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2253 S. Oneida St.
3rd Floor, Suite B
Denver, CO 80224-2522

www.co-cancerresearch.org

Connecting Hope and Medical Science

Winter 2008 ■ Issue 3



Connecting Hope
and Medical Science

Focus ON THE Search

Clinical trials advancing the quest for cancer treatment, management, and prevention.

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Enrolling in a Clinical Trial—Part 2

In our Fall issue, we shared with you General Criteria and Research Protocol for clinical trials. We continue this topic with a list of Questions to Ask.

Questions to Ask

If you are thinking about taking part in a clinical trial, here are some questions that can help you decide.

- Why is this trial being done?
- Why do the doctors believe that the treatment being studied may be better than the one being used now? Why may it not be better?
- How long will I be in the trial?
- What kinds of tests and treatments are involved?
- What are the possible side effects or risks of the new treatment?
- What are the possible benefits?
- How will the doctor know if the treatment is working?
- Will I have to pay for any of the treatments or tests?
- What costs will my health insurance cover?
- How could the trial affect my daily life?
- How often will I have to come to the hospital or clinic?
- Will I have to travel long distances?
- What are my other treatment choices, including standard treatments?
- How does the treatment I would receive in this trial compare with the other treatment choices?

Focus ON THE Search

Focus on the Search is a quarterly publication of resources for people who are current or past participants in cancer clinical trials in Colorado and for people who have been recently diagnosed with cancer.

Colorado Cancer Research Program (CCRP) is a non-profit organization, a partnership of 17 Colorado community hospitals, and their affiliated doctors, dedicated to the advancement of cancer research and care close to home. CCRP is a Community Clinic Oncology Program, one of 50 such programs nationwide.

CCRP's Partner Hospitals

Boulder Community Hospital
Exempla Lutheran Medical Center
Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital
Longmont United Hospital
McKee Medical Center
Medical Centers of Aurora
North Colorado Medical Center
North Suburban Medical Center
Penrose-St. Francis Health Services
Porter Adventist Hospital
Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center
Rose Medical Center
St. Anthony Hospitals
St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center
St. Mary's Hospital
Sky Ridge Medical Center
Swedish Medical Center

Income Tax Check Off Fund

April 15 is approaching and you can make a difference for breast and women's reproductive cancers by selecting the check off fund on your Colorado income tax form. For more information visit, www.coloradocancercoalition.org.

What's New from CCRP

How One Community Group Chose CCRP as Its Charitable Cause

The Parker Artists Guild, an organization of 250 artists who live in Douglas, Elbert, and Denver counties, holds a holiday party every December. It is a welcome social opportunity for the members. At the holiday party a couple of years ago, immediate past president Jackie Campbell spearheaded an effort to collect toys to be donated to Children's Hospital. Members actively participated. Guild member Chris Giroux was in charge of the most recent holiday party, and she decided to build on the group's past civic efforts.



Chris Giroux (second from left) and Guild President Jackie Campbell (third from left) with Dr. Nicholas DiBella presenting the Guild's donation to CCRP Executive Director, Jane Hajovsky.

The Guild had recently lost beloved member, Bill Fuller. Bill had had melanoma. It seemed a fitting tribute to his memory for the Guild to make a donation to a cancer support group. Chris learned about CCRP from Dr. Nicholas DiBella, an area oncologist. Dr. DiBella, has been involved in cancer research for many years, serving CCRP today as the chair of the Board of Trustees, but also as one of the founding physicians of the organization in 1983. Dr. DiBella asked for a donation from Chris for a 2007 CCRP benefit golf tournament after seeing her work displayed at the Parker Adventist Hospital. Chris realized that CCRP would be just the worthy cause around which to mobilize Guild members.

And mobilize they did. Chris chose a silent auction as the vehicle for the group's fundraising. The event was held on December 12, 2007 at the Black Bear Golf Club and raised nearly \$800. The group was very pleased with its first-time effort. Donations were not only members' art-

work, but gift baskets, floral arrangements, and jewelry. The members were excited with the novelty of the event, and the 85 in attendance had fun while doing something worthy in the memory of Bill Fuller.

The Parker Artists Guild focuses on building the arts and humanities in their community. They do so by encouraging local artists and offering numerous outreach programs to the general public. For more information, check out the Guild's website (www.parkerartists-guild.com).

CCRP sends a big thank you out to the members of the Parker Artists Guild for their generosity in support of CCRP's work. CCRP is partially funded by the National Cancer Institute (48%). Donations such as these provide CCRP the ability to continue to provide the newest cancer treatment options to patients throughout Colorado.



At CCRP's Research Coordinator Training on January 30th, five members of the new Trial Participant Advisory Council participated in a panel. First, they shared their individual responses to the following questions: (1) What were your initial feelings about participating in a trial? (2) Did you receive sufficient information to make an informed consent? (3) Did you understand the role of the research coordinator? (4) How would you describe your overall trial experience? Then they answered questions from the coordinators. Our Spring 2008 issue will have details of their responses. From left to right: Fred Cottingham, Judy Daggett, Jennifer Bibbing, Judy Lee Paez, and Greg DeCuir.

Save the Date!

May 19, 2008 ■ Valley Country Club

For more information, email us at golf@co-cancerresearch.org

 Drive
for a Cure

Benefiting Colorado Cancer Research Program

This Issue's Featured Clinical Trial

E5597 Selenium Study for Stage 1 Lung Cancer

- E5597 is a clinical trial to (1) evaluate the effectiveness of selenium in reducing the incidence of new lung tumors in people who have been treated for Stage 1 (early stage) non-small cell lung cancer; (2) evaluate the occurrence of toxic side effects when taken over a period of years; and (3) compare the frequency of the development of specific cancers, mortality, and overall survival of people who are treated with selenium yeast with people who are treated with placebos.
- Selenium is an "essential trace element," meaning that it is a naturally-occurring substance required for normal, healthy functioning. Selenium reduces certain kinds of tumors in animals and enhances immune properties in humans. Recent nutrition intervention trials support the idea that selenium may reduce the risk of cancer in some instances.
- Placebos are used in studies when there is no "standard" treatment, or when the standard treatment is observation.
- Participants will take a daily pill for four years.
- The Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) is coordinating this trial. For more information, visit www.ecog.org or call the ECOG Selenium Study Information Line, 215.789.3640 from 9 am to 4 pm Eastern Time.

Resources

- National Cancer Institute, Lung Cancer home page (www.cancer.gov/cancer_information/cancer_type/lung)
- Lung Cancer Alliance (www.lungcanceralliance.org)
- Lung Cancer Online Foundation (www.lungcanceronline.org)
- Lungcancer.org, a program of Cancer Care (www.lungcancer.org)

