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○ ISSUE 1 | ○ 2013

MARKEY *quarterly*

SEASONAL NEWS FOR
MARKEY CANCER CENTER
FACULTY AND STAFF

LEARNING IN BLOOM

SPRING BRINGS CONFERENCE SEASON TO MARKEY CANCER CENTER



Spring and summer are well-established seasons for conferences and events. This year, Markey faculty are playing key roles in organizing and hosting a number of conferences and events.

The first on the Markey calendar was the International Conference of RNA Nanotechnology and Therapeutics, April 3-5. The event was chaired by Peixuan Guo, PhD, and featured sessions on topics from RNA structure and folding in nanoparticles to exosomes and extracellular RNA communication.

The RNA conference is closely followed by Markey Cancer Center Research Day, an annual event featuring more than 140 posters and guest speakers, including David Sabatini, MD, PhD, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Markey faculty are key organizers for the Neuroendocrine Tumor Regional Conference and the 15th Annual Midwest DNA Repair Symposium.

“Planning these events with administrative and financial support from the cancer center is critical,” said Isabel Mellon, PhD. Mellon (Graduate Center for Toxicology) is helping organize the Midwest DNA Repair Symposium. “It’s especially important for our graduate students to participate in such a unique setting.”

The closing day at the RNA Nanotechnology and Therapeutics conference featured speakers, awards, and a social event at Keeneland.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Markey Cancer Center Research Day - April 15
- Neuroendocrine Tumor Regional Conference - April 19-20
- 15th Annual Midwest DNA Repair Symposium - May 18-19

MARKEY BY THE NUMBERS

Record amount raised during this year’s DanceBlue campaign, benefiting pediatric cancer research

\$1,113,189.42



FROM THE DIRECTOR

B. MARK EVERS, MD, DIRECTOR, MARKEY CANCER CENTER



While a big part of the mission of faculty and staff at the Markey Cancer Center is focused on educating the students at all levels in our institution, one of our secondary missions is to continue educating ourselves, ensuring that the opportunities we afford both our patients and our students continue to be cutting-edge.

I've always been proud of the collaborative atmosphere at the cancer center. One visible manifestation of this teamwork is through the cooperative and collaborative events we host. Already this year, we've had our established journal clubs and weekly research seminars (every Wednesday at noon), hosted multiple guest lecturers and researchers from across the U.S., and held an impressive number of symposia and regional and national conferences.

Many of these events are organized by our faculty, either voluntarily or as a result of their leadership positions in professional organizations that bring them together with researchers and leaders at other institutions who are interested in the same concepts and projects.

More and more, measures around these events impact our institution's ability to compete on a national scale. For example, grant mechanisms look to see how often we're leading collaborative educational efforts, and recruits pay attention to those opportunities as evidence that we continually support lifelong learning.

I would like to commend our community for embracing these learning opportunities, for supporting each other in the success of each event, and for continuing to devote time and resources to provide learning opportunities for everyone. The spring and summer seasons always feature a busy conference and collaborative learning schedule, with our very own Cancer Research Day on April 15. I encourage all of you to take advantage of those opportunities to learn, discuss and share with each other the important work you do for Markey on a daily basis.



Marla Thomas and Dr. Jack van Nagell at the award ceremony.

Update: Amy R. Wilson Award for Exemplary Performance

Last year, the Markey Quarterly reported news of the Amy R. Wilson Memorial Fund. Shortly after Amy's death in December 2011, the fund was created to establish an annual award given in her memory, honoring a member of the UK HealthCare team who embodied the ideals Amy stood for: excellence, communication, leadership and caring.

Marla Thomas, a 25-year employee and Capacity Command Center program manager, was named the recipient of the inaugural Amy R. Wilson Award for Exemplary Performance. Marla's framed certificate came with a \$500 honorarium.



From left, Linda Leach, Darwin Allen, Donica Sweat and Reda Gray participated on Markey's Light the Night team.

Markey Light the Night team raises more than \$18,000

The Markey Cancer Center Light the Night team recently raised \$18,489.93 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Markey's 105-member team included eight employees and 97 "friends" of Markey, including patients and family members. This year's grand total is the largest amount raised by a Markey team for the Light the Night campaign.

MEET A MARKEY MOVER

RACHEL C. MILLER, REGISTERED DIETITIAN

This quarter, Markey Quarterly introduces you to Rachel C. Miller, a registered dietitian for Markey Cancer Center outpatient services.

Good afternoon, Rachel. Thanks for taking some time to talk with us. Where are you from originally and how did you end up working at Markey?

I'm from Cincinnati, Ohio, and went to Miami University and studied dietetics. I came to UK to complete an internship and graduate school, then worked in a long-term facility in Winchester for a few years before coming to the Markey Cancer Center. I had some experience with cancer care before I came to UK: tube feeding, weight loss, getting people to eat when the process was difficult for them. Nutrition in cancer care is an evolving field, and I wanted to be part of that – helping people in their fight.

What is your role in patient care at Markey?

I work with many other health care providers in the clinics: physicians, nurses, social workers, patient navigator, speech pathologists and many other staff. For example, I'm called to consult with physicians caring for patients who have or will experience difficulty eating as a result of their disease or treatment, patients with specific nutrition needs, and patients who need help establishing tube feeding at home. My office is here with social workers, so I'm familiar with or have quick access to answers about finances, insurance, programs and other referrals. Outside of direct patient care, I also coordinate the monthly cooking demonstrations that are designed to teach patients and caregivers about nutrition. Few people prepare their own food, and the feedback I've received from these demonstrations is that the audience is often surprised at how easy it is to cook healthy, delicious food. Additionally, I also write a blog - the Markey Menu: Nutrition for You. (http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/markey_blog.aspx?blogid=1778). It's still developing, but so far I've addressed nutrition and cancer risks, supplements and organic food. Blogging is a new skill set I'm developing, and I like how it allows me to organize my thoughts and reach a larger audience with relevant nutrition information.

What should other Markey employees know about your role?

Like the other health care providers at Markey, I'm focused on providing the best possible care to patients and caregivers. I'm available for consultation or to answer questions about nutrition.

What do you like best about your job?

I like the ability to make a contribution and help people with nutrition – such an important element of health. No one should have to worry about eating well. I like sharing my expertise and teaching people how much fun good nutrition can



be and do for their overall health.

If you could give everyone one bit of advice about nutrition, what would you say?

One, consuming foods in their freshest form will give you the most beneficial nutrition. Two, embrace making nutrition a part of your routine so it becomes second nature to make good choices. Eating well doesn't have to be intimidating or difficult.

A few questions – for fun. What's your favorite book; what's your favorite food; and what's your favorite song?

I enjoyed reading "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. It's about someone who struggles growing up and how she learns to be her own person. I love seafood and Italian food. Rather than visit a favorite restaurant over and over, I like to try new places. My favorite song is "Joy of My Life" by John Fogerty – it was played at my wedding.

NOTEWORTHY

WELCOME

Min Chen, Graduate Center for Toxicology
Jian Fu, CRED
Elizabeth Rush, Clinical Research Office
Emily Shardelow, Clinical Research Office

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Frederick R. Ueland, MD, named Medical Director of the Markey Chemotherapy and Outpatient Infusion Program

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Markey authors were responsible for 105 manuscripts and publications in journals from January through March 2013.

The laboratory of Peter Zhou published “Loss of FBP1 by Snail-Mediated Repression Provides Metabolic Advantages in Basal-Like Breast Cancer” (*Cancer Cell* 23:316-31; March 2013).

Work from the Peixuan Guo laboratory on natural biomotors and the discovery of a new, third type of biomotor was published in *ACS Nano* (March 2013).

GRANTS

Qing-Bai She, PhD, was awarded National Cancer Institute funding for the study “Targeting Translation Dependence in Colorectal Cancer Progression.”

Natasha Kyprianou, PhD, was awarded funding from Sanofi Aventis US Inc. for the study “Effect of Microtubule-Targeting Chemotherapy on EMT in Prostate Cancer Model.”

Guo-Min Li, PhD, was awarded National Cancer Institute funding for the study “Novel Mechanism of Genome Instability in Colorectal Cancer.”

Vivek Rangnekar, PhD, and **Subbarao Bondada, PhD**, were awarded National Cancer Institute funding for the study “Role of Tcl1 and Par-4 in regulation of chronic lymphocytic leukemia.”

Edith Glazer, PhD, was awarded American Cancer Society funding for the study “Ruthenium complex scaffolds for the creation of targeted chemotherapeutics.”

Kathleen O’Connor, PhD, was awarded National Cancer Institute funding for the study “Novel Mechanisms of Carcinoma Cell Migration.”

Jennifer Bradley, Markey Cancer Center Jin Shin Jyutsu

practitioner, successfully renewed funding from the Lexington Cancer Foundation for the Jin Shin Jyutsu program.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & SELECTIONS

Natasha Kyprianou, PhD, professor and James F. Hardy-Chair in Urologic Research, was elected to the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. Kyprianou is an internationally recognized prostate cancer researcher, and she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine from 1987 to 1990.

Yi Shu, a postdoc who works in Dr. Peixuan Guo’s laboratory, won Best Poster Presentation Award in the NCI Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer Annual Principal Investigators’ Meeting (Houston, November 2012). Shu’s poster was titled “Fabrication of Versatile RNA Nanoparticles Targeting to Cancer without Entering Normal Organs and Tissues.”

Kristopher Shera of Frankfort is this year’s Markey Cancer Center candidate for the 2013 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Man of the Year. Shera was treated for non-Hodgkin lymphoma at Markey last year and is the first patient to serve as UK’s official candidate for the campaign. The 10-week fundraising campaign began on March 28. For more information, visit <http://www.mwoy.org/pages/ky/ky13/kshera>.

MARKEY DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Congratulations to the following Markey Difference Makers of the Quarter, selected from Markey Difference Makers during the past year. Each nominee is eligible for the Dr. Lewis A. Kelly Markey Difference Maker of the Year award, presented at Markey Cancer Center Research Day (April 15).

Crystal Kendrick
 Allyson Yates
 Jennifer Rogers
 Research Communications Office

Congratulations to the following Markey Difference Makers for the first quarter of 2013.

Cathy Anthony	Jill Lee
Rony Aouad	Lisa Minke
Joni Boyd	Jennifer Rogers
Bryan Courtney	Heather Russell-Simmons
Jenny Delap	Brenda Sharp
Shawn England	Donna Shaw
Donna Gilbreath	Lynn Simpson
Charles Jenkins	Nathan Vanderford
Michael Kilgore	Robin Washington

New Kentucky license plates benefit cancer research

Kentucky motorists will soon be able to demonstrate support for lung cancer research and education by buying a specialty license plate.

A new “Fighting Lung Cancer” tag has been approved for pre-sale and should be available by early 2014.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths both in Kentucky and the nation, according to Renae Feistritz Ellis, president of the non-profit group, Big Daddy’s Race for Time. Feistritz Ellis created Big Daddy’s Race For Time, to honor her late father.

“Upon his death we created the foundation and all of our money goes right back into Kentucky. We’ve worked closely with the Kentucky Research program with the Markey Cancer Center. That’s where our funds have gone to the last five years. We meet with some doctors and we ask what research efforts they’re doing and we actually pick which research, clinical trials that we want our money go towards.”



900 of the license plates will need to be pre-ordered at \$25 each before the design can be sent to production. Pre-order forms are available at <http://www.bigdaddysrace.org/Introducing%20the%20Lung%20Cancer%20Awareness%20License%20Plate.pdf>

Exit Strategy: Depriving Death of its Strangeness

On March 27, the UK Center for Interprofessional HealthCare Education, Research and Practice, the Markey Cancer Center and College of Communication and Information welcomed David Oliver, PhD, and Debra Parker Oliver, MSW, PhD, to discuss “Our Exit Strategy: Denying Death Its Strangeness.”

Dr. Oliver spent much of his life studying and teaching about aging and end-of-life care. Diagnosed with Stage IV nasopharyngeal cancer in 2011, he realized it was his opportunity as an educator to experience and chronicle terminal cancer from the patient’s perspective. Now, with his wife, Dr. Debra Oliver, they share their experience as patient and caregiver in a popular videoblog and in a new book: “Exit Strategies: Denying Death Its Strangeness.”

An estimated 250 individuals were in the audience as the Oliveres spoke. Room HG611 was at capacity while others were connected via satellite in an overflow room at the hospital, Morehead State University and the University of Louisville.

Elaine Wittenberg-Lyles, PhD, was instrumental in bringing the Oliveres to UK. “Debbie is my mentor and long time collaborator,” said Wittenberg-Lyles. “The goal for the Interprofessional Grand Rounds was to demonstrate that we have serious healthcare structure deficits that can be improved through interprofessional care and palliative care.”

“Palliative is not just about symptom pain management and care coordination,” said Wittenberg-Lyles. “It also involves patient and family communication. All cancer patients need palliative care.” In a recent study at the Markey Chemo Infusion Unit interviewing patients and caregivers, Wittenberg-Lyles found two cases where both patient and caregiver were actively receiving cancer treatment. Many of those interviewed shared horrible stories of how they were told of their cancer diagnosis.



This is where palliative care can support healthcare professionals, patients and caregivers. “Palliative care can deliver this message in a kind, loving way,” said Wittenberg-Lyles. “They are trained to do it, they prefer to do it. Let’s let them do it.”

The take-away message from the Oliveres’ talk is that healthcare professionals need to think beyond treatment; think about and understand palliative care; think about patient preferences first; address psychosocial issues with patients; and include the caregiver and his or her needs. “Bad news is what the patient considers to be bad news,” said Wittenberg-Lyles. “It’s not what the clinician thinks is bad news.” In the case of David and Debbie Oliver, chemotherapy as an option was bad news because of their professional experience; they were familiar the side effects of chemotherapy.

Read more about the Oliveres and their cancer journey here: <http://dbocancerjourney.blogspot.com/> where video 18 discusses the lingering side effects of chemotherapy. The video mentions Markey’s very own Jennifer Bradley and Jin Shin Jystu as an alternative therapy to managing the side effects of chemotherapy.