



PLWC Bulletin

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

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March 2007

 FORWARD TO A FRIEND >>

Call for New Content Ideas!

To continue providing a comprehensive resource to people with cancer, PLWC is always looking for ways to expand its content, including the areas of learning about cancer, diagnosis and treatment, coping strategies, and survivorship.

To do this, PLWC welcomes readers' suggestions on what topics to address next. If you have an idea about a topic or area that you'd like to see on PLWC, please email contactus@plwc.org.

New on PLWC

- **En Español: Managing Side Effects.** PLWC has translated into Spanish information on how to cope with more than 25 of the most common side effects of cancer and cancer treatment, including nausea and vomiting, fatigue, pain, lymphedema, and mouth sores.
- **En Español: ASCO Patient Guides.** Also for Spanish-speaking PLWC visitors, three recent *ASCO Patient Guides* have been translated: fertility preservation, follow-up care for colorectal cancer, and follow-up care for breast cancer.
- **Slide Decks for Health-care Professionals.** If you give patient or community group presentations, check out the PLWC Slide Deck Series. These customizable slide decks provide reliable, oncologist-approved information in a turn-key PowerPoint presentation. The series has recently been expanded and now includes: bladder cancer, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, kidney cancer, lung cancer, melanoma, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, and uterine cancer.
- **Latest Updates to PLWC Guides to Cancer.** As part of PLWC's peer-review process, more than 20 of the website's *Cancer Types* have been recently updated with the latest information, including the sections on prostate cancer, stomach cancer, and liver cancer.

Did You Know?

ASCO's Find an Oncologist Database is consistently one of the most visited pages on PLWC! This database provides readers with the contact information for oncologists who are ASCO members and who have agreed to share their information through this searchable tool. Its goal is to help people connect with specialists for their type of cancer.

The search form is easy to use. The database can be searched by doctor's name, location, specialty, or certification – or a combination of criteria.

ASCO members: If you need to update your contact information found in this database, contact the ASCO Membership Department at 888-282-2552 or membermail@asco.org.

The **Find an Oncologist Database** can be found in PLWC's *Diagnosis and Treatment* section. Use the blue navigation bar below to visit this and other sections of the website.

This Week on PLWC

ASCO Expert Corner: The Future of the Oncology Workforce

A new “**ASCO Expert Corner**” **Feature Article** explains a just-released study that forecasts a significant shortage of medical oncologists in the United States by the year 2020. The study was commissioned by the ASCO Board of Directors and conducted by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Center for Workforce Studies. This is the first comprehensive analysis of the U.S. oncology workforce.

In this PLWC Feature Article, Michael Goldstein, MD, Chair of the ASCO Workforce in Oncology Task Force and an oncologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, outlines the results of the study and what those findings mean for cancer care in the future.

Patients' Toolbox

Each month, PLWC offers original **Feature Articles**, which address common challenges for people living with cancer and offer practical, how-to information. The latest Features include:

- **Guest Author Series: Part I: Understanding Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation** is the first in a four-part series designed to help patients who are investigating transplantation. PLWC's special guest author is Edward Agura, MD, Director of the Program in Blood and Marrow Transplant at Baylor University Medical Center.
- **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)—What to Expect** offers a full description of what happens before, during, and after this common imaging test used to diagnose and evaluate tumors in internal organs and tissue.

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

- **ASCO Expert Corner: Research Highlights From the 2007 Prostate Cancer Symposium** offers the latest information from this recent research meeting, including news about screening and early detection, treatment advances, and tests to help predict prognosis. The article was written by Dean Bajorin, MD, FACP, Attending Physician at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Professor of Medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

- *Don't forget that you can also check out 120+ other **Feature Articles** on PLWC!*

In the News

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

- March 7, 2007: Far more mutations than thought involved in cancer (Reuters Health)
- March 6, 2007: Radiation for breast cancer ups heart disease risk (Reuters Health)
- March 6, 2007: Risks of aspirin outweigh cancer benefit for most (Reuters Health)
- March 1, 2007: Asbestos triggers mesothelioma more often in men than women (Reuters Health)
- *For more headlines, visit PLWC's News Articles section.*

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 nearly 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.

