

August 27, 2014 | vol. 3 issue 13

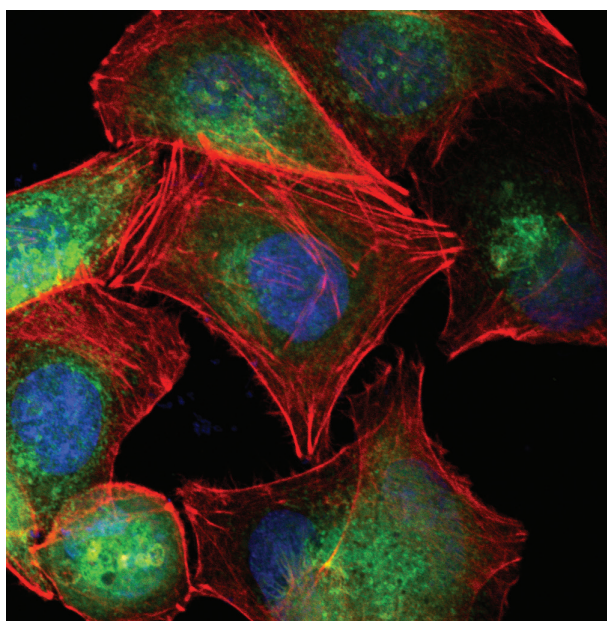
## New NCI Trials Open at Winship with Focus on Lung Cancer

### The ALCHEMIST Lung Cancer Trials

Winship Cancer Institute will participate in three new clinical trials collectively known as the Adjuvant Lung Cancer Enrichment Marker Identification and Sequencing Trials (ALCHEMIST). **Suresh Ramalingam**, MD, professor of hematology and medical oncology, will serve as the site Principal Investigator for Winship. These trials aim to identify early-stage lung cancer patients with tumors that harbor certain uncommon genetic changes and evaluate whether drug treatments targeted against those molecular changes can lead to improved survival. For those without the genetic changes, their tumors will be collected and assayed extensively using genetic testing to hopefully better understand determinants of causation, prognosis, and treatment.

Winship is part of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) which is conducting new precision medicine trials like ALCHEMIST that test targeted treatments for smaller subsets of cancers. The first NCTN precision medicine trial, Lung-MAP, was launched in June.

ALCHEMIST is supported by NCI with leadership and coordination of the component trials by the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology and the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group. All of the NCI-supported NCTN groups have collaborated in the development of ALCHEMIST and are participating in the component trials. For more information about ALCHEMIST, visit [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov).



*Image courtesy of Scott Wilkinson (Mentor: Adam Marcus, PhD) and the Integrated Cellular Imaging Core*

### Protocol No. RTOG1306

A new phase II clinical trial has opened at Winship to study how well erlotinib hydrochloride or crizotinib and chemoradiation therapy works in treating patients with stage III non-small cell lung cancer. **Kristin Higgins**, MD, assistant professor of radiation oncology, will serve as the site Principal Investigator for Winship.

Drugs used in chemotherapy, such as cisplatin, etoposide, paclitaxel, and carboplatin, work in different ways to stop the growth of tumor cells, either by killing the cells, by stopping them from dividing, or by stopping them from spreading. It is not yet known whether giving erlotinib hydrochloride is more effective than crizotinib with chemoradiation therapy in treating patients with non-small cell lung cancer. The study will evaluate these treatment combinations and determine if clinical outcomes correlate with molecular characteristics of individual tumors.

Choosing to participate in a clinical trial is an important personal decision. Talk with your doctor and family members or friends about deciding to join a trial. To learn more about these and other trials available at Winship, you or your doctor may contact (404) 778-1900 or visit [winshipcancer.emory.edu/clinical-trials](http://winshipcancer.emory.edu/clinical-trials).

## Save the Date

Join us at the Carl E. Sanders Family YMCA in Buckhead for “Wellness for Life” on Friday, September 26 from 10am to 2pm. This public health fair will promote community wellness and cancer prevention with workshops, cooking demonstrations, and more. To register please visit [winshipcancer.emory.edu/about-us/events](http://winshipcancer.emory.edu/about-us/events).

NCI’s Nutritional Science Research Group is offering a free webinar for clinicians and researchers, “Cancer Prevention Through Immunomodulation: Does Diet Play a Role?” on Tuesday, September 16 from noon to 1:30pm. Experts will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the scientific data as it relates to mushrooms and soy isoflavones in immune response as a mechanism for cancer prevention. To register and for details visit [nsrgwebinar.com](http://nsrgwebinar.com).



Registration is open for the **Winship Win the Fight 5K** on Saturday, September 27! For details and to register please visit [winship5k.emory.edu](http://winship5k.emory.edu) or contact Pam McAdams, [pam.mcadams@emory.edu](mailto:pam.mcadams@emory.edu) or (404) 727-6175.

[winshipcancer.emory.edu](http://winshipcancer.emory.edu)



## Program Brings Attention to Colorectal Cancer

A pilot program that focuses on Emory Campus Services employees aims to raise awareness about colorectal cancer and the importance of getting screened. After a survey revealed that 47 percent of Campus Services employees had never received a colorectal cancer screening, a health education campaign specifically for Campus Services employees was developed by Winship Cancer Institute, Healthy Emory, Rollins School of Public Health and the Emory Faculty Staff Assistance Program. The campaign, launched earlier this summer, has involved posters, emails, large group presentations, one-on-one follow-ups, and a series of short animated videos designed to be humorous and relatable. A report from the pilot program team is expected in December.

Regular colorectal cancer screenings are recommended for adults starting at age 50. Earlier screenings are recommended if you have inflammatory bowel disease, or if you or a family member has had colorectal cancer or polyps. Emory medical plans cover preventive and diagnostic colonoscopies at 100 percent with no deductible or copay, regardless of age (Emory network doctors only). For questions about Emory benefits, call (404) 727-7613 or visit [hr.emory.edu/benefits](http://hr.emory.edu/benefits).



*Image courtesy of GoAnimate.com*

## Congratulations



Winship members **Natia Esiashvili, MD** and **Karen Wasilewski-Masker, MD** have partnered with Lindsey Cohen, PhD and colleagues from Georgia State University on a new R21 grant, “Relieving Anxiety in Children Undergoing Radiation Therapy Through Virtual Preparation.” The team was recently informed that the grant will be funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for two years. The project will develop and evaluate RadWorld, an innovative virtual reality program designed to better prepare children for successful radiation therapy treatment.

The training committee of the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) has voted to approve the **Emory Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program** for a renewed five-year term at two fellows per year. Emory has one of only 41 SSO-approved breast oncology fellowship programs in the country. Programs must meet rigorous credentialing standards and submit to regular reviews and site visits to maintain SSO approval. Emory breast oncology fellows participate in a multidisciplinary, multi-modal curriculum with rotations at Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University Hospital, the AVON Comprehensive Breast Center at Grady Memorial Hospital, and Emory University Midtown Hospital. The fellowship program is directed by Winship member **Sheryl Gabram-Mendola, MD, MBA** who is also surgeon-in-chief (Emory) of Grady Memorial Hospital and directs the AVON Comprehensive Breast Center at Grady.