

# In sights

A PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
NORTHEAST  
REGIONAL  
CANCER INSTITUTE  
WINTER 2006

.....  
*this*  
*issue...*

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## Wayne Memorial Health System Joins the Cancer Institute

Wayne Memorial Hospital recently became a member of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. The move is expected to enhance Wayne Memorial's efforts to serve cancer patients and their families in the Hospital's service areas in Wayne and Pike Counties.

"The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute offers a variety of services that help us focus on cancer issues related specifically to our geographical area," said David Hoff, Chief Executive Officer of WMH. "While we have used many of the Institute's services in the past, such as its cancer registry program, we believe our membership will boost efforts locally to battle specific types of cancer, such as colorectal cancer." Hoff pointed out that Cancer Institute data shows colorectal cancer rates in northeast PA are significantly higher than the rest of the country.

Cancer Institute programs, available in Wayne, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming, Pike and Susquehanna Counties, include cancer epidemiology research, community and healthcare professional education and survivorship programs.

"We are very pleased to have Wayne Memorial Health System

join the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute partnership," said Robert Durkin, President, of the Cancer Institute. "By working cooperatively we can increase cancer related services to individuals and families throughout Wayne and Pike Counties,"

This partnership will allow the Cancer Institute to build on the work of Wayne Memorial Hospital to target research, education and survivorship services throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. The Cancer Institute will provide direct cancer registry services to Wayne Memorial Hospital.



*Wayne Memorial Hospital joins the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, a locally based non-profit organization serving Wayne, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming, Pike, and Susquehanna Counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Pictured: David Hoff, Chief Executive Officer of Wayne Memorial Hospital (WMH); Marilyn White, Vice President of Cancer Institute Registry Services; Paula Roos, Cancer Institute Board Member. Standing left to right: Mary Lou Hoffner, RN, Manager of WMH Home Health; Mary Burgio, Manager of WMH Social Services; Diane Popovich, RN, WMH Hospice Team Leader; Neil Petrosky, WMH Social Services; Virginia Fries, RN, WMH Director of Patient Care Services; and Robert Durkin, President of Northeast Regional Cancer Institute.*

Northeast Regional  
**Cancer Institute**

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WAYNE MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM    WYOMING VALLEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



## 7th edition *Cancer Resources Guide*

### *the local resource for newly diagnosed cancer patients*

By Sarah Herbert

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute has announced the upcoming publication of the seventh edition of the *Cancer Resources Guide*.

Cancer Institute staff have been compiling resources for the past few months to include in this invaluable publication.

The new edition will include updated contact information for cancer resources throughout the nation as well as local support services.

These resources are organized and bound in a user-friendly book to aid newly diagnosed cancer patients, their families and caregivers in gathering information. Users can find resources specific to cancer types from breast to colon and everything in between.

*The Guide* even includes a section outlining area

camp and places to purchase wigs.

Not only does the *Cancer Resources Guide* include important contact information

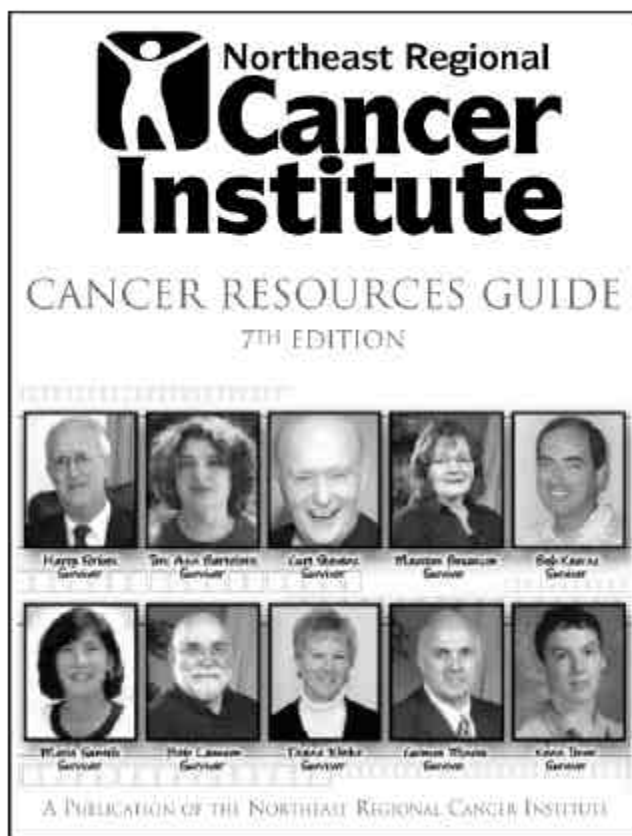
regarding cancer resources, but it will also include personal stories of local cancer survivors and commentary from professionals throughout the region.

The seventh edition of the *Cancer Resources Guide* will be available in February of 2006.

Until the new edition of *The Guide* is available the sixth edition can be found in all local libraries throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania and online at

[www.cancernepa.org](http://www.cancernepa.org).

For more information, please contact the Cancer Institute.



*The 7th edition of the Cancer Resources Guide will feature the Face of Cancer theme throughout the publication.*

## Did You Know?

### *Martz Bus Company provides support for care patients*

Cancer patients who travel to receive cancer care may be able to use the services of Martz Trailways at a discounted cost. To receive a ticket discount, cancer patients must present a letter or note from their physician to any of Martz Bus Company's main terminals. These main terminals include locations in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and Stroudsburg.

"Dealing with cancer treatment is difficult," said Ted Patton, Vice-President of Traffic for Martz Trailways. "Martz Trailways is happy to provide a financial discount to our passengers traveling to receive cancer care."

For more information about discounted bus fares for cancer patients please contact Ted Patton at Martz Trailways at (570) 821-3818.



## What is Epidemiology Research?

*This is the third of a three part series focused on epidemiology research and clinical trial research as it relates to cancer.*

Participation from individuals in studies has allowed medicine to evolve and improve. The same can be said for epidemiological studies, which aim to understand why something is happening. In an epidemiological study, no medication or treatment is administered, yet the information collected is just as valuable.

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is conducting a colorectal cancer risk factor study which aims to identify risk factors associated with colorectal cancer and determine why colorectal cancer is 20% higher than state and national averages in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Gathering this information, researchers at the Cancer Institute interview individuals in Northeastern Pennsylvania about their family history, medication history, occupation, diet, exercise routine, as well as drug and alcohol use.

These interviews are confidential and are conducted over the phone or in one-on-one meetings. Interviewers at the Cancer Institute use technology, which allows a computer to randomly select a phone number. The computer dials the phone number and record of that number is deleted at the end of the interview. The individual randomly called is asked to participate in the study.

“Only through research can we determine the risk factors associated with colorectal cancer. Knowledge of risk factors will allow our researchers to determine why rates of colorectal cancer are so high in Northeastern Pennsylvania compared to national averages,” said Samuel M. Lesko, MD, MPH; Director of Research and Medical Director of the Cancer Institute. “You can help identify risk factors for colorectal cancer by participating in the study if asked.”

In this random sample study, individuals are selected at random so that study participants represent the population of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Since the study must remain random the Cancer Institute cannot enroll individuals who would like to volunteer for this study. Instead, the Cancer Institute encourages anyone invited to participate in this study to think about the benefit that he or she can supply

by identifying risk factors for colorectal cancer that could help save family, friends, and neighbors.

If you have any questions about the colorectal cancer risk factor study, or any study being conducted, please contact the Cancer Institute at (570) 941-7984 in Scranton or (570) 970-6543 in Wilkes-Barre.

### **This series on Epidemiology Research focused on three topics related to cancer.**

- \* What is epidemiology?
- \* A look at ongoing cancer epidemiology studies taking place at the Cancer Institute
- \* Participation in epidemiology research at the Cancer Institute

*For a complete set of the series on Epidemiology please contact the Cancer Institute or visit [www.cancernepa.org](http://www.cancernepa.org)*

# In their own words

The featured poem was written by Anthony Corvino to describe his experience with cancer. Anthony is a three time cancer survivor.

### 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

## One Man's Observation

By *Anthony Corvino*

To ease the consternation  
Of hesitant urination, -  
You arrange a consultation,  
Undergo an examination  
Providing information  
As to PSA elevation  
Leading to evaluation  
And possible operation  
And/or radiation, -  
After careful calculation  
To it's finest denomination  
By a staff with complete dedication  
To enhance one's life situation  
In areas of intrinsic medication  
Offered with professional qualification, -  
You are put in isolation  
In a position of prostration  
Conducive to meditation, -  
You look for consolation  
During this period of recuperation, -  
And after several weeks duration  
You come to the realization  
You're reaching finalization, -  
Looking forward to graduation  
After your U.D.V.C.C. education  
You return for re-evaluation  
And explain your tribulation, -  
Days of fluctuation,  
Periods of constipation  
With annoying flatulation, -  
Also, - further irritation  
In areas of physical limitation, -  
You carry on with determination  
Trying not to feel frustration  
Offering sincere commendation  
To the Upper Delaware Valley Cancer Association, -  
Your indulgence deserves my appreciation, -  
So, the end of one man's observation



## Epidemiologists Presented at Statewide Research Summit

**N**ortheast Regional Cancer Institute Epidemiologists presented current research at the Statewide Research Summit along with top leaders and cancer researchers. The experts, who represent more than 250 public, private, academic and volunteer organizations, are members of the Pennsylvania Cancer Control Consortium (PAC3) – an initiative formed in 2001 to reduce the human and economic burden of cancer by creating the first-ever Pennsylvania Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.

Three current research projects were accepted for presentation at this year’s conference. Samuel M. Lesko, MD, MPH; Director of Research and Medical Director at the Cancer Institute presented research on the use of adjuvant chemotherapy in stage III colorectal cancer in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Trudy A. Coleman, PhD presented a poster on cigarette smoking in Northeastern Pennsylvania and associated risk factors, a study

which was also done in collaboration with Dr. Lesko. Ilene S. Prokup, MS, RN, CS presented research that she and Dr. Lesko have been working on which examined factors associated with screening for colorectal cancer.

### New Employee Welcomed



*Fox-Dougherty*

Peggy Fox-Dougherty has joined the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute as Research Interviewer. She is responsible for collecting and processing research data, conducting telephone interviews and performing data entry.

Ms. Fox-Dougherty received a bachelors degree from Lackawanna College.

Prior to her employment at the Cancer Institute she worked in sales and marketing.

Ms. Fox-Dougherty resides in the Waymart area with her husband.

## Member Hospital News

### “Medicare 75% Rule” Limiting Patient Access To Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently presented a new set of criteria for acute rehabilitation *facilities (IRF)*. The CMS criteria, known more commonly as the “75% Rule” was established to help reduce Medicare costs via health care services. The 75% Rule, in summary, requires that 75% of patients admitted to an IRF must have 1 of 13 diagnosis approved by CMS. If the IRF treats less than 75% of the CMS approved diagnosis, the IRF risks losing all reimbursement from Medicare for that fiscal year.

The American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association indicates that CMS estimates that “fewer than 13% of IRFs would qualify for Medicare reimbursement given the current patient populations they serve. Cancer, cardiac, and pulmonary patients, for example, are excluded from the 13 possible diagnosis that are eligible for acute rehabilitation.” These patients that are excluded from the CMS IRF admissions criteria would be admitted to a lesser level of rehabilitation and med-

ical care in a skilled nursing center, to save Medicare costs.

The Allied Services Rehabilitation Hospital in Scranton is an acute rehabilitation hospital (IRF). This rehabilitation hospital with two rehabilitation units at Mercy Hospital and Moses Taylor Hospital treated over 2,500 patients in 2004; 81% of those patients treated were insured by Medicare. Because of the 75% Rule there were 45% less patients admitted for inpatient rehabilitation in 2005 with orthopedic and arthritis related conditions, these patients were ultimately treated in a lesser level of care.

The people of northeastern and central Pennsylvania can have a significant impact on the “75% Rule” access issues by contacting their state and national legislators.

For more information please contact Drew Robertson, Vice President of Business Development at Allied Services at (570) 341-4664.



# Family of Survivors Program 2005

## 5th Annual Family of Survivors Program

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.

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



*\* Dedicated in memory of Frances Acker Fuller \**



### Special Thanks

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local Union #5 \* Dal Tile \* Sharon DeNault  
Dente's Catering \* Florentine Artworks \* Bill Frye  
Hemmler & Camayd Architects \* Just Paint It!  
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And all of the Cancer Institute Sponsors! Please see page 7.





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# Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

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*Easing the burden  
of cancer in  
Northeastern  
Pennsylvania*

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*Wilkes-Barre*

Marian Community  
Hospital, *Carbondale*

Mercy Health Partners  
*Scranton*

Mid-Valley Hospital,  
*Peckville*

Moses Taylor  
Hospital, *Scranton*

Wayne Memorial Health  
System, *Honesdale*

Wyoming Valley Health  
Care System, *Wilkes-Barre*

.....  
Financial support for  
the Cancer Institute's  
educational programs and  
services is provided by the  
**Harry and Jeanette  
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and the **Pennsylvania  
Department of Health.**

*If you would like to receive  
insights and are not on our  
mailing list, or have received  
this in error, please call  
(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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