

MOFFITT CANCER CENTER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS SPORE GRANT WORTH MORE THAN \$10 MILLION

The National Cancer Institute has awarded Dr. Gerold Bepler, program leader for thoracic oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center, and his team a Specialized Programs of Research Excellence, or SPORE, grant in lung cancer. The grant totals almost \$7.5 million over five years. This is Moffitt's first SPORE grant, which puts them in the company of other leading cancer centers like University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital and Mayo Clinic.

"This grant acknowledges the continued translational work done by the entire lung team at Moffitt, which has been recognized nationally and internationally," Bepler said.

"Our entire team is extremely honored to be recognized by a panel of national lung cancer experts at the level of the NCI. It will provide us the opportunity to continue and significantly enhance our efforts to contribute to the prevention and cure of lung cancer."

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death

for men and women. Florida is second behind California in the number of new lung cancer cases per year.

Moffitt will conduct four research projects with various team members:

- E2Fs impact on therapeutic efficacy -- Douglas Cress, Ph.D., Jiandong Chen, Ph.D., Bepler.
- Anti-tumor mechanism of src inhibitors -- Eric Haura, M.D., Jin Cheng, M.D., Ph.D., and Jack Pledger, Ph.D.
- Chemoprevention with enzasataurin -- Bepler and Mark Alexandrow, Ph.D.
- P53-based vaccine for small cell lung cancer -- Dmitry Gabrilovich, M.D., Ph.D. and Scott Antonia, M.D., Ph.D.

According to the NCI Web site, SPOREs are funded through specialized center grants that promote interdisciplinary research and move basic research findings from the laboratory to clinical settings, involving both cancer patients and populations at risk of cancer.

The outcome of interdisciplinary research is a bidirectional approach to translational research, mov-

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.

ing laboratory discoveries to clinical settings or clinical observations to the laboratory environment. Laboratory and clinical scientists share the common goal of bringing novel ideas to clinical care settings that have the potential to reduce cancer incidence and mortality, as well as improve survival and the quality of life.

To achieve these goals, SPORE investigators work collaboratively to plan, design and implement research programs that may impact cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and treat-

ment. Additionally, SPOREs approach these goals through collaborative efforts within the individual multidisciplinary SPORE teams, inter-SPORE collaborations, partnerships with other NCI/National Institutes of Health programs, and public-private partnerships with industry and nonprofit organizations. Key qualities of the program feature the inclusion of patient advocates in SPORE activities and international cooperation with investigators in Europe, Canada, Asia and Mexico.

Mission Statement



Pinellas Partners

Time to "Get Connected"

Fall is here and all sorts of events are being planned for both awareness and fundraising for Moffitt Cancer Center. Don't miss the bowling event at Splitsville Oct. 9 to benefit Moffitt, hosted by Jeff Garcia of the Tampa Bay Bucs and his wife Carmella. Their events are always star-studded and lots of fun. If you're in the mood to treat yourself to something nice, visit Saks Fifth Avenue in Tampa for KEY TO THE CURE between Oct. 16 and 19. A percentage of sales that weekend will go to Moffitt. All event info can be found by clicking on the 'upcoming events' tab at www.MoffittPinellasPartners.com.

The Pinellas Partners Core Committee recently met to discuss plans for a 2009 event. The Steering Committee will meet on Nov. 5 to discuss further details. More information will be e-mailed to all members.

As Pinellas Partners branches out to surrounding areas, it becomes clear that people are motivated and inspired to continue raising awareness of the incredible research and quality patient care that occurs at Moffitt Cancer Center.

Thank you for being a part of our momentum.

Sincerely,
Moffitt Pinellas Partners
www.MoffittPinellasPartners.com

GARCIA PASS IT ON FOUNDATION SUPPORTS MOFFITT

2ND ANNUAL CHARITY BOWLING EVENT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2008
6-9 P.M. AT SPLITSVILLE IN CHANNELSIDE, TAMPA



Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling (440) 250-2104

KEY TO THE CURE



Kickoff Party

Wednesday, October 15
from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Saks Fifth Avenue
Tampa

For more information please contact Sue Bliss
(813) 745-4860 or Sue.Bliss@moffitt.org

MOLE PATROL

Sunday, November 23
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FREE

Public Skin Cancer Screening
on Clearwater Beach, Pier 60

FREE

Sunscreen and Information

Steering Committee Members

- Scott Andringa
- Brian Aungst
- Rob Bauer
- Ernestine Bean
- Beverly Billiris
- Bruce Bokor
- Joe Burdette
- Aaron Cohn
- Gary Conners
- William Crown
- Jodie Cunningham
- Ed & Marsha Droste
- Holly Duncan
- Ron & Ann Duncan
- Jackie Edgington
- Larry Feder
- Fred Fisher
- Doug Graska
- Lucy Grinnell
- Bob "Gator" Handley
- Lindsay Hardee
- Mary Harvey
- Judy Mitchell
- Pam Muma
- Bob Passwaters
- Ron Petrini
- David Ruppel
- Leslie Schipani-Anderson
- Karen Seel
- Julie Shannon
- Covington Sharp
- Gary Skinner
- Laverne Smith
- Richard Spayde
- Susan Stern
- Bill Swisher
- Dan Walker
- Gregory Wright

PINELLAS PARTNERS HELPS PROMOTE ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS

By Mary Harvey, Co-chair

Pinellas Partners Committee members represented Moffitt Cancer Center in September at several local government meetings where proclamations were adopted in support of Leukemia, Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month.

ter city councils.

State Rep. Ed Hooper accompanied the Pinellas Partners delegation to the Pinellas County and Clearwater meetings. In a show of support for Moffitt, Hooper introduced the Pinellas Partners to the government officials

Richard Spayde, a leukemia survivor spearheaded the proclamations project on behalf of Pinellas Partners. His story will appear in an upcoming edition of this newsletter.

In her comments to the St. Petersburg City Council, Julie Shannon raised the issue that many insurers do not cover the costs associated with clinical trials, even though the treatments offered in those trials often represent the best hope for people battling leukemia, lymphoma and similar diseases.

Robert Molina, a three-time cancer survivor, offered a powerful firsthand perspective to the Pinellas County Commissioners and the

Clearwater Mayor and Council. He stressed the importance of clinical research and attested to the first-rate care and support offered by Moffitt and LLS.

By communicating with elected officials about the importance of the battle against cancer, Pinellas Partners can have a huge impact on issues such as government funding of cancer programs as well as legislation affecting access to cancer treatment.

If you're interested in learning more about grassroots advocacy – making our voices heard on behalf of cancer patients – please contact John DeMuro at:

john.demuro@moffitt.org or (813) 745.1527.



From left:

*John DeMuro, Mary Harvey, Karen Seel
Robert Molina and Ed Hooper*

Julie Shannon and **Mary Harvey** were among the Pinellas Partners who joined with Moffitt Government Relations Supervisor **John DeMuro** to speak at meetings of the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners and the St. Petersburg and Clearwa-

who attended.

This activity raised awareness of Moffitt's and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)'s efforts to help patients with blood cancers. The event focused on the critical need to promote patient access to clinical trials.

A video of our presentation can be viewed on the **Pinellas County Website**

Please go to:

www.pinellascounty.org/media/archive-bcc.htm

Click on the 9/16/2008 Meeting Link

Scroll ahead in the video.

Our segment starts at the 3-minute, 30-second mark.

IT STARTED IN THE SUMMER OF 2006 A PERSONAL STORY

By John Lewis

("Chef John" Lewis is the chef and co-owner of La Maison Gourmet Wine and Tapas Bar in Dunedin. He appears regularly on WFLA-TV Channel 8's "Daytime" program. Last year he battled a serious form of skin cancer -- successfully, with Moffitt's help.)



"Chef John" Lewis

It started in the summer of 2006, with itching and severe flaking on my scalp. My scratching irritated it, and after living in denial for awhile, I finally went to a dermatologist in Clearwater last April. At first he thought it was a staph infection, and it took him some time before he actually did a biopsy. It came back as

a squamous cell carcinoma of a very serious and aggressive type.

He felt he was not qualified to handle it and referred me to a specialist in Largo, who then referred me to Moffitt Cancer Center. They had the biopsy report, agreed with the diagnosis and believed surgery was required.

I wanted to get a second opinion and consulted a radiology-oncology specialist in Clearwater. He believed, after looking at the MRI, that the cancer had actually touched my skull, which could involve a resection. He referred me to a neurosurgeon.

I decided to go with Moffitt's diagnosis. They convinced me that, in their view after having done hundreds of these things, the cancer rarely touches the bone itself. It may well have touched the membrane that covers the skull, but they felt they could solve the problem with surgery and a patch of skin from my thigh to cover it.

My experience at Moffitt was very good. The people there were

competent and friendly, and I developed a high degree of confidence in the lead surgeon, Dr. Vernon Sondak [chief of the Division of Cutaneous Oncology and director of Surgical Education], and the other people who were taking care of me.

After the surgery, they believed that follow-up radiation therapy every day for six weeks would increase the probability that the cancer would not recur, up to a 90 percent confidence factor. Without the radiation, they explained that might be at about a 50 or 60 percent level. I like 90 better than 60, so I chose the radiation.

I decided to have radiation at Moffitt, even though they said I could have gotten the treatment in Clearwater. I wanted to stay with the place that had done the surgery because I had such a good experience with it.

That part started a little rocky. They build a mask that's supposed to fit over your head and hold you in place when they put you into the

machine that does the radiation treatment. It turned out that I couldn't tolerate the mask -- it was too tight, and I'm mildly claustrophobic. The radiation oncologist was very nice about it. He accommodated me and set up a procedure where they put marks on my scalp and positioned me in the machine each time. It took a little longer for them to set me up for each treatment, but at least I wasn't confined to the mask.

Today, I'm doing fine. They feel that they cut out all of the cancer; I go in for periodic checkups, and there's been no recurrence.

If I have a recurrence, Moffitt is where I'll go. From the time you pull up to the valet parking to the time you leave, it's a totally comforting experience. The reason you're there is not pleasant, but they make it as pleasant as possible. I came away from the whole experience with a very high regard for Moffitt.

Share your inspirational stories at:
www.moffitpinellaspartners.com
Click on "Contact Us"