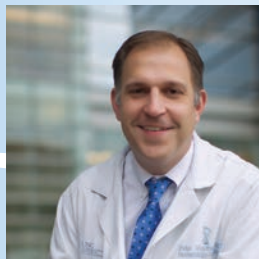


cancerlines



UNC
LINEBERGER

the inside line up



4 Peter Voorhees:
Translating
laboratory findings,
patient interactions



5 Rimer awarded
ACS Medal of Honor



7 Lucky 13 bicyclists
finish coast-to-coast
ride and surpass
fundraising goal



8 Remembering Dr.
Keith Amos



UNC
CANCER CARE

Dr. Norman Sharpless appointed Director of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Norman “Ned” Sharpless, MD, will become director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, effective January 1, 2014. Shelley Earp, MD, current UNC Lineberger director, will continue as director of UNC Cancer Care. William L. Roper, MD, MPH, Stuart Bondurant Professor, Dean and CEO, UNC School of Medicine and UNC Health Care, announced these leadership changes for the university and health care system’s cancer program.

Dr. Sharpless is UNC Lineberger’s third director since its founding in 1975. He follows Dr. Earp and Dr. Joseph Pagano, the Center’s founding director. As UNC Lineberger director, Dr. Sharpless will organize, develop, and promote top-tier, pioneering, and transdisciplinary cancer research across the School of Medicine and the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

In making the announcement, Dr. Roper said, “Led by the exceptional leadership team of Drs. Earp, Sharpless and Physician-in-Chief of the N.C. Cancer Hospital, Lisa A. Carey, UNC’s cancer program is well-positioned to provide the latest in clinical care and research to better serve our patients and our state. I look forward to working with Dr. Sharpless as our next Cancer

Center Director. As an outstanding clinician, researcher, and scientific entrepreneur, he is nationally recognized in his field. I have great confidence that Dr. Sharpless is the right choice to continue the tradition of excellence established by his predecessors, Drs. Earp and Pagano.”

Dr. Sharpless, Wellcome Distinguished Professor in Cancer Research and professor of medicine and genetics, has served as the UNC Lineberger’s deputy director and co-program leader for molecular therapeutics. Sharpless was a Morehead Scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill where he majored in mathematics.



After graduating from the UNC School of Medicine with honors and distinction, Dr. Sharpless completed his internal medicine training at the Massachusetts General Hospital, his hematology and oncology fellowship training at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and a postdoctoral research fellowship also at the Dana-Farber. In 2000, he joined the faculty at Harvard Medical School.

He returned to UNC as a faculty member in 2002. In addition to his clinical work as a medical oncologist, Dr. Sharpless runs a well-funded research program studying cancer and aging, as well as mentoring MD-PhD

continued on page 3

“The Lineberger Cancer Center has thrived in no small measure because of the stable and inspired leadership, first of Joe Pagano, and then, of Shelley Earp. Shelly has been a transformative leader, bringing the Lineberger to the forefront of this nation’s Comprehensive Cancer Centers in its use of translational science to improve cancer outcomes. Ned is the ideal leader to carry forward this legacy of distinguished leadership. He possess the academic talent and stature, the personal qualities, the vision, and the energy to make certain that the Lineberger Cancer Center plays its leading role in the campaign to conquer cancer”

— Edward Benz, MD
President, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Member, University Cancer Research Fund Committee

Smithsonian taps UNC Lineberger’s Evans for genomics exhibit



Visitors explore the human genome at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. Photo credit Donald E. Hurlbert and James Di Loreto, Smithsonian.

Ten years ago, an international coalition of researchers and governments completed one of the largest undertakings in the history of science — the sequencing of the human genome. The Human Genome Project, a map of the more than 20,000 genes that make up a human being’s genetic code, has become a cornerstone of modern biological and medical research.

To celebrate this achievement, the Smithsonian Institute and National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) brought together a panel of experts that included UNC Lineberger’s James Evans to plan and execute an exhibit aimed at helping the public understand the importance of genomics. The exhibit runs from June 14, 2013–September 1, 2014 in in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. Then it will begin a tour of North American museums.

Evans, MD, PhD, Bryson Distinguished Professor of Genetics and Medicine and leader of the UNC Lineberger Clinical Genetics Program, said the Smithsonian and NHGRI approached him to help the exhibitors explain the links between genomics and medicine. Genomics plays a role in many diseases and human

continued on page 2



Shelley Earp, MD

director's message

Like a country, the health and well-being of an institution rests upon its young people. At UNC and its Cancer Center, we understand this.

After recruiting the country's finest minds with an eye towards their fit in our collaborative and caring culture, we try our best to provide them with resources, opportunities, and advancement and, yes, even a little nurturing. It's the right way to build our large team because these faculty, in turn, take care of our students, residents, staff, fellows and patients.

If they feel supported, they give back; and sometimes it pays off big time! That's why I'm so glad to report that Ned Sharpless, a brilliant physician-scientist, Greensboro native, son of two UNC graduates, and a Morehead scholar, will become the next UNC Lineberger director.

There is no one I'd rather have leading the Center than Ned. While he is a very knowledgeable oncologist and a superb scientist, he is much more than that. He's a thoughtful and creative person and caring doctor. He has the capacity to see the big picture and communicate that to others. In this next era of cancer prevention, treatment and health care, effective leaders will have to fuse science and practice. Ned will do that extremely well.

Phi Beta Kappa and AOA graduate of UNC-CH

and School of Medicine, respectively, Ned went off to Boston for training at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, before joining Harvard Medical School as a faculty member. We recruited Ned back home in 2002 and he has fulfilled every hope we had for his career development, service to his patients, education for his trainees, major findings from his laboratory and multiple national awards. Since returning, Ned has served in several leadership positions at UNC Lineberger, including Program Leader, Associate and then Deputy Director. He knows cancer care, cancer research, and the Cancer Center.

As UNC Lineberger Director, Ned will focus on developing and promoting high-quality, innovative, and transdisciplinary cancer research across the School of Medicine and the UNC Chapel Hill campus. He will become Principal Investigator of UNC's NCI core grant in 2014.


A year ago the school and health care system created the post of Director of UNC Cancer Care to oversee UNC's cancer efforts. In that position I will continue working closely with Ned to coordinate cancer care, research, and outreach for the University, School of Medicine and UNC Health Care. Much remains to be done if we are to achieve our aspiration to be the best public cancer program in the US, and I look forward to continuing the work we have started. I will also remain as principal investigator of the UNC Breast Cancer SPORE.

The transition has been taking shape over the last six months, during which time Ned and I have

worked closely together. With great faculty, staff and leadership, UNC Lineberger's productivity will continue to be exceptional as we prepare for the competitive renewal of our NCI Core Grant in 2015.

When we talk about home-grown leadership, dial back to 1997 when we recruited a superb young breast cancer oncologist from Johns Hopkins. Well-trained in the emerging field of translational science, Lisa Carey jumped right in, eventually leading the UNC Breast Center, working with Bob Millikan and Chuck Perou on ground-breaking research from the Carolina Breast Cancer (CBCS) study, and rising to national prominence. Lisa is now chairing the national committees and clinical trials that are changing the face of breast cancer care.

The last 18 months began with Lisa being appointed Associate Director of Clinical Research, Division Chief of Oncology, and Physician-in-Chief at the N.C. Cancer Hospital; it will end with Ned becoming Center Director. I can't emphasize enough how happy I am and how fortunate UNC is to have these two leaders in place to guide us through the next 20 years! Everyone in the country knows how bright, personable and accomplished these two are. That they've both decided to repay UNC's investment in their careers by taking on these positions of service to the State of North Carolina and UNC delights me.

UNC Lineberger has a bright future ahead of it with an exceptional faculty, hard-working staff, and visionary leaders who do marvelous things every day. Our commitment to the people and state of North Carolina remains steadfast. We are today's best care and tomorrow's best hope. 

Smithsonian Genomics Exhibit *continued from page 1*



Dr. James Evans

traits, said Evans, from determining whether a person can roll their tongue to increasing a person's chance of developing a form of cancer.

"Genomics and our burgeoning understanding of genomics is central to who we are as human beings. It helps get across the idea that the genome is responsible for many of your traits, many of the things that make you you," said Evans.

The 4,400 square foot exhibit celebrates the work of the Human Genome Project, as well as the 60th anniversary of the revelation of DNA's double-helical structure by James Watson, Francis Crick, Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin. Visitors are presented with exhibits that explain how researchers revealed the genome, present the connections between genomics and health, show how the genome links us to the natural world and explore how genomics can help us understand the long history of humanity. One of the things that visitors can take away from the exhibit is a deeper appreciation of the complexity of the genomic code and the scale of the accomplishment of the Human Genome Project's researchers, said Evans.

"It is hard, even for someone who works with it every day, to get your head around just how much data is packed into the genome. For example, one of the exhibits when you walk in is a flat screen TV with As, Cs, Ts and Gs (the alphabet of the human genome) streaming across it at a good clip. What they say is that you would have to stand here for an entire year to see the entire genome," said Evans.

At UNC Lineberger, one major legacy of the Human Genome Project is that it prepared the groundwork for sequencing the genomes of many of the most common types of cancers. Researchers at UNC Lineberger have taken a lead in The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), a project aimed at providing the international research

community with detailed genomic information on human cancers to aid in research and drug development.

"TCGA is one of many examples of the way that The Human Genome Project has propelled science. The Human Genome Project has given us tremendous insight into everything from cancer to our ancestry, to Alzheimer's disease to you name it," said Evans.


At its most basic level, genomics is the understanding of what makes human beings who we are. Evans said the story of humanity is revealed through the code contained within our genes.

"The genetics shows us that about 60,000 year ago, a relatively small band, probably a few hundred humans, emerged out of Africa and basically populated the world. And we are all related to that small band of people that emerged out of Africa at that time," said Evans.

On the practical side, Evans and his colleagues lead NC Genes, an NIH-funded project that will help selected UNC patients and families find out what disease predispositions they carry in their genes. The project features physicians, geneticists, psychologists, and social scientists working to determine what is the best way to help subjects learn about and deal with the genes that they carry.

For the people going through the exhibit, Evans said he hopes they come away with a greater appreciation of the role genomics, and science in general, in developing an understanding of the modern world. "We live in a modern world surrounded by the fruits of scientific knowledge and technology, and engaged citizens need to learn more about science to understand how to address many political and social issues.

"We live in an age where science touches our lives constantly and in every sphere. Yet, the general public and our leaders all too often have a poor understanding of science. Given its tremendously important role in our lives it is critical that the public understand scientific concepts that shape us and influence us," said Evans.

For more information on the exhibit, visit the official website at unlockinglifescode.org. 

A Conversation with Director-Elect Sharpless



(L-R) Drs. Joseph S. Pagano, Ned Sharpless and Shelley Earp

and other graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

Dr. Sharpless said, "I am very excited about assuming the leadership of one of the nation's oldest, largest and best comprehensive cancer centers. It is a privilege to follow visionary directors and scientists like Joe Pagano and Shelley Earp in this role. I look forward to continuing their vision for cancer research at the University of North Carolina, as well as to developing new programs to take advantage of emerging approaches to cancer care. Thanks to an outstanding and diverse faculty, generous state support through the University Cancer Research Fund, and grateful patients and donors, I think the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center is poised to lead in cancer research in the 21st century.

As director of UNC Cancer Care, Dr. Earp will continue to be responsible for organizing, developing, and promoting cancer research, care services, education, and outreach for the University, School of Medicine and UNC Health Care.

Roper added, "Thanks to Dr. Earp's leadership, passion and vision, UNC Lineberger is widely recognized as one of the nation's top cancer centers. We are fortunate that he will continue to help guide our exceptional cancer program in his continuing role as Director, UNC Cancer Care. In particular, Shelley's expertise and knowledge of UNC and North Carolina will be of great benefit as we advance our goal of being the leading public cancer program." 8

What UNC Leaders are Saying

"Thanks to Shelley, superb cancer research permeates virtually every department of the Medical School, and throughout the Health Sciences Schools. Our modern research buildings, our splendid cancer hospital, our flexible assets would count for little without Shelley who built trust across the campus and gained the respect of North Carolina's legislature and the admiration of cancer centers across the US. His final gift is his recruitment of Ned Sharpless as our next director with his peerless credentials as a scientist, an oncologist and early recognition nationally as a leader. Our only requirement is that Ned remain as Director at least until 2025 when the center's three UNC directors will have spanned half a century of building and reshaping the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center as it continues to add to its distinction."

— Joseph S. Pagano, MD
Director Emeritus, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

"UNC has a remarkable record of developing junior faculty. Many have risen to national prominence, among them Drs. Sharpless and Carey. We're particularly fortunate that the future of UNC Lineberger and the N.C. Cancer Hospital are in the hands of these remarkable clinician scientists. Other institutions search the country to find program leadership of this caliber. Ours are already here."

— Shelley Earp, MD
Director, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

"UNC Lineberger has benefited from extraordinary leadership and stability in Drs. Pagano and Earp. At many cancer centers, population health is an afterthought, but here, that is not the case. Shelley Earp is one of the most highly regarded cancer center directors in the country, and I am so grateful to him. Ned [Sharpless] is the right person to carry on the great Pagano/Earp leadership tradition, with his clinical, entrepreneurial and basic science credentials and his North Carolina roots. We look forward to working with him."

— Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH
Dean, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
Alumni Distinguished Professor of Health Behavior
Member, University Cancer Research Fund Committee

"The UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy's partnership with UNC Lineberger has catapulted us to a position as the premiere cancer-drug discovery program in the country. Shelley Earp's support as a leader, partner, and colleague has been a huge part of our success. We are truly pleased that Ned Sharpless who has an exceptional research track record with a major focus on drug development has been tapped to be his successor. Dr. Sharpless has proven himself as a physician, a scientist, and an administrator, and I have great confidence in him and great expectations of him as Lineberger's new director."

— Robert Blouin, PharmD
Dean, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy
Member, University Cancer Research Fund Committee

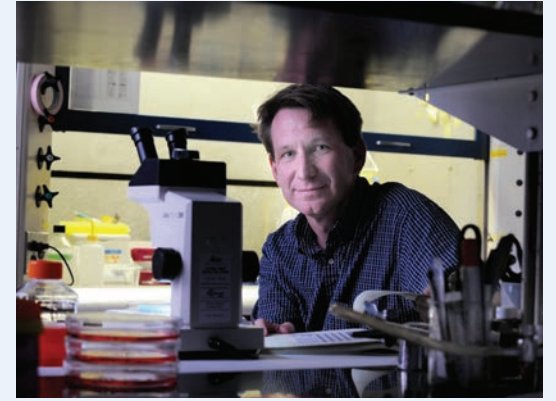


Photo by: Donn Young

What motivates you in your work as a physician-scientist?

I am passionate about cancer research and improving care for patients with cancer. I am fascinated by the basic science of cancer, and I run a 20-person lab working to understand the fundamental biology of how normal cells turn into cancer cells. My scientific curiosity is tempered by significant real world experience with the disease. As a medical oncologist, I routinely care for patients admitted to the hospital's busy leukemia service. This is personally motivating, as care of this difficult disease remains frustrating despite significant advances in recent years. Like most other adults in the United States, my family is full of cancer survivors including my sister and aunt, as well as cherished loved ones who lost out to the disease, like my Dad.

Were you always a Tar Heel?

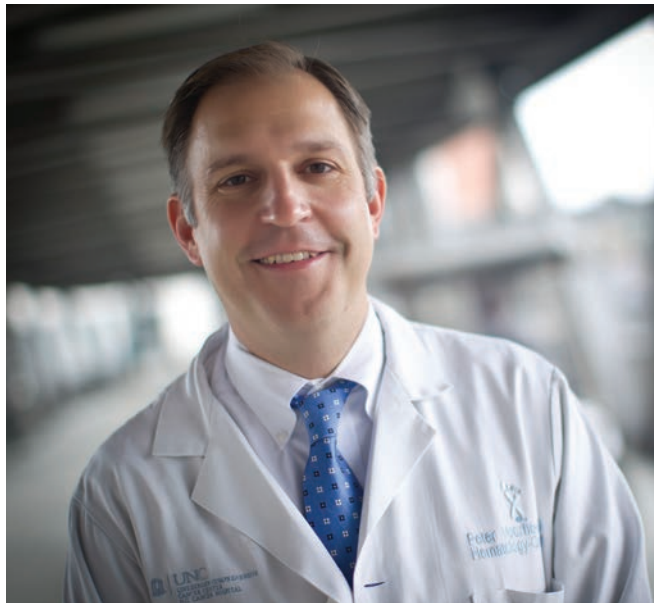
Yes, we have deep Eastern NC roots: my mother is from Goldsboro with family in Fayetteville and Kenly. I grew up in Greensboro, and went to UNC undergrad as a Morehead Scholar. I am a double alumni of UNC (BS Mathematics in 1988; MD in 1993) in a family full of Carolina undergrad and School of Medicine attendees (two parents, one aunt, two sisters and two brothers-in-law). Family lore has it that my parents first met in the original medical school library.

Tell us a little about your family.

My wife, Julie, is a physician also on the UNC faculty in the Departments of Neurosurgery and Endocrinology, and we have two teenage children, 14 and 16, at Chapel Hill High School who perplex their parents while making good grades and starring on their respective soccer teams.

What are you looking forward to as director?

I look forward to fostering a translational, innovative, and entrepreneurial environment at UNC to propel discovery to clinical applications. I also welcome getting better acquainted with our supporters and using every opportunity to spread the word about how UNC Lineberger serves not only the people and state of North Carolina, but creates new knowledge for the national and international cancer communities. 8



Peter Voorhees: Translating laboratory findings, patient interactions best parts of being a doctor

Peter Voorhees, MD, divides his time between seeing patients and developing and leading clinical trials in multiple myeloma. Dr. Voorhees, Director of the Myeloma Program, says, “There have been tremendous advances in multiple myeloma therapy over the past 5–10 years and the median overall survival has approximately doubled in that period of time. However, the majority of patients with myeloma are not cured with existing therapy, so, it’s critical that we improve upon the progress we have made with drugs such as Revlimid and Velcade. To this end, the key focus of my clinical research is to develop novel therapies for myeloma patients.”

He knows these drugs well from the start of his internal medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin through his fellowship at UNC when these drugs were being tested and approved. Witnessing this clinical progress helped determine his career path.

“I was on the inpatient hematology/oncology patient unit as one of my first rotations as a first-year resident, and I was drawn to hematologic malignancies right from the beginning. I met patients with acute leukemia and other hematologic malignancies and saw firsthand how bedside advances translated into improved therapies for patients.”

The Michigan native’s first role model for a translational physician was his father, a dermatologist

at the University of Michigan. “He has always had a strong passion for his work and was interested in bringing laboratory research to bear on clinical research. Although I didn’t go into the same field that he did, he has influenced my career path in hematology/oncology.”

Dr. Voorhees entered Georgetown University as a pre-med student. “I had a strong idea I would eventually go into medicine, but I realized that I probably wouldn’t get a chance to do something non-medical after college, so I decided to major in English with a minor in biology.” His favorite authors include T. S. Eliot, Toni Morrison, and James Joyce: “I enjoyed my James Joyce class quite a bit, as painful as it was to get through some of his material. Perhaps my struggles with James Joyce made it easier to tackle medical literature later in my career.”

Another favorite class at Georgetown was cell biology, and his professor drew him into laboratory research. During medical school at the University of Michigan, Dr. Voorhees conducted research at the NIH on a summer research fellowship between his first and second years and then again for a year between the second and third year of medical school as part of the NIH Howard Hughes Medical Institute Cloister Program. There he met an important mentor, Dr. Juan Bonifacino, a cell biologist studying how proteins are directed to specific organelles inside a cell. “Although identifying a mechanism by which proteins are directed to the trans-Golgi network of a cell has not had a direct impact on my current work, the laboratory experiences then and during fellowship have proved invaluable to how I approach translational research today.”

When he came to UNC as a fellow, he worked with Dr. Beverly Mitchell, then division chief of hematology/oncology. “She was a strong advocate for me right from the beginning and helped cultivate my interest in developing new therapies for hematologic malignancies based on growing knowledge of how these diseases work at the molecular level.”

His research mentor during fellowship and as a junior faculty member was Dr. Bob Orlowski, under whose guidance he became involved in laboratory research in multiple myeloma and early phase clinical research with Velcade, a drug now FDA- approved for multiple myeloma. “I will always be grateful for Dr. Orlowski’s mentorship at UNC. My work with him is what led me to a career in clinical research in multiple myeloma.”

Dr. Voorhees enjoys being at UNC Lineberger. “The collegial environment at UNC is second to none. The opportunities for collaboration in Lineberger and around UNC in general are exceptional.”

Dr. Voorhees, now associate professor of medicine, is involved in physician and patient education when he is not in the clinic. He regularly gives patient talks for groups such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation and answers patient questions for the Myeloma Beacon, an on-line resource for patients with multiple myeloma. “Multiple myeloma is a highly complex disease, and the treatment choices are thankfully numerous. Navigating the large volumes of information out there and making informed choices can be quite difficult. Through patient education, I hope to arm patients with the information they need to make the best decisions about their care.”

He and his wife, Michelle, both completed fellowships at UNC. When he’s not in the clinic, he spends much of his time with his family: Michelle, daughter, Ella, 10, and sons, Ryan, 9, and Justin, 7. “Our kids are very engaged in sports and other extracurricular activities, so we enjoy watching them participate in their various activities.”

Dr. Voorhees says, “The best part of being a doctor is my interactions with the patients. It’s rewarding to be a part of their lives and a part of their struggles. The ultimate goal of what I do at work on a day-to-day basis is to make a positive impact on the lives of my patients. To see the advances that have been made in the laboratory setting translate into positive outcomes for your patients right in front of your very eyes is very special.”

Katy Jones named new director of communications and marketing

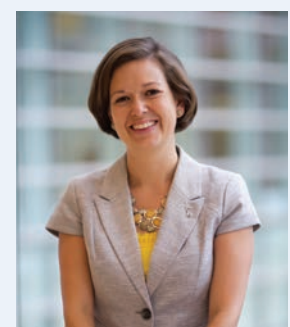
Katy Jones has been hired as director of communications and marketing for the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, effective August 19, 2013.

She has more than a decade of communications and marketing experience in the health and research sectors. Most recently, Jones was communications director at UNC’s Active Living By Design, a national program office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation housed within the North Carolina Institute for Public Health. Prior to that, Jones worked in corporate marketing at a management consulting firm after serving as marketing manager for the UNC Highway Safety Research Center.

Her expertise includes internal and external communications, marketing

strategy and program implementation, media relations, special events marketing, and crisis communications. She also has extensive experience in developing and managing social media platforms, with skills in web analytics and content marketing strategy.

Jones earned her bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from UNC-Chapel Hill, graduating with high distinction and has completed a graduate certificate in project management from Western Carolina University.



Earp investigates ways of stimulating the body's immune system to fight cancer

MerTK is a tyrosine kinase – an enzyme that plays a role in communicating signals within a cell – that performs a crucial function in the body's immune response. MerTK signaling helps “calm” the body's first line of immunity, cells called macrophages, while it performs the routine duties - clearing cells that die and healing damaged tissue.

Research led by Shelley Earp, MD, director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, shows that MerTK macrophage action in the microenvironment that surrounds cancer cells blunts the immune response, allowing the tumor cell to grow and metastasize. The research determined that an absence of MerTK increased the anti-tumor response and slowed the growth and spread of model breast, colon and skin cancers.

While utilizing the immune system in the fight against cancer has been a goal of researchers for decades, the last four years have seen the development and approval of several drugs — including the monoclonal antibodies Ipilimumab and Tremelimumab — that prolong the anti-tumor T-cell response, resulting in clinical benefit particularly in melanoma. In some patients, these therapies have shown the ability not only to destroy cancer cells, but also to prevent the relapses that plague chemotherapy and even newer targeted agents.

“With Stephen Frye's team we are creating a new MerTK -selective drug that may help stimulate the initial tumor response. We hope to combine this strategy with the existing drugs that extend the immune response. If we can initiate a stronger response and sustain that activity we may be more effective in treating metastatic cancer,” said Dr Earp. **Read more at <http://bit.ly/1700Aut>**

Basch wants consideration of patient well-being when developing new cancer treatments

Ethan Basch, MD, director of Cancer Outcomes Research at UNC Lineberger, wants pharmaceutical manufacturers to collect rigorous information on how drugs impact symptoms and quality of life starting early in drug development, and for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to include this information in drug labels.

For patients facing treatment for cancer, it is essential to understand how their symptoms will be affected. Symptoms like pain, fatigue, or nausea can result from the cancer, or from treatment side effects. The best way to collect this information is from patients themselves in research studies. But almost no drug labels in the U.S. include this information. As a result, incomplete information is available to patients and clinicians to help with treatment decisions.

“As an oncologist, when I sit with patients to discuss starting a new chemotherapy, their first questions are often ‘How will it make me feel?’ and ‘How did patients like me feel with this treatment?’” wrote Dr. Basch, an associate professor of medicine, in his August 1, 2013 perspective article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. **Read more at [http:// bit.ly/19f5B8Y](http://bit.ly/19f5B8Y)**

Factors influencing delay in breast cancer treatment differ for African-American and White women

A study using data from the Carolina Breast Cancer Study (CBCS) Phase III, a program of UNC Lineberger, found that among White women, household size and losing a job due to one's diagnosis were reasons for delay in treatment, while among African-American women, the type of treatment received influenced delay. Both African-American and White women experienced delay if they underwent immediate breast reconstruction following mastectomy. African-American women were more likely than White women to experience delay associated with this procedure (92.5 percent versus 60.6 percent).

The study population consisted of 601 women with breast cancer between the ages of 20 and 74, who were enrolled in the CBCS between 2008 and 2010. The CBCS is an ongoing population-based study that recruits women from 44 counties in in North Carolina.

“We used information from interviews and questionnaires to collect socioeconomic data for each woman,” said Sasha McGee, PhD, an epidemiology graduate student at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health at the time of this study. “Larger studies often use area-level information for groups of people [e.g. based on census data] and apply these data to individuals in the study, which may not always be accurate.”

Read more at <http://bit.ly/17xotOk>

Rimer awarded American Cancer Society Medal of Honor

Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH, dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor of the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, has been awarded the American Cancer Society (ACS) Medal of Honor for her “seminal cancer research efforts.”

Dr. Rimer, a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, was one of three awarded the medal at the ACS's Volunteer and Staff Summit on May 22. The Society announced that Dr. Rimer was chosen for “her work in breast cancer screening, which has guided national research, practice and policy for more than 20 years. Her work has evolved with the field from raising awareness of screening and increasing screening initiation, to promoting screening maintenance.”

Dr. Rimer serves as chair of the President's Cancer Panel, vice-chair of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Task Force on Community Preventive Services and is a member of the Institute of Medicine. She served as the founding director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences and chair of the NCI's National Cancer Advisory Board. A member of UNC Lineberger, Dr. Rimer previously served as its deputy director. **Read more at <http://bit.ly/15AIT7h>**



David Ollila, MD, appointed James H. and Jesse E. Millis Distinguished Professor

David Ollila, MD, professor of surgery, has been appointed to the James H. and Jesse E. Millis Distinguished Professorship. The \$1.5 million professorship was established by the

Millis' son, William “Bill” Millis, in honor of his parents, Jim and Jesse Millis of High Point, N.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Millis served on the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Board of Visitors, and Mr. Millis chaired the Board of the Medical Foundation of North Carolina and served as chair for medicine of the successful Bicentennial Campaign for Carolina. The couple served the High Point community through countless projects in support of health care, education and other facets of community life. The Lineberger building Director's Suite is dedicated to Jim and Jesse Millis for their major gift to the 1997 building expansion drive.

Dr. Ollila is surgical director of the UNC Multidisciplinary Melanoma Program and of the UNC Breast Center. He serves as associate physician-in-chief of the North Carolina Cancer Hospital and is a member of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. **8**



For Ruby Evans, volunteering is a way to give back

Ruby Evans greets patients in breast imaging each Monday. She began her volunteer work when the facility was in Gravelly and continued with the move to the N.C. Cancer Hospital. She says, "One patient commented that I had been there a long time. She said 'I've had you before. What day do you come in?' When I told her Mondays, she said, 'I'll always make my appointments on Mondays because I've had

you twice, and I really like seeing you.' That made me feel good."

Cherie Kuzmiak, DO, director of breast imaging feels the same way as the patient. "Ruby is a tremendous asset to the breast imaging program. She puts people at ease during what can be a stressful time. She may be a tiny person, but she has a big heart. And she makes the most amazing brownies." Dr. Kuzmiak knew of Ruby before she began volunteering.

Ruby and her husband, Phil, were still living in Kansas City at the time when her mammogram showed something unusual. "My son, Jim, had my films sent to Dr. Kuzmiak to review." Her son, Jim, is Jim Evans, MD, PhD, the Bryson Distinguished Professor of Genetics and Medicine and leader of the Clinical Cancer Genetics Program at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. The mammogram was fine.

The Evans' decided to move to Chapel Hill to be closer to Jim and his family, and Ruby began volunteering. "I had been a volunteer for the Kansas City

Hallmark Kaleidoscope Program, a children's enrichment program, and enjoyed it, so when I came to Chapel Hill, I wanted to find another volunteer opportunity.

"As a volunteer, I escort patients into the mammography room. I sometimes do paperwork if there's a lull. There's usually a steady stream of patients, and I really like working with them. The med techs are all very nice and helpful.

"We try to put people at ease because some people are anxious. We have a number of women getting up in years, as I am, and they may need some assistance. Some come in wheelchairs, some with oxygen and some are on walkers. We try to answer questions when we can, never the medical ones, and when we can't answer them, we refer the patients to someone who can help them. Sometimes the rooms can be cold, so I bring patients warm blankets."

Ruby admits she is "pretty tired" when she gets home. "We walk every morning, and coming here gives me additional walking, so you get plenty of exercise." In her Fearington community, she is a member of the Women's Club, a group that raises money for Chatham County charities. She enjoys knitting, needlepoint, embroidery and is an avid reader. The active senior taught second grade and worked in the administrative office for Sears before retiring.

"I've always volunteered or worked or been busy. I want to give back. It's important to me, and I look forward to it. Volunteering widens your horizons about the world around you. I enjoy the interactions with the patients and staff and feeling like you're a part of something. I'm going to keep volunteering as long as I can."

Kathy Taylor, N.C. Cancer Hospital breast imaging supervisor, hopes Ruby Evans will continue too. "Ruby is like the Energizer Bunny. She just keeps going and going and going. She makes the most wonderful handmade dishcloths. She's here for the patients. She has a very compassionate spirit about her and can put anyone at ease. We're lucky to have her as a volunteer." 8

Free clinic offers help with legal document preparation

When patients and families come to the N.C. Cancer Hospital, they now have access to a new service: a pro bono legal clinic. The joint project of the UNC and Duke Law Schools that began earlier this year offers a free legal clinic that meets the second and fourth Fridays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and is staffed by law students working under the supervision of licensed attorneys who are donating their time. Services include advanced directives, financial powers of attorney, health care powers of attorney and living wills. Students also visit patients in their hospital rooms if needed.

Sylvia Novinsky, JD, assistant dean for public service programs at the UNC School of Law, said, "Cancer patients and their families face enormous challenges. Our clinic offers assistance with important legal documents at a convenient time and place for them. We're pleased to offer these services at no cost to patients and hope that it eases their worries at a difficult time."

She explains, "Our students benefit by gaining experience with document drafting and interviewing skills, and it's an excellent way for student to give back to the citizens of North Carolina. To date, we have had 73 students volunteer for the project."

Jodi Schur, a third-year UNC law student, describes why she became involved. "I wanted an

opportunity to give back to several communities. First, to the law school community, making sure students have an opportunity to get firsthand experience with helping people. Second, to the UNC community, because of the privilege it is to get to go to law school, and I wanted to give back to the university in general. Finally, I wanted to give to cancer patients. My father had cancer, and he did not have advance directives in place, so I know firsthand the struggle and challenges with this, creating additional tensions and stressors within a family. I was hoping to help alleviate those stressors for others."

Suzette and John Gwin, of Chapel Hill, recently visited the pro bono clinic. They moved to the area from Alabama, and John has been diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma. Suzette explains, "We made an appointment for today to complete some documents for living will and power of attorney. We like that the clinic is convenient, right here in the cancer hospital. It has been helpful. The folks who have worked with us have been very knowledgeable."

Ms. Novinsky attended an American Bar Association Equal Justice Project in Washington, DC, in 2012 where she heard about a pro bono legal



Suzette and John Gwin confer with UNC Law School student Nicole Wilkes

program at George Washington University Law School that helped cancer patients with no access to legal services. She learned that the program's founder, Chrissy Cianflone, JD, was moving to the Duke Cancer Institute to serve as Administrative Director of Cancer Health Policy and Outcomes Research. Ms. Novinsky approached Ms. Cianflone about creating a partnership to develop programs at both institutions.

Since beginning the program, 112 patients and families have been served. 8



Norfleet family releases butterflies



Ginger Norfleet with Dr. Stan Mandel

A ceremony to celebrate the dedication of a butterfly mobile in the lobby of the N.C. Cancer Hospital and the lovely rose garden in front of NC Women's Hospital was held on May 31. Both dedications were in memory of Dr. Ed Norfleet, beloved UNC physician and former chair

of the Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Norfleet had wished for a sculpture in the N.C. Cancer Hospital where he was treated; his love of roses was legendary. The event featured a butterfly release led by his grandchildren. 🦋



"Fly...Be Free" by NC artist RT Morgan

Lucky 13 bicyclists finish coast-to-coast ride and surpass fundraising goal

UNC Lineberger is lucky to have such dedicated volunteers. This year, for the fourth time, a group of intrepid young men, organized a summer trip to raise funds for UNC Lineberger.

Calling the trip Lucky 13- after 2013- the group cycled across the U.S. Led by Brian Burnham, an assistant scout master with Troop 845, and Aidan Kelly, a previous participant and UNC student, the cyclists left Havre de Grace, MD, on June 10, and arrived in Astoria, Oregon, 3,700 miles later, on August 15.

Many of the riders are members of Boy Scout Troop 845 and are students at Carrboro, Chapel Hill or East Chapel Hill High Schools. Three are students at UNC and NCSU.

Their trip is the longest ever undertaken by a scout troop. Along the way, fellow scouts, families, and strangers fed and housed them and cheered them on their journey.



Cyclists in Astoria, Oregon (left to right) Alex Johnson (2010 rider who joined midway after graduating nursing school), Kyle Ferriter, Arthur Mouw, Paris Buedel, Aidan Kelley, Caleb Roenigk, Jack Jansen, DJ Recny, Hugh Kelley, Holden Selkirk, Brian Burnham, Wes Malinchoc, Not pictured is Miles Rosen

"There isn't a rider on the Lucky 13 crew who hasn't had a family member or friend fight a battle with cancer," says Brian Burnham. "It hits home and the guys know it."

Their fundraising goal, \$30,000, was their most ambitious, and when they crossed into Wyoming, they learned that they had already reached their goal. By the end of the trip, they had raised close to \$35,000. UNC Lineberger will use the funds in support of cancer research and will send two pediatric cancer patients to Victory Junction in Randleman, N.C., a camp for pediatric patients facing challenging illnesses.

Janet Walters, mother of Paris Buedel, 15, and the youngest Lucky 13 rider, says, "Sending a child off on a ride across the country was a leap of faith. I knew it would be the experience of a lifetime for my son and I clung to that — that's what got me through when worrying started to get the best of me.

"At times I thought about what the parents of cancer patients go through, and that helped put my worrying in perspective," she said.

To read more about their trip: www.lucky13biketrip.com 🦋

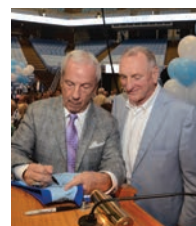
October – Turn the Town Pink



This October will have you seeing pink once again, as Chapel Hill and surrounding communities *Turn the Town Pink*. With the entire month jam-packed with various events, everyone can find a way to support the UNC Comprehensive Cancer Support Program (CCSP). The CCSP is dedicated to helping patients and their caregivers with cancer treatment, recovery and survivorship.

Kick off the month on October 4, at a special pink edition of Fridays on the Front Porch at Carolina Inn. Also, don't miss this year's Pink Football Game on October 26, as UNC takes on Boston College. Check out unclineberger.org/signature-events/tftp for the full calendar of events and participating businesses, and call 919-966-5905 if your business would like to join this year's campaign.

October 25 – Fast Break Against Cancer



Join Coach Williams, Woody Durham, and members of the Carolina men's basketball family on Friday, October 25 at Roy Williams' Fast Break Against Cancer, presented by Atlantic Packaging. Tickets are limited and we expect another sell-out crowd, so buy your tickets today by calling 919-966-5905 or visiting unclineberger.org/signature-events

Ways to Help

Want to get more involved in our cancer fight? Visit www.unclineberger.org/waystohelp to:

- Make an online gift or become a monthly partner
- Learn how your dollars make a difference
- Explore volunteer opportunities
- Find out about events benefiting UNC Lineberger
- Connect and help us spread the word

calendar of events

September

- 21st** 4th Annual Pedal for Peds Bike Ride (8am-1pm at McDougle Middle School)
- 27th** Blue Ribbon Gala (6pm – 10pm at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center)
Board of Visitors Meeting Chapel Hill, NC

October

- 4th** Turn the Town Pink Kick-Off Party at The Carolina Inn Fridays on the Front Porch (5pm)
- 25th** 9th Annual Roy Williams Fast Break Against Cancer (8:00 am at the Dean E. Smith Center)
- 26th** Pink Football Game! Boston College at UNC (Time TBA at Kenan Stadium)

To purchase tickets or for more information about these events and other UNC Lineberger news, visit www.unclineberger.org, or follow us on [f](#) [t](#)



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Remembering Dr. Keith Amos

Keith Amos, MD, assistant professor of surgery and beloved physician, died suddenly in Edinburgh, Scotland, on June 17 while on a Dr. Claude Organ, Jr., Travel Award from the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Amos was a treasured member of the UNC School of Medicine, the Department of Surgery, the Division of Surgical Oncology and the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

More than 400 people have contributed testimonials to Dr. Amos at <http://keithamosremembered.web.unc.edu>, a memorial page set up to honor him.

Glenda Stone, one of his patients, said, “Dr. Keith Amos was that rare combination of brilliance, compassion, and humility. When I first met him at the beginning of my cancer journey, I knew right away I was in good hands. Even as my care transitioned to other doctors on my team, Dr. Amos stayed in touch, often sending me notes of encouragement. Knowing that he had me on his mind was a tremendous boost. To say that Dr. Amos will be missed seems like too small of a statement. His passing leaves a hole in my heart not only for what he has done for me and countless others, but also for the potential of things to come.”

At the memorial service, Dr. Shelley Earp, UNC Lineberger director, said, “I don’t know why Keith died, but I do know how. His heart was so filled with love that it overflowed. Many communities around the state loved and respected him tremendously as he visited with and spoke to groups about




Dr. Keith Amos shares a laugh with patient Glenda Stone

cancer disparities screening and research. He was a true ambassador for the University of North Carolina.”

Dr. Ben Calvo, division chief of UNC surgical oncology, said, “Keith Amos focused his considerable energies on being involved and caring about others. He was a committed collaborator with our translational scientists. He was a revered mentor to 60 medical students each year. And he was a beloved surgeon to innumerable patients and families. With his family, he was a father to three luminous souls.”

Dr. HJ Kim, fellow UNC surgical oncologist, said, “Keith’s legacy to the world is this: among his many amazing skills, he had a unique ability to connect with and care about people, regardless of context, race, status, or age. He took the time to know people and was vulnerable enough to let them into his life.”

Dr. Amos was recruited to UNC in 2007. He earned his medical degree from Harvard University, and completed surgery residency at Washington University in Saint Louis. His passion for cancer education and care led him to a Surgical Oncology fellowship at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

He is survived by his wife, Ahaji, and their three daughters, Hunter, Logan, and Darren. 



Drs. Shelley Earp and Keith Amos at a Ticked Pink event in 2010

The family asks that memorial gifts be directed to The Medical Foundation of NC, 880 Martin Luther King Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 to support the Keith D. Amos, MD Endowed Fund in Surgical Oncology. The purpose of the Keith D. Amos Endowed Fund in Surgical Oncology will be to support an undergraduate student, medical student, resident or fellow in oncology research and education.