



CuresToday

Gateway for Cancer Research has been devoted to funding Phase I and Phase II clinical trials for nearly 30 years. See how you advance medical science by making those trials possible!

IN THIS ISSUE

2

Managing Pain in Pancreatic Cancer

In Patients' Own Words

3

Ways to Give

Word CUREiosity

4

Feeling Better Through Integrative Cancer Care

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by **Michael Burton**, President and CEO, Gateway for Cancer Research



This is a milestone year for Gateway – we’re celebrating 30 years of advancing cancer research, funding practice-changing discoveries in clinical care, and moving us closer

to ending cancer as we know it.

What has truly distinguished Gateway is our sharp focus on healing patients now while we help the field move toward future cures. We do this in part by funding patient-centric, evidence-based research focused on supporting quality of life. This integrative approach pairs conventional cancer therapies with rigorous complementary therapies to help improve patient outcomes.

In this edition of *CuresTODAY* you’ll learn more about integrative oncology research and the life-changing Gateway

clinical trials currently underway. I think you’ll be gratified, as am I, by the voices of patients who share how integrative medicine is changing the face of cancer care.

This same patient-centered focus inspired us to launch an innovative funding program to support clinical trials that bring investigational therapies directly to patients’ doorsteps during the pandemic and beyond. Our new *Extraordinary Measures* fundraising campaign will advance this initiative and ensure that cancer patients continue to receive potentially life-saving therapies in these challenging times and well into the future.

As always, on behalf of all of us at Gateway, thank you for sharing our commitment to the patients we serve. Let’s continue to celebrate the impact we make together in shaping a world in which a cancer diagnosis is no longer feared. ■



99 CENTS

OF EVERY DOLLAR RECEIVED DIRECTLY FUNDS CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

MANAGING PAIN IN PANCREATIC CANCER

For the estimated 57,600 men and women living with pancreatic cancer in the U.S., pain is a significant issue that can dramatically impact quality of life. A new Gateway-funded Phase II clinical trial investigating an advanced pain management approach pioneered by researchers in Israel is currently enrolling patients at leading cancer centers in the U.S. and abroad.



Dr. Yaacov Lawrence

Patients with pancreatic cancer and other solid tumors in the upper abdomen often experience severe back pain in a “belt distribution”. The pain is thought to originate in the celiac plexus, the nerves located behind the pancreas at the level of the 12th thoracic vertebrae.

Current pain management techniques, including opiate medications and nerve blocks, are insufficient and can significantly reduce patients’ quality of life, almost as sharply as the pain itself.

Gateway-funded researcher Yaacov Lawrence, MD, of Sheba Medical Center in Israel, recently completed a proof-of-concept pilot study to determine if delivering a single, high dose of radiation precisely targeted to the celiac plexus would benefit these patients. His team demonstrated that celiac plexus radiosurgery is feasible and well-tolerated with minimal side effects, and it improved patients’ ability to tolerate prescribed therapies, helping to ensure they could continue treatment. Patients also reported a considerable decrease in pain and improved quality of life.

Based on these findings, Dr. Lawrence is launching a Phase II multi-center clinical trial to determine if ablative radiosurgery decreases pain in patients with celiac-plexus pain syndrome, and to further assess the tolerability and side effects. Researchers will also explore the effects on patients’ quality of life.

This integrative care approach holds promise for clinicians as a powerful new pain management tool to complement standard cancer therapy, and as a quality-of-life game changer for patients.

Patients interested in participating in this clinical trial are encouraged to share and discuss this article with their doctors. To refer a patient or to explore opportunities for collaboration, clinicians may contact Dr. Lawrence at research@gatewaycr.org. ■

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DR. LAWRENCE’S WORK](#)

IN PATIENTS’ OWN WORDS

Early findings from Dr. Yaacov Lawrence’s integrative medicine approach to managing pancreatic cancer pain hold promise for improving patient outcomes and quality of life.

“My mom participated in your clinical trial. It was a huge success and her pain is now 100 percent gone. I am so very thankful because she has not had to be on any pain meds since the procedure. Previously, she just slept all the time and we could not hold a conversation. Thank you for allowing us to have more conversations. My family and I will always cherish these last few conversations and we will always be grateful to you and your team for giving us that gift.”

- DAUGHTER OF PATIENT TREATED AT OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY (3/2020)

“I am so grateful and feel so fortunate to be part of the radiation therapy against pancreatic cancer pain. I am almost pain-free and life is very bearable and good. I became a great-grandmother again this week and I have a grandchild’s wedding in a week and a half where I will dance (hopefully). All normal and wonderful things. Keep up the brilliant work and many, many thanks.”

- JG, JERUSALEM (12/2019)

Do you have a personal experience you’d like to share with and inspire others through *CuresTODAY*? We would love to hear from you. Please send an email to Contact@GatewayCR.org. ■

WAYS TO GIVE

It's Your Time To Be Extraordinary

When the impact of COVID-19 limited access to clinical trials – a trend expected to continue – Gateway launched an innovative new funding program to support “decentralized” studies that help bring clinical trials to patients’ doorsteps by leveraging technologies like telemedicine, remote monitoring, and at-home care.



Extraordinary Measures is an unprecedented, urgent fundraising campaign unlike any the organization has carried out in its 30 year history, designed

to help ensure all those facing cancer continue to receive access to lifesaving therapies.

We are pleased to announce that *Extraordinary Measures* is building momentum with major gifts from Muneer Satter and his wife Kristen Hertel, Andi and Jim Gordon and Raj Mantena. Gateway is deeply grateful for the generous contributions of these philanthropists for giving at the highest level to this vital cause.

Now is your opportunity to help bring clinical trials to patients’ doorsteps through *Extraordinary Measures*. Find out more at GatewayCR.org/EM. Thank you in advance for your support. ■

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 23, 2021 4th Annual Gateway for Cancer Research Vino con Stelle

Dr. Stacie J. and Mr. Richard J Stephenson invite you to save the date for an unforgettable evening of wine under the stars as Gateway for Cancer Research celebrates a successful year of fighting to end cancer as we know it.

Curated wine selected by Iron Chef America winner, Mark Tarbell, perfectly punctuates an exciting evening with Master of Ceremonies, Cameron Mathison, Hallmark Channel’s *Home & Family* host and cancer survivor. Filled with world class entertainment, unique live auction opportunities and special celebrity vintner participation from the Mondavi Sisters, the event is not to be missed – and all in support of fighting this pervasive disease – cancer.



Your support of this event will help create a world in which a cancer diagnosis is no longer feared.

To learn more, please call Mallory Middleton (480) 290-5699 or email Mallory.Middleton@GatewayCR.org. ■

/ WORD CUREIOSITY / INTEGRATIVE ONCOLOGY

Definition: Integrative oncology pairs conventional cancer therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiation with scientific evidence-based complementary therapies to manage symptoms and treatment side effects.

Application: A growing body of research suggests that striking a balance of physical, emotional and spiritual wellness through integrative care can improve patient outcomes and quality of life during cancer treatment.

FEELING BETTER THROUGH INTEGRATIVE CANCER CARE



Thanks to advances in cancer research, treatment and early diagnosis, close to 70 percent of cancer patients live at least five years beyond diagnosis and 18 percent are survivors of 20 years or more. Many patients, however, may underestimate how dramatically cancer can affect them, both physically and emotionally.

A growing body of research suggests that striking a balance of physical, emotional and spiritual wellness through integrative care can improve patient outcomes and quality of life during cancer treatment. Integrative oncology pairs conventional cancer therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiation with evidence-based complementary therapies to manage symptoms and side effects.

Gateway is committed to expanding the body of scientific evidence-based research in this emerging field. Several Gateway-funded integrative oncology studies are currently underway, including:



ACUPUNCTURE AND BREAST CANCER

Many women who undergo surgery for breast cancer have chronic pain following treatment, which may cause depression, anxiety and sleeplessness, in turn leading to extreme fatigue. In addition, pain medications can cause drowsiness, nausea and constipation – unpleasant side effects that worsen quality of life. **Lorenzo Cohen, PhD**, and colleagues at MD Anderson Cancer Center are investigating whether acupuncture can help reduce chronic pain, improve physical function and improve overall quality of life for women following surgical treatment for breast cancer.



NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS AND PEDIATRIC HCT

Hematopoietic cell transplant is a standard treatment for children with blood cancers. Following treatment, many patients are unable to eat and require intravenous or nasogastric feeding. The lipid emulsion commonly used to provide essential nutrients is soybean based, which can cause further adverse side effects. **Alexandra Carey, MD**, and colleagues at Boston Children's Hospital are examining whether giving a fish oil lipid emulsion supplement high in omega-3 fatty acids to children undergoing HCT will reduce inflammation to prevent transplant rejection, increase healthy blood lipid levels to improve recovery and avoid the complications associated with soybean-based lipid emulsion.



EXERCISE AND SOLID TUMORS

Lee Jones, PhD, and colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center are investigating the role of exercise in helping people prepare for, tolerate and recover from cancer treatment. To help confirm observational evidence that exercise minimizes the occurrence of cancer and improves treatment outcomes, researchers are treating patients newly-diagnosed with breast, prostate or endometrial cancer with different “doses” of exercise in the short period between diagnosis and surgery. By comparing tumor biopsies of patients taken at time of diagnosis and at time of surgery, they will determine whether exercise alters cancer biology and tumor progression, identify the most appropriate “dose” of exercise, and predict which patients and/or types of tumors are most responsive to exercise.

For more information about integrative medicine, visit the [National Institutes of Health National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health](#). ■