

In sights

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CANCER INSTITUTE
SUMMER 2005

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A New Look for the Cancer Institute Web Site

The Cancer Institute web site has a new look, featuring colorful photos and a reorganized site layout to allow visitors to easily access local cancer information and resources.

Throughout the site are photos of local cancer survivors and images of Cancer Institute publications and events. The new layout mirrors the *Face of Cancer Awareness Campaign*.

The theme of the campaign highlights survivors – the *Face of Cancer* who represent your friends, families, neighbors and co-workers who have faced the myriad challenges of cancer. *Face of*

Cancer survivors – local business and government leaders as well as community members, agreed to share their stories - in an effort to help others.

Cancer information and local and national resources links are located throughout the site and feature specific information for community members and healthcare professionals. The web site features this valuable information in a newly organized format, allowing for easy navigation through the web site.

Visit us at
www.cancernepa.org



The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute invites you to join us for a tribute to all those touched by cancer... survivors, their families, friends, and caregivers, as well as family members and friends of those who have died from cancer.

You're invited...

5th Annual

Family of Survivors Program

Saturday, October 1, 2005 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Cancer Survivors Park, McDade Park, Scranton

A member of the Family of Survivors will offer words of hope and encouragement as well as music and a Survivors Circle.

✧ Dedicated in memory of Frances Acker Fuller ✧

If you plan to join us, please RSVP by September 28.

(570) 941-7984 in Scranton
(570) 970-6543 in Wilkes-Barre



Allied Services/John Heinz Institute Community Medical Center Marian Community Hospital
Mercy Health Partners Moses Taylor Hospital/Mid-Valley Hospital
Wyoming Valley Health Care System



Cancer Clinical Trials

To physicians treating cancer patients, clinical trials are an important part of the research process.

What is a clinical trial?

Clinical trials are research studies involving people and are designed to test whether one treatment or intervention is better than another. Clinical trials seek to answer specific scientific questions that address ways to prevent, detect, and treat cancer, as well as improve care for people with cancer.

There are several types of clinical trials – each of which look to answer different research questions.

Treatment trials look at new approaches that can help people who have cancer. They answer the question, “is one treatment better than another treatment?”

Prevention trials identify approaches that can reduce the chance of a specific type of cancer from developing in people who have not previ-

ously had cancer.

Early-detection/screening trials examine new ways of finding cancer in people before symptoms occur.

Quality-of-life/supportive care trials look at approaches that can improve the comfort and quality of life of people who have cancer.

Clinical trials provide answers to these questions. There are four phases to drug clinical trials. Phase 1 looks at safety, Phase 2 looks at how well the new treatment works, Phase 3 compares a new treatment to the standard treatment, and Phase 4 continues the evaluation process.

Answering important questions about cancer, clinical trials provide information on prevention, detection, treatment, and improving quality of life for cancer patients.

Volunteers who participate in cancer trials help researchers obtain these answers.

4th Annual
It's all in the **GAME!** *Save the Date...*



Thursday, December 1, 2005 6 - 9 p.m.
Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Scranton

Join your colleagues and friends for a night of fun and games
to benefit the Cancer Resources Guide

For more information, please contact the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute
(570) 941-7984 (570) 970-6543 www.cancernepa.org





Cancer Clinical Trials...

A local perspective from breast cancer survivor, Karen Reid

By Sarah Herbert

People who are diagnosed with cancer are often reluctant to participate in clinical trials. But without clinical trials, cancer research and treatments would not have advanced to where they are today, as cancer patient and clinical trial participant, Karen Reid attests.

When Karen was diagnosed with breast cancer in January of 2003, she was faced with a lot of information and decisions. Like most people, she was unaware of the choices she had concerning her treatment. As she was consulting with her oncologist about a treatment plan, she was asked if she was interested in participating in a clinical trial.

"My doctor explained to me that this clinical trial would work with the regimen that I chose to treat my cancer," said Karen.

Thinking of women before her who had engaged in clinical trials, Karen was inspired to participate.

"These women supplied physicians with greater tools, knowledge and experience, enabling my doctor to offer me choices in my treatment," explained Karen, adding that, "The willingness of these women to participate in the

past made it possible for me to recover."

Karen is grateful she has the chance to help others, an opportunity she credits her oncologist.

"My family, specifically my daughters, my friends and the community will benefit from the advancements in medicine, and my oncologist will gain new knowledge from the research findings of this study," said Karen. "It is my way of thanking everyone who has helped me during my cancer recovery."

Karen is participating in a three-year clinical trial. The drug being tested is designed specifically for breast cancer patients who are at risk of developing bone cancer. While Karen does not know if she is taking the actual drug or the placebo, she is happy to be helping.

She encourages people to get involved in clinical trials, or at least be willing to learn more about them.

"They are not as risky as some people think, and we have to help each other. We are all in this together," said Karen.

For more information about clinical trials, talk to your doctor or visit www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials.



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE MULLEN
Karen Reid, breast cancer survivor and clinical trial participant

Lackawanna County Ostomy Association Support Meeting

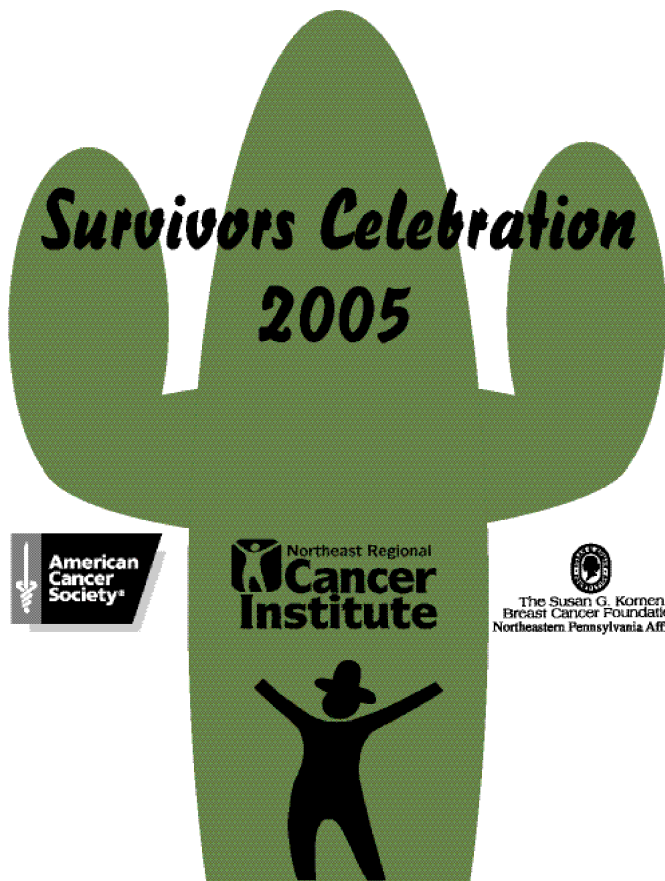
The United Ostomy Association is a volunteer-based health organization dedicated to providing education, information, support and advocacy for people who have had or will have intestinal or urinary diversions.

The local Lackawanna chapter will have its next meeting on Monday, September 12th at 7:00 pm in the East Wing Café Meeting Room at Mercy Hospital in Scranton.

Speaker John Bonanni, of Convatec will demonstrate the latest appliances and those in attendance will have the opportunity to sample different products available.

Anyone who has questions or is interested in attending this meeting should call Joyce McDonough at (570) 348-7738.

Survivors Celebration 2005



Howdy Partners

On Sunday, June 12th cancer survivors from Northeastern Pennsylvania gathered to celebrate life at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute's 13th annual Survivors Celebration.

The western themed event featured a "Howdy Partners" message, which honored the partnership of the Family of Survivors in the battle against cancer. Speakers Joe and Marcia Buczko, both cancer survivors, offered inspirational words of advice on survivorship.

This year, the Cancer Institute partnered with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the American Cancer Society to sponsor this fun afternoon filled with great food, music, and friends. Information display booths, the survivor banner, and the cancer survivors tile project were among other activities offered during the event as survivors celebrated life!



Thank You
Survivors Celebration 2005
Sponsors!
Please see page 7 for a complete listing



Robert Durkin, Appointed to Cancer Control, Prevention and Research Advisory Board



Durkin

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute President, Robert F. Durkin has been appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Cancer Control, Prevention and Research Advisory Board (CAB).

As a member of the CAB, Mr. Durkin will advise the Secretary of Health on matters related to cancer; approve a yearly plan for cancer control, prevention and research; and recommend the awarding of grants and contracts related to cancer control, prevention and research.

Mr. Durkin was appointed for CAB by Governor, Edward G. Rendell and nominated by Senator, Robert J. Mellow.

Cancer Institute Welcomes New Employee



Legate

Michele Legate, of Scranton, has joined the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute as Staff Assistant. She is responsible for support of Cancer Institute Administration, Institutional Advancement and Planning functions.

Ms. Legate received a bachelor's degree from Kutztown University in Political Science.

Prior to her employment at the Cancer Institute she served as Executive Assistant at Davis D. Thigpen State Farm Insurance in Waco, Texas.

In their own words

This poem was written by thirteen year old **Danielle Shafer** in memory of her uncle, George Aston.

Long Ago When We Were Young

*Long ago when we were young,
And we ran bare foot through the
Hay covered fields,
A Memory was born.
A memory of ambulance and panic.
He died on me.
My uncle of course.
But now I pull that memory,
Old and rusty, out of the corner of my mind.
And I remember him and what happened
That summer day.
Long ago when we were young.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: "IN their own words..." features a letter, story or poem written by a member of the Family of Survivors. We encourage **your** submissions because it is all about you and your experience with cancer...in **YOUR** own words. To share your story with our readers, please contact or send your submission to Kristin Hake, Community Relations Coordinator, Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, 334 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18510. Phone (570) 941-7984. Email hakek2@scranton.edu





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Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

.....
*Easing the burden
of cancer in
Northeastern
Pennsylvania*

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Community Medical
Center, Scranton

John Heinz Institute,
Wilkes-Barre

Marian Community
Hospital, Carbondale

Mercy Health Partners
Scranton & Wilkes-Barre

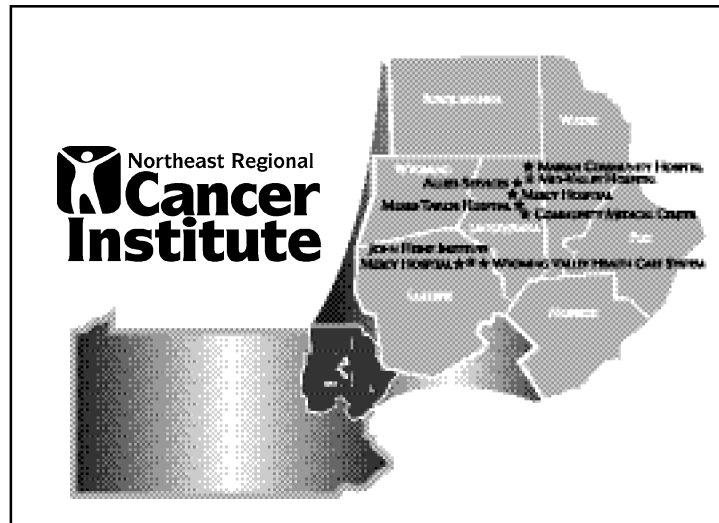
Mid-Valley Hospital,
Peckville

Moses Taylor
Hospital, Scranton

Wyoming Valley Health
Care System, Wilkes-Barre

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(570) 941-7984, or
email editor@cancernepa.org.*



*The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is a non-profit
community-based agency working to ease the burden of cancer in
Northeastern Pennsylvania. Focusing on research, education,
and survivorship, the Cancer Institute invests all of its resources
in this region.*

*Partnering with the Cancer Institute to achieve its goals are
community leaders, volunteers, healthcare professionals, and a
cooperative network of nine partner organizations in Northeastern
Pennsylvania.*

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