

## CANCER CENTER NEWSLETTER

July 1998

### Ragg Named William Kennedy Research Fellow

Susanne Ragg, M.D., Ph.D. a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Associate in David Williams lab and a Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellow has been named a William Kennedy Research Fellow of the National Childhood Cancer Foundation. She was nominated by Phil Breitfeld, Director of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Riley. Only two individuals were selected for this honor from throughout the United States. Susanne was recognized for her work on the genetic modification of hematopoietic cells in childhood cancer. She was recommended for a two year fellowship award. David Williams, M.D., will serve as her mentor.

### Pediatric Oncology Pilot Projects Announced

#### Analysis of *CUL-4A* During Hematopoiesis

Kristin T. Chun, Ph.D., will serve as principle investigator for this project. The proposal will study a novel gene, the human *CUL-4A*. Currently nothing is known about the function of this gene, but based on apparent functions of other cullins, it is likely that *CUL-4A* may also participate in regulating the cell division cycle.

The proposal has two aims. The first aim will be to determine whether *CUL-4A* is involved in hematopoiesis, and if involved, determine which hematopoietic lineages are affected by this regulator to focus future research. The second aim of the project will be to identify proteins that interact with *CUL-4A* and determine *CUL-4A*' protein's molecular function.

#### Recombinant Human Interleukin 11 for Patients with Fanconi's Anemia and Inherited Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes

The principle investigator for this study will be James M. Coop, M.D., Ph.D. The study proposes to determine if patients with Fanconi's anemia and other inherited bone marrow failure syndromes respond to recombinant IL-11 (rhIL-11).

The project has 5 aims. One will be to assess the efficacy of rhIL-11 in raising the peripheral platelet count and decreasing platelet transfusion dependence of patients with Fanconi's anemia and inherited bone marrow failure syndromes. A second aim will assess the efficacy of rhIL-11 in raising the peripheral neutrophil count of patients with Fanconi's anemia and inherited bone marrow failure syndromes. The third aim will assess the safety of rhIL-11 treatment in patients with Fanconi's anemia and inherited bone marrow failure syndromes. A fourth aim will measure the number of bone marrow progenitor colonies before and after rhIL-11 treatment in the study patients. The final aim will measure the number of CD34 positive cells present in the bone marrow and peripheral blood before and after rhIL-11 treatment in patients in study patients using flow cytometry and immunohistochemical techniques.

## **Stephen D. Williams Receives NCI RO1 Award**

Dr. Stephen Williams has received a two year, NCI R01 entitled "Quality of Life in Ovarian Germ Cell Cancer Survivors." Collaborators are Dr. Victoria Champion at IU School of Nursing, Dr. David Cella at Evanston Hospital, and Dr. David Gershenson at M.D. Anderson. The study population includes women cured of ovarian germ cell cancer and treated on prospective trials of the Gynecologic Oncology Group or at M.D. Anderson.

## **Core Facility Presentation**

Kenneth Dunn, Ph.D., Department of Nephrology, IUSM, will present "New Technologies in the Optical Microscopy Facility" on July 1, 1998, at 4:00 p.m. in the Cancer Research Institute Auditorium 101.

## ***Seminars/Conferences/Meetings***

### **Wednesday 7/1**

- **4:00 p.m.** "New Technologies in the Optical Microscopy Facility." Kenneth Dunn, Ph.D., Dept of Nephrology, IUSM. **Cancer Research Institute Auditorium.**

### **Thursday 7/2**

- **12:00 noon** Special Presentation hosted by IUCC. "What Metalloproteinases Can Tell Us About Tumor Progression." Lynn Martrisian, Ph.D., Professor and Vice-Chair, Department of Cell Biology, Vanderbilt Medical Center; Nashville, TN. **Medical Science Room 326.**

### **Monday 7/6**

- **4:30 p.m.** Hematology Fellows Lecture. "Administrative Issues." Lawrence Einhorn, M.D. **RT 425.**

### **Monday 7/13**

- **4:30 p.m.** Hematology Fellows Lecture. "Testicular Cancer Protocols." Lawrence Einhorn, M.D. **RT 425.**

### **Monday 7/20**

- **4:30 p.m.** Hematology Fellows Lecture. "Mechanisms to Overcome Drug Resistance." Leonard Erickson, Ph.D. **RT 425.**

### **Monday 7/27**

- **4:30 p.m.** Hematology Fellows Lecture. "Breast Cancer Protocols." George Sledge, M.D. **RT 425.**

**July 20<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for items to be included in the August issue. Contact Liz Parsons at [eparsons@iupui.edu](mailto:eparsons@iupui.edu) or fax information to 278-0074.