

BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE NEWSLETTER

www.bccancerservice.org

In honor of the committed service of Olove Colcord, R.N.

THE MISSION OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SERVICE:

To provide compassionate in home skilled nursing care
and supportive resources for those affected by cancer
or related illnesses in Southwest Michigan.



April 2015

(269) 429-3281

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The BERRIEN COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

is a group for patients, family members and care givers. Come share successes, feelings, fears and practical methods of coping with the physical and emotional aspects of living with the diagnosis of cancer.

Spring Delight

Pink Streaks of Sun's rays before turning to gold
Fortell the day's patterns new life to unfold;
Robins so merry and blue jays so bright,
Fly springtime skies from morning to night;
Tulips in rows lift their clean faces,
And nod their acquaintance to bees in their places;
Soft gentle breezes stir buds on the trees,
Then scatter earth's perfume – the senses to please.
From dawning to sunset 'tis glorious to see
God's spectacular show and all of it free
Estelle Pfetsch



United Way
of Southwest Michigan

BCCS Bulletin Board

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS – THE POWER OF A PENNY!



Would you believe what the power of a penny is? Since it started, Pennies for Patients Day has raised \$422,866.04! Fortunately, this has not all come as “pennies”. The year of the most pennies was 2002 when 13,000 pennies arrived. When bringing your pennies in, remember, we love silver and green paper pennies also! This year we will have 2 multi-coin counters after receiving a donation from Advia Credit Union of Port Huron. As we celebrate our **26th Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS™ DAY**, let's pass up last year's total of \$18,388.63. ***Come join us on Thursday, May 14, 2015*** any time between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. So if you are an early bird or not, we have a time for you! Come and see the excitement of thousands of pennies along with refreshments and fun. There will also be a Niles location at the Masonic Temple on Main and 3rd Street from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. with cookies and punch. All the proceeds stay local to help those with cancer in our community. Bring your pennies, silver, and dollars and join us for our **26th Annual PENNIES FOR PATIENTS DAY!**

Calling all BCCS Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service. This year it will be celebrated April 12-18, 2015. **Our 3rd annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception will be held Thursday, April 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and join us for food and fun – and take a break, we will supply the food!**



NEWSLETTERS – IMPORTANT

We have sent out a notice regarding our newsletter and asking that for those who regularly use their email to call or email us to change their BCCS newsletter subscription to receive it via email. This has been in response to costs related to printing and postage. We take seriously our commitment to dedicate our funding to caring for those we serve. If you receive the newsletter via mail and wish to continue to do so, please know that we are happy to send it to you and will continue to do so. If you have any questions, please email us at staff@bccancerservice.org or call us at 269-429-3281.

Bottoms up for a Cure Pub Run

Team Lucky Charms is hosting the 5th Annual Pub Run on Saturday, April 25th at 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. to benefit the Berrien County Cancer Service. Race route and registrations begin at 12:00 p.m. at Babe's Lounge, 565 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor. Cost is \$20.00 by April 17th and includes a t-shirt. Day of event registration is \$25.00. Find registration forms on Facebook- Search for 5th Annual “Bottoms Up for a Cure” Pub Run or visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/727526934021521>.

Studies on Ovarian Cancer

HER3-positive circulating tumor cells home in on omentum; new target to thwart metastasis

MD Anderson News Release 07/14/14

Circulating tumor cells spread ovarian cancer through the bloodstream, homing in on a sheath of abdominal fatty tissue where it can grow and metastasize to other organs, scientists at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center report in *Cancer Cell*.

“This completely new way of thinking about ovarian cancer metastasis provides new potential avenues to predict and prevent recurrence or metastasis,” said senior author Anil Sood, M.D., professor of Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine and Cancer Biology.

The researchers found the circulating tumor cells (CTCs) rely on HER3, a less-famous sibling of the HER2 receptor protein prominent in some breast cancers, to find their way to the omentum, a sheet of tissue that covers and supports abdominal organs. HER3’s heavy presence on these cells makes it a biomarker candidate and suggests possible therapeutic options to thwart ovarian cancer progression, the researchers noted. “The CTCs are not just a correlation, they seem to have a functionally important role in metastasis,” Sood said.

High expression of HER3 in ovarian cancer tumors is associated with shorter survival, the team found. Ovarian cancer has been thought mainly to spread via direct surface contact with neighboring organs in the abdominal cavity. “However, it also metastasizes to more distant organs such as the liver and spleen, which seems to indicate arrival through the bloodstream,” Sood said.

Ovarian tumor cells are found abundantly in the blood vessels of the omentum and CTCs are present in ovarian cancer patients. However the importance of CTCs was not well understood.

Two mice, one blood supply

The researchers used a parabiosis mouse model, in which two mice are joined at the skin from hip to shoulder. They share blood supply but not lymphatic vessels. “This was the most convincing way to prove

that CTCs play a role in metastasis,” said first author Sunila Pradeep, Ph.D., instructor of Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine.

When the host mouse of each pair was injected with ovarian cancer cells, a primary tumor developed and metastases were found in the omenta of all of the host mice. In the guest mice, metastatic cells and tumors appeared first in the omentum before spreading to other organs.

The team compared gene expression in tumors between the original ovarian cancer cell line and its metastatic version found in the omentum.

Expression of HER3, also known as ERBB3, was highly elevated and activated. The binding protein, or ligand, most likely to cause that activation is NRG1, which was found abundantly on the metastatic cells. More than 95 percent of CTCs collected from mice with the metastatic version of ovarian cancer were HER3-positive. The more HER3-positive cells the mice had, the greater the tumor burden.

HER3 expression reduces human survival

In tumor samples from 11 ovarian cancer patients, 90 percent of cells were HER3-positive. Tumor cells found in the omental blood vessels of five patients analyzed also had strong HER3 expression.

In a cohort of 217 advanced-stage patients, lower HER3 expression correlated with improved overall survival of 4.9 years compared to 3.15 years for high-HER3 tumors.

Analyzed by itself, HER3 expression was significantly associated with advanced-stage disease at diagnosis.

When other variables such as the patient’s age, disease stage and tumor grade were controlled for, HER3 expression remained an independent factor for patient survival. They also found:

- HER3 expression to be significantly higher in human stage 3 and 4 tumors compared to stage 1 and 2 tumors.
- Blocking HER3 with siRNA significantly lowered expression of the protein, decreased tumor growth and reduced metastasis in mice.
- Plugging HER3 with the antibody MM-121 reduced the size and number of tumors and frequency of metastasis in treated mice to a tiny fraction of that found in control mice.
- Results were repeated with additional high-grade serous ovarian cancer and colon cancer models.

In Loving Memory

During February 2015, Memorial Donations were generously made by and for the following people

In Memory of Ernest Arent

Alma Arent, St. Joseph

In Memory of Minnie Arent Plumley

Alma Arent, St. Joseph

In Memory of Linda Gail Blue

Carolyn Norton, Coloma

In Memory of Loren Burkett Sr.

Jeanette Fester, Benton Harbor

In Memory of Valerie Gelder

Don Richmond, St. Joseph

In Memory of Mary Ann Lindt

Carol Nelson, Ludington

Lynne Wiefelich, Niles

Barbara & Thomas Wicker, Berrien Springs

Elizabeth Miller, Berrien Springs

Deb Christensen, St. Joseph

Janet, Larry & Anne Witkowski, Dearborn

Teres Hines, Berrien Springs

Jack Davis, Berrien Springs

Benno Hinrichs, Bridgman

Phylis & Michael Hauch, Sodus

Nik Larsson, Shelby Township

In Memory of Barbara Sonnenberg

Jean Tacy, Watervliet

In Memory of Kristie Anne Vogt-Wyckoff

Blossomland Learning Center, Berrien Springs

In Memory of Ida Wright

Sam Cook, Watervliet

Berrien County Cancer Service sends our sincere sympathy to all those who have recently lost loved ones. We thank all of our generous donors.

Your donations are very much appreciated and will help cancer patients in Berrien County.

Thank You

Thought for the Day

Never mistake knowledge for wisdom.

One helps you make a living,

The other helps you make a life.

Happy Easter !

Looking Ahead

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville

April 7 & 21 – 1:30 p.m.

May 5 & 19 – 1:30 p.m.

BCCS SUPPORT GROUP – Niles

April 14 & 28 – 1:30 p.m.

May 12 & 26 – 1:30 p.m.

RAINBOWS OF HOPE– St. Joseph

Marie Yeager Cancer Center

April 9 - 5:30 p.m.

May 14 – 5:30 p.m.

Ostomy Support Group

Lakeland Regional Medical Center

April 9 – 6:30 p.m.

May 14 – 6:30 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL 2015

April 1 – April Fool’s Day

April 2 – National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day

April 5 – Easter

April 7 – No House Work Day

April 10 – National Sibling Day

April 13 – Thomas Jefferson Day

April 14 – Pathologists’ Assistant’s Day

April 15 – Income Tax Day

April 18 – Husband Appreciation Day

April 21 – National Chocolate-covered Cashews Day

April 22 – Secretary’s Day

April 24 – Arbor Day

April 25 – National Go Birding Day

April 28 – Biological Clock Day

April 30 - Bugs Bunny Day

Newsletters available online

Our newsletters are available on our website:
www.bccancerservice.org. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please call our office at 269-429-3281 or send us an e-mail: staff@bccancerservice.org.

Please Consider...

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc., is a non-profit organization funded primarily by the United Way, private donations and fund-raisers. We receive no Medicare, Medicaid or other insurance payments. To continue our free services to Berrien County cancer patients, we need your help. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Donations to our General Fund will help balance our current budget. Donations to our Endowment Fund will help guarantee that the Cancer Service will be available for as long as needed. Your contribution to our non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation is tax deductible – an acknowledgment and receipt for tax purposes will be sent.

Donations can be made in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one. In these instances, we would also like to send acknowledgment to the honoree or next-of-kin so please provide that information when making your donation.

_____ General Fund _____ Endowment Fund

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

OR

In Memory of _____

Please send notification of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Thank you for your generosity!

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.
7301 Red Arrow Highway
Stevensville, MI 49127

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Help us save postage, call 269-429-3281
or email us at staff@bccancerservice.org.
If you are not reading the newsletter, you
may contact us to be removed also. We
value our readers & hope you enjoy it.

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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Stevensville Office
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month - 1:30 p.m.

Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.
7301 Red Arrow Highway
Stevensville, MI 49127
Phone: (269) 429-3281 or (269) 465-5257

RAINBOWS OF HOPE GROUP- St. Joseph
2nd Thursday of each month – 5:30 p.m.

Marie Yeager Cancer Center
Ward and Kinney Room
3900 Hollywood Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone: (269) 556-7114

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – Niles
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month – 1:30 p.m.

Niles Senior Center
1109 Bell Road
Niles, MI 49120
Phone: (269) 429-3281

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP
2nd Thursday of each month – 6:00 p.m.

Lakeland Regional Medical Center
Community Room
1234 Napier Ave.
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone: (269) 983-8804