

Cancer Lineberger

The Cancer Program of UNC-Chapel Hill & UNC Health Care

Fall 2005

UNC
N.C. CANCER HOSPITAL
LINEBERGER COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CENTER

the inside line up

2 Director's
Message



3 Patient and Family
Resource Center



4 Profile: Serody
& Briefs



5 E-mail for
Healthy Living



6 Gifts to the Center
'04-'05

10 Beach Ball
& Calender
of Events

Ground Broken for New Cancer Hospital



Taking part in the groundbreaking were (left-right): Bill Roper, Dean of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and CEO of the UNC Health Care system; Shelley Earp, Director of UNC Lineberger; Andrew von Eschenbach, Director of the NCI; James Moeser, Chancellor, UNC-Chapel Hill; Senator Jeanne Lucas; Richard Goldberg, Division Chief, Hematology-Oncology and Associate Director for Clinical Research, UNC Lineberger; UNC System President Molly Broad; Senator David Weinstein; Representative Richard Morgan; Representative Joe Hackney; Mary Beck, Senior Vice President for Planning, UNC Health Care; and Reece Holbrook.

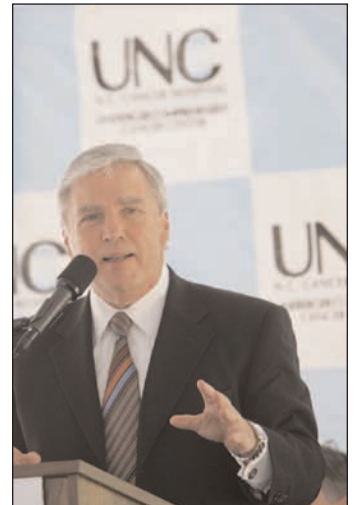


Three-year-old Reece Holbrook, a leukemia patient being treated at UNC, received a Lance Armstrong "Live Strong" bracelet from Dr. von Eschenbach while Chancellor Moeser looks on.

Over 400 people attended the September 28 groundbreaking for the new North Carolina Cancer Hospital. High praise was given to the NC Legislature and Governor Easley for their decision to provide \$180 million in funding for the hospital. Also receiving thanks were University officials, UNC alumni, the Lineberger Board of Visitors and patients and families who were tireless advocates for this much-needed facility.

Construction will begin in the next few weeks and the building will open in late 2009. The state's investment will substantially improve patient care for the citizens of North Carolina and through the stimulation of cancer research, impact the state's economy and position as a national leader in bio-technology.

The new hospital will have over 320,000 square feet, allowing more room for a growing patient population and will expand and enhance multi-disciplinary clinic space. The architecture will emphasize natural light, indoor courtyards and gardens. The building will feature a 50-bed inpatient unit and state-of-the-art infusion suite and a three-fold expansion of dedicated space, specially designed for the growing number of pediatric cancer patients. ●



Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, Director of the National Cancer Institute and also acting Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, delivers the keynote address.

Postdoctoral Training Grant Program Develops Next Generation of Basic Scientists

Postdoctoral fellow Eric Wagner is emphatic about why he chose UNC Lineberger for his training: "I was attracted to UNC Lineberger's fellowship program because it is so well established and caters to a developing young scientist in numerous ways."

UNC Lineberger's postdoctoral training grant program is doing something right to attract promising young scientists such as Wagner, according to Joseph Pagano, training grant director and Lineberger's director emeritus. Renewed for years 31 to 35 with \$5.6 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health, it is one of the longest-running programs in the nation. The initiative serves two purposes: teaching the methods and concepts of basic research in a cancer-focused environment, and facilitating interdisciplinary research in cancer.

"Postdocs provide a significant source of intellectual drive and creativity," explains Al Baldwin, professor and the Center's associate director for basic research. He has been a preceptor in the program for 16 years and serves on the selection committee.

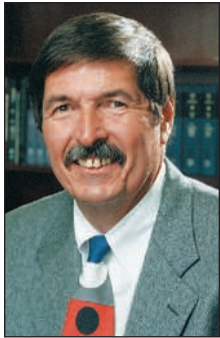
"Much of the success of the Lineberger Cancer Center can be attributed to their passion and initiative," he continues. "The ability of the program to attract and train quality postdoctoral fellows is important for the success of the overall cancer research program at UNC and within North Carolina."

Birth of a Program

The postdoc training program was created 30 years ago by Joseph Pagano, who continues his research as a Lineberger

continued on page 3

Director's Message



Dr. H. Shelton Earp, III

We have much progress to report to you in this, our donor honor roll issue of *Cancer Lines*. We are achieving national excellence and making significant progress in our scientific and clinical missions.

UNC Lineberger's Cancer Center Support Grant from the National Cancer Institute was renewed and the budget increased. These federal dollars support our administrative and research infrastructure. You may remember that the five-year grant process began more than a year ago with a 1,689 page proposal, a site visit and rigorous peer review by 25 of the nation's leading cancer scientists. The end result: we were ranked first in the nation. Due to federal budget woes, our award was held for six months, but last month, we received the news: a 20% increase in our 2005-2010 budget, one of the largest increases in the nation in this year of flat budgets at the National Institutes of Health. This increase will bolster our clinical and cancer genomics research programs, enhance our medical and bioinformatics capability, continue our efforts to recruit the country's best young faculty, and spark innovation in our fundamental and prevention research.

You will read in the cover story of more positive news from NIH about our postdoctoral fellowship program. Now in its 31st year, it is one of the longest running programs in the country. Developed by director emeritus Joe Pagano, it involves a select group of postdoctoral students and UNC faculty mentors. Each year, several of the

current fellows receive a Lineberger Fellow award for meritorious research, funded by your generous gifts to the Center.

We broke ground for the new North Carolina Cancer Hospital on September 28. It was an honor to have NCI Director Andrew von Eschenbach deliver the keynote address. He said that "the building of the new N.C. Cancer Hospital is further evidence of the State of North Carolina's continuing commitment to cancer patients and cancer research, and I congratulate you. Your work is a vital part of the National Cancer Institute's mission, and it is because of centers like UNC Lineberger that we are moving closer to a day when suffering and death from cancer are eliminated."

Thanks to the stalwart efforts of the University, Senate and House leaders, patient and UNC advocates, the NC Legislature provided \$180 million to construct the new facility. It was a joyous day for our patients, faculty, and staff as we began the construction process, following two years of planning involving more than 50 committees of patients, faculty and staff.

You will also read about the services provided by the UNC Lineberger Cancer Patient and Family Resource Center, ably led by Tina Shaban. This skilled, compassionate group of professionals eases the journey our patients, families, and friends take through their cancer diagnosis and therapy. Counseling, massage, information, and support are all hallmarks of this vital program.

We are delighted to welcome four new clinical faculty members to UNC Lineberger, recruited by Drs. Richard Goldberg, Ben Calvo and Tony Meyer. Dr. Jeffrey Peppercorn comes from Harvard and will conduct research in breast cancer, and clinical research in

ethics and health outcomes. Dr. Richard Feins is an experienced thoracic surgeon from the University of Rochester who will lead the surgical aspects of the Thoracic Oncology Program.

Also coming to UNC is one of several Lineberger couples. Dr. Jen Jen Yeh from Memorial Sloan-Kettering will conduct translational research on colon and pancreatic cancer and will be involved broadly in the surgical oncology program. Her husband, Dr. William Kim, from Harvard's Dana-Farber, will be in the hematology/oncology division and will conduct research in renal cancer and melanoma with Dr. Ned Sharpless.

It is with great sadness but good wishes that we bid farewell to Dr. Beverly Mitchell. Bev and her husband, John Pringle, are moving to Stanford. Bev has been appointed to an endowed chair and the newly created position of deputy director of Stanford's proposed comprehensive cancer center. As our associate director, Bev has been our beacon for developing and promoting translational research. She was a superb mentor to young faculty, served as division chief of our hematology/oncology division, and provided expert care to many grateful patients. We wish Bev every success in her new role.

This issue features our donor honor roll, a list that grows with each passing year. Your support fuels the research we conduct and the care we provide. We are grateful for the gifts of time, talents and resources these donations represent. ●



Introducing Leslie Nelson. Leslie Nelson joins our staff as Assistant Director of Development for Annual Giving. She moved to Chapel Hill

this summer from Charlottesville, VA. Most recently she was with the University of Virginia as Associate Director of the School of Architecture Foundation. She is very excited about joining our team and looks forward to working on behalf of such a great cause. ●



UNC Lineberger is designated a comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute.

Cancer Lines is a semi-annual publication of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, The University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill.

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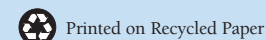
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Resource Center Supports Hopes and Hearts

Getting a cancer diagnosis and receiving treatment are major life-changing events for patients and their family members. Comforts of home are replaced by sterile hospital surroundings. Daily routines are supplanted by medical procedures. Casual family conversations are displaced by complicated medical briefings.

"The Patient and Family Resource Center brings heart to a medical process that is often frightening, fast-paced and technologically challenging," says Tina Shaban, the facility's coordinator. "Our goal in the Resource Center is to assist our patients and families in living with cancer by helping them find support for what is needed most."

The Center provides a haven from labs, treatment rooms and waiting rooms. Patients and their families are welcome to stop in any time and for any reason. "Kick off your shoes, have a cup of coffee, shed a tear,

or celebrate anything from a good blood count to finishing treatment or your hair starting to grow back in," Shaban says.

The Center offers information on a variety of cancer topics, Internet access to cancer sites, a lending library, a Friday morning coffee when patients and families gather to talk, massage therapy, and a wig and turban room where patients may select and be fitted for these free items. Every month the Center hosts the American Cancer Society's "Look Good...Feel Better" program when volunteer cosmetologists offer women strategies for hair loss and other appearance changes that occur.

Reducing Stress

Caring for the spirit during trying times can have a positive physical result, says Patricia Cadle, oncology chaplain. "Religion and spirituality have a positive effect on physical and mental health, and play a role in coping with stress."



Patients and staff share a laugh at the Friday morning coffee with (5th from left) Dr. Paul Godley, associate professor of medicine, and co-leader of the UNC Lineberger Genitourinary Oncology program.

continued on page 5

Training Grant Program

continued from page 1

Professor. His goal was to develop a crop of researchers who looked at cancer from a basic science point of view.

"The program was tied at first to a handful of faculty who were here already," he recalls. "They



Dr. Joseph Pagano, training grant director and Dr. Buddy Weissman, associate program director.

were young and still building their reputations." The training grant would allow these up-and-comers to secure post-doctoral fellows to help in their research. The support coming at a crucial time not only furthered the

Center's research

agenda, but assisted in the growth of UNC's reputation in cancer research. The program benefits faculty and fellows alike.

Wagner, a postdoc in the lab of Dr. William Marzluff, executive associate dean of the UNC School of Medicine and UNC Lineberger associate director for core facilities, explains how UNC works to make the fellowship program vital and effective. "When I came here, I was immediately supported by the training grant so that I could work without the pressure of having to write a grant application right away." He praises UNC and the Postdoc Association, which was established much later, for "helping to develop careers beyond what fellows learn in the laboratory." Wagner hopes to become a faculty investigator at an academic institution.

The Next Generation

Over the years, the program has grown from a handful of participants to 65 preceptors (Lineberger members who serve as mentors) and 18-24 annual fellows supported each year. To date, 237 fellows have benefited from the program. More than 85 percent have remained in research, 35 percent as faculty members.

Fellows have gone on to careers at top academic institutions including the Universities of North Carolina, California, Chicago, Michigan, Pittsburgh, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, and Dartmouth, NYU, Mayo Clinic, Vanderbilt, and Duke. Others have joined pharmaceutical companies including GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Pfizer, Biogen, and Trimeris as well as the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Research Triangle Institute.

Tim Kowalik, a trainee of Eng-Shang (Clark) Huang, now associate professor in the department of molecular genetics and microbiology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA, gives much credit to his UNC Lineberger postdoc training experience. "My four years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center were among the most significant for my career in cancer research. I believe that one of the biggest strengths of LCCC was and still is its focus on postdoctoral fellows and their training.

"The multidisciplinary approach to cancer research and the highly interactive environment exposes fellows to avenues of cancer research outside of their particular system. When I was interviewing for faculty positions across the

country, I found this training and research environment of the LCCC to be unique. To this day, I benefit from my exposure to different research fields and the networks that were established during my time at the LCCC."

Says Dr. Buddy Weissman, associate training program director, "We are proud of the fact that we have become so good at selecting and grooming minority postdoc candidates who are much sought after as faculty."

The training program also expanded as new areas of cancer research were developed. It now



Postdoc Raquel Sitcheran with her preceptor Dr. Al Baldwin.

Preceptor Dr. William Marzluff with postdoc Eric Wagner.



includes Lineberger's six basic research programs (cancer cell biology, cancer genetics, immunology, molecular carcinogenesis, molecular therapeutics, virology) that span 25 departments.

Shifting Scientific Focus

The Lineberger program's roots in the basic sciences made it the place to go for postdocs interested in this new way of thinking about disease. As more postdocs sought a deeper understanding of how cells - and particularly cancer cells - work, the Lineberger program began getting more recognition.

Now, Pagano asserts, "Everyone in the basic sciences field knows who we are."

Frontier Science

Lineberger's multidisciplinary orientation in basic research is now bearing fruit in translational approaches.

"Basic science is becoming increasingly integrated into biomedicine, moving the question from 'how does a cell work' and 'why does it behave the way it does' to 'how can we change cancer cells so we can treat them'," Pagano explains. "Our faculty do groundbreaking science on the frontier and share their knowledge across disciplines and from the lab to the patient. We have physicians and bench scientists working in the same building, exchanging and testing their ideas against their colleagues."

Participating fellows spend three to five years in this rich environment, working with a preceptor on their research projects. But the learning goes beyond the individual lab. Seminars the postdocs give and the Postdoc-Faculty Day allow them to learn about other's work and find connections to their own research, and how to translate ideas and techniques between projects and among disciplines. Other program components include advice in writing grants and applications, seeking positions and in scientific ethics.

UNC Lineberger: A Magnet for Postdocs

The program is regularly lauded for its combination of high-quality research and a hospitable, supportive environment. "The faculty are very interested in the success of the postdocs," Baldwin notes. "UNC was picked as the best place to do postdoctoral work in the U.S. in 2005. Many years ours is picked as the best or one of the best postdoc training programs when evaluated by the National Cancer Institute, which is one of the main reasons for this distinction."

Raquel Sitcheran is a postdoc in Baldwin's lab. She says, "The incredibly high quality of basic research at Lineberger is the main reason I joined the Postdoctoral Training program. In addition, I've found that the terrific mentors, collaborative environment, and emphasis on career development make Lineberger a really great place to be a postdoc." ●

Zhang awarded designation as Howard Hughes investigator

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) has selected Dr. Yi Zhang, associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics and UNC Lineberger member, as one of its new investigators. Zhang is the university's first biomedical scientist to achieve the prestigious designation, which carries with it a significant research budget.

Zhang, who joined UNC's School of Medicine faculty and UNC Lineberger in 1999, has been a leader in attacking one of the great remaining challenges in biology, which is to understand how different cells in the body can vary so dramatically in structure, function and molecular characteristics, given that they all contain the same genetic material.

The 43 investigators were chosen from a nationwide competition that began in 2004 when the institute asked approximately 200 universities, medical schools and institutes to nominate candidates who demonstrated exceptional promise within four to 10 years of their becoming independent investigators. More than 300 individuals were nominated.

"These scientists are on the rapidly rising slope of their careers and have made surprising discoveries in a short period of time," said Dr. Thomas R. Cech, HHMI president. "We want and expect them to be daring. We have every reason to believe that they will use their creativity to extend the boundaries of scientific knowledge for many years to come."

The selection of new investigators means the institute will invest more than \$300 million in additional biomedical research support during the next seven years. The institute's current annual research budget is \$416 million. A nonprofit medical research organization, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute was established in 1953 by the aviator-industrialist Howard Hughes.

Profile

Though Jon Serody's dream job was to play outfield or second base for the Cincinnati Reds, Ken Griffey Jr. doesn't have anything to worry about. Because Serody is dedicated to his work as a physician scientist with UNC Lineberger. His family will tell you he's wanted to be a doctor since the age of 6.

"I've always been fascinated by technology and ways to use it in research and in patient care as it relates to newer imaging approaches or specific targeted therapy for cancer," says the associate professor of medicine. "As a physician-scientist, with an active research laboratory, I'm able to combine all of these aspects into what for me is the perfect job and I don't have to make compromises about my career choice."

Research Focus

Serody's research has focused on the mechanism by which different types of white cells, either T cells or antigen-presenting cells, migrate into tissues to mediate their function. As part of this work in collaboration with Ed Collins, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, and Jeffrey Frelinger, Kenan Professor of Immunology, Serody helped develop a breast cancer vaccine, using engineered dendritic cells to target the protein HER2/Neu, which is found in tumors of

about one-third of women with breast cancer. This group is currently performing a clinical trial evaluating the activity of dendritic cell vaccination when combined

with standard treatment for women with metastatic breast cancer.

Serody's team also was the first to perform in vivo imaging of eGFP (enhanced green fluorescent protein) transgenic T cells as a method to track their migration in graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), and their interaction with tumor cells in GvL. eGFP is a jellyfish protein which can make all the cells in a research mouse glow green. Glowing white cells are removed from the mouse and put into a mouse receiving a bone marrow transplant so researchers can track the glowing activity. The team also has performed pioneering work on the proteins important in the migration of T cells to cause GVHD.

"I really enjoy the intellectual challenges of performing experiments, looking at the information and trying to come up with new ideas to explain the results," he comments. "I like the opportunity to have an impact on the health of individuals with life-threatening illnesses and the ability to get close to those individuals and their families for a period of time."

Returning to His Roots

Serody hails from the suburbs south of Washington, D.C. His father was a pharmacist and his mother worked for the Fairfax County school



system. A high school wrestler and baseball player, Serody stayed close to home for college, getting his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

He came to UNC for his house staff and fellowship training. After spending a brief period as a visiting transplantation fellow at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, he returned to Chapel Hill.

"I liked the intellectual climate that allows an investigator to discuss new methods and ideas with other extremely bright individuals and not have to worry that these ideas will be taken from you," Serody says. "I love the atmosphere in the Cancer Center and Dr. Earp's vision to make Lineberger a national leader not only in basic research but in newer translational approaches to the care of patients with cancer. That convinced me to join the faculty." ●

Briefs

A More Effective, Safe Way to Administer Anti-cancer Drugs

A novel way of administering an anti-cancer drug to bone-marrow transplant patients using continuous infusion may be more effective and safer than the method currently used, new study findings indicate.

The new method achieves more predictable, stable drug levels in patients than the current method and could eventually allow doctors to more accurately adjust doses to accommodate individual differences in metabolism, thus increasing treatment effectiveness while avoiding side effects, reported UNC Lineberger physicians at the May meeting of the American Association of Clinical Oncology.

The drug busulfan is used in leukemia patients to kill cancerous cells before bone-marrow transplant. "The new continuous-infusion method achieved more predictable levels of the drug than does the usual delivery method," says Thomas Shea, professor of medicine, director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program and a member of UNC Lineberger.

The research was supported by a grant from the pharmaceutical company ESP Pharma.

Enzyme Activity Promotes Rare Form of Leukemia and Potential Target for New Drugs

UNC Lineberger scientists have identified an enzyme that helps trigger the

development of leukemia, a cancer of blood cells. The enzyme hDOT1L activates a set of genes that plays a key role in the rare and largely incurable acute myeloid leukemia (AML). This disease affects less than 2 percent of the estimated 16,000 individuals diagnosed with acute leukemia nationwide each year.

The discovery, published in *Cell*, one of the world's top scientific journals, offers a potential target for new drugs against this form of leukemia. The enzyme hDOT1L helps immortalize bone marrow cells, causing their unrestrained growth, a hallmark of leukemia.

Yi Zhang, associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics, collaborated with Lineberger member Lishan Su, associate professor of microbiology and immunology.

The study was supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Genes Link Breast and Prostate Cancer

A gene associated with breast cancer also may play a major role in the recurrence of prostate cancer. A UNC study indicates that the gene HER-2 is a key culprit in prostate cancer recurrence. The findings also suggest a new treatment strategy for targeting HER-2 in

patients with advanced prostate cancer.

"We discovered that inhibition of HER-2 strongly inhibits proliferation of prostate cancer cells and the function of androgen receptor," says the study's senior author, Dr. Young Whang. He is associate professor of medicine and a Lineberger member. "This provides the rationale for initiating a clinical trial of this novel drug inhibiting HER-2, which is being planned for patients within several months," Whang says. "I envision this drug becoming one of several that could be used in combination with other specifically targeted drugs to prolong the lives of prostate cancer patients."

The research was supported by grants from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and the National Cancer Institute.

UNC Cancer Experts Join Community Groups To Reduce Health Disparities

The National Cancer Institute awarded UNC's Program on Ethnicity, Culture and Health Outcomes (ECHO) and the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center \$3.9 million in funding to develop the Carolina Community Network to reduce breast, prostate and colorectal cancers in adult African-Americans. The network will include cancer treatment centers, research components of UNC, community groups, and health promotion-oriented institutions and organizations.

"The Carolina Community Network will engage North Carolina communities as partners to increase the success of cancer prevention and treatment activities, increase the number of community members actively involved in clinical trials and other

You've Got Mail: Using Email to Assist in Weight Management and Healthier Living

More and more studies show a link between weight and cancer risk, prompting cancer prevention specialists to put a renewed emphasis on weight management and healthy living. This is particularly true for cancer.

Obesity is associated with breast, colon, prostate, endometrial, esophageal and kidney cancer, partly based on findings that show that being overweight and inactive causes hormonal and metabolic changes that create conditions that promote cancer growth.

However, even small amounts of weight loss are associated with a reduction in risk. A 5- to 10-percent loss has been found to improve glycemic control, reduce blood pressure and improve triglyceride and cholesterol levels. So far, the most successful weight loss programs are run at large academic medical centers like UNC, but not everyone has the time or money to take part in them. So a scientist at UNC decided to try something different.

"We know that it is not really possible for us to help the increasing numbers of overweight and obese individuals with these types of programs," says Deborah Tate, assistant professor of health behavior and health education and nutrition, Lineberger member and principal investigator of the HealthELife study funded by NIH. "Not only are they costly but most people do not have access to medical center-based programs. Moreover, survey data suggest that adults have a strong



Dr. Deborah Tate (center) shows how the Palm Pilots will work for program participants to (r) Karen Erickson, program manager and (l) Molly Grabow, program research assistant.

preference to lose weight without attending weekly treatment meetings."

Tate used these data to design a study comparing two Internet weight loss programs to determine which results in the most effective weight loss after 12 months. The two programs are:

- A web-based behavior modification program that focuses on helping individuals change using individual e-mail counseling
- An online chat group-based program that focuses on helping individuals change with group support from a counselor and social support from their peers.

Participants in both programs are given hand-held computers with self-monitoring diaries and links to weight-loss websites, weekly prompting and structured guidance, and an on-line message

board. Those in the individual program receive weekly feedback from a therapist via email. Those in the group program "meet" weekly for online group discussions.

Tate completed one wave of the study in Rhode Island with 80 healthy overweight men and women using the Internet and hand-helds to lose weight. The second wave of the study, this time using Triangle-area participants, began in September.

The online programs are promising for several reasons, Tate says.

"Face to face counseling is costly and is not necessarily desired by all individuals who want to participate in a weight loss program," she explains. "Because email has become so engrained in our daily lives, we think that using it to deliver behavioral therapy will allow long term support that we believe is critical to help people lose weight and keep it off. Email allows for back-and-forth communication between therapist and counselor in a way that fits into our busy schedules."

Because so many people already use email in their daily lives, Tate expects that this medium may reduce common barriers to participating in a program (time, money, etc.). More importantly, she says, "It maintains that level of accountability and adherence to the program that a normal therapist-participant relationship may promote."

Triangle area residents will be involved in weekly counseling until September 2006. ●

forms of research, and strengthen the community's knowledge of cancer risks and prevention," says Paul Godley, the grant's principal investigator and ECHO director. "Our ultimate goal is to reduce the disparity in deaths from cancer."

Godley also is associate professor of medicine and adjunct associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at UNC's schools of medicine and public health, respectively, and a member of UNC Lineberger.

Weight Gain After Age 50 Associated with Increased Postmenopausal Breast Cancer Risk

Weight gain of more than 24 pounds in women older than 50 years of age - regardless of baseline weight at age 50 - is associated with a 62 percent increased risk for postmenopausal breast cancer compared with women with stable weight, a new study has found.

The research team, led by Marilie Gammon, professor of epidemiology at UNC's School of Public Health and a UNC Lineberger member, also found that women who had gained more than 33 pounds since age 20 were at a 60 percent increased risk of the disease compared with those with unchanged

These results indicate that the impact of weight gain is only apparent among women who are not already exposed to other high sources of estrogen. "Our analysis also showed that weight loss over a woman's lifetime was associated with decreased risk of postmenopausal breast cancer," Gammon reports. ●

Leslie H. Lang, Angela K. Spivey, and Stuart Shumway contributed to this report.

Hopes and Hearts

continued from page 2

Much of that stress is caused by the challenges that come with diagnosis and treatment. Worries about money, jobs and treatment itself often weigh heavily on patients and family members. Counselors Elizabeth Sherwood and Pamela Durham help patients and family members navigate their ways, providing information, counseling and support.

"We attempt to provide services that help reduce the stress of cancer and cancer treatment and its affect on the patient's and family's relationships," Sherwood says.

Adding to the strain is often isolation from the faith community back home. "Spiritual resources become a source of strength and peace throughout a possibly lengthy treatment and recovery period," Cadle notes. "Pastoral care provides the much needed assistance for patients separated from their usual sources of spiritual and emotional support throughout a possibly lengthy treatment and recovery period, recurrence or even death."

Creating a Bond

The Center extends the support network for patients and their loved ones, easing the fears and burdens of a cancer diagnosis.

"It's a privilege to share life with our families at this most challenging time," Shaban says. "We all become a family. We build a bond -- a strong bond that brings hope and heart." ●

The Patient and Family Resource Center

is located in the Gravelly Building, Ground Floor, Room G008. Operating hours are 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM daily. Counselors are available by appointment.

Three chapels are always opened for prayer and meditation (Children's Lobby, 5 Anderson/Burn Chapel and first floor Memorial Hospital). Pastoral care is available through on-site chaplains all day, every day.

Sunday morning worship services take place every week in the John M. Reeves All Faiths Chapel located on the first floor of the Memorial Hospital. Those unable to attend the service may tune into channel 51 where the service is televised throughout the hospital.



UNC Oncology Patient and Family Support Team members: Front row: (l-r) Patricia Cadle, UNC Hospitals oncology chaplain, and Pamela Durham, oncology patient counselor. Back row (l-r): Tina Shaban, coordinator; UNC Patient and Family Resource Center; Joanne Sroczyński, outpatient oncology social worker; Elizabeth Sherwood, oncology patient counselor; Pam Baker, program assistant, Patient and Family Resource Center; and Kelly Cross, massage therapist.

Gifts to the

UNC Lineberger raised over \$2,800,000 in new gifts and pledges this year (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005). We extend our sincere gratitude to the over 3,800 donors who stepped forward to help us achieve such tremendous results. The impact of your efforts is felt from the clinic to the lab and makes a real difference in the fight against cancer. These impressive lists record the names of those who led the way with their generous support of the Cancer Center this year. We are grateful to each and every donor.

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Greensboro Event. Friends and supporters of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center gathered in Greensboro for a May event at the home of Board of Visitor members Dana and Scott Lacy. The group heard from Dr. Shelley Earp, Cancer Center director and Dr. Ned Sharpless, assistant professor, UNC School of Medicine. Shown here are the event co-hosts (left-right): Bill Aycock, Jane Cochran, Alexa Aycock, Scott Lacy, Dr. Shelley Earp, Dana Lacy and Dr. Ned Sharpless.

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Mebane Art Show Raises \$4500 for UNC Lineberger
Eileen Jefferson of Mebane raised \$4500 for the George Jefferson Cancer Education Endowment Fund at UNC Lineberger with an art show held on August 13- 14 at Mill Creek Country Club in Mebane. Eileen established a fund in memory of her late husband, George, which provides educational opportunities for outpatient hematology/ oncology nurses at UNC. Shown above (left-right): Eileen Jefferson, granddaughter Melissa Jefferson, son Denis Jefferson and his wife Mary Ellen, and Jill Cowen, raffle chair for the event. They are standing beside a picture created by artist Diana Lance.

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Poe Pedals for Prostate Cancer Research

A Raleigh Broughton High School graduate spent six weeks this summer riding his bike across the US to raise awareness/funds for UNC Lineberger prostate cancer research. Poe, now a freshman at Bennington College, rode 3,600 miles from Savannah, Georgia, to Los Angeles, California and raised over \$14,000 for prostate cancer research.

"I was riding to honor the life of my grandfather, Charles Aycock Poe, who died after years of battling prostate cancer," said Hamilton Poe, son of Chuck and Pat Poe. "Grandpa had great respect for UNC Lineberger and what they did for their patients' well-being. He felt they added years to his life."

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2005 Beach Ball Raises Over \$105,000 for UNC Lineberger. Thanks to the more than 100 tireless volunteers led by Mary Seagroves, Janis Tillman and Jeanhee Hoffman who organized the April 8, 2005 Beach Ball fundraiser for UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. The funds will be used for research into the causes of cancer and to develop improved therapies and prevention programs. The Beach Ball was held at University Mall, and Spice Street donated the delicious food for the 680 attendees. Buck Taylor served again as auctioneer, with two basketballs signed by the 2005 NCAA Men's Championship team going for \$2900 per ball. Special thanks to the event sponsors: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, the Chapel Hill Herald, Eurosport, and Skanska USA; Café Carolina and Bakery, Grady-White Boats, Performance BMW of Chapel Hill, Siemens Medical Solutions and University Mall; Blue Capital Group, Carrington Painting and Contracting, Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center, the Cotton Exchange, Investors Title Insurance Company and McDonalds of Mebane. Pictured here (left to right) are event co-chairs Jeanhee Hoffman, Janis Tillman and Mary Rice Seagroves, with Dr. Shelley Earp, cancer center director.

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Raleigh Luncheon to Benefit Prostate Cancer Research. UNC Lineberger held a May luncheon at the Carolina Country Club in Raleigh to raise awareness and resources for prostate cancer research. Dr. Eric Wallen and Dr. Raj Pruthi, faculty from UNC's Multidisciplinary Urology Oncology Program, reported on the latest research and treatment options. Pictured (left to right) are co-hosts for the event Earl Johnston, Charlie Winston, President Emeritus William C. Friday, Sherwood Smith, Cancer Center Director Shelley Earp and Zack Bacon.

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Clifford
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Ms. Lemae Clisbee
Mr. and Mrs. Philip T. Clover



Indie Music for Life Holds Benefit Concerts for UNC Lineberger. Vicki Blankenship, singer/songwriter and two-time cancer survivor, has organized benefit concerts in nine different states on the East Coast by the non-profit Indie Music for Life organization. Blankenship, based in Wilmington, NC, founded the non-profit and serves as event chairperson for the organization. Shown here before the July 29 Chapel Hill concert began are performers: Front (left-right): Ian Wright, Carol Bui; Middle (left-right): Reese Gibbs, Melissa Thomas, Mary Anne Barckhoff, Susan Darney; Back (l-r): Marc Taylor, Troy McLamb, Wendy Brancaccio and Vicki Blankenship.

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**Chapel Hill Gallery
 Raises Funds for Breast
 Cancer Research.** Janis
 and Jeff Tillman, owners of
 Moondance Gallery in
 Chapel Hill, sold pink breast
 cancer bracelets and donated
 \$1,558 to Lineberger for
 breast cancer research.
 Pictured above are (left-right)
 Janis Tillman with Debbie
 Dibbert, UNC Lineberger
 Director of External Affairs.

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 Mr. Michael C. Lish
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Swim for Life A Great Success. More than 325 kids
 participated in the 27th annual Swim for Life on Sunday,
 July 10 at the Koury Natatorium. Swimmers from seven
 Chapel Hill Summer Swim League teams collected pledges
 for each lap they swam to donate to UNC Lineberger.
 These young athletes raised over \$18,000 for UNC
 Lineberger's cancer research, treatment and prevention
 programs. Shown above (left-right) are event chair Beth
 High with Dr. Shelley Earp, Lineberger director.

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 McGough Pontiac GMC
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**UNC Lineberger Honored as Largest Corporate Team
 for Third Straight Year at the 2005 Komen NC
 Triangle Race for the Cure.** With 406 team members,
 the UNC Lineberger team won the largest corporate team
 award for the third year in a row and for the fifth time
 since 1999. Shown here (left-right) are Ella Sexton, three-
 year breast cancer survivor, and Mary Beck, senior vice
 president for planning, UNC Health Care and nine-year
 breast cancer survivor. Mary is also a member of the UNC
 Breast Center Advisory Board.

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Center '04-'05

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Mr. and Mrs. William S. Ward
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Mr. Thomas Craig Watson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Weathers
Mr. and Mrs. Van L. Weatherspoon
Mrs. Norma M. Webb
Ms. Margaret L. Weil
Mrs. J. Edmund Welch
Dr. and Mrs. J. Edmund Welch
Dr. and Mrs. James M. Wells
Mr. W. L. Wentzel
Westbrook Lawn Maintenance
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Wheeler
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Whitaker
Ms. Barbara S. White
Mr. and Mrs. James White
Mr. and Mrs. William R. White
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Whitefield
Ms. Lynda W. Whitehead
Mr. Milton L. Whitfield and Ms. Peggy W. Dickerson
Mr. and Mrs. J. Dale Whitworth
Ms. Susan Widhalm
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Womble
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Dr. Leonard S. Woodall
Ms. Kimberly K. Woodard
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Woodruff
Griselle G. Woodward and Bobby R. Woodward
Ms. A. L. Woodyard
Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Woosley
Ms. Elizabeth L. Wright
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Mrs. Jean L. Wynne
Dr. Priscilla B. Wyrick
Mr. and Mrs. L. Clement Yancey
Mr. and Mrs. Tucker Yates
Dr. J. M. Zealy
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Zendels
Mr. Mark Zimmerman

* Deceased

We have made every effort to ensure that this list is accurate. If you find an error, please contact us at (919)966-5905 or by email at anewman@unc.edu.



V Foundation Strong Supporter of UNC Lineberger.

This past year the V Foundation for Cancer Research supported two UNC Lineberger researchers with generous grants. At the Jimmy V Women's Basketball Classic in November 2004, Dr. Paola Gehrig, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, received a \$50,000 grant for her research into endometrial carcinoma, the most common gynecologic malignancy in the United States. In June, Dr. Jessica Fu received a \$75,000 grant from the Junior V Celebrity Golf Event. Dr. Fu is a first-year pediatric fellow working in the lab of Dr. Ned Sharpless in the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, and her research involves studying the role of the tumor suppressor genes.

Lineberger Seed Grants Key to Novel Therapies

The Lineberger Seed Grant program was begun in 1986 to give cancer researchers the opportunity to develop new ideas and use their findings to leverage major funding from conventional sources. This past year we funded 12 grants totaling \$299,042. We thank the following donors for helping to support this year's seed grant program: Carter Foundation, Inc., The CEMALA Foundation, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. William Daughtridge, A.E. Finley Foundation, Inc., Alexander Worth McAlister Foundation, Inc., Foundation for the Carolinas, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Grier, Ladies Auxiliary to V.F.W., Dept. of NC, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Pappas, The Schechter Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Sewell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Sydnor M. White.

Sisko Foundation Supports Breast Cancer Research

Sisko Foundation made a \$4,000 grant to the UNC Breast Center for a research project focusing on partial breast treatment using single dose intraoperative radiotherapy for patients with early stage breast cancer. This novel treatment offers a more convenient, potentially less toxic course of radiotherapy for patients with small breast cancers who may have difficulty with a daily regimen of whole breast radiation due to family or work obligations, or travel to a radiotherapy center.

Annual Symposium

The 29th annual UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center scientific symposium was a great success with more than 350 people attending sessions during the day and a half meeting. The event, held May 11-12, featured internationally known speakers on the topic of "Genomic Instability and Cancer Progression." The symposium is the largest annual event held in the UNC School of Medicine. Shown here (left to right) are speaker Michael Kastan conversing with speaker Dale Ramsden. Dr. Kastan, a UNC Morehead Scholar, is director of the cancer center at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Dr. Ramsden, associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics, is a Lineberger member.



The symposium is the largest annual event held in the UNC School of Medicine. Shown here (left to right) are speaker Michael Kastan conversing with speaker Dale Ramsden. Dr. Kastan, a UNC Morehead Scholar, is director of the cancer center at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Dr. Ramsden, associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics, is a Lineberger member.

Allen W. Post, Jr. Endowment Fund Established

Family and friends of the late Allen W. Post have contributed over \$100,000 to establish an endowment fund to help find a cure for prostate cancer. Allen was an active member of the UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors at the time of his death in July 2003. The Allen W. Post, Jr. Prostate Cancer Research Fund will be a permanent reminder of Allen's commitment to the UNC Prostate Cancer Program and its commitment to developing new approaches to understanding and preventing prostate cancer, improving diagnosis and increasing survival, and reducing side effects of treatment.

Lineberger Club

Special thanks to the sponsors of the Lineberger Club Luncheon held at the Kenan Center on January 8, 2005: Café Carolina and Bakery; Lee-Moore Oil Company; Sprint; Stock Building Supply; and Wachovia Wealth Management.

The Berryhill Society

We welcome the newest Lineberger members of The Berryhill Society, which was established by The Medical Foundation of North Carolina to recognize donors who have included the School of Medicine or UNC Hospitals in their estate plans. We salute the following individuals who have supported UNC Lineberger through bequests, trusts and/or other planned giving arrangements to help fund cancer research, prevention and care for generations to come:

Dr. and Mrs. James O. Goodwin
Ms. Frances W. McCurry
Ms. Sandra Roth
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Winston



Big Rock/Blue Marlin Tournament. For the 15th year, the Big Rock/Blue Marlin Festival has donated part of its proceeds to UNC Lineberger. This year they contributed \$15,000 to support the Cancer Patient and Family Resource Center. Since 1991, the tournament has contributed over \$170,000 to UNC Lineberger. Pictured (left-right) are UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors members and Big Rock/Blue Marlin sponsors Ben and Sue Moore with Tina Shaban, Resource Center coordinator.

UNC Lineberger Board Elects New Officers

At their April meeting, the UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors elected new leaders for 2005-2006. Anne Cates will serve as Board Chair and Edwina Woodbury will serve as Vice Chair and Chair-Elect.

The following new members were welcomed to the UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors:

Chapel Hill: Dana Fowlkes and Susan Lord
Charlotte: Fountain Odom
Greensboro: Buddy Weill
Greenville: Eddie and Jo Smith
Montreat: Eric and Grace Nichols
Pittsboro: Jack and Laura Hyer
Raleigh: Hardy and Mary Jarvis Duerson;
 Assad and Emily Meymandi;
 Ken and Barbara O'Herron
Wilmington: Jim and Polly Carter
Wilson: Betty Ray McCain
Hilton Head, SC: Jim and Karen Ferree



Anne Cates (right), new Board Chair and Edwina Woodbury (left), new Vice Chair.

Robotic Surgical System arrives at UNC

The new da Vinci Surgical System arrived in February and is already under extensive use for prostate and endometrial and cervical cancers.

UNC currently is the only gynecological oncology program in the Southeast that is using it. The gynecologic surgeries are being performed by Dr. John Boggess, gynecological oncologist, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and a member of UNC Lineberger. Boggess is the first physician statewide to be certified to perform gynecological procedures with the robotic system.

Dr. Eric Wallen performs the prostate cancer surgery. He is assistant professor of urologic surgery, director of urologic laparoscopy at UNC Hospitals and a UNC Lineberger member.

They both have found the robotic operation to be more precise than conventional surgery, allowing a patient to return to normal activities much more quickly, with a shorter hospital stay. They also found a reduced use of pain medications after robotic surgery, with fewer complications.

For more information about this type of surgery, visit <http://unclineberger.org>

Shown here (l-r) are Drs. Boggess and Wallen with the da Vinci Surgical System.



Save the Date for **BEACH BALL** 2006!

Saturday, April 8, 2006

9:00 p.m., University Mall, Chapel Hill

Dance to the music of East Coast favorite - Liquid Pleasure

Current or former UNC cancer patients are invited to send favorite photos of themselves (alone or with friends and family) for a special photo montage to be unveiled at Beach Ball 2006. Please mail print photos (which cannot be returned) to Leslie Nelson, UNC Lineberger, CB #7295, Chapel Hill, NC

calendar of events

JANUARY 2006

7th 19th Annual Lineberger Club Lunch and Basketball Game (UNC vs. NC State). Kenan Center, Chapel Hill, NC

APRIL 2006

8th Beach Ball. University Mall, Chapel Hill, NC

21st Board of Visitors Spring Meeting, Chapel Hill, NC

24 - 25th 30th Annual Scientific Symposium. Chapel Hill, NC

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
 CB# 7295
 School of Medicine
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7295
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<http://unclineberger.org>

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