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MARKEY *quarterly*

SEASONAL NEWS FOR MARKEY CANCER CENTER FACULTY AND STAFF

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

MARKEY FACULTY AND STAFF RAISING FUNDS AND AWARENESS

Dedication to patient care takes many forms when it comes to making a difference in the community.

When it comes to raising awareness and funds for cancer research, treatment and cures, the people at Markey Center Cancer are going the extra mile. Whether participating in an IRONMAN triathlon like Dr. Jonathan Feddock; walking overnight at Relay for Life with the Markey Cancer Center Marvels; or carrying colored balloons to honor survivors, supporters and memories of loved ones at a Light the Night event with the Markey and Friends Team; many people at Markey are dedicated to making a difference outside the laboratories and clinics.

Dr. Jonathan Feddock, Assistant Professor of Radiation Medicine, wants to consolidate and update the brachytherapy program where he treats women and pediatric patients with radiation. This consolidation includes relocating procedural and treatment areas into a single location and upgrading to more advanced imaging equipment. Estimated at \$1.2 million for the new equipment, renovations, and installation, the project had to be turned down due to insufficient funds available. "As the main physician who performs brachytherapy procedures," said Dr. Feddock, "I feel it is my job to make the project happen."

An IRONMAN competitor since 2007, Dr. Feddock approached Dr. Marc Randall, Markey Cancer Foundation Chair in Radiation Medicine, with an idea to use his experience competing in the triathlon, made up of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run, as a way to raise awareness and funds for the brachytherapy program. "Dr. Randall immediately put me in touch with key individuals at UK and the Markey Cancer Foundation in terms of major gifts and development, advertising, social media and public relations," said Dr. Feddock. "The website ironcology.net is a blog to describe the project, gain interest, attract followers and collect donations."



Dr. Jonathan Feddock competing at the IRONMAN World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

MARKEY BY THE NUMBERS

Number of scientific articles published by Markey authors last year..... 528

Over the past two years, Markey funding has increased by 27%

Dr. Feddock’s mission is to raise \$200,000, with a University of Kentucky match of \$1 million, potentially having the suite up and running by early 2016. His plan is to generate sponsors to pledge a specified amount per person that he passes throughout the Louisville IRONMAN on August 24. The field of competitors is capped at 3,000 athletes total and the race director has agreed to let Dr. Feddock to be the final person to start. In 2013, Dr. Feddock finished 17th with a time of 9:34. The potential number of people that he might pass, and money he might raise, is relatively high.

Although generating traffic to his social media outlets will help his secure corporate sponsors, Dr. Feddock’s primary aim is crowd funding. “I’m trying to raise money by asking a lot of people to give a little, rather than the other way around,” he said. “If everybody donates a few dollars, then everybody helps me get closer to improving our cancer services at Markey.”

For some people, group events are the best way to get involved. Barbara (Barbi) Merkel-Simon, Head & Neck Cancer Surgery Coordinator for the Multi-Disciplinary Clinic, is involved with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. “The purpose of the ACC Relay for Life is to come together and honor cancer survivors as well as the caregivers of cancer patients, remember the ones that have been lost to cancer, and to raise money so that we can continue the fight against cancer,” she said. “The money raised helps with cancer research, and helps provide free information and services to cancer patients and the caregivers.”

Relay for Life is an organized, overnight community fundraising walk where team members take turns walking. This year on May 30, the Relay for Life of Fayette County kicked off at 6 p.m. when the Markey Cancer Center Marvels began walking in Masterson Station Park. “Anyone who made a donation, contributed to the bake sales, t-shirts sales or joined the team walking were part of the Markey Cancer Center Marvels. We raised \$6,737.12 in a little over two months by selling t-shirts, baked goods, online Pampered Chef sales associated with our team, an onsite fundraiser at the relay and asking for donations,” said Merkel-Simon.

“By heading up a team this year, I was able to help in ways patients do not expect, more than just scheduling surgeries and treatments, and that it is rewarding,” said Merkel-Simon. While working with Relay for Life, Merkel-Simon met cancer survivors and heard how truly grateful they were to Markey for their treatment, for the doctors and the staff at Markey who were the reason survivors were able to participate in the relay. “It was an honor to meet and talk with patients, and to share their joy and happiness because they get to have another birthday.”

Robin Fisher, with Markey Cancer Center Outpatient Oncology Services, provides administrative support for five outpatient clinics. She is also active with Markey and Friends, a group involved with the Light The Night Walk, a fundraising campaign of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) whose mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma; and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

At Light the Night, fundraising teams come together for an inspirational, memorable evening walk. By bringing together families and communities to honor blood cancer survivors, as well as those lost to the diseases, Light the Night shines importance on finding cures and providing access to treatments for blood cancer patients. In Lexington, red balloons celebrate survivors, white balloons honor those who are no longer here and gold balloons recognize those in treatment. “It’s touching to see all those colors walking together,” said Fisher.

Fisher started her involvement on the Steering Committee for Light the Night more than 10 years ago, before she came to Markey. “I stayed with LLS because the organization is invaluable to patients,” she said. “A diagnosis changes life dramatically, you need support. LLS provides peer-to-peer support, letting patients know what to expect with a diagnosis.”

Since 2008, the Markey and Friends team has raised \$54,000 for Light the Night. “Being involved with Light the Night is my way to make a difference,” said Fisher.

Over the past three years, individuals from Markey have been honored in the LLS Kentucky & Southern Indiana Chapter Man & Woman of the Year campaign. Stephanie Dixon Sutphin, a hematology/oncology pharmacy specialist at Markey, was named the local 2011 Woman of the Year by the LLS Kentucky & Southern Indiana Chapter for raising \$21,388. Rose Mulberry, an advanced nurse practitioner at Markey, raised \$10,720 in 2012. And in 2013, Markey patient Kristopher Shera was named the local Man of the Year for raising \$24,561.



Relay for Life banners.



Kristopher Shera, the LLS’s Kentucky & Southern Indiana Chapter local 2013 Man of the Year.

Want To Get Involved?

To participate in Relay for Life with the MCC Marvels, email Barbi Merkel-Simon at barbara.simon@uky.edu. To participate in Light the Night with Markey and Friends, email Robin Fisher at robinafisher@uky.edu.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

B. MARK EVERS, MD, DIRECTOR, MARKEY CANCER CENTER



Kentucky now has the unfortunate distinction of being first among all 50 states in overall cancer mortality and cancer incidence (covering all cancer sites). Our cancer problem is distinct and prevalent, which underscores Markey’s mission to reduce the cancer mortality in our region. Fortunately, our colleagues here are doing their part to make a difference in the lives of our patients, and many of them are going above and beyond by becoming more directly involved in communities and organizations that fight the cancer battle alongside Markey every day.

This issue of the Markey Quarterly has already shown you how people with Markey connections are serving individuals whose lives are forever changed with a cancer diagnosis. For example, Dr. Jonathan Feddock saw a need for improvements in the brachytherapy program and is now training for an IRONMAN to raise a goal of \$200,000 to help make those upgrades possible. Many of you have also participated in the LLS Light the Night Walk and supported the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

In order to better understand the impact cancer has on a person’s entire life and to illustrate how some of our former patients – now survivors – have overcome those challenges, we hosted the inaugural Expressions of Courage event in June, National Cancer Survivorship Month. This event, made possible by gifts from the Markey Cancer Foundation and Biological Systems Consulting, Inc. and organized and led by Carla Repass, Assistant Director for Administration, and fellow Markey staff members Christie Daniels, Valeria Moore and Mincha Parker, featured more than 30 artists who shared their cancer experience with individual artwork. Experiencing the vibrant, personal, and emotional artwork our survivors created to convey their experience with cancer allowed us to see them in a new light, and it was an emotional and overwhelmingly positive day.

Finally, we are trying to reach beyond current patients and educate the broader community on cancer, its effects, and its prevention. Our comprehensive cancer screening, education, prevention, and outreach program serves the citizens of the state, with a particular focus on Eastern Kentucky while also serving people statewide. In the past few months, we have reached approximately 1,300 people through health fairs, educational events, and screening opportunities. Nearly 12,000 pieces of screening materials have been distributed. Markey’s Community Program Director, Melissa Hounshell, is working very closely with Kentucky Cancer Link and others to provide colon, breast and skin cancer screenings. Our first Saturday mammography screening event will be held at Markey on August 23rd.

In our everyday work and in our free time, we are going the extra mile to make sure our patients have every opportunity for positive outcomes in their care.

Markey, LLS Host Third Annual “Meet the Researchers Day”

The University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society hosted their third annual “Meet the Researchers Day” on April 17. Meet the Researchers Day is a field trip given as a prize to two schools in the region who successfully raise more than \$1,000 for the LLS’s Pennies for Patients campaign.

This year, students from Meece Middle School in Somerset, Ky., and Lexington Traditional Magnet School won the opportunity to visit the Biomedical/Biological Sciences Research Building (BBSRB) on UK’s campus and learned more about how the money they raised for Pennies for Patients will help further cancer research.

After introductions by Dr. Kathleen O’Connor, the students had the opportunity to rotate between presentations from pediatric hematologist/oncologist Dr. John D’Orazio and biochemist Craig Vander Kooi. Additionally, researchers Tianyan Gao and Garretson Epperly assisted in giving the students a tour of Dr. O’Connor’s research laboratory space in the BBSRB.

Pennies for Patients is the annual fundraiser for the School & Youth division of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. It encourages students to collect spare change during a set three-week time frame early in the year. Funds raised support leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma research; patient and community service; public health education; and professional education.

To learn more about the Pennies for Patients program, visit www.schoolandyouth.org.



A child participates during “Meet the Researchers Day.”

MEET A MARKEY MOVER

THE PATIENT ADVISORY GROUP.

This quarter, Markey Quarterly introduces you to members of the Patient Advisory Group (PAG). This group of former patients, families, providers and staff of Markey offers studied and forward-thinking counsel to the center's director for improving processes and procedures of the medical enterprise that will better the care of Markey patients and their families.

Good evening everyone. Thank you for taking some time to talk with us. Would anyone care to share why they got involved with the PAG?

Barry Warner: I'm a former cancer patient and had a positive experience. For me, I wanted to get involved to give back.

Sally Leukefeld: This is a great opportunity to share our knowledge. We can tell others about our experiences and share positive reinforcement. It's important to be involved with the PAG.

Marta Surgener: It's not just medical care, it's the whole person.

What do you like about being part of the PAG?

Rich Milich: We're here to improve treatment and make lives better. I've never been involved with such a great group of people who have accomplished so much.

Sue Ellen Caldwell: This is a great way to humanize Markey.

Sally: We make a real difference. When we see something that needs to be tweaked to be better, we say something and it gets addressed.

Why is the PAG important to Markey?

Sue Ellen: Because we're ambassadors.

Marta: Physicians are anxious to learn more about patients—we've been asked! The community needs to know we're here.

Sally: Care won't get more personal unless we can share with physicians and other care providers.



Patient Advisory Group members, left to right: Marta Surgener, Robin Fisher, Reda Gray, Terry Keys, Jann Geddes, Rich Milich, Sue Ellen Caldwell, Sally Leukefeld, Teresa Schladt, Barry Warner.

Teresa Schladt: You may not notice the small things, but we can say, "This is important."

What Markey success stories are because of the PAG?

Marta: Physicians have listened to us, and positive results include improvements with scheduling and patient interactions.

Sue Ellen: We reviewed the letter sent to new patients, and felt it could be more user-friendly. We suggested things like adding more white space so the page wasn't as overwhelming; more information on whether or not fasting or other things were needed before an appointment or procedure; detailed directions to buildings; identifying who was on each patients team.

Barry: My treatments were in the winter, when the roads were wet and snowy. There were no sidewalks, so I'd get splashed by cars in the street. We got sidewalks added to get patients out of traffic when they're trying to get treatments or to see their doctors. We also got benches for people to rest until their caregivers arrive. It's deflating when you're a patient and you can't get where you need to be, when you're sick and you're tired. We use our own experiences here to help make things better for everyone.

MARKEY MOVER, continued

Robin Fisher: The PAG has assisted with improved wayfinding, such as signage, updates to maps and corrected addresses for GPS. We helped establish the Ambassador Program so now there are attendants to assist patients in the parking lot and at the entrances. We worked on the addition of an employee to monitor the Roach Building Service Desk and entrance area from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.; the growth of our Psych-Oncology Program and Support Groups; and the growth of our Integrative Medicine Program.

What should Markey employees know about the PAG?

Terry Keys: The PAG started in December 2009. Every member serves for two years. We have a Steering Committee made up of nurses, technicians and administrators who decide our programs, and when the PAG meets every month, we work within those programs to discuss and explore topics. We've taken tours of clinics to see if there is room for improvement in accessibility or the overall environment.

Marta: People should know that we're supportive. We're not critical or advisarial.

Barry: When we're on a tour, we ask, "How can we help?" We saw a need for warm blankets in chemotherapy treatment areas. And now, you'll find warm blankets there.

Sally: We went to the Breast Clinic and saw things we felt could be improved, things with treatment and efficiency like the need for a place to hang clothes and better places for signs to help people. I went back for an appointment a few weeks later, and all of our suggestions had been met!

Sue Ellen: Terry is a great facilitator. When we have questions, he gets us answers. Progress isn't always fast, but we stay informed and in touch.

If you would like to bring an issue to the PAG, email Terry Keys at terry.keys@uky.edu.

Who should be the next Markey Mover?

There are so many movers at Markey, we need your help identifying individuals to feature in our quarterly newsletter! Email Markey's Research Communications Office at mccrco@uky.edu with your nomination.

Patients and Survivors Showcase Their Expressions of Courage

At the inaugural Expressions of Courage event on June 6, more than 30 artists shared original, artistic expressions connected to an experience with a cancer diagnosis. Entries included paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, quilting, vocal music, instrumental music, dancing, poetry and short stories.

Norton Cancer Center and Markey patient Phillip Meeks submitted a drawing by his daughter inspired by his treatment. In 2012, he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, requiring a bone marrow transplant to survive.

As an African-American — a population which only makes up roughly 7 percent of the bone marrow registry — and an adoptee without biological siblings or parents to get tested, the odds of finding a match were against him.

The day he was admitted to the hospital, Meeks said, they found a token underneath his hospital bed: one side said "Believe in Miracles" while the other side said "Faith."

"To me, that was God's way of saying that I'm there with you, don't be scared," Meeks said.

Meeks received his life-saving transplant in January 2013. He notes that Expressions of Courage was not only a day to showcase talent, but a day that survivors could show their appreciation to the staff of Markey.

"I just want to give back," Meeks said. "How can you thank so many people that are involved in saving your life? Hopefully this is my one little piece to say thank you for everything that everybody has done for me."



Phillip Meeks at Expressions of Courage.

NOTEWORTHY

WELCOME

Maria Bruno, Center for Environmental Systems
Biochemistry
Justin Bunch, Visiting Scholar
Tao Dai, Visiting Scholar
Rahul Ravi Deshpande, Post-Doc Scholar
Justin Levens, Kentucky Cancer Registry
Kristy Piersawl, Clinical Research Office
Cindy Roberts, Kentucky Cancer Registry
David Smith, Clinical Research Office
Wenzhen Zhao, Visiting Scholar

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Markey authors were responsible for 150 manuscripts and publications in journals from April through June 2014. Notable publications include the following.

Andrykowski MA, Steffens RF, Bush HM, Tucker TC. Disparities in mental health outcomes among lung cancer survivors associated with ruralness of residence. *Psychooncology* 2014;23:428-436.

Butler KM, Rayens MK, Ashford K, Adkins S, Gombeski B, Britt J, Hahn EJ. Smoke-free homes, strength of smoke-free law, and children in the home. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* 2014;16:485-490.

Hensley PJ, Desiniotis A, Wang C, Stromberg A, Chen CS, Kyprianou N. Novel pharmacologic targeting of tight junctions and focal adhesions in prostate cancer cells. *Plos One* 2014;9.

Trudgen K, Khattar NH, Bensadoun E, Arnold S, Stromberg AJ, Hirschowitz EA. Autoantibody profiling for lung cancer screening longitudinal retrospective analysis of ct screening cohorts. *Plos One* 2014;9.

Heidary DK, Glazer EC. A light-activated metal complex targets both DNA and rna in a fluorescent in vitro transcription and translation assay. *Chembiochem* 2014;15:507-511.

Ye Q, Cai W, Zheng Y, Evers BM, She QB. Erk and akt signaling cooperate to translationally regulate survivin expression for metastatic progression of colorectal cancer. *Oncogene* 2014;33:1828-1839.

GRANTS

Richard Crosby, PhD, was awarded Centers for Disease Control funding for the study “Rural Cancer Prevention Center.”

Heather Wright, MD, was awarded KY Breast Cancer Trust and Research Fund funding for the study “Markey Saturday Screening and Education Program.”

Binhua (Peter) Zhou, MD, PhD, was awarded Mary Kay Ash Foundation funding for the study “Dissecting the Critical Functions of the Dub3-Snail Axis in Basal-like Breast Cancer.”

MARKEY DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Congratulations to the following Markey Difference Makers for the second quarter of 2014.

Donna Areaux
Dr. Susanne Arnold
Becky Cochran
Stephanie Malicote
Dr. Ashish Maskey
Barbi Merkel-Simon

Nicole Oros
Renee Rainey
Kara Reynolds
Evelyn “Amber” Smith
JoAnn Wright

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & SELECTIONS

Susanne Arnold, MD, was recognized as the 2014 Dr. Lewis A. Kelley Markey Difference Maker of the Year award presented at Markey Cancer Center Research Day on May 22. Markey faculty and staff selected among Dr. Arnold, Jenny Delap, Gina Smithers and Reda Gray, all all Difference Makers of the Quarter.



Jill Dobias was among seven nurses who received awards to deserving professionals during National Nurses Week in May. The awards recognize UK HealthCare registered nurses for their outstanding contribution to the nursing profession and the delivery of health care. Jill was one of the Leadership/Management Award recipients.

NEW ONLINE: FIND A RESEARCHER

You can now access a directory of Markey researchers, complete with updated profiles and links to key publications. Email Markey’s Research Communications Office at mccrco@uky.edu for instructions on how to be included in the directory.

NOTEWORTHY, continued

Sally Ellingson, PhD, was the lead author for “Polypharmacology and supercomputer-based docking: opportunities and challenges,” an article recently published in *Molecular Simulation*. The article conveys the potential impact of a paradigm shift in drug research and development: via virtual high-throughput screening (docking) of drug candidates using high-performance computing (HPC), the cost of producing pharmaceuticals could be reduced by avoiding failures at late stages in research, many existing drugs could be repurposed and designed to more effectively address medical conditions, and potential side effects of medications could be better understood. Dr. Ellingson spoke on the subject last year at the SC13 supercomputing conference in Denver, and a related poster on the role of protein dynamics in computational docking that she and colleagues created won first place in the poster competition, Graduate Clinical Science Division, at Markey Cancer Research Day.

Linda Leach was promoted from Patient Relations Assistant to Patient Relations Associate. To qualify for this promotion, Linda completed a series of online and in-class training courses, obtained a 3.5 or higher on her most recent performance evaluation, passed a registration audit with a denial rate of 2% or lower and did not miss any Medicare Secondary Payor Questionnaires.

Rachel Ware Miller, MD, was selected to participate in the 2014 American Association for Cancer Research/American Society of Clinical Oncology Workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research. The Workshop will be held in Vail, Colo. at the end of July. Her protocol “Chemotherapy induced cognitive impairment in gynecologic oncology patients” was highly rated by the faculty.



Rachel L. Stewart, DO, was recognized as in the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) inaugural 40 under 40. The program recognizes 40 pathologists, pathology residents and laboratory professionals under age 40 who have made significant contributions to the profession and stand out as the future of laboratory leadership.

Markey Cancer Research Day
 May 22 was the annual Markey Cancer Center Research Day, highlighting the work of UK students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty. This year’s event featured 141 posters and the annual State of the Cancer Center Address by Director Dr. Mark Evers. Dr. Harold Varmus, Nobel Laureate and director of the National Cancer Institute, gave the Susan B. Lester Memorial Lecture.



The award ceremony presented two different categories - basic science and clinical science - for both graduate and postdoctoral fellows. A Researcher’s Choice Award was also presented, based on a popular vote by people who attended Research Day

Graduate Basic Science
 First place: Wei Zhang
 Second place: Hedy Chawsheez

Postdoctoral Basic Science
 First place: Jin Dai
 Second place: Stuart Jarrett

Graduate Clinical Science
 First place: Sally Ellingson
 Second place: Shaoying Wang

Postdoctoral Clinical Science
 First place: Rachel Stewart
 Second place: Pallavi Sethi

Researcher’s Choice Award
 Winner: Emil Khisamutdinov

TELL US ABOUT IT

Do you have an idea for the Markey Quarterly?
 Email Markey’s Research Communications Office at mccrco@uky.edu with your story idea.