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Curran Speaks to National Cancer Advisory Board About Clinical Trials



Winship Executive Director **Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD** represented the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) group at a meeting Sept. 9 of the National Cancer Advisory Board in Bethesda, Md. The special session was part of the National Cancer Institute's upcoming meeting on the "Evolving Clinical Trials System." Curran, who also heads the NRG Oncology Group, discussed the impact of the new clinical trials system on cancer centers around the country. Winship is one of 30 lead academic participating sites in the NCTN.

Curran's remarks were featured in a front page article of the Sept. 12 issue of *The Cancer Letter*. To read more go to cancerletter.com.

New Therapies Offered to Winship Patients

Phase I Multiple Myeloma Drug

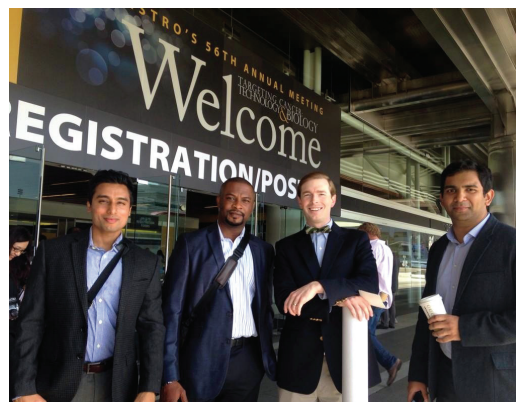
A Winship multiple myeloma patient is the first person ever to be treated with an experimental drug called CB-5083. The drug is a first-in-class inhibitor of p97, a protein involved in regulating how cancer cells process proteins and avoid death signals. It has been shown in the lab to be effective against multiple myeloma and colorectal cancer, among others. Both multiple myeloma and colorectal cancer trials are being conducted in the Winship Phase I Clinical Trials Unit.

FDA-Approved Treatment for Melanoma

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted accelerated approval to Keytruda (pembrolizumab) for treatment of patients with advanced or unresectable melanoma who are no longer responding to other drugs. About a dozen Winship patients were some of the first in the country to be eligible for treatment with the drug.

Keytruda is the first approved drug that blocks a cellular pathway known as PD-1, which restricts the body's immune system from attacking melanoma cells. The FDA granted Keytruda breakthrough therapy designation because the sponsor demonstrated through preliminary clinical evidence that the drug may offer a substantial improvement over available therapies.

Winship Shines at ASTRO



The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) held its 56th Annual Meeting Sept. 14–17 in San Francisco. Winship's **Shravan Kandula, MD**, **Oluwatosin (Tosin) Kayode, MS, CMD**, **John Mikell, MD**, and **Arsalan Siddiqi, MS** were among those invited to present their research during the meeting's educational sessions and scientific panels.

NRG Oncology Update

As reported earlier this year, **Deborah Watkins Bruner**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Winship's associate director for outcomes research, is now serving as principal investigator for the NRG Oncology research base in the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP).

Joseph Lipscomb, PhD, Winship's associate director for population sciences, is now co-chair of NRG Oncology's Cancer Care and Delivery Research (CCDR) Committee. The CCDR is the newest of the NRG Oncology non-disease site scientific committees.

Wellness for Life

Winship and the YMCA of Metro Atlanta invite you to register for "Wellness For Life" on Friday, Sept. 26 from 10am-2pm at the Carl E. Sanders Family YMCA in Buckhead. This free public health fair will include cooking demonstrations, samples, blood pressure and BMI checks, and more. For more information, contact Jennifer Rewkowski at JenniferR@ymcaatlanta.org.

Winship at the MJCCA

Winship has partnered with the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) on a free speaker series focusing on cancer prevention and treatment. Winship experts will discuss prostate cancer, breast cancer, smoking-related cancers, and nutrition. Free and open to the community, programs are held at the MJCCA in Dunwoody the third Wednesday of the month from 12:30-1:30pm through December 2014. For more information, contact Jodi Miller at 678-812-3899 or visit winshipcancer.emory.edu/events.

winshipcancer.emory.edu



Rationale for Tiered Networks

As Americans adjust to the changing landscape brought about by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), health policy experts grapple with questions about what policies will best serve both patients and the healthcare industry.

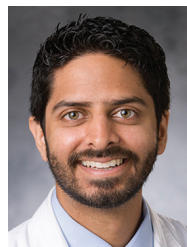
David H. Howard, PhD, Winship member and associate professor of health policy with the Rollins School of Public Health, took on this question in a perspective piece published in the August 14, 2014 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. In the article, Howard examines how the goals of the ACA, to promote access but limit costs, are often contradictory. He raises the possibility that regulations forcing insurers to offer more expansive networks may be counter-productive.

Instead, Howard offers a rationale for tiered networks that "allow patients to receive care from a broader set of providers but require patients to pay higher out-of-pocket costs if they go outside the core network."

An abbreviated version of Howard's article, "Adverse Effects of Prohibiting Provider Networks," can be accessed online at nejm.org.



Welcome New Radiation Oncology Faculty



Pretesh R. Patel, MD, assistant professor, received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine. His postgraduate medical training included a residency in Radiation Oncology and a fellowship in Brachytherapy also at Duke. He will care for patients with gynecologic cancer or other malignancies at both Emory University Hospital Midtown and Emory Clifton Road campuses.



Jeffrey M. Vainshtein, MD, instructor, received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed his radiation oncology residency at the University of Michigan. He will care for patients with head and neck cancer or other malignancies at both Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital and Emory Clifton Road campuses.

Winship Symposium and Call for Abstracts

Registration is open for Winship's Scientific Research & Academic Development Symposium, which will be held on the Emory campus Oct. 23 and 24, 2014. Anyone with an interest in cancer research is encouraged to attend. To register, preview the agenda and learn how to submit an abstract for the juried poster session, visit winshipcancer.emory.edu/events. The winners of the poster session will each receive a cash award.

