

PO Box 9905 Washington DC 20016 Telephone 202-362-1809

## Indoor Tanning Industry Funded Author Of NEJM Review On Vitamin D Deficiency

*By Paul Goldberg*

The UV Foundation is a cheerful, sunny name. The non-profit has sponsored the research of Michael Holick, a Boston University professor, whose work advocates “sensible sun exposure.”

Research support from the foundation was acknowledged in Holick’s review article in the July 19, 2007, issue of The New England Journal of Medicine that suggests that a few minutes in the sun or at a tanning salon can help avoid the purported deadly consequences of vitamin D deprivation.

However, the disclosure didn’t mention that the UV Foundation is an offshoot of the Indoor Tanning Association and that all of its board members also serve as fiduciaries of the parent trade association, which represents the artificial tanning industry.

The foundation acknowledges that it has given Holick more than  
(Continued to page 2)

### Professional Societies:

#### **DuBois Succeeds Hait As AACR President, Jacks Is President-Elect, At Annual Meeting**

**TYLER JACKS**, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was named president-elect of the American Association for Cancer Research. He succeeds **Raymond DuBois**, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, who will become president.

**William Hait**, senior vice president and worldwide head for Ortho Biotech Oncology Research and Development, a unit of Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals Research and Development, who has served as AACR president for the 2007-2008 term, will become past president.

These positions took effect on April 14 at the AACR annual meeting in San Diego.

Jacks is the director of the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT, the David H. Koch Professor of Biology at MIT, and an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. His laboratory has engineered a series of mutant mouse strains that serve as animal models for exploring the cellular pathways regulated by cancer-associated genes.

As president, Hait launched AACR’s Translational Cancer Medicine Meeting Series and established the AACR-FDA-NCI Cancer Biomarkers Collaborative, of which he currently serves as co-chair.

Five new members were elected to the AACR board of directors: **Lisa**  
(Continued to page 5)

### Conflicts Of Interest:

Journal Says \$150,000  
From Tanning Industry  
Was “De Minimis”

... Page 2

Henschke Controversy  
Makes Journals  
Question Foundations  
Funded By Industry

... Page 3

### In Brief:

Cech To Step Down  
As HHMI President  
In 2009, Return To Lab

... Page 6

### NIH News:

NIH, Japan Center  
In Research Alliance  
For Pharmacogenomics

... Page 7

### Capitol Hill:

Cancer Care Act  
Introduced In Senate

... Page 7

### Funding Opportunities:

PAs Available

... Page 8

## Journal Says \$150,000 Funding Was “De Minimis” For Holick

(Continued from page 1)

\$150,000 in research support over three years. Under some circumstances, this might have barred him from publishing a literature review article in NEJM, since the journal’s conflict of interest rules preclude scientists who receive “major” research support from industry from writing reviews and editorials on matters that may affect the sponsors of their research.

Even before the journal’s official publication date, Martin Weinstock, a dermatologist at Brown University, obtained an embargoed copy and informed the NEJM Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Drazen about Holick’s connections with the tanning industry.

“I picked up the phone and called Dr. Drazen and expressed my concerns clearly,” Weinstock said to The Cancer Letter. “He stated he would look into the matter, which he confirmed he would do by email.” However, no action has been taken.

The question of the true identity of organizations that finance research has become increasingly important in recent weeks, particularly at NEJM, a publication that learned recently that a paper on lung cancer it published in 2006 was supported by a charity funded exclusively with money from the cigarette maker Liggett Group Ltd.

The charity, called the Foundation for Lung Cancer Early Detection, Prevention & Treatment, figured in a disclosure by a group of NEJM authors, Weill Cornell

Medical College researchers Claudia Henschke and David Yankelevitz, but its source of funds was unknown until it was revealed by The Cancer Letter and The New York Times (The Cancer Letter, March 28).

The NEJM was aware of Holick’s funding, said Karen Pedersen, a spokesman for the journal. “The disclosure published with the Holick article provided readers with the sources of support, as our policy requires,” Pedersen said in an email. “We were aware of the sources of funding for the UV Foundation, and that the information was publicly available on their website.”

In the most recent restatement of the journal’s conflicts of interest policy, published in an editorial on June 13, 2002, the NEJM editors announced that they would allow publication of review papers and editorials by authors who have some financial interest in companies discussed in such articles. The journal uses the NIH definition of “significant financial interest”—an annual income of \$10,000 or more—for authors who consult or hold stock in affected companies.

However, the rules remained the same for authors who receive research grants from such companies.

“With respect to research grants, our policy will continue to require that authors of review articles and editorials, through their institutions, not have major research support or a major proportion of their funding from relevant companies,” the editorial states. “We consider interactions that occur within two years before publication date of an article to be pertinent. Information about financial relationships below the de minimis level but relevant to the article will be disclosed in the journal.”

NEJM spokesman Pedersen said Holick’s funding fell below this level. “Grants from the UV Foundation made up 2 to 3 percent of the research support that Dr. Holick disclosed to us at the time of publication,” she said in an email. “The editors consider that proportion to be well within the guidelines laid out in our editorial.”

According to tax papers filed by the UV Foundation, Holick’s institution received \$50,000 in 2004, another \$50,000 in 2005, and \$62,014 in 2006.

“To me, \$50,000 a year is an attractive sum, not de minimis,” said Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sheldon Krimsky, professor of Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning at Tufts University and author of the book “Science in the Private Interest” agrees.

“In my view, having a \$50,000 connection to a corporation does not seem de minimis, and certainly



© The Cancer Letter is a registered trademark.

**Editor & Publisher:** Kirsten Boyd Goldberg

**Editor:** Paul Goldberg

**Editorial Assistant:** Shelley Whitmore Wolfe

Editorial: 202-362-1809 Fax: 202-379-1787

PO Box 9905, Washington DC 20016

Letters to the Editor may be sent to the above address.

Subscriptions/Customer Service: 800-513-7042

PO Box 40724, Nashville TN 37204-0724

General Information: [www.cancerletter.com](http://www.cancerletter.com)

Subscription \$375 per year worldwide. ISSN 0096-3917. Published 46 times a year by The Cancer Letter Inc. Other than "fair use" as specified by U.S. copyright law, none of the content of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form (electronic, photocopying, or facsimile) without prior written permission of the publisher. Violators risk criminal penalties and damages.

Founded Dec. 21, 1973, by Jerry D. Boyd.

meets the standards of the U.S. government, and is also higher than what most universities would consider as de minimis,” Krimsky said. “At the very least, in this case, the NEJM has an obligation to the readers to state what they consider de minimis financial interest, and to assert that in this particular case that interest met the editor’s threshold for accepting Holick’s review.”

Disclosure requirements don’t usually entail encouraging readers to look behind the facades of funding sources, Caplan said.

“This case makes it hard to see the funding streams very clearly,” he said. “They are saying that they weren’t bothered, and people can track them down. But that doesn’t seem to be quite consistent with what their conflicts of interest policy was trying to accomplish, and if it is, they haven’t made it clear that they expect the reader to get Google in hand and start trying to look behind the declared funding source to see what might be upstream.”

Over the years, many business interests, particularly tobacco and nutrition companies, have hidden behind non-profits to funnel money to scientists. However, until the Henschke controversy, the issue of hidden sponsorship of research hasn’t been confronted head-on by top-tier medical journals, ethics experts say.

“The Henschke story has put it on the radar in a way it hasn’t been before, because all of a sudden it’s getting coverage in places like The New York Times,” said Sheldon Rampton, research director for the Center for Media and Democracy. “The discussion has generally taken the form of saying that funding sources might compromise research. But I don’t think that there has been much realization that sometimes those funding conflicts are part of a deliberate effort to corrupt and shape the debate.”

Caplan said no new rules are required to look for hidden funding sources: industry money channeled through non-profit groups has always been subject to disclosure.

“This is a situation where the title of the foundation doesn’t reveal the corporate or political or ideological interest behind the funding, and that’s what the editor needs to be told to make the judgment on relevance,” he said. “The editor is flying blind if I say I receive support from the Milk and Cookies Foundation, not revealing that it represents the asbestos industry.”

### **Relationship With Indoor Tanning Groups**

Holick said he had disclosed his relationship with the UV Foundation. “I provided [the editors] with the information,” Holick said. “They had asked me even for

the physical address of the UV Foundation. What they requested was whether a significant amount of funding was coming from any one of these organizations. But the amount that I was receiving was about 2 percent of my total budget.”

Holick said his total research budget is about \$3 million a year, which comes from NIH grants, grants from the Dairy Council, and private donations. “I never received a penny from the Indoor Tanning Association or the UV Foundation personally, because I knew that it would be a contentious issue for some,” he said. The Dairy Council and private donations aren’t mentioned in the NEJM disclosure.

Experts in skin cancer say that Holick’s views and his association with the tanning industry are commonly known and openly acknowledged.

Holick said the paper was the outcome of 10 years of discussions with NEJM editors. According to the NEJM instructions for authors, “review articles are usually solicited by the editors, but we will consider unsolicited material. Please contact the editorial office before writing a review article for the journal.”

No detective work would have been required to determine that the UV Foundation is, in fact, an arm of the tanning industry, and that it funds Holick’s research.

According to its website, the foundation “has made a commitment of \$150,000 over three years to Boston University, to continue the efforts of Dr. Michael Holick, a Vitamin D expert and author of the intriguing new book, ‘The UV Advantage.’”

The foundation’s source of funding was reported by a blogger, Len Lichtenfeld, deputy chief medical officer at the American Cancer Society. Lichtenfeld also noted that Holick’s work was cited on the UV Foundation and ITA websites <http://www.cancer.org/asp/blog/Comments.aspx?id=159>.

Weinstock, a dermatologist at Brown and chairman of the ACS Skin Cancer Advisory Group, read an embargoed copy of the paper and called Drazen immediately. The conversation was followed by a July 18, 2007, confirmatory e-mail from Drazen, Weinstock said.

Responding, Weinstock reiterated his concern about undisclosed conflicts and the underlying science in Holick’s paper: “Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are concerned because of... possible direct unmentioned conflicts that may relate to his recommendations that tanning booth exposure (and sun exposure) are recommended for vitamin D purposes, and because the quality of evidence behind those

recommendations is so poor.”

Two years earlier, Weinstock and DeAnn Lazovich, of the University of Minnesota Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, wrote a letter to the editor of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition to object to the disclosure statement on Holick’s paper.

The letter stated that Holick and coauthors acknowledged support from the UV Foundation, but “failed to note the close connection between the UV Foundation and the commercial tanning industry.” The paper in question is cited in Holick’s review in the NEJM.

In a recent editorial responding to the revelation that Henschke’s work had been funded by Liggett, the NEJM editors acknowledged that they hadn’t been looking aggressively at the funding of non-profits.

“It has not been our practice to inquire about the specific sources of funding of foundations such as this,” the NEJM editors wrote in an editorial published online on April 2. “We and our readers were surprised to learn that the sources of the funding of the charitable foundation was, in fact, a large corporation that could have an interest in the study results.”

The question of true identity of research funders has been relevant all along, and the source of money dispensed through groups like the UV Foundation should have been disclosed, Krinsky said.

“It would seem that the NEJM has a moral responsibility to its readers to disclose what this foundation is and the relationship of the person who wrote the research to the foundation, whether or not the funding that this person gets is exclusively for the research, or whether there are other relationships that this person has with that particular foundation,” Krinsky said.

### **The Question of Balance**

Holick’s review article states that “exposure to sunlight or ultraviolet B radiation from a tanning bed or other ultraviolet B-emitting device is also effective” in correcting malabsorption of vitamin D.

Specifically, he suggests a portable Sperti lamp as an alternative to a tanning bed. Also, Holick states that for patients with fat malabsorption, exposure to a tanning bed for half the time required for tanning “is an excellent means for treating and preventing vitamin D deficiency.”

Also, “this reduces the risk of skin cancers associated with ultraviolet B radiation,” Holick writes.

The review article was unbalanced, Lichtenfeld

wrote on his blog on the day of the paper’s publication. “There is no question that the average person reading this article will come away with the impression that sun exposure and using tanning beds is ‘ok.’ as reported in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine,” he wrote. “On the other side of the recommendation a cadre of well-qualified experts who feel that this is a very dangerous and inappropriate recommendation. But their views are not represented in the article.”

The claims made by Holick on the UV Foundation website are even more aggressive. On a video clip, Holick claims that visits to tanning salons can prevent cancer.

“The message is that moderate sensible exposure to sunlight, or if people wish to go to a tanning salon, but they do it responsibly, the benefits may far outweigh the risks of skin cancer,” Holick says. “With about 1,200 people die a year of squamous and basal cell cancers, probably as much as 150,000 people die a year of prostate, breast and colon cancer that could be related to the lack of exposure to sunlight and adequate vitamin D.”

According to the website, the foundation’s sponsors include the Indoor Tanning Association, as well as Osram, the maker of tanning lamps, and Future Industries, the maker of tanning beds, booths and lamps.

All of the foundation’s board members also serve on the board of the ITA. The foundation’s president, Dan Humiston, is also the president of ITA and president of Tanning Bed Ltd., a chain of tanning salons based in West Seneca, NY. John Overstreet, a board member, is the executive director of the ITA. Board member Jim Shepherd is the president of Sperti/KBD of Erlanger, Ky., the manufacturer of sun lamps specifically cited in Holick’s review article, and Jerry Frank is president of Cosmedico Light Inc., of Weymouth, Mass., a maker of lamps and power systems for UV lighting equipment.

The ITA recently hired Berman & Co., a Washington public relations firm that represents tobacco, food and alcohol industries, to develop what ITA describes as “an innovative and audacious strategy,” <http://www.theita.com/news/Berman.cfm>.

The campaign has so far produced full-page newspaper advertisements that characterize the link between tanning and melanoma as “hype.”

The NEJM has been reluctant to respond to the Henschke controversy as well.

The journal’s editors were first informed by The Cancer Letter that Henschke and Yankelevitz hadn’t disclosed patents and royalties in the paper published

in the Oct. 26, 2006 issue (The Cancer Letter, Jan. 18). After investigating the matter, the journal responded that the disclosures were made, but the editors found them not relevant (The Cancer Letter, March 14).

However, the controversy failed to go away. After the story about Henschke's tobacco funding received attention from the national news media, the journal responded with a correction, a clarification, and an editorial.

The journal explained that the correction was warranted because the editors had read a letter in the Journal of the American Medical Association in which Henschke and Yankelevitz admitted receiving royalties on their inventions (The Cancer Letter, April 4).

Also, the journal may have opened itself to penalties for offering continuing medical education credits to physicians who read the lung cancer screening. If the editors' had indeed deemed Henschke's and Yankelevitz's patents not relevant, they have likely violated CME rules that bar physicians who have unmanaged conflicts of interest from offering lectures and article (The Cancer Letter, March 14).

#### **JAMA Corrects the Correction**

JAMA has published a second version of a correction to a paper and a letter to the editor by Claudia Henschke and David Yankelevitz, the leaders of the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program. The correction appears in the April 16 issue of the journal.

The first version, published online on March 24, contained a list of patents that list Henschke and Yankelevitz as inventors. However, the document didn't list multiple sources of research support and was inconsistent with a disclosure provided to the journals published by the American Cancer Society (The Cancer Letter, April 4).

JAMA's corrected correction notes that the Foundation for Lung Cancer Early Detection, Prevention and Treatment was established with money from Vector Group, the parent company of Liggett Tobacco.

Henschke served as the foundation's president and Yankelevitz as its secretary and treasurer.

#### ***Professional Societies:***

### **Maley, Carbone Team Win Landon Prizes For Prevention**

(Continued from page 1)

**Coussens**, professor, Department of Pathology and Cancer Research Institute, University of California, San Francisco; **Kenneth Kinzler**, director, Ludwig

Center for Cancer Genetics and Therapeutics, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center; **Bruce Ponder**, director, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute; **Eddie Reed**, Abraham Mitchell Distinguished Investigator, University of South Alabama; and **Margaret Shipp**, professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Four new members were elected to the AACR nominating committee: **Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale**, head and chair, Department of Genetics, Institute for Cancer Research, Rikshospitalet- Radiumhospitalet Medical Center; **Joan Brugge**, chair and professor, Department of Cell Biology, Harvard University Medical School; **Charles Sawyers**, chair, Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program and member, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; and **Max Wicha**, director, University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**AACR** and the Kirk A. and Dorothy P. Landon Foundation announced the awardees of two new grants providing two-year, \$100,000 support for cancer researchers working in cancer prevention.

**Carlo Maley**, assistant professor, Department of Molecular and Cellular Oncogenesis at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, received the Landon Foundation-AACR INNOVATOR Award for Cancer Prevention Research. Maley will apply funds from his grant to the development of models of Barrett's esophagus.

The Landon Foundation-AACR INNOVATOR Award for International Collaboration in Cancer Research is presented to a team of experts in genetics, thoracic oncology, geology and pathology working in the U.S. and Turkey.

Awardees include lead researcher **Michele Carbone**, and **Haining Yang**, University of Hawaii; **Nancy Cox** and **Ian Steele**, University of Chicago; **Harvey Pass**, NYU School of Medicine and Clinical Cancer Center; **Joseph Testa**, Fox Chase Cancer Center; **Y. Izzetin Baris**, University of Hacettepe, Ankara; **A. Umran Dogan**, University of Iowa; and **Salih Emri** and **Murat Tuncer**, Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara.

Carbone and his team have discovered a mesothelioma epidemic in three Turkish villages and have demonstrated that it is caused by a genetic predisposition to mineral fiber carcinogenesis, a gene-environment interaction. They will apply their grant to study linkage analysis to identify the cancer predisposing gene or genes among this cultural group and map the genetic risk factors by genetic linkage studies.

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY** launched Cancer.Net ([www.cancer.net](http://www.cancer.net)), a website that provides information on more than 120 types of cancer and cancer-related syndromes. The site replaces ASCO's PeopleLivingWithCancer.org and adds new features, including toolkits to help newly diagnosed patients and survivors navigate their care.

*In Brief:*

## **Cech To Step Down At HHMI In 2009, Return To Colorado**

**THOMAS CECH**, president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute since January 2000, announced that he would step down as head of the institute in spring 2009.

“Leading HHMI is truly one of the great jobs in American science—if not the world—but I recently decided that the time had come to consider a transition for HHMI and myself,” Cech said in a communication to HHMI staff. “I’m ready to return to the adventure of my own research and my own teaching.”

Cech’s tenure as president of HHMI has been marked by innovation and significant programmatic expansion and he noted that the timing of the decision was also dictated by his belief that sustained leadership would be required of any new initiatives contemplated by HHMI. Under his leadership, the institute opened its first freestanding campus, the Janelia Farm Research Campus in Ashburn, Va.

Once a successor is in place, Cech said, he plans to resume his position as an HHMI investigator at the University of Colorado, where he has been a faculty member since 1978. Cech shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Sidney Altman of Yale University for their independent discoveries that illuminated the catalytic properties of RNA.

Cech has overseen fundamental changes in HHMI’s investigator program. He introduced focused competitions to identify exceptional physician-scientists and broadened the institute’s definition of biomedicine to embrace interdisciplinary research that embraces chemists, physicists, engineers, and computer scientists. HHMI also changed the way it selects investigators to ensure that candidates are drawn from a broader and deeper pool of scientists who apply directly to the Institute instead of being nominated by their home institutions. Recently, HHMI announced its first competition for early career scientists.

Cech has maintained an active research program throughout his tenure as HHMI president. His laboratory

now studies the activity and regulation of telomerase, a key enzyme for replicating the ends of chromosomes.

### **LYMPHOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

released a new mantle cell lymphoma cell line in its MCL Cell Bank. The cell line, JeKo-1, was originated by **H.J. Jeon** of Chosun University, South Korea, with attainment assisted by **Elias Campo**, Hospital Clinic-Universitat, Barcelona, a member of LRF’s Mantle Cell Consortium.

LRF’s Mantle Cell Lymphoma Cell Bank was established in 2006 by the Foundation’s Mantle Cell Lymphoma Consortium. Seven cell lines have been transferred to the American Type Culture Collection, of which four (Mino, JVM-2, JVM-13, JeKo-1) are available free to MCLC members and at a standard fee to non-members.

JeKo-1 was established from peripheral blood mononuclear cells of a female patient with a large cell variant of MCL showing leukemic conversion. JeKo-1 cells are negative for Epstein-Barr virus and express IgM, a B-cell phenotype. The cells overexpress cyclin D1, Bcl-2, c-Myc and Rb proteins. Bcl-1/J(H) gene rearrangement was confirmed by polymerase chain reaction. JeKo-1 cells are highly tumorigenic in SCID mice. Complete characterization and ordering information is available from the American Type Culture Collection. For further information, visit [www.mantlecelllymphoma.org](http://www.mantlecelllymphoma.org).

**W. MARSTON LINEHAN** received the Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service, the highest award given by the American Medical Association to a government or public official. Linehan is chief of urologic surgery and head of the Urologic Oncology Branch at the NCI Center for Cancer Research. He was one of eight honorees chosen this year to receive the award. “During his more than 25 years of kidney cancer research, Dr. Linehan and his colleagues have discovered multiple genes linked to different types of kidney cancer and established a comprehensive kidney cancer program at the NCI to study families with kidney cancer,” said **Edward Langston**, board chairman of AMA. Linehan was nominated for the award by NCI. Other award recipients include **Sen. Tom Harkin** (D-IA), House Majority Leader **Steny Hoyer** (D-MD), and Connecticut Gov. **M. Jodi Rell**. . . **PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION** (formerly the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation) raised \$1.4 million at its Spring Gala in Washington, D.C. The Foundation focuses on cancers—including lung, breast,

prostate, colorectal, cervical, skin, oral and testicular—that can be prevented through lifestyle changes or early detection and treatment. . . . **ROBIN ROBINSON** was appointed first director of the Biomedical Advanced Research Development Authority, established in 2007 in the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. Robinson is deputy director of BARDA's Influenza and Emerging Disease Program. BARDA manages Project BioShield, which includes the procurement and development of medical countermeasures for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear agents, as well as development and procurement of medical countermeasures for pandemic influenza and other emerging infectious diseases.

### NIH News:

## **NIH, Japan Center In Alliance For Pharmacogenomics**

NIH and the Center for Genomic Medicine in Japan have signed a letter of intent creating a Global Alliance for Pharmacogenomics.

U.S. scientists joining the alliance are members of the NIH Pharmacogenetics Research Network, a consortium of research groups that study how genetic factors influence the way drugs work in and are handled by the body.

Japanese scientists in the alliance represent the new Center for Genomic Medicine, a component of the RIKEN Yokohama Institute, that conducts high-throughput analyses of human genes.

Signing the agreement for NIH were **Jeremy Berg**, director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences; **Elizabeth Nabel**, director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; and NCI Director **John Niederhuber**.

Initial projects will focus on:

—Understanding genetic factors that influence the effectiveness of breast cancer treatments (aromatase inhibitors)

—Determining the optimal length of treatment for two drugs used to treat early stage breast cancer (cyclophosphamide and either doxorubicin or paclitaxel)

—Discovering new genetic factors linked to serious side effects from certain pancreatic cancer drugs (gemcitabine and bevacizumab)

—Exploring how genes contribute to drug-induced long QT syndrome, an irregular heart rhythm that can cause sudden cardiac arrest

—Working with the International Warfarin

Consortium to tailor initial doses of the anti-clotting drug warfarin based on the genetic profiles of patients

A steering committee will manage the alliance and will meet twice a year to discuss progress, future directions, intellectual property issues, the approval of additional members and communication with the public. Alliance members will share their data and their research results with the scientific community.

The letter of intent is available at <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Initiatives/PGRN/GAP/>.

**NIH COUNCIL OF COUNCILS** has been formed and 27 members were selected from NIH institute and center advisory committees.

The role of the council is to advise the NIH director on the policies and activities of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, established by the NIH Reform Act 2006, and the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives.

OPASI Director **Alan Krensky** serves as chairman of the council.

The council also will act as an external advisory panel to the institute and center directors during the concept approval stage of the review process for trans-NIH initiatives.

The council held its first meeting March 31-April 1. Meetings are open to the public and information about the council and a membership list is available at <http://opasi.nih.gov/council>.

NCI's liaison on the Council is **Mary J.C. Hendrix**, of Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago.

### Capitol Hill:

## **Landrieu Introduces Bill To Improve Cancer Care**

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) introduced S. 2790, The Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act (CCCIA), that would improve the coordination and delivery of cancer treatment, symptom management, and follow-up care, while also enhancing communication between cancer survivors and their physicians.

Among other things, the proposal would provide Medicare reimbursement for the development and delivery of cancer care plans and treatment summaries.

Although follow-up care plans have been recommended in several forums over more than a decade, they gained notable support when the Institute of Medicine released the 2005 report, "From Cancer

Patient to Cancer Survivor: Lost in Transition.” The report outlines wide gaps in the current system of care for cancer survivors that leave many unnecessarily suffering from permanent and disabling symptoms such as psychological distress, sexual dysfunction, infertility, and impaired organ function. It states that all “patients completing primary treatment should be provided with a comprehensive care summary and follow-up plan that is clearly and effectively explained.”

“As the IOM has concluded repeatedly, there is no real system of coordinated cancer care in this country,” said Ellen Stovall, president and CEO of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. “We appreciate Sen. Landrieu leading this effort to improve the lives of millions of survivors and their families, and we look forward to her Senate colleagues joining the effort.”

An IOM workshop hosted by NCCS with the Lance Armstrong Foundation and NCI in 2006 identified reimbursement as one of the primary barriers to implementing survivorship care planning. The CCCIA would eliminate that obstacle and likely encourage doctors to make the delivery of survivorship care plans routine practice in oncology.

“The United States Congress has provided its enthusiastic support to the National Institutes of Health for research to improve the treatment of cancer,” Sen. Landrieu said. “By introducing the Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act, I call on my colleagues to join me in a parallel effort to improve the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with cancer. It is in our power to improve the quality of cancer care for Medicare beneficiaries. And by improving Medicare, we set a standard of care for all Americans diagnosed with cancer.”

The legislation also would improve the training of professionals who treat cancer survivors, and testing model systems of comprehensive cancer care.

The CCCIA has a companion bill in the House (H.R. 1078), where it is sponsored by Reps. Lois Capps (D-CA) and Tom Davis (R-VA) and had 98 cosponsors before the spring recess. It is supported by more than 30 cancer advocacy groups, 38 NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

### ***Funding Opportunities:***

PA-08-131: Enhancing Tumoricidal Activity of Natural Killer Cells by Dietary Components for Cancer Prevention. R01. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-131.html>. Inquiries: Young Kim, 301-496-0126; [yk47s@nih.gov](mailto:yk47s@nih.gov).

PA-08-132: Enhancing Tumoricidal Activity of Natural

Killer Cells by Dietary Components for Cancer Prevention. R21. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-132.html>.

PA-08-133: Correlative Studies with Specimens from Multi-Site Trials. R21. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-133.html>. Inquiries: Heng Xie, 301-496-8866; [xiehe@mail.nih.gov](mailto:xiehe@mail.nih.gov).

PA-08-134: Correlative Studies with Specimens from Multi-Site Trials. R01. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-134.html>.

PAR-08-135: Exploratory/Developmental Grant for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Studies of Humans. R21. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-135.html>. Inquiries: Jeffrey White, 301-435-7980; [jeffreyw@mail.nih.gov](mailto:jeffreyw@mail.nih.gov).

PA-08-140: In Utero Exposure to Bioactive Food Components and Mammary Cancer Risk. R01. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-140.html>. Inquiries: Cindy Davis, 301-594-9692; [davisci@mail.nih.gov](mailto:davisci@mail.nih.gov).

PA-08-141: In Utero Exposure to Bioactive Food Components and Mammary Cancer Risk. R21. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-141.html>.

PA-08-143: Mitochondria in Cancer Epidemiology, Detection, Diagnosis and Prognosis. R01. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-143.html>. Inquiries: Mukesh Verma, 301-594-7344; [vermam@mail.nih.gov](mailto:vermam@mail.nih.gov).

PA-08-144: Mitochondria in Cancer Epidemiology, Detection, Diagnosis and Prognosis. R21. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-144.html>.

PAR-08-138: Genetic Screens to Enhance Zebrafish Research. R01. Letters of Intent Receipt Date: Aug. 25, Aug. 25, 2009, Aug. 25, 2010. Application Due Date: Sept. 24; Sept. 24, 2009, Sept. 24, 2010. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-138.html>. Inquiries: Lorette Javois, 301-496-5541; [lj89j@nih.gov](mailto:lj89j@nih.gov).

PAR-08-139: Enhancing Zebrafish Research with Research Tools and Techniques. R01. Letters of Intent Receipt Date: Aug. 17, Aug. 17, 2009, Aug. 17, 2010. Application Due Date: Sept. 17, Sept. 17, 2009, Sept. 17, 2010. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-139.html>. Inquiries: Rebekah Rasooly, 301-594-6007; [rr185i@nih.gov](mailto:rr185i@nih.gov).

PA-08-149: NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings. Parent R13/U13. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-149.html>. Inquiries: David Contois, 301-496-3428; [ncirefof@dea.nci.nih.gov](mailto:ncirefof@dea.nci.nih.gov).

PAR-08-147: Quick-Trials for Imaging and Image-Guided Interventions: Exploratory Grants. R21. Letters of Intent Receipt Date: June 10. Application Receipt Date: Aug. 11; Dec. 10; April 10, 2009; Aug. 11; Dec. 10; April 9, 2010; Aug. 11; Dec. 10; April 11, 2011. Full text: <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-147.html>. Inquiries: Jeffrey White, 301-435-7980; [jeffreyw@mail.nih.gov](mailto:jeffreyw@mail.nih.gov).



## Distribution Policy for The Cancer Letter

Thank you for your purchase of this issue of The Cancer Letter! Because issue and subscription sales are our major source of revenue, we wouldn't be able to provide you with the information contained in this newsletter without your support. If you have any questions or comments about the articles, please contact the editors (see page 2 of your issue for contact information).

We welcome your use of the newsletter and encourage you to send articles once in a while to colleagues. But please don't engage in routine distribution of The Cancer Letter to the same people week after week, unless your organization has purchased a site license or group subscription. If you aren't sure, ask the person who is paying for this subscription. If you are sending the newsletter to an unauthorized list, please stop; your actions are against Federal law. If you received this newsletter under an unauthorized arrangement, know that you are in receipt of stolen goods. Please do the right thing and purchase your own subscription.

If you would like to report illegal distribution within your company or institution, please collect specific evidence from emails or photocopies and contact us. Your identity will be protected. Our goal would be to seek a fair arrangement with your organization to prevent future illegal distribution.

Please review the following guidelines on distribution of the material in The Cancer Letter to remain in compliance with the U.S. Copyright Act:

### What you can do:

- Route a print subscription of the newsletter (original only) or one printout of the PDF version around the office.
- Copy, on an occasional basis, a single article and send it to a colleague.
- Consider purchasing multiple subscriptions. We offer group rates on email subscriptions for two to 20 people.
- For institution-wide distribution or for groups larger than 20, consider purchasing a site license. Contact your librarian or information specialist who can work with us to establish a site license agreement.

### What you can't do without prior permission from us:

- Routinely copy and distribute the entire newsletter or even a few pages.
- Republish or repackage the contents of the newsletter in any form.

If you have any questions regarding distribution, please contact us. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you regarding your information needs.

**The Cancer Letter**  
PO Box 9905  
Washington DC 20016  
Tel: 202-362-1809  
[www.cancerletter.com](http://www.cancerletter.com)