MAY 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-Led Clinical Trial Leads to FDA Approval of Novel Cord Blood Therapy, Expands Stem Cell Transplant Options

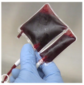
On April 17 the FDA approved omidubicel, a new and potentially life-saving stem cell treatment option for adult and pediatric patients (12 years old and up) with certain high-risk blood cancers.

Its approval was backed by promising results from an international phase 3 clinical trial led by **Mitchell Horwitz, MD**, director, Duke Adult Blood and Marrow Transplant Program. READ

RELATED NEWS

Behind the FDA Approval: Omidubicel for Blood Cancers in Need of HSCT *(Targeted Oncology)*

WATCH: Dr Horwitz on the FDA Approval of Omidubicel in Blood Cancers Requiring Transplant *(OncLive)*



Cancer Takes its Toll on St. Pauls Woman, but Can't Steal Her Joy for Life

My Mom
Queen of my ❤

Eleanor Scott Bell, 79, was born and raised in Lumberton, the capital of Robeson County in North Carolina.

One of her earliest memories is of picking tobacco to supplement the family income. They were a family of nine with a large extended family — part of the Lumbee Tribe of NC, "People of the Dark Water."

"My daddy was in construction. He did brickwork, but he let us work with the local farmers. I started when I was probably 9 years old standing up on a cinder block handing tobacco to my momma," she said.

Her first full-time job, once she turned 18, was at a local linen supply company. She began working for Temptation Hosiery Mills in Lumberton — maker of L'eggs pantyhose and other Hanes products — after it opened in 1974. READ

CANCER HISTORY PROJECT
PODCAST

LISTEN: Brain Tumor Survivor Sandra Hillburn on the Treatment that Saved Her Life

17 years ago, Sandra Hillburn was diagnosed with stage 4 glioblastoma multiforme. She was told she had two or three months to live by a doctor in New York. The family heard through a friend that doctors at DCI were developing new treatments. And the rest, as they say, is history. READ

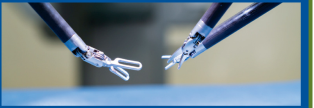
Clinic & Community News

D'Amico Honored by the Triangle Business Journal with "Surgeon of the Year"

Chief of Thoracic Surgery **Thomas D'Amico, MD,** is interviewed about why he chose his career, his daily motivations, the most influential people in his professional life, and how his work impacts the healthcare of the community. READ

Image: Duke University Health System

Gyn-Onc Surgeon Emma Rossi, MD, Joins Duke



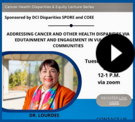
Bringing surgical expertise, technological know-how and a bold vision for the future of robotic surgery, renowned gynecologic cancer surgeon Emma Rossi, MD, is now serving patients at Duke Cancer Centers in Raleigh and Durham. Rossi was an early adopter of robotic technology. “I saw that robotic surgery had the potential to change the way I practice surgical care for the better,” she says. “It allows me to perform more complicated procedures minimally invasively than I otherwise could have.” READ

RELATED: Robotics Help Surgeons Improve Gynecological Procedure Outcomes

Work Lessons from Duke Surgeons

Three DCI surgeons — including thoracic surgeon **Betty Tong, MD,** sarcoma and GI surgeon **Trey Blazer, MD,** and breast surgeon **Laura Rosenberger, MD** — shared lessons learned from their work and insights for success in this Working at Duke feature. READ

DCI Launches Cancer Health Disparities & Equity Lecture Series



Cancer Health Disparities & Equity Lecture Series

Sponsored by DCI Disparities SPORE and COEE

ADDRESSING CANCER AND OTHER HEALTH DISPARITIES VIA EDUTAINMENT AND ENGAGEMENT IN VU

COMMUNITIES

Tues

12-1 P.M.
via zoom

REGISTER LINK HERE

DR. LOURDES

CONTACT US

The series is a collaboration between DCI’s Disparities SPORE (National Cancer Institute-designated Specialized Program of Research Excellence) and DCI’s Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity (COEE) Program. The inaugural event, held on March 28, featured Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, PhD, MPH, associate director for Community Outreach and Engagement, USC Keck School of Medicine & Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. READ

Enhanced Recovery Shortens Hospital Stays, Improves Patient Outcomes

A set of medical guidelines called enhanced recovery after surgery puts patient comfort and safety first — before, during, and after surgery. Since **Julie Thacker, MD,** a colorectal surgical oncologist, pioneered enhanced recovery at Duke in 2008, it has expanded from one surgical specialty to 12 and is standard practice in hospitals across the U.S. READ

MORE

Rapid Advances Shake Up Treatment Considerations in ALL, CML, AML *(OncLive)*
Features **Harry Erba, MD, PhD**

Back to An Active Life After CAR T-Cell Therapy for Leukemia *(Duke Health Blog)*
Features **Carlos M. De Castro III, MD,** and **Ahmed Galal, MD**

Patient Profile: A 35-Year-Old Woman with Chronic GVHD *(Targeted Oncology)*
Features **Nelson Chao, MD, MBA**

WATCH: Navigating Goals-of-Care Conversations in Gynecologic Oncology *(Consultant 360/SGO)*
Features **Brittany Davidson, MD,** at the SGO Meeting

WATCH: **Angelo Moore, PhD, RN, NE-BC,** Discusses the Importance of Communication at the "A Better Wake DEI Blueprint Town Hall" *(Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Twitter)*

DCI GU Nurse **Sarah Yenser Wood, RN, MSN, ANP, AOCNP,** leads a panel discussion about managing toxicities in Kidney Cancer *(Oncology Nursing News)*

WATCH: Dean Klotman sat down with **Julius Wilder, MD, PhD,** to discuss the rising rate of colon cancer in young adults

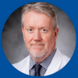
WATCH: Duke Health/DCI Releases PSA on Lung Cancer Screening *(Duke Health)*
Features **Hilary Crittenden, MSN**

Research News

Ashley: Evidence of Brain Tumor "Seed Cells" During Fetal Development

By studying human fetal atlases and brain tumor tissue, a team led by **David Ashley, MD,** found evidence of a "seed cell" that initiates glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) — a fast-growing and aggressive brain tumor.

"This implies that the earliest steps in forming a glioblastoma are occurring when patients are a still-developing fetus," Ashley said. READ



David Ashley

Director,
The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke

> *"We think the key is that the fetal cells are persisting in adults, and if we could detect these fetal cells in people at risk, it's conceivable that we could prevent brain tumors by developing medications to prevent the cells of origin from progressing."*

Gregory Among Those Honored for Breast Cancer Gene Discovery

DCI neurogenomicist **Simon Gregory, PhD,** was among 40 researchers recently honored for their role in the discovery of the BRCA2 mutation 25 years ago; a discovery that revolutionized cancer research and screening in breast, ovarian, and prostate cancers. "It isn't something I speak of often, but it's one of my most proud achievements. It was the first time I appreciated the impact of my research on people's lives," says Gregory. He was a PhD student at the time. READ

In the photo above, Simon Gregory, PhD, points to a plaque placed this year at the laboratories of The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the discovery of the BRCA2 mutation.

New Prognostic Staging System for De Novo Metastatic Breast Cancer

In a study reported in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, **Jennifer K. Plichta, MD, MS,** director of the Duke Breast Risk Assessment Clinic, and colleagues formulated a novel prognostic staging system for de novo metastatic breast cancer.

The staging model was assessed in two validation cohorts — from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) registry and the National Cancer Database. The research was funded by NCI/NIH. READ

Jennifer Plichta, M.D.
Breast Surgery

Trudy Oliver Tracks a Deadly, Shapeshifting Tumor

Professor of Pharmacology & Cancer Biology **Trudy Oliver, PhD**, investigates small cell lung cancer, which is almost always linked to cigarette smoking. "Some people think 'Oh, you smoked. You got what you deserved.' Why do we need to put money into this?'" she said. Whatever you think about that statement, Oliver's work suggests that it doesn't matter. READ

"From Bench to Bedside to Curbside and Back: Addressing Rare Cancer Health Disparities focusing on IBC"

Gayathri Devi, PhD, program director for the Duke Consortium for Inflammatory Breast Cancer presented at the 2023 Association for Clinical and Translational Science Annual Meeting. WATCH

MORE

ABL kinases regulate the stabilization of HIF-1α and MYC through CPSF1 *(Cell Biology)*
Features **Benjamin Mayro, PhD; Jacob P. Hoj, PhD; Christian G. Cerda-Smith,** and **Ann Marie Pendergast, PhD**

Therapy for Small, HER2-Positive Breast Tumors Is Highly Effective After 10 Years *(Cancer Health)*
Features **Paul Kelly Marcom, MD**

Healthy lifestyle associated with reduced mortality risk in childhood cancer survivors *(St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital)*
Features **Kevin Oeffinger, MD**

Why Some Scientists Believe the Future of Medicine Lies in Creating Digital Twins *(TIME Magazine)*
Features **Amanda Randles, PhD**

ICYMI: **Angeles Alvarez Secord, MD, MHSc**, Installed as New President of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology *(DCI Blog)*

Whole-Slide Cytometric Feature Mapping for Distinguishing Tumor Genomic Subtypes in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Whole-Slide Images *(Am J Pathol)*
Features **Yvonne Mowery, MD, PhD**, and **Tammara Watts, MD, PhD**

The Affordable Care Act and suicide incidence among adults with cancer *(J Cancer Surviv)*
Features **Nosayaba Osazuwa-Peters, BDS, MPH, PhD; David Brizel, MD; Junzo Chino, MD**; and **Yvonne Mowery, MD, PhD**

A research team airs the messy truth about AI in medicine — and gives hospitals a guide to fix it *(STAT News)*

Events

Academic Events (strictly academic or clinical)

May

MAY 19 (11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) (in-person & via Zoom): Hilliard Seigler Duke Melanoma Consortium The annual melanoma consortium will host providers, researchers, patients and supporters for a day of education.
LOCATION: Searle Conference Center
LEARN MORE & REGISTER

MAY 19 (8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) (for Duke colleagues, in-person): REGISTER: Duke Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis Inaugural Research Retreat (This event precedes and is separate from the DCBSM 3rd Annual Colloquium (see below) and also includes a poster session) Short talks by Duke colleagues will demonstrate some of the ongoing research projects and capabilities within the DCBSM and encourage new collaborations across campus for projects. Register by May 12.
LOCATION: Trent Semans Center

MAY 19 at 2 p.m. to MAY 20 at 4 p.m. (in-person and via Zoom): REGISTER: 2023 Duke Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis Third Annual Colloquium
**Sessions include "Omics in 2023: Big data for the Big Problem of CNS Metastasis," "Outcomes in 2023: Maximizing survivorship for patients," and "Therapies in 2023: Leading and novel approaches for CNS Metastasis"
***An in-person poster session will take place during the evening of May 19.
LOCATION: Trent Semans Center for Health Education and via Zoom.
More Information
Contact: Brooke Taylor heather.taylor@duke.edu

MAY 31 (7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.) (in person and via Zoom)
Inaugural **Andrew Berchuck, MD**, Gynecologic Oncology Endowed Lecture featuring Daniel Clarke-Pearson, MD, former chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology in the Duke Department of Ob/Gyn
"Reflections on Gynecologic Oncology at Duke: Lessons Learned"
LOCATION: Duke South Clinic Ampitheater & Via Zoom

June

JUNE 8 (5 p.m. to 6 p.m. via Zoom): Black Men in Medicine "Moving Forward Together" (Zoom series) RSVP here.
*Calendar invites with Zoom details will be sent upon registration
Questions? Email johann@duke.edu

JULY 13 (5 p.m. to 6 p.m. via Zoom): Black Men in Medicine "Moving Forward Together" (Zoom series) RSVP here.
*Calendar invites with Zoom details will be sent upon

Special Events (general public welcome)

May

MAY 3 (virtual 12p to 1p): Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention presented by SAICEP & featuring Francine Gachupin, PhD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine College of Medicine, University of Arizona
*CE Credit Available
LEARN MORE & REGISTER

MAY 6 (8:30a.m. to 10 a.m.) (in-person): Komen Triangle Race for the Cure Presented by Duke Cancer Institute
LOCATION: The Boxyard RTP/Research Triangle Park

**JOIN TEAM DCI or one of DCI's subteams:

Check Them Out!
Duke Breast Surgery: Cut It Out
The Dubble Bubbles
Duke Breast Imaging Pink Ribbon Runners
Clinic 2-2 Boob Crew

MAY 13 (12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.) (in-person): LLS Presents: "Mind Yourself! Using Mindfulness to Manage Symptoms of Cancer Treatment, featuring **Hannah Fisher, PhD**
LOCATION: Harris Conference Center, 3216 CPCC Harris Campus Drive, Charlotte, NC

MAY 19 (11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) (in-person & via Zoom): Hilliard Seigler Duke Melanoma Consortium The annual melanoma consortium will host providers, researchers, patients and supporters for a day of education.
LOCATION: Searle Conference Center
LEARN MORE & REGISTER

MAY 20 (in-person): V Foundation Victory Ride cycling fundraiser
REGISTER for TEAM DCI
LOCATION: Knightdale Station Park

MAY 22 (in-person): Strike Out FORE Sarcoma Golf Tournament Fundraiser benefiting Duke Sarcoma Center
LOCATION: Club at 12 Oaks, Holly Springs,
*The course will include 18 holes of golf, as well as a scramble-style foursome tournament, and fun on-course games for exciting prizes. Learn more

June

JUNE 3 & JUNE 4 (in-person): DCI COEE Men's Health Screening
LOCATIONS: Lincoln Community Health Center and Duke Primary Care Croasdaile
*Find details in blue block below

registration
Questions? Email johann@duke.edu

JUNE 6, 7, 8 (in-person & via Zoom): Survivorship Day
LOCATIONS: Duke Cancer Center North Durham (Duke Regional), Duke Cancer Center Durham, Duke Raleigh Cancer Center, Duke Women's Cancer Care Raleigh
*Find details in purple block below

VIEW the **MAY** Cancer Support Calendar (click to view)

Meet Us for Men's Health Screening (JUNE 3 & 4)

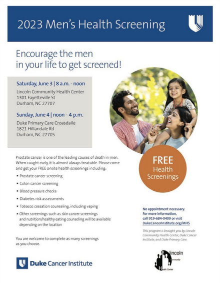
The annual DCI COEE Men's Health Screening event will be held in person on June 3 and June 4. DCI Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity (COEE) team members, including patient navigators, will work with Duke and DCI clinicians and staff to provide on-site cancer screenings & health checks, including PSA screening, colon cancer screening, blood pressure checks, diabetes risk assessment, tobacco cessation counseling, skin cancer screening, and nutrition counseling.

Collaborators include Duke Urology, Duke Gastroenterology, Duke Outpatient Phlebotomy, Duke Endocrinology and Metabolism, Duke Dermatology, and the Durham County Department of Public Health.

Site sponsors include Lincoln Community Health Center and Duke Pimary Care Croasdaile.

June 3 | 8 a.m. to Noon
Lincoln Community Health Center
1301 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707

June 4 | Noon to 4 p.m.
Duke Primary Care Croasdaile
1821 Hillandale Rd
Durham, NC 27705



2023 Men's Health Screening

Encourage the men
in your life to get screened!

Saturday, June 3 | 8 a.m. - noon
Lincoln Community Health Center
1301 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707

Sunday, June 4 | noon - 4 p.m.
Duke Primary Care Croasdaile
1821 Hillandale Rd
Durham, NC 27705

FREE Health Screenings

Prostate cancer is one of the leading causes of death in men. When caught early, it is almost always treatable. Please come and get your FREE onsite health screenings including:

- Prostate cancer screening
- Colon cancer screening
- Blood pressure checks
- Diabetes risk assessments
- Tobacco cessation counseling, including vaping
- Other screenings such as skin cancer screenings and nutrition/healthy eating counseling will be available depending on the location

You are welcome to complete as many screenings as you choose.

No appointment necessary.
For more information,
call 919-684-0409 or visit
DukeCancerInstitute.org/MHS

This program is brought you by Lincoln Community Health Center, Duke Cancer Institute, and Duke Primary Care.

Duke Cancer Institute

Lincoln Community Health Center

No appointment necessary!

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME !

Sign up for Lincoln Community Health Center :: Sign up for Duke Primary Care Croasdaile

LEARN MORE

See You at Survivorship Day (JUNE 6, 7, & 8)

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Survivorship Day is back in-person! Four DCI locations will share education, resources, and strategies to help improve health and wellness. There will also be a full day of virtual events for those who can't attend in person, including an expert panel. Details below.

ALL DAY IN-PERSON EVENTS

Duke Cancer Center North Durham (Duke Regional)
June 6, Noon to 2 p.m.
REGISTER

Duke Cancer Center Durham
June 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
REGISTER

Duke Raleigh Cancer Center
June 8, Noon to 3 p.m.
REGISTER

Duke Women's Cancer Care Raleigh
June 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
REGISTER

VIRTUAL EVENTS

VIA ZOOM
June 7, 9 a.m. to 4:50 p.m.
(yoga, tai chi, and interactive sessions on emotional health, physical health, sound healing, and more)
VIEW SCHEDULE & REGISTER

VIA ZOOM
June 7, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
Cancer Survivorship Panel:
"Looking Toward the Future"
including Q & A
REGISTER

MODERATOR

Kevin Oeffinger, MD
Director, DCI Supportive Care & Survivorship Center and DCI Center for Onco-Primary Care, Family Physician

PANELISTS

Mustafa Khasraw, MD, FRCP, FRACP
Professor of Neurosurgery, Deputy Director of the Center for Cancer Immunotherapy

Andrew Berchuck, MD
Co-Director of Duke Clinical Cancer Genetics, James M. Ingram Distinguished Professor of Gynecologic Oncology, Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology

Ranee Chatterjee, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Internal Medicine Physician

Nicole Larrier, MD
Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, Radiation Oncologist

Cheyenne Corbett, PhD
Co-Director, DCI Supportive Care & Survivorship Center and DCI Center for Onco-Primary Care

Team Spirit

Women's Health Awareness Event: That's a Wrap

Duke Cancer Institute
Office of Health Equity
DukeCancerInstitute.org/OHE

Dalia Antunez, MSW, LCSWA, (bilingual community-facing patient navigator, DCI COEE) and DCI program coordinator **Tahmeko McDonald** welcomed guests to the cancer screening room for colon, skin, lung, and oral cancer screenings and education; smoking cessation counseling information; and patient navigation services. More than 80 people individuals participated in the screenings.

DCI breast cancer providers **Kathy Trotter, DNP; Shelley Hwang, MD, MPH; Jennifer Plichta, MD, MS;** and **Connie Kim, MD;** volunteered at the WHA (Women's Health Awareness) conference held on the NCCU campus in Durham. Joan Packenham, PhD, (center) is WHA founder & director of OHRCE at the NIEHS, which was the event's lead sponsor.

Women's Health Awareness

Akiko Chiba, MD (left), shared this photo of a DCI breast education station set up at WHA. MORE PHOTOS

The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center "Angels Among Us" Event Turned 30, Raised $2.4 Million for Brain Tumor Research

DCI H & N Team Delivered Free Screenings & Shared Resources at Mudcats and Bulls Games (April 29)

Medical students Melissa White and Sydney Record with the Carolina Mudcat mascot.

Head & Neck Surgeon **Trinitia Cannon, MD** (above) threw out the first pitch at the Mudcats game.

Duke GI Team Raised Nearly Double Their Goal at PanCAN

The "Duke Pancreas Protestors" team, captained by gastroenterologist **Darshan Kothari, MD,** raised $3,535, at the PanCAN PurpleStride fundraiser to benefit PanCAN's resources and free support for patients. The event was held April 29 at NC State University. MORE PHOTOS

COMING UP!

Join the Victory Ride, MAY 20

Tonsil cancer survivor Robert Russell sports his DCI 50th Anniversary bicycle jersey as he trains for the V Foundation's May 20th Victory Ride. Join TEAM DCI, captained by DCI Executive Director **Michael Kastan, MD, PhD,** and get your jersey, today!

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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