

# cancer lines



UNC  
LINEBERGER

## For the people, by the people – celebrating Marsico Hall

The state of North Carolina celebrated a major advancement in health research in late March of this year with the opening of Marsico Hall, the newest on-campus research facility made possible with a generous, \$2435 million state investment. As hundreds of UNC faculty, staff and elected officials gathered for the dedication of the building, it was clear the new facility represents much more than its impressive infrastructure alone.

“Looking across the crowd gathered for the dedication, there were so many UNC Lineberger members present who will play a critical role in what this facility will accomplish,” said Ned Sharpless, MD, UNC Lineberger director. “To my left — Stephen Frye, a former GSK executive and a leader in our drug discovery efforts. And to my right — Weili Lin, director of the Biomedical Research Imaging Center. Just two of our members who represent the breadth of cancer research advancements that will be made possible because of Marsico Hall.”

The opening of this amazing facility — coupled with the University Cancer Research Fund and state-of-the-art N.C. Cancer Hospital – will improve the quality of life and treatment of cancer patients throughout North Carolina. Formerly known as the Imaging Research Building or the Biomedical Research Imaging Center building, Marsico Hall is named for Thomas F. Marsico of Denver, Colorado, for his lifetime contributions to health care programs at UNC-Chapel Hill. Tom is the chairman and CEO of Marsico Capital Management in Denver, Colorado, and two of his three children are graduates of UNC.

Marsico Hall was the only new public building funded by the state in 2009. Funds for the building were provided by the people of North Carolina through state appropriations to further the research mission of UNC-Chapel Hill.

“We are grateful for the state’s generous contributions that have made Marsico Hall a reality,” Bill Roper, dean of the UNC School of Medicine, said. “Because of the state’s investment, students and faculty will be able to further advance scientific discovery”

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*Marsico Hall, the newest on-campus research facility, will further advance UNC Lineberger’s campus-wide collaboration in cancer research and clinical care.*

## Pope Foundation gives \$1.3 million to UNC Lineberger



*Left to Right: David Stover, Board Member, John William Pope Foundation; Dr. Thomas Shea; Dr. Kathy Shea; Chancellor Carol Folt; Art Pope, Chairman, John William Pope Foundation; Joyce Pope, Vice President of the John William Pope Foundation and Dean William Roper*

The John William Pope Foundation made a \$1.3 million gift to UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center to fund cancer research and treatment. One million dollars of the Pope Foundation’s gift will fund the creation of the John William Pope Distinguished Professorship in Cancer Research, and \$300,000 will fund the John William Pope Clinical Fellows Awards Program. The gift for the professorship was in honor of Thomas Shea, MD, director of the UNC Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation Program and UNC Lineberger associate director of clinical outreach. Dr. Shea was one of the late John William Pope’s physicians when he was treated for cancer in 2006. The gift was presented at the UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors meeting in April.

“We are honored to receive this generous gift from the John William Pope Foundation,” said Bill Roper, dean of the UNC School of Medicine, vice chancellor for medical affairs, and chief executive officer of the University of North Carolina Health Care System. “Private funds to support both established faculty and junior researchers are critical as we develop the best and brightest physicians. With this gift, we will continue”

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the inside line up



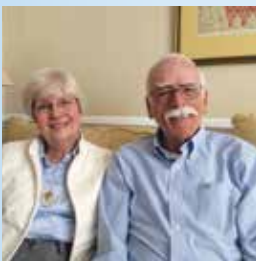
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UNC  
CANCER CARE



Ned Sharpless, MD

# director's message

After a tough winter, I am sure we are all excited that spring weather has finally arrived. Beyond the weather, the beginning of 2014 has been a

remarkable time at UNC Lineberger.

One of the cancer center's top priorities this year is the evaluation of the University Cancer Research Fund, a \$42 million, state-appropriated fund established in 2007. The UCRF is a nation-leading research investment made by North Carolina. The UCRF has produced dramatic changes at UNC-Chapel Hill in the way we study and treat cancer. With help from the UCRF, UNC is now ranked 7th in funding from the National Institutes of Health, up from 13th in 2006.

We enter this next phase of the UCRF with a strategic vision and excitement about future

opportunities. Leadership at the highest level of this University, including President Tom Ross, Chancellor Carol Folt and Provost Jim Dean, have voiced tremendous support of the UCRF and its benefit to UNC and North Carolina. As you network in your communities, I ask you to help us spread the word about the amazing opportunities the UCRF has brought to North Carolina. For stories and updates related to the UCRF, please visit [www.unclineberger.org/ucrf](http://www.unclineberger.org/ucrf).

The beginning of this year also brought an exciting expansion in UNC Lineberger's ability to collaborate across the University to further cancer research. In late March we helped celebrate, along with the entire University community, the opening and dedication of Marsico Hall, the newest on-campus facility supporting health research at UNC. As you will read in the cover article of this *Cancer Lines* issue, hundreds of faculty, elected officials and University staff gathered in the state-of-the-art building to witness the exciting opening of the facility. Key cancer research teams will move into the building — which is physically connected to the UNC

Lineberger building — later this summer.

I am also excited to share with you a new addition to the UNC Lineberger senior administration. Chad Ellis started April 1st as our new associate director. Chad joined us from Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he served as the deputy director of research affairs. Since 2009, Chad has led strategic planning activities for the center, managed key infrastructure and administrative tasks, as well as handled faculty retention and recruitment.

Chad has also spent a significant amount of his career with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), where he completed his postdoctoral fellowship and later served as a program director of the Cancer Centers Program. During that time, he oversaw a portfolio of 22 Comprehensive Cancer Support Grants awarded to NCI-designated cancer centers. Chad has already hit the ground running and is an amazing addition to our exceptional senior administration.

We hope you enjoy reading more about these exciting updates and along with several other stories in our spring issue of *Cancer Lines*.

## Marsico Hall *continued from page 1*

and the delivery of care for North Carolinians and beyond — all in a leading edge facility. This building is a gift from the people of North Carolina, and it is with great pride that we dedicate the building to them and to the advancement of the health sciences.”

UNC President Tom Ross spoke with pride of the researchers who will carry out their work at Marsico Hall. “This world class facility will provide a showcase for what the world's best scientists can accomplish. And that's exactly what we have here at Carolina: scientists who are at the top of their game on the cutting edge of new ideas.”

Bringing together research teams from across campus under the same roof, Marsico Hall will further advance UNC Lineberger's campus-wide collaboration in cancer research and clinical care. One of UNC Lineberger's programs that will see significant expansion as a result of Marsico Hall is cancer immunology and immunotherapy, a growing field focused on harnessing the body's own immune system to fight cancer cells.

Marsico Hall will also enhance the cancer center's capacity in state-of-the-art imaging for UNC cancer patients. The building is equipped with the most advanced imaging equipment, including an MRI/PET scanner. Matt Milowsky, MD, of UNC Lineberger's Urologic Oncology Program is currently conducting a clinical trial using the MRI/PET scanner.

“We are analyzing how this technology can provide a more accurate image of a patient's cancer,” said Dr. Milowsky. “Reviewing blood work and other pathology reports are a great way to monitor our patients' progress during treatment. The scans using this technology — coupled with the pathology — can tell us for sure that a patient is cancer free.”

UNC Lineberger members, Eshelman School of Pharmacy faculty members and faculty from UNC School of Medicine will work side by side in the enhanced laboratory and computational space. The cancer center's translational researchers together with researchers from the Eshelman School of Pharmacy are developing novel cancer drugs, creating innovative means of delivering those drugs to patients' tumors while sparing their normal tissue. “Research teams that were once scattered across campus will now be together in labs just 10 feet away,” said Sharpless. “Breaking down these physical barriers will create more collaboration and continue to position UNC as a leader in the next generation of cancer treatment.”

## UNC Lineberger's Debbie Dibbert honored at NACCCDO Annual Conference



UNC Lineberger Director of External Affairs Debbie Dibbert was honored with the inaugural Lisa Considine Service Award at this year's annual conference of the National Association of Cancer Center Development Officers (NACCCDO). The award was created to recognize a member of NACCCDO who has shown tireless commitment to the profession of development through mentoring, collaborating and participating with NACCCDO colleagues to advance the organization's mission.

Debbie, pictured to the left with husband Doug Dibbert, has served as a board member of NACCCDO for almost a decade, vice chair for two years and most recently as chair from 2012-2014. Her NACCCDO colleagues cited her extensive knowledge, deep commitment and generosity of spirit in nominating her for this award. Congratulations to Debbie!

## UNC Lineberger hosts V Foundation Board meeting

UNC Lineberger hosted The V Foundation for Cancer Research Board of Directors in February 2014. Pictured at left, UNC Lineberger Director Dr. Ned Sharpless, V Foundation Chief Executive Officer Susan Braun, Board Chair Emeritus Robert Lloyd, and UNC Cancer Care Director Dr. Shelley Earp. The V Foundation for Cancer Research has a long history of supporting UNC Lineberger researchers with Translational Grants and V Scholar Awards totaling over \$1.5 million.





## Dr. Chad Ellis, new associate director, UNC Lineberger


UNC Lineberger is pleased to introduce new Associate Director, Chad Ellis, PhD. Dr. Ellis joins UNC Lineberger from Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center (YCC) where he served as deputy director of research affairs. As a member of the senior leadership team at

YCC, Ellis helped to lead that organization through a period of significant growth. Prior to his position at YCC, Dr. Ellis was director of the Cancer Centers Program at the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

In his new role at UNC Lineberger, Dr. Ellis will serve as the lead administrator for the center, overseeing the clinical protocol office, human resources, center finances, information technology as well as the physical

infrastructure of the cancer center. He will also play a critical role in updating the strategic plan that drives the University Cancer Research Fund (UCRF), a \$42 million state investment to support cancer research in North Carolina.

“One of my top priorities will be refreshing the strategic plan for the UCRF along with the renewal of the center’s core grant with NCI. Both of these things are of huge significance to the center, the University and the state of North Carolina. UNC Lineberger has always performed at a high, high level, and we will maintain that.”


Dr. Ellis holds a BS in microbiology and cell science from the University of Florida and a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Illinois School of Medicine. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at NCI, after which he spent several years as a research scientist and consultant in the private sector. He assumed his new position as associate director at UNC Lineberger on April 1st. 

## \$1 million grant from Kay Yow Cancer Fund

The Kay Yow Cancer Fund®, in partnership with The V Foundation for Cancer Research, has awarded a \$1 million women’s cancer research grant to UNC Lineberger to evaluate the impact of physical activity among breast cancer survivors. The grant was awarded to UNC Lineberger to conduct a Phase II, four-year controlled trial to evaluate the impact of a physical activity intervention program on biomarkers of aging and body composition among breast cancer survivors, age 65 and older, who are receiving adjuvant or neoadjuvant chemotherapy. The research project will be conducted as a national, multi-site collaboration with the Cancer and Aging Research Group, UNC Hospitals, affiliated community clinics and the Alliance for Clinical Trials and Oncology.

This grant is an expansion of a well-established base of research being conducted at UNC Lineberger on aging and breast cancer. Dr. Muss collaborated with other UNC researchers on a pilot study to test the Arthritis Foundation’s *Walk With Ease* self-directed walking program, which they adapted for breast cancer patients.

For this pilot study, Dr. Muss and his colleagues were particularly interested in testing the feasibility and benefits of a walking program among older breast cancer survivors.

“Breast cancer is a disease of aging. In fact, most people in the U.S. with breast cancer are now 65 and older,” said Dr. Muss. “We know that incorporating simple, routine exercise—like walking—into a patient’s treatment plan helps maintain function and improve overall quality of life. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to grow this program, help more breast cancer patients and see it realized on a national scale.” 



UNC Lineberger Geriatric Oncology Program Director Hyman Muss, MD, UNC Cancer Care Director Shelley Earp, MD, UNC Women’s Basketball Coach Sylvia Hatchell, UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors member and breast cancer survivor Laura Jensen, Executive Director of the Kay Yow Cancer Fund Susan Donohoe, and The V Foundation for Cancer Research Chief Executive Officer Susan Braun with a ceremonial check at UNC Lineberger.

## Pope Foundation *continued from page 1*

conducting groundbreaking cancer research and delivering outstanding cancer care in North Carolina.”

UNC Chancellor Carol Folt was in attendance for the announcement. “An endowed professorship is one of the highest academic honors that a university can provide its faculty, allowing them to propel their research, ignite collaborations and support mentorship,” said Chancellor Folt. “We are extremely grateful to the John William Pope Foundation for allowing us to bestow this honor to our faculty.”


Dr. Thomas Shea will be nominated to be the first recipient of the John William Pope Distinguished Professorship. Shea is an international leader in the care of hematologic malignancies.

“I am humbled that the Pope family chose to make such a significant gift in my honor and pleased to be considered as the first recipient,” Shea said. “With this new professorship, I hope to expand our research surrounding hematologic malignancies and lay the foundation for continued excellence in our transplant and blood cancer initiatives.”

“My father was passionate about giving to both cancer treatment and research, and that’s exactly what these gifts do,” said Art Pope, chairman and president of the John William Pope Foundation. “He was very clear that he wanted any investment we made to stay in North Carolina. These are the kind of projects he would have wanted.”

The John William Pope Clinical Fellow Awards Program will support annual awards to three outstanding clinical fellows, judged by the faculty on the basis of their extraordinary clinical or translational cancer research during their post-graduate clinical training.

“We wanted to make sure that while we were investing in an established investigator, we were also investing in young investigators,” said Joyce L. Pope, vice president of the John William Pope Foundation.

“This is a seed investment,” said Ned Sharpless, director of UNC Lineberger. “These will be the next great physician-scientists studying cancer, and this program allows us to recognize and foster these talented young people who represent the future of cancer research.” 

## Dr. Matthew Milowsky: Collaboration the key to success



Dr. Matt Milowsky doesn't spend a lot of time sitting down. He rises before dawn to get some exercise and quiet time before his house fills with the happy chaos of his young family. Milowsky and his wife, Amy, are raising three children under the age of six — and one thirteen-year-old golden retriever. When he's not playing guitar, bicycling with his family or chasing his children around the playground, Milowsky is an associate professor of medicine, section chief of genitourinary oncology and co-director of the multidisciplinary urologic oncology program at UNC Lineberger. He came to UNC Lineberger in 2011 from New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, moving to Chapel Hill to join what he calls an "amazing team" of researchers and clinicians.

When talking about his work, Dr. Milowsky emphasizes the value of collaboration. He explains, "What I love to do is clinical and translational research. This was a wonderful opportunity to come

here to an established genitourinary (GU) oncology program and work with top physicians in medical oncology, urology and radiation oncology and researchers throughout the University to develop the clinical and translational aspect of the program. I stepped into this spot where there were already so many amazing people doing outstanding work." He goes on saying, "UNC is a real culture of collegiality. This place is just genuinely friendly, and the collaboration extends across the cancer center and the university."

Underscoring the unique opportunities for collaboration at UNC Lineberger, Milowsky notes, "I can walk up the street and be at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, one of the best public health schools in the country and work with some of the top molecular epidemiologists. You just can't find that at other places."


One of Dr. Milowsky's goals at UNC Lineberger is to develop multi-center partnerships to share ideas and advance GU cancer research. This type of collaboration is particularly important now when genomics has shown that there are some patients whose cancers have genetic alterations that may be targets for new treatments. He explains, "We can't gather that information alone. We need multiple institutions sharing data to find these potential targets as quickly as possible." Milowsky is an integral member of the UNC Lineberger team that is leading the way in developing the multi-center relationships that are necessary to bring this data together.

Another focus of Dr. Milowsky's work is developing the clinical trials program within the urologic oncology program at UNC Lineberger. Clinical trials are the way that researchers answer questions about the efficacy of a therapy. Milowsky's goal is to provide a robust clinical trials program for the people of North Carolina for all urological cancers — prostate, bladder, kidney

and testicular. This is an ambitious goal that will take time to develop, and he is justifiably proud of what has been accomplished in just the last two years. For example, he was recently awarded an opportunity to develop a drug called palbociclib, a new targeted agent for the treatment of bladder cancer. Together with Pfizer, Inc., Dr. Milowsky and UNC Lineberger will be leading a multi-institution clinical trial of the drug in collaboration with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and the University of Michigan.

Bladder cancer research and advocacy are a passion for Dr. Milowsky. He has been involved in the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) for years, serving in several leadership roles. Milowsky describes BCAN as "a grassroots organization that is quickly becoming one of the major cancer advocacy organizations in the country." He notes that bladder cancer has historically been underfunded and in need of strong advocacy. Milowsky and his UNC Lineberger colleagues devote a tremendous amount of their after-hours time to BCAN.

Dr. Milowsky is energized by the exciting advances he sees on the horizon for bladder cancer research and treatment. He speaks of the work of UNC Lineberger colleague, Dr. William Kim finding that there are different types of bladder cancer much like those found in breast cancer. Says Milowsky, "What better place to investigate this than UNC, which is the place that pioneered that type of research in breast cancer?"

Dr. Milowsky is optimistic about the future of bladder cancer treatment. He explains, "The recent publication of the bladder cancer genome atlas shows that close to 70% of bladder cancers are believed to have actionable targets. This means that bladder cancer could be one of the more treatable malignancies." Dr. Milowsky and his colleagues at UNC Lineberger and across the country are working together to find those treatments. 

## Genetic subtypes of bladder cancer reflect breast cancer biology

An effort to understand the genetic causes of bladder cancer led by UNC Lineberger member William Kim, MD, has found similarities between the invasive form of the disease and two forms of breast cancer.

The research is the first step in developing treatments and diagnostic tools for physicians treating bladder cancer, the fourth most common malignancy in women in the United States.

Dr. Kim's team analyzed 262 bladder cancer tumors to reveal that the invasive form of the disease can be classified into two distinct genetic subtypes — basal-like and luminal — which were shown to be highly similar to the basal and luminal subtypes of breast cancer first described by UNC Lineberger member Charles Perou, PhD.

The mapping of the genetic signaling pathways of the breast cancer subtypes has led to development of drugs and diagnostic tools that aid physicians in determining the best course of therapy for patients with that disease. As the identified bladder cancer subtypes share many of the same genetic signaling pathways of breast cancer, researchers hope that the identification of the genetic subtypes can lead to similar advances.

It will be particularly interesting to see whether the bladder subtypes, like the breast subtypes, are useful in stratification for therapy," said Dr. Kim.

Dr. Kim's work also revealed a possible answer to why women diagnosed with bladder cancer have overall poorer outcomes compared to males. Analysis from female patients showed a significantly higher incidence of the deadlier, basal-like tumors, but researchers said that more research is needed before a definite link between the subtype and survival can be confirmed.

**To read the full story, please visit [bit.ly/1jzd28h](http://bit.ly/1jzd28h)**



## Ultrasound provides an alternative way of detecting tumors

While ultrasound provides a less expensive and radiation-free alternative to detecting and monitoring cancer compared to technologies such as X-rays, CT scans and MRIs, the lower clarity and resolution of ultrasound has limited its use in cancer treatment. UNC Lineberger members Nancy Klauber-DeMore, MD, and Paul Dayton, PhD, are working to overcome this limitation by combining ultrasound with a contrast agent comprised of micro-sized bubbles that pair with an antibody produced at elevated levels by many cancers.

Their work focuses on a protein known as SFRP2 that is expressed by many cancers. By binding a microbubble contrast agent to the protein, the researchers were able to greatly improve the resolution and tumor-detecting ability of scans produced using ultrasound — visualizing lesions created by the malignant blood vessel cancer angiosarcoma.

Since ultrasound is less expensive than commonly used imaging methods like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the technique could be useful in lowering the costs to patients being treated for cancer. Ultrasound is more portable than other imaging devices, and it may be useful in providing treatment in rural and low-resource areas.

**To read the full story, please visit [bit.ly/1fQavkO](http://bit.ly/1fQavkO)**

## UNC Lineberger members lead effort to promote HPV vaccination

UNC Lineberger members played a leading role in developing recommendations in a President's Cancer Panel (PCP) report that urged a widespread public campaign to increase the rate of vaccinations for human papillomavirus (HPV).

The effort was led by Gillings School of Global Public Health Dean and UNC Lineberger member Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH, who is chair of the President's Cancer Panel. Dr. Rimer has led the panel since 2011. To form the questions and frame the solutions, Dean Rimer enlisted UNC Lineberger members Jennifer Smith, PhD and Noel Brewer, PhD, national experts in HPV epidemiology and vaccine implementation respectively. The PCP is charged with identifying barriers to progress against cancer and reporting on them to the President of the United States.

With evidence mounting that HPV infection raises the risks of developing a variety of medical conditions, including cervical cancer, the PCP called for a coordinated effort to increase the rates of vaccination among both boys and girls. Presently, only 33 percent of girls and 7 percent of boys in the US have received the recommended three doses of the vaccine. A further 54 percent of girls and 20 percent of boys have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

The report calls on health care providers to reduce missed opportunities to recommend and administer HPV vaccines. To further this goal, the panel recommends that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control develop communication efforts aimed at increasing health care providers' knowledge about the benefits of HPV vaccines and encouraging providers to recommend strongly that age-eligible adolescents be vaccinated.

**To read the full story, please visit [bit.ly/1kHJsnD](http://bit.ly/1kHJsnD)**

## Cancer chemotherapy accelerates 'molecular aging'

Researchers at UNC Lineberger have developed a test that measures how much chemotherapy accelerates the aging process of cancer patients.

The research team led by Hanna Sanoff, MD, MPH, also included Ned Sharpless, MD and Hy Muss, MD. They measured the level of p16, a protein that causes cellular aging, in the blood of 33 women over the age of 50 who had undergone chemotherapy for curable breast cancer. The results showed that curative chemotherapy caused an increase in a patient's molecular age that on average was equivalent to 15 years of normal aging. Dr. Sanoff said the p16 test holds promise as a means of evaluating how chemotherapy will affect a patient's long-term health and survival and as a predictive biomarker for the long-term toxicity of chemotherapy.

"Our theory is that if you have an advanced molecular age to begin with, it will be harder for you to tolerate chemotherapy," said Dr. Sanoff. "We believe a high level of p16 before treatment could mean that a patient will have a harder time making new blood cells after each chemotherapy treatment, and therefore be at greater risk for anemia and infection during chemotherapy."

**To read the full story, please visit [bit.ly/1kTalYA](http://bit.ly/1kTalYA)**



## AACR Annual meeting features UNC Lineberger members

UNC Lineberger members shared their research and expertise at the 105th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in San Diego on April 5-9.

Speakers from UNC Lineberger presented at 14 sessions on topics such as cancer genomics, clinical applications of nanotechnology, targeted molecular therapies and cancer and aging. UNC Lineberger Director Ned Sharpless, MD, chaired the Major Symposium on Senescence, Cancer and Aging, where he presented on "Measuring senescence during cancer therapy."

Two researchers affiliated with UNC Lineberger received awards at the meeting. Tikvah Hayes, a graduate student in the lab of UNC Lineberger member Channing Der, was awarded with a 2014 Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award. Postdoctoral fellow, Amanda E.D. Van Swearingen, received a 2014 Women in Cancer Research Scholar Award. Both winners also presented posters at the meeting.

**To read the full story, please visit [bit.ly/1kIHp4o](http://bit.ly/1kIHp4o)**

## Genetic, non-invasive test could improve colon cancer screening



UNC Lineberger member David Ransohoff, MD, was part of a team of scientists responsible for evaluating a non-invasive test for colon cancer. The test, which detects genetic abnormalities related to cancer, could significantly improve the effectiveness of colon cancer screening.

Researchers compared two different types of tests used for screening colorectal cancer: a non-invasive, multitarget stool test that includes DNA markers related to colon cancer along with a test that detects stool blood, versus a commercial fecal immunochemical test (FIT).

While the FIT test detects hidden blood in the stool, a potential signal for cancer, the multitarget test also includes genetic mutations in the stool that are related to cancer. In the study of nearly 10,000 participants, the DNA test detected 92 percent of colon cancer, significantly more cancers compared to the 72 percent for the FIT test in asymptomatic participants at average risk for colorectal cancer.

While the DNA test appears to be more sensitive than the FIT test, it did produce more false positive results, which would lead to colonoscopy. Further, the study did not address the question of how frequently non-invasive testing might be needed.

**To read the full story, please visit [bit.ly/1kTapYq](http://bit.ly/1kTapYq)**



## UNC Lineberger Symposium focuses on "Epigenetics and Cancer"

UNC Lineberger members Timothy Gershon, MD, PhD, and Ian Davis, MD, PhD, at the 38th Annual UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Symposium: Epigenetics and Cancer. The symposium, held April 21-22, has established a tradition of excellence as the Triangle's top educational meeting and brought together more than 450 scientists from across the country to discuss a topic significant to cancer research, treatment and prevention. A distinguished group of 18 speakers shared their perspectives on how molecular biology and genetics is reshaping our understanding of the critical role that epigenetics plays in cancer.

## Jim and Kay Mann: Investing in the future

For Jim and Kay Mann, investing wisely and prudently has always been a way of life. Jim, a self-made successful businessman with a knack for knowing a good deal says UNC Lineberger's Seed Grant Program that invests in early stage cancer research resonated with him from the start.



Jim has a unique perspective on the challenges of cancer research and treatment. He received his first cancer diagnosis in 1991 when a physical at the Mayo Clinic revealed that he had prostate cancer. He kept returning to the Mayo Clinic for follow-up care and was also treated there for laryngeal cancer that was first diagnosed in 2007.

In 2013, Jim and Kay decided it would make sense for Jim to have a cancer treatment team closer to their home in Pittsboro. When a shadow was found on Jim's lung last year, his local physician suggested that he go to UNC Lineberger. Kay agreed saying "we have such a wonderful institution here at UNC Lineberger, so why not take advantage of that?"

Jim came under the care of Dr. Patricia Rivera, co-director of UNC's Multidisciplinary Thoracic Oncology Program and cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. Benjamin Haithcock. The Manns felt confident that UNC Lineberger's

multidisciplinary approach to cancer diagnosis and treatment would provide Jim with the best possible care. Now Kay uses the word "family" when she talks about the cancer center saying, "when we first came into the UNC Lineberger family, everyone from the receptionist to the surgeon was just so nice and reassuring. Dr. Rivera was just wonderful. She took so much time with us, and we really appreciated that."

The Manns are driven by a desire to help others who will come after them. Says Kay, "during his own experience with cancer treatment, Jim started doing what he could to help others in the future. When he was helped by a new surgical procedure, he asked the surgeon to share his surgical notes so that others could benefit from the new procedure as well."

Jim and Kay learned that the Seed Grant Program supports the advancement of innovative, early-stage ideas in cancer research. The grants are funded through private donations and are awarded through a rigorous competitive process administered by UNC Lineberger senior leadership. The funding provided by these grants offers a way for researchers to collect initial data and position themselves to be more competitive in the quest for larger government and foundation grants. In this way, the Seed Grant Program can leverage donor contributions into hundreds of thousands and, in a few cases, millions of dollars in further research grants.

Jim and Kay decided to earmark their seed grant gift to thoracic cancer research and created The James W. and Kay J. Mann Fund for Thoracic Oncology Research. They will continue to add to the fund in future years. Jim explains, "Anyone who contributes to the seed grant fund will have the personal satisfaction of helping somebody down the road. We do. We feel very fortunate to have that sense of passing it on." 📖

### New Faces at UNC Lineberger



Kaylon Kirk has joined UNC Lineberger in the role of web and social media manager. Kaylon is a 2013 graduate of the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She previously served as a web and social media

intern at The V Foundation for Cancer Research. Kaylon, who hails from Pinehurst, is a true blue Tar Heel. She loves watching Carolina basketball and spending time with her basset hound, Roy. Says Kaylon, "I could not be more excited to join the UNC Lineberger team. Being able to use my skills to help our researchers in their pursuit of a cure — it's a dream come true."



Communications Manager, Jeanne Riek, is a lawyer who has always thought of herself as a writer. A graduate of Michigan State University and The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, she brings a broad

base of experience in academic, nonprofit and corporate communications. A long-time volunteer fundraiser for UNC Lineberger, Jeanne is delighted to play a role in the wonderful work going on at the cancer center. Jeanne and her husband, Jim, live in Carrboro and have two children. 📖

### Volunteers help with Epic@UNC launch

On April 4th, UNC Health Care and the N.C. Cancer Hospital transitioned to a new electronic medical record system called Epic@UNC that provides coordinated, real-time information for patients and health care providers. Epic@UNC helps ensure that patients receive the highest quality care. Because Epic@UNC uses one database, it will provide "one patient ID, one problem list, one medication record and one bill" for each patient across UNC Health Care.

With Epic@UNC comes a new service that connects patients to their medical information and their UNC care team all in one secure, easy-to-use online portal known as *My UNC Chart*. This service allows patients to message their providers, request appointments, access test results, request prescription refills and even pay bills online. *My UNC Chart* also offers a free mobile app for Android and iPhone.



The Sanofi-Aventis Conference Room at N.C. Cancer Hospital served as the command center during the launch of Epic@UNC.

The launch of this innovative electronic medical record system was months in the making. N.C. Cancer Hospital staff received extensive training, and everyone at UNC Health Care worked together for a smooth transition. The Epic@UNC command center was located in the Sanofi-Aventis Conference Room in the N.C. Cancer Hospital. From this room, the Epic support teams coordinated their efforts. Volunteer lay navigators and members of the N.C. Cancer Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Board played an important role in the implementation of Epic@UNC.

Throughout the month of April, these volunteers fanned out across the N.C. Cancer Hospital to help spread the word about *My UNC Chart* and help patients activate their accounts. We couldn't have done it without them! 📖

## 2014 Tar Heel 10 Miler

On April 26th, more than 6,000 people participated in the Tar Heel 10 Miler, Chapel Hill's largest annual race. For the fourth consecutive year, UNC Lineberger was a charity partner for the event. The cancer center was represented by a number of runners and fundraisers who raised over \$19,000 for cancer research, bringing the four year total to more than \$50,000. Mark your calendar for the next Tar Heel 10 Miler on April 18, 2015!



Director of UNC Cancer Care, Shelley Earp, MD, presents artwork by Elaine O'Neil to publisher and founder of Endurance Magazine, Steve Lackey, at the Tar Heel 10 Miler VIP Appreciation Event on April 24th



Above: Congratulations to the entire Fryar family of Rocky Mount on the success of One Voice: The Holly Project! The February 15th talent show filled the Rocky Mount High School theater and raised more than \$10,000 for the UNC Lineberger Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Clinic. Pictured are UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors member, Jean Kitchin, Holly Fryar, Ian Fryar, UNC Lineberger Special Events Coordinator Jennifer Bowman and Debbie Fryar.



Right: Marie Clem raised more than \$5,000 for bone cancer research at UNC Lineberger with her 15-mile Hike for a Cure in Dumfries, Virginia on April 26th. Thank you, Marie!



## Save the Date! Mill Creek 'Skins' Game with Pro Golfers, June 16th.

Come out on Monday, June 16 (the day after the U.S. Open tournament at Pinehurst), to see some of the best PGA Tour professionals up close and personal as they play at Mill Creek Golf Club in Mebane. Master of Ceremonies, Woody Durham, will be there to announce the big plays of the day. All proceeds from the event support cancer research at UNC Lineberger! Purchase your tickets today at [www.golfmillcreek.com](http://www.golfmillcreek.com) (children are free).



Trinity High School senior Evan Norfleet organized the Dr. Edward A. Norfleet Memorial Golf Tournament in memory of his grandfather. The tournament was held on April 14th at the Chapel Hill Country Club. Over \$20,000 was raised to benefit pancreatic cancer research at UNC Lineberger, where Dr. Norfleet was treated for the disease before his death in 2010. Pictured here at the tournament are Cindy Norfleet, Evan Norfleet, Ginger Norfleet and Greg Norfleet. Many thanks to Evan!



The Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Big Three 3-Point Challenge results are in! Hundreds of baskets were made and thousands of votes were cast in support of three great charities — UNC Lineberger, Duke Children's Hospital and The V Foundation for Cancer Research. UNC received the most fan text votes, earning a \$17,500 donation for UNC Lineberger. Pictured here enjoying the BCBSNC Big Three Legends game is five-time NBA All-Star Brad Daugherty with UNC Lineberger Director of External Affairs Debbie Dibbert and former UNC basketball players, Donald Williams, Melvin Scott and George Lynch. Thanks to BCBSNC for their support!

# calendar of events

## June

16<sup>th</sup> Mill Creek 'Skins' Game

## September

26<sup>th</sup> Fall Board of Visitors Meeting (Friday Center)

## October

25<sup>th</sup> 5th Annual Pedal for PEDS

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



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Left: UNC Chancellor Carol Folt, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy Dean Bob Blouin, UNC System President Tom Ross and Tom Marsico celebrate the dedication of Marsico Hall.

Below: Tom Marsico, UNC Lineberger Director Dr. Ned Sharpless and UNC Vice Chancellor for University Development David Routh at the dedication of Marsico Hall.



Above: State Sen. Valerie Foushee, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy Dean Bob Blouin, UNC Board of Trustees Chair Lowry Caudill, UNC System President Tom Ross, North Carolina Secretary of Health and Human Services Aldona Wos, UNC Chancellor Carol Folt, Tom Marsico, UNC School of Medicine Dean William Roper, Dean Emeritus of the School of Medicine Jeffrey Houpt, former state Sen. Tony Rand, state Rep. Verla Insko and state Sen. Michael Woodard cut the ribbon at the dedication of Marsico Hall.

Right: New lab space at Marsico Hall will bring together researchers from UNC Lineberger, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and the UNC School of Medicine.

Far right: Marsico Hall is connected to UNC Lineberger by a third floor walkway.

