Winship Cancer Institute and the Emory University Division of Cardiology announce the formalization of a cardio-oncology program to care for the heart health of cancer survivors. The joint effort, initiated three years ago, is one of the few programs in the United States dedicated to addressing the cardiovascular side effects of cancer therapy and improving cardiovascular outcomes for cancer survivors.

Although chemotherapy and radiation therapy have led to dramatically improved survival in cancer patients, some of these therapeutic agents can increase a patient’s risk of heart problems. The proactive approach of the multidisciplinary Winship at Emory Cardio-Oncology Program is to provide care to patients in varying stages of cancer treatment who have or are at risk for developing heart disease.

The specialty cardio-oncology clinics provide collaborative evaluation and care of cancer patients by both Emory cardiologists and Winship oncologists. The clinics offer expert advice and guidance for patients who are either undergoing or have completed cancer treatment, or are being followed in the Winship survivorship program to prevent, monitor and manage cardiovascular side effects and complications.

Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD, executive director of Winship, welcomes the formal establishment of this program.

“Improving the quality of life for cancer patients during and after treatment is an important goal of our physicians and researchers,” says Curran. “This novel program enables us to accomplish this in an entirely new realm.”

The development of the program has been guided by Susmita Parashar, MD, MPH, a cardiologist at the Emory Heart and Vascular Center and associate professor at the Emory University School of Medicine. Parashar says the program fills a crucial need.

“Our goal is to help patients complete their cancer therapy and to care for patients in every stage of cancer treatment to minimize cardiovascular side effects and maximize cardiovascular outcomes,” says Parashar. “Cancer survivors may have traditional risk factors for developing heart disease. If patients are at risk, or have developed cardiovascular disease, our mission is to provide them the highest quality of care. We want them to know that they are not alone.”

The Program will be directed by Parashar and co-directed by Winship oncologists Christopher R. Flowers, MD and Natia Esiashvili, MD, and Winship Survivorship Program Director Joan Giblin, NP.

The Winship at Emory Cardio-Oncology Program is an extension of a survivorship research grant awarded to Winship member Carolyn Miller Reilly, RN, PhD, which evaluated the long-term cardiac issues for lymphoma survivors. The survivorship research grant was funded through the Kennedy Seed Grant Research Awards Program, made possible in 2009 by a generous gift from Sarah and Jim Kennedy.

For more information, please contact survivorship@emoryhealthcare.org.
**Friends of Winship Community Event**

**Symposium Showcases Outstanding Cancer Research**

Co-chaired by **Dong Moon Shin, MD** and **Paul W. Doetsch, PhD**, Winship's Ninth Scientific Research and Academic Development Symposium highlighted outstanding cancer research of faculty, staff and students during the symposium's opening night poster session on Oct. 23. Students and early-career investigators were eligible for prizes in the Basic Research and Clinical/Translational Research categories. Congratulations to all the poster session participants, including the top-scoring poster presenters who were selected to receive awards and cash prizes.

**Basic Research Poster Award Recipients**

- **Bridgette Peake**, “Growth differentiation factor 15 promotes epithelial-mesenchymal transition and invasion in HER2 overexpressing breast cancer”
- **Scott Wilkinson** and **Jessica Konen**, “Twice as nice: the dual tumor suppressive function of LKB1 in regulating cell polarization and invasion”
- **Subhas Mukherjee**, PhD, “TRIM3, a human ortholog of Drosophila brat, maintains asymmetric cell division of glioma stem cells by regulating NOTCH1 transport”

**Clinical/Translational Research Poster Award Recipients**

- **Shardule Shah**, “Targeting Heat Shock Factor 1 (HSF1) Combined with Proteasome Inhibition is an Effective Therapeutic Strategy for Multiple Myeloma”
- **Changliang Shan**, PhD, “6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase links oxidative PPP, lipogenesis and tumor growth by inhibiting LKB1-AMPK signaling”
- **Dan Zhu**, “BAI1 is a novel tumor suppressor in medulloblastoma”

**Special Day Planned to Honor Saral**

After more than two decades at Emory, **Rein Saral, MD** has been named professor emeritus of hematology and medical oncology, continuing to serve Winship as a valued colleague and mentor. To honor his many contributions to cancer research and his transformative role as a leader and clinician at Emory hospitals and clinics, Winship Cancer Institute and the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology are sponsoring a Festschrift Symposium on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Emory Conference Center Hotel Auditorium.

The symposium will include presentations from many of Saral's colleagues in the field of bone marrow transplantation and hematology/oncology.

Saral was recruited from Johns Hopkins in 1991 to lead the bone transplantation program. Today, Winship’s Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant program performs nearly 400 transplants a year for patients with blood cancers and other diseases, making it the largest in the Southeast and one of the most experienced in the country. Saral served as director of The Emory Clinic during its period of growth and improved its integration and function. He also helped Winship develop the infrastructure needed to achieve its National Cancer Institute designation.

For more information on the symposium and to register, visit [winshipcancer.emory.edu/events](http://winshipcancer.emory.edu/events) or contact Deborah Dean at 404-778-4964.