

Fiscal Year 2024 Accomplishments  
(April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025)

## **AWARDS AND GROWTH**

### **Roswell Park Again Named an 'LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader'**

Following an extensive survey, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC) has once again named Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader on its 2024 [Healthcare Equality Index](#) (HEI). Now in its 16th edition, the HEI is a national benchmarking tool that evaluates healthcare facilities' policies and practices related to the equity and inclusion of their LGBTQ+ patients, visitors and employees.

### **SVP and Chief HR Officer recognized as a Chief People Officer to know**

Errol Douglas, PhD, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer has been recognized on Becker's Hospital Review's "[84 CHROs and chief people officers to know](#)" feature! Dr. Douglas has built "a deep skill set" over his 15 years spent as an executive leader in human-resources management, the publication notes.

### **Roswell Park Salon 'Elevates' Patient Experience with New Name**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announced the naming of the New Era Cap Foundation Elevate Salon. The naming of the salon, located in Roswell Park's downtown campus, comes with a \$1 million endowed gift from the New Era Cap Foundation and New Era Cap LLC.

### **Roswell Park Alliance Foundation appoints Kate Kaming as new Vice President of Development**

The Roswell Park Alliance Foundation is proud to announce the hiring of Kate Kaming into a newly created role for the organization. Kaming will serve as the Vice President for Development for the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation and the Senior Executive Director for Grateful Patient Philanthropy for Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Roswell Park leaders recognized on Buffalo Business First Power 250 list**

Congratulations to the Roswell Park leaders recognized on Buffalo Business First's 2024 [Power 250](#) list! Among those recognized for their impact and influence were Candace S. Johnson, PhD, President and CEO; Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD, Deputy Director and Chair of Medicine; and Laszlo Mechtler, MD, Chief of Neuro-Oncology — as well as Roswell Park Board of Directors Chair Leecia Eve, Esq., and several members of our Roswell Park and Alliance Foundation

Boards: Scott Bieler, Dr. Greg Daniel, Eric Feldstein, James Newman and Patrick Lee. We join Business First in celebrating these outstanding leaders and all they make possible for our community!

### **Roswell Park celebrates achievements of Women in Science**

In celebration of Women's History Month, Roswell Park hosted a special seminar and panel discussion, "Women in and for Science: Reflections on History, Career Development and Achievements."

Organized by recent Roswell Park graduates in collaboration with the Plan to Enhance Diversity program, the event highlighted a timeline of contributions from women throughout Roswell Park's 125-year history as well as insights from a panel featuring Candace S. Johnson, PhD, President and CEO, Grace Dy, MD, Director of Translational Research for Thoracic Medicine, and AnneMarie Block, PhD, Emeritus Director, Clinical Cytogenetics Lab.

### **We welcome four new clinical chiefs to Roswell Park**

Welcome and congratulations to four Roswell Park staff physicians – including three newer recruits to the cancer center – who have earned the role of chief in their respective clinical departments:

- **Aleodor "Doru" Andea, MD, MBA**, Chief of Dermatopathology and Director of Molecular Dermatopathology
- **Kenan Onel, MD, PhD**, Chief of Clinical Genomics and founding Director of the Center for Precision Oncology
- **Jenny Romero, MD**, Chief of Head & Neck Medicine and General Medical Oncology
- **Zhongbo "Jerry" Yang, MD**, Chief of Cytopathology

### **Roswell Park Chief Medical Officer recognized on Becker's Hospital Review list**

Julia Faller, DO, Chief Medical Officer, has been named to Becker's Hospital Review's [180 Chief Medical Officers to Know list](#). Since joining Roswell Park as an anesthesiologist and physician leader in 2009, Dr. Faller's incisiveness and creativity have helped to ensure high-quality, effective, patient-centered cancer care across many teams and disciplines. Promoted from chief of perioperative services to CMO in February 2024, she builds on close collaboration and insights from leadership of numerous clinical care committees

### **Roswell Park Thoracic Chair Tapped as Chief Strategy Officer, Senior VP of Business Development & Outreach**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has appointed [Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS](#), as Chief Strategy Officer and Senior Vice President of Business Development and Outreach. Dr. Yendamuri has worked tirelessly to improve lung cancer care and outcomes both in the clinic

and laboratory since his start at Roswell Park in 2007. Appointed Chair of Thoracic Surgery in 2015, he leads a grant portfolio of more than \$6 million in peer-reviewed funding with focuses on understanding the connections between obesity cancer as well as care for patients undergoing lung resection. In this elevated role, Dr. Yendamuri will supervise Roswell Park's overall strategic development and identify potential for growth on national and international levels.

#### **Roswell Park leader honored for COVID-19 guidance and contributions**

Roswell Park's [Brahm Segal, MD](#), Chair of Internal Medicine and Chief of Infectious Diseases, was honored by the National Comprehensive Cancer Center Network for his contributions as a co-leader of the NCCN's COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee. The NCCN presented its Outstanding Contribution Award, which recognizes passion for improving the care of people with cancer and exceeding expectations in service of NCCN's mission, to Dr. Segal and the other 35 members of the committee. This group worked quickly to provide evidence and consensus-based guidance during a time of uncertainty. The latest recommendations are now included in the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines) on the Prevention and Treatment of Cancer-Related Infections.

#### **Vice President of Patient Care Experience recognized on Becker's Hospital Review list**

Congratulations to **Kimberly Sweeney, RN, Vice President of Patient Care Experience**, recognized on [Becker's Hospital Review's 54 Chief Experience Officers to Know](#) list. Sweeney heads the team that navigates patients and their loved ones through clinical care and every dimension of spiritual, mental, social and survivorship support. She brings to the role a deep understanding of what a family facing cancer experiences, having participated in oncology care as both a frontline nurse and a primary caregiver.

#### **Two team members take on new responsibilities**

Congratulations to **Sudha Bommidi, MBA, FACHE**, and **Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS**, on their new leadership appointments!

Dr. Yendamuri has been named Chief Strategy Officer and Senior Vice President of Business Development and Outreach. In his new role Dr. Yendamuri will develop and lead a regional, national and international care strategy that fulfills our commitment to integrating outstanding comprehensive, patient-centered care across disciplines, departments and affiliations. He will ensure that business and clinical initiatives are delivered appropriately and support maximal quality, efficiency and impact.

Bommidi, appointed Chief Operating Officer of RPCI Oncology PC, will now be responsible for the overall operations, administration, finances and human resources of the Roswell Park Care Network. She will provide strategic leadership across the Roswell Park Care Network and continue to align the mission, vision and values of our organization with the individual sites.

#### **Roswell Park executives recognized on Black Leaders in Healthcare list**

Congratulations to [Errol Douglas, PhD](#), Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, and [Crystal Rodriguez-Dabney, Esq.](#), Chief Diversity Officer, on being named to [Becker's Hospital Review's 231 Black Leaders in Healthcare](#) list.

In his nine years at Roswell Park, Douglas has led several major initiatives, including the formation of the first formal corporate social responsibility program, the establishment of an organizational development unit, and the multiyear planning and implementation of a new resource-management system. He also helped cement Roswell Park as one of the top three employers in New York State based on an anonymous worker survey covering work culture, benefits and inclusion.

Rodriguez-Dabney joined the senior leadership team last year, continuing a two-decade career path in public service. The U.S. Navy veteran leads an independent department which, in partnership with teams across the workforce, drives initiatives to ensure a culture of belonging and opportunity for employees and the broader community. Her past leadership roles include serving as the City of Buffalo's first chief diversity officer and as deputy mayor.

#### **Roswell Park Radiation Research Director Vice Chair**

Congratulations to [Anurag Singh, MD](#), Director of Radiation Research, on being appointed as Alliance Prevention Committee Vice-Chair for the Alliance Cancer Control Program. The Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology Foundation seeks to reduce the impact of cancer by uniting a broad community of scientists and clinicians committed to discovering effective strategies for the prevention and treatment of cancer.

#### **Chief Digital and Information Officer named to CIO's to Know list**

Applause to [Buddy Hickman](#), Chief Digital and Information Officer, on being named to Becker's Hospital Review's [133 CIO's to Know list](#). A past board chair for both CHIME and HIMSS, Hickman joined Roswell Park in January. Already, he and his team have delivered a major enterprise network upgrade to benefit patients, clinicians and researchers. An industry speaker, author and mentor in the digital health leadership sphere, Hickman has served the health industry as a CIO for more than two decades, including roles at Ernst & Young and PWC.

#### **Roswell Park Earns 'Exceptional' Rating from National Cancer Institute With Best-Ever Core Grant**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has earned its most highly rated grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The NCI renewed Roswell Park's status as a Comprehensive Cancer Center — a designation held by less than 4% of cancer centers — awarding Roswell Park the highest possible "Exceptional" rating as it renewed a grant Roswell Park has successfully competed for since 1972. The five-year award is Roswell Park's 13th consecutive Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) from the NCI. No cancer center has held NCI designation longer than Roswell Park, which is one of the model programs on which the Cancer Centers program was based.

## **Warren Alpert Prize Honors Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD, 3 Other Pioneers in CAR T-Cell Therapy**

The 2024 Warren Alpert Foundation Prize has been awarded to four scientists, including [Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD](#), Katherine Anne Gioia Endowed Chair of Medicine and Deputy Director of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. The award goes to those whose transformational discoveries led to the creation of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells, a treatment that modifies patients' immune cells and optimizes their ability to eliminate cancer cells. CAR T-cell therapy, the first successful example of synthetic biology used in clinical medicine, has saved the lives of tens of thousands of adults and children with blood cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

## **Community Outreach center receives NAACP President's Award**

The Roswell Park Community Outreach & Engagement Center at 907 Michigan Avenue was presented the Buffalo NAACP 2024 President's Award — the highest honor presented by the organization's Buffalo Branch.

The awards committee selected our center for this distinguished recognition "for its service to spread cancer awareness and the opportunity for decision making and healthcare inclusiveness within the community." The COE Center opened in fall 2023 as a space to nurture partnerships, empowerment and well-being.

## **Roswell Park Appoints 5 New Leaders Overseeing Key Areas of Patient Care and Support**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has appointed five new leaders overseeing various aspects of patient care and supportive services. One is new to Roswell Park, while four are team members promoted to new roles.

- **Lovejeet "LJ" Atwal, MSN, FNP, RN**, was promoted to Chief of Advanced Practice Nursing.
- **Maegan Chmura, MSN, RN**, was promoted to Executive Director of Inpatient Nursing and Nursing Operations, overseeing nursing supervision as well as nursing operations for the Assessment & Treatment Center and transfer team.
- **Claudia Diamonte, BSN, RN**, was promoted to Executive Director of Hematology-Oncology Nursing Services.
- **Roxanne Dudish, MS, RN**, was appointed Executive Director of Transitions of Care.
- **Susan LaValley, PhD**, was named Executive Director of Patient Education.

## **Roswell Park Ranked by Forbes Among America's Best Employers for Women 2024**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center made its debut on the Forbes list of America's Best Employers for Women 2024, ranking in the top one-quarter among the 600 organizations

included. Roswell Park is one of only three cancer centers nationally to be recognized with this prestigious distinction, which is presented by Forbes and Statista Inc. The list of awardees was revealed by [Forbes](#). America's Best Employers for Women were identified through an independent survey of over 150,000 women working for companies employing at least 1,000 people within the U.S. from all industry sectors.

#### **Roswell Park President and CEO ranks on Buffalo Business First's Power 200 Women list**

Congratulations to Roswell Park's President and CEO, Dr. Candace Johnson, #2 on Buffalo Business First's Power 200 Women list of the most influential women in WNY! We are grateful for her leadership and dedication to our mission of eradicating cancer's impact. We'd also like to recognize our other Roswell Park leaders recognized in this feature: Laurel DiBrog, Linda Dobmeier, Cindy Eller, Leecia Eve, Anne Gioia and Donna Gioia.

#### **Hyundai Hope On Wheels Awards \$100,000 to Roswell Park to Support Pediatric Palliative Care**

[Hyundai Hope On Wheels®](#) (HHOW), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by Hyundai Motor America and its U.S. dealers, awarded a \$100,000 Hyundai Impact Award Grant to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center to continue its long-standing fight against pediatric cancer. The Hyundai Impact Award was presented to [Kanwal Mallhi, MD](#), at Roswell Park to establish a dedicated pediatric palliative care program. Dr. Mallhi joined Roswell Park in 2023 as the Clinical Director of the Pediatric Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Program.

#### **Roswell Park Again Named a Top 10 New York State Employer by Forbes**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is pleased to be recognized again on Forbes' [Best Employers by State](#) listing, ranked in the top 10 among New York State employers. This is the third year in a row Roswell Park has made the list. Roswell Park is the only healthcare organization in Western New York to make this year's Best Employers by State, and one of only two health employers in the top 10 for New York.

#### **Vice President of Office of Transformation Management named to Becker's Hospital Review list**

Applause to David Donovan, Vice President of the Office of Transformation Management, on being named to [Becker's Hospital Review's](#) 48 Chief Transformation Officers to Know list! David leads strategic planning and project management for major projects, applying insights on business development, healthcare network-building, supply chain management and more as he helps conceptualize and lead new initiatives and support objectives for growth and transformation at Roswell Park.

#### **Roswell Park Receives \$1 Million Gift from The 11 Day Power Play**

[The 11 Day Power Play](#) presented Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center with a \$1 million gift to fuel new, innovative cancer research.

Since the first event in 2017, The 11 Day Power Play has raised \$11 million, contributing \$6 million to support cancer research and wellness programs at Roswell Park. Each year, the event brings the hockey community together for 11 days of non-stop games.

### **Congressman Kennedy Announces Over \$7.7 Million for State-of-the-Art Biobank at Roswell Park**

Congressman Tim Kennedy (NY-26) announced \$7,731,872 in new federal funding for Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center to renovate its newly integrated biobank, the Roswell Park Biorepository, made possible through the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Research Facilities Construction Grants.

### **Staff Resiliency Initiatives Earn Roswell Park AMA 'Joy in Medicine' Recognition**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has earned recognition from the American Medical Association (AMA) as a Joy in Medicine health organization. This honor, valid for two years, recognizes healthcare organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to enhancing the well-being and professional fulfillment of their physicians by meeting rigorous criteria of the [Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program](#). The award comes at a time when physician burnout remains a critical issue in healthcare.

### **Roswell Park Team Members Recognized for Exceptional Support to First Responders**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to announce that **Kimberly Sweeney, MBA, RN**, Vice President of Patient Care Experience, has been awarded the distinguished Trooper Stetson Award by the New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association (PBA), and **Ashley Snowden**, Executive Director of Physician and Valued Partner Engagement, received the Meritorious Service Award from the Buffalo Fire Department and Buffalo Fire Fighters Local 282.

### **Roswell Park Launches First-of-Its-Kind Oncology Training Program for Nurse-Scientists With \$2M NCI Grant**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, in partnership with the University at Buffalo (UB) School of Nursing, has received a five-year, \$2.11 million Institutional Clinical Scientist Awards (K12) grant from the National Cancer Institute to establish a training program for nurse-scientists focused around clinical translational research. The [Roswell Park/University at Buffalo Oncology Nurse Scientist Training Program](#) will support two to three nurses with a PhD or equivalent degree each year, offering two years of highly personalized and advanced research training — the first such program offering advanced training in oncology research.



## **Governor Hochul Celebrates Opening of New York's First Cell and Gene Therapy Hub at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center In Buffalo**

Governor Kathy Hochul celebrated the opening of the Roswell Park GMP Engineering and Cell Manufacturing (GEM) Facility, New York's first cell and gene therapy hub, located at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo. The \$98 million facility will create new jobs, help to support the research and development of life-saving cell and gene therapies at Roswell, significantly grow its well-established research capabilities, and establish Roswell as one of the premier cell therapy discovery and development institutions in the nation. The expansion also realizes Governor Hochul's 2023 State of the State commitment to bolster the state's leadership in the fast-growing CGT sector through establishment of an Upstate cell and gene therapy hub to catalyze its growth in western NY. The GEM facility meets U.S. FDA Good Manufacturing Practice standards for manufacture of clinical cell therapy products, positioning the Roswell Park team to be a multifaceted resource for patients, care teams, researchers and industry collaborators.

## **Buffalo Spree Names Record 143 Roswell Park Physicians as Top Doctors for 2025**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center honors the 143 physicians across 35 specialties named to Buffalo Spree magazine's Top Doctors list for 2025. The annual list is compiled through surveys submitted by Western New York physicians. The Roswell Park physicians on this year's list represent a record number of Buffalo Spree 2025 Top Doctors from the comprehensive cancer center.

## **Roswell Park's Marketing Team Recognized with Two eHealthcare Leadership Awards**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center was recently honored with two eHealthcare Leadership Awards at the 25th annual Healthcare Internet Conference (HCIC). Out of nearly 1,000 entries nationwide, Roswell Park received:

- **Platinum Award for Best Email Content – Individual Email:** Roswell Park's "**Physician Resources**" digital physician outreach and engagement e-mail campaign received the top honor in this category. This campaign showcased real-life examples of young adults with cancer, underscoring Roswell Park's personalized approach to care.
- **Silver Award for Best Internet Site:** This award reflected the collaborative efforts of Roswell Park's in-house web development, content and video teams in creating a digital presence, [roswellpark.org](https://roswellpark.org), that provides a seamless user experience for a variety of site visitors reflecting distinct needs.

## **Roswell Park Blood Cancer Expert Honored With Prestigious GVHD Research Award**

The GVHD Alliance honored [Shernan Holtan, MD](#), Chief of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Professor of Medicine at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, as the recipient of



the 2025 Lukas D. Wartman Award. This recognition acknowledges Dr. Holtan's groundbreaking contributions to improving outcomes for patients battling graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), a common complication of stem cell and bone marrow transplantation.

### **Roswell Park Team Gets the Call: 'You've Earned Magnet Recognition for Nursing Excellence'**

On Feb. 25, 2005, on a call with officials from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), nurses from teams across Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center learned that they earned a prestigious distinction: [Magnet® Recognition](#) for nursing excellence. The designation follows an in-depth review by the ANCC, and signifies that Roswell Park nurses have met stringent standards for nursing excellence in patient care delivery. Roswell Park is among only about 10 percent of U.S. hospitals that have ever achieved Magnet recognition.

### **Roswell Park's Intensive Care Unit Earns National Recognition for Exceptional Patient Outcomes**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) has earned the prestigious Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), a recognition that underscores the hospital's commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care. The Bronze award to Roswell Park marks the cancer center's second national award for nursing excellence so far this year, joining [Magnet® Recognition](#) from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

### **Roswell Park Named One of Only 37 Optum Cancer Centers of Excellence for Adult and Pediatric Patients**

Health services leader Optum has once again recognized Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as a Center of Excellence (COE) for both adult and pediatric cancer treatment — a designation granted to only 37 institutions in the nation. The distinction highlights Roswell Park's position as a national leader in both patient care and groundbreaking cancer research. Optum created its [Cancer Centers of Excellence network](#) to connect patients with cost-effective, high-quality care for complex and difficult-to-treat cancers. Awarded following a rigorous evaluation process, the Center of Excellence designation reaffirms Roswell Park's position among the foremost cancer centers in the U.S.

## **CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Roswell Park Teams Report Latest Findings on Obesity & Cancer, Other High-Priority Research at AACR 2024**

Researchers from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will share their latest findings with colleagues from around the world at the 2024 annual meeting of the American Association

for Cancer Research (AACR) in San Diego, California, April 5-10. Obesity is now recognized as a leading cause of cancer, second only to smoking. The work of Roswell Park faculty will be featured in two presentations addressing that issue during a major symposium on The Growing Impact of Obesity on Cancer and Cancer Immunotherapy Outcomes.

### **Roswell Park Research Debunks Perceived Benefits of Overweight/Obesity in Lung Cancer Patients**

Research conducted at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has identified two main “confounding factors” that help explain why previous studies reached the inaccurate conclusion that overweight and obesity are potentially beneficial for lung cancer patients. [Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS](#), Chair of Thoracic Surgery at Roswell Park, will discuss his team’s findings during a major symposium at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in San Diego, California, April 5-10, 2024.

Dr. Yendamuri led a research team that included [Santosh Patnaik, MD, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology, Department of Thoracic Surgery, and [Joseph Barbi, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology, Department of Immunology.

### **Roswell Park-Led Team Identifies New Approach to Boosting Effectiveness of Chemotherapy in Hematologic Cancers**

A team of researchers from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Markey Cancer Center in Lexington, Kentucky, report that the efficacy of doxorubicin, a widely used chemotherapy drug, was enhanced in preclinical lymphoma models when it was combined with propranolol, a beta-2 adrenergic receptor ( $\beta$ -AR) blocker commonly used to treat high blood pressure, and which also blocks the effects of stress in the body. Led by Roswell Park postdoctoral fellow **Saeed Daneshmandi, PhD**, and senior author **Hemn Mohammadpour, DVM, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Cell Stress Biology at Roswell Park, the study, “Myeloid-derived suppressor cell mitochondrial fitness governs chemotherapeutic efficacy in hematologic malignancies,” is [newly published](#) in *Nature Communications*.

### **New Evidence Explains Why Some Targeted Therapies Support Better Response to Cancer Immunotherapy**

A recent research effort spearheaded by experts at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center demonstrates a way to exploit drug side effects in order to prime tumors to support better responses to immunotherapy. [Newly published](#) in *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the study outlines a novel finding with significant implications for clinical care and research. The scientists discovered that oral cancer drugs that target tumors by restricting new blood vessel growth, or angiogenesis, can also hijack senescence, a process related to cellular aging.

## **Pathways Study Genotype Data, Alliance A011502 Secondary Analysis Headline Roswell Park ASCO24 Presentations**

New insights on improving clinical outcomes and quality of life among breast cancer patients highlight the slate of new research presentations Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center experts will deliver at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting at McCormick Place in Chicago. Two physician-scientists from Roswell Park's Breast Cancer Medical Oncology team will give invited talks on original research during the gathering of global oncology experts, patients and patient advocates, which begins Friday, May 31.

### **Roswell Park-Led Research Shows Muscle & Fat Strongly Linked to Survival in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer**

Researchers from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and five partner institutions are shedding light on how body composition at the time of diagnosis relates to mortality in patients with epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC), a subject about which little is known. The team's findings are reported in a new study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Led by principal investigator and senior author [Rikki Cannioto, PhD, EdD, MS](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology, Department of Cancer Prevention & Control, the study analyzed pre-chemotherapy clinical data and CT image-based body composition data from 500 EOC patients in the ongoing Body Composition and Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Survival (BComES) study at Roswell Park, also led by Dr. Cannioto.

### **Study Shows Polygenic Risk Score (PGS) Could Predict Breast Cancer Survival Outcomes**

Data from a large prospective cohort study reveal that a polygenic risk score has the potential to predict survival outcomes in patients with breast cancer. **Arya Mariam Roy, MBBS**, Hematology/Oncology Fellow (Class of 2024) at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, will share the results of that study as the first and presenting author of "Breast cancer polygenic risk score and patient survival outcomes in the Pathways study" at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago, May 31-June 4.

### **New Study from Roswell Park Pinpoints Cells That May Drive Treatment Resistance in Prostate Cancer**

A research effort led by [Dean Tang, PhD](#), of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center sheds light on a critical area of oncologic study — the biology and mechanisms behind castration-resistant prostate cancer. The team's findings, published in the journal *Cell Stem Cell* and reflecting six years of collaborative research, offer a new understanding of castration resistance and prostate cancer biology that could point the way to new treatment strategies.

### **Roswell Park Insights on Role of Exportin 1 Protein Suggest Strategy for Improving Cancer Immunotherapy**

A team of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center experts led by [Hemn Mohammadpour, DVM, PhD](#), conducted research that offers new insights into tumor biology and may lay the

groundwork for more effective cancer immunotherapy. Their preclinical findings were [published](#) in the journal Cellular & Molecular Immunology. “We discovered that a protein highly expressed by tumor cells and targeted in treatments for cancers like multiple myeloma is also highly expressed by myeloid-derived suppressor cells,” notes Saeed Daneshmandi, PhD, study first author and a postdoctoral researcher with the Department of Cell Stress Biology at Roswell Park. “This discovery is important because it reveals the previously unknown immunoregulatory mechanism of the FDA-approved Exportin 1 inhibitor selinexor, suggesting that XPO1 blockade could be effective in combination therapy — particularly in solid tumors, where selinexor alone has shown limited success.”

### **FDA Expands Orphan Drug Designation for SurVaxM, Immunotherapy Developed at Roswell Park**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded orphan drug designation for SurVaxM, a brain cancer immunotherapy born in the labs of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. The supplemental designation awarded to MimiVax Inc. now applies to SurVaxM as treatment for not just adult glioblastoma but a broader category of cancerous brain tumors: any malignant glioma in children or adults. Orphan status is a designation awarded by the FDA to encourage research and development of drugs that have shown promise in treating, preventing or diagnosing rare diseases.

### **Daily Use of E-Cigarettes Linked to Higher Cigarette Quit Rates, Roswell Park Research Shows**

Adults in the U.S. who used e-cigarettes daily and also smoked combustible cigarettes were more likely to quit smoking than those who smoked but used e-cigarettes less frequently, according to a study led by experts at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. The research, [published](#) in the journal JAMA Network Open, suggests that daily e-cigarette use may help some people quit using combustible cigarettes.

### **Final Results of Phase 2 Clinical Trial Clarify Role of JAK2 Inhibitor in Combating Acute Graft-Versus-Host Disease**

A study led by [Brian Betts, MD](#), Vice Chair of Strategic Initiatives for Transplant & Cellular Therapy at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, demonstrates that adding a JAK2 inhibitor to standard immunosuppressive drugs does not improve prevention of acute graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), a serious complication of treatment in patients with hematologic cancers who undergo stem cell transplant. The results show that further research is warranted to determine whether this strategy might benefit patients who experience the chronic, more widely systemic form of GVHD. The study is [newly published](#) in Blood, the leading journal in the field of hematology.

### **Roswell Park-Designed Treatment Regimen Doubles Progression-Free Survival in Metastatic Kidney Cancer**

A phase 1/2 clinical trial for patients with metastatic kidney cancer demonstrated that a novel two-agent treatment regimen developed at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center more than doubled progression-free survival compared with single-agent treatment. [Saby George, MD, FACP](#), Professor of Oncology and Medicine and Director of Network Clinical Trials at Roswell Park, served as Principal Investigator of the study and delivered the findings of the phase 2 portion in a [poster presentation](#) at the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

### **Inherited Changes in BRCA Genes Linked to Increased Risk of Multiple Myeloma**

A significant number of multiple myeloma patients may have an inherited but previously unrecognized risk of developing the disease — a type of blood cancer that affects plasma cells. That's the finding of a genetic study that is the first to definitively associate multiple myeloma risk with inherited differences in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. The study also suggests that genetic testing for young or newly diagnosed patients could help clinicians identify the most promising treatment option for those patients. Led by [Kenan Onel, MD, PhD](#), Chief of Clinical Genomics and Director of the Center for Precision Oncology and Cancer Prevention at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the study was [published Sept. 16](#) by Blood Cancer Discovery, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

### **Disparities Narrowing Among Patients Undergoing Blood Stem Cell Transplant, Roswell Park Study Reveals**

Every year, more than 22,000 patients in the U.S. undergo a potentially lifesaving blood stem cell transplant — often called a “bone marrow transplant” — for the treatment of hematologic diseases. But historically, some patients with blood cancers have been less likely than others to receive the treatment. [Theresa Hahn, PhD](#), of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is lead author of a [new study](#) in the journal *JAMA Network Open* showing that while progress has been made in reducing those disparities, older adults and Black patients are much less likely than people from other groups to receive a [blood stem cell transplant](#).

### **Study Highlights Promising New Treatment Option for Patients With Treatment-Resistant Acute Myeloid Leukemia**

The Clinical Leukemia Service at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center helped lead the first clinical trial of the experimental oral drug ziftomenib in patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). The results of the KOMET-001 study, [published](#) in The Lancet Oncology, show that the drug — part of a class of targeted therapies known as menin inhibitors — produced a partial or complete response in about a third of patients, all of whom had received two or more prior therapies. All 83 patients enrolled in the study experienced disease progression after receiving between 2 and 9 prior therapies. The most pronounced results were seen in patients with NPM1 mutations and KMT2A rearrangements — profiles associated with poorer clinical outcomes.

## **Roswell Park Radiation Oncologist Highlights New Insights on Single-Fraction Radiation for Central Lung Tumors**

As the American Society for Radiation Oncology gathers for its annual meeting, radiation oncologist [Mark Farrugia, MD, PhD](#) from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is highlighting new evidence that a single dose, or “fraction,” of radiation therapy may be as effective as multiple radiotherapy treatments in addressing lung cancer tumors located centrally in the lung.

## **Breakthrough Clinical Trial Reveals Better Treatment for Advanced Classic Hodgkin Lymphoma**

Updated results from a phase 3 clinical trial are expected to change the way advanced stage classic Hodgkin lymphoma (cHL) is treated in newly diagnosed adolescents and adults. Details appear in a study [published](#) in The New England Journal of Medicine. Data from the trial show that patients who received nivolumab (brand name Opdivo) experienced fewer side effects and had a 50% lower risk that the disease would progress after treatment, compared with patients who received the standard treatment, brentuximab vedotin (brand name Adcetris). Patients in both groups also received AVD, a chemotherapy “cocktail.”

## **New Computational Method Links One Mammal’s Striking Longevity and Resistance to Cancer With ‘Dark Genome’**

All mammals can develop cancer, the rapid growth of harmful cells that can overtake normal cells and compromise their ability to function. Scientists have long observed that a species of nearly-hairless subterranean rodents from eastern Africa are surprisingly long-lived and demonstrate a pronounced resistance to cancer. A new study led by [Andrei Gudkov, PhD, DSci](#), at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center supports a new understanding of what might be driving the species’ propensity for avoiding cancer — its noteworthy evolutionary stability.

## **Roswell Park Clinical Trial Points Toward Promising New Therapy for Most Aggressive Type of Breast Cancer**

A new treatment approach developed at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has shown promising results in a phase 1 clinical trial for patients with triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), the most aggressive type of breast cancer. Results of the study are [newly reported](#) in The Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer. Conducted exclusively at Roswell Park and led by clinical principal investigator Shipra Gandhi, MD, Associate Professor of Oncology in the Department of Medicine at Roswell Park, the clinical trial enrolled nine patients with early-stage TNBC. TNBC accounts for 10-20% of all breast cancers and, compared to other breast cancer types, is associated with a high mortality rate, even when diagnosed in the early stages.

## **Roswell Park Experts to Showcase Groundbreaking Hematology Research at 66th ASH Annual Meeting**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center experts representing various specialties will highlight innovative research and advancements in hematology and hematologic cancers at the 66th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), to be held December 7-10 in San Diego, California. This prestigious research meeting will bring together top experts in blood disorders, providing an opportunity for Roswell Park physician-scientists to share insights into critical areas of hematology and new treatment options for hematologic cancers.

## **Diabetes Drug Appears to Fight Lung Cancer — But Only in Overweight or Obese Patients**

A widely accessible drug commonly used to control blood glucose levels in diabetic patients has the potential to strengthen the effects of immunotherapy and improve recurrence-free survival in people with lung cancer who are overweight or obese, new research [published](#) in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* shows. [Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS](#), Chief Strategy Officer and Chair of Thoracic Surgery at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, led the retrospective study as co-senior author.

Over the past 20 years, researchers have seen evidence suggesting that metformin might slow cancer progression, but the results of clinical trials have largely failed to confirm the connection. Based on prior findings, Dr. Yendamuri and his colleagues from Roswell Park hypothesized that the anticancer benefits of the drug might be experienced in a specific group of lung cancer patients — those who are overweight or obese. They further suspected that strong evidence of these effects may have been obscured in past clinical trials that included normal-weight patients.

## **Tomorrow's Promise, Today's Roswell Park: Leaders Tackling the Biggest Priorities in Cancer Care and Treatment**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center President and CEO [Candace S. Johnson, PhD](#), introduced the cancer center's first Physician in Chief — and a slate of 23 experts appointed to tackle the most pressing opportunities and challenges related to cancer treatment, outcomes and delivery of care, all appointed over the past three years. Medical oncologist and skin cancer expert Michael Wong, MD, PhD, FRPC, joined Roswell Park Nov. 18 as Physician in Chief. A widely respected oncology innovator who has led numerous clinical trials, Dr. Wong was most recently on staff at another National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center — MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, where he was Professor in the Department of Melanoma Medical Oncology, Division of Cancer Medicine, and Medical Executive for Integration and Innovative Programs for the MD Anderson Cancer Network.

## **Preclinical Study Shows Targeted Drug Strengthens the Power of CAR T-Cell Therapy in Two Pediatric Leukemias**

A preclinical study led by a faculty member at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center shows that gilteritinib (brand name Xospata), a targeted cancer treatment, can strengthen [chimeric antigen receptor \(CAR\) T-cell immunotherapy](#) in two high-risk pediatric



leukemias that have poor survival rates — FLT3-mutated acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and KMT2A-rearranged acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). [Lisa Niswander, MD, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Pediatric Oncology, will deliver the results this afternoon in an oral abstract session at the 66th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) in San Diego, California.

### **Roswell Park Study Reveals How Venetoclax Boosts Immune Response to CAR T for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia**

Research out of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has shed light on how the drug venetoclax (brand name Venclexta) works synergistically with [CAR T-cell immunotherapy](#) to combat chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), the most common type of leukemia in the U.S. [Matthew Cortese, MD, MPH](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology in Roswell Park's departments of Medicine and Cancer Genetics & Genomics, is first author of the study, which he will present during an oral abstract session at the 66th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) in San Diego, California.

### **Roswell Park Experts Report Insights on CAR T for Follicular Lymphoma, KEYNOTE-667 Combo in Hodgkin Lymphoma**

The results of two important lymphoma studies led by experts at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will be presented during oral abstract sessions at the 66th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) in San Diego, California. Lymphoma is a type of blood cancer that causes white blood cells called lymphocytes to grow out of control and behave abnormally.

### **Resistance Training Can Reduce Fatigue, Pain in Multiple Myeloma Patients, Roswell Park Team Shows**

Researchers from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will present compelling findings showcasing significant benefits of resistance training for patients with multiple myeloma, in a talk at the 66th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting. The study, led by [Jens Hillengass, MD, PhD](#), and Janine Joseph, MS, MBA, presents new evidence documenting that targeted exercise regimens can alleviate fatigue, improve sleep and reduce pain, offering new hope for enhancing quality of life in cancer care.

The most notable improvements were seen in fatigue, pain and sleep in the resistance training groups, particularly among those who participated in person. However, maintaining these benefits beyond the intervention remains a challenge, underscoring the need for strategies that promote sustainable lifestyle changes.

### **Could Venetoclax Improve Outcomes of CAR T for Patients with Resistant B-Cell Lymphomas? New Insights at ASH**

About a third of patients with diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL), a fast-growing form of lymphoma, will see their disease advance or recur following treatment. Seeking a new treatment strategy that might boost the effectiveness of existing DLBCL therapies, a team from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been working to understand the underlying mechanisms of the targeted chemotherapy venetoclax. Their findings, to be presented during a talk at the 66th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) in San Diego, California, provide strong preclinical evidence that adding venetoclax to standard treatment may improve outcomes in patients with treatment-resistant B-cell lymphomas.

The study was led by [Francisco Hernandez-Ilizaliturri, MD](#), Professor of Oncology and Director of Lymphoma Research in Roswell Park's Department of Medicine.

### **Roswell Park Experts Present Evidence to Help Clinicians Advise Breast Cancer Survivors About Lifestyle Choices**

Breast cancer survivors rely on healthcare providers for information about their diagnosis and treatment, but when it comes to questions about modifiable lifestyle factors that could affect their outcomes and quality of life, the answers aren't always as clear. With "Sex, Drugs, Rock and Roll," a special session at the [2024 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium](#), two Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center experts aim to cut through the confusion and conflicting evidence to help providers deliver sound advice.

### **Roswell Park Team Identifies Factors That Boost Effectiveness of Immunotherapy in Recurrent Ovarian Cancer**

A study led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center provides new insight into the complex interactions of the "tumor-immune-gut axis," and its role in influencing immunotherapy responses in patients with recurrent ovarian cancer. [Newly published](#) in Nature Communications, the findings emphasize the role of the patient's microbiome — the collection of microorganisms in the body — and lay the groundwork for future clinical trials aimed at improving treatment outcomes.

The study's senior author, [Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD, FACOG](#), Chair of Gynecologic Oncology and the Shashi Lele, MD, Endowed Chair in Gynecologic Oncology at Roswell Park, served as Principal Investigator for the [phase 2 clinical trial conducted at Roswell Park](#) that provided the rationale for the new work.

### **Roswell Park Team Discovers New Treatment Target for Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer**

A team of researchers at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, led by [Dhyan Chandra, PhD](#), has discovered a new therapeutic target for neuroendocrine prostate cancer, a rare and hard-to-treat form of prostate cancer. Their findings, [newly published](#) in the journal Oncogene, suggest that a set of processes known as the mitochondrial unfolded protein response could be

an Achilles' heel for this often-deadly cancer type, and may point the way to a new treatment approach.

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### **Roswell Park Team Identifies New Cause of Chemotherapy Resistance in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer**

Triple-negative breast cancer, or TNBC, presents numerous treatment challenges. Compared with other forms of breast cancer, it's more likely to have spread at the time of diagnosis and is more likely to recur, largely because it becomes resistant to chemotherapy. Researchers at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center have identified a previously unknown cause of resistance to doxorubicin, a mainstay of treatment for this aggressive, fast-growing breast cancer subtype. The team's [new study in \*Scientific Reports\*](#) points to a new strategy for overcoming this resistance to treatment, using drugs known as IMPDH2 inhibitors.

### **New study could inform more effective T-cell therapies for solid tumors**

Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD, Jacobs Family Chair of Immunology, is senior author of a study that could inform the development of more effective adoptive T-cell therapies for solid tumors. [Published in \*Cancer Immunology Research\*](#), a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, the study reports that cytotoxic T-cell expression of two natural killer receptors (NKR) — DNAM-1 and NKG2D — is associated with a stronger immune response from CD8+ tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes and long-term survival in melanoma patients. The study demonstrates a strategy for achieving stronger antigen sensitivity and selectivity of action, involving double transduction of cytotoxic T-cells with tumor-associated antigen-specific T-cell receptors and NKRs. Funders included the National Cancer Institute, Rustum Family Foundation, Jacobs Family Foundation and Roswell Park Alliance Foundation.

### **Changes in Microbiome Predict Risk for Sexually Transmitted Infections**

Women who develop [bacterial vaginosis](#) (BV) often later acquire chlamydia, a common and potentially serious sexually transmitted bacterial infection. Now, researchers at [Albert Einstein College of Medicine](#), [Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) and the [Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai](#) have found that BV actually consists of two subtypes — one of which significantly increases the risk of developing chlamydia infections. The findings were made in a

population of young Black and Hispanic women, who are disproportionately affected by both BV and chlamydia, but are historically understudied. The study, one of the largest and most comprehensive of its kind, was published online in the journal *Cell*.

### **Roswell Park Team Identifies New Cause of Chemotherapy Resistance in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer**

A team led by Anna Bianchi-Smiraglia has identified a previously unknown cause of resistance to doxorubicin, pointing to a new strategy for treating aggressive "triple-negative" breast cancer. The team's new study in *Scientific Reports* points to a new strategy for overcoming this resistance to treatment, using drugs known as IMPDH2 inhibitors.

### **Roswell Park Helps Patient Overcome Life-Threatening Illness Through Groundbreaking Treatment**

Every day, [500 Americans are diagnosed with blood cancer](#), a condition that continues to rise nationwide. However, CAR T-cell therapy, an emerging personalized cancer treatment, is offering patients new hope for the possibility of long-term remission. [Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) is at the forefront of this new approach, with one of the largest research and manufacturing facilities in the country dedicated to improving and expanding this type of cancer treatment.

The results of CAR T-cell therapy so far have been highly promising, with [more than half of lymphoma patients](#) achieving remission, and in certain types of leukemia, the remission rate reaching an impressive [90 percent](#). 70-year-old Chris Vogelsang's scans have not shown signs of cancer in his system since March 2023. CAR T-cell therapy has granted him valuable years to enjoy with his wife, Karen, and their growing family, which will soon include 10 grandchildren. Chris has also been able to return to the tennis courts, where he plays weekly with friends.

### **Tandem 2025: Roswell Park Team Creates Predictive Model to Inform Care of Lymphoma Patients**

Discoveries made by experts from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will be featured at an international conference focusing on the latest advances in stem cell transplantation and other cell therapies for blood cancers. The 2025 Tandem Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings of the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) and Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) will be held Feb. 12-15 at the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. The annual meetings promote the exchange of information with the aim of extending patient survival and improving quality of life.

### **Roswell Park-Led Team Proposes CDK2 Enzyme as New Target for Cancer Therapy**

An enzyme called cyclin-dependent kinase 2 (CDK2) regulates the cell cycle and may have the potential to drive therapeutic resistance to common breast cancer drugs — including a class of

targeted treatments known as CDK4/6 inhibitors. A new study led by [Agnieszka Witkiewicz, MD](#), and [Erik Knudsen, PhD](#), of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and colleagues highlights the therapeutic impact of CDK2 inhibitors and is [published](#) in the journal *Nature Communications*.

### **Researchers Find Inherited Genetic Condition Raises Risk of Developing Two Rare Pediatric Cancers**

Led by a faculty member at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, an international team of experts has identified a genetic condition that raises the risk of developing two rare pediatric cancers — Wilms tumor and pineoblastoma. Their findings [appear in Clinical Cancer Research](#), a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research. [Kenan Onel, MD, PhD](#), Chief of Clinical Genomics and Director of the Center for Precision Oncology and Cancer Prevention at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, served as Principal Investigator of the study, which focused on the regulation of microRNAs — molecules that are important in normal development and can prevent tumors from forming. However, when microRNAs don't function properly, they can become oncogenes, increasing cancer risk and helping tumors grow.

### **Society of Surgical Oncology Highlights Roswell Park Experts at 2025 Annual Meeting**

Cancer surgery leaders from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will share their expertise with other cancer surgeons from around the world during the 2025 annual meeting of the Society of Surgical Oncology at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida, March 27-29. [Moshim Kukar, MD, FACS](#), Chair of Surgical Oncology and Chief of Foregut and Endocrine Surgery at Roswell Park, will discuss how emerging biomarkers can inform the treatment of patients with gastroesophageal junction cancers. "Several agents, including chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted agents, can be combined in unique ways to achieve optimal results in both the curative and metastatic setting," he notes.

### **Brain Imaging Plus Virtual Reality Shows Promise for Effectively Managing Cancer Pain**

A clinical research study led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has identified a way to objectively measure pain in cancer patients and treat it effectively without opioids. Published in Scientific Reports, [the study](#) advances the goal of better managing cancer pain using a non-invasive brain imaging technology and a non-drug treatment that incorporates virtual reality (VR). The project was led by principal investigator [Somayeh Besharat Shafiei, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology in Roswell Park's Department of Urology, and co-investigator [Oscar de Leon-Casasola, MD](#), Chief of Pain Medicine at Roswell Park, and included team members from Roswell Park and the University of Guelph in Ontario.

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY**

### **Prostate Cancer Early Detection event in partnership with Buffalo Sabres**

We invite our team members and your families to the Prostate Cancer Early Detection Event in partnership with the Buffalo Sabres. Men aged 45–69 are encouraged to take part in the event at KeyBank Center from 3 to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 13, with the opportunity to receive prostate cancer screening and educational resources. This event has the potential to save lives — and you'll also have the chance to meet Sabres alumni! Please note: Men 70 and older are advised to consult with their physicians.

### **Roswell Park lends helping hand at Habitat for Humanity**

A group of staff from across our center volunteered at Habitat for Humanity, working at the 1574 East Delavan Avenue build site. Our team completed essential tasks for inspection approval and setting up the insulation process for this home.

Habitat for Humanity Buffalo seeks to put faith into action while bringing people together to build stability, communities and hope. Roswell Park strives to give back to our community and support the organizations that are changing lives. We look forward to future collaborations and encourage everyone to give back to this great organization, which is helping so many people in our community.

### **New Outdoor Mural Pays Tribute to Roswell Park Heroes Who Saved Thousands of Lives During Holocaust**

New York State leaders joined representatives from the Buffalo Jewish Federation (BJF) and the Holocaust Education Resource Organization (HERO) of Buffalo for a ceremony celebrating a powerful new mural that adorns a wall of the Research Studies Center on Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Buffalo campus.

### **New member joins Roswell Park Care Network**

We are pleased to announce that effective June 5, 2024, Southtowns ENT will be joining the Roswell Park Care Network! We are thrilled to welcome Frederick C. Gass, MD, FACS, and Jonathan C. Vogan, MD, FACS, into the Network as they continue to provide ear/nose/throat care at their current location: 3075 Southwestern Blvd. #102, Orchard Park, NY 14127.

As a new member of the Roswell Park Care Network, this team will provide patients and families with access to oncology services, a variety of other specialty services and expert physicians.

### **Roswell Park Experts Launch Comprehensive Lung Cancer Screening List for New York State**

In an effort to improve access to lung cancer screening across New York State, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center experts have launched a comprehensive online provider registry, available at [nylungcancerscreening.com](https://nylungcancerscreening.com), that is now live and accessible to the public. Chief of Screening, Survivorship and Mentorship [Mary Reid, PhD](#), alongside a team of passionate advocates and the NY State Cancer Consortium's Lung Cancer Screening Action Team

(NYSLCSAT), spent the last two years compiling the list of nearly 400 locations offering lung cancer screening as well as confirming services, contact information and more.

### **Roswell Park Indigenous Cancer Screening/Navigation Success Reaches New Mexico with BMS Foundation Grant**

A new collaboration will see Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center partnering with the University of New Mexico (UNM), supported by a grant from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, to address health disparities for the Pueblo Nations of New Mexico.

A three-year, \$689,000 grant recently awarded by the [Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation](#), an independent charitable organization (BMS Foundation), will empower [Roswell Park's Department of Indigenous Cancer Health](#) and [UNM's Native American Budget and Policy Institute](#) to collaboratively translate the success of Roswell Park's patient navigation services for Indigenous communities in Western New York to a program that will serve the unique needs of people of the Pueblo Nations.

### **Buffalo Healthcare Exploration helps equip young minds**

Each summer, the Applied Technology Laboratory for Advanced Surgery (ATLAS) program at Roswell Park hosts Buffalo Healthcare Exploration for high school students. This month, the program welcomed 52 students, along with 12 returning student assistants, from public and city schools to the Roswell Park campus for the opportunity to delve into the world of healthcare. Through hands-on experiences and mentorship BHE equips young minds with valuable insights into a variety of medical disciplines, fostering their passion and interest in the healthcare field.

### **Students participate in Summer Research Experience Program**

Roswell Park faculty proudly provided 64 interns with research experiences this summer. Our interns — current high school students, undergraduates and medical students — worked to develop new insights into cancer biology and treatment, expand their research skills and increase their aptitude in science communication. These experiences were made possible through the generosity of program mentors and their lab staff. Funding for our Summer Research Experiences in Cancer Science and Oncology was provided by the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation and the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

### **Roswell Park CARES hosts backpack giveaway**

Approaching the end of summer means thousands of students are gearing up to head back to school. The return to classes also means the need for supplies such as pencils, notebooks and backpacks. To help offset what can be significant back-to-school costs for some families, the Roswell CARES program hosted two backpack giveaways at our Community Outreach & Engagement Center this month — giving away 200 backpacks to kids in our community! Roswell Park will also partner with WUFO FM Power 96.5, Buffalo Black Nurses Inc. and Mt. Aaron Baptist Church for more backpack giveaways.



### **Roswell Park Awards \$50,000 in Community Impact Grants for Local Cancer-Focused Projects**

To expand the reach and impact of its work to advance cancer prevention, early detection and survivorship support, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to recognize the five recipients of its inaugural Community Impact Grant program. Through this initiative, Roswell Park's [Community Alliance to Reach, Empower, and Sustain](#) (CARES) program awarded a total of \$50,000 in grants to five local organizations for innovative, community-driven projects aimed at reducing cancer risk and enhancing the quality of life for patients, survivors and caregivers.

### **Fifth annual IceCycle to end cancer raises \$735,000**

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's fifth annual IceCycle fundraising event, presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and the West Herr Automotive Group, has come to a close. The event, which took place at Buffalo RiverWorks, raised \$735,000 for cancer research and patient-care programs. The more than 1,400 participants took part in their choice of nine 45-minute cycling sessions on the ice led by instructors from studios across Western New York. IceCycle also introduced a theme ride in 2025, 'In Our Swiftie Era,' which sold out within a few weeks of registration opening.

### **Supporting teachers in our city**

The Roswell Park CARES program volunteered at The Teacher's Desk, a nonprofit in downtown Buffalo that provides free supplies to teachers supporting students in need. We're proud to support their mission and help set students up for success!