

Bardmoor Elementary



For the second year in a row, students at Bardmoor Elementary in Seminole raised funds for Moffitt during Make May Moffitt Month. Students, chosen by Sandy Triplett, sold lollipops throughout May to raise funds for cancer research. They raised more than \$350!

Moffitt Pinellas Partners Women's Cancer Awareness Breakfast

Dr. Johnathan Lancaster, Director of the Center For Women's Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center will be the keynote speaker at this informative breakfast.

October 28, 8 to 9:30 a.m.
The Hunter Ballroom at
The Sandpearl Resort

For more information about the event and to print an RSVP card
Please visit our Web site:
www.moffittpinellaspartners.com

Contact Moffitt Foundation
Sue Bliss 813.745.4860

SKANSKA MOFFITT CLASSIC

The ninth annual Skanska Moffitt Classic tees off on Monday, Sept. 28, at 10 a.m.

Join us for a day of golf at the prestigious Old Memorial Golf Club in Tampa.

Tournament proceeds will benefit cancer research at Moffitt Cancer Center.

For more information
please call the
Moffitt Foundation
Dan Minor
at 813-745-3192
Daniel.Minor@Moffitt.org
or register online
at MOFFITT.org/golf2009



MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute to the prevention and cure of cancer through education and outreach in an effort to support the work of the physicians and scientists working to cure this terrible disease that has touched all of our lives in one way or another.



Pinellas Partners

Moffitt Women's Cancer Chief to Speak at Pinellas Partners Breakfast

Welcome to the August/September edition of the Moffitt Pinellas Partners newsletter. One of our goals is to give Pinellas County residents a snapshot of some of the outstanding efforts that Moffitt Cancer Center is making in the battle against cancer.

Most people have been touched by cancer in some way. If you haven't yet, but someday find yourself consoling a loved one who is in the battle, we hope you find some comfort in knowing that one of the best cancer institutes in the world is not too far away.

The Pinellas Partners Executive Committee would like to announce plans for the:

Women's Cancer Awareness Breakfast
Wednesday, October 28, at 8 a.m.
At Sandpearl Resort on Clearwater Beach

The honorary chair for this informative event is Pam Muma, a Pinellas Partners Steering Committee member, community leader and longtime Moffitt supporter.

The breakfast will highlight all areas of concern for early detection, screening, research and treatment of gynecologic cancers and an overview of Moffitt's new Center for Women's Oncology. Dr. Johnathan Lancaster, director of the Center, will be speaking and taking questions from the audience. With him will be Dr. Christine Laronga, program leader of the Don and Erika Wallace Comprehensive Breast Program, as well as other Moffitt representatives. We urge women to bring the entire family to learn about these important issues.

To reserve a seat or table at the breakfast, please call Sue Bliss at the Moffitt Foundation: 813.745.4860.

We'll see you in October and thank you for supporting Moffitt Pinellas Partners.

Marsha Droste
Moffitt Pinellas Partners co-chair

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MOFFITT.org

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* Pinellas Partners Executive Committee

Moffitt Doctor Looks For Genetic Solutions in Fight Against Ovarian Cancer

By Bill Swisher

The way Dr. Johnathan Lancaster sees it, fighting ovarian cancer will take more than surgery alone.

Lancaster is director of the Center for Women's Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center. The problem, he said, is that by the time a woman notices symptoms of ovarian cancer, the disease is very hard to control.

"The ovaries are tucked inside the pelvis, and a mass can develop and grow there. In most patients, it's not until it has spread outside the pelvis and is already in the upper abdomen that women start to have symptoms," Lancaster said.

Lancaster decided early in his medical training that, "Under the principle of 'know your enemy,' we needed to understand the biology of what goes on inside a cancer cell that's different from a normal cell."

Cancer forms when something goes wrong with the genes that control how quickly or slowly a cell grows, he said.

"There are genes that speed the cell up, much like the gas pedal

on a car, and genes that slow it down, much like the brake. And those genes act in concert to each other for cells' division and replication and tissue growth, so it's appropriate for the environment and the situation, much like a car. And just like a car, if your brake pedal breaks or your gas pedal gets jammed, you careen out of control."

For years, researchers would examine the genetic structure of one gene at a time, he said. "Breast cancer researchers would take a bunch of breast cancers, look at specific genes and ask if the genetic alphabet looks different in a normal breast than in one with breast cancer. We made some progress with that, but it's an incredibly laborious process." Advances in 21st-century technology have put a spotlight on the field of genomics. "Rather than looking at one gene at a time, we can look at many thousands of genes in a single sample and get a much bigger-picture view of what's happening in a cancer cell at any one time.

"So now when we

look at a cancer, instead of looking at one little piece of a very complicated jigsaw puzzle, we can step back and look at the whole picture—not just which three or four or 100 pieces of the jigsaw puzzle may be missing or in the wrong place, but also where those pieces of the puzzle fit in relation to the big picture," he said.

That's the approach Lancaster has been taking for about the last five years in finding ways to fight gynecologic cancer. The long-term goal, he said, is to look for ways to tailor therapy to each individual patient "so if we look at your cancer and see that the pieces of the puzzle are in one specific pattern, it suggests we should do one chemotherapy treatment; if they're in another pattern, we can use another chemo."

He called this new approach "a dramatic advance for us, because for decades we've been using the same chemotherapy on [most] patients, knowing that each patient is very different, each cancer is very different, and each patient is going to re-



Dr. Johnathan Lancaster

spond differently."

Lancaster will discuss his work in the field of women's cancer at the Moffitt Women's Cancer Awareness Breakfast on Oct. 28 at the Sandpearl Resort on Clearwater Beach. Joining him will be his Moffitt colleague Dr. Christine Laronga, program leader of the Don and Erika Wallace Comprehensive Breast Program. They will answer audience questions about ovarian, breast and other women's cancer issues.

For more information about this event for Pinellas County women go to www.moffittpinellaspartners.com. For reservations at the breakfast, call Sue Bliss at (813) 745-4860.

A Personal Story

By Joe Part

My wife, Karen, and I got involved with Moffitt Cancer Center before I was ever a patient. Her mother was successfully treated for a rare form of cancer several years ago, and around 2004 we were invited to the Magnolia Ball and started attending regularly.

cal exam and Dr. Santana said, "Joe, I feel something" on the digital exam. I said, "Yeah, right." I thought he was teasing me, because my PSA [prostate-specific antigen, an indicator of possible cancer] was normal. But he felt it, and it was cancer.

I went back to



Joe Part

Two years ago my primary-care physician, Dr. Jose Santana, found a problem with my thyroid that was suspected of being cancer. It wasn't, but I had part of it removed at Moffitt in April 2007. Then in June, right after recuperating from that, I was having my annual physi-

Moffitt and met with Dr. Julio Pow-Sang, program leader of the Genitourinary Oncology Program. I was an inpatient for two or three days and had a radical prostatectomy. Dr. Pow-Sang removed my prostate, and the outcome was successful.

I had a great experi-

ence at Moffitt. It wasn't fun, but it was *almost* fun. I could not have had better care from the medical staff there. The physicians and especially the nurses were extraordinary. It was such a caring environment that it was almost like an adult summer camp. I'd put it this way: I had as nice a time as one could have after cancer surgery.

I then spent the next couple of weeks at home, and if it wasn't for having a catheter, I would have thought I was on vacation. I felt terrific.

After two weeks the catheter was removed. Since then, I've been very, very fortunate. I go to Moffitt every six months for my checkup, and my PSA readings are at zero.

I have never seen an organization with such cultural consistency. From the valet parking to the clinical staff to the surgeons, they're all the same there: They all are such caring people. I tell my colleagues that I'd like the public to have

the same perception of professional consistency and personality in my own company as I get at Moffitt.

(Joe Part is managing partner of Alltrust Insurance, an employee-benefits brokerage firm in Palm Harbor. He and his wife, Karen, live in Tarpon Springs.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mole Patrol Skin Cancer Screening

FREE skin cancer screenings and cancer education to the public.
Pier 60 Pavilion on Clearwater Beach
Saturday, August 15
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FACTors

Breast Cancer Group
22nd Annual Conference
Saturday, September 26
Higgins Hall, Tampa
Contact Moffitt
813-745-6345
MOFFITT.org/Factors

Motorcycle Miles for Moffitt

Saturday, October 3
Contact Susan Meadows
Susan.Meadows@moffitt.org
www.milesformoffitt.com

Richard's

5K Run for Life
Friday, November 6, 7 p.m.
Centennial Park
Ybor City, Tampa
Contact
813-248-3000, ext. 24
www.active.com

Share your inspirational stories at:
www.moffittpinellaspartners.com