

October 9, 2014 | vol. 3 issue 15

Winship 5K Beats Fundraising Goal to Help Battle Cancer

A record amount of money to benefit cancer research in Georgia was raised at the 4th annual Winship Win the Fight 5K held on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014. Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University says it surpassed its half-million dollar goal and brought in more than \$597,000. Over three thousand runners and walkers participated in the event that started and ended on the Emory campus and wound its way through the surrounding Druid Hills-area. Nearly one-third of the participants were Emory employees and students.

"We are so grateful to all the supporters who joined us at this year's Winship 5K," says **Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD**, executive director of Winship. "The money raised will support more than a dozen cancer research projects at Winship and will lead us to more and more success stories in our fight against cancer."

The Winship Win the Fight 5K is unique because it allows participants to direct their tax-deductible donations to benefit specific cancer research based on their personal interests. Donations will be accepted until Nov. 14, 2014. For more information, go to winship5K.emory.edu.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breastival™ for Emory Employees

Join us for free clinical breast exams, activities, games, raffles, giveaways and fun to raise breast cancer awareness and promote positive breast and overall women's health. The 3rd Annual Breastival™ is Oct. 21 from 4:30-6:30pm in Winship room C5012. To register (required), call 404-778-7777.

Extended & Weekend Hours at Emory Breast Imaging Centers

Take advantage of extended weekday and Saturday hours during the month of October! To schedule an appointment for a mammogram, call 404-778-PINK (7465).

Winship Symposium

Registration is open for the Ninth Winship Scientific Research and Academic Development Symposium and Poster Session, Oct. 23-24 on the Emory campus. This free two-day cancer research event will feature an engaging lineup of keynote and plenary speakers. Students, post docs, fellows, residents and research associates may submit abstracts for the juried poster session through Oct. 15. The winners of the poster session will each receive a cash prize. To register, submit an abstract and view the agenda, visit winshipcancer.emory.edu/events.

Melanoma No More

The 6th annual MelaNoMo' event benefiting Winship Cancer Institute will take place on Oct. 18 from 12-5pm on the Chattahoochee River in Cleveland, GA. This family friendly event will have BBQ, free t-shirts, silent auction, live music, and more. For more information, please go to melanomo.org.

winshipcancer.emory.edu



Treating Pediatric Cancer

By Natia Esiashvili, MD



Many people don't even know we treat childhood cancer here at Winship, and yet we see children and young adults every day. As a radiation oncologist specializing in pediatric cancer care, I feel lucky to be able to work with children. Kids are special kinds of patients. They are brave, funny and insightful. They teach me something every day.

People often ask me what it's like for a child to undergo radiation therapy. Are children scared? Are they anxious?

At Winship, we try to make our kids and families as comfortable and informed as possible during the treatment process and planning. I'd say that the children who come to me for treatment for the first time are anxious and a little frightened about the unknown, as anyone being treated in a hospital would be. The surprising part is that once they are through the initial visit, most of my young patients seem to be less anxious than their adult parents.

Kids are intrigued by the giant machines we use for treatment – our linear accelerators, that, they think, resemble spaceships. They get extra love and attention in our clinic, being the special patients that they are, and they look forward to that. I think this is reassuring to parents.

We learn a lot from our tiny patients.

"Dr. Natia," as she is affectionately known to her patients, is an associate professor and leads the pediatric radiation oncology service at Winship Cancer Institute.

Winship Oncologist Receives Komen Grant to Study Treatment Side Effects

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University radiation oncologist and researcher **Mylin Torres**, MD, is the recipient of a three-year, \$450,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen® organization. The funds will be used to research ways to improve quality of life among breast cancer patients, specifically as it relates to inflammation caused by treatment and cancer-related fatigue.



"I am grateful for the generous support from the Susan G. Komen organization," says Torres. "The grant will allow me to continue my research into biological causes of long-term therapy related side effects such as fatigue in women with breast cancer."

Torres, a faculty member affiliated with the Glenn Family Breast Center at Winship, received early seed money for her research from the Cooper Family Foundation Breast Cancer Initiative.

"This grant supports Winship's commitment to research that improves the outcomes for all breast cancer patients," says **Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD**, executive director of Winship. "We are proud that Dr. Torres is one of a highly selective group of researchers to receive this funding."