



## CELEBRATION OF LIVING

Emory Winship's  
Learning & Living  
Workshops for  
Cancer Patients.

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Emory Winship follows a simple philosophy — take the latest scientific discoveries and put them to work as quickly as possible to treat people with cancer. We have built multidisciplinary teams of investigators, physicians, technicians, and other healthcare professionals who work tirelessly with the understanding that small steps matter and eventually lead to big breakthroughs. Key members on these teams are our patients and their loved ones. We work closely with our patients to develop effective, individualized cancer treatments.

Recently, our team of patients, family members, physicians, nurses, social services, and Winship Volunteers all gathered to share information, friendship, and stories of courage and survival at this year's Celebration of Living. It was one of the most successful and energizing events in recent years.

As you read through these stories and notes, you'll see examples of the teamwork going on at Emory Winship. Together, we continue to advance in research and to develop programs and provide services to our key players: patients and their families.

Warm regards,

**Brian Lelyand-Jones, MD, PhD**

*Executive Director, Emory Winship Cancer Institute*

*Associate Vice President, Woodruff Health Sciences Center*

## Emory Researcher Earns \$600,000 Grant for Brain Tumor Research

**Erwin Van Meir**, professor of neurosurgery and hematology and medical oncology, has earned a three-year, \$600,000 research grant from the Goldhirsh Foundation.

The grant was awarded to fund Van Meir's research into the role of Galectin-3 (Gal3) in brain cancer. Gal3 is a protein that binds certain sugar molecules onto other proteins.

In Van Meir's laboratory, unpublished studies have revealed that activation of p53, a major tumor suppressor gene, induces Gal3 secretion. The release of Gal3 can induce the death of a variety of tumor cells, including brain tumor cells through apoptosis, a cell suicide program.

"Remarkably, normal cells remained unaffected, suggesting that Gal3 may be useful for tumor therapy," says Van Meir. Included in the grant are Van Meir's colleagues, Fatima Khwaja, Sok-Hyong Lee, Abdessamad Zerrouqi, and Narra S. Devi.



"We want to determine whether systemic delivery of recombinant Gal3 can be used for glioma therapy in a mouse model," says Van Meir. "This grant will enable us to advance these studies, which may lead to development

of novel therapeutic agents which would then be tested in clinical trials for treatment of patients with malignant gliomas and other solid tumors. We have a long way to go, but these results are very promising."

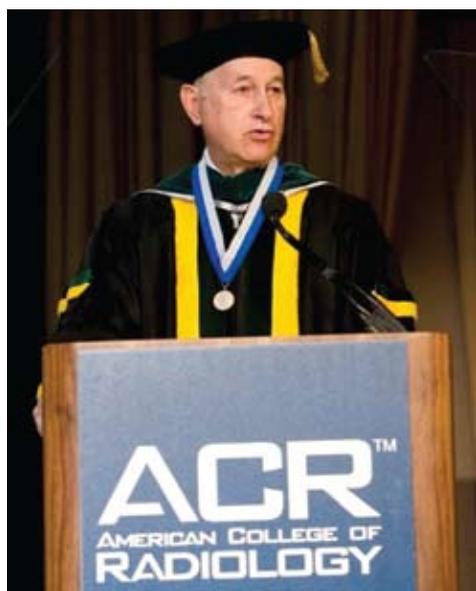
The Goldhirsh Foundation was established in 2000 and is devoted to providing support for innovative brain tumor research. Bernard Goldhirsh was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2000. Since his death in 2003, the Foundation's board of directors has been shaping a grant-making program that reflects his values and entrepreneurial spirit. Grants are awarded through a competitive, peer-reviewed process.

"Support from private foundations such as the Goldhirsh Foundation is critical to bringing forward new ideas, which may have high payoff but do not yet meet criteria for traditional governmental sources of funding," says Van Meir.

## Lawrence Davis Awarded Prestigious Gold Medal by American College of Radiology

**Lawrence Davis**, professor of radiation oncology and former chairman of the Department of radiation oncology, has been awarded the prestigious Gold Medal from the American College of Radiology.

The Gold Medal is awarded by the ACR's Board of Chancellors to individuals for distinguished and extraordinary service to the ACR and to the discipline of radiology. "Dr. Davis has served countless patients through his devotion to care, effective treatment, and advancing the discipline



of radiation oncology through peer-reviewed investigation and the development of new technology," say Barry Pressman, president of the 2008 Board of Chancellors. "Dr. Davis' service to the ACR through teaching, research, clinical investigation and collaboration with medical organizations and governmental agencies has served to advance the body of knowledge in radiation oncology."

Davis earned his medical degree from the Georgetown University School of Medicine, completed a residency in therapeutic radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and began practice at Emory in 1991. Davis has more than 100 published papers, abstracts, and editorials. In his presentation, Pressman noted that in Davis' more than 40 years as a member of the ACR, he has made contributions in the areas of clinical care, research education, and administration. He has served on the Board of Chancellors and was instrumental in development of the ACR Patterns of Care Study, which assessed the entire practice of radiation therapy.

## Emory Announces Panoz Chair Lily Yang

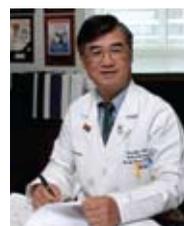
**Lily Yang** named to the Nancy Panoz Chair of Surgery in Cancer Research.



Associate professor of surgical oncology research in the department of surgery and assistant professor of hematology and medical oncology Lily Yang joined the Emory University faculty in 1997.

Yang's basic science research focuses on novel approaches for cancer treatment and detection, including the investigation of the feasibility and mechanism of targeting the inhibitor of apoptosis proteins for induction of specific cell death and early detection of the cancer cells. She is also involved in developing multifunctional and tumor targeted nanoparticles for non-invasive tumor imaging.

The Panoz Chair is fully funded due to a generous gift from Nancy Panoz. A former member of the Emory Breast Health Center Board, Mrs. Panoz is a director of Fountainhead Development Corporation, The Legends, and Château Élan Winery & Resorts. She serves on the board of directors for Wesley Woods, Inc.



## Dong Moon Shin Named Blomeyer Chair for Cancer Research

**Dong Moon Shin**, professor of hematology and medical oncology and otolaryngology, associate director of academic development and director of the cancer chemoprevention program, has been named to the Frances Kelly Blomeyer Chair in Cancer Research.

Shin, a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Scholar, joined Emory in 2003, when he moved from the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. Prior to joining the faculty in Pittsburgh, Shin served as an associate professor of medicine at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. His research focus is in head, neck and lung cancers.

"I am deeply honored to have been named to this chair," said Shin. "I very much appreciate the opportunity to continue the legacy of the Blomeyer Chair in Cancer Research, and I will work to ensure the Blomeyer family's vision of promoting research to aid in the prevention and cure of cancer."

"Dr. Shin is an excellent choice to hold this chair because of his focus on prevention in lung and head and neck cancers," said Brian Leyland-Jones, director of Emory Winship Cancer Institute. "He has built an extremely strong national and international reputation for his dedication, hard work, and brilliant innovation in this field."

Earle Blomeyer, former owner of Gladwin Plastics, Inc., which was based in Atlanta, established the Frances Kelly Blomeyer Chair in Cancer Research in 1984 in honor of his first wife who died from lung cancer that same year.

# Celebration of Living



## It started with the admonition:

“Don’t forget to laugh” from 13-year cancer survivor and popular author and speaker Christine Clifford Beckwith and ended with an original song written by medical oncologist, Wayne Harris, and his sons.

And in between, Emory Winship Cancer Institute’s Celebration of Living was a day of learning, entertainment, and camaraderie for the patients, families, doctors, nurses, social workers, and volunteers.

“It’s wonderful to meet other people who are in the same situation. We’ve been to several Celebrations of Living and always go away with an uplifting and beneficial message,” said cancer survivor Sylvia Bell, who attended with her husband, Chuck Bell, also a cancer survivor.

Celebration of Living began about 15 years ago when a few patients, nurses and social workers got together to visit outside the clinic setting and to talk about how to cope with cancer, recalled medical oncologist, Fadlo Khuri, chair of hematology and medical oncology.

“The Celebration of Living is a rare opportunity for our patients and staff to get to know each other on an individual basis. This is a day to celebrate the fact that there is more to life than getting through treatment for cancer,” Khuri said.

An early morning breakfast preceded a humorous and inspiring talk by keynote speaker, Beckwith, author of five award-winning books about cancer and president of the Cancer Club ([www.cancerclub.org](http://www.cancerclub.org)), an organization that specializes in marketing humorous and helpful products to people with cancer. Beckwith described her mission as “helping people realize that they can find a good life on the other side of a cancer diagnosis.”

“I cannot change the fact that I got cancer. What I can change is my attitude and how I deal with it on an ongoing basis,” she said. The day included three breakout sessions. During the first session, panels of clinicians

described treatments and therapies in aerodigestive cancer and sarcoma; breast and gynecological cancers; hematology and bone marrow transplant, gastrointestinal cancers, genitourinary cancers, melanoma, and pain management and supportive care.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn new skills for coping with cancer during hands-on sessions that included art therapy, knitting, relaxation techniques, massage, Jin Shin Do, meditation, acupuncture, and cooking. Other sessions included tips for looking good throughout treatment and finding community resources. In addition, there was a session that highlighted the important role of the caregiver and a session that provided information on how to handle legal issues during cancer treatment.

Following the breakout sessions was the Survivor Showcase. Select attendees agreed to show how they celebrate life by showcasing their talents, from singing to painting. The walls were lined with art work, short stories and poetry created by current and former patients. And, while participants enjoyed a box lunch, they were entertained by a talented array of patients, family members, and staff members who sang, read their original poetry, danced and played instruments.

The Band-Aids, a musical group made up of Emory Winship physicians and staff, ended the program with a sing-along of familiar songs and offered a tribute to the patients:

“We are here to celebrate your determination and courage to choose life against all odds. You have demonstrated the strength of the human spirit and the power of teamwork. We are grateful to you for giving us the inspiration to continue the fight against this disease. We are here today to celebrate your life!” said medical oncologist Harris.

## Volunteer Coordinator



### DaVida Lee-Williams has joined the Emory Winship Cancer Institute as volunteer coordinator.

Her job responsibilities include expanding and developing the five-year-old volunteer program, increasing the roster of volunteers and exploring new areas where the volunteers can provide assistance to patients and Emory Winship faculty and staff.

Lee-Williams has extensive experience in recruiting and working with volunteers and in volunteer program development. She comes to Emory Winship from Hands On Atlanta where she served as associate director of recruitment and marketing. She began her career with Hands On Atlanta 11 years ago, starting out as volunteer coordinator. Under her leadership, the number of members in the organization increased from 5,000 to 9,500 and the number of participants in Hands On Atlanta Day activities grew to 15,000.

“DaVida Lee-Williams will be a tremendous asset to the volunteer program. Her expertise in recruiting new volunteers and developing new programs for volunteers will help us build our program and will help us reach our goal of becoming one of the preeminent volunteer programs in cancer treatment centers throughout the world,” said James Hankins, director of patient and family support services, whose department includes volunteer services.

Lee-Williams plans to spend the first few weeks on the job collaborating with staff and volunteers to assess the program, determine the challenges and outline the opportunities for change.

“I want to lead a collaborative effort at Emory Winship to develop an outstanding volunteer program that will be rewarding to the volunteers and that will benefit the patients, the families, and the institution,” she said.

## Roberd Bostick Appointed Deputy Director for CCPS at Emory Winship

Roberd “Robin” M. Bostick, professor of epidemiology in the Rollins School of Public Health and hematology and medical oncology, has accepted the position of deputy director for cancer control and population sciences and as program leader for cancer control and population sciences for Emory Winship.

## Joseph Lipscomb Editorial Featured in JNCI

The cost of cancer care for elderly Medicare patients varies by tumor type, stage at diagnosis, phase of care, and survival, according to a new study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. **Joseph Lipscomb**, professor of health policy and management in the Rollins School of Public Health, wrote an accompanying editorial on the study that also appeared in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Lipscomb analyzes the methods used by the paper’s author, Robin Yabroff, PhD, in the division of cancer control and population sciences at the NCI, and compares them with other cost-estimate approaches. The high-quality methods lead to solid, if not surprising results. “Few of these individual findings are startling; yet taken together, they provide the scientifically strongest picture yet of the incidence costs of cancer in aggregate and by tumor type for the elderly in the United States,” writes Lipscomb.

The paper states that the 5-year-cost is highest for patients with lung, colorectal, and prostate cancers. The estimated cost for five years of care for elderly Medicare patients diagnosed with cancer in 2004 is \$21.1 billion.

## Jim McKay Appointed Administrator of Hematology and Medical Oncology Department

Jim McKay has been appointed administrator of the department of hematology and medical oncology at the Emory Winship Cancer Institute. McKay, who previously served as the director of decision support and practice management, has been with Emory Winship for six years.

## NEW FACULTY

**Johann Brandes** joins the VA in Hematology and Medical Oncology from Johns Hopkins University.

**Joan Cain** joins Emory Winship from the Emory University Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship Program.

**Samuel Chen** joins the VA in Hematology and Medical Oncology from the Medical College of Georgia.

**Omer Kucuk** joins Hematology and Medical Oncology from Wayne State University and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit.

**Sujatha Murali** joins Emory Winship from Emory’s Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship Program.

**Taofeek Owonikoko** joins Emory in Hematology and Medical Oncology from the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

**Alfredo Voloschin** joins Emory in neurology and Hematology and Medical Oncology from the Medical College of Georgia.

**Huichen Wang** joins Radiation Oncology from Temple University.

**Ya Wang** joins Radiation Oncology from Thomas Jefferson University.



Amy Y. Chen, MD, MPH

## Gaps Persist in Use of Less Invasive Breast Cancer Biopsy

When doctors are trying to figure out how deadly a breast tumor is, sentinel lymph node biopsy offers the advantages of being less invasive and less painful. Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) is a procedure where doctors check to see if a tumor has spread from the breast into neighboring lymph nodes.

Even as the use of sentinel lymph node biopsy has increased over the last decade, minorities, older women, women without insurance or with Medicaid, and women living in poorer areas are less likely to receive it, a recently published study found.

“When sentinel lymph node biopsy first became the standard of care in 1998, there wasn’t much of a disparity in who received it,” says **Amy Y. Chen**, associate professor of otolaryngology at Emory University School of Medicine. “But we found that by 2005, the disparities were greater.”

Chen led a team of American Cancer Society researchers who examined National Cancer Database Registry data from almost half a million women who had stage I or II breast cancer between 1998 and 2005. The team’s results were published online by the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.



Charles Staley, MD

### Emory Winship Named Blue Distinction Center for Complex and Rare Cancers<sup>SM</sup>

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBSGa) has named Emory Winship Cancer Institute as a Blue Distinction Center for Complex and Rare Cancers, focusing on complex inpatient and surgical care. Winship is the only cancer facility in the Metropolitan Atlanta area to earn this designation.

**Blue Distinction® is awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare.**

Blue Distinction® is awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare. Building on the successful results of earlier programs focused on cardiac care, bariatric surgery and transplants, the program was recently expanded to include the designation of Blue Distinction Centers for Complex and Rare Cancers. There are 85 such designated centers in the United States.

“We are honored to be recognized as the only Blue Distinction Center in the metropolitan Atlanta area by Blue Cross / Blue Shield,” said **Charles Staley**, director of surgical oncology at Emory Winship Cancer Institute. “This designation is a confirmation of the hard work and dedication to research and patient care that is exhibited every day by our faculty, nursing and administrative staff. We are very proud of this designation.”



## Emory Winship Introduces New Director and Support Group for Sarcoma

**As the director of Emory Winship Cancer Institute's** new sarcoma medical oncology program, medical oncologist Gina D'Amato's goal is to develop a top-rated sarcoma program within the next five years.

D'Amato is the first and only designated medical oncologist for the Emory Winship sarcoma program, which is based at Emory Crawford Long Hospital.

In addition to caring for patients in the sarcoma program, D'Amato oversees clinical trials for sarcoma treatments and collaborates with laboratory researchers to learn more about the disease and develop new treatment protocols.

“Emory is very supportive of my goal to have multiple clinical trials available at any one time. Because there are so many different types of sarcoma, not every patient is eligible for each trial,” she said.

D'Amato came to Emory Winship from the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer and Research Center in Tampa, FL, where she was a medical oncologist in the sarcoma program and assistant professor for sarcoma programs in the department of interdisciplinary oncology at the University of South Florida. She is board certified in medical oncology and internal medicine and earned her medical degree at the University of Miami School of Medicine in Miami, FL.

Sarcomas are malignant tumors that develop in the tissues that connect, support or surround other structures and organs of the body. The disease can occur in the bones, muscle, tendons, fat, fibrous tissues, nerves and blood vessels.

Treatment protocols are changing, D'Amato says, and her goal is for patients at Emory Winship to receive the most advanced therapies.

“In the past, we treated all types of sarcoma basically the same way. With our advanced

research, we can now employ more targeted therapies and medications to treat different types of sarcomas based on their individual characteristics,” D'Amato says.

D'Amato's excellent reputation preceded her, said Karen Davis, a 4.5 year osteo-sarcoma survivor.

“I heard about her through an online sarcoma support group. When I was diagnosed, there was not a medical oncologist in Atlanta who specialized in sarcoma. I can't convey how excited I am that she's here,” Davis said.

In addition, two substantial and generous donations from grateful patients are helping to energize the research component of the program. Dr. Robert Margolis committed \$250,000 and the Thomas B. and Patricia Reynolds Family Foundation pledged \$250,000 toward research into this difficult and rare form of cancer.

An anonymous donor also has contributed \$4,000 to establish a support group for patients and family members. Ned Crystal, who was treated with surgery, radiation and chemotherapy for stage 3 soft tissue sarcoma in 2007, has helped kick-start this group and serves as co-facilitator with Emory Winship social worker Valerie Henderson, MSW.

“Sarcoma is a little known cancer and that makes it even more frightening. Our goal is to provide support and reliable information for sarcoma patients and their caregivers. Cancer treatment is an emotional journey and people don't know what to do or where to turn for help. It's very helpful to meet other people going through the same thing,” he said.

# A Note to our Readers

In the Spring 2008 issue of the Winship Report, we featured an article on Winship patient Nancy Leiffer.

We learned from her husband, Gary, that Nancy passed away in April. Nancy's life and her battle with cancer had a profound impact on everyone she met, and Gary wanted to share a note that he had received from a dear friend and fellow cancer patient. Here is an excerpt from that note:



*Nancy beat cancer, she prevailed  
over its slow robbery of health  
by refusing to give up her life.*

*She went on trips, met  
with friends, had dinners out,  
and kept living a real life.*

*So this is my small tribute to her.  
She won her battle with cancer.  
Cancer lost.  
It never took away who she was.*

"I know that Nancy would say that others should live their lives to the fullest and never quit fighting," said Gary. "That was her motto."



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