

NVCI Breakthrough

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEVADA CANCER INSTITUTE

SUMMER 2005



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUMMER IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN FRIENDS COME TOGETHER AROUND THE POOL, ATHLETIC FIELDS, THE BARBEQUE TO ENJOY THE LONGER DAYS OF SUNLIGHT AND THE COOLING BREEZES OF DESERT EVENINGS.

At NVCI, we are approaching a seminal event in our organization's young history. On September 23, 2005 we will publicly dedicate our Flagship research institute that is committed to researching, preventing, detecting and caring for people with cancer. We hope you will mark your calendars for 6 p.m. at One Breakthrough Way, 10441 W. Twain Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89135, and plan to join us for this special event.

Our "bench" of researchers, clinicians and technicians continues to grow, and approached approximately 150 staff as of mid-August. We expect to continue to grow as we add more programs and services to meet the needs of Nevadans and residents of the southwest during the next year.

Among the services of which we are most proud is our Patient Navigation and Support service, a component of our mission of Outreach and Education. Daily, our Patient Navigation team is providing assistance to cancer patients, their families and clinical teams to help them connect with the support and financial resources they need so that they can focus on the job of recovery.

As of mid-July our clinical team was providing care to 500 patients in collaboration with community-based physicians around the state. Our Clinical Trials Office has opened 20 new or pending clinical trials. In the biennial legislative session that recently concluded, public policymakers and the business community came together to enact legislation that will allow more cancer patients in Nevada to benefit from highly-personalized cancer care afforded through clinical trials through coverage under their health insurance plans. We thank them for their responsiveness and foresight in this important area.

Our research into preventing, detecting and caring continues to advance quickly. In addition to the 20 clinical trials that are included in this newsletter, we have successfully opened a clinical trial for lung cancer. Nicholas J. Vogelzang, MD, our director, also recently completed editing a reference text book on malignant mesothelioma.

And, thank you for your continuing support and dedication to the cause of cancer care and cure in Nevada.

Best regards,

Heather Murren, *President and CEO*

Facility Construction Status



Photo Credit: Industrial Photographics

Nevada's Official Cancer Research, Education and Prevention and Care Institute Nears Move In

NVCI's Flagship research facility will open for patients later this summer. It will be dedicated on September 23, 2005.

CANCER SURVIVORS DAY 2005

NEVADA GOVERNOR KENNY GUINN JOINED CANCER SURVIVORS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN SENDING BEST WISHES AND THANKS TO LANCE ARMSTRONG FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN CANCER SURVIVORSHIP, THROUGH A “*BANNER OF COURAGE.*”

The banner was unveiled in Las Vegas on Sunday, June 5, 2005 as part of the Sixth Annual Cancer Survivors Day Celebration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Judy Bailey Theatre. The event featured a Cancer Survivor Resource Fair and a speech by Toben Anderson, a cancer survivor who spoke about her drive to conquer Vinson Massif, the highest mountain in Antarctica. The event was sponsored by Nevada Cancer Institute (NVCi) and Summerlin Hospital Medical Center.

“In recent years, our nation has made vast strides in the treatment and prevention of cancer,” the Governor wrote in a letter read at the event by Nicholas Vogelzang, MD, director of NVCi. “The world’s leader in innovative, aggressive and ethical medical research, America is giving cancer victims across the world cause for hope. This is why I was honored to have the opportunity to be the first signatory on the banner,” the Governor said.

“We appreciate Governor Guinn’s leadership and support for cancer survivors and joining with us in recognizing Lance Armstrong, the seven-time winner of the Tour de France,” said Erica Archuleta, director of the Lance Armstrong Survivorship Center at NVCi.



Dr. Nicholas Vogelzang at Nevada Cancer Survivor Day Celebration with the Banner of Hope, accompanied by Erica Archuleta and Clark Dumont.

D O N O R P R O F I L E

HARRY WINSTON

HARRY WINSTON INC. RAISES \$250,000 FOR NEVADA CANCER INSTITUTE

World Famous Jewelers Harry Winston Inc. honored Nevada Cancer Institute by raising \$250,000 through their Annual Gala and event sales during the past two years, with the goal of helping NVCi to become a comprehensive cancer research institute.

“The commitment Harry Winston has shown to NVCi is truly amazing,” said Heather Murren, president of NVCi. “They’ve consistently contributed to the institute since 2003 and made a positive and ever-lasting investment in the entire Nevada community. They serve as a shining example for other businesses to help in the fight against cancer.”

The contributions evoke the warm memory of Harry Winston, an innovator in the precious stones industry whose hard work and determination changed the way jewelry is perceived today.

“What really makes NVCi stand out is the organization’s collective passion,” notes Jim Haag, U.S. Sales Director for Harry Winston Inc. “Like our founder Harry Winston, they have a dream that they believe in. They’re willing to go out and make their dreams a reality and we are proud to help them with their vision.”

More than one-third of all cancers can be prevented by adopting healthy lifestyle changes including not smoking, getting routine cancer screenings, eating five fruits and vegetables per day and using sense in the sun.

NVCi provides preventive and education services including wellness classes, access to smoking cessation programs and a women’s health education program.

**The office is open Monday – Friday
from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Also, cancer information and services can be obtained by calling NVCi 866.403.4325

STAFF AND FACULTY APPOINTMENTS GROW AT NVCI

The Nevada Cancer Institute is building a highly expert and diverse team of faculty and staff that is already contributing to researching, preventing, detecting and caring for cancer. We are pleased to welcome the following staff members who have joined us since this Spring. In future editions of Breakthrough we will introduce them to you in greater depth. You may also learn more about them at www.nevadacancerinstitute.org.

Laura G. Bennett
Director, Grants and Contracts

Bonnie Bruzdziak
Coordinator, Professional Relations

Susan Caramico, RN
Nurse Manager, Clinical Trials Office

Ken Carlin
Senior Engineer, Facilities

Emma Cempron, RN
Research Nurse, Clinical Trials Office

Nam Hoang Dang, MD, PhD
Chief, Hematological Malignancies

Clark P. Dumont, APR
Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs

Richard Faircloth
Chief Information Officer

Louis M. Fink, MD
Director, Core Laboratory Medicine

Burgess B. Freeman III, PharmD
*Director, Clinical Pharmacology Core and
Assistant Member in the Drug Development Division*

Michael Gach, PhD
Director, Research Imaging Facility

Dava Gerard, MD, MPH, FACS
Vice president, Chief Operating Officer

John Gilani
Senior Recruiter, Human Resources

Donald A. Hessel
Manager, Imaging and Radiology

John Jemison, MSSM
Director, Safety & Risk Management

Regina Lee, RN
Research Nurse

Yupo Ma, MD, MS, PhD
Chief, Hematopathology

Phillip J. Manno, MD, FACP
Chief, Clinical Oncology and Hematology Services

Steve Maniago
Associate Director, Finance

Sylvie Marcy, RN
Technical Director, Clinical Trials Office

Arthur "Chip" Miller
*Executive Chef & Director, Culinary and
Education Support Services*

Margo Ott, MSW
Clinical Social Worker

Anita Pomerantz, MD
Director, Radiation Oncology Clinical Research

David Pomerantz, MD
Director, Clinical Radiation Oncology

Arlene Sagisi
Informatics Specialist, Clinical Trials Office

Patricia Strine
Imaging Technologist

Tracie Stuckey
Imaging Technologist

Jeanette Turner, RN
Research Nurse

John F. Ward, MD, FACS
Chief, Department of Urologic Oncology

Yagang Ray Wang, MS, DABMP, DABR
Medical Physicist

Rosemary West
Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations

Myra Womble
Authorization Specialist

Bryan Y. Wong, MD, PhD
*Assistant Member, Department of Hematological
Oncology*

Jeff Wyatt, CPA
Director, Clinical Business Services

SUMMER NEWSLETTER EVENT UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2005

Nevada Cancer Institute
Flagship Facility Dedication
One Breakthrough Way
10441 W. Twain Avenue
September 23, 2005
6 p.m.

Please join us for this landmark moment in Nevada's history—
the formal dedication of our new flagship facility.

OCTOBER 2005

Key to the Cure
October 28-29, 2005
Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Show

Saks Fifth Avenue and the Entertainment Industry Foundation will partner for the annual "Key to the Cure," a charity shopping event with a percentage of the sales benefiting local and national breast and women's reproductive cancer research centers. Saks Fifth Avenue Las Vegas "Key to the Cure" will benefit NVCI.

Preventing Cancer: Factors Affecting Women's Health¹

It is common for us to believe that certain things will not happen to us. Commonly known as invincibility, we don't ever anticipate getting any type of diseases. What many of us lose track of, is the fact that there are some factors that do indeed affect our health; particularly that of women. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the following is a list of factors that may be controlled or altered to delay or prevent the onset of many debilitating diseases:

Healthy Eating –

Ever heard of “You are what you eat?” Eating five or more fruits and vegetables a day and less saturated fat can improve your health and may reduce the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. Have a balanced diet, and watch how much you eat.

Tips for a Healthier Diet:

- Make half of your grains whole
- Vary your vegetables
- Focus on fruit
- Get calcium rich foods
- Go lean with protein

Increase of Physical Activity –

For adults, thirty minutes of moderate physical activity on most days of the week is recommended. It doesn't take a lot of time or money, but it does take commitment. Start slowly, work up to a satisfactory level, and don't overdo it. Find fun ways to stay in shape and feel good, such as dancing, gardening, cutting the grass, swimming, walking, or jogging.

Not Smoking –

Health concerns associated with smoking include cancer, lung disease, early menopause, infertility, and pregnancy complications. Smoking triples the risk of dying from heart disease among those who are middle-aged. Second-hand smoke – smoke that you inhale when others smoke – also affects your health. If you smoke, quit today!

Participating in Routine Exams and Screening –

Sometimes they're once a year. Other times they're more or less often. Based on your age, health history, lifestyle, and other important issues, you and your health care provider can determine how often you need to be examined and screened for certain diseases and conditions. These include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases, and cancers of the skin, cervix, breast, and colon. When problems are found early, your chances for treatment and cure are better. Routine exams and screenings can help save lives.

Management of Stress –

Perhaps now more than ever, job stress poses a threat to the health of workers and, in turn, to the health of organizations. Balancing obligations to your employer and your family can be challenging. What's your stress level today? Protect your mental and physical health by engaging in activities that help you manage your stress at work and at home.

Tips to Managing Stress:

- Become aware of your “Stressors”.
- Become aware of your responses to stress.
- Recognize what you can work toward changing.
- Identify a technique to deal with stress.
- Practice, Practice, Practice!

Safety and Protecting Yourself –

This aspect encompasses everything from washing your hands to watching your relationships. Did you know that women at work die most frequently from homicides, motor vehicle incidents, falls, and machine-related injuries? Take steps to protect yourself and others wherever you are.

Being Good to Yourself –

Health is not merely the absence of disease; it's a lifestyle. Whether it's getting enough sleep, relaxing after a stressful day, or enjoying a hobby, it's important to take time to be good to yourself. Take steps to balance work, home, and play. Pay attention to your health, and make healthy living a part of your life.

¹Tips for a Healthy Life for Women, Office of Women's Health: Prevention Works for Women, <http://www.cdc.gov/od/spotlight/mhw/tips.htm>, 2004: Atlanta Georgia.

- Lazara Paz, NVCI Health Educator

Lorena Paez, UNLV Graduate Assistant, NVCI Education and Outreach

NORTHERN NEVADA SUPPORTS NEVADA CANCER INSTITUTE

\$200,000 RAISED IN INAUGURAL “ROCK FOR THE CURE” FUNDRAISER BAND CHICAGO PLAYS IN RENO

One of America's most enduring popular bands, Chicago, highlighted the first fundraiser in northern Nevada to benefit NVCI.

“We are overwhelmed with the support across northern Nevada for the institute and its work,” said Phil Satre who chaired the event along with Jennifer, his wife, and Ann and Chuck Mathewson. The Satres and Mathewsons were early

founders of the institute. Phil Satre serves on NVCI's board of directors.

The event, held at Hawkins Amphitheatre, Reno on Friday June 10, 2005 raised \$200,000 for the work of NVCI. In March, NVCI opened its northern Nevada headquarters in Sparks which is dedicated to prevention, education and detection of cancer care throughout northern Nevada.



MAYOR BOB CASHELL, HEATHER MURREN,
SKIP AVANSINO AND DEBBIE DAY



ANN MATHEWSON, JIM MURREN, HEATHER MURREN,
CHICAGO BAND MEMBERS, MARISA AVANSINO, SKIP AVANSINO

ROCK FOR THE CURE

BREAKTHROUGH SPECIAL FEATURE: NVC I SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UPDATE



Report from the Director

NICHOLAS VOGELZANG, MD, FACP

Nevada Cancer Institute is committed to making a difference in finding the cure to cancer through on-going, thoughtful clinical and science-based research. In this edition of Breakthrough, I am proud to begin reporting on some of the research that is underway. My colleagues will look forward to further discussing the outcomes of our research in future editions of this publication.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE UPDATE

I am very proud of the progress we have made in attracting a highly talented and dedicated Faculty to be a part of the opening of the landmark NVC I Flagship research facility serving the needs of Nevadans. As of mid-July, we have more than 500 patients who have been entrusted to our care in collaboration with many caring and talented community physicians across the state. My fellow physicians and colleagues Phillip Manno, MD; Sunil Sharma, MD; Bryan Wong, MD, PhD; Nam Dang, MD, PhD; and Anita and David Pomerantz, MD; are first class and world class researchers, clinicians, and people.

NVC I AT AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY (ASCO)

NVC I had a successful presence at the annual meeting of the leading oncology society held in May in Orlando. ASCO is the world's leading professional organization representing physicians who specialize in oncology. Nicholas Vogelzang, MD, director of NVC I hosted an evening reception at the Peabody Hotel for research collaborators, advisers and friends of NVC I who were attending the meeting. Dr. Vogelzang also presented the results of several clinical trials, and was on the planning/program committee for this year's meeting.

Continued on Page 4

We hope you will join us in this historic effort to establish a world class comprehensive cancer center in Nevada.

Your contribution, at this critical time, will resonate for decades to come in the fight against cancer.

For more information, please contact: **Shelley B. Gitomer** - *Vice President for Development - Nevada Cancer Institute*
702.821.0000 or www.nevadacancerinstitute.org

NVC I is a non-profit organization with a 501 (c)(3) designation. Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BREAKTHROUGH SPECIAL FEATURE: NVC I SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UPDATE CONTINUED

ADVANCEMENT THROUGH DISCOVERY

We are pleased to announce the initiation of an Open-Label, Non-Randomized Phase II study investigating the effects of RAD001 monotherapy in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer previously treated with either chemotherapy alone or with chemotherapy and EGFR inhibitors. Currently, NVC I is in the process of screening patients for the study.

MALIGNANT MESOTHELIOMA, EDITED BY NICHOLAS VOGELZANG, M.D.

Dr. Vogelzang and a group of leading researchers have recently completed an updated compendium on the state of this disease and curative methodologies. Dr. Vogelzang in his capacity as director of Nevada Cancer Institute brings further recognition to our organization.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

“Malignant mesothelioma is a rare form of cancer, in which the cancer cells are found in the sac lining the chest (pleura) or abdomen (peritoneum). This lethal disease is associated with asbestos and has vast economic and legal implications. As the disease takes approximately twenty years to manifest itself in humans, a wave of diagnoses is expected in the near future. In the United States alone, an estimated 3,500 – 4,000 patients are diagnosed with mesothelioma annually, and it is estimated that over the next 35 years, more than 250,000 people in Western Europe will be diagnosed with the disease. Malignant Mesothelioma, edited by internationally recognized experts in the field, is a comprehensive text that relates science, pathology, clinical aspects and therapy for mesothelioma under one cover. The book integrates the newest research and advances in its discussions of the disease, covering such topics as carcinogenesis, epidemiology, benchwork, endoscopy, multimodality approaches and treatment. It includes discussions on novel approaches to mesothelioma, such as gene therapy, vaccination strategies and immunotherapy, as well as discussions on the legal and economic aspects of the disease. More than 200 illustrations round out the text. An invaluable reference for the medical oncologist, thoracic surgeon, radiation oncologist, pulmonologist, and benchworker interested in the disease.”



SUSAN G. KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE 2005

Team NVC I at Race for the Cure with
Mayor Oscar Goodman.

OFFICE OF CLINICAL TRIALS OPENS

Under the capable leadership of Sunil Sharma, MD and a growing and talented staff, we have opened or are in the process of opening 20 Phase I, II and III clinical trials treating patients with a variety of cancers and Solid Tumors. All cancer patients are welcome to seek highly-personalized and locally-directed research-based care through participation in these research trials and those of the Southern Nevada Cancer Cooperative Oncology Program. More information may be gained through your physician.

PENDING ACTIVATION PROTOCOL STATUS

ACTIVE PROTOCOL STATUS

| DISEASE SITE/STAGE | PHASE/ THERAPY | PROTOCOLS |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| BREAST — Advanced previously treated with anthracycline and taxane | Phase III Epothilone | A Phase III Trial of Novel Epothilone BMS-247550 Plus Capecitabine Versus Capecitabine Alone in Patients With Advanced Breast Cancer Previously Treated with Anthracycline and a Taxane |
| LUNG — Non-Small Cell Lung – Locally advanced or metastatic unresectable | Phase I-II Inhaled Doxorubicin | A Phase I-II Study of Inhaled Doxorubicin (Doxorubicin HCL Inhalation Solution, Resmycin) Plus IV Docetaxel and Cisplatin in Patients With Locally advanced or Metastatic Unresectable Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer |
| LUNG — Mesothelioma – Advanced malignant previously treated | Phase III SAHA | A Phase III, Randomized, Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of Oral Suberoylanilide Hydroxamic Acid (L-001079038) in Patients With Advanced Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma Treated With Systemic Chemotherapy |
| LUNG — Non-Small Cell Lung –Advanced previously treated with chemotherapy | Phase II RAD001 | Open-Label, Non-Randomized, Phase II Study Investigating the Effects of RAD001 Monotherapy in Patients with Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Previously Treated with Either Chemotherapy Only or with Chemotherapy and EGFR Inhibitors |
| LUNG — Small Cell Lung – Advanced after first line cytotoxic regimen | Phase III Clotetazine | A Phase II Trial of Clotetazine for Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Small Cell Lung Cancer |
| LUNG — Non-Small Cell Lung – Stage IIIB or IV following induction therapy | Phase III Pemetrexed | A Phase III, Double Blind, Placebo Controlled Study of Maintenance Pemetrexed Plus Best Supportive Care Versus Best Supportive Care Immediately Following Induction Treatment for Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer |
| HEMATOLOGIC — T-cell Lymphoma – CD2 positive | Phase I MEDI-507 | A Phase I Open-Label Dose Escalation Study to Evaluate MEDI-507 in Patients with CD2-Positive T-Cell Lymphoma / Leukemia |
| GENTOURINARY — Prostate – Hormone refractory previously treated with one chemo regimen | Phase III Saltraplatin | A Multi-center, Multi-National, Double Blind, Randomized Phase III Study of Satraplatin Plus Prednisone in Patients with Hormone Refractory Prostate Cancer Previously Treated with One Cytotoxic Chemotherapy Regimen |
| GENTOURINARY — Prostate – Castration resistant | Phase II Valproic Acid | A Phase II Clinical Trial of Oral Valproic Acid (VPA) in Patients With Castration Resistant Prostate Cancers |
| GENTOURINARY — Renal Cell - Metastatic | Phase II SU011248 | A Phase II Efficacy and Safety Study of SU011248 Administered in a Continuous Daily Regimen in Patients With Cytokine-Refractory Metastatic Renal Cancer |
| GENTOURINARY — Renal Cell – Unresectable and/ or metastatic | Phase II Sorafenib | A Randomized, Open-Label, Multi-Center Phase II Study of First Line Treatment with BAY 43-9006 (Sorafenib) Versus Standard Treatment with Interferon Alpha-2a in Patients with Unresectable and/or Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma |
| GASTROINTESTINAL — Colorectal – Metastatic first line treatment | Phase IIIB Panitumumab | A Randomized, Open-Label, Controlled, Clinical trial of Chemotherapy and Bevacizumab With and Without Panitumumab in the First-Line Treatment of Subjects With Metastatic Colorectal Cancer |
| PHASE 1 SOLID TUMORS — Advanced Cancer – Solid tumor | Phase I SAHA | A Phase I Clinical Trial of Oral Suberoylanilide Hydroxamic Acid (L001079038) In Combination With Pemetrexed and Cisplatin in Patients With Advanced Cancer |