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Hematology/Oncology News



ROBERT H. LURIE
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER
OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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Featured Faculty



Jane Winter, M.D.
Professor

Dr. Winter graduated from Bryn Mawr College and earned her medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1977. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Chicago Hospitals in 1980. Dr. Winter then went on to do Hematology/Oncology Fellowship training at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and Northwestern's McGaw Medical Center. She has been a member of the Northwestern faculty since then, rising to the rank of Professor.

Dr. Winter's clinical interests focus on the lymphoid malignancies including Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas. Her research interests include biologic correlates of clinical behavior in the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, and novel therapies for the treatment of the malignant lymphomas including targeted therapies, vaccines and radioimmunotherapy. She is one of the eight member American Board of Internal Medicine Subspecialty Board in Hematology which is responsible for writing the certifying exam in hematology, and is one of the two co-chairs for the Educational Program at this year's American Society of Hematology meeting in Atlanta. Dr. Winter is on the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Oncology, the NCCN guidelines committee on Hodgkin Lymphoma, and the American College of Radiology's "Hodgkin Disease Working Group" panel to establish and maintain "Appropriateness Criteria" for the evaluation and treatment of Hodgkin Lymphoma. She has been an active member of the ECOG Lymphoma Steering Committee and previously served as its co-chair and the chair of the Lymphoma Laboratory Science Committee. This year she read and scored over 150 applications to the Feinberg School of Medicine!

Dr. Winter is married to Dr. Richard Larson, an internationally recognized leukemia expert at the University of Chicago. They live in Hyde Park with their two college age sons, Sam and Eric. At work, she especially enjoys working with her nursing colleagues - Elizabeth, Connie and the transplant team, as well as the fellows. At home, any spare time is spent with her family, maintaining her 110+ year old house, and reading the NY Times and occasional fiction.

Hematology/Oncology News

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Newly Opened Clinical Studies

DRUG H6Q-MC-S018: A Randomized Phase 2 Study of Irinotecan plus Cetuximab with or without Enzastaurin in Patients with Recurrent Colorectal Cancer (P.I. Mulcahy)

ECOG 3205: Phase II Trial of Cetuximab Plus Cisplatin, 5-Fluorouracil and Radiation in Immunocompetent Patients with Anal Carcinoma (P.I. Mulcahy)

Recent Publications

Scheetz MH, McKoy JM, Parada JP, Djulbegovic B, Raisch DW, Yarnold PR, Zagory J, Trifilio S, Jakiche R, Paella F, Kahn A, Chandler K, Bennett CL. Systematic review of piperacillin-induced neutropenia. *Drug Saf.* 2007;30(4):295-306.

Joslin JM, Fernald AA, Tennant TR, Davis EM, Kogan SC, Anastasi J, Crispino JD, Le Beau MM. Haploinsufficiency of EGR1, a candidate gene in the del(5q), leads to the development of myeloid disorders. *Blood.* 2007 Apr 9

Wang H, Lu Y, Huang W, Papoutsakis ET, Fuhrkan P, Eklund EA. HoxA10 activates transcription of the gene encoding mitogen activated protein kinase phosphatase 2 (Mkp2) in myeloid cells. *J Biol Chem.* 2007 Apr 12

Bei L, Lu Y, Bellis SL, Zhou W, Horvath E, Eklund EA. Identification of a HoxA10-activation domain necessary for transcription of the gene encoding B3 integrin during myeloid differentiation. *J Biol Chem.* 2007 Apr 17

Evens AM, Cilley J, Ortiz T, Gounder M, Hou N, Rademaker A, Miyata S, Catsaros K, Augustyniak C, Bennett CL, Tallman MS, Variakojis D, Winter JN, Gordon LI. G-CSF is not necessary to maintain over 99% dose-intensity with ABVD in the treatment of Hodgkin lymphoma: low toxicity and excellent outcomes in a 10-year analysis. *Br J Haematol.* 2007 Apr 24

Rice KL, Licht JD. HOX deregulation in acute myeloid leukemia. *J Clin Invest.* 2007 Apr;117(4):865-8.

Tanabe P, Myers R, Zosel A, Brice J, Ansari AH, Evans J, Martinovich Z, Todd KH, Paice JA. Emergency department management of acute pain episodes in sickle cell disease. *Acad Emerg Med.* 2007 May;14(5):419-25.

Featured Research Group

Kwaan Lab

Hau Kwaan, MD, PhD has been on faculty at Northwestern since 1966. His current research focus is in the bleeding and clotting complications of acute promyelocytic leukemia. The high incidence of such complications found in this form of leukemia is believed to be due to a number of factors including the production of high amounts of coagulating proteins by the leukemic cells and the presence of a receptor for fibrinolytic factors. The Kwaan lab found that the blood vessels in the brain possess the highest concentration of this receptor, thus providing an explanation for the high incidence of brain hemorrhage in the disease.

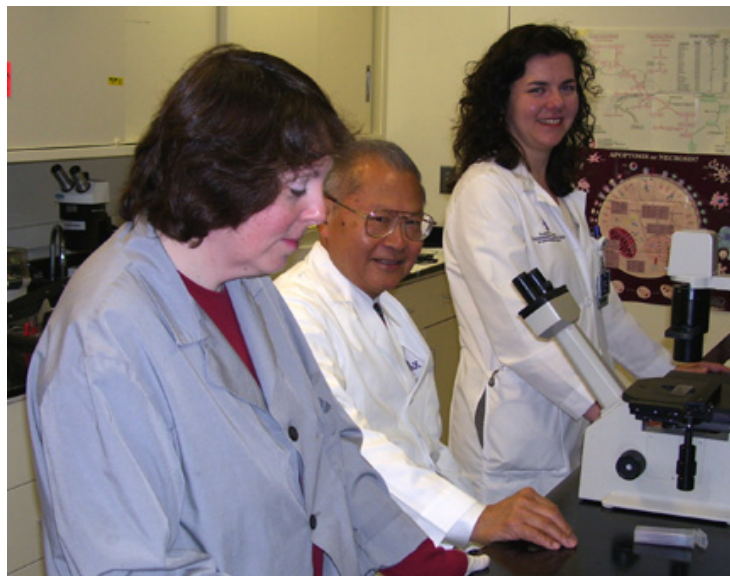
Currently, the Kwaan group is investigating microparticles of less than 1 micron (a millionth of a meter) in size in the blood of patients with this form of leukemia. They found that the microparticles also possess the clotting protein and the receptor of fibrinolytic factors. A specific drug for this form of acute leukemia, ATRA, can rapidly reduce both the coagulation proteins and the receptor of fibrinolytic factors. This new understanding of the underlying cause of bleeding and clotting complications is translated into starting treatment early with ATRA to lessen the duration of bleeding and clotting risk.

Another project involves a disease associated with microclots throughout the body, known as thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP). If untreated, the disease is almost always fatal. However, with plasma (blood) exchange, initial

response can be obtained in over 80% of patients. There are many diseases that can mimic TTP. The lab is studying newer diagnostic methods for this disease by measuring a blood protein known as ADAMTS-13. Using blood vessel cells in culture, they are investigating the role of a body defense mechanism called complement system in preventing the development of TTP after blood vessel injury. In collaboration with Hem/Onc faculty member Charles Bennett, MD, PhD, they are participating in a multicenter TTP study which will allow them to study around 200 TTP patients.

Ivy Weiss is a Research Technologist working in the Kwaan lab. She is active in both of these research projects. She has been with the laboratory for over 10 years and has coauthored most of their publications. Robert Pastorek is a laboratory technician with the VA system who has worked with Dr. Kwaan about 20 years. He is involved in research projects involving the role of hyperviscosity (thickness) of blood in causing blood clotting. Annadriana Zakarija, MD has also participated in these studies. She has been pivotal in correlating the data in the TTP study with the laboratory's findings.

The Kwaan laboratory had been located at the Lakeside Division of the VA for over 40 years. With the impending closure of that facility, they moved six months ago to their new facilities at the Lurie Cancer Center on the 8th floor of the Olson Pavillion.



Kwaan lab: (left to right) Ivy Weiss, Hau Kwaan, Anaa Zakarija

News and Events

May Faculty Meeting
Wednesday May 16th, 5:00 pm
Lurie 5-133 Conference Room

Congratulations

Feyi Adesanya was promoted to Research Administrator 1.

John Crispino, PhD was recently awarded a 3-year grant from the March of Dimes, titled "The Roles of ETS2 and ERG in Neonatal Leukemia Associated with Down Syndrome".

Diane Lee, a 20 year employee in the Hem/Onc division, is a recipient of the Administrative and Service Excellence Award.

Bridget O'Brien spoke at a dinner program at the Annual Oncology Nursing Society Meeting held in Las Vegas held April 23-28 2007 regarding "Hot Topics in Colorectal Cancer for the Oncology".

Jamie Von Roenn, MD received an award from the Medical College of Wisconsin, End of Life/Palliative Education Resource Center (EPERC), titled "Medical School - Palliative Care Education Project". Northwestern was one of only 6 medical schools chosen to participate in the project.

Welcome New Division Members

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