



To improve the health and well-being of Maine people by funding cancer research, education and patient support programs throughout Maine. 100% of funds raised remain in Maine.

## From the President's Desk

by Meredith Strang Burgess

As I write this I am in the midst of learning the policies and processes of the 123rd Maine Legislature and as a member of the Education Committee, you can be sure I'm right in the middle of the action! I am pleased to represent House District 108 covering Cumberland, Long Island and part of North Yarmouth. I have a lot to learn about the inner workings of Augusta, but look forward to taking on the challenge of helping our state reduce the tax burden on its citizens and improve the health and well-being of Maine people.

As a cancer survivor I am pleased to co-sign LR # 2036 "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." This bill will help improve early detection and prevention in Maine, particularly for cancers with screening recommendations that, when adhered to, can detect cancer at its earliest and most treatable form. I'm also looking to introduce a Pink License Plate much like the Loon Plate and other specialty license plates, with income from the pink plate benefiting breast cancer research, education and patient support programs in Maine.

My term as President of the Maine Cancer Foundation board will conclude in June at the Annual Meeting. Hard to believe 5 years have gone by! There's a clear plan for leadership succession in place and a vibrant, dedicated board. It's been a wonderful experience with much to be proud of. I'm grateful for everyone's support of the Foundation and the good we have been able to accomplish. Cancer statistics are improving but still, far too many are lost each year. Is a world free of cancer in our future? I sure hope so! But it won't happen without our continued efforts and attention.

## 9th Annual Mary's Walk & Kerryman Pub Road Race Slated For March 11, 2007 In Saco

Over 2,000 people are expected for this tremendous event that has raised \$750,000 for the Maine Cancer Foundation since its inception 8 years ago. Originally planned to celebrate the life of Mary Kerry Libby, the event has grown beyond anyone's expectations. People living with cancer, their friends and family, cancer survivors and people who care about

Mary's Walk



Kerryman Pub  
4 Mile Road Race



them, come in a joyful community gathering for life and to fund research and find hope in the fight against cancer. Register today on-line at [www.maryswalk.org](http://www.maryswalk.org) or call toll free in Maine 1-866-March11 for your registration brochure. *Making a difference is just a walk away!*



## Grants Awarded for Education and Patient Support

**Cycle 1...September 1:**  
*Supporting Patients with Cancer through Intensive Nutritional Intervention*  
**Maine General Medical Center Oncology Services**

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 will implement an intensive nutritional intervention to patients undergoing medical oncology treatment to assess weight, nutritional status and quality of life.

**Cycle 2...December 1:**  
*Breast Cancer Diaries Film and Speaking Tour*

The goal of this project is to support and educate the population in understanding the issue of breast cancer and how it affects the cancer patient, family, children, relatives, friends, and medical community

continued on pg. 3

## Cancer Ball

The Maine Cancer Foundation is considering launching an annual "Cancer Ball" in the spring of 2008, in southern Maine. A memorable night to celebrate the progress we have made and renew our commitment to a future free of cancer.

If this sounds good to you, please let us know. Call 773-2533 or E-mail [Joanne@mainecancer.org](mailto:Joanne@mainecancer.org). We'd like to know what you think, what ideas or suggestions you have. Interested in serving on the committee?

We look forward to hearing from you and will keep you updated.



## Annual Sea Dog's Mother's Day 5k

May 13, 2007  
Hadlock Field,  
Portland

see pg. 4 for details



# Grant Recipients Report Progress

**Lindsay Shopland, Ph.D., Jackson Lab** is investigating the role of chromosome DNA sequence rearrangements in the reorganization of nuclei in high-grade lymphoma cells. Understanding nuclear architecture is critical for tumor cell biology because gene positioning in the nucleus is intimately linked with gene expression. The hypothesis being tested is that rearrangement of chromosomal sequences by translocation and amplification results in the mislocalization and misfolding of genes in tumor cell nuclei. Preliminary findings following evaluation of a specific subset of microarray gene expression data suggest the presence of distinct chromosomal domains with coordinately regulated genes. They also support the hypothesis as stated: that a chromosomal sequence rearrangement can affect large scale, functional properties of chromatin.

**Anja Nohe, Ph.D. at the University of Maine** seeks to establish the role of vitamin D3 and its membrane receptor in hormone-dependent cancer cells, such as breast, ovary and prostate cancer. In hormone-dependent cancers tumor growth is driven by the binding of the hormone to its receptor. Vitamin D3 can have both preventive and therapeutic effects by regulating cell growth, the cell cycle, apoptosis, and differentiation – a role much greater than earlier views which focused primarily on bone health and calcium homeostasis. Initial work has led to an indication that membrane domains are important key players in signal transduction. Further study will use breast adenocarcinoma and prostate carcinoma cell lines to determine the role of Vitamin D3.

**At MCCM, Ivette Emery, Ph.D. and Chiara Battelli, Ph. D., M.D.** are investigating molecular predictors of Iressa response in lung cancer patients. This retrospective study looks at 99 lung cancer patients treated with the drug Iressa at MCCM between 2000 and 2003. Iressa is designed to target EGRF (epidermal growth factor receptor) and inactivate it, thus stopping tumor growth. But not all patients have the same response. The hypothesis is that particular protein levels can be used to predict the success or failure of Iressa. In the first six months of this study, a database was constructed to delineate data fields. Immunohistochemical (IHC) analyses that require IHC stainings were completed for 1 protein of interest and nearly complete for the remaining 3. A new technology, Light Scanner will be used to detect EGRF gene mutations in tumor cells. The study will conclude in the next several months and results presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology and submitted to the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

**Shaoguang Li, Ph.D. at the Jackson Lab** is researching the role of Src family kinases in regulation of stem cell survival in chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). The hypothesis is that self-renewal

and survival of these leukemic stem cells are mediated by different molecular pathways than those that stimulate leukemic cell proliferation, and targeting leukemic stem cells is essential to curative therapy in CML. Aim I is to test whether Src kinase regulate survival of leukemia stem cells. To confirm the effect, bone marrow cells will be isolated and further investigated to determine the degree to which the number of CML stem cells is reduced. A second aim is to test whether Src kinase activate b-catenin in leukemic stem cells and have a positive effect on survival of these cells and to address the role of b-catenin in BCR-ABL leukemogenesis. Investigation continues.

**Maine Medical Center Research Institute's Lucy Liaw, Ph.D.** continues to study the regulation of breast cancer by the Notch signaling pathway. There is growing evidence that dysregulated Notch activation is associated with cell transformation and tumorigenesis. In human breast cancer, the potential role of Notch remains unclear, but evidence suggests that activated notch signaling is common during tumorigenesis. The long term goal of this project is to define the mechanism of Notch1 and Notch2 inhibition of breast tumor growth through regulation of these processes. The project will further analyze apoptosis status in several human breast tumor cell lines by evaluating levels of apoptotic proteins, such as caspases and survivin, after treatment with chemotoxic substances such as paclitaxel and staurosporine. ☀

## Legislative Alert

In Maine, unlike other states, cancer is the leading cause of death. This year, nearly 8000 people in Maine will be told "You have cancer." Maine must do a better job with cancer awareness, risk reduction and early detection. Maine does not currently designate any state funds to cancer. The Maine Cancer Consortium, made up of over 100 cancer organizations, medical providers, health educators, survivors and friends, has worked to draft a bill now before the state legislature that seeks to increase the number of Maine people who access recommended cancer screenings and to reduce the incidence of cancer in Maine. Please let your legislator know that you support **LR2036: 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.** Unsure who your legislator is? Visit <http://janus.state.me.us/house/townlist.htm> for a list by town. For more information on the cancer plan visit [www.maineccancerconsortium.org](http://www.maineccancerconsortium.org).



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## Pink Tulip Project



Planting hope one tulip at a time.

In its inaugural year, the Pink Tulip Project was a huge success. Not only will thousands of pink tulips bloom this spring in gar-

dens from Bangor to Lewiston, Portland and beyond, but \$21,000 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, was matched with enthusiasm by everyone who heard of the "Pink Tulip Project." Plans are in place to conduct the Pink Tulip campaign annually with options for community, business and home gardeners to participate. ☀

## Sugarloaf Charity Summit

The turnout for Sugarloaf's 2007 Charity Summit on January 19 and 20 was tremendous! More businesses came forward to



Racing for a cure at Sugarloaf/USA

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 \$180,000 was raised. Proceeds, split 50/50 after expenses, benefit the Maine Cancer Foundation and the Martha B. Webber Breast Cancer Awareness Fund at Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington. Thank you to all the folks at Sugarloaf for a great event and Project Solutions for outstanding event management! ☀

### Grants Awarded *continued from pg. 1*

while promoting awareness of breast cancer and research into its causes and potential cure. The Breast Cancer Diaries, a documentary film, will be shown in four Maine regions in the upcoming year. Visit [www.thebreastcancerdiaries.com](http://www.thebreastcancerdiaries.com) for more information.

#### **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, week long residential retreats for people with cancer in small groups, May through October. Contact [www.fhollanddaycenter.org](http://www.fhollanddaycenter.org) if interested, or phone Mary Jo at 854-5157.

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

Fostering communication, cooperation and continuity as a pathway to community health, this program seeks to increase the communities' awareness of skin cancer and steps that can be taken to prevent it. It will coordinate training for school and public health officials, students and the community at large. [www.vitalpathways.org](http://www.vitalpathways.org)

#### **Cycle 3...Applications due March 1 MCF Announces Adjustment to Application Cycle**

Beginning this March, Education and Patient Support grants will be accepted twice each year, November 1 and March 1. Research applications will continue to be accepted once a year on April 1.

## 3rd Annual Remembering Tom Rowe Concert

Saturday, May 12, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.  
Franco-American Heritage Center,  
Lewiston

Here's 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, himself a talented musician, organizes the event that features



the Dave Rowe Trio, Turkey Hollow, Schooner Fare, Denny Breau 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 is managing ticket sales. To reserve your ticket visit [www.laarts.org](http://www.laarts.org) choose Special Events and scroll down, or phone (207) 782-7228.

## Annual Appeal

Thank you to all those who gave in response to the Annual Appeal which raised \$24,000 towards a goal of \$30,000. Along with special gifts and special events, our fundraising looks positive for this fiscal year. Even so, each April we receive many more worthy research applications than we are able to fund. *Wouldn't it be great if we had more resources for the research grant cycle and could fund one or two additional projects?* Please consider making your first gift or an additional gift at this time using the form to the right. 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

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**May 13**

**Sea Dogs Mother's Day 5K**

Road Race presented by Paradigm Windows and the Maine Track Club. Registration/check-in starts at 7:00 AM. Kid's Run starts at 8:30 AM. The 5K takes place at 9:15 AM. To benefit the Women's Cancer Fund.



**July 21, 22, 23**

**Annual Betty Blakeman Memorial Tennis Tournament**

in Yarmouth. Best in the state amateur competition, Men's, Women's, and Double's. On the courts at Yarmouth High School and surrounding communities.



**August 13**

**10th Annual Golf Classic**

at the Woodlands, Falmouth. Celebrate a decade of superb play, fellowship and fundraising at this years' event. Tee-off 9:00 a.m., BBQ lunch, awards, contests, auction and more; a great time on one of Maine's finest courses.



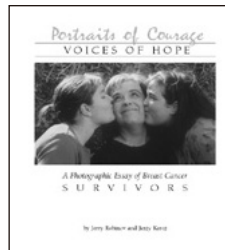
**Discovery Weekend**

**May 4, 5 & 6, 2007**

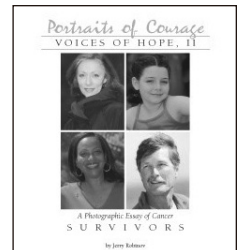
*A unique weekend experience for cancer patients and their loved one. Held in a scenic southern Maine oceanfront retreat house. Private room and bath, family style meals. Seminars, conversation and merriment too!*

**Call 773-2533 or toll-free  
in Maine 1-866-627-2411  
for an informational brochure or to register.**

**Portraits of Courage, Voices of Hope**



Volumes I and II are available at no charge to cancer patients, support groups, and providers. Contact the Foundation to order yours today, toll free 1-866-627-2411



**[www.mainecancer.org](http://www.mainecancer.org)**

This periodical publication of the Maine Cancer Foundation seeks to inform concerned citizens of past successes and future plans of the Foundation. Address correspondence to Susan M. Rowan, Executive Director, PO Box 553, Portland, ME 04112. Phone (207) 773-2533 or email [mainecancer@gwi.net](mailto:mainecancer@gwi.net). MCF a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax deductible contributions are welcomed and remain in the state of Maine, to benefit Maine people.