October/November 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

DCI 50th Anniversary Raises More than $86M

WATCH: DCI 50th Part 1

On Oct. 14, DCI completed its 50th Anniversary celebration with a black tie event. More than $86 million, including $32.7 million in planned gifts was raised for cancer research during the nearly two-year celebration of this milestone. The gala alone raised $100,000. Ovester Grays, athletic director and head women's basketball coach at Hillside High School in Durham and four-year mantle cell lymphoma survivor, was one of the honored guests. READ

Duke Cancer Institute
50th Anniversary
50

WATCH: DCI 50th Part 2

An Evolution in Blood Cancer Treatment

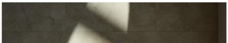
"More patients can benefit from transplantation now because there are more donor options," said Edwin Alyea, MD, chief medical officer, DCI. "And we can now offer reduced intensity transplants, with lower-dose chemotherapy, to patients who were previously not eligible because of age or other medical problems."

READ in Breakthroughs

Patient Navigation Gets National Recognition

Worthy Spearheads WH Cancer Moonshot Project

The White House Cancer Moonshot program announced its support for and commitment to a new initiative led by TOUCH, the Black Breast Cancer Alliance, to bolster Black women's breast cancer clinical trial participation. The White House also announced a connected program, TOUCH Care, the first program to provide a nurse navigator service to assist Black breast cancer patients in accessing clinical trials. TOUCH Care is being led by TOUCH co-founder and Duke Cancer Center patient navigation manager **Valarie Worthy, MSN, RN**, and piloted with Genentech. READ

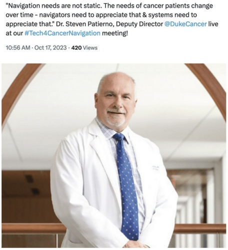


Worthy, Patierno, Participate in the President's Cancer Panel

On Oct. 17, deputy director of DCI **Steven Patierno, PhD**, and Duke Cancer Center patient navigation manager **Valarie Worthy, MSN, RN**, participated in an in-person meeting of the President's Cancer Panel in New Orleans on the topic — "Reducing Cancer Care Inequities: Leveraging Technology to Enhance Patient Navigation." The event was broadcasted live and live Tweeted by the Panel, a Federal Advisory Committee that monitors the activities of the National Cancer Program and reports to the President of the United States on barriers to progress in reducing the burden of cancer.

President's Cancer Panel
@PresCancerPanel

Worthy been a nurse for more than 38 years. Her personal breast cancer survivor story and her advocacy for cancer health equity was featured in Working@Duke this month. READ

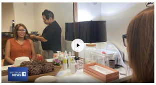


"Navigation needs are not static. The needs of cancer patients change over time - navigators need to appreciate that & systems need to appreciate that." Dr. Steven Patierno, Deputy Director @DukeCancer live at our #Tech4CancerNavigation meeting!

10:56 AM · Oct 17, 2023 · **420** Views

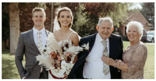
Patient Stories

Spectrum News: Self-image Boutique Helps Duke Cancer Patients



WNCN: Central NC Woman Thanks Duke Radiologist for Saving Her Life

Duke Health:Patient Helps Advance Phyllodes Tumor Research



DCI Breakthroughs: Truly Cured

Duke Health: Man Keeps His Voice After Partial Laryngectomy Treats Laryngeal Cancer

Duke Palliative Care: Anjar's Story

DukeHealth
ke Palliative
are: Anjar's
Story

Clinic & Community News

Celebrating November
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

DukeHealth

Building Trust

Hannah Woriax, MD, joined Duke in 2021 as a breast surgical oncologist and assistant professor of Surgery. After residency and fellowship in Virginia and Alabama, she returned to her hometown of Pembroke, NC, with the goal of caring for breast cancer patients in rural communities. "I can be a voice for our patients in a different space," Woriax said. "I work here, I grew up here, and I live here now. I understand the way of life and challenges on a different level." Her journey into medicine was kick-started by watching her grandfather, former Navy corpsman and family medicine physician Frank Woriax, MD, who was the first Native American to graduate from the Duke University School of Medicine. READ MORE in Breakthroughs

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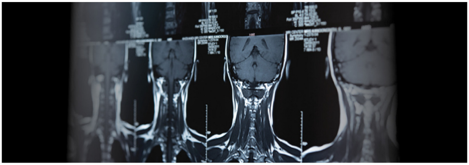
READ MORE about Dr. Woriax in Working@Duke

LEARN ABOUT the Southeastern American Indian Cancer Health Equity Partnership (SAICEP), a unique collaboration initiated and led by the Community Outreach and Engagement teams at DCI, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center, which focuses on understanding and addressing the cancer-related health needs of American Indian communities in our area.

Duke Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis Expands Services in Wake County



According to the NIH, an estimated 623,405 people in the U.S. were living with metastatic melanoma, breast, lung, prostate, bladder, or colorectal cancer in 2018. By 2025, the prevalence is expected to increase by an estimated 11%. Melanoma and colon cancer commonly metastasize to the brain. Prostate cancer often advances to the spine. Lung and breast cancer tend to metastasize to both the brain and spine. "An increasing number of patients need treatment for cancer-related brain or spine metastasis, and for a potentially longer continuum of care," said breast medical oncologist **Rani Bansal, MD**. "Patients with brain or spine metastatic disease benefit from multidisciplinary expert opinions and decisions about their best possible path forward."

These services, long accessible at Duke Cancer Center Durham, recently expanded to Duke Cancer Center Raleigh. READ in Clinical Practice Today

> “If we don’t try these novel agents early on for patients with [central nervous system] disease, we won’t know if they work. So far, we have been surprised by what we found.”

Novel Therapies, Technologies Give ‘Hope for the Future’ to Those with Brain Metastases

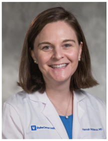
The landscape of clinical research into brain metastases has changed dramatically in recent years, according to **Carey K. Anders, MD,** medical director of the Duke Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis. During her medical training, patients with active or history of brain metastases were excluded from trials. “There’s been a huge shift in terms of inclusion of patients with brain metastases in clinical trials, which I think is an advance in and of itself,” Anders said. Perhaps the biggest surprise has been the effectiveness of antibody-drug conjugates. READ in Healio/HemeOnc Today

Breast Cancer Point-Of-Care Genetic Testing Speeds Information, Treatment

BRCA1 - Test
(Breast Cancer)
BRCA2 - Te
(Breast C

Through a multidisciplinary workflow, the Duke Breast Oncology Program tripled point of care genetic testing rates among patients with an active breast cancer diagnosis, which powered the team, including breast surgical oncologist **Jennifer Plichta, MD, MS**, and **Maggie Frazier, CGC** (certified genetic counselor), to reach more patients faster. READ in Clinical Practice Today

DCI genetics counselors bring a wealth of genetic knowledge as well as compassionate care to each and every patient the encounter. Nov. 9 is Genetics Counselors Awareness Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness and utilization of genetic counselors in communities and institutions.



McManus On What Type of Molecular Testing is Right for Prostate Cancer, Plus an Explainer on Terminology

Next-Generation Sequencing? Liquid vs. tissue biopsy? Germline vs. somatic mutations?

DCI genitourinary oncologist **Hannah McManus, MD**, explains these terms and more and their importance in personalized prostate cancer treatment.

READ on Survivornet

George Addresses Outcomes, Targeted Treatment for Kidney Cancer

When it comes to metastatic kidney cancer, the site of metastasis is significant, said urologic oncologist **Daniel George, MD**, in an American Journal for Managed Care (AJMC) article and podcast. Metastasis to the liver, bone, and brain have the worst prognosis. Lung, lymph node, and endocrine organ metastasis have a better prognosis.

In another AJMC podcast George addressed the use of biomarkers in renal cell cancer, a common type of kidney cancer.

MORE

LISTEN: Be Present, Passionate, and Purposeful with Dr. **Richard Riedel** *(The Medicine Mentors)*

SGO Wellness: Dusting Myself Off and Getting Back on the Horse Again *(SGO)*
Features **Emma Rossi, MD**

Cervical Cancer: What It Is, Symptoms and Treatment *(Healthday)*
Features **Angeles Alvarez Secord, MD, MHSc**

The FDA's Menthol Ban and Big Tobacco's Synthetic Workaround *(Duke UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program)*
Features **Rachael Joyner, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN**

Treating Breast Cancer, Protecting Hearts *(Clinical Practice Today)*
Features **Susan Dent, MD**, and **Michel Khouri, MD**

Impact of Metastatic Breast Cancer on Quality of Life *(Pharmacy Times)*
Features **Heather Moore, PharmD, CPP, BCOP**

A decades-old debate rears its head again: Is earlier breast cancer screening better? *(Raleigh N&O)*
& The New USPSTF Mammography Recommendations — A Dissenting View *(New England Journal of Medicine)*
Features **Shelley Hwang, MD, MHS**, and **Jay Baker, MD**

LISTEN: Better With Age: Improving Breast Cancer Care in Older Adults, a Medscape Series *(DCI Blog)*
Features **Rebecca Shelby, PhD**, **Gretchen Kimmick, MD**, and **Lisa A. Massa, CLT, PT, WCS**

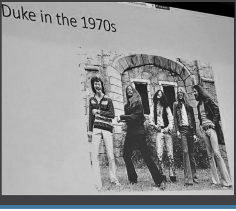
Breast cancer survivor advocates for mental health support *(Spectrum News)*
Features **Maggie DiNome, MD**

What Women Want: Study Unravels Choices about Breast Reconstruction *(Duke University School of Medicine & JAMA Surgery)*
Features **Scott T. Hollenbeck, MD, Ronnie Shammas, MD, Shelby Reed, PhD,** and **Anna Hung, PhD**

Research News

Berry to Retire After 50+ Years at Duke

William Berry, MD, was celebrated at the 2023 DCI GU Cancers Symposium (held on Sept. 29) for his five decade career in Medicine — beginning *and* ending at Duke. Berry, a DCI medical oncologist specializing in treating bladder, kidney, prostate, and testicular cancer, joined Duke on January 1, 1974, and will officially retire on Dec. 31, 2023. He earned his MD at Duke in 1973.



50 Years in Medicine
January 1, 1974 to December 31, 2023
William R Berry MD

Multi-Institutional Study Launches to Measure Stroke Risk by Cancer Subtypes/Treatment

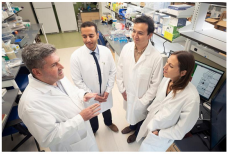
It's not new that people with a previous or current cancer diagnosis are more likely to have a stroke than the general population. However, recent findings from a retrospective pilot study of the prevalence of stroke in patients with different cancer types (in greater Cincinnati/northern Kentucky) suggested an increased prevalence in patients with breast cancer. The Univ. of Cincinnati-led research team included **Wuwei Feng, MD, FAHA**, chief, Duke Neurology Division of Stroke & Vascular Neurology, plus a Case Western Reserve University scientist. Now a team from UNC Chapel Hill, Duke, and Cincinnati, will continue this research with a large prospective study — in Duke and UNC cancer patients — of the association between cancer subtypes/treatments and stroke risk. READ | Cancer Letter)

Recognizing HISPANIC • LATINO HERITAGES
September 15 - October 15

From Migrant Farm Worker to Duke Scientist, Everardo Macias Tackles Prostate Cancer

"It still baffles me how traveling in the back of a pickup truck one summer in high school got me all the way to Duke," says **Everardo Macias, PhD**, whose Duke Pathology lab delves into the genetics behind prostate cancer tumor growth. READ

Antibody Targets Deep-Seated KRAS Cancer Mutations

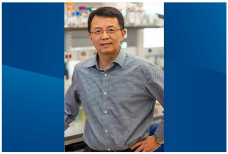


A new study published online Oct. 30 in Immunity, a Cell Press journal, unveils an approach to cancer treatment that researchers describe as more precise, long-lasting, and less toxic than current therapies.

The work, led by Duke immunology researcher **Jose Ramon Conejo-Garcia, MD, PhD**, centers on the innovative use of IGA antibodies to target and kill tumor-promoting molecules, found deep within cancer cells, that have long eluded existing treatment options, including with IGA antibodies. READ

Study Identifies Molecularly Unique Form of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer in Young African American Women

In an exploratory study that analyzed clinical, demographic, DNA methylation, and gene expression data from publicly available data repositories, investigators found that African American women under age 50 had a unique DNA methylation profile compared to older African American women and to white women of all ages. The results were published in JAMA Network Open. **Maggie DiNome, MD, FACS**, professor of Surgery and chief of the breast surgery section, was the senior author of the study. READ



Ji Awarded $2.5M NIH Grant to Study Checkpoint Inhibitors for Pain Control, inc. in Bone Cancer

Successful completion of this project will validate an important role of PD-L1/PD-1 axis in pain control. This study will also provide novel insights into distinct actions of checkpoint pathway activators and inhibitors for the management of different types of pain — inflammatory/post-operative/neuropathic pain vs. bone cancer pain. **Ru-Rong Ji, PhD** runs the Ji Lab. READ

Unlocking Boundless Learning

Cheryl Bock, MA, research operations manager, DCI Transgenic & Knockout Mouse Shared Resource, has worked in Duke labs for 39 years. She completed her Graduate Liberal Studies degree at Duke in 2005 and although she says the degree was unrelated to science, she sharpened her research and writing skills. "This was about life enhancement and personal growth," Bock said, "but the techniques I used writing papers and doing research are things I still use today." READ

MORE

Nobel Laureates Highlight Symposium Celebrating Lefkowitz's 50 Years at Duke *(Duke SoM)*
Features **Robert Lefkowitz, MD**

Metabolic Imaging as a Tool to Characterize Chemoresistance and Guide Therapy in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer *(Molecular Cancer Research)*
Features PhD student **Enakshi D. Sunassee**, with **Megan Madonna, PhD**, and **Nirmala Ramanujam, PhD**

Effects and Eradication of Mycoplasma Contamination on Patient-derived Colorectal Cancer Organoid Cultures *(Cancer Research Communications)*
Features **Divya Dayanidhi, Wylie K. Watlington**, **BS**, **John Mantyh**, **MD**, **Gabrielle Rupprecht, BS**; **David S. Hsu, MD,PhD**

UDP-glucose dehydrogenase in clinical oncology and cancer biology *(OncoTarget)*
Features **Rory Goodwin, MD, PhD, Annee D. Nguyen, MS, Jovita K. Byemerwa,PhD, Jasmine Flowers**

Taking Vitamin Supplements Regularly May Guard Against Stomach Cancer *(Duke University School of Medicine & Cancer Causes and Control)*
Features **Meira Epplein, MA, PhD, MS, MA**, **Jessica C Goodwin**, **MD**, **Qichen Wang**, **Pao-Hwa Lin, PhD**

Huang and George Present Multidisciplinary Approach to Combat Advanced Prostate Cancer *(Duke Pathology)*
Features **Jiaoti Huang, MD**, and **Daniel George, MD**

Receipt of immunotherapy for head and neck cancer varies by race, cancer type *(Healio/HemeOnc Today & JAMA Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery)*
Features **Nosayaba Osazuwa-Peters, BDS, PhD, MPH, CHES**

LISTEN: Association of Human Papillomavirus Status With Suicide Risk Among Patients With Head and Neck Cancer *(JAMA Network podcast)*
Features **Nosayaba Osazuwa-Peters, BDS, PhD, MPH, CHES**

Events

Academic Events (strictly academic or clinical)

November

TOMORROW NOV. 1 (4:00 PM): Thaddeus Salmuski Lectureship Event

AGENDA

4:00 p.m. Reception – hors d'oeuvres and refreshments provided
4:20 p.m. Welcome by **Deshan Yang, PhD**
4:25 p.m. Opening Remarks by **Christopher Willett, MD**
4:30 p.m. Remarks from the Dean **Mary Klotman, MD**
4:40 p.m. "Remembering Dr. Samulski" with **Ricka Samulski** and **Mark Dewhirst, DVM, PhD**
4:55 p.m. **Kyle Lafata, PhD**, presents "Computational Oncology: Tumor Phenotyping, Multiscale Modeling, and In-Silico Experiments"
5:25 p.m. **Charles Mayo, PhD**, professor and director of Informatics and Analytics in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, presents "Data Farm to Table – Enabling Single and Multi-Institutional Integration of AI into Clinical Decision Frameworks."
6:10 p.m. Q&A Session
6:25 p.m. Closing Remarks

LOCATION: Trent Semans Center Great Hall | 8 Searle Center Dr

LEARN MORE

NOV. 27 (11:59 PM): Abstracts for the 2024 MaryAnn Black Distinguished Health Equity Symposium poster session are due

DCI COEE invites submissions from students/trainees, community organizations, researchers, and healthcare professionals that highlights work to advance health equity in our community.

VIEW proposal categories, evaluation criteria, submission instructions, timelines and due dates, and SUBMIT ABSTRACT

For any questions or clarifications, please email DCICOE@dm.duke.edu

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NOV. 28 (Noon to 1:30 PM): "Ask, Advise, Refer, and Prescribe: Strategies for Talking to Cancer Patients about Tobacco Use" Virtual Taining (a Conversations with Our Community course presented by the Duke Smoking Cessation Program to members of the North Carolina Oncology Navigator Association (NCONA), healthcare professionals, and community health workers)

SPEAKERS: **Sarah Arthur, MBA**, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Manager, Cancer Prevention and Control Branch, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services | **Ronny A. Bell, PhD, MS**, Fred Eshelman Distinguished Professor and Chair, Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy Eshelman School of Pharmacy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | **Megan Keith, MSW, LCSW,** Tobacco Treatment Specialist, Duke Smoking Cessation Program | **Joyce Swetlick, MPH**, Director of Tobacco Cessation, QuitlineNC, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services | **Jean Sellers, RN, MSN**, Executive Director, North Carolina Oncology Navigator Association

Special Events (general public welcome)

November

November Cancer Support Calendar (click to view)

TOMORROW NOV. 1 (1:00 PM to 1:30 PM): Patient Empowerment Network CLL Patient Expert Q&A "Start Here," featuring hematologic oncologist Danielle Brander, MD

REGISTER

NOV. 16: The Great American Smokeout is observed

ABOUT: Quitting smoking isn't easy, and the Great American Smokeout is a day encouraging people to take a step toward a tobacco-free life. Quit at Duke offers support, whether you are ready to quit, interested in cutting back or just curious about what options are out there. Quit at Duke has dedicated tobacco treatment specialists who can talk to you about medication, counseling, lifestyle changes, and community resources. To learn more, call 919-613-QUIT (919-613-7848).

December

DEC. 7 (5:30 PM): 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. This year will also include the unveiling of the latest Many Faces of Cancer photography project in the Cancer Center Lobby.

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

RSVP to attend in-person or to view the live-stream

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

MODERATOR: **Kearston L. Ingraham, MPH,** Assistant Director, Duke Cancer Institute's Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity program

REGISTER & LEARN MORE

NOV 30 (6:00 PM to 9:00 PM): OncLive State of the Science Summit: Breast Cancer **Gretchen Kimmick, MD, MS**, is chair of the event

LOCATION: Raleigh Marriott | Crabtree Valley Mall| 4500 Marriott Drive

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

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

Team Spirit

THAT'S A WRAP

15th Annual Strike Out for Sarcoma Raised $25K for Sarcoma Research (9/10)

CRUSHed It! $21K Raised for CRC Research (9/30)

CRUSH IT!
CRUSH IT!

At Bull City Racefest, Pets at Duke Were a Hit (10/16)

Duke Women's Volleyball/DCI 'Spike Out Cancer' Raised $16K for DCI's Teen & Young Adult Cancer Patient Support Program (10/25)

2023 Gail Parkins Memorial Ovarian Cancer Awareness Walk & 5K Raised More Than $194K for Ovarian Cancer Research (9/23)

What's Best for Breasts Returned to an In-Person Event (10/7)

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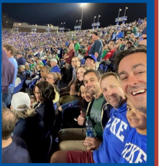
LLS Triangle Light the Night 2023: DCI Team Raised $6K, Patient Re-united with Doctor (10/21)

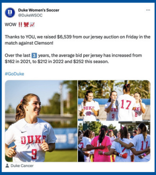
50
Duke Cancer Institute
50th Anniversary

Team DCI Showed Team Spirit at ACS Triangle Making Strides (10/28)

Tackle Cancer Tailgate & Symposium Raised $64K for Prostate & Urologic Cancers Research (9/29 & 9/30)



Duke Women's Soccer/DCI 'Pink Jersey' Campaign Raised Over $6K for Breast Cancer Research (10/13)



Duke Women's Soccer
@DukeWSOC

WOW ‼️🎀📈

Thanks to YOU, we raised $6,539 from our jersey auction on Friday in the match against Clemson!

Over the last 3 years, the average bid per jersey has increased from $162 in 2021, to $212 in 2022 and $252 this season.

#GoDuke

Duke Cancer

Pickle for Pink Raised $24K for Breast Cancer Research (10/22)

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 internal channels.

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