Winship Honors and Thanks Medical Heroes

Enrolling onto a clinical trial takes courage, strength and a lot of trust. Winship physicians, clinical trials coordinators, nurses and support staff came together on Apr. 10 to honor and thank more than 200 clinical trials participants and their caregivers at the 3rd Annual Medical Heroes Celebration brunch at the Emory Conference Center Hotel.

This year, Winship is expected to enroll more than 800 patients in over 220 clinical trials.

A newly published study shows total skin irradiation (TSEI) using a dual-beam rotational technique matches or improves upon conventional TSEI techniques in treating cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL).

Winship radiation oncologist and senior author, Mohammad K. Khan, MD, PhD, DABR, says these results represent one of the largest rotational total skin electron irradiation (RTSEI) clinical outcomes studies to date. The study is published in the May 2015 issue of the International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics.

“Our findings show that the dual-beam rotational technique is an effective treatment for advanced cutaneous T-cell lymphoma skin lesions of all types,” says Khan. “It is an excellent option for CTCL patients, providing additional hope where other lines of topical and systemic therapies have failed. Winship Cancer Institute is one of the few places in the state of Georgia that offers this technique.”
Winship Roundup

Winship Executive Director Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD hosted a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, April 15 to update faculty and staff on the current state of Winship Cancer Institute and its vision for the future. Current priorities include the 2015 strategic planning process, Cancer Center Support Grant (P30) renewal application due May 2016, and ongoing initiatives that support Winship’s strong research, clinical and educational endeavors.

Bassel El-Rayes, MD, associate director for clinical research, presented Winship’s treatment trials portfolio and progress in areas such as trial accrual and activation times. Leadership from Winship’s four research programs – Andrew Miller, MD, Paula Vertino, PhD, Erwin Van Meir, PhD, and Haian Fu, PhD – discussed scientific highlights from the programs and their membership, including the nearly $1.5 million in pilot grant funding that members have received from Winship in the past 13 months.

Paul Doetsch, PhD, associate director for basic research, discussed Winship Shared Resources, including news about proteomics and data management cores. Sagar Lonial, MD, chief medical officer, discussed clinical and quality initiatives in the context of Winship’s growth and expanded aims. Judy Fortin, director of communications and media relations, discussed Winship’s position as a national thought-leader, and successful efforts to educate the community and increase Winship’s visibility through television, print, online and social media. Christian Larsen, MD, DPhil, Dean of Emory School of Medicine, discussed the timeline and priorities of the search committee for the new chair of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology.

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD, deputy director, reflected on his 13 years at Winship and expressed gratitude to his colleagues and to the organization. Khuri has been named president of the American University of Beirut and will begin his new role September 1, 2015.

On Your Marks

Sign up today to participate in these great races taking place in Atlanta in the coming months, including the Winship Win the Fight 5K benefiting cancer research at Winship. We hope to see you there!

The Atlanta Be The Match Walk+Run will be held Saturday, April 25 at 8:15am at Atlantic Station Central Park. Start your team today and raise money to deliver cures for blood cancers—to help more people receive a life-saving marrow transplant. To register and for details visit bethematch-foundation.org.

The MMRF Team for Cures: Atlanta 5K Walk/Run will take place on Sunday, May 17 at 9am in Piedmont Park. The honorary chair for this year’s race is Winship Chief Medical Officer Sagar Lonial, MD. The event raises awareness and funds for multiple myeloma. To register and for details visit themmrf.org/team-events/atlanta.

The 5th annual Winship Win the Fight 5K will be held Saturday, October 3 on the Emory University Campus. Online registration opens April 29 at winship5k.emory.edu.

Winship Cancer Institute

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) will hold its annual meeting April 18-22 in Philadelphia, Pa. This year nearly 30 clinicians and scientists from Winship will participate in the proceedings as presenters and session leaders. Be sure to follow Winship on Twitter (@WinshipAtEmory) for live updates from AACR 2015.

Construction Update

New construction at Winship will start in May. The multiphase renovation project will include the creation of a new lab draw area and Patient and Family Resource Center. More information and updates will be coming soon.

Thank you to Winship nurses and Emory volunteers who took calls and provided educational support during the Georgia Public Broadcasting premiere of the film Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies on March 30. Above: Modupe Adenuga, RN and Jewell Hudson, RN.