Abramson Cancer Center Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Chromosome

This year marks the 50-year anniversary of the discovery of the Philadelphia chromosome. First identified by Penn Medicine’s Peter C. Nowell, M.D., and his research partner, the late David Hungerford, M.D., Ph.D., this is a landmark finding in the identification, understanding, and treatment of certain forms of cancer.

Penn is proud to celebrate its first cancer center director, Dr. Nowell, this incredible achievement, and the profound impact it has had on advancements in treatments for patients diagnosed with cancer.

Dr. Peter Nowell came to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1948, with an interest in pathology. Serving briefly in a US naval radiological defense laboratory in San Francisco, Dr. Nowell returned to Penn in 1956 and began studying leukemia cells. At that time, little was known about the cause of cancer. Many still believed it was a virus, perhaps one that could be transferred from person to person.

Dr. Nowell’s discovery of an abnormal chromosome in leukemia cells truly altered the course of cancer science. Dr. Nowell set out to determine the cause of leukemia cell growth with the help of then graduate student at Fox Chase Cancer Center, Dr. David A. Hungerford. Dr. Hungerford studied the chromosomal damage and the two researchers collaborated to understand the relationship to the cell’s malignancy.

Drs. Nowell and Hungerford’s research was published in 1960 and the abnormality they found would be named “the Philadelphia chromosome,” after the city where it was discovered. This ground-breaking discovery has paved the way for incredible strides in cancer treatment, as well as exponential increases in life expectancy for patients with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Drs. Nowell and Hungerford published their study on the chromosomes of CML patients, which linked genetics to cancer for the first time. They proposed that cancers were caused by genetic mutations in cells, a theory which would be proven only years later.

In fact, it was the 1960 discovery of the Philadelphia chromosome that inspired experiments and clinical trials for Gleevec®, a medication that directly targets the abnormal protein caused by the Philadelphia chromosome. Made by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Gleevec began clinical trials in 1998. After receiving FDA approval in 2001, the therapy has proceeded to stabilize disease in 95% of individuals with CML.

In 1998, Dr. Nowell received The Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award. The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation described the award as the “American Nobel Prize,” that celebrates “incisive studies in patient-oriented research which paved the way for identifying genetic alterations that cause cancer in humans and allows for cancer diagnosis in patients.”

This prestigious prize has been accompanied by many other awards.
One of the most honored and esteemed members of the medical faculty at Penn, Dr. Peter Nowell – the Gaylord P. and Mary Louise Harnwell Emeritus Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine – is the recipient of the 2010 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science. This incredible honor is reserved for individuals whose innovation has benefited humanity, advanced science, launched new fields of inquiry, and deepened our understanding of the universe.

Dr. Peter Nowell is an inspiration to colleagues and an unsung hero to patients. Please join us in celebrating his achievements and scientific discovery, his powerful career at Penn Medicine, and the gift of health he has helped bestow to those with cancer.

For more information about Dr. Nowell and the Philadelphia chromosome, or to support the Peter C. Nowell, M.D. Professorship, please contact Pam Keon at (215) 573-4040 or pamkeon@upenn.edu.

Did You Know?

The Abramson Cancer Center is a national leader in cancer research, patient care, and education. As an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, with over 500 active cancer researchers, basic, translational, and clinical scientists, the Abramson Cancer Center is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art cancer care. We offer the latest forms of cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to our patients and relentlessly seek to eliminate the pain and suffering of cancer. Here is an example of the innovative research currently occurring at Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center.

Najjia N. Mahmoud, M.D.

Najjia N. Mahmoud, M.D., is currently working on research that seeks to explain differences in colon and rectal cancer survival after surgery. Recently, she published several papers describing better cancer outcomes and improved short and long term survival when patients had their surgery in medical centers designated by the National Cancer Institute. Currently, her team is examining factors that explain these differences in an effort to improve patient outcomes in all medical facilities.
A recent question posed to doctors at Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center:

Dear “Ask The Experts,”
What is the point to quitting smoking when I already have lung cancer? My family is on my case to quit, but it seems pointless.

ANSWER
Jared Weiss, M.D., a Fellow in the Hematology/Oncology Division at the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania, responds:

In the case of surgically curative disease, quitting smoking decreases complication rates and improves wound healing. It also reduces the odds of getting a new smoking-related lung cancer or other cancers.

For patients with metastatic lung cancer, I used to think there was no point in quitting, as my patients had enough to deal with already. My argument was one of quality of life – now I’ve become less comfortable with that idea.

My lung cancer patients complain about shortness of breath and coughing more than any other symptom. Although there is data, we know that our patients feel much better from a pulmonary perspective without the cigarettes – we’ve seen it firsthand. But there is also data out there showing that smoking can increase the clotting risk, and clots in the leg and lung are a major source of morbidity and mortality for lung cancer patients. There is also data that shows that patients who continue smoking experience more pain than patients who stop.

Finally, there’s the cancer itself. Data was presented at the World Lung Conference last summer showing that lung cancer can bear receptors for nicotine. This would seem to indicate that smoking may actually spur the cancer.

So, you’ve heard it before and it bears repeating – quitting smoking is best for your health, even if already diagnosed with smoking-related lung cancer or other cancers. Furthermore, Penn offers great programs to assist you with your efforts of quitting.

ASK THE EXPERTS
Michael Pack, M.D., is an attending gastroenterologist at Penn Medicine who is using the zebrafish model system to study GI cancer development and disease. Taking advantage of the ability to conduct mutagenesis screenings in this unique organism, Dr. Pack has discovered novel cancer-related functions for genes not previously considered to be important for the biology of GI cancers. Most recently, Dr. Pack has shown how changes in intestinal muscle contraction can influence the behavior of intestinal cells to model the earliest stage of cancer metastasis or tumor invasion. Using this model, Dr. Pack has identified a link between invasion and a condition known as oxidative stress, which frequently is detected in cancers and is associated with inflammation. Understanding invasion may lead to better detection and therapies for GI and other cancers.

Marcia S. Brose, M.D., Ph.D. finds success in trials for advanced thyroid cancer

The Abramson Cancer Center’s Marcia Brose, M.D., Ph.D., is the first medical oncologist to have dedicated herself to the development of treatments for patients with advanced thyroid cancer. A medical oncologist with a Ph.D. in genetics, her first trial is already a success. Dr. Brose’s thyroid cancer trials use a drug called sorafenib (Nexavar®, ONYX/BAYER), which inhibits enzymes known as kinases, thereby helping to slow or stop cancer growth in patients.

Preliminary results have shown slowing or stabilization of disease in over 75% of participants for up to 25 months. Her work with sorafenib in thyroid cancer is being heralded as the first progress in the treatment of thyroid cancer in over 30 years. She has succeeded in opening additional clinical trials that may benefit all patients in all subtypes of advanced thyroid cancer, giving those with this disease new hope.

For more information on how to support the work of Dr. Brose, contact Katie Dewees Detzel at (215) 896-1927 or kdewees@upenn.edu.

Michael Pack, M.D., finds success in trials for advanced thyroid cancer

Attack Thyroid Cancer: Providing Hope Through New Therapies

Thyroid cancer, when detected in its early stages, is highly curable. As thyroid cancer continues to advance, treatment options become more limited, and the survival rate in patients rapidly declines. For patients with few options, clinical trials offer new hope. Unfortunately, clinical trials for advanced thyroid cancer are also limited and up until now have shown little promise.

For more information on how to support the work of Dr. Brose, contact Katie Dewees Detzel at (215) 896-1927 or kdewees@upenn.edu.

Michael Pack, M.D. is an attending gastroenterologist at Penn Medicine who is using the zebrafish model system to study GI cancer development and disease. Taking advantage of the ability to conduct mutagenesis screenings in this unique organism, Dr. Pack has discovered novel cancer-related functions for genes not previously considered to be important for the biology of GI cancers. Most recently, Dr. Pack has shown how changes in intestinal muscle contraction can influence the behavior of intestinal cells to model the earliest stage of cancer metastasis or tumor invasion. Using this model, Dr. Pack has identified a link between invasion and a condition known as oxidative stress, which frequently is detected in cancers and is associated with inflammation. Understanding invasion may lead to better detection and therapies for GI and other cancers.

SCIENCE CORNER

Penn Medicine and Abramson Cancer Center leadership and our devoted supporters in the Palm Beach community enjoyed two days of seminars and celebration to discuss advances being made in cancer research and patient care and healthy brain aging.

Vic and Rena Rowan Damone hosted a dinner for Penn Medicine in Palm Beach at Café L’Europe
Melanoma and Cutaneous Oncology: What You Need to Know!

A Q&A with Lynn Schuchter, M.D. – Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology and Director of the Melanoma and Cutaneous Oncology Program

Penn Annual Report (PAR):
We hear a lot about melanoma these days – what is it?

Lynn Schuchter (LS): Melanoma is the most serious form of skin cancer. It is a type of cancer that forms from melanocytes (a normal cell found in the skin that produces melanin). Of the many different types of melanoma, most are seen in the skin – most commonly on the arms, torso, and the legs, but also on nail beds, soles of the feet, scalp, eyes, or on mucosal surfaces. Each year over 68,700 cases of melanoma are diagnosed in the United States, and sadly, over the last 3 decades, the incidence rate of melanoma has steadily increased.

PAR: What should people look for to spot melanoma?
LS: Melanoma usually presents as an irregular mole, with the “ABCDE” characteristics.
• “A” is for asymmetry.
• “B” is for border irregularity.
• “C” is for color.
• “D” is for diameter.
• “E” is for evolution.
This can be a preexisting mole that has changed or a newly developed mole.

More advanced lesions may have inflammation, oozing, crusting, itching, ulceration, or bleeding. Such changes could be warning signs that melanoma may be developing. Careful monitoring of moles, as well as the rest of your skin, and quick action when something changes in a suspicious way or something new appears are among the steps you and your doctor can take to detect melanoma early, when it’s most curable.

PAR: What can I do to prevent melanoma?
LS: The best way to prevent melanoma is to:
• protect the skin from sun exposure (both natural and artificial);
• avoid sun exposure between 10am and 4pm;
• wear protective clothing when in the sun;
• use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or greater every day, even when it is cloudy and also in the winter.

Sunscreen use is especially important for children because sunburns during childhood greatly increase the risk of melanoma in adulthood. Consistent use of sunscreen has even shown the ability to reduce further skin damage in people with a history of extensive sun exposure. It is important to reapply sunscreen, and remember that both suntans and sunburns are damaging.

Finally, examine your skin regularly! Know what it looks like so you can identify changes that occur. Discuss any changes with your physician.

PAR: Who is at risk for melanoma?
LS: Risk factors for cutaneous melanoma include fair skin or complexion, a history of sunburns and/or prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light (both sun and artificial UV light), multiple moles, older age, a personal or family history of non-melanoma skin cancer, and melanoma. As we age, our years of sun exposure increase, and therefore the risk of melanoma increases, as well.

PAR: Are there good treatments for melanoma?
LS: Surgery is the main treatment for early stage melanoma. Clinical trials are testing many new agents for the treatment of advanced melanoma.

Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center has been a leader in new therapies for melanoma. Roche, a partnering pharmaceutical company, has developed a new drug called R05185426, which targets a mutation in a gene called BRAF. This gene appears to be an important growth driver in 60% of melanoma cases. With the discovery of “driver” genes like BRAF, drugs that block the protein that carries the genes' signals could defuse the cancer without serious side effects.

The Phase I clinical trial of this drug is complete. The success of this trial (a collaborative effort between Penn and five other major cancer centers across the country) is unlike anything that physicians and scientists in the melanoma community have seen before and offers much hope and excitement. Research is now underway to discover additional genes that undergo mutations and to block those in addition to BRAF, with a combination of drug therapy.

PAR: Does Penn have a melanoma program?
LS: Yes. The Melanoma and Cutaneous Oncology Program and its Pigmented Lesion/Melanoma Practice at Abramson Cancer Center is committed not only to identifying and treating melanoma as soon as possible, but also to preventing it. We have led the way nationally for...
The Abramson Cancer Center is pleased to welcome the following individuals to Penn as new faculty members. Each brings a wealth of experience and genuine enthusiasm to the pursuit of cancer research and patient care excellence.

**Gary Falk, M.D., M.S.**
Joins the Department of Gastroenterology as Professor of Medicine. Coming from the Cleveland Clinic, he is an expert in the area of esophageal cancer, with an interest in early detection and prevention as well as chemoprevention. He has served as president of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and is a member of several national societies. Dr. Falk received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine, completed his internship and residency at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital of Harvard Medical School. He went on to a clinical research fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Adam Cuker, M.D.**
Has joined the Division of Hematology/Oncology as Assistant Professor. Dr. Cuker specializes in the treatment of blood cancers, and his clinical research focuses on treatment of patients with bleeding and clotting disorders. Dr. Cuker received his medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine, completed his internship and residency at the Brigham and Women's Hospital of Harvard Medical School. He went on to a clinical research fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Andy J. Minn, M.D., Ph.D.**
Joins the Department of Radiation Oncology as Assistant Professor. He will work in developing a new basic and translational research program focused on the metastasis of breast cancer. Dr. Minn brings an important focus to stereotactic photon and proton radiation and will provide clinical services for patients undergoing stereotactic treatment in the department’s facilities within the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine. Dr. Minn also joins the Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute (AFCRI) as an Assistant Investigator, overseeing educational programs and assisting with management of core facilities. In the 1990’s Dr. Minn served as a graduate research assistant for Craig B. Thompson, M.D., at the University of Chicago, in the area of cancer biology and stress responses. He also received his medical degree at the Pritzker School of Medicine.
Helping Patients: Patient Services and Special Needs Fund

Philanthropy makes a direct impact on the lives of patients and their families

Caring for patients who have received a cancer diagnosis requires much more than advanced technology, the latest treatments, and world-class physicians. At the Abramson Cancer Center, we know that a patient’s emotional and psychological needs must also be met in order to achieve the best possible outcome both during and after treatments.

Our Patient and Family Support Services Program boasts teams of award-winning patient care specialists, counselors, nutritionists, and other experts. These teams help individuals cope with their diagnosis and navigate the oftentimes confusing medical systems.

Margaret Lazar, M.S., M.S.W., L.C.S.W., Director of the Patient and Family Services Program, explains, “When patients are diagnosed with cancer, they are thrown into a complex and often overwhelming world of cancer care, where they have to make decisions about treatment, but also take into account the financial and emotional stresses that a cancer diagnosis brings. Our patient navigators and support services are here to make that large world a little smaller and easier to walk through.”

Our Patient Special Needs Fund is an important resource for staff to have when helping patients and caregivers navigate the system while also dealing with work and family responsibilities. The fund is especially helpful for expenses not covered by insurance and for financially distressed patients. Patients undergoing cancer treatment may have extended stays at the hospital where family and friends frequently visit, often from many miles away. This fund helps support parking and transportation expenses, enabling those precious visits from loved ones. If patients experience a loss of income due to their diagnosis and care, or have financial hardships and struggle with medication, transportation, or other care expenses, the Patient Special Needs Fund is a resource to ease the burden of cancer. The fund also helps pay for additional televisions, DVD players, laptops, and reading materials for patients and families to access while undergoing treatment.

The Patient Special Needs Fund provides vital support for cancer patients and families in need. The impact a gift makes on the lives of our patients is invaluable. Thank you to all who have continued to support these special efforts!

To learn more about or to support the Patient and Family Services Program, please contact Michal Greenberg at (215) 573-2480 or michalg@upenn.edu.

Ellen Friedland Pinkus Popsicle Fund

Ellen F. Pinkus, loving wife and mother, lost her battle to breast cancer in August 2005. During her chemotherapy treatments, she found it soothing to eat popsicles, and wanted to make sure that other patients going through treatments would also have this comfort. Friends and family fulfilled her wishes and generously support the Popsicle Fund, which enables patients to have access to popsicles, keeping them hydrated and helping to reduce stress levels during treatments.

Ellen’s husband, Murray Pinkus says, “The Popsicle Fund was Ellen’s contribution to the battle against breast cancer and highlights how, even in times of stress, she considered the needs of other individuals who were undergoing their own battles against the disease. While she understood the importance of cutting-edge medical treatment, she also understood the importance of focusing on the intangibles.”

Nancy Jean Barnabei

“After being diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer, the Patient and Family Services Program was extremely helpful to me and my husband, in navigating the hospital system during a time when we felt very overwhelmed. Our patient support specialist came to see me in my hospital room after surgery, pulled up a chair, and compassionately offered to help me in any way possible. I realized people like that are unique and in short supply, and they work tirelessly to assist patients and their families during one of the most difficult times in their lives. The Patient and Family Services Program is a great source for cancer education, navigation, and true compassion. And so we feel it’s important to support their efforts to make sure the best possible care is available to all patients.”

Ellen Friedland Pinkus

“Pinkus Popsicle Fund” named after Ellen F. Pinkus

Ellen F. Pinkus, loving wife and mother, lost her battle to breast cancer in August 2005. During her chemotherapy treatments, she found it soothing to eat popsicles, and wanted to make sure that other patients going through treatments would also have this comfort. Friends and family fulfilled her wishes and generously support the Popsicle Fund, which enables patients to have access to popsicles, keeping them hydrated and helping to reduce stress levels during treatments.

Ellen’s husband, Murray Pinkus says, “The Popsicle Fund was Ellen’s contribution to the battle against breast cancer and highlights how, even in times of stress, she considered the needs of other individuals who were undergoing their own battles against the disease. While she understood the importance of cutting-edge medical treatment, she also understood the importance of focusing on the intangibles.”

To learn more about or to support the Patient and Family Services Program, please contact Michal Greenberg at (215) 573-2480 or michalg@upenn.edu.
Neuroendocrine Tumor Awareness

A patient’s experience with a very rare form of cancer

Suzi F. Garber, of Reading, PA, a neuroendocrine tumor patient at the Abramson Cancer Center, writes about her experience so that others may benefit from her story and become proactive advocates for themselves and their loved ones.

For many years, I had been misdiagnosed as having irritable bowel syndrome. After I wound up in the emergency ward in intense pain, I had a battery of tests. I learned I had an ileal bowel obstruction. An octreotide scan showed spots in my liver, which were subsequently biopsied and were positive for carcinoid cancer, Stage IV. I had been diagnosed with a rare cancer that had metastasized and was inoperable.

In learning more about neuroendocrine tumors (NETs, a rare type of cancer that starts in the neuroendocrine system – the part of the body where the nervous system and endocrine system work together), I discovered a listserv for carcinoid/NETs at www.acor.org. This was my introduction to an elite group of NET specialists. Carcinoid and neuroendocrine tumors fall into the same category. I became aware of the rate of misdiagnoses prevalent in patients with these diseases. I also learned that Penn was home to David C. Metz, M.D., a senior member of the Division of Gastroenterology at Penn and one of the most preeminent national experts in neuroendocrine tumors. I now realize there is a winding path to an actual diagnosis – we are referred to many specialists, there are differences in testing assays from lab to lab as well as in equipment, and radiological interpretation. I am so grateful that Philadelphia had a major medical center for such a rare cancer. Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center was a clear choice for the best possible care. We appreciate Dr. Metz, Michael C. Soulen, M.D., Douglas L. Fraker, M.D., and the whole team of specialists who were an exemplary team of cancer providers.

On a personal note, Dr. Metz has been supportive, flexible, caring, and accurate regarding my medical care. He has strongly supported me in both my mission to form a carcinoid/NETs support group (www.philycarcinoid.org) for the Philadelphia area and also my dream of the creation of a neuroendocrine tumor clinic at Penn Medicine.

MacDonald Gift to Prevent Women’s Cancers & Provide Hope

Gift will establish the Mariann and Robert MacDonald Women’s Cancer Risk Evaluation Center at the Abramson Cancer Center

The newly named MacDonald Women’s Cancer Risk Evaluation Center will be led by a truly talented clinical scientist, Susan M. Domchek, M.D., who is dedicated to the prevention and eradication of women’s cancers. Penn has been a leading institution in the research to identify the BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 genes and the development of prevention strategies for women who have these genetic risk indicators. The MacDonald Center will expand our research, as well as our community outreach and education efforts, to encourage genetic testing and preventative measures for high-risk families. By naming and endowing the MacDonald Center, this transformational gift will enhance the understanding and prevention of women’s cancers, while furthering our leadership in breast and gynecologic cancer clinical care.

This generous gift will also provide funding for immediate growth in staffing and additional research to grow our prevention efforts. It offers the opportunity to propel forward revolutionary clinical trials that allow Penn to offer industry-leading “personalized medicine” to patients. The MacDonald Cancer Risk Evaluation Center is an investment in life-changing work, and represents the future of cancer awareness, prevention, and treatment that can change the way that medicine is practiced.

To share your patient story, please contact Michal Greenberg at (215) 573-2480 or michalg@upenn.edu.
Planned Giving – Bequests

“For 8 years, my late wife, Kinny, and I made weekly or biweekly trips from Princeton, NJ to the Abramson Cancer Center. Any anxiety or trepidation we experienced during such trips was immediately dispelled by the compassionate and professional care given to Kinny by Dr. [John H.] Glick and his entire staff. That is why I have decided to remember the Abramson Cancer Center in my estate plans.”

– George Gallup

Planned giving provides individuals ways to create a lasting legacy by generously supporting the future of research and patient care programs at the Abramson Cancer Center through financial and estate planning. One of the many ways to create your legacy within planned giving is through bequests.

A bequest will make a difference in the lives of others and give back to the community while not affecting your current income. Your bequest will also strengthen our mission and enable the most innovative and compassionate cancer care into the future. Your legacy will continue to provide hope to those whose lives are touched by cancer.

You can direct your bequest to support a specific research or clinical area of cancer. Your estate gift can honor a doctor, support a specific type of research, or fight a type of cancer that has affected your family. You can have the satisfaction of knowing that your bequest will support cancer patients and families during their cancer journey.

The process is simple. Speak to your family about your wishes and ask your attorney to draft a codicil – an addendum – to your will. It is not necessary to rewrite your entire will and all other estate plans will remain in place. Consider planning your legacy for future generations at Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center through bequests.

For more information, please contact: Christine S. Ewan at (215) 898-9486 or cewan@upenn.edu

You can also find out at: www.pennmedicine.org/Abramson/donate

Are you on the list? Find out at: www.pennmedicine.org/Abramson/donate

We want to take this opportunity to thank our donors for their continuous support during the past fiscal year and for strengthening Abramson Cancer Center’s mission to eradicate cancer! Visit our first online annual report for a full list of our donors…including you!

For any questions contact Team Captain SueAnne Clark at sueanne.clark@uphs.upenn.edu.

FOR INFORMATION OR APPOINTMENTS

We hope you never need us. But if you do, please know that we are here for you with a “patients first” attitude and a compassionate environment to offer hope and comfort to those who need it most.

Call (800) 789-PENN (7366) or visit our website at www.PennMedicine.org/Abramson

For the latest information about cancer – visit our award-winning internet resource, OncoLink, at www.oncolink.org

HELP

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Abramson Cancer Center

Development Office
3535 Market Street, Suite 750
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3309
(215) 898-0578
www.PennMedicine.org/Abramson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

American Cancer Society Bike-a-thon
Sunday, July 11, 2010 6:55 am – 1:00 pm
Ben Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia to Buena Vista, NJ
Join Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center and The Cancer Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia as a member of the Penn Medicine/CHOP Team for The American Cancer Society’s 38th Annual Bike-a-thon. Cancer survivors will lead riders over the Ben Franklin Bridge beginning the ride to save lives.
For any questions contact Team Captain SueAnne Clark at sueanne.clark@uphs.upenn.edu.

August

Philadelphia Livestrong™ Challenge
Saturday, August 21 – Sunday, August 22, 2010
Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA
Join Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center and The Cancer Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia as a member of the Penn Medicine/CHOP Team for the Philadelphia LIVESTRONG™ CHALLENGE. Support the Lance Armstrong Foundation and its mission to inspire and empower people affected by cancer. For more information, contact Team Captain, SueAnne Clark at sueanne.clark@uphs.upenn.edu.

October

2010 QVC Present’s “FFANY Shoes on Sale”
Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, NY
The Fashion Footwear Association of New York and QVC, along with spokeswoman Fergie, from the Black Eyed Peas, join forces for their 17th annual gala and charitable shoe sale to benefit breast cancer research. Over $32.5 million has been donated to fund cutting-edge research and education at leading cancer organizations including the Abramson Cancer Center. For more information visit: www.ffany.org/index.php/shoes-on-sale.

Breast Cancer Research Foundation Symposium and Luncheon
Wednesday, October 27, 2010 – 9:45 am
Waldorf-Astoria, New York City
This half-day event features a panel discussion on the latest in breast cancer research and celebratory luncheon. For more information, contact Laura Rostock at (215) 746-2948 or erostock@upenn.edu.

For more information on any events, go to www.PennMedicine.org/Abramson/Events

Ron Schwartz received the Advocacy Award at the recent GI (gastrointestinal) Patient Education Conference to honor his service to the GI community. Pictured from left: Jeffrey A. Drebin, M.D., Ph.D., Ron Schwartz (center) and family, James M. Metz, M.D., and Weijing Sun, M.D.