



iuscc research news

June 2009

Core spotlight

Tissue Procurement and Distribution Core

The [Tissue Procurement and Distribution Core](#) specializes in the collection, preservation, and distribution of human solid tumor and hematologic malignancy tissues for the IU Simon Cancer Center research community. It also assures quality control of these tissues, maintains essential integrity of the specimen for clinical care of the donor, and maintains donor confidentiality. The tissue bank is operated primarily for members of the IU Simon Cancer Center and researchers at Indiana University.

The tissue bank contains more than 3,000 specimens that

represent most types of adult solid tumors and blood cancers. It also has select non-malignant tissue (for example, inflammatory bowel disease) and some normal tissue (such as breast, colon, prostate, lung, liver,



Tissue Procurement and Distribution Core

kidney, heart, skin). Specimens are collected from patients undergoing surgery at IU Hospital. A significant number of other tissue specimens also are available to researchers. In addition, buccal swabs for genomic DNA and plasma for proteomics are being collected on patients with hematologic cancers.

Biospecimens are used in basic science projects and correlative laboratory studies associated with clinical research. Hematologic biospecimens are used for pre-clinical drug development in myeloma, CLL, and acute leukemia.

Any IU faculty members and CTSI researchers at academic institutions within the state may request tissue. All requests must be approved by an advisory board composed of representatives from IU.

All patients whose tissue is included in the IU bank have signed an informed consent that has been approved by the IUPUI-Clarian IRB. This allows tissue bank personnel to obtain clinical follow-up. Investigators seeking to use tissue

must have up-to-date biosafety training, sign the conflict of interest form, and have IRB approval for their individual project. In most cases, this approval is very simple as the patients have already been consented and no identifiers will be given to the investigator. Generally, for IU tissue, the IRB currently requires only expedited review and for anonymous tissue, exempt approval will suffice.

The core also can assist investigators in fixation and processing tissues for cell lines, animal, and human tissues. Generalized histology services, which include frozen sections, common stains such as Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E), unstained slides for immunohistochemistry and paraffin blocks, are also available.

The Tissue Procurement and Distribution Core is located in the CTSI Specimen Storage Facility in Joseph E. Walther Hall (R111). Colleen Mitchell serves as the core's operations manager. She can be reached at 274-2213.



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News Briefs

IUSCC volunteers, others provide free screenings during Allstate 400

Volunteers from the IU Simon Cancer Center, the Indiana University School of Medicine's Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, and the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance will provide free oral, head, and neck cancer screenings during the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard July 25-26 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Funding for the screenings is provided by Bristol-Myers Squibb and ImClone Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eli Lilly & Co.

E-letter for public begins

The IU Simon Cancer Center launched an e-letter, *Journey*, geared toward the public last



week. The three yearly issues will provide readers with inspiring stories about cancer survivors, helpful health tips, and more. If you're interested in subscribing, [visit this page](#). The next issue will come out this winter. [See the debut issue](#).

IUSCC sponsors 2 July events

- **INShape Indiana Black and Minority Health Fair is July 16-19**

The IU Simon Cancer is again a sponsor of this year's INShape Indiana Black and Minority Health Fair during Indiana Black Expo, which attracts more than 40,000 people. Volunteers are needed to assist the Noah Hahn, MD, team with IU-CABS (Indiana University CAncer Biomarker Study) with consent form completion, specimen processing, or handing out general IUSCC educational information. [You can select your volunteer time\(s\)](#). If you have not been certified to provide consent form assistance, etc., visit the link to the [Human Subjects tutorial and test](#). After signing up, you are urged to attend the IUSCC health fair training at noon Thursday, July 9 in RT 101. Contact Rivienne Shedd-Steele at 278-

0073 if you have questions or need additional information. The health fair is July 16-19 at the Indiana Convention Center. The IU Simon Cancer Center's booths are 134-140 in Hall D of the convention center. (See related item in "Cancer center members in the news.")

- **July 11: Unite 2 Fight Race Against Prostate Cancer**

The IU Simon Cancer Center and the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute are the presenting sponsors of this year's Unite 2 Fight Race Against Prostate Cancer held Saturday, July 11. Run and walk with us in the fight against prostate cancer, a disease that will affect one out of every six men in the United States. Unite 2 Fight consists of a 5K run, a 5K walk, and a one-mile family walk in downtown Indianapolis. This event raises awareness of and educates people about prostate cancer, while raising money to help fight this silent disease. The festivities begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Indiana War Memorial at the corner of Meridian and Michigan streets. The individual paper registration deadline is July 3; individual online registration deadline is July 9. Volunteers are still needed for this event. [Visit Unite 2 Fight](#) for all of the details.

Team Williams update

Team Williams -- named in honor of the late Stephen Williams, MD, the founding director of the IU Simon Cancer Center -- was the largest team with 75 members during the Outrun the Sun Race Against Melanoma June 6 at Fort Ben. [See race photos](#).

BioCrossroads seeks nominations for Life Sciences Champion of the Year

For the second year, BioCrossroads will be recognizing the individual who has made the most positive impact on the growth of the state's life sciences sector.



The Life Sciences

Champion of the Year award will be given to an entrepreneurial, research, corporate, medical, academic, or philanthropic individual who has made particularly significant achievements in the development and promotion of Indiana's life sciences sector. Criteria includes:

- Must be a resident of Indiana
- Must be an individual supporting Indiana's life sciences growth via entrepreneurial, research, corporate, medical, academic, or philanthropic work
- Judging will be based on assessments of cumulative contribution, not specific achievements over the course of a year

In honor of the award recipient, BioCrossroads will give grants to two teachers in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics disciplines to pursue professional development through the Indiana Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (I-STEM)

Resource Network. The I-STEM Resource Network will select the teaching recipients.


The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, July 15. Finalists will be selected in mid-September and the award will be presented at the Indiana Life Sciences Forum on Oct. 20.

Leonard J. Betley, chairman and president of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation Inc. and the Regenstrief Foundation and chairman of the Walther Cancer Foundation, was the inaugural recipient of the award for his multiple roles within the life sciences community and his commitment to improve healthcare.

Cancer center members in the news

- **Kerry Bridges**, administrator of the Clinical Research Office, and Henry Durivage of Clinical Research Services at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, presented a poster -- "Clinical Trial Metrics: Protocol Performance and Resource Utilization from 14 Cancer Centers" -- during ASCO annual meeting in Orlando. Bridges and Durivage found that nearly 90 percent of accrual to industry and cooperative group therapeutic clinical trials comes from only 26 percent of the trials. In particular, they found that 56 percent of the cooperative group trials and 51 percent of the industry trials did not accrue a single person, which resulted in a loss of \$88,000 per year per cancer center. The duo studied data from 2005 to 2007 at 14 cancer centers. ASCO's Scientific Program Committee received more than 4,300 abstracts for consideration.
- **David Ingram**, MD, is the new director of the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. He succeeds James Lemons, MD, who will step down as director on June 30. The section boasts 43 faculty physicians and eight newborn intensive care units that treat more than 230 babies daily and more than 5,000 annually. Twelve of the section's faculty hold major research funding from the National Institutes of Health and the section receives nearly \$7 million in extramural funding for research annually. More than 50 neonatologists have been trained in what has been recognized as one of the premier fellowship training programs in the country. Dr. Ingram obtained his undergraduate degree at Brown University and completed his medical degree and a master's degree in theology and ethics at Vanderbilt University. He did his residency and was chief resident at the University of California San Francisco. He came to IUSM as an NIH fellow in the Pediatric Scientist Development Program and completed his basic research and clinical fellowship in neonatology in 2002. He has received numerous awards, including the NIH Young Investigator Award from the Perinatal Research Society, Clinical Investigator Award from the National Cancer Institute, Basil O'Connor Award from the March of Dimes, the Young Investigator

Scholarship Award from the American Society of Clinical Investigation. Dr. Ingram is internationally known for his research work in stem cell biology.

- Dr. Jerri Nielsen FitzGerald, who diagnosed and treated her own breast cancer before a dramatic rescue from the South Pole in 1999, died June 24. **Kathy Miller**, MD, helped FitzGerald treat herself by e-mail and videoconference for nearly five months before she could leave the South Pole. "She was very passionate about continuing to live her life," Miller told the Associated Press. "I think that gave a lot of our patients hope that even when disease recurs, life can still go on, and we can still find a lot of good things in life." FitzGerald's cancer returned in 2005.
- **David S. Wilkes**, MD, will become the first August M. Watanabe Professor of Medical Research, pending approval by the IU trustees. Dr. Wilkes will retain his current titles of executive associate dean for research affairs and professor of medicine, of microbiology and immunology, and of biochemistry and molecular biology.
 

Wilkes
- **Shivani Srivastava**, MD, and **Gabriella Chiorean**, MD, have been named Walther Clinical Research Scholars. The Walther Cancer Foundation Inc., in collaboration with the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center, established the scholars program to provide support for junior translational clinical investigators to generate preliminary data fundamental for an R21 Quick Trial Grant or Translational/Clinical R01 application. Srivastava received funding for "Enhancing Natural Killer (NK) Cell Mediated Killing of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma" and Chiorean received funding for "A Phase I Study of Dual Insulin-like Growth Factor Receptor and mTOR Blockade with AMG 479 Plus RAD001 in Patients with Refractory Solid Tumors and Colorectal Cancer."
- **Gabriela Chiorean**, MD, presented the [interim phase I data on SF1126](#), a vascular targeted pan-PI3K/mTORC1/2 inhibitor, in 36 advanced solid tumor patients at the 2009 ASCO annual meeting in Orlando. "Based on these phase I results, we are encouraged that SF1126 is well tolerated and may hold promise for the treatment of solid tumor malignancies," Chiorean said. This multi-center phase I study was conducted at IU Simon Cancer Center, Arizona Cancer Center, Winship Cancer Institute, and Sottsdale Clinical Research Institute.
- **Noah Hahn**, MD, leads IU-CABS (Indiana University CAncer Biomarker Study), which will help identify genetic and environmental risk factors that lead to

the development of cancer. Hahn and colleagues will be at the Indiana Black Expo's INShape Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair July 16-19, collecting blood samples. Since early 2007, Dr. Hahn and colleagues have worked closely with Indiana Black Expo and the Marion County Health Department to involve minority populations in research studies during various events. Thus far, nearly 1,500 men and women have participated with more than 400 individuals from minority populations.

- In the May 4 issue of [Molecular and Cellular Biology](#), **Wade Clapp**, MD, and colleagues propose Ral overactivation as a novel cell signaling abnormality in MPNST that leads to important biological outcomes with translational ramifications.

Member update

Debra Burns, PhD, MT-BC
Member, Cancer Control

New grants

Alexander Dent, PhD
"Control of the Th2 and Th17 Differentiation by BCL6"
NIH-NIAID

Maureen Harrington, PhD
"Are the Effects of SIMPL on Hematopoiesis Seen In Vitro Translated In Vivo?"
NIH-NHLBI

Barbara Hocevar, PhD
"Regulation of Pancreatic Tumor Progression by Disabled-2"
NIH-NCI

Thomas Hurley, PhD
"Activation and Inhibition of Aldehyde Dehydrogenase 2"
NIH-NIAAA

Anna McDaniel, DNS
"Technology-Enhanced Quitline Services to Prevent Smoking Relapse"
NIH-NCI

Samy Meroueh, PhD
"Small-molecule Inhibition of the Interaction of the Urokinase Receptor: A Target in Tumor Invasion and Metastasis"

Douglas Rex, MD, FACP, FACG
"Improving Colonoscopy Quality through Automated Monitoring"
Mayo Clinic

Todd Skaar, PhD
"A Population-based Pharmacogenomic Study of Tamoxifen and Aromatase with Inhibitors in Women with Breast Cancer"
Mayo Clinic

Christopher Touloukian, MD
"Durable CD4+T-cell Tumor Immunity Following Gene Modified HPSC Transplantation"
NIH-NCI

David Wilkes, MD
"IU Training Program in Molecular Physiology and Clinical Mechanisms of Lung Disease"
NIH-NHLBI



Saba-Naimah Berhane (left) proudly displays her IU School of Medicine lab coat she received during the IU Simon Cancer Center's Summer Research Program's recent induction ceremony. She is one of 16 students exploring cancer research careers for nine weeks this summer. **Jennifer Schwartz, MD**, (right) is vice-chair of the program.