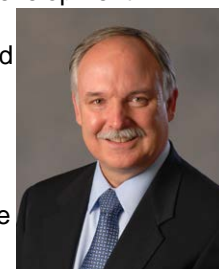




November 2010

## From the director

Last year, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) initiated a novel experiment, the Leadership Development Program (LDP). Bob Mayer, dean of admissions for Harvard School of Medicine and former ASCO president, was the inaugural leader of the first class of 10 oncologists from across the country, which included our own **Nasser Hanna, MD**. As chair-elect, I was fortunate to be part of this project. The purpose was to break from the traditional process of appointing people to leadership roles within ASCO based upon who they know or what they published. Rather, the candidates were chosen because of diversity of backgrounds and activities within and outside of their institutions. Of note, none of the first-year class had members from the Harvard system, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Johns Hopkins, or M.D. Anderson.



Loehrer

This year, I serve as chair, and we have an equally diverse group of men and women. I am actually somewhat reluctant to talk about this for a number of reasons. First is the obvious reason: "Couldn't they find someone better to lead this?" This was the question that I also asked. Second, I may want to use some of the "tricks" on the IUSCC members, and all good magicians know you don't give away secrets of your tricks.

Truth is, I acknowledge that I am not the best leader that I can be. Assessing one's leadership skills is like reflecting on a round of golf. When you're a bad golfer, you remember the one or two good shots you made. The good golfers remember all the strokes, but especially the one or two bad shots. Even the good shots they critique and know in their hearts they still could do it better. The great golfers, the ones you see on television over the weekend, study the game and take lessons. You will find among the high handicap (poor to mediocre) golfers, those that throw clubs and curse at themselves and the gods of the golf course for their bad shots. They know they have it in them to be good, for they have had those few good drives, chip shots, and 30-foot putts. They have the will to win, but as a famous red-sweatered former faculty member says, they lack "the will to prepare to win."

In the book and the movie "The Legend of Bagger Vance," the lead character says, "Golf is not a game that can be won; it can only be played." I think of leadership the same way. It is something that can't be won. Sure, you can be elected president of the United States, pope, or to the faculty council or as a cancer center director or a hospital committee member. This, as we



know, doesn't make us a leader; it provides us with the opportunity to lead and the possibility of failure.

Whenever there are two or more people, there is an opportunity to lead and to follow wisely. It is part of the game of life which can be played but never truly won. Practicing, taking lessons from professionals or among colleagues can be fun. Try not to throw your clubs at your partner -- you may need them both later.

Sincerely,

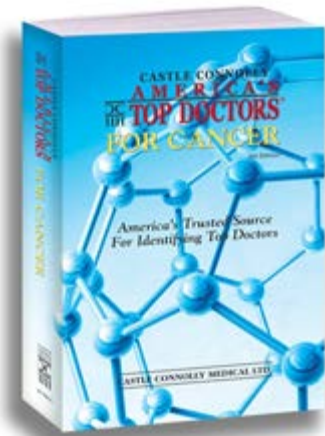
Patrick Loehrer, MD  
Director, IU Simon Cancer Center



November 2010

## ***America's Top Doctors for Cancer* recognizes 21 IU School of Medicine physicians**

Twenty-one physicians with the IU School of Medicine have been recognized as the best in their field. The 21 are among 27 physicians statewide included in the most recent edition of *America's Top Doctors for Cancer*. The guide identifies the nation's most outstanding physicians for the diagnosis and treatment of cancers in adults and children.



The physicians -- who either practice at the IU Simon Cancer Center, IU Hospital, Methodist Hospital or Riley Hospital for Children, which are affiliated with Clarian Health -- are:

- John Coleman III, MD (plastic surgery)
- James Croop, MD, PhD (pediatric hematology/oncology)
- Lawrence Einhorn, MD (medical oncology)
- Robert Fallon, MD, PhD (pediatric hematology-oncology)
- Sherif Farag, MBBS, PhD (hematology)
- Richard Foster, MD (urology)
- Robert Goulet Jr., MD (surgery)
- Paul Haut, MD, FAAP (pediatric hematology/oncology)
- Valerie Jackson, MD (diagnostic radiation)
- Michael Koch, MD (urology)
- Keith Lillemoe, MD (surgery)
- Patrick Loehrer Sr., MD (medical oncology)
- David Plager, MD (ophthalmology)
- Frederick Rescorla, MD (pediatric surgery)
- Douglas Rex, MD (gastroenterology)
- Scott Shapiro, MD (neurological surgery)
- George Sledge Jr., MD (medical oncology)
- Frederick Stehman, MD (gynecologic oncology)
- Chandru Sundaram, MD (urology)
- Thomas Ulbright, MD (pathology)
- Terry Vik, MD (pediatric hematology-oncology)

"*America's Top Doctors for Cancer* has again recognized the expertise of the faculty physicians at the IU Simon Cancer Center and our other patient facilities," D. Craig Brater, MD, dean of the IU School of Medicine, said. "The recognition is much appreciated

and serves as a reminder that their skill, care, and compassion are recognized by their patients, colleagues, and others nationwide."

Published by Castle Connolly, the guide -- now in its sixth edition -- contains detailed profiles of more than 2,400 of America's leading cancer specialists across more than 40 medical specialties. The doctors are selected by a physician-led research team based on comprehensive national surveys of physicians and medical leaders.



November 2010

## IU project will evaluate ovarian cancer drug for clinical trials

IU will receive \$900,000 from the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund (OCRF) to help prepare the new drug SGI-110 for clinical trials in patients whose once-thwarted ovarian cancer has returned.

**Kenneth Nephew**, PhD, is leading the project in collaboration with co-investigators **Daniela Matei**, MD, and **John Turchi**, PhD.

"They don't just give these grants to anyone," Dr. Nephew said. "This is an affirmation of the work we've been doing, and a great opportunity for us to advance ovarian cancer therapies. To be considered and approved by the OCRF for this grant also reflects well on the quality of IU's cancer program."

The OCRF this year approved only three Program Project Development Grants, which are reserved for senior researchers whose projects are deemed most likely to bear fruit -- in the form of phase I clinical trials and, later, National Institutes of Health support.

SGI-110, a synthetic drug similar to decitabine, is currently in clinical trials with leukemia patients to determine the drug's efficacy and toxicity profile. Dr. Nephew said preliminary tests with SGI-110 suggest the drug is slightly more effective and less damaging to tissue than decitabine.

"And unlike decitabine, SGI-110 can be delivered subcutaneously outside the hospital," Dr. Nephew said. "Decitabine requires several days' worth of intravenous injection treatments in clinic. SGI-110 is more stable, and can be administered via simple injection every other day, possibly every third day.

Drs. Nephew, Matei, and Turchi will work with IU Simon Cancer Center members **Bob Bigsby**, PhD, **Giuseppe Del Priore**, MD, and others to investigate the chemical properties of SGI-110, as well as its biochemical and molecular genetic activity in ovarian cancer cells -- specifically the ovarian cancer stem cells that give rise to the disease. Nephew said that as far as he knows no other researchers are looking at SGI-110's impact on solid tumors.

"My own portion of the project is to look at how well SGI-110 helps eradicate these stem cells the first time a patient experiences ovarian cancer," Dr. Nephew said. "If we can get rid of these cells the first time around, we believe the cancer is less likely to come back."



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## News briefs

### Zimet named Cancer Prevention and Control co-leader

**Gregory Zimet**, PhD, professor of pediatrics at the IU School of Medicine, has been named co-leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control research

program at the IU Simon Cancer Center. Dr. Zimet's research interests are prevention of cervical cancer through HPV vaccination and understanding potential barriers to vaccine acceptance by parents and adolescents as well as potential reluctance among primary care physicians to implement vaccination guidelines. Also, Dr. Zimet is interested in the development of brief interventions that may increase participation in health screening programs, such as HIV and HPV testing, and prevention programs. The Cancer Prevention and Control research program seeks to reduce the morbidity and mortality of cancer through prevention, early detection, and survivorship. **Victoria Champion**, PhD, is the program's other co-leader.



Zimet

### Membership criteria changes

IU Simon Cancer Center membership criteria, benefits, and responsibilities have been updated. Membership in the IU Simon Cancer Center is open to full-time faculty of Indiana University or IUPUI who contribute on some level to the overall mission of the cancer center in areas of research, education, patient care, or community outreach. [Learn more.](#)

### Miss a Combined Seminar Series?

Did you miss a Combined Seminar Series? You can now watch it online. A full listing of past Seminar Series events is [here](#). Also, speakers for the 2010-11 academic year have been announced. You can find the schedule [here](#).

### Grants available to researchers

For the latest grant opportunities, visit the [Funding Opportunities](#) page on the IUSCC Web site.

### IU Simon Cancer Center call for proposals for the American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant Competition

The IU Simon Cancer Center announces the availability of funds for new pilot projects to assist new investigators who hold the rank of assistant professor, research assistant professor, or



assistant scientist.

more 

### **IU spinoff company receives funding to continue drug development**

ApeX Therapeutics, which is working on innovative molecular-targeted treatments for cancer and eye disease based on IU School of Medicine research, has received a federal grant and funding from the Innovate Indiana Fund (IIF) and Pearl Street Venture Funds (PSVF) to continue developing therapies.

The Qualifying Therapeutic Discovery Project program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded a grant of more than \$150,000 to ApeX. The program provides funds to projects with potential to produce new therapies, address unmet medical needs, reduce the long-term growth of health care costs, and advance the goal of curing cancer.

"This grant is further validation of ApeX's approach to novel, targeted drugs to treat some of the most pernicious cancers

with the lowest survival rates, such as brain tumors and pancreatic cancer," **Mark Kelley**, PhD, the scientific founder of ApeX and associate director for basic science research at the IU Simon Cancer Center, said.



Kelley

The IIF and PSVF also recently provided funding, bringing total seed-stage funds to more than \$1 million.

ApeX is developing potential drug candidates based on research into the regulatory mechanisms of cells and how those mechanisms can be manipulated when developing cancer treatments. In particular, Dr. Kelley's work has examined a protein called APE1 and its activities in tumor development and in age-related macular degeneration.

### **Burdette award goes to Shedd-Steele**

Rivienne Shedd-Steele, director of the cancer center's Office of Health Disparities and Outreach, recently received the Dr.

Harold Burdette Award. The award, presented by the Mary Margaret Walther Program of Cancer Care Research, housed in the IU School of Nursing, goes to those who continue to foster the ideals, beliefs, and values of Dr. Burdette. The late Dr. Burdette played a leading role in the support of behavioral oncology research at the Walther Cancer Institute, now the Walther Cancer Foundation. His professional life exemplified his belief in the importance of the patient and family -- not just the disease.



Shedd-Steele

### **Palliative medicine, supportive oncology conference set for March 2011**

The Cleveland Clinic hosts the Palliative Medicine & Supportive Oncology 2011 at the Harbor Beach Marriott Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., March 10-12. Visit the [event Web site](#) for more.

## Clarian becomes IU Health

Clarian Health will become Indiana University Health as part of the new brand position of *assurance* and its role in the patient experience in early 2011. Visit [www.clarian.org/unite](http://www.clarian.org/unite) for more. (This site is only accessible via on-campus computers.)

## Cancer center members in the news

- A potent anti-tumor gene introduced into mice with metastatic melanoma has resulted in permanent immune reconfiguration and produced a complete remission of their cancer, according to an article to be published in the December 2010 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. The online version is now available. IU School of Medicine researchers used a modified lentivirus to introduce a potent anti-melanoma T cell receptor gene into the hematopoietic stem cells of mice.



Touloukian

Hematopoietic stem cells are the bone marrow cells that produce all blood and immune system cells. The T cell gene, which recognizes a specific protein found on the surface of melanoma, was isolated and cloned from a patient with melanoma. The gene-modified stem cells were then transplanted back into hosts and found to eradicate metastatic melanoma for the lifetime of the mice. "We found that the transplantation of gene-modified hematopoietic stem cells results in a new host immune system and the complete elimination of tumor,"

**Christopher Touloukian**, MD, reported. The study has paved the way for a new clinical trial in humans funded by the V Foundation for Cancer Research. The pilot phase I trial will involve treatment of 12 patients and focus primarily on the safety and efficacy of the therapy, Dr. Touloukian, who is the senior author on the JCI paper and the principal investigator for the clinical study, said. The clinical trial is expected to begin accruing patients by late 2011.

- **Douglas Rex**, MD, has been named to *Becker's ASC Review* list of the 75 Best Gastroenterologists in America.
- **Dave Ingram**, MD, has been elected the 2011-2012 vice president of the Society for Pediatric Research. Following his term as vice-president, he will serve as president from 2012-2013. The Society for Pediatric Research is the largest international society for the encouragement of young investigators engaged in research to benefit children.
- Researchers at IU and Methodist Research Institute studied an innovative medicinal mushroom formula against breast cancer. The results are found in the December issue of *the International Journal of Oncology*. Lead investigator **Daniel Sliva**, PhD, said, "The formula inhibits growth of highly metastatic human breast cancer cells and suppresses metastatic potential of these cells." The all-natural, doctor-designed formula is a blend of six potent varieties of medicinal mushrooms grown on immune enhancing and cancer fighting botanicals that work



together to provide breast protection and immune support. Dr. Sliva added, "These cultivation conditions help naturally increase the amount of biologically active components in these medicinal mushrooms." Despite significant advances in breast cancer treatment, available treatments for advanced stage breast cancer offer little hope. However, as the study shows, this potent mushroom formula can be beneficial in the fight against highly invasive breast cancer. Medicinal mushrooms have been extensively researched for their anti-tumor and immune-modulating effects, and are essential for the maintenance of overall vitality and cellular health.

### New grants

**Sunil Badve, MD**

"Late Recurrences in ER+ Breast Cancers"  
Komen Cancer Foundation

**Melissa Carpentier, PhD**

"Quality of Life in Adolescent & Young Adult Testicular Cancer Survivors"  
NIH-NCI

**Wade Clapp, MD**

"Lentiviral Vector for the Treatment of Fanconi Anemia"  
Rimedion Inc.

**Kenneth Cornetta, MD**

"Packaging Cell Lines for Lentiviral Vector Products"  
Rimedion Inc.

**Theresa Guise, MD**

"Halofuginone Inhibition of TGF-BETA Signaling"  
Treatment for Bone Metastases"  
Komen Cancer Foundation

**Maureen Harrington, PhD**

"SIMPL-a TNFalpha-specific Transcriptional Co-activator"  
NIH-NIAID

**David Ingram, MD**

"Identification of Novel Biomarkers and Sub-clinical Vasculopathy in Neurofibromatosis Type 1"  
U.S. Dept. of Defense

**Kathy Miller, MD**

"PARP Inhibition after Preoperative Chemotherapy in Patients with Triple Negative Breast Cancer or Known

**Harikrishna Nakshatri, PhD**

"Chemoprevention of Tobacco Carcinogen-induced Bladder Cancer"  
NIH-NCI

**Harikrishna Nakshatri, PhD**

"Estrogen Receptor-positive Breast Cancer Recurrence through Dependence Receptor Pathways"  
Komen Cancer Foundation

**Bryan Schneider, MD**

"VEGF Gene Amplification/deletion and Haplotype as a Biomarker for Bevacizumab in Breast Cancer"  
Komen Cancer Foundation

**Feng-Chun Yang, MD, PhD**

"Investigating the Role of Microenvironment in the Development of Bone Marrow Failure in FA"  
Fanconi Anemia Research Fund Inc.



BRCA1/2 Mutations & A  
Clinical Translational Prelude"  
Komen Cancer Foundation