

# UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center NEWSLETTER



## Year-End Gifts Help Support Research Year-Round

Nearly half of all charitable donations are made in December. The Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation makes it easy for donors to support research at JCCC. Gifts can be made online and donors can direct their gifts to a particular researcher (e.g., you) or type of cancer research. This season, why not ask family and friends to make a gift to support your research instead? Donors can even send you a nice holiday eCard announcing their gift. [Learn more >](#)

### JCCC Member Resources

- Visit our [membership info page](#) to find out all of the benefits and privileges that are available to you as a JCCC member.

### Clinical Trials at Your Fingertips

- Connect you and your patients with clinical trials at UCLA. [Click here](#) to learn all about how you can use any mobile device (including your smartphone) to access JCCC's clinical trials database.

### Shared Resources at UCLA

- As a member you have access to several shared resources at JCCC, and over 70 additional shared resources at UCLA. Visit the [Shared Resources page](#) to learn more.

### Funding Opportunities

- Members can now [access online](#) a complete list of the latest research grant opportunities directly from the JCCC website.

### Update Your Member Profile

- Do you need a new member photo? Have new publications? Want to update your bio? Read the [member profile guidelines](#) to learn how.

### Latest News

#### FDA Approves Drug that Extends Survival in the Most Common Type of Lung Cancer



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week approved the drug Cyramza to treat non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC), offering patients new hope in fighting this difficult disease. Led by JCCC member Dr. Edward Garon, research was conducted as part of a multi-year, phase 3 clinical trial on more than 1,200 patients, and the drug is the first in previously treated NSCLC patients to demonstrate a survival benefit in the entire study population in approximately a decade.

[Read more >](#)

#### Study Finds Promising Drug Doubled Positive Effect in Hormone-Receptor Positive Breast Cancer



JCCC members Drs. Richard Finn and Dennis Slamon have published final clinical trial results that progression-free survival was effectively doubled in women with advanced breast cancer who took the experimental drug palbociclib. Results of the phase 2 trial found that over 80 percent of the metastatic ER+ breast cancer patients in the study received some benefit from this treatment, and that the drug doesn't have side effects like traditional chemotherapy.

[Read more >](#)

#### UCLA Researchers Identify Unique Protein Key to the Development of Blood Stem Cells



In a groundbreaking new study, UCLA scientists have discovered a unique protein that is integral to the self-renewal of hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) during human development. Led by JCCC member Dr. Hanna Mikkola, the discovery lays the groundwork for researchers to generate HSCs *in vitro* that better mirror those *in vivo*. This could lead to improved therapies for blood-related diseases and cancers by enabling the creation of patient-specific blood stem cells for transplantation.

[Read more >](#)

### Social Networking Tools

- JCCC is on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Learn how to follow us and stay connected!



### UCLA Scientists Discover Why Certain Patients Respond to a Life-Saving Melanoma Drug



In a new study led by JCCC members Drs. Paul Tumeah and Antoni Ribas, UCLA scientists have pioneered a new methodology to predict why some patients battling advanced melanoma respond well or not at all to the new breakthrough drug Keytruda. Over the two-year study, their team analyzed 46 patients with advanced melanoma treated with pembrolizumab who had undergone tumor biopsies before and during treatment, and classified them according to whether the patient responded or not to pembrolizumab.

[Read more >](#)

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