



April 2010

IU Simon Cancer Center's Komen Tissue Bank receives \$1 million Oracle Commitment Grant

Breast cancer researchers armed only with Internet access will be able to conduct experiments faster and cheaper by examining digital data derived from healthy tissue collected at the [Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center](#) thanks in part to a \$1 million Oracle Commitment Grant.

The Komen Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center, the only healthy breast tissue repository in the world, is a unique resource that provides new insights into the development of

Komen Tissue Bank reaches milestone

During the April 25 collection event, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center hit a milestone: the 1,000th woman donated a breast tissue sample.



breast cancer by facilitating the comparison of healthy and diseased tissue. While the bank currently maintains fresh frozen tissue specimens

from more than 900 volunteer donors, it would never be able to supply all researchers with access to actual samples. The new Oracle grant, however, makes this possible.

"Clearly, the Komen Tissue Bank at IU Simon Cancer Center provides a one-of-a-kind resource for breast cancer research that could quickly speed the day when breast cancer is cured or prevented," Nancy G. Brinker, Komen's founder and CEO, said. "With the advent of this generous grant from Oracle, the availability of this innovative resource will exponentially expand, while the cost of conducting experiments will, at the same time, plummet."

The Oracle grant will help relieve the collection shortage by transforming specimens into digital data available as a free and publicly accessible online resource to any breast cancer researcher in the world. The Komen Tissue Bank team estimates several thousand researchers will use the digitized slides and tissue once the virtual bank is completed.

"Rather than funding research that will address a specific question, this grant from Oracle will enable the Komen Tissue

Bank to develop an unprecedented global resource for breast cancer research," Susan Clare, MD, PhD, co-principal investigator of the tissue bank, said. "This Web-based tissue bank will leverage Oracle's data management expertise. Once launched, it will enable researchers anywhere and everywhere to join the fight against breast cancer."



Besides the unlimited experimental possibilities, the more than 10,000 digitized tissue sections make up the world's first atlas of the normal human breast, from puberty to menopause, and will be viewable using a virtual microscope. World-renowned pathologists will also provide commentary for this project, developed in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health.

"Oracle is honored to support this collaborative, innovative effort to end breast cancer," Oracle President Safra Catz, herself a Komen Global Ambassador who has joined the fight against breast cancer, said. "This new technological advancement will change the field of breast cancer research and help deliver significant experiment results faster than ever before -- results that will save lives."

About Oracle Corporate Citizenship

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New clinical trial studies effects of chemotherapy on ovarian cancer patients

A new clinical trial is among the first to study the effects of chemotherapy on the cognitive function of women with ovarian cancer.

Led by **Lisa Hess**, PhD, assistant professor of public health and obstetrics and gynecology at the IU School of Medicine and researcher at the IU Simon Cancer Center, the trial measures the brain function of women receiving chemotherapy for ovarian cancer.

"There's a huge body of evidence that chemotherapy affects cognitive function," Dr. Hess said. "Many patients call it chemo-brain. People forget where they left their keys, they forget to pay a bill. It's a significant problem that affects their daily function."

Although other studies have examined chemotherapy's effects on the cognitive function of lung and breast cancer patients, few have looked at the effects on ovarian cancer patients.

For this trial, a participant will take an Internet-based test before her chemotherapy begins. The test, according to Dr. Hess, tracks basic functions of the brain such as attention, recall, and processing speed.

Participants then take the test again three times during and following chemotherapy treatment. These assessments will help researchers determine how much of a problem cognitive decline may be for women with ovarian cancer.

Women ages 18 years and older who have been diagnosed with Stage I, II, III, or IV ovarian, primary peritoneal, or fallopian tube cancers are eligible to participate. The trial is being conducted at nearly 100 hospitals and clinics around the country.

In 2009, the National Cancer Institute estimated there were 21,550 new cases of ovarian cancer. Of those, 14,600 women died of the disease.



April 2010

News briefs

Zhong-Yin Zhang is new EDT co-leader

Zhong-Yin Zhang, PhD, recently was named co-leader of the [Experimental and Developmental Therapeutics](#) (EDT) research program. Dr. Zhang is Robert A. Harris Professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the IU School of Medicine. He replaces Jian-Ting (J.T.) Zhang, PhD. "All of the senior leaders, especially me, are so grateful for JT's help and direction for the EDT program through the last grant cycle," Patrick Loehrer, MD, director of the IU Simon Cancer Center, said. "JT has boundless energy and instilled in others an infectious sense of fun in research. The good news is that he is not going away; he will be leading collaborations from a different seat in the room." Daniel Matei, MD, is the program's other co-leader.



Zhong-Yin Zhang

Goulet named co-leader of breast cancer research program

Robert Goulet, MD, medical director of the IU Breast Care & Research Center, director of breast surgical oncology, and professor of surgery, has been named clinical co-leader of the [breast cancer](#) research program. **George Sledge**, MD, and **Linda Malkas**, PhD, are the research program's other co-leaders.



Goulet

Indianapolis Monthly now accepting Top Docs nominations

Indianapolis Monthly magazine is now accepting physician nominations for its annual *Top Docs* issue. You may nominate up to 25 of your peers whom you believe to be clinically outstanding and deserving of the recognition. The results will be published in the November 2010 issue of the magazine. [Full details](#).

May 5: Cancer Research Day

Mark your calendars. The IU Simon Cancer Center's Cancer Research Day is Wednesday, May 5. This year's event includes a Pancreatic Cancer Symposium. James Abbruzzese, MD, FACP, of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center delivers the keynote address, "New Targets for the Systemic Therapy of Pancreatic Cancer. [View the full agenda](#).

Coach Hep Cancer Challenge is May 1

You can join the fight against cancer during the third annual Coach Hep Indiana Cancer Challenge in memory of IU Football Coach Terry Hoepfner on Saturday, May 1. The event includes a 2K- walk and a 5K- run as well as a 25/50K- and 100K-cycling course. To register and for further details, visit CoachHepCancerChallenge.org. All funds benefit the IU Simon Cancer Center and Olcott Center



for Cancer Education.

Purdue hosts cancer symposium May 6-8

Purdue University's Discovery Park is hosting "Symposium on the Membrane Biology of Cancer" May 6-8. [See full details.](#)

Outrun the Sun is June 5

The annual Outrun the Sun Race Against Melanoma is Saturday, June 5 at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park. The race begins at 7 p.m. and includes a 5-mile timed run, a 5K run/walk, and a one-mile fun walk. For full details, visit <http://www.outrunthesun.org/>.



IUSM adopts conflict of interest policy

IU School of Medicine has adopted an Industry Relations Conflict of Interest Policy. To read the policy and a list of frequently asked questions, visit <http://medicine.iu.edu/coi>.

Grants available to researchers


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



Drs. Kenneth Pennington, **Patrick Loehrer**, Rafat Ansari, Prasad Mantravadi, William Fisher, and **Lawrence Einhorn** gather in early April to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Hoosier Oncology Group (HOG). The six physicians and the late Stephen Williams, MD, founded HOG in order to bring clinical trials to communities across Indiana. HOG now has 17 Indiana sites and 50 others around the nation. In the past 25 years, 3,000 patients have been enrolled in more than 120 HOG clinical trials.

Cancer center members in the news

- **Marc Mendonca**, PhD, has been named editor-in-chief of the Radiation Research Society's *Radiation Research*, beginning Jan. 1, 2011.

- **Anna Maria Storniolo**, MD, is a member of the 2010 Breast Cancer Symposium program committee. The symposium is being held in Washington, DC, Oct. 1-3.
- In [Cancer Research](#), **Susan Clare**, MD, PhD; **Sunil Badve**, MBBS, MD, FRCPath; and **Anna Maria Storniolo**, MD, write, "Our efforts to prevent and treat breast cancer are significantly impeded by a lack of knowledge of the biology and developmental genetics of the normal mammary gland. This ignorance has been the consequence of the lack of access to richly annotated, high quality normal breast specimens. To provide the specimens that will enable the study of normal mammary development and to provide normal controls for breast cancer research, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center (KTB) was established."
- **Kathy Miller**, MD, is on the planning committee of the 2010 Best of ASCO annual meeting, which is in San Francisco July 16-17.
- **Brittney-Shea Herbert**, PhD, and colleagues recently presented a poster, "*In vivo* and *in vitro* Inhibition of Multiple Types of Cancer Stem Cells by the Novel Telomerase Inhibitor Imetelstat," during the recent American Association of Cancer Research's special conference, The Role of Telomeres and Telomerase in Cancer Research, in Fort Worth, Texas.
 
- After a competitive application process, **Rafat Abonour**, MD, and the IU Simon Cancer Center were selected as founding members of the newly-formed Aptium Oncology Myeloma Consortium (AMyC), a broad-based collaboration that brings together renowned investigators to work with pharmaceutical sponsors to advance clinical and translational research in myeloma and related cancers. Other founding members hail from Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Duke Comprehensive Cancer Institute, and MD Anderson Cancer Center among others.
- In the [Journal of the National Cancer Institute](#), **Ken Nephew**, PhD, and colleagues write, "Several lines of evidence have suggested that estrogen receptor (ER)-negative breast tumors, which are highly aggressive and nonresponsive to hormonal therapy, arise from ER-positive precursors through different molecular pathways. Because microRNAs (miRNAs) modulate gene expression, we hypothesized that they may have a role in ER-negative tumor formation."
- During the 101st Annual Meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research in Washington, DC, held April 17-21, **George Sledge**, MD, presented a plenary session talk entitled "Clinical Trials of Metastasis Inhibitors: How Will They Work?" and **Linda Malkas**, PhD, presented a platform talk entitled "Posttranslational Modification as a Starting Point for Cancer Biomarker and Therapeutic Target Discovery."
- **G. Marie Swanson**, PhD, MPH, has been appointed to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory panel that serves an important role in ensuring safer and healthier environments in the United States. Beginning in May, Swanson will serve on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Center for Environmental Health / Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Board of Scientific Counselors. This appointment is recognition of Swanson's

Herbert

national leadership in public health and environmental health.

New members

Giuseppe Del Priore, MD, MPH
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology/Division of Gynecologic Oncology
 Full member, Experimental and Developmental Therapeutics

New grants

Randy Brutkiewicz

"Regulation of CD1d-mediated Antigen
 Presentation by Nf1"
 U.S. Department of Defense

Yan Cong

"Stat3 Downstream Genes as Lung
 Adenocarcinoma Biomarkers"
 NIH-NCI

Kenneth Cornetta

"Automated Nucleic Acid Extractor System:
 AutoGeneFlex Star/AutoGen Quick-Gene
 810"
 NIH-NCRR

Sherif Farag

"Multiple Kinase Target Inhibition with
 EMND-2076 in Multiple Myeloma"
 NIH-NCI

David Flockhart

"Indiana PREGMED"
 NIH-NICHD

Joan Haase

"Timely End-of-life Communication with
 Parents of Children with Brain Tumors"
 Barnes-Jewish Hospital

Mary Maluccio

"Metabolism-based Identification of
 Hepatocellular Cancer Biomarkers"
 Purdue University

Daniela Matei

"Targeting the Transglutaminase-
 fibronectin Interaction in Ovarian Cancer"
 American Cancer Society

Anna McDaniel

"Re-engagement in Evidence-based
 Quitline Treatment for Low Income
 Smokers"
 Free & Clear Inc.

Ivan Mircea

"Role of miR-210 in the Hypoxia
 Response and Tumorigenesis"
 American Cancer Society

Louis Pelus

"Role of PGE2 and Other Eicosanoids
 in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Function"
 NIH-NHLBI

Lawrence Quilliam

"Targeting the Unfolded Protein
 Response to Treat LAM"
 Lance Armstrong Foundation

Douglas Rex

"Real-time Feedback to Improve
 Colonoscopy Quality"
 Mayo Clinic

Kent Robertson

"Pilot Study of Gleevec in
 Neurofibromatosis Patients with
 Plexiform Neurofibromas"
 U.S. Department of Defense

Seyed Sayar

"Therapeutic Interplay Between
 Targeting Tyrosine Kinases and
 Epigenetics in AML and High Risk
 MDS"
 Wendy Will Case Cancer Fund

Jian-Ting Zhang

"Defy Genotoxicity: A New Role of
 Fatty Acid Synthase in Failing Breast
 Cancer Treatment"
 U.S. Army