

# EMORY

# winship

SUMMER 2009



## TRANSLATING SCIENCE INTO CARE

Emory Winship Cancer Institute  
in Atlanta, Georgia is now a  
National Cancer Institute  
Designated Cancer Center

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*Emory Winship Report is published quarterly by the Emory Winship Communications Office for patients, families, staff, and friends. If you have story ideas or feedback, please contact [alandre@emory.edu](mailto:alandre@emory.edu).*



I am delighted to announce that Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute has earned the coveted National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Designation. With this designation, Winship joins the ranks of the elite cancer centers in the United States.

NCI Cancer Center designation is a tremendous honor and a reflection of many years of hard work and dedication that has been exhibited by faculty and staff throughout the Emory University system.

This distinction enables us to focus on the future, but we look forward with great appreciation for our history. The Winship

Cancer Institute was established in 1937 with a gift from Coca Cola CEO Robert Woodruff, who named the center after his

grandfather, Robert Winship.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Woodruff Foundation and the State of Georgia for their steadfast support and belief in our mission.

And sincere thanks to our brilliant and dedicated faculty and staff whose work is the foundation upon which we are building this center.

Finally, to our patients and their family members who put their trust in Emory Winship for their care – we thank you and we look forward to working with you in advancing the fight against cancer.

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

*Executive Director, Emory Winship Cancer Institute  
Associate Vice President, Woodruff Health Sciences Center*

## Support Groups

Support groups provide a unique opportunity for patients with specific cancer types to talk and learn more about treatment options, improve quality of life, and make friends. Emory Winship Cancer Institute hosts cancer-specific and topical support groups throughout each month on the Emory campus. These groups are facilitated by licensed social workers, registered nurses, and other professionals. To find more support groups, please visit [www.cancer.emory.edu](http://www.cancer.emory.edu).

### CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. **Location:** WCI Building C, Patient Resource Center, C1166B. **Facilitator:** Jim Hankins, LCSW and Allison Schaffer, LMSW.

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Meets 4th Tuesday of each month. **Location:** WCI Building C, Patient Resource Center, C1166B. **Facilitator:** Pamela Butts, MDiv. *RSVP appreciated to Pam at (404) 778-4691.*

### CANCER AND FAITH JOURNEY SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm. **Location:** WCI Building C, Patient Resource Center, C1166B. **Facilitator:** Pamela Butts, MDiv. *For more details, call Pam at (404) 778-4691.*

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on Wednesday, twice a month, 12:30 pm-2:00 pm. A support group designed to provide guidance and understanding for those who take on the privilege of supporting the patient.

**Facilitators:** Jim Hankins, MSW, LCSW and Sherry Meltz, PsyD, LPC, NCC, DAPA. *For meeting location, RSVP to William (404) 778-5933.*

### JUST WRITE

Meets bi-monthly. This is an expressive, therapeutic writing support group.

**Facilitator:** Jean Rowe, LCSW. *Call Jean to register at (404) 778-1202.*

### NUTRITION SUPPORT GROUP

Call for dates and times. **Location:** WCI Building C, Patient Resource Center, C1166B. A group for developing good eating habits for cancer patients. **Facilitator:** Tiffany Barrett, MS, RD, LD. *For more details, call Tiffany at (404) 778-5646.*



(L to R) Rand Glenn Hagen, Louise Glenn D'Antignac, Ruth O'Regan, Lou Glenn, Tom Glenn

## Emory Winship Announces \$2 Million Chair in Breast Cancer Research

**Ruth O'Regan** has been named to the Louisa and Rand Glenn Family Chair in Breast Cancer Research in Emory Winship Cancer Institute. The announcement was made by Winship Director Brian Leyland-Jones.

O'Regan is associate professor of hematology and medical oncology and director of Emory Winship's translational breast cancer research program.

"We are sincerely grateful to the Glenn family for their interest and involvement in Winship," says Leyland-Jones. "This Chair will enable us to aim high for the benefit of future generations, while at the same time, taking care of the vital responsibilities that are before us each and every day."

O'Regan, a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Scholar, joined Emory from Northwestern University in Chicago. She is widely published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and frequently cited on topics related to breast cancer, including the use of hormonal and targeted therapies.

"Dr. O'Regan is internationally recognized for her work in breast cancer research," says Fadlo Khuri, chair of Emory's department of hematology and medical oncology. "Her work has made an indelible impact on the entire field.

In addition, Dr. O'Regan is a tireless and devoted physician who works closely with her patients."

O'Regan also is co-director of the Jean Sindab Endowment Research Team, which focuses on developing scientific research on breast cancer in African-American women. O'Regan and her colleagues have worked closely with the Avon Foundation to build a multidisciplinary breast cancer team at the Georgia Cancer Center of Excellence at Grady Hospital. She is also principal investigator of the first statewide breast cancer clinical trial run through the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education.

A native of Dublin, Ireland, O'Regan earned her medical degree at University College in Dublin. She conducted a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in oncology at the Mater Hospital in Dublin. She did her U.S. residency and fellowship at Northwestern University. In 2006, O'Regan was selected as Honoree of the Greater Atlanta Susan G. Komen Pink Tie Ball.

## Mylin Torres Joins Emory Radiation Oncology

**Mylin Torres has joined** the Emory University School of Medicine Department of Radiation Oncology as assistant professor specializing in the treatment of breast cancer.



"Dr. Torres brings a patient-centered approach to care as well as excellent experience as a collaborative investigator to our department," says Walter Curran, chairman of radiation oncology

and medical director of the Emory Winship Cancer Institute. "We are delighted to have recruited a physician of her caliber to Emory."

Torres' research interests have included breast cancer treatment techniques and clinical trial development, novel radio-sensitizing agents, the management of patients receiving concurrent radiation and chemotherapy for cervical cancer and patient-related outcomes measures.

She is a member of the American Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, the Radiologic Society of North America, the American Association for Women Radiologists and the American Brachytherapy Society. Torres is a manuscript reviewer for the prestigious *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology and Physics*.

A native of Savannah, Ga., Torres graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University and earned her medical degree from Stanford University. She completed her training in radiation oncology at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Torres has written and co-authored numerous publications and abstracts for peer-reviewed scientific journals. Most recently, she received the highly competitive Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial International Cancer Study Grant from the Switzerland-based International Union Against Cancer to study a novel Japanese technology that enables real time tumor-tracking radiotherapy.

# Emory Winship Cancer Institute is now a National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Center

Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute has earned the coveted National Cancer Institute Cancer Center designation. Winship is the first medical facility in Georgia to earn this distinction. As an NCI-designated cancer center, Winship joins an elite group of 65 cancer centers nationwide that are on the forefront of the battle against cancer.

"This designation is a tremendous honor and a reflection of the hard work and dedication that is exhibited by faculty and staff throughout the Emory system," says Brian Leyland-Jones, executive director of Winship and a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar. "This designation enables us to continue to develop collaborations and initiatives that will result in new therapies for patients throughout Georgia and beyond."

"The NCI Cancer Center Designation is a true milestone," says Carol Hill. Hill has devoted the past 14 years of her life to treating cancer patients at Winship. As an oncology nurse and now as manager in Winship's clinical trials office she embodies the hard work and absolute devotion that serve as the foundation upon which Winship is built. The NCI designation was earned in large part thanks to this foundation.

"Being an NCI Cancer Center will enable us to develop and participate in new and innovative clinical trials," says Hill. She provides as an example the Adult Brain Tumor Consortium, comprised of just 16 NCI designated cancer centers. "We are part of this consortium because we have the necessary components they require. Now our patients will have access to important clinical trials that we would otherwise not be able to offer them. As an NCI designated center, our peer institutions recognize multidisciplinary research and care as being among our strengths."

On April 13, Georgia's Governor, Sonny Perdue, visited Emory Winship to make the formal announcement regarding the designation. Together with Emory President James Wagner; Fred Sanfilippo, Vice President of Health Affairs

at Emory; Dr. Leyland-Jones; American Cancer Society President Dr. John Seffrin and Georgia Cancer Coalition President and CEO Bill Todd, Governor Perdue used statistics to bring home his message.

"Cancer strikes more than 35,000 Georgians each year," he said. "Each one of those 35,000 is a

member of a community, a mother, a father, son, or daughter. Thanks to Winship and this designation and through initiatives such as the Georgia Cancer Coalition and the Georgia Research Alliance, Georgia is at the forefront of cancer research. Winship has served as a model in establishing collaborative research programs and in working statewide to address the pressing issues related to treatment, education, and access to care for cancer patients."

As an NCI-designated center, Winship will receive nearly \$4.3 million in funding over the next three years to grow scientific research. The NCI will then review Emory's designation for a five-year renewal. According to the NCI, a designated cancer center's research components are the core of a much larger assembly of cancer activities, including clinical care, support services and education, extending the benefits of research directly to patients, their families, and the general public.

James Wagner, president of Emory University, says, "Winship's culture of collaboration and



(L to R) Bill Todd, Brian Leyland-Jones, Governor Sonny Perdue, James Wagner, Fred Sanfilippo

**Winship is the first medical facility in Georgia to earn this distinction. As an NCI-designated cancer center, Winship joins an elite group of 65 cancer centers nationwide that are on the forefront of the battle against cancer.**



discovery will continue to grow thanks to NCI's designation. There are many people to thank for their dedication, involvement and belief in attaining this goal. Chief among these are the Woodruff Foundation and the State of Georgia, including the GCC and the GRA, who deserve recognition for their vision and steadfast support. And while this is an important day for Emory, it is cancer patients and their family members, whether they live in Georgia or beyond our borders, who are the true beneficiaries of this designation."

The Winship Cancer Institute is part of Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Emory Healthcare, and Emory University. Researchers and clinical members of the cancer center are faculty at Emory or at partner institutions such as Georgia Institute of Technology. Faculty collaborate with national and state agencies, including the U.S. Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Cancer Society.

"By working with each other we create new ways of approaching problems," says Theresa Gillespie, deputy director for administration at Winship. "Our patients deserve to have the research, clinical care, and expertise that only an NCI designated cancer center brings to bear."

Fred Sanfilippo, Emory executive vice president for health affairs and CEO of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, praised Winship's faculty and staff for the achievement.

"NCI Cancer Center designation is an important chapter in Winship's long and impressive history," says Sanfilippo. "Winship's faculty and staff have devoted many years to achieving this goal and deserve recognition for this achievement. The designation is a milestone that will serve as a turning point for Winship and our patients. We are on the brink of great

advances in cancer research, and our ability to translate those advances into therapy is significantly enhanced by the NCI's designation."

John Fox, president and CEO of Emory Healthcare points to the positive impact the NCI designation will have for patients.

"In awarding this designation, the NCI is recognizing the emphasis we place on translating science into care," he says. "Winship has successfully developed a culture of multidisciplinary care that places patients at the center of everything we do, from scientific research to providing support services that include loved ones and family members."

The Winship Cancer Institute was established in 1937 through a \$50,000 gift to Emory from Coca Cola CEO Robert Woodruff, who named the center after his grandfather, Robert Winship. Woodruff's vision was for a center that focused on research, education, and patient care. The Woodruff Foundation has continued to support Emory in achieving this vision, and in 2002 Emory dedicated the 275,000 square-foot Winship Cancer Institute building, constructed with funds from the Woodruff Foundation and designed to facilitate development of new and more effective cancer treatments.

Leyland-Jones maintains this historical perspective in his role as director of Winship.

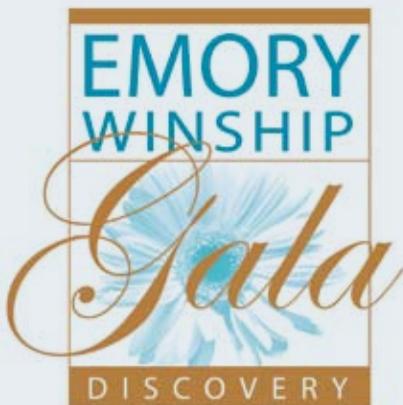
"Robert Woodruff's vision – that no one should have to leave Georgia to receive excellent cancer care – is alive and well in Winship and our partner organizations such as the Georgia Cancer Coalition and the Georgia Research Alliance," he says. "These partnerships will help extend the positive impact of the NCI designation throughout our state and to the nation."

Recently, Emory was recognized as one of the top 50 cancer centers in the United States by U.S. News and World Report and received the Blue Cross Blue Shield Designation for Treatment of Rare and Complex Cancers.



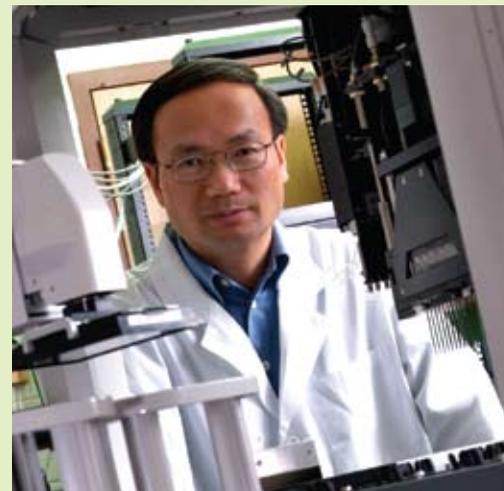
1. Susan Bell, Atlanta Managing Partner, Ernst & Young and Patrick Morris
2. Haiyan Fu and Guo-Hua Wang, Jan and Gus Bennett
3. Fadlo Khuri, Lamyia Khuri, John Brock, CEO, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Mary Brock, Emory President Jim Wagner, Debbie Wagner
4. Gus Bennett, Gala Co-Chair Jan Bennett, Gala Co-Chair Dell Rearden, Bobby Rearden
5. Bobby Rearden, Dell Rearden, Brian Leyland-Jones, Judy Wood, Bill Wood
6. Michael D'Antignac, Louisa Glenn D'Antignac  
Gala Honorees: Lou Glenn, Tom Glenn, Rand Glenn Hagen, Seth Hagen

# Emory Winship Dresses Up for Discovery



Emory Winship welcomed spring and contributed to cancer research through its inaugural gala in March at the Atlanta History Center. The gala honorees were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Glenn, II. Co-Chairs of the event were Mrs. Gus J. Bennett and Mrs. Robert L. Rearden, Jr. The gala theme was "Discovery" and the proceeds benefit Emory Winship's Cancer Drug Discovery program under the direction of Haiyan Fu. More than 400 guests attended the premier event. Opportunities for guest to contribute

to cancer research included the Test Tube Discoveries program, which enabled guests to "discover" a gift by purchasing a test tube. Presenting sponsor for the gala was Coca-Cola Enterprises. Other major sponsors included: Aflac, Coca-Cola Company; King & Spalding; The Martha & Wilton Looney Foundation; Watson Wyatt Worldwide; Ernst & Young; and McGuire Woods. Dinner was catered by Affairs to Remember and Party On The Moon provided musical entertainment.



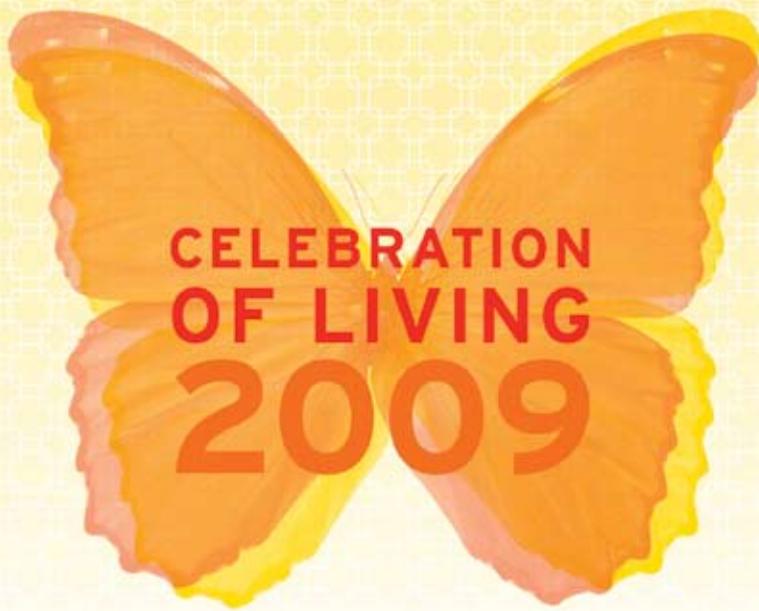
**Haian Fu**, Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Director of Emory Chemistry-Biology Discovery Center

## Drug Discovery Director

**Haian Fu** serves as a molecular discovery director of the cancer drug discovery, development, and delivery program at Emory Winship along with the clinical translational director, Fadlo R. Khuri. Currently, Fu is a co-director of the Emory chemistry-biology discovery center and the Emory drug development and pharmacogenomics academy.

Fu received his B.S. in biology from Anhui University in 1982, Ph.D. in biochemistry from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and carried out his postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School. He remained at Harvard Medical School as an instructor before joining the department of pharmacology at Emory University. Currently he is an associate professor of pharmacology, and hematology and medical oncology.

Fu's research focuses on protein-protein interactions in signal transduction pathways in normal and cancer cells and targeting survival signaling pathways for therapeutic interventions. In his studies, high-throughput screening technologies are used to identify small molecule modulators for potential drug discovery. Fu is a recipient of the prestigious PhRMA Faculty Development Award (1995), the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Young Investigator Award (1996), and the Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Investigator Award (2006). Fu has more than sixty publications in various prestigious journals, including *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell*, and *PNAS*, and edited the widely used book on "Protein-Protein Interactions: methods and applications." He co-founded the Gordon Research Conference series on "Biology of 14-3-3 Proteins" and is the Chair of its International Steering Committee. Fu serves on the AfCS/ Nature Signaling-Gateway Editorial Board and is an inaugural member of the NIH Study Section "Molecular Oncogenesis."



**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
EMORY WINSHIP CANCER INSTITUTE  
2009 CELEBRATION OF LIVING!**

This special day celebrates and recognizes the daily life of cancer patients, survivors, their families, and their friends. Admission is free and includes breakfast, lunch, and entertainment.

Registration is requested—register online at [www.cancer.emory.edu](http://www.cancer.emory.edu) under “Training & Education” or call 404-778-7777.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
KRIS CARR**

*Crazy Sexy Cancer* author, filmmaker, and “cancer cowgirl”

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Visit [www.cancer.emory.edu](http://www.cancer.emory.edu) for more information.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20 | 8:00AM-1:00PM**

*New location for 2009:*

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church  
3180 Peachtree Road NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30305



**EMORY**

**WINSHIP  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE**

1365–C Clifton Road N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30322

[www.cancer.emory.edu](http://www.cancer.emory.edu)  
1-888-Winship

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