



PLWC Bulletin

Oncologist-approved cancer information from the American Society of Clinical Oncology & The ASCO Foundation

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December 2007

 FORWARD TO A FRIEND >>

News from the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

CURE and *Heal* magazines are featuring daily updates on breaking news on breast cancer research and treatment from the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, December 12-16. For more information, visit www.plwc.org/collaborative.

Attention Patient Advocates:

There is still time to register for two upcoming educational and scientific symposia. The deadline for early registration and housing for the **2008 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium**, taking place **January 25-27, 2008**, in **Orlando, Florida**, is **December 17, 2007**. The deadline for early

New on PLWC

- **Expert Perspective from ASCO: CT Scans and Cancer Risk.** Read perspectives from ASCO members about a recent journal article that suggests the increased frequency of computed tomography (CT) scans may contribute to a higher cancer incidence.
- **New Section: Caring for the Whole Patient.** Check out this new section, which outlines the importance of the emotional and social needs of people living with cancer, detailed in a recent Institute of Medicine report, and how addressing these needs can improve a patient's well-being. Helpful resources are also listed, such as links to support groups and ASCO treatment plans and summaries.
- **PLWC Podcasts.** Listen to four new podcasts: *Cancer and the Holidays*, *A Decision Aid Tool for Lung Cancer*, with Dr. Christopher Azzoli, *CT Scan—What to Expect*, and *What Are Clinical Trials?* Additional podcasts on coping and other topics can be found at www.plwc.org/podcasts.
- **Latest Updates to PLWC Guides to Cancer.** Several of the website's sections of cancer types and cancer-related syndromes have been recently updated, including adrenal gland tumor, kidney cancer, neuroblastoma, neurofibromatosis type 1, neurofibromatosis type 2, ovarian cancer, sarcoma, and Wilms tumor.
- **PLWC Guides to Cancer in Spanish.** New and updated *Cancer Types* that have been translated into Spanish include *cáncer de hígado* (liver cancer), *cáncer de próstata* (prostate cancer), *cáncer oral y orofaríngeo* (oral and oropharyngeal cancer), *sarcoma de tejido blando* (sarcoma), y

registration and housing for the **2008 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium**, taking place **February 14-16, 2008**, in **San Francisco, California**, is January 14, 2008.

For additional information, please visit www.genitasymposium.org and www.gucasymposium.org, or email patientadvocates@asco.org.

For more information on *News and Events*, use the blue navigation bar below to explore this and other sections of PLWC.

Cancer Types ▶

Learning About Cancer ▶

Diagnosis and Treatment ▶

Coping ▶

Survivorship ▶

Library ▶

ASCO Resources ▶

News and Events ▶

PLWC En Español ▶

For more information about ASCO's patient information resources, visit www.plwc.org or call 888-651-3038.

glioma del tronco encefálico, sistema nervioso central, cáncer infantil (brain stem glioma).

This Week on PLWC

ASCO Expert Corner: Health Disparities in Cancer

In this new article, Derek Raghavan, MD, PhD, discusses some of the differences in the occurrence, frequency, and survival of cancer of different populations in the United States. In addition, he covers what these disparities mean for people with cancer, and what ASCO is doing to reduce disparities in cancer care. Dr. Raghavan is Co-Chair of the ASCO Health Disparities Task Force.

Read this ASCO Expert Corner.

Patients' Toolbox

Each month, PLWC offers original **Feature Articles**, which address common challenges for people living with cancer and offer practical, how-to information. In addition to the *ASCO Expert Corner* article outlined above, the latest Features include:

- **Keeping a Personal Medical Record** offers tips on what to include in a personal medical record, how to compile one, and how to organize and store it. Keeping an accurate record of your medical history is an important step in managing your health.
- **Barium Enema—What to Expect** explains how to prepare for the procedure, what happens during the examination, and what to expect after the test is done. A barium enema is an x-ray examination of the colon and rectum.
- **Answers to Holiday Questions** presents some ideas on coping with the common mixture of conflicting feelings during the holiday season, and provides suggestions to some frequently asked questions during this time.
- **Resources to Help You Quit Smoking** provides a listing of various online tools and telephone helplines designed to help you quit smoking, which is the single most important thing you can do to lower your cancer risk.
- *Don't forget that you can also check out 150+ other **Feature***

Articles on PLWC!

In the News

Here are some of this month's cancer-related news headlines:

- December 11, 2007: Avoiding weight gain important after breast cancer (Reuters Health)
- December 11, 2007: Meat raises lung cancer risk: study (Reuters Health)
- December 7, 2007: Green tea may protect against colon cancer (Reuters Health)
- December 6, 2007: Childhood cancer mortality falling in US (Reuters Health)
- December 6, 2007: Black raspberries may prevent cancer of esophagus (Reuters Health)
- December 3, 2007: Cancer cells softer than healthy cells: study (Reuters Health)
- *For more headlines, visit PLWC's News Articles section.*

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The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world's leading professional organization representing physicians of all oncology subspecialties who care for people with cancer. ASCO's more than 25,000 members from the United States and abroad set the standard for patient care worldwide and lead the fight for more effective cancer treatments, increased funding for clinical and translational research, and, ultimately, cures for the many different types of cancer that strike an estimated 10 million people worldwide each year. In addition to producing the award-winning patient information website *People Living With Cancer* (www.plwc.org), ASCO publishes the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* (JCO), the preeminent, peer-reviewed medical journal on clinical cancer research, and the *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP), the authoritative resource for practicing oncologists making day-to-day decisions regarding clinical and administrative management.