JUNE 2023

DCI E-news

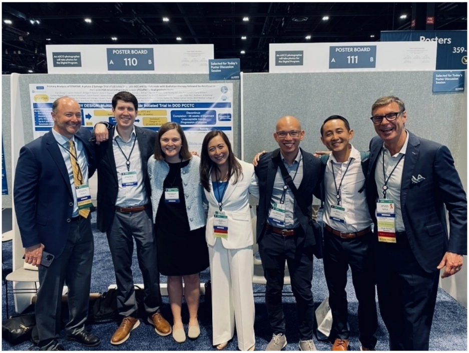
Duke Cancer Institute

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

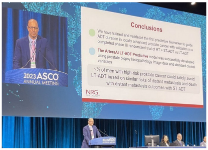
2023 ASCO ANNUAL MEETING

June 2–6, 2023
McCormick Place | Chicago, IL & Online
am.asco.org
#ASCO23



AI-Driven Biomarker Predicts Optimum Length of Treatment for Prostate Cancer

In an oral presentation at ASCO23, **Andrew Armstrong, MD, MSc**, reported that an AI-derived digital pathology tool was able to identify which men treated with radiation for high-risk localized prostate cancer could be spared long-term hormone therapy and its potential side effects. [READ](#)

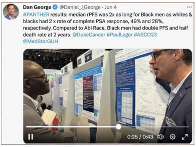

Conclusions

- We have trained and validated the first predictive biomarker to guide ADT duration in locally advanced prostate cancer with validation in a completed phase III randomized trial of RT + ST-ADT vs LT-ADT
- The ArteraAI LT-ADT Predictive model was successfully developed using prostate biopsy histopathology image data and standard clinical variables

~⅓ of men with high-risk prostate cancer could safely avoid LT-ADT based on similar risks of distant metastasis and death with distant metastasis outcomes with ST-ADT

Black Men with Metastatic Prostate Cancer May Benefit From Drug Combination

A drug combination that shows little overall survival benefit in white men with advanced prostate cancer has a far greater effect in Black men with the disease, according to interim results from the PANTHER study led by **Daniel George, MD**, which he presented at ASCO 2023. [READ](#) & [WATCH](#)


Dan George @Daniel_J_George · Jun 4

#PANTHER results: median rPFS was 2x as long for Black men as whites & blacks had 2 x rate of complete PSA response, 49% and 28%, respectively. Compared to Abi Race, Black men had double PFS and half death rate at 2 years. @DukeCancer #PaulLeger #ASCO23 @MedStarGUH

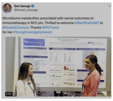
LeBlanc Honored for Advocacy, Named Education Chair for ASCO24

As the 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) was wrapping up this week, Chief Patient Experience and Safety Officer at Duke Cancer Institute **Thomas LeBlanc, MD, MA, MHS, FAAHPM, FASCO**, was already in planning mode for next year's meeting. READ

(BELOW) Click on these images from ASCO23 for a sampling of research projects involving DCI investigators and the collaborative spirit of the annual meeting

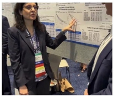
Katherine B. Peters, MD, PhD, discusses the findings from the phase 3 INDIGO trial which were presented at the 2023 ASCO annual meeting.

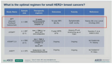
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE



Dan George @Daniel_J_George

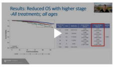
Microbiome metabolites associated with worse outcomes on immunotherapy in RCC pts. Thrilled to welcome @BariShahlaMD to @DukeGUCancer. Thanks @PCFnews for her #YoungInvestigatorAward

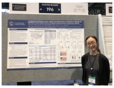


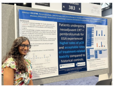


What is the optimal regimen for small HER2+ breast cancers?

2023 ASCO
ASCO







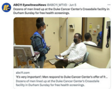
383
Patients undergoing neoadjuvant CRT + pembrolizumab for EGA experienced higher rates of pCR and acceptable rates of treatment-related toxicity compared to historical controls.

Annual Men's Health Screening Draws a Crowd

Men's Health

Last weekend, more than 200 men participated in free health screenings at the Lincoln Community Health Center & the Duke Primary Care Croasdaile facility — including for prostate, colon, and skin cancer, hypertension, and diabetes. The DCI Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity (COEE) program, hosted the event in collaboration with Duke, public health, and community partners. READ

Duke Cancer Institute



ABC11 EyewitnessNews @ABC11_WTVD · Jun 5

Dozens of men lined up at the Duke Cancer Center's Croasdaile facility in Durham Sunday for free health screenings.

abc11.com

'It's very important': Men respond to Duke Cancer Center's offer of fr...

Dozens of men lined up at the Duke Cancer Center's Croasdaile facility in Durham Sunday for free health screenings.

Men's Health

The event was presented by the Duke Cancer Institute Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity (COEE) program and the two clinics in collaboration with the Durham County Department of Public Health, North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, Lung Cancer Initiative, Duke Urology, Duke Gastroenterology, Duke Outpatient Phlebotomy, Duke Endocrinology and Metabolism, Duke Dermatology, Duke Health System Labs, and DukeWell.

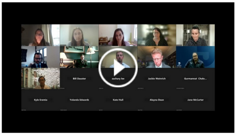
Clinic & Community News

Allen Named DUHS Vice President for Cancer Services

Peter J. Allen, MD, was named Duke University Health System Vice President for Cancer Services, effective June 1. He now oversees clinical cancer care for Duke, working closely with the DCI senior leadership team. Allen is chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology and David C. Sabiston Jr. Distinguished Professor of Surgery. As DUHS COO Tom Owens, MD, noted, "he is known by colleagues nationwide as an accomplished surgical oncologist, researcher, medical educator, and mentor." READ

IN THE MEDIA

Chemotherapy Shortages Capture National Attention



On June 6, **Angeles Secord, MD, MHSc** (in her role as president of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology) and Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy's **Stephen Colvill** (also exec. director of RISCS, Inc.) briefed the bi-partisan U.S. House Cancer Caucus on the state of national chemotherapy drug shortages.

As cancer drug shortages grow, some doctors are forced to ration doses or delay care *(NBC News)*

US cancer drug shortage forces doctors to ration life-saving treatments *(The Financial Times)*

Amidst Advancements in Treating Cancer, Oncologists Face New Challenge: Drug Shortages

NOW AT 5:30PM
CANCER SURVIVORS DAY
DURHAM

Duke Cancer Center (Durham) took on a festive atmosphere Wednesday, as it held its annual Survivorship Day celebration, the first time it's been held in person since the pandemic.

"This time last year, I was in the hospital. So today, to be on this side of the hospital, I can't even describe it. It's so wonderful," said Alexa Baltazar, a leukemia survivor who attended the event. "Every day counts in terms of treatment for a cancer patient. I had a very aggressive leukemia. We started treatment the day I was diagnosed. Knowing that patients are having to wait because of these (drug) shortages, it's really heartbreaking. And I mean, I was on many of the drugs that have a shortage right now that would have delayed my treatment. I don't know how that would have affected my recovery, but I can't imagine going through that right now. And I hope that they can figure that out soon." WATCH on ABC-11

Duke Cancer Center Hosts Annual Survivorship Day

NEW AT 5:30
CONNIE HIGH
CANCER PATIENT
17
68°
5:45

Duke's cancer center hosted its annual "Survivorship Day" Wednesday. It's an event offering items and services that will help and encourage patients and survivors, like head wraps, massage therapy, and hair and skincare consultations.

Cancer patient Connie High tells CBS 17 that events like these remind her that a lot of people are behind her as she fights. WATCH on CBS-17

New Draft Recommendation on Mammograms Issued by the USPSTF

In May, the USPSTF issued a draft recommendation that all women of average risk get a breast cancer screening every other year starting at age 40. Duke Chief of Breast Surgery **Maggie DiNome, MD,** says the benefit is "early detection and improved survival." WATCH on ABC 11

Duke University Hospital
Cancer Center
Duke Clinic

Breast cancer is a leading cause of death in women, but annual 3D mammograms can lead to early detection and better outcomes. The Triangle Business Journal spoke with Division Chief of Breast Imaging, Duke Radiology, **Karen Johnson, MD, MS.** READ

'Always about hope': Ukrainian artist with cancer paints new life in North Carolina

Father-of-three and Ukrainian refugee Anatolii Tarasiuk left Ukraine with his family and settled in Hillsborough last July. He's been fighting rectal cancer, under the care of DCI providers, for much of the past year. WATCH on ABC-11

Editorial: Abortion & Cancer

The Dobbs versus Jackson decision overturning protection for abortion access has profound implications for pregnant patients with cancer. An editorial in the American Cancer Society journal Cancer (May 15) by **Junzo Chino MD, Haley A. Moss, MD, Jonas J. Swartz, MD, MPH,** and **Beverly A. Gray, MD,** discusses these implications and calls for universal abortion access for patients with cancer. READ

Redefining the Bell: The Ethics of Hope for Oncology Nurses and Patients

LISTEN

"The bell can have so much more meaning and significance than just the end of treatment... So, work with your patients to define what the significance of that bell can mean."

— DCI Chief Nursing Officer **Monica Cfarku, RN, MSN, BMTCN, CCM, NE-BC**, in an interview with the Oncology Nursing Society

Karen Allen Retires After 40+ Year Career in Nursing

Karen Allen, MSN, ANP-BC, (above and center, right), a DCI nurse practitioner specializing in radiation oncology, has retired after more than 41 years of service at Duke. Most recently, Allen was an member of the Duke Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis and Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center clinical teams.

"Karen made the patient experience wonderful from consult to treatment," said radiation oncologist **Zach Reitman, MD, PhD** (not pictured). "She is a pleasure to work with. We greatly miss her diligent support of the patients. Stereotactic radiosurgery is a really complex treatment modality, but she helped make it understandable and not intimidating for the patients."

Equal Space

Kimberly Johnson, MD, was invited by Dean Mary Klotman to speak about her research on barriers to advance care planning in the African American community and her work, with the AME Zion HEAL, to create Equal Space, a faith-based educational program for advance care planning and palliative care. READ

ICYMI: Shariff Wins ACCC Innovator Award

Afreen Shariff, MD, MBBS, has won an Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) Innovator Award for her entry "Effectiveness of electronic consults for immune-related endocrine toxicities in reducing appointment access time and preventing hospital admissions." Shariff will present at the ACCC 40th National Oncology Conference in Oct.

ICYMI: DCI Nurses Win Duke Friends of Nursing Excellence Awards

Three DCI nurses received Duke Friends of Nursing Excellence Awards at a ceremony held May 20, including **Deborah "Hutch" Allen, PhD, RN, CNS, FNP-BC, AOCNP** (Duke Cancer Center Raleigh); **Nicole "Nicki" Murray Coates, BSN, RN, OCN** (Duke Regional Hospital); and **Meagan Salmon, BSN, RN, OCN.** (Duke University Hospital) . READ

Research News

Berchuck-Named Gynecologic Oncology Endowed Lectureship Launches

This spring, the "Andrew Berchuck, MD, Gynecologic Oncology Endowed Lectureship" was established in celebration of his "remarkable legacy to the subspecialty of gynecologic oncology and to training the next generation of physicians dedicated to research, education, and patient care."

Daniel Clarke-Pearson, MD, a Duke resident and fellow in the 1970s who went on to lead the Division of Gynecologic Oncology from 1987 to 2005, was at Duke to deliver the inaugural lecture. READ

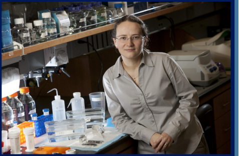
Lafata Recognized with Professorship Named for Duke RadOnc Legend

DCI member **Kyle J. Lafata, PhD,** was named the Thaddeus V. Samulski Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology. Lafata research includes radiation biology, mechanisms of treatment resistance/immune dysregulation, and virtual imaging trials, with clinical applications spanning radiation oncology, radiology, pathology, and surgery.

Samulski was an expert in the field of hyperthermia for cancer treatment recruited to Duke in 1986 by **James Oleson, MD, PhD,** and **Mark Dewhirst, DVM, PhD.** READ

Study Reveals How UV Radiation May Drive Melanoma

Raluca Gordân, PhD, associate professor of biostatistics and bioinformatics, and team investigated how transcription factors may affect the production of genetic mutations, or mutagenesis, by binding to the wrong sites after being exposed to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. This is an important step in being able to identify drivers of cancer, in this case, melanoma, which is the most serious type of skin cancer. READ



ICYMI: Akinyemiju, Garman, Zani Received SoM Awards

Tomi Akinyemiju, PhD, associate director, DCI Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity (COEE), received a 2023 Michelle P. Winn Inclusive Excellence Award. **Katherine Garman, MD, MHS,** co-leader of the DCI Cancer Risk, Detection, and Interception Research Program, received a "Mentoring Excellence Award in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion." **Sabino Zani Jr., MD,** program director of the Hepatopancreatobiliary-Surgical Oncology Fellowship, received a"Master Clinician/Teacher Award." READ

ICYMI: Ten DCI Faculty Awarded Distinguished Professorships

A record 10 of 27 School of Medicine faculty who were awarded Distinguished Professorships are DCI members: **Peter Allen, MD, PhD; Michel Bagnat, PhD; Daniel George, MD; Gerald Grant, MD; Matthias Gromeier, MD; Susan Halabi, PhD; Seok-Yong Lee, PhD; Steven Patierno, PhD; John Rawls, PhD; Beth Sullivan, PhD.** The honorees were formally recognized by President Vincent Price and Interim Provost Jennifer Francis during a ceremony May 4 at the Washington Duke Inn. READ

Events

Academic Events (strictly academic or clinical)

June

JUNE 15 TO 18: North Carolina Native American Youth Organization Annual Conference
(DCI COEE through SAICEP is a sponsor)
LOCATION: NC State University

JUNE 16 (2 p.m. to 6 p.m. via Zoom) Supportive Care in Neuro-Oncology Symposium —"The Who of Supportive Care in Neuro-Oncology: Conversations with Patients, Providers, Caregivers and Advocates"
REGISTER & VIEW AGENDA

JUNE 21 (4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in-person and via Zoom)
State of the School Address: Team Medicine in Action delivered by Dean Mary E. Klotman, MD

July

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 registration
Questions? Email johann@duke.edu

JULY 21-22: Duke Cancer Review "Dynamic Partnerships: Bridging Rural and Urban Access to Cancer Care"
LOCATION: The Umstead Hotel
DOWNLOAD BROCHURE

September

SEPT. 14 (5p to 6p 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

Special Events (general public welcome)

August

(SAVE THE DATE) AUGUST 18: Pink Ribbon Yoga Retreat

September

(SAVE THE DATE) SEPTEMBER 10: Strike Out for Sarcoma 5K
LOCATION: WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, NC

SEPT. 23: Gail Parkins Memorial Ovarian Cancer Walk ovarian cancer walk

(SAVE THE DATE) SEPTEMBER 30: CRUSH Colorectal Cancer 5K
*Back after a 4 year hiatus
LOCATION: former Northgate Mall

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

Team Spirit

Graduates Receive Their MDs

Duke University School of Medicine
COMMENCEMENT
23
HIPPOCRATIC OATH CEREMONY

Oncologist & Patient Talk About Their 16-Year Multiple Myeloma Journey in Video Podcast

Cristina Gasparetto, MD & Thomas Goode

Forward Together: Duke Blood Cancer Center Creates a Spirit of Togetherness

FORWARD TOGETHER

DUH Patient Attendant Safety Aide Brittany Stewart-Lyons, Recognized by American Mothers, Inc. as North Carolina Mother of the Year

Her husband **William Lyons** is a patient service associate at Duke Cancer Center

Team DCI, Led by DCI Executive Director Michael Kastan, Raises More than $8,500 in V-Ride to Benefit Cancer Research

VICTORY RIDE TO CURE CANCER

Jeff Chitester, Debra Taylor, Michael Kastan, MD, PhD, & David Brizel, MD

Duke Cancer Institute
50th Anniversary

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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Celebrating PRIDE MONTH
We take pride in each other.

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