December 2023

DCI E-news

Duke Cancer Institute

DCI E-News is a monthly newsletter sharing the latest DCI and oncology-related announcements, feature stories, and news updates. For more, visit the DCI Blog.

In the Spotlight

The MaryAnn Black Distinguished Health Equity Symposium is Slated to be Part of the Duke Centennial Celebration (Feb. 9)

The DCI Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity (COEE) program is hosting its 2nd annual MaryAnn Black Distinguished Health Equity Symposium in honor of the late MaryAnn Black, a former clinical social worker, DUHS Associate Vice President for Community Relations, State Representative, civic leader, mentor, and powerful advocate for health equity.

The event features opening remarks by Dean Klotman; a keynote by distinguished public health and human rights researcher and practitioner Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH (Harvard University); a youth, policy, and community health poster session and awards ceremony; and a dynamic panel with local policymakers, faith leaders, and advocates. Invitees from the community include: Representative Vernetta Alston; Senator Natalie Murdoch; Bishop Godbee of The River Church; and Pilar Rocha-Goldberg, President & CEO of El Centro Hispano, Inc. The Duke 100 event will be held at the Durham Convention Center in honor of Ms. Black's boots-on-the-ground, 'meet people where they are' approach.

LEARN MORE & SECURE YOUR FREE TICKETS

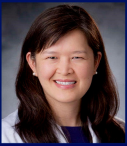
Urban Environmental Exposures Drive Increased Breast Cancer Incidence

An analysis of breast cancer in NC showed that the state's urban counties had higher overall incidences of breast cancer than rural counties, especially at early stages upon diagnosis. The findings, appearing in the journal Scientific Reports, serve as a national template for assessing the impact of poor environmental quality across different stages of breast cancer, which is marked by highly diverse origins and mechanisms for spreading. **Gayathri Devi, PhD**, is senior author and Duke PhD student **Larisa Gearhart-Serna** is lead author. READ

New Antibiotic Approach Proves Promising Against Lyme Bacterium

Using a technique that has shown promise in targeting cancer tumors, researchers in the Haystead Lab, Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, have found a way to deploy a molecular warhead that can annihilate the bacterium that causes Lyme Disease, according to research published in the journal Cell Chemical Biology. The late **Neil Spector, MD**, is a co-author. Dr. Spector, who was an accomplished DCI medical oncologist, faculty member, and mentor, suffered for decades from Lyme Disease, a disease that damaged his heart (and necessitated a transplant in 2009) and ultimately contributed to his death. He passed away after contracting post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder in 2020. The following year, the Bay Area Lyme Foundation granted $2 million in Dr. Spector's honor to fund research toward continuing to develop an effective treatment for Lyme disease, work he had begun with **Timothy Haystead, PhD**. The Haystead Lab's latest findings bring the team one step closer to a cure. READ

One of Our Own: Remembering Phuong Doan, MD

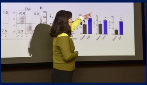


Phuong Linh Doan
(1977-2023)

We regretfully announce the passing of beloved DCI member **Phuong Doan, MD**, on November 26, 2023.

Dr. Doan was an associate professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematologic Malignancies & Cellular Therapy, and an affiliate of the Duke Regeneration Center.

A renowned physician-scientist and colleague, Dr. Doan was known for her expertise in hematopoietic regeneration and endothelial cells, and had been the principal investigator for the Doan Lab for the past decade.



Dr. Doan's team focused on identifying novel hematopoietic growth factors, endothelial microvesicles, EGFR and EGFR-2 signaling in hematologic malignancies, hematopoietic acute radiation syndrome, and transgenic and mutant murine models in cancer and myelosuppression.

"Dr. Doan was admired by her colleagues and patients for her tenacity and compassion. She will be missed across Duke and the DCI," wrote Executive Director of DCI **Michael B. Kastan, MD, PhD**, as part of a message to DCI faculty, clinicians, and staff. "Please keep Dr. Doan's family in your thoughts and prayers."

Kathleen Cooney, MD, MACP, chair of the Department of Medicine, and **Nelson Chao, MD, MBA**, chief of the Division of Hematologic Malignancies & Cellular Therapy, shared this message on the passing of Dr. Doan.

Clinic & Community News

Join Us for the Tree of Hope This Thursday, Dec. 7, @5:30

YOU'RE INVITED TO
THE NANCY WEAVER EMERSON
33RD ANNUAL
TREE OF HOPE
LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Duke Cancer Patient Support Program invites the community to the 33rd Annual Nancy Weaver Emerson Tree of Hope — an evening to honor and remember loved ones, patients, care team members, family, and friends whose lives have been affected by cancer.

Speakers include: Deputy Director of Duke Cancer Institute **Steve Patierno, PhD**, multiple myelomaa survivor Jacqueline Weatherly, medical family therapist **Tracy Berger**, colon cancer survivor Jennifer Applegate and her oncologist **John Strickler, MD**, and Supportive Care & Survivorship Director **Cheyenne Corbett, PhD.**

The latest Many Faces of Cancer photography project will debut in the Cancer Center Lobby.

LOCATION: Duke Cancer Center | 20 Duke Medicine Circle | Cancer Center Lobby and Seese-Thornton Garden of Tranquility

Attend in person OR Join a livestream of the Tree of Hope ceremony from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM (Passcode: 531975)

DCI-Funded Novel Community Engagement/Research Effort in Head & Neck Cancer Launches

The Duke University School of Medicine Department of Head and Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences (HNS&CS) recently launched Project CHECKERS (**C**ommunity **H**ead and **NE**ck **C**ancer **K**nowledge, **E**ngagement, **R**esearch and **S**creening) a Duke Cancer Institute-funded pilot project to bring head and neck cancer resources and education to the broader Durham community.

Led by DCI head and neck surgeon Trinitia Cannon, MD, an associate professor in the Department, the project will be the Department's first community-based participatory research project and the first such head and neck cancer screening and cancer prevention education project in North Carolina. READ

Patient Stories

An Unexpected Diagnosis

From Duke Cancer Center Patients to Cancer Care Advocates

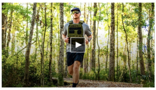
Fertility Preservation Helps Young Breast Cancer Survivor Grow Her Family

Raleigh Man Gives Back to Community After Specialized Surgery Eliminates Testicular Cancer

The Duke Difference

Cancer Care
DECEMBER 2023

Brain cancer survivor raises money for his care team



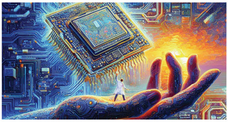
Dean Klotman 1:1 with Dept. of Urology Interim Chair Gary Faerber, MD

Dean Mary Klotman, MD, speaks with **Gary Faerber, MD, FACS**, interim chair of the newly elevated Dept. of Urology about the department's national profile, inc. "punching above its weight" in NIH-funded research dollars, the department's relationship with training military urologists, advances in prostate cancer treatment inc. focal therapy and robotics, volunteering at the Men's Health Screening event, the importance of prostate cancer screening, and why he didn't grow a mustache for the DCI GU "Shave Off." WATCH

Mary E. Klotman's Friday Message
Featuring a conversation with Gary Faerber, MD
November 3, 2023
Duke University School of Medicine

Wellbeing, Culture, and Sense of Self: Redefining What it Means to be a 'Good' Surgeon

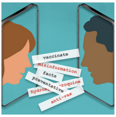
In a new education initiative that launched in 2023, Duke Surgery faculty and residents are establishing a new curriculum that seeks to redefine what it means to be a 'good' surgeon. The project was launched as a means of helping surgical residents maintain their mental health, their empathy and compassion toward patients, and their sense of purpose. READ



Artificial Intelligence in Health Care: Promise and Pitfalls

DukeHealth is using AI to schedule surgeries more efficiently, give students immediate feedback on writing, and help speed up drug discovery. Duke is maximizing the benefits of AI while putting effective guardrails in place to minimize potential risks. READ in the Fall 2023 DukeMed Alumni News

More News from the Fall Issue of DukeMed Alumni News



Unmasking Medical Misinformation: Taking Aim at False Health Claims

ChatGPT Enters the Classroom

READ MORE

MORE

More addictive and harder to quit: Health groups want Black menthol smokers to know support groups can help *(NBC News)*
Features **Sven-Eric Jordt, PhD**

Duke program aims to build community trust in healthcare system by meeting patients where they're at *(WUNC)*
Features **Nadine Barrett, PhD, Kenisha Bethea, MPH, Kenyon Railey, MD**

Duke Health Names **Gregory Pauly** to Key Leadership Roles — group president of Acute Care Services for Duke University Health System; president of Duke University Hospital; and vice dean for Clinical and Academic Integration at Duke University School of Medicine *(Duke Health News)*

Patient Preferences of Breast Radiologists' Attire and Appearance *(Academic Radiology)*
Features **Derek L. Nguyen, MD**, **Sora C. Yoon, MD**, **Jay A. Baker, MD**, and **Lars J. Grimm, MD, MHS**

Research News

Hwang Honored as Distinguished Faculty

Duke Medical Alumni Association
2023 Distinguished Awards
E. Shelley Hwang,
MD, MPH
Distinguished Faculty Award

On November 9, **E. Shelley Hwang, MD, MPH**, was honored by the Duke Medical Alumni Association with a 2023 Distinguished Faculty Award. WATCH

The Numbers Are In: Clarivate's Annual List of Most Highly Cited Scientists

30 Duke researchers were named to Clarivate's list of highly cited researchers. To make the cut, a paper has to be ranked in the top 1 percent for its field for the last decade. Clarivate's "Institute for Scientific Information" crunches all the numbers.

Neuroscience and Behavior: Quinn Ostrom, PhD

Biology and Biochemistry: Charles A. Gersbach, PhD

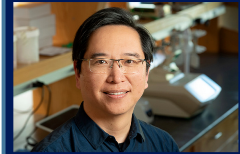
Cross-Field: Robert Lefkowitz, MD | | **Jason Locasale, PhD** | | **Christopher Newgard, PhD** | | **Bryce B. Reeve, PhD** | | **Pratiksha I. Thakore, PhD**

Microbiology: Barton F. Haynes, PhD

READ FULL LIST on the Duke Research Blog

Fecci Named to AANS

Peter Fecci, MD, PhD, was invited to join the American Academy of Neurological Surgery. He was nominated by **Allan Friedman, MD.**



Pharmacology and Cancer Biology: Writing the Next Chapter

Lee Zou, PhD, joined the Duke faculty in March 2023 as chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology in part because of the very collegial environment he found in Durham. "People at Duke are doing original science, they're thoughtful. They take time to work with colleagues," he said. "Everybody's helping each other to succeed." READ

Dr. Zou's Most Recent Work: Immunotherapy Plus an Investigational Cancer Drug Improves Anti-Tumor Effects

New Strategy for Protecting Bones from Cancer Treatment

Cancer patients who receive radiation during their treatment (about half do) may face a lesser-known challenge: bone loss. The vital treatment for cancers of the head and neck, breast, cervix, prostate, and even eyes can harm the cells that keep bones strong. But Duke and MD Anderson Cancer Center investigators have developed a new strategy to protect bones during cancer treatment using a unique drug delivery system with tiny carriers. READ

Pain Drives Dual Tobacco and Cannabis Use, Study Shows

A study published in Addictive Behaviors found that individuals with chronic pain were almost three times as likely to report both tobacco and cannabis use. The lead study author is **Dana Rubenstein**, a medical student whose research is supported by a predoctoral scholarship from the NIH. DCI members and tobacco policy researchers in the Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences **Maggie Sweitzer, PhD**, and **Joseph McClernon, PhD**, were co-authors on the study. READ

MORE

WATCH: **Dean Mary Klotman, MD**, talks with **Barton Haynes, MD**, Director of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute, about AIDS treatment advancements and the difficulties of creating a vaccine *(Duke SoM)*

New Analyses from Pivotal Phase 3 INDIGO Study Reinforce Vorasidenib's Potential to Change the Treatment Paradigm for IDH-Mutant Diffuse Glioma *(Duke Translation & Commercialization)*
Features **Darell Bigner, MD, PhD**

WATCH: **Harry Erba, MD, PhD**, Interviewed on the Latest Updates from the Phase III QuANTUM-First Trial in Acute Myeloid Leukemia *(AML Hub)*

WATCH: Targeted Kidney Cancer Therapy Sparks Hope For Tough-To-Treat Patients (from the ESMO - European Society for Medical Oncology 2023 annual meeting) *(Uro Today)*
Features **Dan George, MD**

WATCH: Genomic Biomarkers in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (from the ESMO - European Society for Medical Oncology 2023 annual meeting) *(Video Journal of Oncology)*
Features **John Strickler, MD**

ICYMI: New Cause Identified for Metabolic Disease that Strikes Native Americans: Duke scientists topple the prevailing explanation for how the incomplete breakdown of a protein causes neurological damage *(Duke Health News)*

Events

Academic Events (strictly academic or clinical)

December

DEC. 7: UNC-Duke Viral Oncology and AIDS Malignancy Symposium

Open to DCI faculty and trainees, the UNC-Duke Viral Oncology and AIDS Malignancy Symposium will include special guest presentations, breakfast and lunch, and a poster session with prizes. Registration is required.

There's still time to register!

DECEMBER 8 (8:45 AM to 5:30 PM): 3rd annual School of Medicine Genomics Scientific Retreat hosted by the Precision Genomics Collaboratory

Keynote speakers are Sarah Tishkoff, PhD, David and Lyn Silfen University Professor in genetics and biology at the University of Pennsylvania; and **Geoff Ginsburg, MD, PhD**, Chief Medical and Scientific Officers for the All of Us research program.

Sarah Tishkoff, PhD, studies genomic and phenotypic variation in ethnically diverse Africans. Her research combines field work, laboratory research, and computational methods to examine African population history and how genetic variation can affect a wide range of traits – for example, why humans have different susceptibility to disease, how they metabolize drugs, and how they adapt through evolution.

Geoff Ginsburg, MD, PhD, is the chief medical and scientific officer of the All of Us Research Program at the National Institutes of Health. He leads the Division of Medical and Scientific Research and is responsible for helping to set the scientific vision and strategy for the program. He also oversees the program's collection and curation of data and integration of new data types to support a wide range of impactful scientific discoveries.

LOCATION: Trent Semans Center Great Hall

Register Now!

January

JANUARY 9 (4:00 - 5:15 PM), IN-PERSON & LIVE STREAM: Duke University Centennial Celebration Kickoff, featuring musical performances, special guests, multimedia elements, and more!

LOCATION: Cameron Indoor Stadium.

REGISTER: Open only to the Duke community only. Check your email for details.

JANUARY 9 (5:15 PM) Winter Chill Outdoor Reception

LOCATION: K-Ville

REGISTER: Open only to the Duke community only. Tickets not required for the outdoor reception

---

Special Events (general public welcome)

December

DEC. 7 (5:30 PM - 6:30 PM): 33rd Annual Nancy Weaver Emerson Tree of Hope

LOCATION: Duke Cancer Center | 20 Duke Medicine Circle | Cancer Center Lobby and Seese-Thornton Garden of Tranquility

Attend in person OR Join a livestream of the Tree of Hope ceremony from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM (Passcode: 531975)

PURCHASE LUMINARIES and/or TRIBUTE CARDS in honor or in memory of loved ones, patients, staff, family, and friends.

December Cancer Support Calendar
(click to view)

February

FEBRUARY 9 (3:00 PM to 6:30 PM): The MaryAnn Black Distinguished Health Equity Symposium, a Duke 100 Event

LOCATION: Durham Convention Center | 301 W. Morgan St. | Durham, NC

Register/Purchase (free) tickets to secure your spot

FEBRUARY 25 (2:00 PM): 5th Annual "She Dunks on Cancer Educational Symposium" presented by the Endometrial Cancer Molecularly Targeted Therapy (ECMT2) Consortium

LOCATION: The DeJoy Family Club room, Blue Devil Tower | Wallace Wade Stadium |110 Frank Basset Dr. | Durham, NC

Followed by a Duke Women's Basketball game at 5:30 PM

LOCATION: Cameron Indoor Stadium

REGISTER for Symposium & Game Tickets

Duke Centennial Event Calendar
January 2024 — May 2025
(click to view events & check back often for more listings)

Team Spirit

There's a Horse Loose in a Hospital?

The animal-assisted therapy group Stampede of Love brought two miniature horses to Duke Medical Center Library in November to offer faculty, staff, & students the opportunity to relax, de-stress, and snap photos with the equine visitors, and watch them ride the elevator. WATCH

Class Photo: "Future Leaders in Neurosurgery/Orthopedics /Plastic Surgery Symposium for Underrepresented Students"

DCI member **Rory Goodwin, MD, PhD** (left), associate program director of Neurosurgery Residency and surgical director for the Duke Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis at DCI, is among the many faculty showing their support for this initiative to empower undergrads by introducing them to these specialties. MD-MPH student Antoinette J. Charles founded the event in 2020 with a neurosurgery focus and it expanded from there.

Big Shave-Off Returns After a 4-year Hiatus

DCI faculty and supporters gathered at Fullsteam Brewery on Dec. 1 for a "bid your face off auction" to support GU cancer research. Clinical investigator **Chris Hoimes, DO, PhD** (above) and many more grew a stache in preparation for a creative shave-off.

At their mid-November retreat, everyone on the DCI Center for Prostate & Urologic Cancers team had a stache to show off (real or fake) in support of Men's Health Awareness Month.

Huang Speaks on “Glypican-3 (GPC3) as a Novel Therapeutic Target of Prostate Cancer” at PCF Retreat

Prostate Cancer Foundation
30 YEARS
30
SCIENTIFIC RETREAT

At the 2023 Prostate Cancer Foundation Scientific Retreat, DCI member and Pathology Department Chair **Jiaoti Huang, MD, PhD,** shared his vision of how to develop therapeutic modalities to benefit the large number of advanced prostate cancer patients who've exhausted treatment options. READ

Empower Initiative Picks Up Steam

EMPOWER

April Salama, MD, co-director of the Melanoma program, reports that the cross-disciplinary EMPOWER initiative she leads — **E**ngaging **M**entorship for the **P**romotion of **W**omen in **O**ncology **R**esearch — had their first "post Covid" gathering this fall. The newly renewed initiative matches women faculty at the instructor or assistant professor level with a career coach (a senior male or female faculty, even from another cancer disease area or discipline) who helps them navigate professional challenges and opportunities in oncology. Many of the pre-Covid mentee/coach pairings are still in touch. A new cohort is just kicking off.

UPDATE: Inaugural Pickle for Pink Raised More than $40K for Breast Cancer Research at DCI

Pickle for Pink
BENEFITTING DUKE BREAST SURGERY AND THE DUKE BREAST ONCOLOGY PROGRAM
NOVARTIS
Seagen
HOLOGIC
GILEAD

The driving force behind the event and Chief of Breast surgery, DCI, **Maggie DiNome, MD** (right) hopes to make the competitive sporting fundraiser an annual tradition. READ

Julie Poucher Harbin, Senior Writer, DCI, is Managing Editor of DCI E-News & the DCI Blog.

FILL OUT THIS FORM to submit announcements of upcoming events; new faculty, fellows, or residents; honors, awards, recognitions, new roles, promotions; and other news you wish to share for potential inclusion in the next DCI E-news or DCI Monthly Update.

Copyright © 2023 Duke Cancer Institute, All rights reserved.

SUBSCRIBE

Manage your preferences | Opt Out using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

20 Duke Medicine Circle | Durham, NC 27710 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.