

THE  
**University of Vermont**  
C A N C E R C E N T E R

The eALERT is an internal newsletter sent semi-monthly.  
Please send submissions for the eALERT to [Sarah Keblin](#) by 4 PM Wednesday for  
submission in the current issue.

*Thursday, April 2, 2015*

**New NIH Bio-sketch Deadline: May 25**

**Thomas A. Roland Lecture in Radiation Oncology**

**Team Science Research Symposium Announced**

**J. Walter Juckett Lecture: Louise Strong, MD**

**Northeastern Breast Cancer Symposium: May 8, 2015**

**New Innovations Publication Launched**

**Join a UVM Cancer Center Vermont City Marathon Relay Team!**

**UVM Cancer Center in the NEWS**

**Clinical Trials Highlight**

**Publications and Announcements**

**Funding Opportunities- NEW LISTINGS THIS WEEK**

**Ongoing Events**

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## Event Spotlight

**April 14, 2015**

**Thomas A. Roland, MD  
Lecture in Radiation  
Oncology**

featuring  
**Thomas Buchholz, MD  
MD Anderson Cancer  
Center**

**7:30 to 8:30 AM  
Davis Auditorium  
(in conjunction with  
Gynecology/Oncology  
Grand Rounds)**

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## Save the Date

**April 2015**

*National Cancer  
Control Month, Head and Neck  
Cancer Awareness Month,  
Testicular Cancer Awareness  
Month*

**4 UVM Rally Against Cancer  
Event: Men's Lacrosse;** Virtue  
Field, UVM Athletic Campus,  
1:30 PM.

**8 [ACS Vermont Cancer  
Action Day](#),** Cedar Creek Room  
Montpelier Statehouse, VT; 4-6  
PM, RSVP to [Jill Sudhoff-Guerin](#).

**8 Pathology and Laboratory  
Sciences Grand Rounds:** "Next  
Generation Sequencing in

## NIH Biographical Sketch Format Deadline Reminder

A reminder to all UVM Cancer Center members that for all NIH and AHRQ grant applications submitted **on or after May 25, 2015**, the new NIH biosketch format will be required. For more information [click here](#).

## Thomas A. Roland, MD Lecture

The Department of Radiation Oncology is proud to announce the first, annual Thomas A. Roland, MD Lecture in Radiation Oncology. The event will take place on Tuesday, **April 14, 2015 from 7:30 to 8:30 AM** in the Davis Auditorium and will feature guest speaker Thomas Buchholz, MD, Professor, Executive Vice President, and Physician-in-Chief at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.



Thomas A Roland, MD

Buchholz, whose academic interests are focused in breast cancer and radiation oncology, will present, "Ever Changing Management of Axillary Lymph Nodes in Breast Cancer".

*This event is joining with Gynecology/Oncology Grand Rounds. For more information about the event, please contact [Lori Ann Roy](#) in Radiation Oncology.*

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## Team Science Mini Research Symposium on May 22

The UVM Cancer Center will host a half-day Clinical and Translational Research Symposium on Friday, May 22, 2015 focused on team science. Featured speakers include two experts on the topic from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)--Michelle Bennett, PhD, deputy scientific director of the Division of Intramural Research (DIR) at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and Howard Gadlin, PhD, NIH Ombudsman and Director of the Center for Cooperative Resolution at the NIH. The pair are contributors to the NIH's 2010 publication *Collaboration and Team Science: A Field Guide*.

Pathology: Lessons Re-Learned," featuring John Pfeifer, MD, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine; Davis Auditorium, 1-2 PM.

**10 Cancer Research and Technology Seminar:** "Using Single Cell Analysis to Understand the Biology of Cancer," featuring Katy Richards-Hrdlicka, PhD, Fluidigm; Given C443, 12 PM.

**11 UVM Color Run for the UVM Cancer Center;** 5 PM UVM Campus.

**14 First annual Thomas A. Roland, MD Lecture in Radiation Oncology;** featuring Thomas Buchholz, MD, Executive Vice President & Physician in Chief, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX; location Davis Auditorium, 7:30-8:30 AM.

**17 Biochemistry Seminar Series,** featuring Mark Israel, MD, Director, Norris Cotton Cancer Center; Given C443, 12 PM.

**17 VGN/AGTC Seminar: *Bioinformatics in a Box,*** featuring Faye D. Schilkey, Director, Strategic Projects & NM-INBRE Sequencing & Bioinformatics Core National Center for Genome Resources; HSRF 400, 2 PM. Contact [Tim Hunter](#) for more information.

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## May 2015

*Brain Tumor Awareness/  
Cancer Research Month/  
Skin Cancer Detection and  
Prevention Month/National  
Women's Health Month*

The event will also include interactive time for faculty, staff, and students to work collaboratively on the process of team science, utilizing real-time scientific and clinical research happening at the UVM Cancer Center.

The event will take place in the UVM College of Medicine's Carpenter Auditorium from 8 AM to 12 PM. Breakfast will be provided.

A full agenda for the day will be distributed in the coming weeks. Please [RSVP to Charlie Brooks](#).

## Juckett Lecture to Feature Louise Strong, MD



On **Tuesday, May 12, 2015** the UVM Cancer Center presents a J. Walter Juckett Distinguished Lecture featuring Louise Strong, MD, Professor of Genetics and Professor of Biomedical Sciences at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. Strong is an international leader in cancer genetics and genetic epidemiology and will present on "The Many Faces of Li Fraumeni Syndrome". The lecture will

take place in the UVM College of Medicine's Carpenter Auditorium at 12 PM.

For more information about the event, or Strong's visit, please contact [Charlie Brooks](#).

## Northeastern Breast Cancer Research Symposium: May 8

UVM Cancer Center faculty and staff are invited to join investigators from the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, McGill University, University of Massachusetts, University of Vermont, Yale University, Tufts University, University of Connecticut Health Center, and Jackson Laboratory at the Northeastern Breast Cancer Symposium on **May 8, 2015**. The event will take place at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH.

This one-day symposium will highlight work in breast cancer at participating institutions, and aims to foster trans-institutional collaboration on timely issues in basic, translational, and clinical breast cancer research.

1-2 [NE Genitourinary Oncology Symposium](#); Hilton Hotel, Burlington, VT.

1-3 [Stowe Weekend of Hope](#)

4 **Genomic Instability Cancer Meeting**; Jackson Laboratories, Bar Harbor, ME; please contact [Kevin Mills](#) at Jackson Labs.

8 [Northeastern Breast Cancer Symposium](#); Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, 8 AM to 5 PM. For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

12 **J. Walter Juckett Distinguished Lecture**: "The Many Faces of Li Fraumeni Syndrome" featuring Louise Strong, MD, Professor of Genetics at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center; Carpenter Auditorium, 12 noon.

19 **Screening and Panel Discussion of Ken Burns' film, *Cancer: Emperor of all Maladies***; a joint event with Vermont PBS; Carpenter Auditorium, 6-7:30 PM.

22 **UVM Cancer Center Mini-Symposium: *Team Science*** Carpenter Auditorium, 8 AM to 12 PM

29 **VTAAC Annual meeting**; 9 AM to 3 PM Capitol Plaza, Montpelier.

To learn more, see the full agenda, or to register [click here](#).

## Launch of UVM Cancer Center's *Innovations* Newsletter

Hopefully members, faculty, and staff have seen the new public newsletter, *Innovations*, in the clinic or in their mailbox. If you haven't, you can view it [here](#), or, feel free to email [Sarah Keblin](#) for copies.

The publication was mailed broadly to donors, primary care offices, and other cancer centers. Copies should be available throughout the UVM Cancer Center clinics and are available for use by members if needed.

## Run, Sweat, Give: Relay Teams Available for VCM

The UVM College of Medicine Running and Marathon team, initiated by medical students, invites participation by all UVM Cancer Center members on its team for the 2015 Vermont City Marathon (VCM). There are relay teams and spots open at this time. Participants must pay the VCM registration and join the team in fundraising for the UVM Cancer Center. There is a great online tool available to participants which makes fundraising from friends, family, and colleagues very easy and fun!

Funds raised benefit the UVM Cancer Center's *Steps to Wellness, Oncology Rehabilitation* program.

If you are interested in a relay team, or spot on a team, please contact [Megan Dodge](#) in the UVM College of Medicine Development Office.

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**June 2015**

*Men's Health Awareness Month*

**26 SAVE THE DATE: 1st Annual Men's Health and Cancer Conference presented by the UVM Cancer Center;** Medical Education Center, UVM College of Medicine; 8-12.

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### **September 2015**

*Ovarian, Leukemia and Lymphoma, Childhood and Prostate, and Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month*

**14 SAVE THE DATE: J. Walter Juckett Distinguished Lecture**, featuring nobel prize winning scientist Phil Sharp, PhD, Professor at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT.

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### **October 2015**

*Breast Cancer Awareness Month*

**2 SAVE THE DATE: 18th Annual Breast Cancer Conference.**

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2014 UVM College of Medicine Marathon Team

## **UVM Cancer Center in the NEWS**

**Donald Weaver, MD**, UVM professor of pathology and UVM Cancer Center member, appeared on WCAX-TV's live interview program, "[The :30](#)", on April 1, 2015 to discuss his recently-published *JAMA* study on pathologists' interpretations of breast biopsies.

**Susan Lakoski, M.D., M.S.**, assistant professor of medicine, and colleagues received significant national coverage for an Online First published in *JAMA Oncology* reporting the benefits of midlife fitness in terms of cancer incidence and survival in men. Media coverage of the study included a number of articles, including stories in the following outlets: [TIME](#), [HealthDay](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Medscape](#); [Daily Mail](#) (UK).

The new **Lung Cancer Screening Program** at the UVM Cancer Center will be highlighted on WCAX TV's *Health Watch* report on Friday, April 3 between 6:20 and 6:40 PM. George Gentchos, MD, associate professor of radiology was interviewed for the story.

## **Clinical Trials Highlight**

The UVM Cancer Center was the first site in a world-wide, phase I trial to enroll a patient in a cohort for first-line treatment of patients with metastatic, non-small cell lung cancer.

This a study of Avelumab, a novel anti-PDL-1 monoclonal antibody for patients with a variety of solid tumor malignancies. Over the past year the UVM Cancer Center has participated in this trial enrolling 6 patients with a variety of cancers.

**Study Title:** EMR 100070-001 A Phase I, Open-label, Multiple-ascending Dose Trial to Investigate the Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics, Biological and Clinical Activity of Avelumab (MSB0010718C) in Subjects With Metastatic or Locally Advanced Solid Tumors and Expansion to Selected Indications

**PI: Claire Verschraegen, MD, MS, FACP**

For more information please contact [Claire Verschraegen, MD](#), or the study coordinator, [Sam Cory](#).

## Publications and Announcements

\*Please send announcements and publication notices to [Sarah Keblin](#) for inclusion in the eALERT and other promotional material\*

[Midlife Cardiorespiratory Fitness, Incident Cancer, and Survival After Cancer in Men The Cooper Center Longitudinal Study](#). **Susan G. Lakoski, MD**, Benjamin L. Willis, Carolyn E.

Barlow, David Leonard, Ang Gao, Nina B. Radford, Stephen W. Farrell, Pamela S. Douglas, Jarett D. Berry, Laura F. DeFina, Lee W. Jones; JAMA Oncology 2015 Mar 26.

[Diagnostic concordance among pathologists interpreting breast biopsy specimens](#). Elmore JG, Longton GM, Carney PA, Geller BM, Onega T, Tosteson AN, Nelson HD, Pepe MS, Allison KH, Schnitt SJ, O'Malley FP, **Weaver DL**. JAMA. 2015 Mar 17;313(11):1122-32. doi: 10.1001/jama.2015.1405. PMID: 25781441.

[Tumor Oncogene \(KRAS\) Status and Risk of Venous Thrombosis in Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer](#).

**Ades S**, Kumar S, M A, **Goodwin A**, Weckstein D, Dugan M, **Ashikaga T**, **Evans M**, **Verschraegen C**, **Holmes CE**. J Thromb Haemost. 2015 Mar 24. doi: 10.1111/jth.12910. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25809746.

[Kif18a Is specifically required for mitotic progression during germ line development.](#) Czechanski A, Kim H, Byers C, Greenstein I, **Stumpff J**, Reinholdt LG. Dev Biol. 2015 Mar 27. pii: S0012-1606(15)00144-X. doi: 10.1016/j.ydbio.2015.03.011. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25824710.

[One vs. Two Breast Density Measures to Predict 5- and 10- Year Breast Cancer Risk.](#) Kerlikowske K, Gard CC, **Sprague BL**, Tice JA, Miglioretti DL. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2015 Mar 30. pii: cebp.0035.2015. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25824444.

[Expression of the IL-11 Gene in Metastatic Cells Is Supported by Runx2-Smad and Runx2-cJun Complexes Induced by TGFβ1.](#) Zhang X, **Wu H**, Dobson JR, **Browne G**, Hong D, Akech J, Languino LR, **Stein JL**, **Stein GS**, **Lian JB**. J Cell Biochem. 2015 Mar 23. doi: 10.1002/jcb.25167. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25808168.

[The Histochemistry and Cell Biology pandect: the year 2014 in review.](#) **Taatjes DJ**, Roth J. Histochem Cell Biol. 2015 Apr; 143(4): 339-68. doi: 10.1007/s00418-015-1313-7. Epub 2015 Mar 6. PMID: 25744491.

[Relation Between Cancer and Atrial Fibrillation \(from the REasons for Geographic And Racial Differences in Stroke Study\).](#) O'Neal WT, **Lakoski SG**, Qureshi W, Judd SE, Howard G, Howard VJ, **Cushman M**, Soliman EZ. Am J Cardiol. 2015 Apr 15; 115(8): 1090-4. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2015.01.540. Epub 2015 Jan 31. PMID: 25711434.

[Demographic and practice characteristics of pathologists who enjoy breast tissue interpretation.](#) Oster NV, Geller BM, Carney PA, Reisch LM, Onega T, **Weaver DL**, Frederick P, Elmore JG. Breast. 2015 Apr; 24(2): 107-11. doi: 10.1016/j.breast.2014.10.003. Epub 2014 Dec 29. PMID: 25554017.

[Cancer cachexia update in head and neck cancer: Definitions and diagnostic features.](#) Couch ME, **Dittus K**, **Toth MJ**, Willis MS, Guttridge DC, George JR, Barnes CA, Gourin CG, Der-Torossian H. Head Neck. 2015

## Funding Opportunities

Green indicates NEW

- [Health Careers Opportunity Program](#); limited competition award--UVM may put forth a single application for the award; letters on interest must be submitted to UVM's [Hilda Alajajian](#) by **April 6, 2015**.
- [American Cancer Society \(ACS\): RFA for research projects addressing "The Role of Health Policy and Health Insurance in Improving Access to and Performance of Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment Services";](#) deadline for applications are **April 1 and October 15, 2015**.
- [Brain Health Alliance Virtual Institute 2015 Summer Educational Program-stipends available;](#) high school, college or graduate students are invited to apply; **deadline is April 15**.
- [CDMRP Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Grants Announced;](#) Innovator, Breakthrough and Distinguished Investigator Awards; **pre-application deadline is April 8 for some, April 24 for others**. See website for details.
- [IDeA co-funding initiative announced: If you are submitting applications to NIH for R01 and R15 awards, please make sure that your program officer knows that you are from an IDeA state and, therefore, eligible for co-funding](#) The IDeA co-funding initiative requests applications once a year. This year deadline is April 10, 2015. NIGMS will co-fund awards to support research project grants applications from investigators within IDeA eligible states. NIGMS will provide support to applicants whose proposals received excellent ratings through the peer review process but fell short of the Institute's or Center's (ICs) pay line; **deadline April 10, 2015**.
- [The Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award](#); designed to provide funding to extraordinary early career researchers who have an innovative new idea but lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding; **application deadline is July 1, 2015**.

[UVM Cancer Center Research Grants](#)



A full list of all organizations designated by the NCI as providing peer-reviewed funding can be found [here](#).

## Ongoing Events

**Cancer Biology and Technology Seminar Series** (an integrated part of the Biochemistry Seminar Series)  
Second Friday of each month at Noon, Given C443.

**Environmental Pathology and Carcinogenesis Seminar Series**

Mondays at Noon, HSRF 200

**UVM Cancer Center Grand Rounds**

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th

Tuesday 8-9am, MedEd 300

Please refer to the UVM Cancer Center Website for information regarding regularly scheduled tumor board meetings. Information can be found [here](#).

UVM Cancer Center Leadership:

Gary S. Stein, PhD, Co-Director

Claire F. Verschraegen, MD, Co-Director

Kate Webster, Administrative Director

Sarah Koblin, Communications Manager