

# cancerlines



UNC  
LINEBERGER

## Bringing groundbreaking immunotherapy to the patients of North Carolina

Less than two years ago, Carlos and Tina Sandi were faced with a fear that was all too familiar – the fear of losing a child to cancer.

Their son, Phineas, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at age 4. He was their second child to be diagnosed with cancer after their daughter, Althea, was diagnosed six years earlier with another form of leukemia. She died from the disease just after her second birthday.

Faced with this horrific news, the Sandi family sought treatment at UNC under the care of Dr. Philip Roehrs, pediatric oncologist at UNC Lineberger. Within days of his diagnosis, Phineas was undergoing an aggressive chemotherapy treatment for his disease. Unfortunately, the treatments did not work.

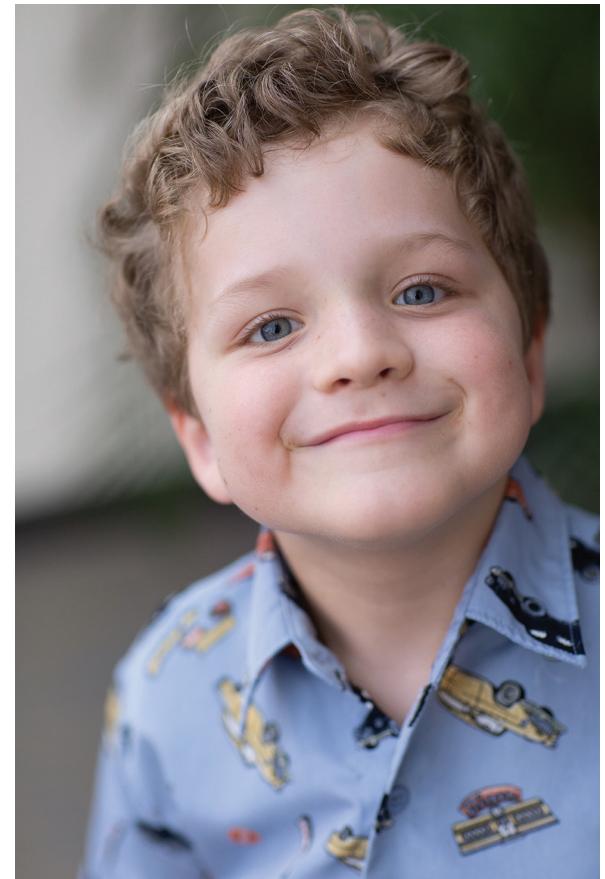
“Even after several rounds of chemo, Phineas still had evidence of disease,” said Dr. Roehrs. “In order for Phineas to get to the next stage in his care – to receive a bone marrow transplant – we needed him to be cancer-free, but the standard of care was just not working for him.”

With the chemotherapy not working, Phineas’ care team frantically searched for other options.

Dr. Roehrs began searching for open trials and contacting centers across the country that were testing a groundbreaking form of treatment called T-cell immunotherapy. He finally found one that would take on Phineas – the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. The investigational treatment is designed to use the power of the body’s own immune system to fight cancer with genetically engineered T-cells that recognize and attack the cancer cells.

“We had heard about these experimental trials that used a patient’s immune system to fight the cancer,” said Carlos. “The last thing

*continued on page 2*



*Thanks to the heroic efforts by UNC physicians and a groundbreaking clinical trial at the National Institutes of Health, Phineas is now a happy, healthy six-year-old.*

## Connecting health care through technology

Hospitals across the country are increasingly using telehealth to enhance patient access to care, connect with other physicians to share best practices and lower health care costs. In fact, over 52 percent of hospitals used telehealth in 2013, and another 10 percent were beginning the implementation process, according to the American Hospital Association. Through the UNC Cancer Network, UNC Lineberger connects health care providers across North Carolina in real time to discuss best practices for patient care, cutting edge research, and continuing medical education for healthcare professionals.

Patients from across North Carolina can receive guidance and expertise from UNC oncologists and participate in groundbreaking clinical trials, all without leaving the comforts of their hometown.

“It is a great benefit to consult and collaborate with a multi-disciplinary

team of caregivers at UNC on my cases without having to travel to Chapel Hill every other week,” said Dr. Krystal Bottom, pediatric oncologist at Mission Children’s Hospital in Asheville, NC.

Dr. Bottom regularly participates in what is known as a virtual “tumor board” – an in-depth review of a particular patient’s case with a team of doctors from UNC and from the community where the patient lives.

The UNC Lineberger telehealth program also provides regular remote educational lectures, targeting medical professionals as well as patients and caregivers.

The program’s bi-monthly continuing education series reaches physicians, nurses and allied health professionals across North Carolina through live, interactive medical and nursing lectures delivered by UNC faculty. This lecture series allows practitioners to access

### Telehealth @ UNC Lineberger

- Share cutting-edge research and best practices for patient care, while also connecting on specific cases where our expertise may provide value
- Hosted over 70 lectures with over 4,200 live viewings of these broadcast events since 2011
- Regularly hold virtual “tumor boards,” an in-depth review of a particular patient’s case with a team of doctors
- For more information, please visit [UNCLineberger.org/telehealth](http://UNCLineberger.org/telehealth).

the inside line up



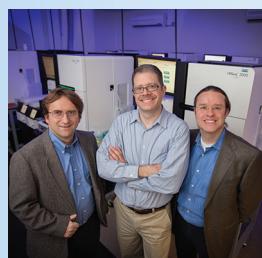
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UNC  
CANCER CARE



Ned Sharpless, MD

# director's message

Perhaps one of the most exciting announcements for the cancer center this year has been the launch of our T-cell immunotherapy program. Gianpietro Dotti and Barbara Savoldo joined UNC Lineberger in March from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston to help lead the opening of these new clinical trials. The type of treatment they will be testing involves re-engineering a type of disease-fighting white blood cell,

called a T-cell, to fight cancer.

This new clinical research program will be the first of its kind in North Carolina, and UNC will be one of only a handful of academic medical centers around the country to have this capability. UNC Lineberger is leading this major initiative to harness the power of the immune system to treat cancer. We are making major investments in facilities and research to bring this life-changing therapy to the people of North Carolina.

These types of trials are almost like science fiction, but there is no better way to illustrate their power than to meet Phineas Sandi. As you will read in our cover story, Phineas was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at the age of 4. Just two years later, he is now in complete remission thanks to immunotherapy, and taking much-deserved vacations with his family and

thriving in his first year of kindergarten.

The story of Claudio Battaglini, our faculty member profiled in this issue, is also very powerful. Claudio is leading amazing research on the impact of physical activity on the outcomes of cancer patients. The role of physical activity, its impact on molecular age and how patients respond and cope with different treatments is a growing field of research, and one in which UNC is quickly becoming a leader.

We are also very excited to announce the arrival of Martin Baucom, our new senior executive director of development and communications. Martin joins us from N.C. State, where he led major gifts fundraising for the College of Engineering. We look forward to welcoming Martin to the UNC Lineberger team.

And sprinkled throughout this entire issue of Cancer Lines is the impact of the University Cancer Research Fund. This \$42 million state-appropriated fund has contributed to major discoveries in cancer genetics, helped develop novel treatments for hard-to-reach tumors, and created jobs for the people of North Carolina. To read more about the impact of this fund, please visit [unclineberger.org/ucrf](http://unclineberger.org/ucrf).

As always, thank you for your continued dedication and support to our cancer center. I hope you enjoy learning more about the remarkable things going on at UNC Lineberger. 🦋

## Immunotherapy *continued from page 1*

we wanted to do was leave Chapel Hill and switch care teams, but at that point, it really was his only remaining option.”

Phineas completed the NIH trial and was in full remission within 28 days.

Back at UNC following the trial, Phineas underwent his transplant and came home on Christmas Day, 2013. Today, Phineas is back to doing things a six-year-old should be doing; vacationing in Disney World, meeting new friends in kindergarten and taking a multi-state road trip with his family for spring break.

“The team that cared for Phineas is simply amazing,” said Tina. “There was a tremendous amount of communication between UNC and NIH throughout the trial, and Dr. Roehrs really advocated for our son throughout the entire process.”

Because of amazing medical successes like the story of Phineas, UNC Lineberger is now making this experimental form of immunotherapy available in North Carolina with the launch of a new clinical research program.

“What was once available in only a handful of cancer centers will now be available to patients in North Carolina,” said Jon Serody, MD, associate director of translational science at UNC Lineberger and medical oncologist in the UNC Lineberger Leukemia and Lymphoma Program.

The center has recruited two new faculty members from the Baylor College of Medicine to help launch T-cell therapy clinical trials. Gianpietro Dotti, MD, and Barbara Savoldo, MD, PhD, have been studying these types of trials at Baylor since 1998. The cancer center will initially open a trial for Hodgkin lymphoma, followed by acute lymphoblastic leukemia and additional cancers as the program expands.

Coupled with the launch of these trials is the opening of a new “clean” facility where the T-cells will be developed. Once validated by the FDA, the facility will pave the way for these trials to open in early 2016, along with the addition of two new facility leaders, Facility Director Paul Eldridge, PhD, and Associate



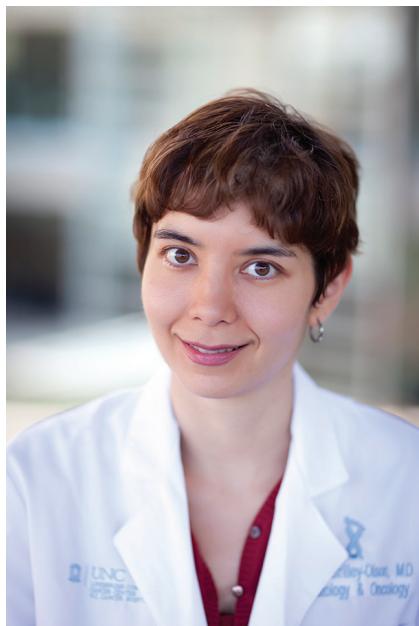
Gianpietro Dotti, MD, Barbara Savoldo, MD, PhD, and Jon Serody, MD discuss the opening of these groundbreaking trials in the immunotherapy lab space.

Director Kathryn McKay, MS.

It’s absolutely transformative,” said Carlos. “We are thrilled that immunotherapy is coming to North Carolina, just knowing what we do about the capabilities UNC has, about the wonderful people at UNC, about how much of an impact this institution has, and will continue to have, on the people of our state.”

UNC Lineberger is truly bringing together compassionate care with groundbreaking clinical trials, forever changing the course of treatment for families facing cancer.

“This will give people hope where there used to be no other options,” Tina said. “It could mean that their children get to live, that they will get to see their children grow up instead of planning their funerals. That’s what this really comes down to.” 🦋



## Precision medicine at UNC: Looking for cancer-driving gene mutations across cancers

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers are leading an emerging scientific approach to cancer treatment that is building on advances in genetic sequencing. The outcomes from this research are encouraging physicians to treat patients based on the genetic mutations found in their cancer.

Cancer center oncologists have been designing and enrolling patients in clinical trials known as “basket trials,” in which patients are selected for treatment for targeted drugs based on whether they have certain mutations or molecular alterations. The strategy represents a shift away from treating patients based on where their tumors originated, as they’re eligible for a trial if their tumors are found to have a specific mutation—regardless of where their cancer was first diagnosed in the body.

“Historically, we looked to treat cancers based on where they started in the patient,” said Juneko Grilley-Olsen, MD, a UNC Lineberger member and medical oncologist. “But now, we understand that sometimes molecular changes found across different types of cancers leads to a more sophisticated way to treat them.”

The cancer center has led a variety of basket trials, Grilley-Olsen said, including trials with pharmaceutical companies. There are two separate industry-sponsored trials currently ongoing at UNC, she said, including one trial that will test a handful of drugs shown to target four different mutations, including one for people

with mutations in the BRAF gene. Drugs have been approved for people with advanced melanoma with a specific BRAF mutation, but the new trial will test the drug in patients with other types of cancer as well.

In addition, she said UNC will participate in the National Cancer Institute’s Molecular Analysis for Therapeutic Choice Trial, or NCI MATCH. For that national trial, several thousand people are expected to be screened for molecular alterations. Twenty to 25 drugs are expected to be tested, according to the NCI. Grilley-Olsen is co-chair for the arm of the trial studying the use of drugs targeting the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) enzyme pathway.

“Remarkable” advances in genetic sequencing, as well as in the understanding of cancer have made such a treatment approach possible, Grilley-Olsen said. Cancer is now understood fundamentally as a genetic disease, with molecular alterations or abnormalities driving the uncontrolled growth of cells. The sequencing of an individual patient’s tumors is becoming standard of care. Patients at the N.C. Cancer Hospital are having their tumors sequenced as standard of care in a state-of-the-art pathology facility, or when further analysis is needed, as part of a clinical trial called UNCseq.

“Those results can be placed in the patient’s medical record, thus enabling any treating physician to know what alterations may be driving the cancer, and thereby being better able to identify patients for trials such as these basket trials,” Grilley-Olsen said.

The new approach to treatment will hopefully open doors for possible treatments for patients with diseases that have otherwise limited options and allow researchers to identify cancer types that may or may not be responsive to these drugs. 8

*“By using treatments targeted to molecular alterations in individual tumors, we are putting precision medicine into practice.”*

*Juneko Grilley-Olsen, MD  
Medical Oncologist*

### Connecting health care *continued from page 1*

timely, evidence-based oncology therapeutic updates from the convenience of their own practice – and earn continuing education credits.

The community lecture series are delivered monthly through telehealth technology to cancer centers across the state on topics such as the importance of a healthy diet, regular exercise, weight management, smoking cessation and therapy management.

And much of this effort is supported by the University Cancer Research Fund (UCRF)

“UCRF has also been critical in the launch and success of our telehealth program,” said Tom Shea, MD, director of the UNC Cancer Network. “Using the infrastructure supported by UCRF funds, we connect with health care providers across North Carolina.”

UNC physicians are also sharing advanced techniques and best practices via telemedicine with other medical professionals across the state and U.S.

Dr. Todd Baron, director of advanced therapeutic endoscopy at UNC, is a nationally-known advanced endoscopist who joined UNC in 2014 after spending 15 years at the Mayo Clinic. Using the latest in telemedicine technology with the capability to record and transmit live procedures in real time, Dr. Baron is

sharing his advanced techniques with thousands of physicians and surgeons throughout the state, U.S. and around the globe.

The ability for Dr. Baron to share his techniques

remotely is made possible through the generous financial support of private donors like Ron Elliott and Mark Tamagni.

In January of 2011, Ron was diagnosed with a growth in his small intestine, that, if left untreated, would become cancerous and spread throughout his abdomen. Ron’s search for care led him to the Mayo Clinic, where he received his first good news from Dr. Baron, who proposed an

innovative and complex endoscopic technique. Nine months and two procedures later, the growth was successfully removed. A few months later, Dr. Baron was recruited to join UNC Hospitals.



*Ron Elliott and Mark Tamagni have provided support to the telemedicine program so that Dr. Todd Baron can spread his advanced techniques around the world.*

Driven by their gratitude towards Dr. Baron and their commitment to help share his treatment options with others around the world, Ron and Mark provided a generous gift to support Dr. Baron’s endoscopic telemedicine program. Reflecting on the gift, Ron stated, “We feel that Dr. Baron has a wealth of important knowledge that can be shared with physicians around the world. Dr. Baron’s expert techniques can literally save lives, and that’s incredibly important to us.”

Thanks to both the UCRF and private funds alike, patients have the ability to benefit from UNC’s leading-edge, research-driven clinical care while remaining close to home with their community oncologist – and their friends and family. 8

## Claudio Battaglini, PhD – More than a coach

Exercise and sports have always been the life and work of Claudio Battaglini. A soccer star in his early years, then a world champion coach, he's now using the power of exercise to fight cancer.

### An athlete from birth

Born in Brazil, Claudio Battaglini has been an athlete his entire life. Claudio stood out as a soccer phenom and at a young age, he put college on hold and moved to Portugal to play professional “futebol.” After some time in the pros, he returned home to Brazil and began coaching.

Battaglini enrolled at the Universidade Católica de Brasília to study physical education and coaching. He went from athlete to coach in no time, establishing a triathlon club for local athletes. Before he knew it, his club was producing state- and national-champions. His coaching success caught the eye of Brazil's top triathlete, Leandro Macedo. After a week of working out alongside Claudio's young team, Macedo asked the much-younger Claudio to coach him. They went on to win the Pan-American games and medal at the World Triathlon Championships.

### Entering America and Academia

In preparation for the triathlon world championships, Battaglini visited Colorado to work alongside sports scientists to study the biomechanics of his top athlete in an effort to improve his performance. While in town, he was approached by a professor at University of Colorado, who invited Claudio to give a talk to his athletes. After the talk, he offered Claudio a scholarship to study Exercise and Sports Science at UC Boulder. It was time to move to the United States.

Once familiar with the area, Battaglini decided to visit nearby Northern Colorado University – a university known for their Exercise and Physiology program. He wandered into the department's building and fate took over - he met a woman named Dr. Carole Schneider. As luck would have it, Dr. Schneider was a national leader in the study of exercise oncology. She invited Claudio to join her as a researcher at Northern Colorado.

Battling cancer herself, Schneider founded an exercise rehabilitation center for patients with cancer called the Rocky Mountain Cancer Rehabilitation Institute - the first facility of its kind in the country. “I was one of the student founders of the center,” said Claudio. “But I didn't want to do anything with cancer. My dream was to coach.” Little did he know, all of that was about to change.

### Re-considering cancer

His last year as a Master's student, Dr. Schneider presented him with a challenge: “I want you to train a cancer patient.” Claudio was reluctant, but his mentor persisted.

“She came in. She was very pale. She had gone through high doses of chemo – she had aggressive

brain cancer. No hair. A bandana on her head,” he recalls. The patient, a young woman named Francine, informed him the doctors estimated she had four months to live. “But I'm not going to die,” she told Claudio. “I'm going to make it.” And so they began. He started studying – side effects of treatment, chemotherapy drugs, the physiology of her body in response to exercise – and they kept training. Francine lived two and a half years.

“Working with her and the other patients was a turning point in my career,” he says. “Going to the Olympics is great, winning a gold medal is great. But then what? All of this effort and energy just to win a gold medal?” He decided that his career would take a drastic change. He had found his calling. He was going to study cancer and exercise.

### Get Real & Heel

In 2004, Battaglini came to UNC-Chapel Hill as a visiting assistant professor in the Exercise Physiology program. A fan of UNC for its athletics, academic reputation and success in cancer care and research, he was excited to make the move.

With UNC Lineberger support, he started right away, working with leukemia patients. He wanted to study how physical activity could work to alleviate patients' symptoms, reduce recurrence and improve quality of life. Armed with exercise bands, a stationary bicycle and blood analysis tools, he went to work.

“We changed the way people look at physical activity in the hematology unit,” he remembers. “In the past, the patients were advised to stay in their room out of fear of infection. If you go in the unit today, everyone is moving.”

Seeking to provide patients not only with physical rehabilitation, but also with the emotional and psychological support, Battaglini helped establish the Get Real & Heel program. For the past nine years, patients have met together to exercise. The program has worked to reduce treatment complications, lessen disease recurrence,



and improve the overall health and quality of life for cancer patients in North Carolina.

The success and spirit of the Get Real and Heel exercise oncology program is embodied by UNC Women's Basketball Coach and leukemia survivor Sylvia Hatchell, who Battaglini trained during her treatment at UNC Lineberger. “She taught me a lot,” Battaglini says of Hatchell. “How to handle things differently in the context of disease and how she feels. There is no question that she was successful and continues to be.”

After coaching Olympic champions and professionals for almost two decades, Claudio Battaglini found that there was something much more precious and much more worthy of a fight than a gold medal – life.

*Claudio Battaglini and his wife Becca have three children. They live in Durham. 8*

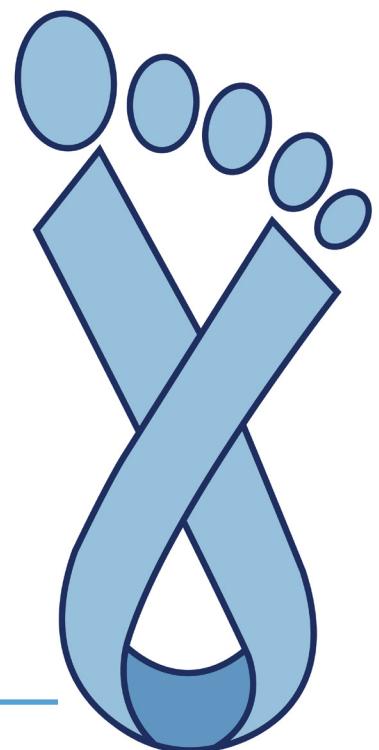
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## Save the Date!

### UNC Cancer Survivor's Day – June 6th

Join us on Saturday, June 6 at the William & Ida Friday Center in Chapel Hill, NC for a very special Celebration of Life, including a keynote address from cancer survivor and UNC women's basketball coach Sylvia Hatchell. The event is free and open to cancer survivors and their caregivers. Register online at [UNCLineberger.org/survivors-day](http://UNCLineberger.org/survivors-day)

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## Few online e-cigarette vendors block sales to minors, UNC Lineberger study finds

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers found that teens can easily buy electronic cigarettes online in a study that gauged online vendors' compliance with a North Carolina law that requires vendors to verify customer age.

For the study, researchers recruited teens to buy nicotine e-cigarettes from 98 web-based vendors. In results published online March 2 in *JAMA Pediatrics*, they report that five purchase attempts were rejected based on age verification



strategies. Another 18 attempts failed, but for reasons unrelated to age verification. That translated to a youth e-cigarette purchase success rate of 93.7 percent.

North Carolina bans e-cigarettes' purchase by minors and requires online vendors of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to use a third-party service to check the buyer's age against a public records database.

"Very few online vendors even gave the appearance of trying to comply with North Carolina's e-cigarette age verification law," said Rebecca S. Williams, MHS, PhD, a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, a research associate with the UNC School of Medicine, and the study's principal investigator.

The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute and U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Tobacco Products.

## UNC Lineberger hosts 39th annual scientific symposium

Researchers from around the world convened at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center's 39th annual symposium April 8-9 to share findings of genetic alterations that drive cancer. Over 400 faculty members and students attended the one-and-a-half-day Friday Center symposium.

UNC Lineberger researchers presented findings of alterations found in breast and bladder cancer, renal cell carcinoma, a rare cancer type called pheochromocytoma, as well as from a study that compared genetic and molecular characteristics of 12 different tumor tissue types. They also discussed efforts to translate their cancer genetics findings into the clinic.

Symposium co-organizer D. Neil Hayes, MD, MPH, a UNC Lineberger member and an associate professor of clinical research in hematology and oncology at the UNC School of Medicine, spoke about a clinical trial at UNC that uses sequencing to identify potential molecular markers in a patient's tumor. The idea is to use the results of those tests to provide an individualized treatment protocol that directly targets the genetic alterations.

Fifty-five percent of 770 enrolled patients who have seen results from the trial so far were recognized to have an actionable mutation, Hayes reported. He described successes and challenges in translating those findings into clinical practice.

## UNC Lineberger study finds potential melanoma drug target



Nancy Thomas, MD, PhD

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers identified a potential new drug target for a potentially deadly form of skin cancer that, when blocked in a pre-clinical study in mice, slowed cancer's growth.

The researchers found high levels of a protein called interleukin-2 inducible T-cell kinase, or ITK, in melanoma samples that they believe is a driver of the cancer's growth. The protein had not previously been explored as a driver of solid tumors.

A study published May 1 in the journal *Clinical Cancer Research* shows that when scientists blocked the ITK protein's activity in mice with an investigational drug, tumor growth slowed. When they manipulated cells in the test tube to have lower ITK expression, they found that the cells reproduced more slowly and with less movement.

"We have discovered that ITK is highly expressed in melanoma even though it was thought to be restricted to immune cells, and when you inhibit it, you decrease melanoma growth," said Nancy E. Thomas, MD, PhD, a UNC Lineberger member, the Irene and Robert Alan Briggaman Distinguished Professor in the UNC School of Medicine Department of Dermatology and the paper's senior author. "Therefore, we think it's a good potential drug target."

## UNC Lineberger's Muss honored as exemplary cancer caregiver

The American Cancer Society honored Hyman B. Muss, MD, director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Geriatric Oncology Program, with a prestigious national award.

Dr. Muss was one of seven cancer care providers from around the country chosen to receive the 2015 American Cancer Society Lane W. Adams Quality of Life Award.

The award recognizes providers who show compassion and dedication beyond the call of duty.

"Dr. Muss shows extraordinary commitment to his patients through his research that seeks to improve cancer care for older patients, his efforts to educate other providers, and the care he gives to his own patients," said Lisa Carey, MD, physician-in-chief for the N.C. Cancer Hospital, a UNC Lineberger member, a professor in breast cancer research, and chief of the UNC School of Medicine Division of Hematology/Oncology.

Muss is a nationally renowned educator, researcher and cancer doctor. He has made a decades-long effort to help optimize evaluation and treatment decisions for older patients with cancer.



Hy Muss, MD



Get the latest UNC Lineberger research, inspiring patient stories, and upcoming events in your inbox! Subscribe at [UNCLineberger.org/signup](http://UNCLineberger.org/signup)

## Northwestern Mutual

“I get by with a little help from my friends.” The lyrics to this classic Beatles song perfectly describe the purpose and atmosphere of UNC’s Pediatric Hematology Oncology Family Retreat. According to Liz and Ola Ferm, whose six-year-old son Alex has battled T-cell lymphoma for the past 28 months, this biannual event has become a time of fun, relaxation, sharing and encouragement for their entire family.

“Alex was diagnosed after we took him for his school kindergarten physical,” Alex’s mom Liz explained. “Our pediatrician found a lump in his neck, and an ultrasound showed multiple tumors. After a series of MRIs and biopsies, Alex began an aggressive form of chemotherapy here at UNC. This all happened within a week of that initial pediatric visit. It was a terrifying time for us as a family.”

While Alex’s illness has taken the family on a long, stressful journey, one of the positive outcomes has been the friendships the Fermes have made with other families of pediatric cancer patients in the clinic. “And those relationships have flourished, especially during the family retreats,” said Liz. “We bond, we reenergize and lift each other up, and we come home ready to keep fighting cancer.”

This type of support for families is precisely why Northwestern Mutual, a leading national financial security company, is now generously supporting the event.

“This partnership is a perfect fit for our organization to give back and help our communities fight childhood cancers,” said Mike Condrey, managing partner of Northwestern Mutual in North Carolina.

“Northwestern Mutual has a legacy of helping families in the communities where we live and work. We understand that childhood cancer takes an enormous financial and emotional toll on children and their families, and we want to help alleviate these burdens.”

Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children ages 1 to 19 in the U.S. Northwestern Mutual committed to accelerating the search for cures to childhood cancers and to providing support to families bravely battling the disease. To date, Northwestern Mutual has provided more than \$7 million to help ease the impact of childhood cancer on families and children, as well as to help advance research for lifesaving projects. Northwestern Mutual in North Carolina has contributed more than \$85,000 in under three years.

The Northwestern Mutual Retreat for Families with Cancer will support two events per year in Chapel Hill. Events are held at the Chapel Hill Aqueduct Center, a peaceful, rural setting perfectly suited for families to come together and take their mind off the, at-times, daily deluge of infusions, scans and treatments. The retreat offers a chance for family members to come together with parents, siblings and caregivers and connect and support others who are also facing cancer.



A generous donation from Northwestern Mutual funds retreats for families battling cancer. (L to R:) Sierra Atwater, CPALS; Mike Condrey, Northwestern Mutual; Stephanie Mazze, LRT/CTRS, CCLS; Stuart Gold, MD, division chief of hematology and oncology, UNC Department of Pediatrics; Alex Ferm, pediatric patient; LeighAnn Wessells, Vice President, CPALS.

“Families leave the weekend feeling renewed with lifted spirits,” said Dr. Stuart Gold, MD, division chief of hematology and oncology in the UNC Department of Pediatrics. “This event is tremendously helpful for families overall going through the treatment of a child with cancer.”

During past events, activities have included a scavenger hunt, workshops for parents and siblings, a “superhero” obstacle course and photo booth, and a festive dinner complete with an awards presentation.

“We are looking forward to the next event for the opportunity to see firsthand the benefit of our support as we volunteer and help these amazing families battling cancer together,” said Condrey. The next event will take place in fall 2015.

## UNC Lineberger honored to be a part of 2015 Tar Heel 10 Miler

Endurance Magazine, The Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership and Fleet Feet Sports came together once again to host Chapel Hill’s largest annual race and celebrate the community. UNC Lineberger was happy to be a race charity partner in this event for the fifth consecutive year. UNC Lineberger runners and fundraisers raised \$12,000 through UNC Lineberger’s Tar Heel 10 Miler fundraising website.



ABOVE: UNC alum Monica Gibbs ('99) is a proud participant.

LEFT: UNC Cancer Care Director Dr. Shelley Earp reaches the top of Laurel Hill.

## Baucom named UNC Lineberger Senior Executive Director of Development and Communications



Martin Baucom has been named the new senior executive director of development and communications at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Prior to joining the cancer center, Martin served as the associate executive director of development for the N.C. State College of Engineering. In this role, Martin directed the College's major and principal gift fundraising program and was responsible for campaign planning for the College of Engineering, including working with College leadership to align resources with fundraising priorities. He led and mentored a team of major gift officers, devising cultivation and solicitation

strategies for top prospects and setting team and individual goals. 8



To give back to an institution that he credits with saving his mother Karen's life, America's top-ranked men's singles tennis player John Isner returned to his hometown of Greensboro on Saturday, February 7th for his annual tennis exhibition event. He was joined by his friend, tennis player and author James Blake as well as Olympic gold medalists and top-ranked doubles players Bob and Mike Bryan. Also pictured are Dr. Ben Calvo, director of the UNC Gastrointestinal Multidisciplinary Oncology Program, and his patient, Karen Isner.

*Save the date!*

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

*Blue Ribbon Gala*

Friday evening  
September 18  
6:30 PM

George Watts Hill  
Alumni Center  
Chapel Hill, NC

For more information, please visit  
[www.unclineberger.org/gala](http://www.unclineberger.org/gala)



UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors members Jan and Steve Capps were presented with the 2015 Outstanding Service Award for their leadership, service and loyal support to the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Board members since 2009, the Capps have established two endowed funds to help support patients and families, donated a beautiful grand piano for patients to enjoy in the N.C. Cancer Hospital and helped host a regional event in their hometown of Wilmington, NC.

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center invites you to join us on social media!



Like us on Facebook at  
[Facebook.com/unclineberger](https://www.facebook.com/unclineberger)



Follow us on Twitter at  
[@UNC\\_Lineberger](https://twitter.com/UNC_Lineberger)

# calendar of events



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## June

**6<sup>th</sup>** UNC Cancer Survivor's Day  
Register at [UNCLineberger.org/survivors-day](http://UNCLineberger.org/survivors-day)

## September

**18<sup>th</sup>** Fall Board of Visitor's Meeting  
Blue Ribbon Gala

**26<sup>th</sup>** Pedal for Peds

For more information about these events and other UNC Lineberger news, visit [www.unclineberger.org](http://www.unclineberger.org), or follow us on [f](#) [t](#)

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center  
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(919) 966-5905  
[www.unclineberger.org](http://www.unclineberger.org)  
Address service requested.

## Highlights from the University Cancer Research Fund



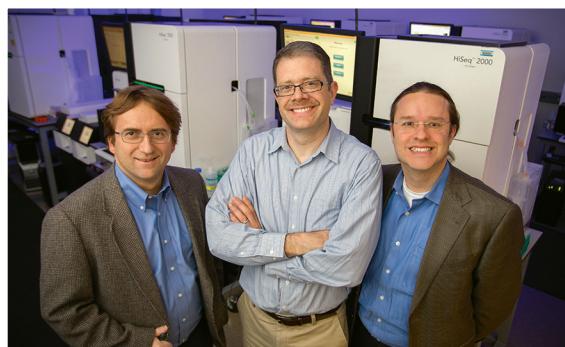
The University Cancer Research Fund (UCRF) is a \$42 million nation-leading investment to stimulate cancer research and reduce North Carolina's leading cause of death. UCRF has been a tremendous success since it was established in 2007. For more information, please visit [UNCLineberger.org/ucrf](http://UNCLineberger.org/ucrf)

**Creating jobs in North Carolina**  
Over 30 startup companies whose progress is directly attributable to UCRF-funded research have been launched since 2007, creating private-sector jobs and raising \$233M in venture capital and federal investment.



### Harnessing data to treat cancer

With UCRF, UNC Lineberger is mobilizing big data to discover risk factors for cancer, better prevent and treat cancer, as well as implement proven prevention, early detection, and health systems changes.



### Mapping the cancer genome

With support from UCRF, UNC sequenced the RNA of 10,000 tumor samples as part of The Cancer Genome Atlas to create a comprehensive atlas of the genetic changes in cancer.



### Discovering novel therapies

UCRF supported research co-led by Joe DeSimone, PhD, that is developing a novel drug-delivery device that drives chemotherapy drugs into hard-to-target tumors like pancreatic cancer.