



SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU

Spring 2007

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As the new building at SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU begins to take shape,



the mood is clearly upbeat among our staff and faculty. We all sense the excitement of what is to come when so many of our functions will be centered in this state-of-the-art facility. While there is much work yet to be done to plan and

coordinate this consolidation of services, I keep reminding myself and others that the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU is more than what happens in a new building. Our vision is to lessen the burden of cancer in rural Illinois through innovative programs that blend clinical care with research and

education. Our goal is to engage as many researchers and health care workers as possible from around the downstate area, and work together as a team to overcome this horrible disease. To address this challenge, a cancer network taskforce was formed as an initial step toward achieving this. We have teleconferenced with cancer network programs in other states and brainstormed among ourselves. While our strategic plan is still being developed, there remains a strong desire among us that our program someday will reach across the downstate area, linking the three SIU campuses, and providing state of the art care to our citizens.

Meanwhile, there is much work to do here in Springfield.

Outreach Highlight

APRIL is Oral Head and Neck Cancer Awareness

A **FREE head and neck cancer screening** is being offered by the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU's Head and Neck Cancer Clinic on April 16th 4-7pm and April 21st, 9am-12pm in Springfield, IL. Anyone with a family history of head and neck cancer, who drinks alcohol regularly, smokes or chews tobacco may be screened. To make a FREE appointment, call Pam at 217-545-6150 weekdays between 8:00am and 4:30pm.

Relay for Life events are planned for many counties. Contact the American Cancer Society at 217-546-7586

or www.cancer.org to learn how you can participate.

The Outreach Program implemented a **Web Cast Program** in July 2006. This new and exciting program is the first of its kind at SIU School of Medicine. The first Wednesday of each month, a new cancer related topic is introduced. This is a free web program offering .5 cme credits at no charge to participants. Programs are not offered in June or December. All programs are archived for one year. To view a program, register at www.siumed.edu/cme.

Newsletter Focus: National Oral Head and Neck Cancer Awareness

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Contact Information

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Outreach

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Clinical Trials

HEAD and NECK CANCER

SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU in collaboration with the University of Chicago and Decatur Memorial Hospital are conducting a clinical trial involving Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC).

This cancer is the 7th most common cause of cancer death worldwide with a rising incidence rate. In the U.S., approximately 22,560 new cases and 5,370 deaths from oral cancer are expected in 2007.

This trial will determine the overall response rate, toxicity and feasibility of single agent sunitinib in patients with recurrent and/or SCC of the head and neck who have never been treated with antivascular endothelial growth factor receptor therapy.

BREAST CANCER

Exercise often improves the health and well-being of breast cancer patients after a diagnosis of cancer. Unfortunately, women with breast cancer frequently exercise less after their cancer diagnosis and may not ever become as physically active as they were before being diagnosed with cancer. Investigators at Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine are hoping to address this decline in activity through a recent study that evaluates the feasibility and effectiveness of an exercise program specifically designed to help breast cancer patients exercise regularly. In collaboration with local oncologists and international expert consultants, Dr. Laura Rogers is the principal investigator for the program.

If you would like more information about the BEAT Cancer Trial, you may contact Cathy Naritoku, SIU of Medicine, 545-7750 or email : BEATcancer@siumed.edu.

Research

PROSTATE

Researchers in Dr. Daotai Nie's laboratory have been investigating the cellular and molecular alterations underpinning the malignant progression of tumors, with the aim of developing new cancer treatment modalities. In the first project, funded by the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program, Dr. Nie's research team is studying how some cancer (stem) cells can survive from radiation treatment at potential lethal dosage. Recent data suggest that cancer stem cells are particularly resistant to radiation and likely cause tumor recurrence after potential curative radiotherapy. Therefore, this subset of cancer cells should be targeted to eliminate tumor recurrence.

TUMOR CELL MIGRATION

In the second project, funded by Illinois Department of Public Health, we have been studying how cytoskeleton is elaborated, in response to outside cues, to enable tumor cells to migrate and metastasize. It has been found that a seven transmembrane G-protein coupled receptor, called thromboxane A2 receptor, can be rapidly activated to initiate reorganization of cytoskeleton. Blockade of this receptor activation was found

quite detrimental to the ability of tumor cells to move, and therefore this receptor represents a novel target of intervention to keep tumor cells from migrating and metastasizing to distant organs.

In a pilot project, we are studying how the energy needs are met for tumor cells to embark on malignant growth. It has been found that mitochondria, the powerhouse supplying over 80% of ATP in normal cells, are selectively suppressed in tumor cells. Several approaches are being actively evaluated to cut off the power supply for tumor cells while leaving normal cells unharmed.

Long before the construction began on its state-of-the-art facility in Springfield, a foundation was built for the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU on the belief that research is the path to a cure for cancer. Your support of the Institute will help accelerate the growth that is critical for its success.

Research offers hope

Grants Office

Academic health centers constantly face increasing challenges in maintaining the supply of physician/researchers and meeting public expectations for cures. As research costs continue to rise, they are often required to add the role of “fundraiser” to their job description. In the early months of 2007, SCCI faculty submitted 20 grant applications

requesting over \$ 5,200,000. Research topics ranged from breast and colon cancer detection techniques to the effect of exercise on cancer patients. Grant reviews begin immediately with award announcements expected in late fall.

Marketing - Gallery of Homes

Moughan Builders is proud to present the “Gallery of Homes” to benefit the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU on April 14, 15, 21 and 22, 2007. Three furnished homes are highlighted on the tour featuring Moughan’s most popular floor plans and will be decorated by Sharon Speaks. The featured homes are located at 307, 311 and 315 Cumberland Drive in Park Forest Place, Rochester, IL, East of Lake Springfield

Admission to the Gallery of Homes is free to everyone. Moughan Builders is planning to have up to 6,000 people visit the homes. Jim and his brother are

personally donating \$2.00 a person up to \$12,000 to the Cancer Institute.

Jim Moughan, owner and cancer survivor, said “We are extremely excited to partner with the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU to bring improved cancer care to the people of central and southern Illinois. Thanks to the grace of God and all of the medical technology available today, I am cancer free and the potential for a cure is good.”

If you would like to donate to this event, contact Patsy Wappel at 217-545-0395 or pwappel@siumed.edu.

Organ Site Working Group Spotlight The Head and Neck Oncology Team (HANOT)

Head and neck cancers are some of the most devastating and challenging type of cancers because of their location. The majority of head and neck cancers develop from the mucous membranes that line the areas of the head and neck, including the mouth, throat, voice box, nasal cavity and sinuses. Tobacco and alcohol use are factors which contribute significantly to the development of head and neck cancers.

The Head and Neck Oncology Team (HANOT) is committed to providing state of the art medical and surgical care to improve the quality of life for patients with a diagnosis of head and neck cancer. The HANOT team is a multi-disciplinary group of experienced healthcare professionals consisting of medical oncologists, head and neck surgical oncologists, reconstructive surgery, radiation oncologists,

diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology, pathology, nutritionists, oral surgery specialists, speech-language pathology, social services, nurses, nurse practitioners, supportive services, and other health care team providers.

The HANOT team members meet as a multidisciplinary clinic every Tuesday. During a patient’s visit, team members work together to determine the most current and appropriate treatment for the patient. Following the clinic visit, a multidisciplinary conference is held to provide a forum for discussion of the patients and to develop a consensus for their treatment. That same day following the conference, the patients are seen in consultation for treatment recommendations and planning. HANOT members remain involved with the patient and family throughout the course of

The Head and Neck Oncology Team (HANOT)

treatment, offering comprehensive and individualized services. Additional services may be added such as



nutritional education, exercise programs, coping/support groups, relaxation techniques, palliative care, home health and/or hospice care.

Researchers in head and neck cancer meet with staff to devise new studies in head and neck cancer. There are several exciting and unique clinical trials open that offer new approaches to treating head and neck cancer. HANOT also conducts nationally sponsored clinical trials through our institution's partnership with the Central Illinois Community Clinical

Oncology Program.

Goals of the HANOT team include optimizing the prevention and early diagnosis of head and neck cancer. Community cancer screenings are provided to offer the public free cancer screenings and education regarding the risks and early warning signs of head and neck cancer.

Patient needs are the foremost concern at the Simmons Cooper Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine. The HANOT team is a prime example of a comprehensive approach to cancer care. To learn more about the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU, HANOT, clinical trials, or head and neck cancer, visit www.siumed.edu/cancer.

Every gift to the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU makes a difference. The generosity of patients, friends, corporations, and community organizations is greatly appreciated and greatly needed.

If you would like to donate to the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU, contact Patsy Wappel at 217-545-0395 or pwappel@siumed.edu.



Southern
Illinois University
School of Medicine