



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Hematology/Oncology News



ROBERT H. LURIE
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER
OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Volume 2 Issue 6 March 2007

Featured Faculty



Martin Tallman M.D.

Professor

Dr. Tallman was an undergraduate at the University of Michigan and then graduated from Chicago Medical School in 1980. He completed his Internal Medicine residency and Chief residency at McGaw Medical Center, Evanston, in 1983. He then went on to complete a Fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology at the University of Washington Medical Center and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer

Research Center in Seattle in 1987.

Dr. Tallman has been a member of the Northwestern Hematology/Oncology division since 1988. His interests focus on Acute leukemias and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. He has contributed a large body of work to the literature addressing the diagnosis, biology, and treatment of acute leukemia and other hematologic malignancies. He has spoken as an invited lecturer and chair at many national and international symposia, conferences and meetings, including the American Society of Hematology and American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual meetings.

Dr. Tallman chairs the Leukemia Committee of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) and serves as Co-chair of the Acute Leukemia Working Group of the Center for Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR). He is also one of the Associate Editors for the journal *Blood*.

Hematology/Oncology News

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In this Issue...

Page 1 ~

- Featured Faculty

Page 2 ~

- Newly opened Clinical Studies
- Recent Publications

Page 3 ~

- Featured Research Group

Pages 4

- News & Events
- Congratulations
- Welcome

Newly Opened Clinical Studies

ECOG 1904: A Phase II Study of MOAD (Methotrexate, Vincristine, L-asparaginase and Dexamethasone) with Subcutaneous Campath for Adults with Relapsed or Refractory Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) (P.I. Tallman)

ECOG 3805: CHAARTED: ChemoHormonal Therapy versus Androgen Ablation Randomized Trial for Extensive Disease in Prostate Cancer (P.I. MacVicar)

NCI 04-2-03: Spectral Markers in Aspirin Chemoprevention of Colonic Neoplasia (P.I. Bergan)

DRUG CZOL446E2352: A prospective, randomized, double-blind, stratified, placebo-controlled, multi-center, 3-arm trial of the continued efficacy and safety of Zometa (every 4 weeks vs. every 12 weeks vs. placebo) in patients with documented bone metastases from breast cancer (P.I. Gradishar)

Recent Publications

Agulnik M. alignments of the head and neck: the role for molecular targeted agents. *Expert Opin Ther Targets* 2007 Feb;11(2):207-17

Kyriacou DN, Yarnold PR, Stein AC, Schmitt BP, Soltysik RC, Nelson RR, Frerichs RR, Noskin GA, Belknap SM, **Bennett CL.** Discriminating inhalational anthrax from community-acquired pneumonia using chest radiograph findings and a clinical algorithm. *Chest.* 2007 Feb;131(2):489-96.

Beohar N, Flaherty JD, Davidson CJ, Vidovich M, **Singhal S,** Rapp JA, Erdogan A, Lee DC, Rammohan C, Brodsky A, Wu E, Pieper K, Virmani R, Bonow RO, **Mehta J.** Granulocyte-colony stimulating factor administration after myocardial infarction in a porcine ischemia-reperfusion model: Functional and pathological effects of dose timing. *Catheter Cardiovasc Interv.* 2007 Feb;69(2):257-66.

Eklund, EA. The role of HOX genes in malignant myeloid disease. *Curr Opin Hematol* 2007 Mar. 14(2):85-9

Green D, Rickles FR. Enhancing participation in clinical research: keys to obtaining informed consent. *J Support Oncol.* 2007 Jan;5(1):48-50

Lai SE, **Kuzel T,** Lacouture ME. Hand-foot and stump syndrome to sorafenib. *J Clin Oncol* 2007 Jan 20;25(3):341-3

Luu M, Lai SE, **Patel J,** Guitart J, Lacouture ME. Photosensitive rash due to the epidermal growth factor receptor inhibitor erlotinib. *Photodermatol Photoimmunol Photomed.* 2007 Feb;23(1):42-5.

McConnell, MJ and **Licht, JD.** The PLZF gene of t(11:17)-associated APL. *Curr Top Microbiol Immunol.* 2007;313:31-48

Mehta J, Singhal S. Rigorous administration of methotrexate and outcome of allogeneic blood stem cell transplantation. *Bone Marrow Transplant.* 2007 Jan 8;

Vyas P, **Crispino JD.** Molecular insights into Down syndrome-associated leukemia. *Curr Opin Pediatr.* 2007 Feb;19(1):9-14.

Winter JN, Weller EA, Horning SJ, Gascoyne RD. Response: Outcomes with R-CHOP in DLBCL leave ample room for improvement. *Blood.* 2007 Jan 15;109(2):844.

Featured Research Group Cancer Genetics Program

Hematology/Oncology faculty member Boris Pasche, MD, PhD, FACP is an Associate Professor and Director, Cancer Genetics Program. He has been at Northwestern since 2001. Assistant Professor Virginia Kaklamani, MD is also a member of the Cancer Genetics team. She has been a faculty member in the Hematology/Oncology division since 2003.

Dr. Pasche and his team of researchers focus on the role of Transforming Growth Factor Beta (TGF- β) in cancer development and progression. TGF- β is one of the most potent inhibitors of normal cell growth. TGF- β signaling and growth-inhibition are mediated by the type I TGF- β receptor (TGFBR1). The Pasche lab has previously identified a common mutant form of this gene, *TGFBR1*6A*, that is 9 base pairs shorter than *TGFBR1*. In cancer cells *6A is capable of switching TGF- β growth inhibitory signals into growth stimulatory signals.

Epidemiological studies suggest that *6A is a candidate tumor susceptibility allele that is associated with an increased incidence of various types of cancer. The overall cancer risk is increased by 13% among individuals that carry one copy of *TGFBR1*6A* and 104% among individuals that carry two copies (homozygotes) of this gene. Analysis of various types of tumors shows that *TGFBR1*6A* homozygotes have an increased risk of

developing breast (169%), colon (102%), ovarian (107%) and prostate cancer (200%).

The laboratory has the following ongoing projects:

1) Mouse model of aberrant TGF- β signaling:

They have established a *Tgfb1* knockout strain to allow for the study of *Tgfb1* haploinsufficiency.

2) Molecular characterization of TGFBR1*6A:

They are analyzing the differential gene responses between TGFBR1 and TGFBR1*6A.

3) Epidemiologic studies:

They are currently validating the association between *TGFB1* T29C, *TGFBR1*6A*, and colorectal as well as breast cancer through a discordant sibling case control association study, which use all available sibling pairs from the NCI-sponsored familial cancer registries.

4) Therapeutic applications:

Their central hypothesis is that TGF- β blockade by means of anti-TGF- β antibodies will result in the growth arrest of metastatic colorectal tumors that carry the *TGFBR1*6A* allele and provide a novel and effective therapy for a large proportion of patients suffering from this disease.



Pasche lab: Back row: Mike Pennison, Boris Pasche, Quinghua Zeng, Virginia Kaklamani, Hongtao Zhang
Front row: Sharbani Phukan, Diana Rosman, Kari Wisinski, Yanfei Xu, Maureen Sadim

News and Events

March Faculty Meeting

Wednesday March 14th, 5:00 pm
Lurie 5-133 Conference Room

3rd Annual Pain and Palliative Care Conference

Conference Chair: Judith Paice, PhD, RN
Wednesday March 21, 8: am to 4:30 pm
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Conference Center, Feinberg Pavilion, 3rd Floor
For details go to www.cancer.northwestern.edu/pain

Congratulations

Hao Kwaan, MD, PhD, FRCP, FACP has been named the Dr. Marjorie C. Barnett Professor of Hematology-Oncology. Dr. Barnett and the Barnett Family Foundation have been longtime supporters of the innovative research efforts of Dr. Kwaan. Northwestern University is most grateful to the Foundation and Dr. Barnett for establishing the Dr. Marjorie C. Barnett Professorship in Hematology-Oncology at the Feinberg School of Medicine, and is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of Dr. Kwaan by naming him the inaugural holder of this professorship.

Judy Paice, PhD, RN, was quoted in the February 18th *Chicago Tribune* in a story about chronic pain. Paice commented on drug treatment for pain as well as non-drug treatments such as exercise, massage, art therapy and lifestyle changes among others. To read the story, go to: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/health/chi-0702180402feb18,1,1894772.story?coll=chi-health-hed>

Jyoti Patel, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology took part in the press conference on Capitol Hill to announce Code Blue for Lung Cancer, a campaign for Lung Cancer Awareness Month, November, 2006. Dr. Patel was featured in the campaign's nationally distributed documentary, produced by the American Legacy Foundation (ALF) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB).

Welcome New Division Members

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