



# PLWC Bulletin

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

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 FORWARD TO A FRIEND >>

## Find a Clinical Trial With the TrialCheck Clinical Trials Search Tool

ASCO and the Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups have joined together to provide PLWC users a quick and easy way to find cancer clinical trials. TrialCheck uses simple questions to help health care providers, patients, and caregivers find cancer clinical trials. **Search for a clinical trial** by using TrialCheck and other tools available on PLWC.

In addition, PLWC offers a wealth of information about clinical trials. Learn more about patient safety, phases of clinical trials, deciding to participate in a clinical trial, and questions to ask the research team at [www.plwc.org/clinicaltrials](http://www.plwc.org/clinicaltrials). This important information is also available in **Spanish**.

## New on PLWC

- **Cancer Advances: 2008 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium.** Read important research news for patients from the fifth annual meeting, held last week in Orlando, Florida. In addition, listen to the podcast of the meeting highlights, hosted by Nicholas Petrelli, MD .
- **ASCO Answers Fact Sheets.** Check out this new series of fact sheets that provides an introduction to a specific type of cancer. Each fact sheet is a PDF that includes an overview of what the cancer is, an illustration of where the cancer starts, how it is treated, terms to know, and questions to ask the doctor. Fact sheets on colorectal, esophageal, liver, pancreatic, and stomach cancers are now available; look for new titles to appear soon.
- **Cancer Advances: A Public Forum on Prostate, Kidney, Bladder, and Testicular Cancers.** Sign up for this free event for the public on February, 13, 2008, presented by The ASCO Cancer Foundation, that takes place the evening before the 2008 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium . Leading experts in genitourinary cancers will discuss key issues and advances.
- **JCO Cancer Advances on Hormone Therapy and Prostate Cancer.** Read more about this study, published in ASCO's *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, reporting that just four months of hormonal therapy before and with radiation therapy slowed cancer growth by as much as eight years, and increased survival in older men with potentially aggressive prostate cancer.
- **JCO Cancer Advances on Ashkenazi Ovarian Cancer Patients with BRCA Mutations .** Learn more about this study, also published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, which found that Ashkenazi Jewish women with ovarian cancer who have

## Survivors of All Ages: Submit Your Artwork for the 2009 Expressions of Hope Calendar

ASCO is now accepting artwork submissions for our annual Expressions of Hope wall calendar. We invite anyone who has been affected by cancer – patients, friends, families, caregivers – to share their emotions through art and inspire hope in others.

**Find out more** about the artwork specifications and how to submit an entry.

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 ▶

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mutations in the *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* genes lived longer than Ashkenazi Jewish women with ovarian cancer without these mutations.

- **Clinical Cancer Advances 2007.** Discover 24 of the most significant advances on the front lines of cancer research over the past year, including advances in prevention and screening and targeted therapies. Also, listen to the podcast about the report, presented by Julie Gralow, MD, and view the slide deck about the report highlights.

## This Week on PLWC

### ASCO Expert Corner: Research Highlights From the 2008 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium

In this new article, Nicholas Petrelli, MD, discusses some of the research related to prevention, screening, and treatment of these types of cancers, which include cancers of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas, small bowel, liver, bile duct, colon, and rectum.

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:

For more information about ASCO's patient information resources, visit [www.plwc.org](http://www.plwc.org) or call 888-651-3038.

- **Lower Extremity Lymphedema: Leg Swelling After Cancer Treatment** explains the risk factors and symptoms of this side effect, which can occur after surgery or radiation therapy. Prevention and treatment options for people managing this condition are also described.
- **The Importance of Hydration** discusses the causes and symptoms of dehydration. Learning how to stay hydrated, and recognizing and treating dehydration before it becomes severe, are important steps for good health.
- **Seven Steps for a Healthier New Year** offers practical tips to help you take control of your health and develop a strategy to help prevent certain types of cancer and reach your goals for the coming year.
- *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:

- January 23, 2008: Peer coaching helps bring people in for colon test (Reuters Health)
- January 22, 2008: Smoking ups risk with radiation for breast cancer (Reuters Health)
- January 21, 2008: Walking an hour a week cuts colon cancer risk (Reuters Health)
- January 11, 2008: Ovary removal ups breast cancer survival for some (Reuters Health)
- January 8, 2008: More sun is healthy, despite skin cancer risk (Reuters Health)
- January 8, 2008: Breast cancer risk varies widely in BRCA carriers (Reuters Health)
- January 7, 2008: Racial disparities persist in US cancer treatment (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](http://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.

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