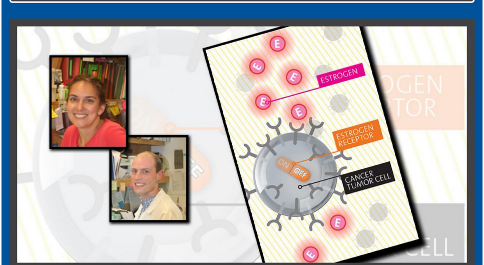
FEBRUARY 2023 E-NEWS

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



New MBC Drug Approved; Discovered in McDonnell Lab

A potential gamechanger for ER+/HER2-, ESR1-mutated metastatic breast cancer patients, the FDA approved elacestrant (Orserdu) on Jan. 27. It's the first new and first oral endocrine therapy approved in 20+ years. Working in the McDonnell Lab, **Suzanne Wardell, PhD**, and **Erik Nelson, PhD**, elucidated its mechanism of action more than 10 years ago. READ

READ MORE

Duke researcher's discovery leads to new breast cancer drug (CBS-17)

Luck Favors the Prepared Mind:
Two MBC Drug Discoveries Emerge from the McDonnell Lab into the Clinic (DCI Blog)

* * *

Moving Mountains in HER2+ Colorectal Cancer

John Strickler, MD, and team's milestone work on the "MOUNTAINEER" clinical trial has led to the first FDA-approved treatment regimen for patients with HER2+ metastatic colorectal cancer. Elle Charnisky (at right) was the first patient nationwide to be accrued back on Aug, 8, 2017. READ

READ MORE

WATCH: Dr. Strickler on the FDA Approval of Tucatinib Plus Trastuzumab in mCRC
(OncLive)

#RELENTLESS

CANCER HISTORY PROJECT

Created by The Cancer Letter to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Cancer Act of 1971, the Cancer History Project is a free historical resource collaboratively curated by the institutions & people who shaped it — to be preserved in perpetuity for researchers, medical professionals, students, policymakers, and patients.

CHECK OUT OUR DCI PAGES!

(Click on the photos below to read the individual articles; more to come)

Duke Cancer Institute
50th Anniversary

READ

Clinic & Community News

FEBRUARY
AMERICAN HEART MONTH
Duke Cancer Institute

Focused on the Heart

Susan Dent, MD, co-authored a multi-institutional Scientific Statement on Cancer Therapy-Related Hypertension on behalf of the American Heart Association Council on Hypertension; Council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology; and Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease. READ

Dent also co-authored, with **Leah Zullig, PhD, MPH**; and other DCI colleagues, one of the top 10 most read *JACC CardioOncology* articles in 2022: "Cardiometabolic Comorbidities in Cancer Survivors." READ

Extraordinary Women in Cardiothoracic Surgery Award
BETTY C. TONG, MD

An Extraordinary Woman in Cardiothoracic Surgery

Duke Cancer Institute member Betty Tong, MD, BME, MSME, MD, MHS, has won the inaugural "Extraordinary Women in Cardiothoracic Surgery Award" established by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and Women in Thoracic Surgery. The award celebrates those who have achieved excellence and innovation in clinical practice and who demonstrate integrity, leadership, mentorship, creativity, and advocacy. READ

New Duke OB/GYN Annual Magazine Commemorates DCI 50th & GynOnc Division 50th with Several Cancer-Related Articles

- Translating Cervical Cancer Algorithms to Rapid Diagnosis Mechanisms
- Fifty Years of Gynecologic Cancer Care and Innovation
- Navigator Helps Patients Overcome Barriers to Onco-Fertility Treatment
- Looking for an On-Ramp: Delicate Conversations in Terminal Ovarian Cancer (Five questions for gynecologic oncologist Brittany Davidson, MD, about the best approach to patient goals, values and treatment expectations)
- Reigniting the White House Cancer Moonshot in Gynecologic & Breast Cancers: Duke Cancer Institute Oncologists Blaze the Trail
- Study Finds Patient's Race Affects Ovarian Cancer Care

WINTER 2023
DUKE OB/GYN
From bench to bedside — providing hope
Cutting-edge research • Specialized care delivery • Life-changing results

READ

BLACK HISTORY MONTH at DCI

Black History Month
Q&A
with Dr. Keisha Bentley-Edwards

Keisha Bentley-Edwards, PhD, MA, a developmental psychologist, studies the causes and consequences of inequality and develops remedies for these disparities and their adverse effects. She talks about her thoughts on Black History Month and addresses its importance in medicine.

READ

Julius Wilder, MD, PhD, a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, and medical sociologist, was the featured speaker for the Duke Department of Medicine 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Medicine Grand Rounds, held Jan. 13. Wilder is a partner in DCI's community outreach efforts, including colorectal cancer screening advocacy. In this Q & A, conducted in Dec. 2022, he talks about his cancer disparities work and more.

READ

Oral Histories

Nurse **Clydie Pugh-Myers'** oral history was taken in 2006. It was a no holds barred conversation. A 1949 Duke LPN program grad, Pugh-Myers was in the first group of Black nurses to work in the white ward of a segregated Duke University Hospital.

LISTEN

In 2018, **Joanne Wilson, MD**, the first African American woman in Duke School of Medicine with tenure, interviewed **Sadye Curry, MD**, who trained at Duke and was the first African American woman gastroenterologist in the U.S.

WATCH

Duke Cancer Institute
We the
MaryAnn B tinguished
Health E y Lecture
February 9, 2023

The inaugural MaryAnn Black Distinguished Health Equity Lecture was hosted on Feb. 9, 2023, by the DCI Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity program (COEE) in honor of the late MaryAnn Black, "for her extraordinary leadership, enduring impact, and powerful advocacy across the community." Black was a career social worker in Durham, North Carolina, who served on the County Board of Commissioners, worked as the associate vice president of community relations at Duke University Health System, and served in the North Carolina House of Representatives. Distinguished lecturer Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, (associate director, Yale Cancer Center, and associate dean for Health Equity Research) presented "Health Equity in Action: Applying COVID-19 Lessons to the Cancer Equity March." WATCH

Today's actions are tomorrow's history.
Duke Health celebrates Black History Month.
DukeHealth

MORE

Duke doctor talks prevention during Cervical Cancer Awareness Month *(CBS-17)*
Features **Brittany Davidson, MD**

Fallopian tube removal advised for more women to prevent ovarian cancer *(The Washington Post)*
Features **Evan Myers, MD**

End-of-Life Care for Patients With Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma in the Era of Oral Anticancer Therapy *(JCO Oncology Practice)*
Features **Hannah E. Dzimitrowicz, MD**

From disguised sources to courageous patients: My 30 years on the health care beat *(New Jersey Herald)*
Features **Henry Friedman, MD**

NCI-funded centers study new ways to apply telehealth across cancer care *(Healio)*
Features **Leah Zullig, PhD, MPH**

Resolve to get preventative cancer screenings in 2023 *(Billings Gazette (MT))*
Features **Lars Grimm, MD, MHS**

Racial and ethnic inequities of palliative care use among advanced non-small cell lung cancer patients in the US *(Cancer Medicine)*
Features **Tina D Tailor, MD**, and **Tomi Akinyemiju, PhD**

R.J. Reynolds pivots to new cigarette pitches as flavor ban takes effect *(New York Times)*
Features **Sven Jordt, PhD**

Research News

SC Man Develops Irish Brogue as Sign of Transformation to Small Cell NEPC

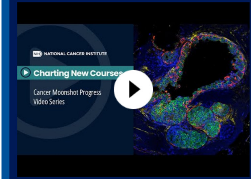
Have you ever heard of foreign accent syndrome? **Andrew Armstrong, MD, MSc**, recently spoke with Newsweek about a man he treated for metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer who developed the rare syndrome when his cancer progressed to a more aggressive variant. The cancer spread to his brain a year later and he passed away. Armstrong, along with internal medicine resident **Amanda Broderick, MD**, oncologist **Matthew Labriola, MD**, and Neal Shore, MD, a urologist based in Myrtle Beach, first published on the unusual case in BMJ Case Reports. READ

Blobe Elected as AAAS Fellow

Gerard C. Blobe, MD, PhD, has been elected as a 2022 AAAS Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the most distinct honors in the scientific community.

Blobe directs the DCI Office of Cancer Research Training Education Coordination. His lab focuses on TGF-ß signaling pathways in cancer biology and his clinical focus is GI cancers.

From Duke, Steven B. Haase, PhD, was also elected an AAAS Fellow.
READ



NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Charting New Courses

Cancer Moonshot Progress Video Series

NCI Features Hwang Mapping Project

In a new National Cancer Institute video, **Shelley Hwang, MD, MPH**, discusses the Human Tumor Atlas Network's (HTAN) role in facilitating a greater multi-dimensional understanding of cancer and its progression.

HTAN is a collaborative network that's constructing 3-dimensional atlases of the cellular, morphological, and molecular features of human cancers over time. This multi-institutional project addresses one of the Cancer Moonshot recommendations. WATCH

NIH Grant Awarded to Prep Students for Graduate & Medical Programs

"We're lacking in diversity of our biomedical sciences pipeline," says **Gerard Blobe, MD, PhD**. He and **Micah Luftig, PhD**, with **Johnna Frierson, PhD**, are co-investigators on a new $1.2M NIH grant-funded program aimed at helping to change this.

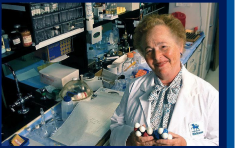
Together they will develop a one-year post-baccalaureate program for students from backgrounds historically underrepresented in science and medicine that are interested in pursuing a PhD or MD/PhD in the biomedical or basic sciences. READ

Two Jewish Women who Broke through Gender Barriers in Science

Gertrude "Trudy" Belle Elion: Drug Development Pioneer

Gertrude "Trudy" Belle Elion, an adjunct professor of Pharmacology & of Experimental Medicine at Duke (1971-1983) and research professor (1983-1999) at Duke pioneered an innovative approach to drug development for which she and colleagues won the 1988 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

She discovered an anti-leukemia drug (6-MP), acyclovir against Herpes, and many more life-changing drugs. Her name appeared on 45 patents. READ



MORE

Nussbaum Receives 2023 Physician-Scientist "Strong Start Award"
Features **Daniel Nussbaum, MD**

Dormant cancer cells camouflage to resist radiotherapy
(Advanced Science News)
Features **Chuan-Yuan Li, DSc**

An evolutionary approach to inform pelvic implant shapes in patients with hip cancer: Fall 2022 Graduate Student Award in Cancer & Evolution *(TriCEM)*
(Project Page & Duke Graduate School Article)
Features **Rebecca Cook**, PhD student, Evolutionary Anthropology

Duke researchers use mRNA vaccine technology to work on cancer vaccine *(PBS North Carolina)*
Features **Herbert Kim Lyerly, MD; Zachary Hartman, PhD**

School of Medicine Withdraws from U.S. News & World Report Rankings

EVENTS

Academic Events
(strictly academic or clinical)

FEB. 22 (10a) : REGISTER: School of Nursing hosts "The Cost of Health Inequities and the Role of Nurses in the Future of Healthcare"
LOCATION: Christine Siegler Pearson Building, room 1014; and via Zoom.

FEB. 23 (12p to 1p): REGISTER: Michael J. Kelley, MD, talk on "VA Precision Oncology" (part of the Precision Medicine Program Forum Series) via Zoom

FEB. 23 (12p to 1p): Faculty Lectures by Debra Silver, PhD, and Craig Lowe, PhD
LOCATION: Great Hall, Trent Semans Center, and via Zoom

FEB. 23 (4p to 5p): "Telomeres and cancer: genome instability and tumor suppression" — the Robert J. Lefkowitz, MD, Distinguished Lecture featuring Titia de Lange, PhD, (Rockefeller University)
LOCATION: Great Hall, Trent Semans Center, and via Zoom

FEB. 24 (8a to 5p, including post-event reception): Precision Genomics Collaboratory (PGC) 2nd Annual Genomics Scientific Retreat
LOCATION: Great Hall, Trent Semans Center

FEB 28 (5:30p to 7:30p, over dinner): Black Men in Medicine: Watch and Discuss "Rise Up: The Movement that Changed America" over dinner — presented by **Dennis Frank-Ito, PhD** (H&N); **Ian Williams, PhD** (Medicine), **Ronald Harris MMCi, SNMA** (Co-President Black Men in Medicine)
LOCATION: Classroom 3, TSCHE

DOWNLOAD MARCH to OCTOBER Academic Events, inc. the return of Duke Debates! The 2nd Annual Navigating Immunotoxicities from Cancer Therapies Conference! And more!

Special Events
(general public welcome)

THROUGH MARCH 3 (on Thursdays): Moving from Surviving to Thriving, a Duke Integrative Medicine series for breast cancer survivors

FEB 25: "Sweet Night in Durham" hosted by "Blue Devils VS Cancer" Duke student group

DOWNLOAD MARCH to OCTOBER Special Events, inc. Women's Health Awareness Day! Angels Among Us! Komen Triangle Race for the Cure! The Victory Ride! And more!

DOWNLOAD February Cancer Support Calendar

TEAM SPIRIT

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Tomi Akinyemiju, PhD, (right), associate director, DCI Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity (COEE) program, joined colleagues at an Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) event. ELAM prepares senior women faculty at schools of medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy and in hospital systems for institutional leadership positions.

D
FENCE
FOR THE
FIGHT
In partnership with DCI, Duke Fencing students are asking the community to Fence4TheFight against breast cancer, in honor of their long-time manager **Elizabeth Beguinet**. She passed away in December after a long battle with breast cancer.

With funds raised, the goal is to name a room at Duke Cancer Center in her memory. READ

DCI interventional radiologist **Alan Sag, MD,** (center), and DCI colleagues presented their multidisciplinary approach "One Stop Shop: The Management of Bone Metastasis Through an Osteo-Oncology Clinic" at the "Innovation & Collaboration: 2023 Advances in Musculo-skeletal Oncology Symposium." Below is a recent video on a similar theme. WATCH

EPISODE #221
BUILDING A
CULO-
ETAL
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bt
With
Dr. Alan Sag

2023
HAPPY
Lunar
NEW YEAR
Year of the Rabbit
Duke

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Duke Cancer Institute
50th Anniversary | 50 Years of Life-Changing Care

Julie Poucher Harbin, Senior Writer, DCI, is Managing Editor of the 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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