

From the President's Desk

by Douglas S. Carr

It's surprising that the first year of my term as president of the Board of Directors is already half-way...it's been a busy six months! With dynamic board members, motivated volunteers, and hard working staff, the fall calendar was full of events that proved successful. In particular, the 6th Annual Cure Breast Cancer for ME Luncheon, Pink Tulip Project and the tremendous Sugarloaf Charity Summit all exceeded their goals. Other initiatives helped raise funds too, such as SeaBags whose special edition bag sale raised \$15,000 for MCF, WJBQ's Cans for a Cure at the Maine Mall; Shipyard's Hike the River for a Cure at Sunday River and the Rotary Car Cruise in South Portland. Each event brought Foundation awareness to a new segment of the population and found support.

We are indebted to the many hands that make these successes possible. The generosity of the business community who sponsors events and/or donate merchandise for

continued on pg. 4

Sea Dog's Mother's Day 5k

Sun., May 11, 2008
9:15 a.m., Hadlock Field, Portland



The Mother's Day 5K Road Race is presented by Paradigm Windows and the Maine Track Club and will once again benefit the Maine Cancer Foundation. Registration/check-in starts at 7:00 a.m. Kid's Run starts at 8:30 a.m. The 5K takes place at 9:15 AM. www.seadogs.com

10th Annual Mary's Walk & Kerryman Pub Road Race Slated For March 16, 2008 In Saco

Mary's Walk and Kerryman Pub Road Race will return to Saco for the 10th year on Sunday, March 16. Organized by a dedicated group of volunteers led by board

member Gene Libby and Jane Kerry, the 2.5 mile non-competitive Walk is held in conjunction with the Kerryman Pub



5K Road Race, an early season, out and back, flat run. Funds raised once

again benefit the Maine Cancer Foundation, funding research and finding hope for the people of Maine. "It's incredible to imagine that if all goes well this year, Mary's Walk will have raised one million dollars since its inception," said Gene and Jane. Mary's Walk is named for Mary Kerry Libby who lost her battle with cancer in 1998. She was just 44.

Walk registration is \$15 while the Run is \$20. Long sleeve t-shirts go to the first 1,000 who register. Secure and easy

Mary's Walk



Kerryman Pub
4 Mile Road Race

on-line registration is available at www.maryswalk.org.

Registration brochures are available at all branches of Saco Biddeford Savings Institution, the Kerryman Pub

or by calling toll free in Maine 1-866-627-2411. **New this year:** chip timing

has been added to the 5k run.

Individual and Top Team Fundraiser Awards will

be determined based on donations received by March 10, 2008. If you are vying for a top award **please** have all your donations in by the 10th, either on-line or mailed to Mary's Walk, P.O. Box 1716, Biddeford, ME 04005. There are awards for fastest run times, male and female in age categories plus cash awards for overall Top Male and Top Female runner. Raise \$200 and receive a commemorative hat. Enjoy plentiful post race hot and cold beverages and refreshments at the Kerryman Pub. A tremendous event...register today! ☀



4th Annual Remembering Tom Rowe Concert

Sat., May 10, 2008 • 7:30 p.m., Franco-American Heritage Center, Lewiston

Come share a wonderful evening of music and celebration to remember Tom Rowe, a talented musician who lost his life to cancer. Tom is well known for the many years he played with Schooner Fare. Tom's son Dave Rowe, also a talented musician, organizes this event featuring the Dave Rowe Trio, Turkey Hollow, Schooner Fare, Denny Breau, Phil House and others.

The Franco-American Heritage Center is one of Maine's premier

performance venues – a lovely renovated concert hall with plenty of parking nearby and delicious crepes served at intermission. The Foundation appreciates its partnership with L. A. Arts who manage ticket sales. Reserve your tickets today. Visit: www.laarts.org or phone (207) 782-7228.



Research Update

RECQL4 Protein-Protein Interaction in Human Osteosarcoma Lines; Maine Institute for Human Genetics and Health, Brewer

This research attempts to identify protein complex that contains RECQL4, a member of a family of human DNA helicases whose loss or gain in function is tightly associated with human disease and cancer. The specific objective of this research is to identify RECQL4 protein binding partners in the osteosarcoma cell lines using combination proteomic technologies. Identification of RECQL4 interacting proteins will allow the identification of putative molecular pathways for better understanding of the role of RECQL4 in bone biology and osteosarcoma development. In the early phases of this study staff has been added, cell culture has been initiated, a mass spectrometer is set up. Osteosarcoma cell lines are being grown, antibodies assessed and controls put in place. Co-immunoprecipitation experiments have been initiated, with two approaches for optimization of IP experiments being followed. The outcome of experiments will be analyzed and monitored using protein chip arrays in combination with time-of-flight spectrometry. Additional experiments are underway for on-chip immunocapture of RECQL4 and other associated proteins among different cell lines. **Agasanur K. Prahalad, Ph.D.**

Array-Based Comparative Genomic Hybridization of Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs); Maine Institute for Human Genetics and Health, Brewer

The prognostic value of CTCs has attracted interest because of the apparent low incidence of false-positive rate among control subjects. Although increasing CTC number in peripheral blood may be predictive of cancer metastasis, the utility of CTC number to monitor treatment response and clinical outcome in breast cancer remains unclear. The goal of this study is to determine if array comparative genomic hybridization profiling of CTCs from patients with invasive or metastatic breast cancer will discriminate those whose disease continues to progress during treatment from those whose treatment is likely to eliminate their cancer. Initially, a suitable

protocol for CTC isolation has been developed, taking longer than anticipated. The magnetic bead protocol has been assessed and modified. Soon, subjects will be enrolled. Once enrolled and pure CTCs are isolated and confirmed, the processes for genomic amplification and profiling will proceed more rapidly. **Janet Bayleran, Ph.D.**

N-Terminal Osteopontin Fragment as a Novel Breast Cancer Marker; University of Southern Maine, Portland

Signature molecules can provide biomarkers for cancer diagnosis, monitoring, treatment efficacy, and prediction of recurrence. Identifying these markers is of high priority and will directly impact patient care. The ideal cancer biomarker is evaluated non-invasively in patient samples such as plasma. A potential indicator of cancer progression in multiple tissues is the secreted protein osteopontin (OPN). There is compelling evidence that OPN may be a useful biomarker for management of various cancer types, including metastatic breast cancer. This project is thus aimed at developing and studying the potential of OPN fragments as biomarkers for breast cancer progression.

The first goal was to Development of an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to specifically detect and quantify the N-terminal fragment of OPN. A combination of our three monoclonal antibodies that recognize the N-terminal OPN fragment were generated. The chessboard titration method was used in a 96-well plate for the optimization of the assay. This assay "Sandwich (Two-Antibody) ELISA for N-OPN Measurement" was then used to measure N-OPN levels in all test samples. Our initial testing demonstrated that the assay also detected full-length OPN (Fl-OPN) in mixed samples of N-OPN and Fl-OPN; however, any sample with less than 156 pg/ml of Fl-OPN would not affect the N-OPN ELISA. The data also emphasize the importance of creating additional antibodies specific for N-OPN without cross reactivity with FlOPN.

Secondly, we produced new monoclonal antibodies specific for N-OPN. Hybridoma methodology have been used to develop new monoclonal antibodies specific for epitopes

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exposed or created in N-terminal OPN fragment and not reactive with the FL OPN. We anticipate that in the future, if OPN or its N-terminal form were to be indicated as a cancer biomarker used in clinical analysis, the highest utility would be obtained if there would be accuracy (and precision) in quantification of OPN levels. So far, we have not been able to obtain any monoclonal antibody specific only for an N-terminal OPN fragment epitope with no FLOPN cross-reactivity. Meanwhile, we have also attempted to produce new monoclonal antibodies against the C-terminal OPN fragment. Two new C-OPN specific monoclonal antibodies were obtained and under further characterization.

We also compared our in-house FL-OPN ELISA with commercial test kits. In comparison with these commercial ELISAs, our assay had high accuracy in measuring FL-OPN standards, and high sensitivity. We utilized this assay to quantify FL-OPN in the plasma of healthy volunteers in comparison with patients with metastatic breast cancer. The measured quantity varied greatly in a comparison between all existing FL-OPN ELISAs. Because biologically, OPN is a complex molecule with diversity from alternative splicing, post-translational modification, extracellular proteolytic modification, and participation in protein complexes, we suggest that further development of assays capable of detecting OPN species are essential for future studies.

A manuscript based on this work had been accepted for publication: Development of fragment-specific osteopontin antibodies and ELISA for quantification in human metastatic breast cancer. *Ah-Kau Ng, Ph.D. Alicia Plumer, Hongyi Duan, Sripriya Subramaniam, F. Lee Lucas, Susan Miesfeldt, Ah-Kau Ng, and Lucy Liaw. BMC Cancer*

Twist Dimers as Markers of Tumor Metastasis; Maine Medical Center Research Institute, Scarborough

The major focus of this grant, which builds on previous work, is to generate antibodies that specifically recognize T/T dimers, and not T/E complexes. A second part of the grant is to begin to identify other proteins that are potentially in these dimer complexes to better understand the mechanisms that differentiate the activities of these dimers. This past summer, Dr. Peter Brooks joined MMCRI as a senior scientist. Dr. Brooks has extensive experience generating antibodies to antigens on modified proteins that may be very subtly different than the parent molecule. We anticipate that the structure of T/T and T/E dimers will be only subtly different, and therefore we have extensively consulted with Dr. Brooks on how to optimize conditions so we can generate antibodies that specifically recognize T/T dimers and not T/E dimers. He has recommended a procedure called subtractive immunization, a technique that facilitates efforts to produce monoclonal antibodies specific for antigens that are present in low

abundance in proteins that are similar in sequence or structure.

As a second part of this Aim, we have also obtained 45 human mammary tumor samples from the Maine Medical Center Tissue Bank, as well as 45 control samples. The tumor samples are primarily from cases with advanced tumor phenotypes, and will be used to screen with our T/T-specific antibodies. We are now screening these samples with antibodies against Twist1 and Id to determine if the presence of both Id and Twist1 correlates with a high tumor grade and tumor metastasis. We would predict that such tumors would contain T/T dimers, and therefore will be useful for screening our antibodies. **Doug Spicer, Ph.D.**

Sprouty4 – a Possible Repressor of ID Protein Function in Breast Cancer; Maine Medical Center Research Institute, Scarborough

The development of breast cancer is a multistep process that involves mutations in the human genome that result in gain- or loss-of-function of genes that are critical to the growth and survival of cells. The loss of growth control is a hallmark of malignant transformation. Tumor suppressor genes function to counteract growth signals in cells and the loss of tumor suppressor function contributes to tumor progression. The Sprouty (Spry) proteins act as tumor suppressors by negatively regulating signaling downstream of receptor tyrosine kinases which stimulate cell growth. In advanced breast cancers, Spry protein expression is down-regulated, resulting in loss of negative regulation of receptor tyrosine kinase signaling and increased tumor growth. Id (inhibitor of differentiation) proteins are basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) transcription factors that are over expressed in breast tumor cells and correlate with increased proliferation and invasion and thus may function as oncogenes.

We have shown that Spry4 interacts with Id proteins and thus Spry4 may function to regulate Id function. One function of Id proteins is to bind to members of the bHLH family of transcription factors and to inhibit their transcriptional activity. We now have preliminary data that Spry4 reverses the inhibitory effect of Id proteins on E proteins, a sub-family of bHLH transcription factors. Specifically, we have data that show that expression of Id proteins inhibits luciferase reporter activity of an E box response element, and the co-expression of Spry4 with Id reversed Id inhibition of the E box luciferase reporter activity. We have also identified a known target of Id repression, whose expression is upregulated by Spry4 overexpression. These results will be extended in the next six months to include confocal microscopy to demonstrate and confirm our hypothesis that Spry4 expression causes a change in the cellular localization of Id proteins thus abrogating their function in promoting a tumorigenic phenotype.

Robert Friesel, Ph.D.



Grants Awarded for Education and Patient Support Cycle I: December 1, 2007

auctions, as well as the thousands of people who participate in one way or another. Whether it's gardeners who buy pink tulips, outdoor enthusiasts who hike at Sunday River or ski at Sugarloaf...the list goes on and on, and so does our deepest appreciation. We have many exciting events coming up this Spring and Summer. Check out the latest posting on our website: www.maineccancer.org

Growing Special Events has been an important part of our goal to increase not only revenue, but statewide awareness. In the next phase of our growth, you will see more attention paid to increasing the number of Annual and Major Gift donors. We will be doing more around Planned Gifts in hopes that friends of the Foundation may consider a future legacy. As the Maine Cancer Foundation continues to evolve and mature, a well balanced revenue plan will be important. We welcome your ideas, thoughts and support. Please call, write or stop by the office and say hello and join us in finding a cure.

In the last few months I learned of several people diagnosed with cancer. I'm sure you may have too. While cancer continues to be a diagnosis too often heard, supporting the Foundation is our opportunity to assure that all forms of cancer research are funded, and hope is found. Together, we are making a difference.

- **Telephone Support Group for Maine Patients;** *Leukemia and Lymphoma Society*

There are currently 423 Maine residents living with blood cancer. Some participate in Society sponsored support groups in Rockland and Portland. Due to a variety of reasons, many patients are not able to get to these sites. To meet the needs of this population, Maine Cancer Foundation awarded funds to provide telephone support groups facilitated by a licensed clinical social worker. Patients will participate in one hour sessions for six weeks. Each session will explore a unique theme relevant to those living with leukemia, lymphoma, Myeloma and Hodgkin's disease. Now, more patients will be able to access the important support and education they need.

- **Connecting to Cancer Care (CCC);** *York County Community Action*

This program makes it possible for transportation disadvantaged cancer patients to receive radiation, chemotherapy and other needed treatment as often and wherever required through access to no-cost, reliable and appropriate transportation that would otherwise be unavailable to them. The Foundation saw the value in supporting this well-run program because if cancer patients cannot get to the treatment they need, when they need it, they won't have it... greatly diminishing the possibility of successful

treatment outcome. York County does not have regularly scheduled transportation in 25 of 29 towns. This funding responds to the unmet need for suitable transportation for cancer patients eliminating a significant barrier to care and treatment.

- **Cancer Symposium;** *Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington*

To celebrate the hospital's new partnership with MaineGeneral's Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care, a fall Cancer Symposium is planned to enhance and strengthen the knowledge of health care providers regarding screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of various types of cancer prevalent in Franklin County and the surrounding region. It will educate providers on how to assist patients in navigating the health care system once diagnosed. In addition, patients and their families will receive information regarding cancer care and support services. Maine Cancer Foundation is pleased to support this effort which will serve residents in a vast, largely rural area from central Maine to the Canadian border.

Proposals for Education and Patient Support programs are accepted twice a year. Cycle I: November 1 and Cycle II: March 1. Research applications are accepted once a year, April 1.

Visit www.maineccancer.org for guidelines and the application, or call toll-free 866-627-2411 for a packet.

Corporate Partnerships

A growing number of businesses have stepped forward to support the Foundation, either donating a percent of sales, or organizing their own fundraiser. We appreciate this support! If you have a partnership idea to discuss, we'd be happy to talk with you.

SeaBags www.seabags.com

SeaBags owners, Beth Shissler and Hannah Kubiak's interest in supporting MCF's Women's Cancer Fund evolved into the production and sale of a limited edition breast cancer bag. The goal was to donate 50% of the sale of 250 bags. Much to everyone's delight, the bags sold briskly, and globally! Beth and Hannah presented a check for \$15,000 to the Foundation at the Cure Breast Cancer for ME Luncheon. We are grateful to Seabags for this support which will repeat in 2008.



ToeGoz www.toegoz.com

The efforts of Sea Bags inspired ToeGoz to offer 50% of the profits of their breast cancer awareness flip flops to Maine Cancer Foundation.



McDonald's Operators of Maine www.mcdonalds.com

For a second year, McDonald's restaurants in Maine promoted breast cancer awareness and raised funds by selling apple pies and pink ribbons. \$23,783 was donated.



Event Successes

6th Annual Cure Breast Cancer for ME Luncheon

October 1, 2007. This event has a great following evidenced by tickets being sold out weeks in advance. Thank you to all our sponsors and attendees for making this an overwhelming success.



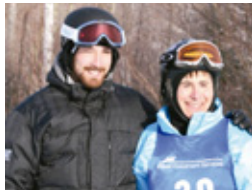
The Luncheon and on-line Auction combined to raise \$91,000 (net, after expenses). Mark your calendars for October 1, 2008 when we return to the Holiday Inn by the Bay. Join us in honoring people who have been touched by breast cancer and those who work tirelessly to advance progress in this disease. For more information www.curebreastcancerforme.org.

On-Line Auction

Donated items for the 2008 online auction, October 1 – 31, are currently being collected. To donate an item, and feature your business or service on-line, please e-mail joanne@mainecancer.org with “online auction” in the subject line or call Maine Cancer Foundation, 773-2533.

Sugarloaf Charity Summit

The 2008 Sugarloaf Charity Summit on January 18 and 19 was a tremendous success! More businesses came forward to sponsor the impressive weekend slate of events. The number of skiers who participated in a lively on-snow race increased. Saturday night's Charity Ball sold out. All in all, over \$240,000 (gross) was raised. Proceeds, split 50/50 after expenses, benefit the Maine Cancer Foundation and the Martha B. Webber Breast Cancer Center at Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington. Thank you to all the folks at Sugarloaf for a great event and Project Solutions for outstanding event management!



Olympic Gold Medalist Seth Wescott challenging top Sugarloaf Charity Summit fundraiser Cheryl Levasseur

Legislative Alert



In Maine, unlike other states, cancer is the leading cause of death. This year, nearly 8000 Maine residents will be told “you have cancer.” A better job can be done with cancer awareness, risk reduction and early detection which could save lives. The Maine Cancer Consortium*, made up of over 120 cancer organizations, medical providers, health educators, survivors and friends, presented a bill last year, LD995, that was endorsed but with no funding set aside.

For 2008, the bill has been redefined and the amount requested reduced. As the bill works its way through the system, please let your legislator know that you support LD 2098 “An Act To Reduce Expensive Health Care Treatment and Protect the Health of Maine Citizens by Providing Early Screening and Detection and Prevention of Cancer.” If you're not sure who your legislator is visit <http://janus.state.me.us/house/townlist.htm> for a list by town.

* *Maine Cancer Foundation is a member of the consortium.*

License Plate

Sponsored by Maine State Legislator Meredith Strang Burgess, a bill to have a breast cancer awareness license plate issued in Maine was introduced and met with success! Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program, Maine Breast Cancer Coalition and Maine Cancer Foundation, who will share proceeds of the specialty license plate sales, collaborated on the drive to collect the required 2,000 reservation forms and \$40,000. Materials were handed in to the Secretary of State on Jan. 15. Plates will be available at the DMV October 1 to kick-off breast cancer awareness month.



Secretary of State Matt Dunlap, Meredith Strang Burgess and Dennis Damon, bill co-sponsor

Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal, issued in November, exceeded its goal of \$25,000. Thank you to everyone who gave. Along with special gifts and special events, our fundraising looks positive for this fiscal year. We continue to receive many more worthy research applications than we are currently able to fund. Additional gifts to boost the Annual Appeal are always welcome. A follow-up Spring Appeal will be mailed in May or you may use this form to make a gift now. The more funds raised by year end, June 30, the more meaningful research projects we can fund! Thank you!

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____, payable to **Maine Cancer Foundation**

Please charge \$ _____ to my: Visa MasterCard American Express

Card No. _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

This gift is in Honor of or Memory of _____

Please mail to: **Maine Cancer Foundation • P.O. Box 553 • Portland, ME 04112**

Education and Patient Support Updates

Supporting Patients with Cancer through Intensive Nutritional Intervention; Maine General Medical Center: Alford Cancer Center

Many aspects of cancer and cancer treatment can significantly influence food intake including anorexia and cachexia, fatigue, taste and smell aversions, difficulty chewing and swallowing and insufficient energy to prepare and purchase food. With this grant, MGMC is implementing an intensive nutritional intervention program to patients undergoing medical oncology treatment to assess weight, nutritional status and quality of life. A dedicated Registered Dietician has been hired to facilitate a screening program for all cancer patients to determine if they are at nutritional risk; once identified, at-risk patients will be seen by the R.D. to develop an individualized plan of care. Follow-up care will be provided at treatment visits, by phone or appointment. A pilot program to determine the impact of early nutrition intervention on nutritional status and quality of life has been initiated. A series of classes is also being offered that include nutrition during treatment, healthy cooking for cancer survivors and their caregivers, and preventing cancer. www.maine-general.org

Breast Cancer Diaries Film and Speaking Tour

This project provided support and education in understanding breast cancer and how it affects the patient, family, children, relatives, friends, and medical community. Viewing the film, which was shown in 4 Maine communities, also advanced awareness about breast health, screening and early detection. At each show, a panel of health providers offered information on advances in research, treatment and the path to a cure. www.thebreastcancerdiaries.com

Scholarship Fund for Maine Residents; F. Holland Day Center for Creativity and Healing, Georgetown

The Center assists people in mobilizing their emotional,

psychological and spiritual strength in their fight against cancer. The waterfront retreat center runs intensive, weeklong residential retreats for people with cancer in small groups, May through October. These funds offset the expense for those Maine patients unable to afford the full fee.

www.fhollanddaycenter.org

Community-wide Skin Cancer Awareness and Prevention Program; Vital Pathways, Houlton

This successful program increased community awareness of skin cancer and explained steps that could be taken to prevent it. Training was coordinated with schools, public health officials, and the community at large. The best way to lower the risk of skin cancer is to limit your exposure to strong sunlight.

Practice sun safety when outdoors...

slip, slop, slap and wrap... slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen, slap on a hat, and wrap on sunglasses to protect the eyes and sensitive skin around them from ultraviolet light.*

www.vitalpathways.org

A Word about Sun Exposure and Vitamin D*

Doctors are learning that vitamin D has many health benefits. It may even help to lower the risk for some cancers. Vitamin D is made by your skin when you are in the sun. But most people need only about 15 minutes a day, 3 times a week of being in the sun to make enough vitamin D. Most milk also has vitamin D added. * source:

American Cancer Society

www.cancer.org

Building a Toolkit for Families with Hereditary Non-polyposis Colorectal Cancer (HNPCC); Maine Center for Cancer Medicine

The overall goal of this project is to develop and pilot-test an HNPCC educational and risk assessment toolkit for Maine clinicians who care for individuals at potential risk for hereditary colorectal cancer, with a view to identifying mutation carriers so that appropriate follow-up care can be offered to these individuals as well as at-

risk family members. Over the course of the last six months, the study team has done an extensive literature review and met with stakeholders on four separate occasions. Based on the data collected as well as feedback from stakeholders, a draft of the Families with Colon Cancer Toolkit has been developed. Clinicians and administrators are using the tool to assess hereditary colorectal cancer risk on all patients presenting for routine screening lower endoscopy (colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy) for a period of two to three months (approximately 100 patients present weekly for screening endoscopy). The pilot test is expected to begin in mid-January 2008. The impact of the toolkit will be assessed through a review of appropriate referrals for cancer genetic risk assessment and counseling. www.mccm.org

Nutrition Services for Cancer Patients; Cancer Care Center of York County

Through this grant a registered dietician is available at the center by appointment to provide nutritional assessment and counseling at no extra cost. Good nutrition is particularly vital to cancer patients. Not only is good nutrition important to maintain healthy weight, it is also associated with how well patients respond to treatment. In the first two months, the dietician was at the center 4 times and counseled 9 patients, a model that will continue. Patient reaction has been very favorable. www.cancercareyorkcounty.org

Radiation Therapist Professional Training; Southern Maine Community College, South Portland

A grant to the RT program at SMCC provided for 8 students to attend the New England registry Review Conference, sponsored by the New England Society of radiation Therapists. Students benefited from presentations, workshops and interactive sessions and provided opportunities to network with their peers. "This was a great opportunity. The education and

interaction was very beneficial. I'm glad I already have a job lined up in Maine, I look forward to giving back," said one attendee. www.smcc.org

Peer Support Program; Cancer Community Center, South Portland

With the support of MCF, CCC has continued to evaluate regularly scheduled programs and to identify the need for new ones. The Center will increase the number of new clients in the Maine Buddy Program by 75. 25 new buddies have been trained with trainings held in Bangor as well as South Portland. Additional trainings are planned for York County and Augusta in '08. There are currently 98 active matches in the Buddy program indicating a growth from the previous year in matches.

www.cancercommunitycenter.org

Breast Cancer Survivorship Coaching/Navigator: A Pilot Program; Eastern Maine Healthcare System, Bangor

During the initial grant period, much groundwork was done in preparing for final implementation and evaluation. The planning team represents staff from Oncology, Behavioral Medicine, Nursing, Social Work and Primary Care. The specific work plan was submitted to EMMC Institutional Review Board (IRB). To date, procedures were developed to identify 28 women who will participate in the project that optimize privacy protections, methods to evaluate the projects usefulness and effectiveness have been identified, a

Coach/Navigator job description was developed and personnel were selected for Coach/Navigator positions. An orientation program is being developed, materials created, and a continuing care plan developed. www.emh.org

Family Campership; Camp Sunshine

A family of five, one parent and four children were able to attend Camp Sunshine for one week last summer because of the grant received by the Maine Cancer Foundation. One son, Chris, was diagnosed with cancer in 2004 at age 11. The ensuing years were filled with surgery, treatment, worry and hope. "Being at Camp is a wonderful experience for us all...learning, growing and lifting one another up is always rewarding. The lasting friendships, understood tears and love and support are tremendous." Chris is now cancer free and doing great!

www.campsunshine.org

Life Beyond Chemotherapy – Establishing a Cancer Survivorship Program; Mercy Hospital, Portland

The goal of the program is to distribute resource materials to cancer survivors after active treatment has concluded, contributing to the long term physical and emotional health of cancer survivors by developing a model of post treatment care and support. A prototype of an End of Treatment Packet containing inserts covering a wide range of topics is complete. It was reviewed by medical staff and a group of patients and their families whose feedback will be incorporated into the

final version. The public relations staff is involved in design, print and production. Once the packet is available it will be first given to the target group, breast and colon cancer survivors. A survey to judge usefulness will be sent six months later, and results analyzed. The evaluation will assist in developing additional resources. Since the project is meant to implement survivorship care into routine practice, a procedure to access patients near the conclusion of their treatment so they may receive materials, is important.

www.mercyhospital.com

Support Service Fund; Maine Breast Cancer Coalition, statewide

This fund provides financial assistance for breast health or breast cancer related services or items to underserved people throughout Maine. To date, the grant from MCF provided assistance to 17 applicants, age 25-75 from nine Maine counties. A maximum individual award is \$800. www.mainebreastcancer.org

Two Roads Program for Women with Cancer; Two Roads Maine

Two Roads offers healing retreats in natural settings for people with breast cancer. The retreat includes group activities, solo time, some level of physical activity, and council time for sharing and learning. A sense of empowerment and joy is often the result and stays with participants for some time to come. MCF funding helped offset the expense of this program. www.tworoadsmaine.org



Pink Tulip Project *Ongoing*

Now in its 2nd year, the Pink Tulip Project continues its phenomenal success. With the addition of web-based programming, donors are able to feature a garden on-line and solicit donations in support of the garden. Gardens were planted in 13 counties in Maine. Not only will 40,000 pink tulips bloom this spring in gardens from York to Houlton, but \$60,000 was raised for the Women's Cancer Fund at MCF. Robin Whitten's visualization of a garden in bloom as she went through treatment for breast cancer, and her desire to give back after her successful outcome, is matched with enthusiasm by everyone who learns of the "Pink Tulip Project."

Downeast Magazine printed a wonderful article with many photos in its March issue! You too, can support a community garden already established near you or plan to start a Pink Tulip Garden in the town where you live. It's a great way to honor someone who has faced the challenge of a cancer diagnosis. Meanwhile, join us as we anxiously await mid-May, around Mother's Day, when fall planted pink tulips will bloom, heralding spring and celebrating life. Visit www.pinktulipproject.org for info.



P.O. Box 553
Portland, ME 04112-0553

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Summer Preview

July 18, 19, 20

Annual Betty Blakeman Memorial Tennis Tournament

Yarmouth H.S. and surrounding area. The finest amateur tennis tournament in Maine featuring Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles and Mixed Doubles.



September 27

Saco Bay Physical Therapy 5K

4:00 p.m., Saco A 5k out and back from Howard Sports on North Street, hearty refreshments, awards and prizes next door at Holiday Inn Express. www.sacobaypt.com



Cancer Ball

A year ago the Foundation announced it was considering launching an annual Cancer Ball. It remains on the table but without immediate plans for implementation.

August 9

Tri for a Cure



Maine's first all women's sprint triathlon, Tri for a Cure, will take place on the campus of Southern Maine Community College, South Portland on Saturday, August 9. It replaces the Golf Classic which was retired after a ten year run.

The triathlon is a 1/3 mile ocean swim, 12 mile bike, and 3 mile run. You can do all three legs as an individual, or if you prefer not to swim, a Duathlon is available that replaces the swim with a 1.5 mile run. Relay is an option where one person swims, another rides, and the third person runs. The field is limited to 500 so don't delay! Pre-event festivities on Friday night include early check-in, an Expo and pre-race carb dinner at SMCC. Limited lodging is available for participants in the new dorms located just steps away.

We encourage ALL women to consider Tri for a Cure. Fitting the "athlete" mold is NOT one of our requirements. Make it fun! Persuade your mother, sister, cousin, aunt, friends and co-workers to "Tri" for an excellent cause! Completing a triathlon, especially your first, can be one of the greatest accomplishments in your life. Come on; give it a "Tri!" FMI www.mainetriforcure.org