidney, heart, skin).

Specimens are collected from patients undergoing surgery at Indiana University Health University Hospital and Wishard Hospital. A significant number of other tissue specimens are also available to researchers.

Biospecimens are used in basic science projects and correlative laboratory studies associated with clinical research. All biospecimens can be used for pre-clinical drug

development.

Any IU faculty members and CTSI researchers at academic institutions within the state may request tissue. All requests must be approved by an advisory board composed of representatives from IU.

The core also can assist researchers in fixation and processing tissues. Generalized histology services, which include frozen sections, common stains such as Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E), unstained slides for immunohistochemistry and paraffin blocks, are also available.



April 2011

News briefs

Is your research proposal ACS grant-ready?

Could you use some help making your research proposal American Cancer Society (ACS) grant-ready? If so, plan to attend a seminar on May 17 in which the ACS is making a site visit to the IU Simon Cancer Center to present funding opportunities and strategies for successful proposals. The seminar is 10:30 a.m. to noon in Walther Hall, Room 203. A working lunch is scheduled from noon to 1:30 p.m. in R4, Room 101. If you plan to attend lunch, **you must RSVP by May 10 to chasmill@iupui.edu. Go to [full details](#).**

Dr. Einhorn presents “Lance Armstrong & the Tour de Cancer” May 5

Lawrence Einhorn, MD, Distinguished Professor and Lance Armstrong Foundation Professor of Oncology, will present the Third Annual Harry and Edith Gladstein Visiting Professor Lecture, “Lance Armstrong & the Tour de Cancer,” at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 5 in the Walther Hall (R3) auditorium. Dr. Einhorn and his research team have developed a number of new treatments for metastatic testicular cancer over the past 30 years. As a result of Dr. Einhorn’s work, the cure rates for young men diagnosed with metastatic testicular cancer has risen from 5 percent to 80 percent, with the overall cure rate for all testis cancer patients rising to 95 percent. In 1996, Dr. Einhorn led the medical team that treated and cured the cancer of professional cyclist Lance Armstrong, who went on to win seven consecutive Tour de France competitions between 1999 and 2005. For more information, see the [event brochure](#).

TBM research program renamed Tumor Microenvironment and Metastases (TMM)

The Tumor Biology and Microenvironment research program, a developing program, has been renamed [Tumor Microenvironment and Metastases](#), (TMM). The program spans the gamut from basic to clinical research in a wide range of environments to include brain, pancreas, prostate, breast, lung, liver, skin, neural plexus, and ovary. The program’s scientific goals are to understand the role of the tumor microenvironment in cancer initiation, progression, and metastases and focus on delineating the mechanisms of tumor-stromal interactions in human cancer. **Theresa Guise**, MD, and **Wade Clapp**, MD, are co-directors of the program. [Read about the cancer center’s four](#)

other research programs.

IU Health announces cancer leadership

Indiana University Health has announced that James Terwilliger will become vice president of IU Health Cancer Services and Dr. Douglas Schwartztruber will become medical director of IU Health Cancer Services and associate director for clinical affairs at the IU Simon Cancer Center, both effective June 13. [Read the full IU Health news release.](#)



IU Simon Cancer Center breast cancer researcher **Chunyan He, ScD**, (middle) accepts a \$100,000 check from the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, in partnership with The V Foundation for Cancer Research, during a news conference/check presentation Saturday, April 2 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. From left to right are Debbie Antonelli, color analyst for the Indiana Fever TV broadcasts; Dr. **Patrick Loehrer**, director of the IU Simon Cancer Center; Dr. He; Marsha Sharp of the Kay Yow Cancer Fund; and Dr. Terrell Zollinger, professor of public health at IU School of Medicine. [See larger photo.](#)

Reminders

- **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.
- **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.

Cancer center members in the news

- **Chunyan He**, ScD, is one of two recipients of a GWAS and Data Analysis grant from Expression Analysis (EA). Dr. He's study, "Integrating Genome-wide Association and mRNA Expression Profiling for the Identification of Novel Breast Cancer Susceptibility Genes," will combine genome-wide genotyping data with mRNA sequencing data to allow mapping of genetic variants that influence quantitative levels of gene expression. This strategy could be a more powerful tool than differential gene expression alone in identifying disease susceptibility genes. The other recipient is from the University of California, San Francisco. Initially, the EA grant program was to be awarded to just one researcher. However, based on the merits of the two studies, EA and Illumina chose to award both institutions. Each researcher will receive 600 Illumina Omni Arrays and EA will process the arrays and analyze the data at no cost. Both projects will be completed by year's end and the results of the data will be presented in separate public forums.

- The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) recognized **Cong Yan**, PhD, and colleagues with a meritorious award for their abstract in a poster session at the association's 102nd annual meeting. The abstract, "Inhibition of Peroxisome Proliferator-activated Receptor-gamma in Myeloid Lineage Cells Induces Systemic Inflammation, Immunosuppression and Tumorigenesis," scored in the top 2 percent of all abstracts that were presented.



Yan

- In the April 18 [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#), **Patrick Loehrer**, MD, and colleagues concluded, "Carboplatin plus paclitaxel has moderate clinical activity for patients with thymic malignancies, but this seems less than expected with anthracycline-based therapy. Patients with thymic carcinoma have poorer progression-free survival and overall survival than patients with thymoma.
- **Daniela Matei**, MD, was one of three recipients of the 2011 Research Frontiers Trailblazer Award. The award recognizes outstanding IUPUI researchers who are

showing great promise in becoming nationally and internationally known for their accomplishments in advancing the frontiers of knowledge. This award is for outstanding research and scholarly activity accomplishments by an associate professor. An eligible nominee must be a full-time faculty member at IUPUI and within the first three years of promotion or appointment in the rank of associate professor. Dr. Matei and the others were recognized during Research Day April 8 at the IUPUI Campus Center.

- **Daniel Sliva**, PhD, and colleagues have published the dramatic effects of a natural formula against prostate cancer. This is the second in-depth study supporting the effectiveness of this formula against the disease. The study appears in the [*International Journal of Oncology*](#).
- The following cancer center members are recipients of this year's American Cancer Society's Institutional Research Grants. The purpose of the ACS IRG program is to attract new investigators from Indiana University into cancer research and to provide support for new pilot studies that will produce preliminary data for the investigator to develop into studies that will compete successfully for external, national funds from both federal and private sources. The recipients are:



Sliva

Hua-Cheng Chang, PhD

Department of Biology

Title: "Enhancing Tumoricidal Activity of NK Cells by Soypeptide Lunasin"

Shadia Jalal, MD

Division of Hematology/Oncology

Title: "DNA Repair Expression Profile in Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Patients Resistant to Chemoradiotherapy"

Brenna McDonald, PsyD, MBA

Department of Radiology

Title: "Imaging Late Cognitive Effects of ALL Chemotherapy in the Developing Brain: A Structural and Functional MRI Study"

Nicholas Syromski, MD

Department of Surgery

Title: "B-lymphocytes and Progression of Pancreatic Cancer"

New members

[Karen Cowden Dahl](#), PhD

IUSM-South Bend

Associate member, Tumor Microenvironment and Metastases

[David Delgado](#), MD

Department of Pediatrics

Associate member, Hematopoiesis, Microenvironment, and Immunology

[Mark Green](#), PhD
Department of Radiology
Unaligned member

[Chiung-ju Liu](#), PhD
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences-IUPUI
Associate member, Cancer Prevention and Control

[Keith Stantz](#), PhD
School of Health Sciences-Purdue University
Associate member, Breast Cancer Program