

September 2013



## News and Notes

### El-Deiry named Interim Director of Cancer Institute

[Wafik S. El-Deiry, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P.](#) was named interim director of Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute following the departure of inaugural director Thomas Loughran, Jr., M.D. in July. He will lead the Cancer Institute until a new permanent director is appointed. A national search is underway.

El-Deiry joined the Penn State faculty in 2010 as professor of medicine, division chief of hematology/oncology, and associate director for translational research for the Cancer Institute. He also holds the Rose Dunlap Division Chair in hematology/oncology. Prior to joining Penn State Hershey, El-Deiry held a faculty appointment at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator from 1995-2004. He was named an American Cancer Society Research Professor in January 2009. [Click here to read a letter from Dr. El-Deiry.](#)



### New Cancer Institute Inpatient Unit Open House

On Tuesday, September 17, from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., the campus community is invited to tour the new Cancer Institute Inpatient Unit located on the seventh floor of the main hospital. A special ceremony including the bell ringing tradition that symbolizes the end of a milestone for patients undergoing cancer treatment will be held at 10:30 a.m. followed by an open house until 1:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. The new unit is easily

accessible from the rotunda elevator using the main hospital entrance.

Earlier this summer, patients and staff from the Sixth South Addition East and Third Main Building South were relocated to this new unit that is exclusively dedicated to adult cancer care. The new space offers an environment that is comfortable, safe and innovative for patients, families and staff.

## Free Prostate Cancer Screening for Employees and Patients

Prostate cancer strikes one in six American men. There's no better time than NOW to get checked for prostate cancer. Penn State Hershey Urology will host a free screening on Tuesday, September 17 and Wednesday, September 18 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in University Physician Center, Suite 3100 on the Medical Center campus. Appointments are available on a first-call basis. For more information and to register, call 1-800-243-1455. [Click here to share a flyer with your patients.](#)

## First Bladder Support Group a Success

Nearly 100 patients, survivors and family members attended the first Penn State Hershey Bladder Support Group on July 31 at Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute. The new support group, led by patients, caregivers, and members of the genitourinary cancer team at the Cancer Institute, offers bladder cancer patients at Penn State Hershey Medical Center and their family members an opportunity to identify and develop connections with other patients, as well as learn practical, up-to-date information on various aspects of bladder cancer care.



[Matthew Kaag, M.D.](#), assistant professor of surgery and urologic oncology, spoke to the group about bladder cancer, including staging and current areas of research. Survivors Gail Butler, Michael Sampere and David Bishop shared with the group thoughts of their own personal battles against this disease.

"From a professional standpoint, my goal is to evolve Penn State Hershey into a regional leader in bladder cancer care and research," said Kaag. "On a personal level, I want to feel that we are providing each patient with the chance to fully understand the disease, obtain as much peer and medical support as possible, and the opportunity to advocate for themselves."

The Penn State Hershey Bladder Support Group's next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the University Conference Center. Questions can be directed to Theda Shaw, R.N., M.S.N, GU clinical program coordinator, at 717-531-0003, ext. 285863 or e-mail: [tshaw1@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:tshaw1@hmc.psu.edu).

## September is Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month

From September 1-4, the Crescent was illuminated in teal, pink and blue lights in observance of Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month. Thyroid cancer, the fastest growing new cancer among women, is highly treatable and usually curable. Penn State Hershey's team of highly specialized surgeons, endocrinologists and nuclear medicine specialists are on the cutting edge of diagnosing and treating thyroid cancer. To watch a video interview with David Goldenberg, M.D., F.A.C.S, director of head and neck surgery, visit [PennStateHershey.org/skill](http://PennStateHershey.org/skill).



## New Providers (as of July 2013)

- [Ashwani K. Garg, M.D.](#) - Hospitalist, Internal Medicine
- [Sheldon L. Holder, M.D., Ph.D.](#) - Hematology/Oncology
- [Yuxia Jia, M.D., Ph.D.](#) - Hematology/Oncology
- [Monika Joshi, M.D., M.R.C.P.](#) - Hematology/Oncology
- [Anna M. Leung, M.D.](#) - Surgical Oncology
- [Hassan S. Sheikh, M.D.](#) - Hematology/Oncology (State College)
- [Hong Zheng, M.D., Ph.D.](#) - Hematology/Oncology (lab based)

## Education and Research

The Office of Technology Development is pleased to announce [Mark Kester, Ph.D.](#), professor of pharmacology and director, Penn State Center for Nanomedicine and Materials as the recipient of the first Proof-of-Concept Technology Commercialization Award. The funding will be used to further develop a novel drug delivery platform.

Created in February 2013 and funded in part by a grant from the Keystone Innovation Network, the Technology Commercialization Fund provides funding to enable Penn State Hershey investigators to further develop an invention with commercial potential based on Penn State intellectual property. To qualify for the Technology Commercialization Fund, an invention must address a need in the marketplace and have a competitive advantage over existing technologies. Funded projects have to be directed toward commercial technology development or testing.

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis. [Click here to learn more about the Technology Commercialization Fund.](#)

[Robin Taylor Wilson, Ph.D.](#), associate professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, Epidemiology Division, was recently awarded R01 "Early Preparation and Inspiration for Careers in the Biomedical Sciences," NIH/NIGMS, July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016. She has a paper forthcoming in the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, November 2013: Tilburt JC, Koller K, Tiesinga JJ, Wilson RT, Trinh AC, Hill K, Hall IJ, Smith JL, Ekwueme DU, Petersen WO. Patterns of clinical response to PSA elevation in American Indian/Alaska Native men: A multi-center pilot study. This summer, Wilson served on the NIH, AHRQ Review Panel, "PAR-10-022, Partnerships in Implementing Patient Safety II

(R18) and also spoke as part of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Epidemiology Distinguished Journal Club Speaker Series.

## Community

### Save the Date: 4th annual Harrisburg Cancer Education Summit

The 4th annual Harrisburg Cancer Education Summit, a signature event of the Harrisburg Community Cancer Network (HCCN), will be held Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Zion Assembly Church, 2101 North 5th Street, Harrisburg from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme of this year's Summit is family risk for cancer, especially breast and related cancers. The overall goal for the Summit is to increase knowledge, awareness, and communication skills related to family health and risk for cancer. Genetic testing and counseling for common genetic variations, such as BRCA1/2, will also be discussed.

The HCCN is working diligently with evidence-based strategies to reduce the burden of cancer in Harrisburg and Dauphin County, with a focus upon minority and medically underserved populations. In 2009, thirty-two women in the city of Harrisburg were diagnosed with breast cancer; seven died from breast cancer (EpiQMS, PA Department of Health). Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death among women in Harrisburg. Across the United States, African-American women tend to have more aggressive tumors and to be diagnosed at later stage.

Please RSVP to this year's Summit by calling 717-531-0003, ext. 289477 and leaving your name and phone number. Your call will be returned confirming your registration. As in the past, there is no fee to attend.

The Summit is sponsored by Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society, The Walmart Foundation and other local community partners.

[To learn more about the HCCN, click here.](#)

### Miggins completes internship with CSHO

Alicia Miggins, a senior at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus, recently completed her internship with the Community Sciences and Health Outcomes (CSHO) Core of Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute this summer. She was enrolled in Penn State University's summer undergraduate research internship program.

Miggins continued the research of the CSHO Core which was to test and implement evidence-based strategies to address barriers to a healthy and active lifestyle for the residents of low-income communities within the city of Harrisburg. She worked closely with Patricia Robinson and Eugene Lengerich. During her internship, she analyzed data from two surveys - one of stores and another of residents - and conducted a focus group with community health workers. She found that grocery and convenience stores in the South Allison Hill area had very limited availability of fresh fruits and vegetables (FFV). Residents also had limited access to transportation which further restricted their access to FFV. However, community health workers reported that social networks, such as friends,

family, and churches would offer opportunities to serve more FFVs. The focus group with community health workers found that they were eager to maintain and model a healthful and active lifestyle for Harrisburg residents.

Miggins found her experience with the CSHO Core to be very rewarding and has been inspired her to pursue a master's degree in public health after earning her bachelor's degree in 2014.