

Indiana University Cancer Center Newsletter

DECEMBER 1998

Special points of interest:

- Harrington Receives NIAID Grant
- Erickson Appointed Robert Wallace Miller Professor of Oncology
- Please Welcome
- We are on the Web
- Seminars/ Meetings/ Conference Schedule

Harrington Receives NIAID Grant

Maureen Harrington, Ph.D., Associate Professor Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Medicine has received a one year grant for the National Institute of AIDS and Infectious Diseases for her project entitled "Functional Analysis of the Mouse-Pelle-like Kinase".

Dr. Harrington's laboratory is interested in determining how the innate immune response is regulated. The innate immune response is an important line of defense against pathogenic agents, is an integral component of the wound repair process and may be required for the development of an acquired immune response. *In vivo*, the cytokines, tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF α) and interleukin-1 (IL-1) activate the innate immune response by increasing NF- κ B dependent gene expression.

Dr. Harrington's laboratory recently identified a novel serine/threonine protein kinase, mouse Pelle-like kinase (mPLK). mPLK shares a high degree of sequence similarity with the *Drosophila* Pelle protein kinase. In *Drosophila*, Pelle is in a signaling pathway upstream of Dorsal, a *Drosophila* NF- κ B equivalent and is involved in the host immune response. Recent studies on mPLK have revealed that mPLK is a component of a TNF α signaling pathway that results in activation of NF- κ B dependent genes. Dr. Harrington's recently awarded NIH grant is aimed at elucidating the mechanism(s) through which TNF α activates mPLK and how mPLK mediates induction of NF- κ B dependent gene expression.

Erickson Appointed to "Robbie Chair"

Leonard C. Erickson, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Associate Director, Translational Research for the Indiana University Cancer Center has been appointed the Robert Wallace Miller Professor of Oncology. Also known as the "Robbie Chair" this professorship was established in 1995 by the parents of Robbie Miller of Plymouth, IN. Robbie was an 11-year old who died suddenly of an undiagnosed rhabdomyosarcoma in 1976.

Please Welcome!

Please welcome to the Indiana University Cancer Center Ms. Rivienne Shedd-Steele. Rivienne joins the Cancer Center as the new Cancer Information Service Outreach Coordinator. Rivienne comes to us from The Little Red Door Cancer Agency where she served as the Minority Cancer Awareness coalition Director for the past seven years. Rivienne has over eighteen years of public relations and marketing experience.

Rivienne will be responsible for providing cancer control information, technical assistance and customized support services through organizational partnerships. These partnerships are developed with organizations and community leaders that place emphasis on serving minorities and the medically underserved populations. The focus of outreach efforts includes breast and cervical education, clinical trials, science awareness (research) and nutritional education. Rivienne's office is located in RT 411. She can be reached at 8-0073.

Please also welcome to Indiana University Cancer Center Administration Staff Kristen Bauer. Krissy is currently a IUPUI student studying Nuclear Medicine and most recently worked as part-time secretary for the Department of Geology. Krissy will be serving as part-time secretary support for Dr. Leonard Erickson and his group, and for the senior administrative secretary for the Indiana University Cancer Center. One of her responsibilities will be the scheduling of the Cancer Research Institute Auditorium. Krissy's office will be in the Cancer Research Institute, R4 170, and she can be reached at 4-8965.

Combined Seminar Series

Due to the upcoming holidays the Combined Seminar Series held every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. in the Cancer Research Institute Auditorium will be **cancelled** on the following dates:

December 2, 1998 ASH Conference

December 23, 1998

December 30, 1998

We are on the Web!

The Indiana University Cancer Center is now on the Web. The page can be found at

<http://www.iupui.edu/~iucc/>

One will be able to find information on the Cancer Center, Research and Clinical Programs, Clinical Trials, Shared Facilities, the newsletter, and the schedule for the combined seminar series.

Seminars/Conferences/Meetings

Tuesday, December 2

12:00 noon **“4-1 BB-Mediated Signal Transduction.”** Ihn-Kyung Jang, Ph.D.
Candidate, Dept. of Microbiology/Immunology, IUSM. *Cancer Research Institute Auditorium.*

Wednesday, December 2

7:00 a.m. Skull Base Group Conference. *UH 2005*

8:30 a.m. **“Physician-Assisted Suicide.”** David Orentlicher, M.D., J.D., Co Director, Center for Law and Health, IUPUI. *Wishard Hospital, Myers Auditorium.*

12:30 p.m. Radiation/Gynecologic Oncology Conference Case Presentations/Didactic. Dr. George Nelson. *RT 425.*

4:00 p.m. No Combined Seminar Series Lecture. ASH Conference

Thursday, December 3

4:00 p.m. **“P21-Activated Protein Kinases as Regulators of Raf-1.”** Mark Marshall, Ph.D., Dept. of Medicine and the Walther Oncology Center, IUSM. *Medical Science 326.*

5:00 p.m. **“Surgery of Parotid Gland.”** Peter Randall, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Plastic Surgery, University of Pennsylvania and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA. *Wishard Hospital, Myers Auditorium.*

Monday, December 7

4:00 p.m. **“The Development of Specificity and Selectivity in Insulin Signaling.”** Dr. Morris Birnbaum, Associate Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Professor, Dept. of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA. *Medical Science 326.*

4:30 p.m. Hematology Fellows Lecture. NO LECTURE-ASH Conference

Wednesday, December 9

12:30 p.m. Radiation/Gynecologic Oncology Conference Case Presentation/Discussion. *RT 425.*

4:00 p.m. **“T-Cell Costimulation: Mechanisms Regulating Activation and Development.”** Dr. David McKean, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Dept. of Immunology, Mayo Medical School, Rochester, MN. *Cancer Research Institute Auditorium 101.*

Thursday, December 10

12:00 noon **“PTHrP: >From Hypercalcemia to Regulator of Differentiation.”** John Foley, Ph.D., Dept. of Anatomy, IUSM, Medical Sciences Programs, IUB. *Medical Science 326.*

4:00 p.m. **“Studies on Transmembrane Signaling Through the Interferon γ Receptor.”** Lawrence Pfeffer, Ph.D., Dept. of Pathology, University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN. *Medical Science 326.*

5:00 p.m. **“Pancreatic Carcinoma.”** Frank Lloyd, M.D., Surgical Oncologist, Methodist Hospital. *Wishard Hospital, Myers Auditorium.*

5:30 p.m. **“Childhood Malignancies.”** Frederick J. Rescorla, M.D., Dept. of Surgery, Div. of Pediatric Surgery, IUMC. *Wishard Hospital, Myers Auditorium.*

Monday, December 14

4:30 p.m. Hematology Fellows Lecture. **“Head and Neck Cancer”** Dr. Scott Saxman, IUSM. *RT*

425.

Tuesday, December 15

12:00 p.m. Experimental Therapeutics Research Program Meeting. **“Childhood Cancers.”** Dr. Frank Smith, IUSM. *Cancer Research Auditorium 101A.*

Wednesday, December 16

12:30 p.m. Radiation/Gynecologic Oncology Conference Case Presentation/Didactic. Dr. David Moore. *RT 425.*

4:00 p.m. **“Stem Cell Transplantation: Facilitating Engraftment and Preventing Late Failure. A Tale of Two Studies.”** Beverly Torok-Storb, Ph.D., Associate Program Head, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA. *Cancer Research Institute Auditorium 101.*

Thursday, December 17

4:00 p.m. **“Biological Functions of NF- κ B/p52 and Bcl-3: Oncoproteins and Transcription Factors.”** Guido Franzoso, M.D., Ph.D., The Ben May Institute for Cancer Research and The Gwen Knapp Center for Lupus and Immunology Research, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. *Medical Science 326.*

Monday, December 21

4:30 p.m. Hematology Fellows Lecture. **“Special Lecture.”** Dr. Patrick Loehrer, IUSM. *RT 425.*

Wednesday, December 23

12:30 p.m. Radiation/gynecologic Conference Case Presentation/Discussion. *RT 425.*

4:00 p.m. No Combined Seminar Series Happy Holidays!

Monday, December 28

4:30 p.m. Hematology Fellows Lecture. NO LECTURE

Wednesday, December 30

12:30 p.m. Radiation/Gynecologic Oncology Conference Case Presentation/Didactic. Dr. Higinia Cardenes. *RT 425.*

4:00 p.m. No Combined Seminar Series. Happy New Year!

Questions? Suggestions? Announcements?
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