

July 2012



It's hard to believe that the Cancer Institute has been open for three years. We've experienced a lot of change from new faculty and recruitments to affiliations with other providers and additional services.

We are pleased to provide the first issue of the Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute newsletter. In this issue, we highlight our affiliation with St. Joseph's Medical Center in Reading as well as the Skin and Connective Tissue Oncology Clinic—one of the Cancer Institute's five multidisciplinary clinics. We also introduce new faculty and staff; recognize recent educational, research, and faculty and staff accomplishments; and share details about upcoming events, including the Second Annual Chocolate Tour that supports cancer research.



As we gear up for submission of the Cancer Center Support Grant in 2013, we have made several changes that I'd like to share with you. A new External Advisory Board was established and will be chaired by Stanton L. Gerson, M.D., Shiverick Professor of Hematological Oncology; Director, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center; and Director, Seidman Cancer Center. Roger Anderson was named Program Leader for the Cancer Control and Population Health Program. Recruitment efforts are underway for an Associate Director for Population Research.

Please feel free to share feedback with us on what topics you would like to hear about in future editions. E-mail ideas, thoughts and comments to [Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:Penn_State_Hershey_Cancer_Institute@hmc.psu.edu).

Multidisciplinary Teams

At Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, we provide an environment where experts from different specialties work together as a team under one roof. Medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, nurses and pharmacists work together to diagnose and treat patients with various types of cancer. Cases are reviewed by our disease teams, and patients are seen by several members of the care teams on the same day, thereby expediting diagnosis and treatment, and making it more convenient for patients and families. This approach sets us apart from other cancer centers in the region.



Our Partners - Regional Center for Cancer Care



Pictured left to right: Ayodele Ayoola, M.D.; Marc Rovito, M.D., Medical Director; Leonard Tuanquin, M.D.

Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute is pleased to highlight our growing affiliation with St. Joseph Cancer Center, St. Joseph Medical Center- a Community Hospital Program as accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. Penn State Hershey physicians Marc Rovito, M.D., Leonard Tuanquin, M.D., and Ayodele Ayoola, M.D. see patients at St. Joseph Cancer Center, and continue to enhance our clinically integrated relationship with the 212-bed community hospital while providing patients with quality care in their own community.

The cancer team at St. Joseph Cancer Center is led by Medical Director Marc Rovito, M.D., assistant professor of medicine. Rovito is board certified in medical oncology and internal medicine. Medical oncologist Ayodele Ayoola, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, also sees patients at the Center. He is board certified in hematology, oncology, and internal medicine. Leonard Tuanquin, M.D., assistant professor of radiology, is the Center's board-certified radiation oncologist. All are active members of the Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute clinical faculty.

Together, this clinical team has developed a unified approach to cancer treatment and provides patients with the most advanced and innovative protocols, including access to cooperative group clinical trials and cancer risk (genetics) evaluation. Patients are cared for seamlessly between the Cancer Institute and St. Joseph Cancer Center through the expanding relationship between the physicians at both locations. The physicians' relationship has grown through participation in peer review work such as medical oncology grand rounds, weekly radiation oncology treatment planning review sessions, and monthly faculty meetings. General tumor board sessions, as well as a specialized multidisciplinary breast care clinic, bring together oncologists and other providers in an effort to determine the best course of treatment for the patient.

St. Joseph Cancer Center is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and multidisciplinary teams to coordinate the treatment of cancer for patients in greater Berks and southern Schuylkill counties. Tuanquin and his team provide intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT) and high-dose rate afterloading (HDR) brachytherapy, while Rovito and Ayoola offer patients leading-edge chemotherapy, targeted therapies, and supportive care.

The oncology team is dedicated to utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and processes. **To watch a video tour of St. Joseph Cancer Center's new infusion space led by Rovito, click here.**

Click here to learn more about [St. Joseph Cancer Center and St. Joseph Medical Center](#). To schedule a patient appointment or to speak with a Penn State Hershey oncologist at St. Joseph Cancer Center, please call 610-378-2117. [A 360 Virtual Tour of St. Joseph Cancer Center!](#)

For a full list of our partners, please visit [Penn State Hershey partners](#).

Community Outreach

September 2012 Declared Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-25) sponsored a resolution that was unanimously adopted by Senate on Tuesday, June 19 to designate September 2012 as Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. David Goldenberg, M.D., F.A.C.S., professor of surgery and oncology, director of head and neck surgery and associate director of surgical services, first met with Scarnati in April 2012 to discuss the alarming rate of thyroid cancer, and requested he commission a Commonwealth-wide study to look at some potential etiological factors for the rise in thyroid cancer in the state.



Scarnati, a thyroid cancer survivor, said it was important to approve the measure in June before the Senate recesses for the summer.

"The chances of being diagnosed with thyroid cancer have risen in recent years and have more than doubled since 1990," said Scarnati. "The good news is that it is highly treatable when detected early. It's my hope that Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month will get the word out on how important it is to see a doctor if symptoms occur."

Taking a swing against breast cancer

Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute is a statewide sponsor of the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition's (PBCC) fifth annual Home Run Derby. Funds raised from this event help the PBCC serve breast cancer survivors and their families right here in Pennsylvania. To date, this event has raised more than \$400,000 to support women and families battling breast cancer. The Home Run Derby began Tuesday, July 10 at Metro Bank Park (home of the Harrisburg Senators) and ends on Wednesday, July 25 at Peoples Natural Gas Field (home of the Altoona Curve). Follow the event's success at PAHomeRunDerby.org.

Chocolate Tour to benefit cancer research

Join the Cancer Institute on Saturday, September 29 for the second annual Chocolate Tour to support cancer research at the Medical Center. Cyclists, walkers, and runners can participate in relay full and half marathons (team events); a six-mile Foreman Foundation Chocolate Tour Run (race); a six-mile Geltrude Foundation Chocolate Tour Walk; and Life Technologies eight-mile, thirty-five mile, and sixty-five mile Chocolate Tour cycling events. With rest-stops every mile, runners and walkers will enjoy local chocolate from the area. Cyclists will enjoy rides through the beautiful countryside of central Pennsylvania with its Amish farms, wooded areas, and covered bridges while visiting the historic chocolate towns of Hershey (home of Hershey's chocolate factory), Elizabethtown (home of M&M/Mars chocolate factory), and Lititz (home of Wilbur Chocolate Company). A commemorative T-shirt is guaranteed to event participants who register by September 1. To register today and for more details, [click here and look for 2012 Chocolate Tour under the Events tab](#).



In the community, with the community

Begun in 2009, the Harrisburg Community Cancer Network (HCCN) continues its work of addressing cancer health disparities through community-based programs. HCCN is part of the Community Sciences and Health Outcomes Core at Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and is led by Director [Eugene Lengerich, V.M.D., M.S.](#); Program Manager Robin Perry-Smith, M.H.A.; and Community Health Worker Patricia Robinson, B.S. HCCN is a community-academic partnership that strives to reduce the cancer burden in Harrisburg through education and research, and enhance access to cancer screening and

treatment. Guided by the Community Engagement Advisory Board, HCCN partners with individuals, communities, churches, health care providers, and other organizations on community-based strategies to address the cancer problem in Harrisburg and Dauphin County. HCCN provides four significant programs: the Annual Harrisburg Cancer Education Summit, the Annual National Cancer Survivors Day of Harrisburg, the Community Health Worker Program, and the Harrisburg Breast Cancer Support Group. The team works to provide a variety of services such as screenings, outreach, education and community-based research. The Network's long term goal is to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality among the minority and medically underserved populations in Dauphin County. As Program Manager Robin Perry-Smith states, "We are here to partner with the community in evidence-based programs." For more information, please call 717-531-4387 or [click here to visit the website](#).

Education and Research

Accredited Hematology/Medical Oncology Fellowship Program

The Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology offers a three-year combined Fellowship Program that qualifies trainees for American Board of Internal Medicine board certification in both specialties. All faculty within Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute provide teaching, mentorship and guidance to Fellows in training.

Program Director [Harold A. Harvey, M.D.](#), professor of medicine, described the mission of the Fellowship Program as *"dedicated to educate and train our fellows to become caring and competent physicians and specialists in the practice and science of hematology and oncology."*

The program achieved a full five-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, indicating national recognition of a high standard of training and a 100 percent pass rate on the national board examinations. Over the years, the program has trained many Fellows who have become leaders in their communities as far away as India and California, but we are especially proud of the several graduates who practice in central Pennsylvania as specialists in Hematology and Medical Oncology.

[Leah Cream, M.D.](#), assistant professor of medicine is the program's Associate Director, and Christine Hepler is Program Coordinator.

Senator Pat Toomey Visits Cancer Institute

On a recent visit to the Medical Center, Senator Pat Toomey was interested in learning about our progress in the area of cancer research. While visiting the laboratory of [Wafik El-Deiry, M.D., Ph.D.](#), he was introduced to ongoing work to isolate circulating tumor cells from patients, and to test new therapeutic agents against growing live tumor cells recovered from blood. He toured the CLIA-approved CTC Isolation and Analysis Laboratory, and spoke with several researchers about clinical tests and pre-clinical experiments with mice.



American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting

The laboratory of Wafik El-Deiry, M.D., Ph.D., presented twenty-one abstracts at the 2012 [American Association for Cancer Research](#) meeting in April. This was a record number of presentations from El-Deiry's lab as well as the third highest number of presentations at the meeting which included 6,000 abstracts from around the world. Sixteen of El-Deiry's lab's abstracts were also presented at the Cancer Institute retreat in May.

Annual Cancer Institute Retreat

Pictured from left to right: John Kuttesch, M.D., professor of pediatrics; Chandra Belani, M.D., Wafik El-Deiry, M.D., Ph.D., Victor Velculescu, M.D., Ph.D., professor of oncology, co-director of the Cancer Biology Program at the [Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center](#), and director of cancer genetics at the Ludwig Center at Johns Hopkins; [Thomas P. Loughran, Jr., M.D.](#)



The Cancer Institute retreat was held May 20, 2012 with 160 participants. Topics covered throughout the day included personalized medicine, immunological research, obesity and cancer research, strategies for fostering growth of investigator-initiated trials, quinacrine and integration with chemotherapy, biomarkers in chemoprevention studies, strategies for developing investigator-initiated trials in pediatric oncology, and highlights of the Optical Imaging and Community Sciences Health Outcomes Cores. Victor Velculescu, M.D., Ph.D., professor of oncology, co-director of the Cancer Biology Program at the [Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center](#), and director of cancer genetics at the Ludwig Center at Johns Hopkins served as the keynote speaker addressing personalized genomic analyses of human cancer.

Meyers Receives \$100,000 Grant



Pictured from left to right: Richard J. Courtney, Ph.D., professor, chair and distinguished educator of microbiology and immunology; Pat Halpin-Murphy, president and founder of PBCC; Craig Meyers, Ph.D., distinguished professor of microbiology and immunology; Deborah Freer, member, Cancer Institute Development Committee and board member, PBCC; Harriett C. Isom, Ph.D., distinguished professor of microbiology and immunology, professor of pathology

[Craig Meyers, Ph.D.](#), received a \$100,000 breast cancer research grant from the [PA Breast Cancer Coalition](#). Meyers and his team discovered a non-disease-causing virus that successfully killed breast cancer cells in a laboratory setting. This grant follows a 2007 PBCC Pennsylvania Income Tax Refund for Research grant of \$35,000 to Meyers.

El-Bayoumy Offers Expertise at IARC Meeting

[Karam El-Bayoumy, Ph.D.](#), associate director of basic research, attended the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) meeting held June 5-12, 2012 in Lyon, France and provided expert opinion on the carcinogenic risk of humans following exposure to diesel and gasoline engine exhausts and some nitroarenes. The group prepared volume 105 which focuses on this topic. The objective of the IARC program is to elaborate and publish, in the form of monographs, critical reviews of data on carcinogenicity for chemicals and complex mixtures to which humans are known to be exposed. The data in terms of human risk will be evaluated by the international working group of experts in chemical carcinogenesis and related fields and to indicate where additional research efforts are needed.

CCSG Submission

The Cancer Institute is gearing up for the submission of its Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) in 2013. At the present time, there are sixty-six designated cancer centers.

Two designations are recognized: *Comprehensive Cancer Centers and Cancer Centers*. As of 2011, there are forty-four Comprehensive Cancer Centers and 22 designated Cancer Centers. Receiving the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designation places cancer centers among the top four percent of the approximately 1,500 cancer centers in the United States.

The standards for NCI Comprehensive Cancer Centers are more restrictive than those for NCI Cancer Centers. These facilities must demonstrate expertise in each of three areas: laboratory, clinical, and behavioral and population-based research. Comprehensive Cancer Centers are expected to initiate and conduct early phase, innovative clinical trials, and to participate in the NCI's cooperative groups by providing leadership and recruiting patients for trials. Comprehensive Cancer Centers must also conduct activities in outreach and education, and provide information on advances in health care for both health care professionals and the public.

Cancer Centers generally conduct a combination of basic, population sciences, and clinical research, and are encouraged to stimulate collaborative research involving more than one field of study. Several of these centers conduct only laboratory research and do not provide patient care.

Faculty Grant Support (April-June 2012)

The following faculty have received grant support:

Principal Investigator(s)	Research	Sponsor
Craig Cameron, Ph.D. Bart Rountree, M.D. Jason Liao, Ph.D.	Forms of HCV NS5A in vivo	NIH
David Goldenberg, M.D.	Environmental Causes for the Soaring Rates of Thyroid Cancer in Pennsylvania	George Laverty Foundation
Susan Hafenstein, Ph.D.	Acquisition of a Cryo-Electron Microscope	NIH Office of the Director
Sang Lee, Ph.D.	Development of Novel Thiobarbituric Acid Analogs for Malignant Brain Tumors	NCI
Aron Lukacher, M.D., Ph.D.	T-Cell Immunity to Polyomavirus Infection	Pa TSF
Christopher Norbury, Ph.D.	Viral Manipulation of Myeoid Cell Function	NIH
Gary Perdew, Ph.D.	Selective Ah Receptor Ligands Repress Acute-Phase Response	NIH
Jiyue Zhu, Ph.D.	Telomerase-specific Adenoviral Imaging Systems for Detecting and Isolating CTC's	NCI

Faculty Publications (April-June 2012)

- Catalano RF, Fagan AA, Gavin LE, Greenberg MT, Irwin CE Jr, Ross DA, Shek DT. [Worldwide application of prevention science in adolescent health](#). Lancet. 2012 Apr 28;379(9826):1653-64.
- Demark-Wahnefried W, Morey MC, Sloane R, Snyder DC, Miller PE, Hartman TJ, Cohen HJ. [Reach Out to Enhance Wellness Home-Based Diet-Exercise Intervention Promotes Reproducible and Sustainable Long-Term Improvements in Health Behaviors, Body Weight, and Physical Functioning in Older, Overweight/Obese Cancer Survivors](#). J Clin Oncol. 2012 May 21. [Epub ahead of print]

3. Fungtammasan A, Walsh E, Chiaromonte F, Eckert KA, Makova KD. [A genome-wide analysis of common fragile sites: What features determine chromosomal instability in the human genome?](#) Genome Res. 2012 Jun; 22(6):993-1005.
4. Gillies PJ, Bhatia SK, Belcher LA, Hannon DB, Thompson JT, Vanden Heuvel JP. [Regulation of inflammatory and lipid metabolism genes by eicosapentaenoic acid-rich oil.](#) J Lipid Res. 2012 May 3. [Epub ahead of print].
5. Jin Q, Ding W, Mulder KM. [The TGF \$\beta\$ receptor-interacting protein km23-1/DYNLRB1 plays an adaptor role in TGF \$\beta\$ 1 autoinduction via its association with Ras.](#) J Biol Chem. 2012 May 27. [Epub ahead of print]
6. Jiang W, Zhu Z, McGinley JN, El-Bayoumy K, Manni A, Thompson HJ. [Identification of a Molecular Signature Underlying Inhibition of Mammary Carcinoma Growth by Dietary N-3 Fatty Acids.](#) Cancer Res. 2012 May 31. [Epub ahead of print]
7. Koskela HL, Eldfors S, Ellonen P, van Adrichem AJ, Kuusanmäki H, Andersson EI, Lagström S, Clemente MJ, Olson T, Jalkanen SE, Majumder MM, Almusa H, Edgren H, Lepistö M, Mattila P, Guinta K, Koistinen P, Kuitinen T, Penttinen K, Parsons A, Knowles J, Saarela J, Wennerberg K, Kallioniemi O, Porkka K, Loughran TP Jr, Heckman CA, Maciejewski JP, Mustjoki S. [Somatic STAT3 mutations in large granular lymphocytic leukemia.](#) N Engl J Med . 2012 May 17;366(20):1905-13.
8. Narayan K, Sylvia KE, Malhotra N, Yin CC, Martens G, Valleryskog T, Kornfeld H, Xiong N, Cohen NR, Brenner MB, Berg LJ, Kang J; [Immunological Genome Project Consortium. Intrathymic programming of effector fates in three molecularly distinct \$\gamma\delta\$ T cell subtypes.](#) Nat Immunol. 2012 Apr 1;13(5):511-8.
9. Wang Y, Li P, Wang S, Hu J, Chen XA, Wu J, Fisher M, Oshaben K, Zhao N, Gu Y, Wang D, Chen G, Wang Y. [Anticancer PAD inhibitors regulate the autophagy flux and the mammalian target of rapamycin complex 1 activity.](#) J Biol Chem. 2012 May 17. [Epub ahead of print]
10. Young MM, Takahashi Y, Khan O, Park S, Hori T, Yun J, Sharma AK, Amin S, Hu CD, Zhang J, Kester M, Wang HG. [Autophagosomal membrane serves as platform for intracellular death-inducing signaling complex \(iDISC\)-mediated caspase-8 activation and apoptosis.](#) J Biol Chem. 2012 Apr 6;287(15):12455-68.
11. Zhang Y, Cheng Y, Ren X, Hori T, J Huber-Keener K, Zhang L, Yap KL, Liu D, Shantz LM, Qin ZH, Zhang S, Wang J, Wang HG, Shih IM, Yang JM. [Dysfunction of Nucleus Accumbens-1 Activates Cellular Senescence and Inhibits Tumor Cell Proliferation and Oncogenesis.](#) Cancer Res. 2012 Jun 4. [Epub ahead of print]

News and Notes

New Cancer Affiliation with Heart of Lancaster and Lancaster Regional Medical Center

To better serve cancer patients in the Lancaster community, Penn State Hershey Medical Center has entered into an affiliation agreement between Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and Heart of Lancaster and Lancaster Regional Medical Center (both comprise the Regional Center for Cancer Care). This new affiliation offers people in our region served by Heart of Lancaster and Lancaster Regional Medical Center expanded oncology services and expertise and increased access to the latest cancer research, keeping them close to home.

Under the agreement, Heart of Lancaster and Lancaster Regional Medical Center cancer patients benefit from the expertise of the medical and surgical specialists and subspecialists of Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute. Patients also gain access to clinical research study programs without having to travel far from their homes. Penn State Hershey provides training and oversight as Heart of Lancaster and Lancaster Regional Medical Center assemble a team of research professionals to conduct clinical trials.

Both hospitals join our growing network of clinical affiliates, which includes Carlisle Regional Medical Center, Lewistown Hospital, Mount Nittany Medical Center, Susquehanna Health System, and St. Joseph Medical Center for cancer services, and organizations like Hanover Hospital, Lancaster General Health, the Lebanon VA Medical Center, and Wyoming Valley Health Care System in other areas of care. These affiliations enable us to work in partnership with community hospitals and regional health systems to ensure patients have access to state-of-the-art care and clinical trials in their home communities.

CoC Outstanding Achievement Award

The [Commission on Cancer \(CC\) of the American College of Surgeons \(ACS\)](#) has granted its Outstanding Achievement Award to Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute. This award recognizes cancer programs that strive for excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients. [View the full list of recipients here.](#)

New Support Program Offered to Patients

Look Good...Feel Better® is now offered in the Cancer Institute (Room T2501/2502) free of charge to patients. A free, national public service program, Look Good...Feel Better helps female cancer patients improve their appearance and self-image by teaching them hands-on beauty techniques to manage the appearance of side effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Each program is two hours; registration is required. [To view program dates and to download a copy of the flyer to share with your patients, click here.](#)

Goldenberg Named Associate Director of Surgical Services



David Goldenberg, M.D., F.A.C.S., professor of surgery and oncology, director of head and neck surgery, was named associate director of surgical services. This surgical leadership position is committed to the multidisciplinary care of the cancer patient and represents all surgical disciplines in the administrative functions of the Cancer Institute. Goldenberg will help to accomplish the Institute's mission of coordinating and delivering state-of-the-art interdisciplinary patient care in which medical, surgical and radiation oncologists jointly determine the best therapeutic course for each patient. He coordinates and advocates for surgical programs providing care to patients as part of their oncological therapy. He is responsible for addressing the clinical, educational and research needs of all surgeons practicing multidisciplinary surgical oncology and facilitates the advancement of integrated, multidisciplinary care at the Cancer Institute through the involvement of all surgical oncology specialties.

Goldenberg is also responsible for streamlining the process for all cancer patients requiring timely access to surgical treatment. In representing all of the surgical disciplines, he will foster open communication between surgical and medical oncology specialties in an effort to provide excellent patient-centered, multidisciplinary cancer care.

Goldenberg will play a role in the recruitment of talented surgical faculty to fulfill the clinical, research, education, and community outreach missions of the Cancer Institute and Medical Center. He will participate in Scientific Leadership Committee, Space Allocation Committee and Division Chiefs' meeting. In addition, he will provide input as needed to Program Leadership Committee, Shared Resources Committee, and the Clinical Trials Oversight Committee.

Cancer Institute Employees of the Month

March 2012 – Kohlette Davy (MOA)

Kohlette was the Cancer Institute's first employee of the month. She was nominated for her hard work and dedication. Kohlette works well with all of her co-workers, and is pleasant with the patients. Both staff and patients frequently complement Kohlette's positive attitude. She is always willing to stay late or come in early, as well as help anyone who may be experiencing an increased workload.

April 2012 – Sarah Riley (MA)

Sarah was selected for her kindness with patients and willingness to always help co-workers. She is quick on her feet and remains calm in emergency situations.

May 2012 – Kaitlyn Campbell (MOA)

Kaitlyn goes above and beyond for her patients and displays a great deal of patience. We receive many compliments from patients and co-workers on what a pleasure it is to work with Kaitlyn.

June 2012 – Amy Oxenrider (MA)

Amy was selected for her hard work and dedication. When asked to compile a binder for clinic, she did it quickly and efficiently. She is a pleasure to work with and always puts patients first.

If you would like to nominate an MOA or MA for employee of the month, please e-mail [Mary Schreiber](#). The employee of the month is announced at a monthly meeting; receives a card and gift; and has a photo displayed on both floors in the physicians room as well as a framed copy for their desk.

Gail Long, Hemophilia Program, Medical Center Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Gail Long, Hemophilia Program, who was selected as Penn State Hershey Medical Center's February 2012 Employee of the Month. Gail goes above and beyond to ensure all needs of the Hemophilia Program and its patients are met. She is always willing to extend herself to assist a co-worker - whether in her own department or another employee she encounters throughout the day. Her conscientiousness impacts not only the teaching, research and patient care missions of the Hemophilia Program, but also the sense of community among fellow employees.

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

[Mark Kirschbaum, M.D.](#)

Professor of Medicine, Director of Hematological Malignancies

Kirschbaum specializes in hematology/oncology. He joins the Cancer Institute from Nevada Cancer Institute. Kirschbaum completed fellowships at University of Washington Cancer Center, the Seattle VA Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, the FHCRC Bone Marrow Transplant Services, Puget Sound Blood Center, Virginia-Mason Cancer Clinic and Kings County Hospital in NYC, and Harborview Hospital in Seattle. His research is on novel epigenetic therapies with a focus on the role of histone deacetylase inhibitors of effects on DNA damage response elements and apoptosis, with the goal of developing novel combination therapies for malignancies and transplant.

[Jeffrey Pu, M.D., Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Pu specializes in benign and malignant hematology. He joins the Cancer Institute from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Pu completed clinical fellowships at the New York Blood Center-Transfusion Medicine/Blood Banking and Johns Hopkins Division of Hematology. His research is on normal and abnormal hematopoiesis and stem cell biology.

- Erica Benning
Financial Coordinator
- Rio Friday, M.G.C., C.G.C.
Genetics Counselor
- Rita Lahr
Financial Assistant
- Nikki Young
Grant Manager

Employee Service Recognition

Congratulations to the following employees for completing five, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five and forty years of service with the Medical Center and College of Medicine during calendar year 2011.

40 years

- Allan Lipton, M.D.

35 years

- Robert Aber, M.D.
- Daniel Beard
- Gregory Craycraft, B.S., C.M.D.
- Harriet Isom, Ph.D.

30 years

- Connie Blauch
- Pamela Whayland, C.T.R.

25 years

- Lisa Braccini-Barletta, M.B.A., R.Ph.
- Linda Farling, M.S.N., C.R.N.P, O.C.N.
- Gail Long
- Bruce Stanley

20 years

- Gary Clawson
- Colleen Kelly
- Lynn Kreider
- Lorna Lausch

15 years

- Karen Basehore
- Steve Mancuso
- Witold Rybka, M.D.

5 years

- Cesar Aliaga
- Christine Bachorz
- Amit Barochia
- Joan Clancy-Flynn
- Jo Ann Davidson, M.S.N., C.R.N.P.
- Lisa Hand, B.S., C.T.R.
- Jennifer Jacovino
- Deanna Smith

500 University Drive
M.C. CH72
Hershey, PA 17033
Penn_State_Hershey_Cancer_Institute@hmc.psu.edu

PennStateHershey.org/cancer
[Ways to Give](#)
[eNewsletter sign-up](#)

