

Jefferson Cancer Network News



Message from the Clinical Director, Walter J. Curran Jr., MD

The Jefferson Cancer Network (JCN) continues to demonstrate its commitment to clinical research. Einstein, Hematology & Oncology Associates of Northeastern PA (NEPA) and duPont lead the membership in numbers of patients enrolled in clinical trials thus far in 2006.

We would like to make it possible for our long distance members to participate and network with their colleagues so we are planning our next JCN and Jefferson Oncology Group (JOG) investigators meeting to be held on a Saturday morning in March 2007. You'll soon receive the exact date. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions for topics you would like included.

Finally, please take a moment to read "Meet the Pls." Each of these physician leaders has developed a clinical research model that works and I encourage you to learn more about how they've managed to successfully build a strong clinical trials program in their communities.

Adam P. Dicker, MD, PhD, New RTOG Vice-Chair for Translational Research

Adam P. Dicker, MD, PhD, has been appointed the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) Vice-Chair for

Translational Research and chair of the RTOG translational research program (TRP) committee. Dr. Dicker is Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology and Director of the Division of Experimental Radiation Oncology in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Jefferson.

Jefferson Bone Marrow Transplant Expert Receives Top Award

Neal Flomenberg, MD received the prestigious Service to Mankind Award from the regional Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Dr. Flomenberg is the Interim Chair for the Department of Medical Oncology. He is also the Director of the Hematologic Malignancies and Blood and Marrow Transplant Program since 1994.



Other KCC News

The Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation (MDS) has named the KCC at Jefferson a Center of Excellence. To be recognized as a Center of Excellence, an institution must have recognized morphologic expertise in MDS, available cytogenetics and/or molecular genetics, ongoing research, including clinical trials, documentation of peer-reviewed publications in the field, and the ability and intention to register patients in the MDS International Registry Database. Jefferson's MDS Center of Excellence is led by Emmanuel Besa, MD.

The KCC Clinical Research Management Office has a new Director, Maureen A. Morgan. Maureen has master degrees in microbiology and public health. She has worked for Pfizer, Wyeth and most recently AstraZeneca where she was the Associate Director of Regulatory Affairs.

- Jefferson Cancer Network
- Albert Einstein Medical Center
- Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
- Atlanticare Regional Medical Center
- Brandywine Hospital
- Ephrata Community Hospital
- Frankford Hospitals
- Hematology & Oncology Associates of Northeastern PA PC
- Hudson Valley Oncology Associates
- Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience
- Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson
- Jefferson Radiation Oncology Center at Chestnut Hill
- Jefferson Radiation Oncology Center at Lower Bucks
- Memorial Hospital of Salem County
- Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital
- Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia
- Mercy Suburban Hospital
- Methodist Hospital
- Montgomery Hospital Medical Center
- Northeast Radiation Oncology Center
- Pocono Medical Center
- Riddle Memorial Hospital
- Sacred Heart Hospital
- Sparta Cancer Treatment Center
- Underwood-Memorial Hospital
- Wills Eye at Jefferson

Featured Clinical Trial: R-04 and E5204 for the Treatment of Rectal Cancer

NSABP R-04, a neoadjuvant treatment trial for stage II and III rectal cancer, has been open to the Jefferson Cancer Network (JCN) since September 2005. ECOG 5204, an adjuvant treatment trial for stage II and III rectal cancer, will be open to the JCN in August 2006. A patient can enroll in both trials, and investigators are encouraged

to consider this in their treatment planning. NSABP R-04 is a 4 arm clinical trial comparing preoperative radiation therapy and capecitabine with or without oxaliplatin with preoperative radiation therapy and continuous intravenous infusion of 5-FU with or without oxaliplatin in the treatment of patients with operable

carcinoma of the rectum. Patients who receive oxaliplatin pre-operatively are randomized to mFOLFOX6 for 9 cycles followed by 5-FU for 3 cycles with or without bevacizumab.

ECOG 5204 is a 2 arm intergroup randomized phase III clinical trial of postoperative oxaliplatin, 5-FU and leucovorin vs oxaliplatin, 5-FU,

leucovorin and bevacizumab for patients with stage II or stage III rectal cancer receiving pre-operative chemoradiation.

Direct all inquiries for the ECOG trial to Colleen Cohick, MPH at (215) 955-7954. Direct all inquiries for the NSABP trial to Vicki Squire, RN at (215) 503-5641.

Calendar

Sept 13, 2006
Clinical Research Associates Update
Bluemle 202

Sept 26, 2006
KCC & Christiana Care Health System Breast Cancer Conference
Dinner at Loews Philadelphia Hotel

Oct 13-16, 2006
NSABP Group Meeting
Baltimore, MD
www.nsabp.pitt.edu

Nov 3-5, 2006
ECOG Group Meeting
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
www.ecog.dfc.harvard.edu

Dec 13, 2006
Clinical Research Associates Update
Bluemle 202

Feb 1-4, 2007
RTOG Group Meeting
Tampa, FL
www.rtog.org

Membership Update

Welcome to two new members to the Jefferson Cancer Network and they are Sparta Cancer Treatment Center of Sparta, NJ, and Hudson Valley Oncology Associates of Poughkeepsie, NY. Michael Gallagher, MD, a radiation oncologist, is the principal investigator at both offices and he is assisted by Dr. Ramanamoorthy Chitti, a radiation oncologist, and Dr. Radhika Rachamalla, a medical oncologist, at the HVOA office.

PET/CT is now available at Jefferson Center City Imaging

We are pleased to announce this expansion to include the Siemens Biograph LSO Hi-Rez, the world's most advanced PET/CT system, optimized for cancer care. This new system provides improved image quality utilizing the most advanced LSO crystal technology,

electronics and treatment planning in the industry. A PET/CT scan allows physicians to view metabolic activity and accurately pinpoint where abnormal lesions are located so they may target and treat the disease with increased accuracy. You may call Jefferson Center City at 1-866-JEFF-PET (533-3738) or 215-503-4900 with PET/CT inquiries.

Comparison of Cancer Support Programs Research

Daniel A. Monti, MD, PI & Kathryn M. Kash, PhD, CO-PI. This study is designed to test the efficacy of a recently developed, innovative, multi-modal group program for women with cancer, and to compare it to a standard cancer support group program. A total of 339 women will be enrolled in this trial (226 with breast cancer and 113 with other

cancer diagnoses). These women must be age 21 or older, and beyond six months but within three years of a diagnosis of original cancer or cancer recurrence. The breast cancer patients are randomized to either the newly designed group program or a standardized breast cancer support group program. The women with other cancer diagnoses are consecutively assigned to the newly designed program. Women in the programs are compared on measures of psychological distress and key aspects of health-related quality of life. The free cancer support programs compared in this study are offered at Jefferson's Center City Campus; parking or public transportation will be paid for participants. For more information contact Dr. Kash at (215) 955-6105.



From left-to-right are members of Team Einstein: William Tester, MD, director of the Albert Einstein Cancer Center, Adam Guttentag, MD, Thoracic Cancer Program, Kristin Tester, Jeffrey Lappin (cancer survivor), and Mike Tester.

34th Annual Bike-A-Thon

On Sunday, July 9, 2006, over 4,000 cyclists pedaled their way toward a cure through the American Cancer Society's Bike-a-thon. The Bike-a-thon is a noncompetitive cycling event to raise awareness and dollars to fight cancer. It is scheduled every year for a

Sunday in July and is held rain or shine.

Dr. William Tester plans to form a Jefferson Cancer Network team for next year's Bike-a-thon. If you have interest in becoming a member of the team please contact him at 215-456-3802 or email bowesen@einstein.edu.

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Harmar D. Brereton, MD

Meet the PIs

Harmar D. Brereton, MD

Dr. Harmar D. Brereton serves as principal investigator at Northeast Radiation Oncology Center (NROC), is President of Radiation Medicine Associates of Scranton (RAMAS), and chairman of the Department of Radiation Therapy at Mercy Hospital, Scranton. He established NROC, a cancer treatment center that is a collaboration between the physicians of RAMAS and Mercy Health Partners. NROC provides the most advanced radiation cancer treatment and research available in the region. Dr. Brereton participates in RTOG and has been a leading accruer.

Dr. Brereton earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his Medical Doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, GA, before becoming a clinical associate at the NCI, and an instructor in medicine at Georgetown University Hospital. He also completed a Radiation Oncology Fellowship at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Brereton is board certified in internal medicine, radiation oncology, medical oncology, and hematology.



William J. Heim, MD

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Dr. William J. Heim serves as the principal investigator at Hematology & Oncology Associates of Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA), PC. He has been active in clinical research for over 26 years, and has been with NEPA for 33 years. He sees patients in his Dunmore office and holds privileges at Allied Services, Community Medical Center, Marian Community Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Mid-Valley Hospital, and Moses Taylor Hospital which are all in the Scranton area.

Dr. Heim is a graduate of Jefferson Medical College. He completed his internship at Medical Center Hospitals of Vermont, his residency in internal medicine at Jefferson, and his fellowship in hematology/medical oncology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Heim is board certified in internal medicine, hematology, and oncology. He is a member of the AMA, ASCO, and the Pennsylvania Society of Hematology and Oncology. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Cancer Control, Prevention and Advisory Board, and the ACCC Collaborative Research Group Committee.

