



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

# Hematology/Oncology News



ROBERT H. LURIE  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER  
OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Volume 2 Issue 7 April 2007

## Featured Faculty



### Al B. Benson III, M.D.

Professor

Dr. Benson earned his medical degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo following which he completed an Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals in Madison, Wisconsin. He was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Illinois and Co-Medical Director for the National Public Health Service in Champaign, Illinois. He then served as a Clinical Oncology Fellow at the University of

Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center, where he received an American Cancer Society Fellowship Award. Dr. Benson has been at Northwestern since 1984. He is also the Associate Director for Clinical Investigations and Chair of the Clinical Protocol Scientific Review and Monitoring System for the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition, he is an Attending Physician at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, a Staff Physician at VA Chicago Health Care System, and a Consultant to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Dr. Benson's research is primarily in the areas of gastrointestinal cancer clinical trials, cancer clinical trials, biologic therapies, phase I cancer clinical trials and cancer guideline development. He has authored over 300 publications, chapters, editorials and reviews. His research in biologics, cancer therapy, and cancer prevention has been awarded funding from a variety of sources including the NIH.

Dr. Benson is the Chair of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Gastrointestinal and Data Monitoring Committees. In addition, he is a member of several medical societies, and is a Past President of the Illinois Medical Oncology Society, a Trustee for the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) now serving as chair.

### *Hematology/Oncology News*

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## Newly Opened Clinical Studies

DRUG HULUC63-1701: Phase 1, Multi-Center, Open-Label, Dose Escalation Study of HuLuc63 (Humanized anti-CS1 Monoclonal IgG1 antibody) in Subjects with Advanced Multiple Myeloma

(P.I. Singhal)

DRUG 280: A Phase III, Randomized, Double Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Prochymal (Ex-vivo Cultured Adult Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells) Infusion for the Treatment of Steroid Refractory Acute GVHD (P.I. Mehta)

DRUG AEG35156-103: An Open-Label Phase I/II Study of XIAP Antisense AEG35156 Administered to Patients with Refractory/Relapsed AML in Combination with Chemotherapy (P.I. Tallman)

DRUG CLBH589B2201: A Phase II Study of Oral LBH589 in Adult Patients with Refractory Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (P.I. Kuzel)

ECOG 5805: A Phase II Trial of E7389 (Halichondrin B Analog), in Patients with Metastatic Hormone Refractory Prostate Cancer (P.I. MacVicar)

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## Recent Publications

George, M, Ying G, Rainey M, Solomon A, Parikh P, **Band V, Band H**. Concurrent analyses of EHD proteins in mammalian cells and *C. elegans* reveal shared as well as distinct roles (\*Co-first authors). *BMC Cell Biology*, 2007; 8:3 (pages 1-22).

Nag A, Germaniuk-Kurowska A, Dimri M, Sassack M, Gurumurthy CB, Gao Q, Dimri G, **Band H, Band V**. An essential role of human ADA3 in p53 acetylation. *J. Biol. Chem.* 2007; In Press

Singh AJ, Meyer RD, Navruzbekov G, Shelke R, Duan L, **Band H**, Rahimi N. c-Cbl is a molecular switch that binds VEGFR-2 and negatively regulates PLC $\gamma$ 1 activation. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 2007; In Press.

Kumar P, Ambasta RK, Veereshwarayya V, Rosen KM, Kosik KS, **Band H**, Mestrlil R, Patterson C, Querfurth HW. CHIP and HSPs interact with  $\beta$ -APP in a proteasome-dependent manner and influence AB metabolism. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 2007; In Press.

Zhao Y, Katzman RB, Delmolino LM, Bhat I, Zhang Y, Germaniuk-Kurowska A, Reddi HV, Solomon A, Zeng M-S, Kung A, Ma H, Gao Q, Dimri Q, Stanculescu A, Miele L, Wu L, Griffin JD, Wazer DE, **Band H, Band V**. The Notch regulator MamL1 interacts with p53 and functions as a coactivator. *J. Biol. Chem.* 2007; In Press

**Frankfurt O, Tallman MS**. Growth Factors in Leukemia. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw.* 2007 Feb;5(2):203-215.

Denne M, Sauter M, Armbruster V, **Licht JD**, Roemer K, Mueller-Lantzsch N. Physical and Functional Interaction of Human Endogenous Retrovirus Proteins Np9 and Rec with the Promyelocytic Leukemia Zinc Finger Protein. *J Virol.* 2007 Mar 14

Trifilio S, Pennick G, Pi J, Zook J, Golf M, Kaniecki K, **Singhal S**, Williams S, **Winter J, Tallman M, Gordon L, Frankfurt O, Evens A, Mehta J**. Monitoring plasma voriconazole levels may be necessary to avoid subtherapeutic levels in hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients. *Cancer.* 2007 Mar 9

Querfeld C, **Rosen ST**, Guitart J, Rademaker A, Foss F, Gupta R, **Kuzel TM**. Phase II trial of subcutaneous injections of human recombinant interleukin-2 for the treatment of mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2007 Apr;56(4):580-3.

**Tallman MS**. Treatment of relapsed or refractory acute promyelocytic leukemia. *Best Pract Res Clin Haematol.* 2007;20(1):57-65.

**Tallman MS**, Dewald GW, Gandham S, Logan BR, Keating A, Lazarus HM, Litzow MR, **Mehta J**, Pedersen T, Perez WS, Rowe JM, Wetzler M, Weisdorf DJ. Impact of cytogenetics on outcome of matched unrelated donor hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for acute myeloid leukemia in first or second complete remission. *Blood.* 2007 Mar 20

## Featured Research Group

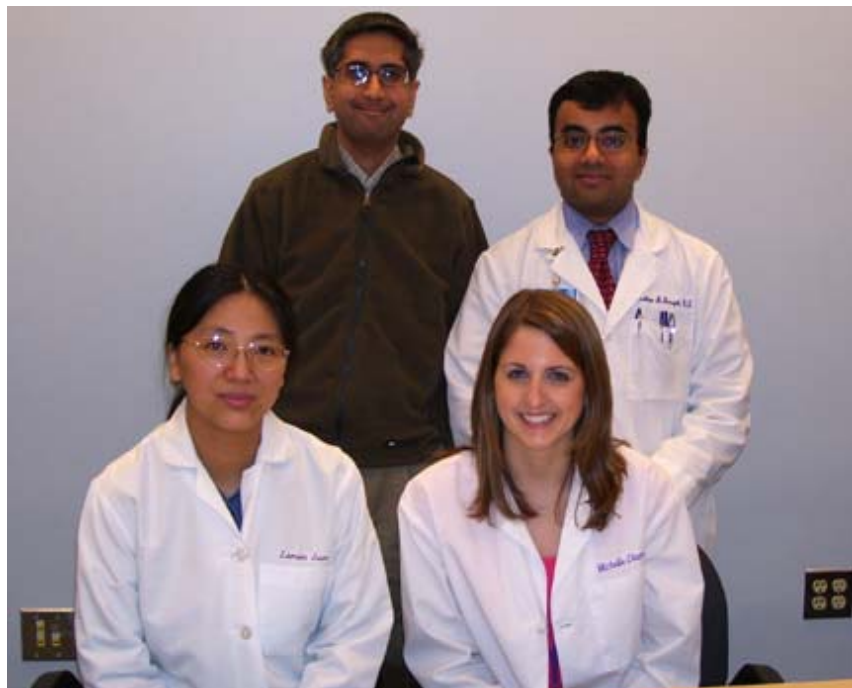
### *Munshi Lab*

Dr Hidayatullah Munshi completed his Hematology-Oncology fellowship training at Northwestern University and thereafter joined faculty in 2002. In 2004 he established his own laboratory working on proteinase regulation, specifically understanding the mechanisms utilized by invading and metastasizing tumor cells to regulate the expression and activity of extracellular matrix-degrading matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs). His lab has been examining how changes in cell-cell junctions regulate MMP expression. Specifically, his group has been analyzing how factors that decrease epithelial (E)-cadherin expression promote MMP expression.

Research Technologist Limin Sun, together with Dr. Mathew Joseph, a second year Hem-Onc fellow, have been investigating how members of Snail family of transcription factors, which are key regulators of E-cadherin expression, increase proteinases and promote invasion of oral cancer cells. They

have been using 2-dimensional (2D) and 3D tissue culture systems and plan to extend their work into murine tumor models and also to analyses of human tumors.

In addition to their work in oral cancer, Dr Munshi's lab has recently begun examining the regulation of proteinases in pancreatic cancer. Since fibrosis is a very prominent feature of almost all pancreatic cancers, his lab is interested in determining if the collagen-rich fibrotic reaction can affect cancer cell invasion by promoting expression of MMPs. Michelle Diamond, a Research Technologist in the lab, has been studying how collagen regulates expression of MMP14 in pancreatic cancer, focusing on the role of Snail transcription factors in the regulatory process. Finally, in collaboration with Dr. Paul Grippo (Department of Surgery), his lab has begun animal experiments to examine the contribution of MMP14 to tumor formation and progression in the in vivo pancreatic microenvironment.



Munshi lab: Back row: Hidayatullah Munshi, Mathew Joseph  
Front row: Limin sun, Michelle Diamond

## News and Events

### April Faculty Meeting

Wednesday April 18th, 5:00 pm  
Lurie 5-133 Conference Room

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## Congratulations

**Mary Cianfrocca, DO** was interviewed on the CBS Early Morning Show on March 15th. She discussed Lapatinib which was recently approved by the FDA.

**John Crispino, PhD** was recently awarded an R01 from NIDDK, titled Role of Survivin in Development of Megakaryocytes and Erythroid Cells.

**Shuo Ma, MD and Toby Campbell, MD** were each awarded an ASCO 2007 Young Investigator's Award

**Annadriana Zakarija, MD** has been selected by the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA), as this year's recipient of the Hematology Best Abstract Award based on the abstract she submitted entitled "*Risk Factors For Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura: Results Of The Surveillance, Epidemiology And Risk Factors For Ttp (Serf-Ttp) Group*". The ASFA 2007 Annual Meeting will be held April 18-21 at Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, TN

The abstract reports findings from the SERF-TTP group, an NIH funded study whose Principal Investigator is Charles Bennett and Co-Investigator is Hau Kwaan. Other co-investigators are Dr. Nicholas Banadarenko (UNC-Chapel Hill) and Dr. Dilip Pandey (Univ-Illinois Chicago).

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## Welcome New Division Members

**Elizabeth Kordeluk**  
Data Assistant  
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**Savita Bhalla, PhD**  
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## Award Opportunities

### Fulbright Scholar Program for US Faculty and Professionals

The Fulbright Scholar Program is offering 40 lecturing, research or combined lecturing/research awards in medical sciences during the 2008-2009 academic year. U.S. Fulbright Scholars in 150 countries and all regions of the world enjoy an experience of a lifetime, one that provides a broad cultural perspective on their academic disciplines and connects them with colleagues at institutions around the globe.

Awards range from two months to an academic year. Faculty and professionals in medical sciences may apply not only for awards specifically in their field, but also for one of the many "All Discipline" awards open to any field. Grants are awarded to faculty of all academic ranks, including adjunct and emeritus. In most countries lecturing is in English, though awards in Latin America, Francophone Africa, and the Middle East may require proficiency in another language.

The application deadline for Fulbright traditional lecturing and research grants worldwide is August 1, 2007. U.S. citizenship is required. For other eligibility requirements, detailed award descriptions, and an application, visit [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org), or send a request for materials to [apprequest@cies.iie.org](mailto:apprequest@cies.iie.org).