Living with Lung Cancer

UM/Sylvester physician-scientists recommend combined treatment approach.

LUNG CANCER VACCINE MAKING HEADLINES
CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMEN IS PROVING EFFECTIVE IN SOME BREAST CANCERS
ROSENFIELD CENTER FOR DIGESTIVE DISORDERS DEDICATED
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## OUR MISSION
We seek to reduce the human burden from cancer and other serious illnesses through research, education, prevention, and the delivery of quality patient care.

## OUR VISION
UM/Sylvester will become a fully integrated program of patient care, education, and research with an international reputation for excellence.

UM/Sylvester will provide new hope for cancer patients in our extended community, which includes South Florida, the southeastern United States, the Caribbean, and South America.

UM/Sylvester will promote efficient, community-responsive health care, and generate resources to sustain and enhance innovative cancer programs.

## OUR VALUES
Excellence • Compassion • Respect • Discovery
In past issues of *Quest*, we’ve highlighted our multidisciplinary approach to treating cancer, but I want to take this opportunity to describe this concept more fully. At the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, our team of nearly 200 physicians and scientists uses a “site-based” approach to cancer detection, prevention, and treatment. What this means is that multidisciplinary teams of dedicated, board-certified physicians with expertise treating and studying specific types of cancer (based on where the cancer originates in the body, the “site”) oversee care. This approach provides our patients with state-of-the-art care from physicians who are not only cancer specialists, but sub-specialists in a particular type of cancer.

Within these pages, and in future issues of *Quest*, we are trying something new—we will feature one specific type of cancer in each issue, in this case lung cancer. We hope this will enable you to better understand the depth of research and treatment underway at UM/Sylvester.

Why did we choose lung cancer for the first *Quest* utilizing this approach? For many different reasons. The most immediate reason was the recent death of Dana Reeve, the widow of actor Christopher Reeve and the chair of the Christopher Reeve Foundation, following her short bout with lung cancer. And we also cannot neglect to mention the untimely death of Peter Jennings, the former anchor and senior editor of ABC’s *World News Tonight*, who died in 2005.

These celebrity cases highlight the distressing facts that lung cancer is relatively common and is often fatal. The American Cancer Society estimates that 174,470 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed this year in the United States and that 162,460 people will die. Only 15 percent of lung cancer patients survive for more than five years, in part, because symptoms are not noticed until after the tumors have grown large and spread to other parts of the body.

But hope is on the horizon. UM/Sylvester researchers have achieved promising results using a revolutionary immunotherapy vaccine to fight lung cancer. We’ll also bring you up to date on our research with 2-deoxyglucose (2-DG), an oral medication designed to fight lung cancer tumors by targeting non-dividing tumor cells—a novel approach also pioneered at UM/Sylvester.
In this issue, we also will show you how a site disease group patient care coordinator cares for a lung cancer patient and her family members. Each site disease group includes a team of multidisciplinary experts, including medical oncologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, nurses with specialized knowledge of the specific cancer, and other essential health care professionals such as social workers, pharmacists, and allied staff.

In addition, we’ll highlight epidemiologists who are studying smoking rates in different occupational settings in an effort to help those at highest risk quit smoking. We’ll also discuss the latest legislation in the news and the effects of de-funding anti-smoking programs such as the “Truth” campaign. Prior to de-funding, these programs were extraordinarily effective in Florida and elsewhere. There’s also an update on philanthropic initiatives that fund lung cancer research.

By reading *Quest*, you will see the future lies in cancer research and everyone at UM/Sylvester is committed to finding a cure. I hope you find this new format for the magazine enlightening and informative, and as always, we welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Director, UM/Sylvester
WITH CARE AND PRAYER:
One Survivor’s Remarkable Journey

At first, Norma Wilson, a dedicated mother and retired businesswoman, believed her dry, persistent cough was nothing to worry about. She thought that perhaps it was a lingering cold or an innocuous allergy. Then began the dull, yet constant pain that radiated from her chest to her back.

“At that point I thought I might have pneumonia or a muscular problem,” she recalls.
When neither the cough nor the pain subsided, Wilson, a former smoker who had not touched a cigarette in more than 30 years—knew she had to seek medical attention. She quickly suggested to her internist (a Miami-based physician in private practice) that he schedule a CT scan to pinpoint the problem. When the results of the CT scan came back a few days later, both Wilson and her husband, Allan, were not ready for the diagnosis they were about to hear. The CT scan, and later a needle biopsy, both confirmed she had advanced Stage II lung cancer and that the disease involved the lung and the ribs. Both Wilson and her husband were dumbfounded.

“It was difficult to believe, when you’ve been healthy and active all of your life, that you now have to deal with a life-threatening illness. It came as a complete shock. You don’t even function the first couple of days. I was essentially just going through the motions,” she recalls. (Even after many years of not smoking, former smokers carry a high risk of developing lung cancer.)

Her prognosis was not good. Doctors informed Wilson and her husband that most patients with lung cancer have about a 20 percent chance of survival. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more people die from lung cancer than any other type of cancer—a statistic that holds true for both males and females. Roughly 174,000 Americans are diagnosed with lung cancer every year. In fact, since 1987, lung cancer has been the leading cause of cancer death in women, surpassing even breast and ovarian cancer combined.

With her mind still reeling from the news of her diagnosis, Wilson knew she had to find an oncologist to begin her treatment as soon as possible. As an active community leader and volunteer, and a former University of Miami Board of Trustees member (she was one of the first female board members to join the University in 1971), Wilson knew the targeted “site-based” approach to treating cancer at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center made perfect sense. It was the only approach she opted for.

“If you live in this community, you know that UM/Sylvester has a very good reputation and that its dedicated doctors are experts in treating specific types of cancer,” she explains. “And I knew that’s what I wanted—I wanted to go with someone who solely specialized in lung cancer to treat me.”

She found her answer in Luis E. Raez, M.D., F.A.C.P., director, Hematology-Oncology Clinics and Chemotherapy Treatment Unit, UM/Sylvester, and co-leader, Lung Cancer Site Disease Group. Her meeting with Raez was pivotal in a number of ways, especially emotionally.

“When I met with Dr. Raez and I slowly began discussing my treatment, I slowly began to come to grips with my diagnosis,” she admits. “When something like this occurs, you begin to ask yourself, ‘how did this happen?’ You just don’t understand it. But then I realized that there is nothing to do but to move forward, to keep a good frame of mind, and to get on with the prescribed protocol.”

Raez and Richard J. Thurer, M.D., co-leader, Lung Cancer Site Disease Group, UM/Sylvester, and director, thoracic surgery, University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, recommended Wilson undergo a combined treatment approach. This consisted of doctors first administering chemotherapy (carboplatin and paclitaxel, drugs that arrest the growth and induce the death of cancer cells, which are then eventually destroyed) along with radiation therapy to shrink the tumor.

“She handled the chemotherapy very well,” says Raez. “She had no complications, but she also has a very positive attitude. She never complained and was easy to treat, and I think that helped a lot. In fact, I think her attitude is what has helped her stay alive and hopefully cancer-free forever.”

To make the best of these treatment sessions, the Wilsons would pack a picnic lunch to take with them to UM/Sylvester. After finishing their meal, Wilson would undergo her two-hour chemotherapy session with her husband at her side, who often brought work with him to complete while he waited. The treatments often left her tired and fatigued. After six weeks of treatment (which included chemotherapy and radiation) she had a two-week respite, allowing her to regain her strength in preparation for surgery.

Since the tumor had spread to a portion of her chest wall, some ex-
erts might have suggested that the cancer was too far advanced for curative surgery (removal of the entire tumor), explains Thurer. In Wilson’s case, doctors performed an initial procedure involving a small incision to accurately stage (determine the extent of) the tumor to make sure the cancer had not spread to the lymph nodes—which it had not. Once the chemotherapy/radiation portion of the treatment was completed, she underwent an extensive three-and-one-half-hour surgery to remove the tumor and parts of her ribs where the cancer had spread. She remained in the hospital an additional two weeks to recover. Her husband Allan, her daughter Deahni (who traveled from New Mexico to be with her mother), and two of her sons, Daniel and Douglas, stayed by her bedside.

According to Thurer, the combined approach—where preoperative chemotherapy and radiation were administered first, followed by surgery to successfully remove the tumor—is the primary reason Wilson has fared so well. “I think this is a good illustration about the benefits of a combined treatment approach as opposed to just performing surgery, but doing it in a coordinated fashion up front,” he says.

Wilson has been cancer free for more than three years and believes much of it has to do with the excellent care she received at UM/Sylvester. A very spiritual person, she also is convinced prayer was immensely helpful during her road to recovery.

“Prayer brought me a great deal of comfort,” she says. “I never prayed to God to make me better. I prayed for God to give me courage, faith, and the strength to carry on with a good spirit and good frame of mind. He answered my prayers. With the help of my husband, support of my family, my belief in God, and the people who were taking care of me—I really got through it very well.”

As a result of this incredible journey and close friends and family members who were extremely supportive through it all. “I had such a great support system… I just couldn’t let them all down. It was my obligation not to die,” she says.

Today, Wilson continues to be an active member of the community and works closely with a number of organizations including UM/Sylvester, Jackson Memorial Hospital, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Foundation of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, and Temple Judea. She sees Raez every three months for CT scans to make sure there is no cancer recurrence, which is frequent in lung cancer patients. Although she admits she still gets “edgy” before her CT scans, she never misses a follow-up visit. People still call her when deciding where to seek treatment. She always is patient and listens to them before responding. Her answer, though, is always the same.

“When they are first diagnosed with cancer, many people often run to Sloan Kettering or other cancer centers for a second opinion. When they ask me, I tell them go ahead and get another opinion,” she explains. “But then I tell them to come back home. ‘Be sure to see what we have here at UM/Sylvester,’ I say, ‘because what we have here is so good.’”

“If you live in this community, you know that UM/Sylvester has a very good reputation and that its dedicated doctors are experts in treating specific types of cancer. And I knew that’s what I wanted—

I wanted to go with someone who solely specialized in lung cancer to treat me.”

—Norma Wilson
LUNG CANCER SITE DISEASE GROUP OFFERS SUPPORT

Cancer is a life-changing experience for patients and their families. Not only is the diagnosis overwhelming, so is the idea of visiting a cancer center on a regular basis for treatment.

The Lung Cancer Site Disease Group at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center provides a unique and invaluable service for patients and their families. The group’s goal is to enhance the quality of health care through timely patient access to care, education, and research. UM/Sylvester physicians and staff in the Lung Cancer Site Disease Group apply a targeted, multidisciplinary “site-based” approach to treating cancer. “Site-based” refers to the actual “site” on the body, in this instance, the lungs, where the cancer is located. Dedicated, board-certified physicians with expertise researching and treating lung cancer oversee patient care from the very first consultation to post-treatment follow-up care.

In addition to the physicians, the Lung Cancer Site Disease Group is composed of a nurse coordinator, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, a clinical nurse, two research nurses, and a data manager. The group ensures patients have access not only to diagnosis and treatment, but also to services such as, medical expertise for advocacy, education, mental health counseling, nutritional guidance, occupational and rehabilitative therapy, social services, and symptom management that can positively impact a patient’s overall experience with the disease.

Lung Cancer Site Disease Group members also coordinate the Tumor Board Conferences (where difficult cases are reviewed by a number of physicians) and organize support groups and conferences for patients and their caregivers. Additionally, group members discuss the availability of clinical trials and pre-screen interested patients to see if they might be eligible. This role is crucial not only to alerting patients to potentially life-saving therapies, but also to helping develop and gather data on new and improved therapies and procedures that may hold the promise of some day achieving a cure for lung and other cancers.

The group also is pivotal in ensuring patients receive the right information at the right time. “A patient newly diagnosed with lung cancer may be overwhelmed by the fact that they have a potentially devastating disease,” says Yohanna Zaldumbide, R.N., nurse coordinator, Lung Cancer Site Disease Group. “And it’s easy for them to feel lost in the system—but that’s where we come in. The nurse coordinators gather as much information as possible and then walk them through the entire process.”

The group’s members advocate for the patient by contacting insurance companies and primary care physicians’ offices to receive needed authorizations and referrals as well as pre-screen patients for appropriate clinical trials.

The site disease group nurse coordinators also accompany patients on their initial consultations with the physician. “Patients often forget what was said in the consultation because they are so overwhelmed by their diagnosis,” says Ana Rosa Espinosa, R.N., B.S.N., O.C.N., manager, UM/Sylvester Site Disease Groups. “The nurse coordinator can reinforce the information that was discussed and educate the patient to better understand the process.”
LUNG CANCER VACCINES OFFER PROMISE FOR PATIENTS

In the near future, the use of vaccines may become an important tool in the fight against lung cancer. These specially designed vaccines boost the body’s immune system, which enables it to recognize and kill cancer cells.

Leading the way in this research are physicians and scientists at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Luis E. Raez, M.D., F.A.C.P., along with Richard J. Thurer, M.D., both co-leaders of the Lung Cancer Site Disease Group at UM/Sylvester, are among the physicians working with UM/Sylvester physician-scientist Eckhard R. Podack, M.D., Ph.D., chair, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, to develop and test revolutionary immunotherapy vaccines. This innovative program continues to grow, and three new clinical trials and several basic science projects are currently underway or in development. (In addition to their roles in the Lung Cancer Site Disease Group, Thurer is the director of thoracic surgery at the Miller School of Medicine, while Raez is the director of the Hematology-Oncology Clinics and the Chemotherapy Treatment Unit at UM/Sylvester.)

Beginning in 1999, an experimental vaccine for lung cancer, B7.1, was tested at UM/Sylvester in 19 patients with non-small cell lung cancer. This Phase I clinical trial (first human trial) aimed to show the vaccine was safe for further studies.

All of the patients tolerated the therapy well, and major side effects due to the vaccine were not seen. The researchers were delighted to discover the vaccine was not only safe, but actually benefited six of the 19 patients by stabilizing their disease.

Four years later, four of these six patients are still alive without the need for chemotherapy after the vaccination. (See sidebar on page 9 for an update on one of the survivors.) The results of this clinical trial were published in two major journals, Cancer Gene Therapy and the Journal of Clinical Oncology. Raez and Podack also have presented these findings at international meetings such as the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and the World Lung Cancer Congress.

Raez recently was awarded a three-year, $300,000 Clinical Innovator Award from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute, funding which makes two new Phase II clinical trials possible. The first trial will involve vaccinating patients after surgery to prevent tumor relapse, which is common after surgery, and the second trial will involve treatment of patients who have responded to first line chemotherapy for Stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, with the aim to prevent progression.

Typically half of these patients progress in the first four to six months after therapy.

The first group will be patients whose tumors have been surgically removed. “That’s a better setting for a vaccination,” says Podack. “When there is minimal or no detectable disease, the immune system responds much better.”

Podack also has developed a new vaccine based on an immune stimulatory molecule called gp-96 that is able to induce a strong response against lung cancer based on his experiments in mice. Raez was awarded a Career Development Award by ASCO in 2002 for design of the first human trial with this vaccine under the mentorship of Podack. In 2005, Raez and Podack were awarded the James King Award by the Florida Department of Health with the necessary funds to move forward with the development of this new vaccine and human trials. They plan a Phase I clinical trial for patients with incurable lung cancer with the goal of testing the safety of the vaccine and inducing an immune response to fight lung cancer in these patients.

To access UM/Sylvester’s Clinical Trials Matching Service, call 1-866-574-5124 or visit www.sylvester.org and click on “Clinical Trials.”

DISCLOSURE

The University of Miami and Eckhard R. Podack own the patent on this B7.1 lung cancer vaccine technology. UM/Sylvester recognizes the importance of disclosing this information to the public. An article describing the intellectual property derived from medical research, including ownership rights and ethical considerations, will be included in an upcoming issue of Quest.
LUNG CANCER PROJECT FOCUSES ON EARLY DETECTION

Because early-stage lung cancers do not have any symptoms, they are rarely discovered until they have progressed to a late, often untreatable, stage,” says Richard J. Thurer, M.D., co-leader, Lung Cancer Site Disease Group, UM/Sylvester and director, thoracic surgery, University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. The International Early Lung Cancer Project (I-ELCAP), for which Thurer serves as principal investigator at the Miami facility (which includes UM/Sylvester), hopes to enhance access to early lung cancer screenings, thereby improving outcomes.

The project, which began seven years ago, is dedicated to the research and implementation of early lung cancer detection through initial and follow-up spiral CT screenings. Lung cancers found in the early stage are highly curable. Research shows up to 80 percent of lung cancers found using CT scans are at an early, more treatable stage.

“What we’ve done locally here in partnership with this multinational group is somewhat unique in that Jackson Memorial Hospital has agreed to provide free initial CT scans to a number of the participants in the study,” notes Thurer. “In addition, we’ve included an outreach component wherein we’ve gone to the health clinics and local churches in areas that are typically underserved medically and recruited people who meet the enrollment criteria. As part of that outreach, we introduce smoking cessation programs as well.”

Each participating center typically enrolls current or former tobacco smokers over age 50 who have smoked for at least ten years (one pack a day for ten years or half a pack a day for 20 years).

“These people are felt to be at increased risk over the general population for developing lung cancer, so the idea is to find any cancers that exist at the time of the initial screening when the patient is first enrolled,” explains Thurer. As part of the enrollment criteria, participants must not have any other significant medical problems, such as advanced heart disease.

For more information on the study, contact clinical coordinator Mary Mites at 305-585-8924 or email mmites@umjmh.org. For more information on the project, log on to www.ielcap.org.

CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIATION THERAPY-RESISTANT CELLS

Theodore J. Lampidis, Ph.D., a professor of cell biology and anatomy and a member of the Molecular Oncology and Experimental Therapeutics Program at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, has discovered one way to tackle the problem of targeting non-dividing tumor cells resistant to chemotherapy and/or radiation. He has found that slowly dividing cells located in core tumors grow under low oxygen conditions (hypoxia) and differ in their metabolism of glucose from normal cells in the body.

To exploit this difference, Lampidis has shown that simply using a false sugar—2-deoxyglucose (2-DG)—instead of glucose, causes the slow-growing tumor cells to take up more 2-DG than the slow-growing normal cells and consequently causes them to starve to death. Luis E. Raez, M.D., F.A.C.P., director, Hematology-Oncology Clinics and Chemotherapy Treatment Unit, UM/Sylvester, and co-leader, Lung Cancer Site Disease Group, has initiated the first clinical trials in lung cancer patients using this highly novel approach. Today, more than 25 patients have been treated with this new method.

RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATE HEALTH DISPARITIES

The Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine provides a nexus for collaborations among a number of University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers with expertise in multiple disciplines relevant to disparities in health.

“Our mission is to promote and conduct high-quality research and service for the increased awareness, detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer and other diseases that may disproportionately affect particular socioeconomic and racial/ethnic groups,” says Jennifer J. Hu, Ph.D., associate director, Cancer Prevention and Control, UM/Sylvester, and professor of epidemiology and public health.

Below is a list of UM/Sylvester faculty whose research interests are focused on health disparities:

Michael H. Antoni, Ph.D., professor of psychology and leader of the Biobehavioral Oncology and Cancer Control Program. Research interests: Biobehavioral mechanisms underlying effects of stress management and other psychosocial interventions. The knowledge of ethnic and cultural processes may be used to develop the most effective interventions at key points in treatment.

Margaret M. Byrne, Ph.D., assistant professor of epidemiology and public health. Research interests: Patients’ decision-making processes in relation to lung cancer screening and the impact
of race/ethnicity on participation in breast cancer clinical trials.

Noella A. Dietz, Ph.D., assistant professor of epidemiology and public health in the Biobehavioral Oncology and Cancer Control Program. Research interests: Effects of de-funding anti-smoking programs such as the “Truth” campaign (part of a multi-million dollar settlement with tobacco companies). Prior to de-funding, the programs were extraordinarily effective in Florida and elsewhere.

Jennifer J. Hu, Ph.D., professor of epidemiology and public health and associate director, Cancer Prevention and Control, UM/Sylvester. Research interests: Genetic variations of DNA repair in predicting cancer risk and progression (e.g., breast cancer, prostate cancer, and colon cancer). The central theme of the research is built on the concept that both genetic (e.g., race, family history, and genetic variations) and non-genetic factors (e.g., aging, oxidative stress, and exposure) may contribute to cancer risk and mortality.

Erin Kobetz, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of epidemiology and public health and physician-scientist at the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute at UM/Sylvester. Research interests: Social causes of disparity in breast cancer outcomes; forging ties with the Haitian community of South Florida to increase breast cancer awareness and promote early detection in Haitian women.

Suzanne C. Lechner, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry. Research interests: Psycho-oncology; psychosocial/behavioral interventions for women with breast cancer; positive adaptation to illness (benefit-finding)—how a diagnosis can positively impact one’s life.

David J. Lee, Ph.D., associate professor of epidemiology and public health and co-leader for the Biobehavioral Oncology and Cancer Control Program. Research interests: Tobacco control and health disparities—studying smoking rates in different occupational and racial/ethnic groups in an effort to help higher risk individuals quit smoking.

Frank J. Penedo, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and biobehavioral oncology. Research interests: Biobehavioral correlates of adjustment and disease status in prostate, head and neck, and ovarian cancer; psychosocial interventions and cancer survivorship; and sociocultural determinants of health disparities in quality of life and health outcomes among ethnic minorities.

Hosanna Soler-Vilá, Ph.D., assistant professor of epidemiology and public health and a physician-scientist at the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute at UM/Sylvester. Research interests: Psychosocial factors associated with ethnic and socio-economic differentials in cancer screening, treatment, and long-term survival; investigating psychological and social factors that may affect long-term survival.

LUNG CANCER VACCINE GIVES PATIENT SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

When lung cancer survivor Marilyn Cohn first heard of the experimental vaccine, B7.1, and the associated clinical trial taking place at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1999, she jumped at the opportunity to participate. “At that point I was ready to try anything because at the time my oncologist told me I had only a year to live,” she says.

Cohn, who was diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer earlier that year, already had undergone surgery, but just 18 months later the cancer returned and spread to both her lungs—making her disease incurable in the eyes of most doctors.

Believing she had nothing to lose, she contacted UM/Sylvester and enrolled in the B7.1 clinical trial, under the direction of Luis E. Raez, M.D., F.A.C.P., co-leader of the Lung Cancer Site Disease Group and director of the Hematology-Oncology Clinics and Chemotherapy Treatment Unit. The vaccine was administered three times every other week. A CT scan was then performed to see if she had responded well to the vaccine (e.g., if the tumor was the same size or smaller) before moving on to the next round. Since Cohn responded well, two more cycles of three vaccinations each were administered for a total of nine vaccinations followed by CT scans. She experienced no side effects and has received no other treatment since. Today, she is considered cancer free.

“Physicians say I am in remission, that there is nothing there right now. The vaccine worked very well for me,” she says.

Cohn now visits Raez every six months for check ups. Her next appointment is set for late summer when CT scans of the chest and brain will be taken to confirm no cancer has returned.

“The vaccine gave me a chance to live,” she says. “It truly saved my life.”
NEW RECRUITS BOOST RESEARCH EFFORTS AT UM/SYLVESTER

Recent recruits to the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center are strengthening the cancer center’s clinical and translational research programs by bringing expertise in a variety of areas. Below are the latest individuals to join the cancer center’s team.

CHARLES ANELLO, SC.D.

Charles Anello, Sc.D., joins UM/Sylvester as chief of the Division of Biostatistics. A shared resource at the cancer center, the Division of Biostatistics provides high-quality statistical support to cancer center programs with particular emphasis on the use of up-to-date statistical methodology and computational procedures pivotal for cancer research.

“My area of expertise is in the design and analysis of clinical trials, with a particular drug regulatory perspective,” says Anello. “Here at UM/Sylvester, I will be participating in the Data and Safety Monitoring Committee and the Protocol Review Committee where my FDA (Food and Drug Administration) experience will be very relevant. At UM/Sylvester, I will be involved in developing and reviewing protocols that are initiated within the cancer center. Most of these studies are early clinical trials referred to as Phase I and Phase II clinical trials. I also hold an appointment as research professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. I plan to place a special emphasis on developing biostatistics as an academic discipline and on improving the standards for data collection in support of cancer center research programs.”

Anello comes to the cancer center from the FDA where he served as deputy director of the Office of Biostatistics, Office of Pharmacoepidemiology and Statistical Sciences, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Anello began his career with the FDA in 1969 serving as director of the Division of Biostatistics as well as the deputy director of the Office of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and actually started the biostatistics program there.

“Cancer is a significant public health problem, and biostatisticians have an important role in the design and analysis of studies helping to find a cure. Although I have been working from the regulatory side, looking at results of research that has been conducted by academia and the pharmaceutical industry, I am very interested in basic research and participating in the development of drugs and new therapies,” he explains.

Anello is a member and a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Biometric Society and a former member of the Society of Clinical Trials and the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology. He is a recipient of the FDA Commendable Service Award (1975); FDA Award of Merit (1985); Public Health Service Superior Service Award (1987); Department of Health and Human Services Distinguished Service Award (1989); Commissioner’s Special Citation (1993); and the Center Director’s Special Citation (1998).

He received his Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) and Master of Science (Sc.M.) degrees from the School of Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Towson State College (now Towson University) in Towson, Maryland.

JENNIFER J. HU, PH.D.

Jennifer J. Hu, Ph.D., recently joined UM/Sylvester as associate director for Cancer Prevention and Control and professor of epidemiology and public health. While at UM/Sylvester, Hu plans to expand her research program, which focuses on the relationship between DNA damage/repair and racial disparities, to predict and reduce cancer risk, morbidity, and mortality. She also seeks to speed the delivery of innovative genomic approaches for cancer prevention and treatment and will adopt the cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid, or BIG™, which is being developed under the leadership of the National Cancer Institute’s Center for Bioinformatics.

As associate director, Hu will support a group of outstanding scientists and expand the multidisciplinary...
research program focused on biobehavioral oncology, molecular/genetic epidemiology, and cancer control to both identify and reduce cancer risks, and to improve clinical outcomes in susceptible populations. She also will mentor and support promising junior investigators seeking funding, and increase the overall level of extramural, peer-reviewed funding from federal and other sources.

“I am extremely excited about joining UM/Sylvester to continue my current research program in molecular/genetic epidemiology, collaborate with outstanding biobehavioral oncology and cancer control scientists, and focus on my minority and health disparity research priority,” says Hu.

Hu’s research interest focuses on interactions between genes and the environment that put individuals at higher risk for cancer. At UM/Sylvester, she will continue several large studies of breast, prostate, and colon cancers to evaluate the importance of genetic and non-genetic regulation of DNA damage/repair in human cancer development and progression. She is the principle investigator of two NCI-funded grants entitled “Molecular Epidemiology and Prevention of Breast Cancer” and “Molecular Genetics of Colon Cancer in Blacks and Whites” and an ACS-funded grant “Molecular Epidemiology of Prostate Cancer.”

Hu’s clinical interests mainly focus on cancer prevention. She is particularly interested in using complementary and alternative medicine in preventing cancer, improving quality of life, and increasing survival.

Hu was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. After earning her B.S. degree from Fu-Jen Catholic University, she moved to the United States and joined the University of Louisiana at Monroe to work on her M.S. in biology. She later completed the Ph.D. program in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Following two years of post-doctoral training at Rutgers University, she joined the Cancer Prevention Research Institute and the New York University Medical Center in 1990 to pursue a career in molecular epidemiology with a focus on human cancer risk assessment and prevention. She joined Georgetown University Medical Center as an assistant professor in 1994 and obtained a second M.S. in biostatistics and epidemiology in 1998 from Georgetown. She joined Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 1998 and Louisiana State University Health Sciences in 2004.

Jaime Merchán, M.D.

Jaime Merchán, M.D., M.M.Sc., joins UM/Sylvester as an assistant professor of clinical medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology-Oncology. He comes to the cancer center from Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he was an assistant professor of oncology.

“I am a clinical oncologist and a researcher, and I was brought here to help in the cancer center’s efforts to strengthen its clinical/translational cancer research program,” says Merchán.

“I will strive to move basic science findings into innovative clinical trials that will benefit patients with cancer.”

Merchán’s area of expertise is tumor angiogenesis—a rapidly growing field that studies the biology of how tumors develop blood vessels as well as the strategies to block the development of tumor blood vessels to successfully treat cancer. He also is examining the development of novel, “re-targeted” oncolytic (cancer-killing) viruses for the treatment of cancer.

His clinical interests lie in the development of cutting-edge treatments for cancer patients, particularly those with gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and head and neck cancer. As such, he is a member of the Head and Neck; Stomach and Esophageal; and Prostate, Bladder, and Kidney Cancers Site Disease Groups. “I am very excited to be here, and I am glad to be a part of this institution as it continues to grow,” he adds.

Merchán received his medical degree from the Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and completed his residency training in internal medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital, becoming chief resident in 1997. He completed his oncology specialty training at the Dana Farber Cancer Center at Harvard University, where he joined the faculty, before going to the Mayo Clinic.
IN THE NEWS

ANTI-TOBACCO LEGISLATION ON 2006 BALLOT

In March, the Florida Supreme Court issued an opinion approving the ballot language of an amendment intended to restore funding to the state’s efforts to prevent youth tobacco use. The unanimous ruling clears the way for the measure to be placed on the ballot in November 2006.

“We’re excited to be officially on the ballot and are confident that Florida voters will pass the measure overwhelmingly in November,” said Cheryl Forchilli, campaign director of Floridians for Youth Tobacco Education, Inc., in a recent release. “If we don’t change the status quo, nearly 300,000 Florida children will eventually die as a result of tobacco use and addiction. We intend to wage a full-fledged statewide campaign to ensure that voters understand just how important it is to vote yes on Amendment Four.”

This is good news for some researchers at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center who have been studying tobacco control efforts as well as the effects of de-funding anti-tobacco programs like the multi-million dollar “Truth” campaign. Prior to de-funding, these media campaigns were extraordinarily effective in Florida and elsewhere as well.

“This initiative is very exciting because if the voters do decide that this is a good use of the funds, then we’ll be able to reinvigorate tobacco control programs in the state,” says David Lee, Ph.D., co-leader, Biobehavioral Oncology and Cancer Control, UM/Sylvester, and associate professor of epidemiology and public health at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. “The original program, which started here in Florida and eventually went national, was very successful. Evaluation studies documented that exposure to those programs was associated with decreased tobacco initiation uptake among young people, and overall smoking rates in middle and high school students in Florida dropped rather dramatically.”

The youth tobacco prevention program established in 1998 using funds from the tobacco settlement was so successful it became a national model. Before the legislature slashed the funding in 2001, smoking rates declined 40 percent and 18 percent, respectively, among middle school and high school students. This amendment would require the legislature to use 15 percent of the tobacco settlement funds each year to again adequately fund youth tobacco prevention efforts.

Tobacco use is by far the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, accounting for approximately 438,000 premature deaths per year. Smoking cessation is therefore an important goal. While several medications exist to help people quit smoking, many need a support program to assist them in the process. The University of Miami offers a smoking cessation program called Be Smoke Free. For more information, call 305-243-3209.

BARBER NAMED NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR BASIC SCIENCE

Glenn N. Barber, Ph.D., co-leader, Viral Oncology Program, UM/Sylvester, has been named the new associate director for basic science. He succeeds Eckhard R. Podack, M.D., Ph.D., a physician-scientist and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. Podack held the position for the last 10 years.

In this role, Barber will report to UM/Sylvester Director W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., F.A.C.S., and will have primary leadership responsibility for the cancer center’s laboratory research program, including the identification of recruitment priorities and technology development. Barber joins UM/Sylvester’s leadership team that includes Joseph D. Rosenblatt, M.D., associate director, clinical and translational research; as well as Jennifer J. Hu, Ph.D., associate director, cancer prevention and control; and Robert S. Powell, M.Ed., associate director, administration.

“I am thrilled to take on this position and am honored to succeed Dr. Podack, who did such a commendable job for the last decade,” says Barber.

Barber’s laboratory is developing novel virus-based therapies for breast and other cancers and his research has contributed key insights into mechanisms of innate immunity on viral infection and malignant disease. The laboratory focuses on understanding the mechanisms by which the interferons (IFNs) mediate their anti-viral and anti-proliferative effects. Barber recently received one of four 2006 Provost’s Awards for Scholarly Activity for his work in this area.

Glenn N. Barber, Ph.D.
CTU, MOHS AT UM/SYLVESTER AT DEERFIELD BEACH

In the past, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center patients who lived in Broward or Palm Beach counties and required chemotherapy had to travel to Miami to receive treatment. That travel time, plus the several hours necessary for the therapy itself, would often make for a long day.

To answer these patients’ needs, UM/Sylvester at Deerfield Beach has opened a chemotherapy treatment unit with eight infusion stations to provide easier and more timely access. In addition, a Mohs surgical service (Mohs surgery is the most effective technique available to treat skin cancer) and an expanded laboratory opened to better serve patients.

Plans also are underway to enlarge the entire facility, nearly doubling its current square footage and offering additional treatment and procedure rooms, as well as a diagnostic imaging center with bone densitometry, computerized tomography (CT scans), digital mammography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET scans), radiography, and ultrasonography.

For more information on these services, please call 1-800-545-2292 or 305-243-1000.

UM/SYLVESTER HOSTS INTERNATIONAL AND MEDICAL CONTINGENT

The University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine hosted a delegation of physicians and administrators from the Ukraine, as part of a growing collaboration between U.S. health care professionals and Ukrainians who are struggling to care for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident 20 years after the tragedy. Also present that day were representatives from the office of Florida Congressmen Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Mario Diaz-Balart.

Children born in the region still suffer from unusually high rates of thyroid cancer, lymphoma, leukemia, cardiac ailments, and other illnesses.

The UM/Sylvester visit and news conference grew out of a trip to the Ukraine in late 2005 that included Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Steven E. Lipshultz, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Miller School of Medicine, and others.

The visit also allowed the Ukrainians to participate in the annual Masters of Pediatrics conference, which began the day of the visit, and to foster medical collaboration between American physicians and their colleagues in the Ukraine.
IN THE NEWS

UNIQUE CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMEN IS VERY EFFECTIVE IN CERTAIN BREAST CANCERS, EARLY-RELEASE STUDY SHOWS

A study led by Judith Hurley, M.D., a medical oncologist in the Breast Cancer Site Disease Group at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and a member of the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute at UM/Sylvester, showed platinum-based chemotherapy combined with Herceptin is highly effective against HER2-positive, locally advanced breast cancer. The study is so significant that editors at the prestigious Journal of Clinical Oncology opted to publish the results early online. Hurley has been a national leader in the study of locally advanced breast cancer for more than 15 years.

“This is a natural progression of our research showing that platinum-based regimens can cure breast cancer,” says Hurley, who also is medical director of the oncology clinics at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

The five-year disease-free survival rate for patients with Stage III locally advanced breast cancer is between 20 and 30 percent. But Hurley’s patients had an 85 percent survival rate at 43 months. Forty-eight patients were enrolled in this study and all had locally advanced breast cancer and tested positive for the presence of human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), a protein that occurs naturally in glandular cells like breast tissue. When it occurs in unusually high amounts it can fuel the proliferation of cancer. Each patient underwent three stages of therapy: a 12-week chemotherapy regimen to shrink the tumor; surgery to remove the remaining tumor; then a 12-week chemotherapy regimen.

UPDATE TO STUDY SHOWING IN-OFFICE TEST IS EFFECTIVE AT DETECTING BLADDER CANCER RECURRENCE

A simple urine test, combined with a visual inspection by a doctor with a cystoscope, can raise the detection of bladder cancer recurrence to 99 percent. That’s the finding of a recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

In the JAMA study published on January 18, Mark S. Soloway, M.D., chairman for the Department of Urology at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine and leader of the Prostate, Bladder, and Kidney Cancers Site Disease Group at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, along with Barton Grossman, M.D., from the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and colleagues in seven other states, followed 668 patients with a history of bladder cancer. Patients provided a urine sample before their regularly scheduled cystoscopy (a test that allows doctors to examine the interior lining of the bladder and the urethra) and cytology tests (the diagnosis of diseases based on examination of individual cells and small clusters of cells, which is becoming increasingly important in cancer diagnosis), and those urine samples were tested to evaluate the

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCREENING FOR LUNG CANCER

In April, Richard J. Thurer, M.D., co-leader, Lung Cancer Site Disease Group, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and director, thoracic surgery, University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, attended the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program’s 14th International Conference on Screening for Lung Cancer where conference participants received updates on the project. To date, participating centers have performed 33,000 initial screenings and found 427 cancers. Of those, 414 had Stage I disease. The centers have performed 24,892 second screenings and found 74 additional cancers.

So far, the Miami site, which includes UM/Sylvester, has screened 445 patients. Of those, five patients were found to have early stage lung cancers—four of which were Stage IA; the fifth was Stage IIA. All five patients were treated and no recurrence of the disease has been observed to date. The study is ongoing.
accuracy and reliability of the protein test. Cystoscopy alone revealed 91.3 percent of recurrences, but adding a test that detects the nuclear matrix protein (NMP22) secreted by bladder tumors into urine, to cystoscopy raised the diagnosis rate to 99 percent.

The non-invasive test also will be a critical tool for regularly evaluating patients at high risk for bladder cancer—long-time smokers, people who work around particles in manufacturing, or those who work with chemicals like those in hair dyes. If detected early, bladder cancer patients have a 94 percent chance of surviving five years or more.

DEAN CLARKSON THANKS EMPLOYEES AT CELEBRATORY LUNCHEON

Last November, John G. Clarkson, M.D., then senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, decided to throw a party for a few of his favorite employees—more than 6,000 of them. Miller School of Medicine employees gathered together that day to celebrate Clarkson’s ten-year tenure as dean of the Miller School of Medicine.

“Today isn’t about me. It’s about you and it’s to thank you for what you do every day to make this medical school a better place,” said Clarkson, who also received the prestigious AXA Advisors Lifetime Achievement Award during the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce’s Health Care Hero Awards ceremony in April. The award was in recognition of the extraordinary impact Clarkson has had on the South Florida community.

Clarkson stepped down as dean in January to become executive director of the American Board of Ophthalmology. He was succeeded by Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., F.A.C.C., from Duke University. (See related article below.)

“We will probably never see anyone as loyal who combines integrity and intelligence like Dean John G. Clarkson,” said University of Miami President Donna E. Shalala, who was also in attendance that day.

DEAN OF THE MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., F.A.C.C., an internationally renowned cardiologist and former chairman of the Department of Medicine at Duke University Medical Center, has been named senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. The announcement was made in February. He took office in April 2006.

“I think Dr. Goldschmidt is a perfect match for the University of Miami,” says University President Donna E. Shalala. “He’s a first-rate leader and a wonderful researcher-clinician who will raise the Miller School of Medicine to a spectacular new level of international medical and scientific prominence.”

Belgian-born Goldschmidt, whose research applies genomics and cell therapy to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of coronary artery disease, was previously chief of the Division of Cardiology at Duke.

As the former chairman of Duke’s Department of Medicine, the largest department at the university, Goldschmidt oversaw a $250 million enterprise with 350 full-time physician faculty members, 80 Ph.D.s, 1,200 staff, and 300 trainees in 16 divisions. Groundbreaking clinical and laboratory research is a major focus there, with clinical services based at Duke University Hospital.

“I am incredibly delighted to be welcomed to the University of Miami,” says Goldschmidt. “The Miller School of Medicine has an international reputation for excellence, and I plan to work with my teams to bring the clinical mission, the research mission, and the educational mission to new heights.”

“Goldschmidt is a remarkable physician and scientist, who brings exceptional commitment and insight to the cancer research we do here,” says W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., F.A.C.S., director, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.
CAROLINE W. HALPERN AWARD RECIPIENTS

The University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

*In the Garden* Gala committee has announced Denny and Paul Feinsilver as the recipients of this year’s prestigious Caroline W. Halpern Award, recognizing exceptional generosity through volunteerism in support of UM/Sylvester.

Denny and Paul Feinsilver will be receiving the award from the Halpern family at the gala, on Saturday, December 9, at the exclusive Westin Diplomat in Hollywood, Florida. The gala is expected to attract nearly 1,000 philanthropists and business and community leaders from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties and to raise more than $1 million.

Since becoming a founding member of Friends for Sylvester in 1998, Denny Feinsilver has initiated several fundraising programs to support cancer research at UM/Sylvester. In 2001, she launched the hugely successful Coupons for a Cure, currently raising more than $300,000 per year via a user-friendly coupon booklet through which individuals can make a donation to honor a person or event. A past co-chair of the Founders’ Committee, currently Denny serves on the UM/Sylvester Board of Governors, the Friends for Sylvester Executive Board, and the Founders’ Committee. Denny also created and produced *Live On Lincoln*, an event that featured a VIP pre-theatre dinner, celebrity performance, live auction, and dessert with the celebrity. *Live on Lincoln*, which has starred Linda Richman and Tony Danza, raised nearly $300,000 a production. In addition to her involvement with UM/Sylvester, she is the past vice chair of the Museum of Contemporary Art and creator of the museum’s major fundraiser, “Enchanted Evenings.” She is a member of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Board of Directors and Jewish Domestic Abuse Program for Jewish Community Services of South Florida.

Paul Feinsilver is chairman of the board and co-founder of fmsbonds, Inc.

He and his partner, Jim Klotz, head the largest tax-free bond firm in Florida. Paul is a driving force in the growth of Temple Or Hadash in Haifa and is passionate about the growth of the reform movement in Israel. He is actively involved in the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Paul also was honored as one of Ronald McDonald House’s “Twelve Good Men” in 2002. He and Denny also are founding members of Friends for Sylvester as well as members of UM/Sylvester’s Founders Society.

A cancer diagnosis in their family solidified the couple’s dedication in supporting can-

NEW MEMBERS JOIN BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to announce the addition of the following individuals to its Board of Governors for fiscal year 2006.

**Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., F.A.C.C.**

Internationally renowned cardiologist Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., F.A.C.C., recently joined the UM/Sylvester Board of Governors. In April, he succeeded John G. Clarkson, M.D., as senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. Goldschmidt is the former chairman of the Department of Medicine at Duke University Medical Center.

**Barbara Pessel**

Barbara Pessel recently joined the Board of Governors of UM/Sylvester. She succeeds Gloria Berkowitz as the president of the Papanicolaou Corps for Cancer Research. Pessel founded the Pap Corps’ Boca Friends Unit seven years ago and served as president of the unit for four years. Most recently, she served as Pap Corps vice president and liaison to UM/Sylvester.
cer research. “UM/Sylvester is a wonderful, hopeful place where miracles happen every day, and physicians and scientists are truly committed to the cause. The future of UM/Sylvester is a terribly exciting one, and we are most grateful to have this leading academic cancer center in our own backyard,” says Denny.

The Feinsilvers recently became Grand Founders at UM/Sylvester, a select group of donors whose commitment exceeds $100,000. The couple also hosts annual cultivation dinners in their home to assist in growing UM/Sylvester’s donor community. Denny and Paul have lived in South Florida for 34 years and currently reside in North Miami. The accomplishments they are most proud of are their two children daughter Corey, 30, a drama teacher at Ransom Everglades School, and son Zack, 23, who works alongside his father at fmsbonds, Inc.

Yacht Hop event co-chairs Susan Phipps and Meg Toppa planned a fun-filled evening sponsored by MarineMax, the nation’s largest boating and yachting retailer, and Ferretti Group USA, one of Italy’s leading yacht manufacturers. Other sponsors included BIG 105.9, East Coast Jewelry, Inter-Tel, and Yachtsign.


The event raised more than $60,000 to benefit cancer research at UM/Sylvester.
PORTHOLE FUNDING CANCER

The Ninth Annual Porthole Cruise Magazine Golf Classic in March 2006 raised a remarkable $130,000 for local South Florida charities including the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Of that amount, $45,000 is funding lung cancer and breast cancer research at the cancer center. Since Porthole’s relationship with UM/Sylvester began five years ago, nearly $150,000 has been donated to the cancer center. To date, the golf classic has raised more than $800,000.

“We are thrilled with the results of the event,” says Irene Panoff, the event’s organizer. Panoff is the chief operations officer of the PPI Group, Porthole’s publisher.

“The proceeds raised are the building blocks for continued research and an eventual cure, which we can only hope will be found during our lifetime.”

Cancer is a disease that hits close to home for Panoff. The first golf classic was held in 1998 in memory of her sister, Linie Hilderink, who lost her battle with breast cancer in 1996 at the age of 35. Then in 2001, when lung cancer claimed the life of Porthole contributing writer Sherry Sbarsky, the publisher increased its commitment to cancer research.

The Porthole Cruise Magazine Golf Classic attracts South Florida golfers and cruise industry executives for a day of recreation and fun, while helping raise money for cancer research and children in need.

BILTMORE INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND WINE WEEKEND

With an uncommon zest for bringing cheer, The Cellar Club at The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, in cooperation with Wine Spectator magazine and Lexus of South Florida, presented the Tenth Annual Biltmore International Food and Wine Weekend on May 5-7, 2006, benefiting UM/Sylvester. The annual extravaganza, where the cancer center has been the beneficiary for three years, more than doubled last year’s totals raising $150,000. Be sure to mark your calendar for the 11th Annual Biltmore International Food and Wine Weekend, scheduled for May 4-6, 2007.

ROSENFIELD CENTER DEDICATED

Estelle and George Rosenfield along with physicians, staff, friends, and family, joined in the recent dedication ceremony for the Estelle and George Rosenfield Center for Digestive Disorders at UM/Sylvester in January 2006.

CULTIVATION EVENT IS A SWEET SUCCESS

They came to nibble on sweets and donate to a worthy cause. On February 8, Sandy and Darlene Fenster, along with Carrie and David Schulman, hosted A Sweet Celebration in Search for a Cure in the Fenster’s home. Darlene, a gourmet pastry chef, was the first patient seen in 1992 when UM/Sylvester opened its doors. More than 80 guests attended the event that raised nearly $20,000 for surgical oncology research at UM/Sylvester. Guests heard from Alan Livingstone, M.D., professor and chairman, Lucille and DeWitt Daughtry Family Department of Surgery and chief, Division of Surgical Oncology at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School Medicine, and Joseph D. Rosenblatt, M.D., UM/Sylvester’s Associate Director for Clinical and Translational Research, who spoke about the latest advancements taking place at UM/Sylvester. The Fensters and Schultmans also talked about the importance of philanthropy in the quest for a cancer cure.

From left to right: Alan Livingstone, M.D., Joseph D. Rosenblatt, M.D., Sandy Fenster, Darlene Fenster, David Schulman, and Carrie Schulman.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

NEW PAP CORPS PRESIDENT IS NAMED

Barbara Pessel has been named president of the Papanicolaou Corps for Cancer Research. She succeeds Gloria Berkowitz who served as Pap Corps president for the last four years.

Officially in the position for just a few weeks, Pessel is already making news. In a speech she gave on June 1, which was her first act as president, she increased the Pap Corps commitment to UM/Sylvester from $10 million to $14 million over six years. “I am honored to serve as president of this wonderful organization. I look forward to working with our ever-growing membership and finding new and successful ways to raise funds for cancer research,” Pessel says.

“Barbara brings a lot of initiative and dedication to the Pap Corps,” adds W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., F.A.C.S., director, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. “And her experience within this great organization, especially with the Boca Friends Unit, will be very helpful. We wish her the best of luck.”

Pessel founded the Pap Corps Boca Friends Unit seven years ago and served as president of the unit for four years. It is considered an “open unit”—which means that anyone can join and the individual does not have to live in a particular community. For the past five years, Pessel has been a member of the Pap Corps executive committee as well as the recently formed marketing committee.

“Barbara brings a lot of initiative and dedication to the Pap Corps,”
—W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D, F.A.C.S.
Director, UM/Sylvester

THANK YOU, GLORIA BERKOWITZ

A heartfelt thanks to Gloria Berkowitz for four terrific years as president of the Papanicolaou Corps for Cancer Research. Berkowitz is succeeded by Barbara Pessel, the former president of the Boca Friends Unit. Under Berkowitz’s insightful and exemplary leadership, the Pap Corps reached new heights, growing to 17,000 members in 47 units and contributing nearly $11 million toward cancer research at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

This year alone was a record-breaking one. Under her leadership, the Pap Corps raised $3.325 million—making 2006 the most memorable for the Pap Corps and Berkowitz. The gift brings the total raised by the Pap Corps over the past four years to nearly $11 million, which exceeds their initial five-year pledge made in 2003 of $10 million.

The all volunteer, grassroots fundraising organization has supported cancer research at UM/Sylvester for 54 years. From golf tournaments and walk-a-thons to special projects and “giving from their own pockets,” the Pap Corps has raised millions of dollars and created new hope in the fight against cancer.

Through her unwavering dedication, initiative, and perseverance, Berkowitz became one of the Pap Corps most notable leaders by creating a legacy that will last for years to come. To you, Gloria, and all of the Pap Corps members, we at UM/Sylvester (including physicians, scientists, staff, and patients) offer our sincerest gratitude for your tireless commitment and generosity.

Through her unwavering dedication, initiative, and perseverance, Berkowitz became one of the Pap Corps most notable leaders by creating a legacy that will last for years to come.

Gloria Berkowitz

Barbara Pessel
During the last four years, Pessel served as vice president and liaison to UM/Sylvester. As liaison, she helped arrange for physicians to speak at unit meetings, which led her to chair the Pap Corps Physician Referral Program. She continues to be an active advocate of this program. Pessel has been volunteering at the UM/Sylvester at Deerfield Beach office for the last three years.

“I survived cancer and my mother did as well. We are very grateful and I wanted to give something back,” says Pessel. “Tomorrow’s cure is in the hands and minds of our gifted scientists and physicians. We must never let them down.”

A native of the Bronx, New York, Pessel has lived in South Florida since 1989. She was a histologist, having worked in the medical field for more than ten years, as well as a dedicated volunteer.

**PAP CORPS PRESENTS RECORD-BREAKING GIFT**

On June 1, the Papanicolaou Corps for Cancer Research presented a record-breaking gift of $3.325 million to fund cancer research at UM/Sylvester.

From left: Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., F.A.C.C., senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine; Gloria Berkowitz, outgoing president of the Pap Corps; W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., F.A.C.S., director, UM/Sylvester; Joaquin F. Blaya, chair, UM/Sylvester Board of Governors; and Deborah Steiner, Pap Corps Treasurer.

**PAP CORPS WALKATHON BREAKS RECORD**

More than 2,500 walkers took part in the annual Papanicolaou Corps for Cancer Research Celebration of Life Walkathon and Health Fair at UM/Sylvester at Deerfield Beach on March 4. It was the largest turnout since the event’s inception, raising more than $200,000. The next Walkathon is scheduled for March 10, 2007 at UM/Sylvester at Deerfield Beach. For more information, contact the Pap Corps office at 1-877-495-8100.
SAVE THESE DATES

Saks Key to the Cure at Bal Harbour Saks Fifth Avenue—October 12, 2006
Come join us for an evening of shopping, fashion, and fun during this national, four-day fundraiser.

Survivors’ Day—October 26, 2006
UM/Sylvester is hosting its 11th Annual Cancer Survivors’ Day exclusively for UM/Sylvester survivors and their families.

Palm Beach Food and Wine Classic at the Four Seasons Resort—October 21-22, 2006
This culinary event in Palm Beach will showcase wineries and global cuisine at its finest.

In the Garden Gala—December 9, 2006
Join 1,000 philanthropists and business and community leaders at the Westin Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Florida, for the spectacular In the Garden Gala.
H O W  T O  R E A C H  U S

For information or to make an appointment, call:

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Toll Free: 1-800-545-2292

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**Jobs/Career Information**
www.careers.med.miami.edu

**NCI Cancer Information Service**
1-800-4-CANCER

**Patient Relations**
305-243-3820

**Web Site**
www.sylvester.org