To kick off the Green Dream campaign, members of the Tulane Green Wave football team recently visited pediatric patients at Tulane Hospital for Children. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Maggie Edwards has a dream—a Green Dream, as she calls it! She wants to help children with cancer while also inspiring the Tulane Green Wave football players to bring their A game this season. Mother of Tulane senior and Green Wave long snapper John Edwards, Maggie has pledged to donate $10 for every Tulane Green Wave touchdown, $5 for every field goal, and $10 for every interception in the upcoming football season to Tulane Cancer Center’s Pediatric Oncology Patient Relief Fund.

She is going to bring a large poster to every home game on which she will display a running total of her personal commitment...
The replication of DNA during cell division is part of the natural life cycle of cells. For the most part, cells perform this task in a highly accurate and efficient manner, despite a wide array of continuous insults that can cause DNA damage, things like UV light, environmental toxins, radio- or chemo-therapy, etc.

Although their precise functions remain unknown, three enzymes known as DNA polymerases play a central role in overseeing the replication process, responding to potential DNA insults and actually correcting any damage they might cause. Zachary Pursell, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry and Tulane Cancer Center program member, studies one of them—Pol epsilon.

“The DNA replication process is normally highly faithful,” said Pursell. “Because there are inherent proofreading and repair capabilities built in, there is only approximately one spontaneous replication error per human genome duplication. It’s like typing the entire novel War and Peace 1,000 times in a row in eight hours and making only one typo-forget!”

But mistakes do happen. Chromosomes can be spontaneously altered or rearranged. Repetitive gene sequences can be expanded or contracted. Point mutations, or the replacement of one nucleotide with another, can occur. “What are the specific mutagenic consequences of Pol epsilon losing its innate ability to proofread and correct mutations in these situations,” asks Pursell. “Is it a particular type of mutation that proves especially difficult or is it a build-up of mutations that overwhelms the failsafe system? And if so, how does the build-up lead to tumor growth?” These are precisely the questions that Pursell and his lab team are trying to answer.

Studies in mouse models at other institutions have demonstrated that mice with Pol epsilon that has been engineered not to proofread and correct replication errors have increased tumor incidence and cancer mortality. “But these studies didn’t examine the bio-chemistry of the mouse enzyme to determine the precise mechanism of its failure,” said Pursell.

He and his lab team are using a similar approach to examining the malfunction of human Pol epsilon and its contribution to carcinogenesis. “When we remove the ability in human cell lines of Pol epsilon to proofread, we are finding, as expected, that it’s making more mistakes and not correcting mutations during replication,” said Pursell. “What we hope to do in future studies is to better understand the process and to determine whether there is a pattern or footprint to these failures.”

Chromosomal alterations, depicted above, are one possible outcome resulting from genomic instability. It’s the job of human DNA polymerases, such as Pol epsilon, to faithfully copy DNA and maintain a stable genome. (Reprinted by permission from Macmillan Publishers Ltd: [British Journal of Cancer] Davidson JM, Gorrige KL, Chin SF, Orsetti B, Besret C, Courty-Cahen C, Roberts I, Theillet C, Caldas C, Edwards PA. Br J Cancer, 83: 1309, 2000; Fig 1B).
Cancer Crusaders Honor Survivors at their Celebration of Life Luncheon and Cocktail Reception

Cancer Crusaders, a local volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds for cancer research at Tulane Cancer Center and LSU’s Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, will honor 11 local cancer survivors at their 11th Annual Celebration of Life Luncheon, scheduled for Thursday, September 15, at the Marriott New Orleans Hotel Grand Ballroom.

“This year’s luncheon is dedicated to the memory of Gayle Batt, an active member of Cancer Crusaders for many years and a beloved member of the New Orleans community,” said Debbie Buchler, luncheon co-chair.

Tickets and table sponsorships for the luncheon are available through September 7. (Please note, tickets are not available at the door.) Individual luncheon tickets begin at $60 each. A $75 ticket provides preferred seating, and a $100 ticket provides preferred seating as well as program acknowledgement.

Table sponsorships are also available. A $1,000 table sponsorship for 10 provides preferred seating and program acknowledgement, while a $2,000 sponsorship provides program acknowledgement with premium preferred seating. Please contact Mickey Rodriguez—504-455-7065—if you are interested in purchasing a ticket or sponsoring a table.

“As in years past, this luncheon is a true celebration of life,” said Kathy Pastorek, luncheon co-chair. “Honorees will be escorted down a runway by family members and friends as their incredible stories of survival are shared with luncheon guests, and WWL-TV Channel 4 news anchor Angela Hill will once again serve as mistress of ceremonies.”

Beautifully decorated glass platters will adorn each luncheon table as a centerpiece, reminding guests of the theme of the event—a celebration of life. The organization is selling the platters for $25 each. To reserve one in advance, please contact Cheryl Cabes at 504-887-5627 or busylady1@cox.net.

at 504-887-5627 or busylady1@cox.net.

For the first time this year, Tulane Cancer Center will host a special cocktail reception for survivor honorees and their family members on Monday, September 12, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Tulane University President Scott Cowen and his wife Marjorie. “We are proud to salute the Cancer Crusaders survivor honorees and to start the celebration of life off a little earlier this year,” said Prescott Deininger, Ph.D., director of the Tulane Cancer Center.

For more information on the Cancer Crusaders Celebration of Life Luncheon, please contact Debbie Buchler at 504-283-6013 or Kathy Pastorek at 504-738-2577.

Congratulations to the 2011 Cancer Crusaders Celebration of Life Honorees

- Linda Fried
- Russ Herman
- Morton Katz
- Chad Landry
- Michael Maenza
- Susan Turner McMillan
- Madelyn Miller
- Susan Mayeaux Schneider
- Kathy Singleton
- Marie Wagner
- Cynthia Whittington
There’s still time to make a difference in prostate cancer research by registering to participate in the “One Man Can Make A Difference” Sporting Clays Fundraiser, taking place Saturday, September 24, at Riverside Sporting Clays, 52400 Hwy. 16, Denham Springs, LA.

The event will benefit Oliver Sartor, M.D.’s Prostate Cancer Research Fund at Tulane and is being held in honor of Connie Mack Boykin, one of Dr. Sartor’s patients.

The organizing committee, which consists of several of Boykin’s family members and lifelong friends, is doing a tremendous job of raising important research funds, with just over $120,000 raised to date! “Our goal is to provide a vested interest in a cure for prostate cancer,” said Michael Boykin, Connie Mack’s brother and chairperson of the organizing committee. “We have the potential to support research today and be a part of the cure. With increased awareness and participation, we will make a difference.”

If you want to help make a difference, you can register a team to participate in the sporting clays event, become a sponsor at any of several levels, donate goods or services, or make a donation. For more information, to register your team, or to donate online, please visit www.onemanshoot.com.

Many Thanks to Our Sponsors (as of 8.25.11) For Making A Difference

Sky Blue Team Sponsors
- Michael & Elaine Boykin*
- Connie Mack & Bobbie Boykin*
- Tom & Charlene Boykin
- Boykin Brothers, LLC*
- GROUP Contractors
- Mid-Gulf Foundations, LLC
- Rhett & Vicki Anderson
- Waskey Bridges, Inc.
- Yor-Wic Construction Co., Inc.
- DMR Mechanical
- Gulf Coast Pre-Stress Partners, Ltd.
- Industrial Cooling Tower Services, Inc.
- JJ Ferguson Prestress-Precast Co.
- W.R. Grace & Co.—Conn.
- Gulf South Piling & Construction, Inc.
- Gerry Lane Cadillac

Team Sponsors
- Sumiden Wire Products Corp.**
- Querbes & Nelson **
- Cajun Industries, LLC
- Roach Plumbing
- Lafarge North America
- Sanford Industries
- Holcim US, Inc.
- Boh Bros. Construction**
- Edko, LLC
- J. Rodney Messina Law Corp.
- ReSteel Express, Inc.
- Performance Contractors
- Central Oil of Baton Rouge
- Dr. & Mrs. Joel Nasca
- Material Resources, Inc.
- Sika Corporation
- Superior Grill—Baton Rouge
- Scott Construction Equipment

Station Sponsors
- Wray & Price, LLC ● Oliver Sartor, M.D. ● Engineered Casting Repair Services/Metalock*** ● Prestress Supply, Inc. ● Stacie & Steve Schneider / Alison & David Luparello for Old Tyme Bakery, Slidell****

Sky Blue Donors
- Mixer Systems, Inc.

Other Donors

Donated Services
- Kirk Holder ● Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge ● Hannis T. Bourgeois ● Gulf South Technology Solutions

*In memory of John R. Boykin
**In honor of Connie Mack Boykin
***In memory of Tom Durbin
****In memory of William H. Rehmann, Jr.
*****In memory of Dr. Joel Nasca
*In memory of Char Wall and Bob & Sue Johnson
to date. “It’s been my experience that inspiration is conta-
gious,” said Edwards, a breast cancer survivor who is
proud and candid about the constant care she received
from her son during her battle with the disease. She also
plans to pass a tiny plastic football on which the running
total of her personal donation is displayed to the players on
the sidelines during the games.

“I want the team members to take ownership of this
idea and to know that their efforts are making a differ-
ence in the lives of kids fighting cancer, just like my
son’s efforts made a difference in mine. If the team is
inspired, then the fans will be inspired and the kids will
be inspired and hopefully this dream will grow from
there.”

“This fund is a very important resource that allows us to
help the families of our pediatric oncology patients with
special needs meet unexpected expenses associated with
their care so that they can focus on getting well,” said Tam-
muella Singleton, M.D., section chief for Pediatric He-
atology/Oncology at Tulane. “We are so grateful to
Maggie for her generosity and enthusiasm, and we know
that her efforts will not only make a positive impact in the
lives of our patients, but will also inspire others to want to
help our kids and their families as well. We can’t thank her
enough!”

The Green Dream officially kicked off with a visit by
members of the Tulane Green Wave football team to the
Tulane Hospital for Children on Thursday, August 25. The
players interacted with the kids and their families and
shared some Green Wave spirit. The team also plans to
host one of Tulane’s pediatric cancer patients at each of
the six home games during the upcoming fall season. The
lucky boys and girls will serve as honorary team members
for the day, meeting the Green Wave football players,
cheering on the field during the team’s entrance, participat-
ing in the coin toss, etc.

Volunteers from the Tulane Cancer Center and the Tu-
lane Hospital for Children will also be on hand at the first
home game to take donations from fans who are inspired
like Maggie to give to the cause.

For more information on the Green Dream fundraiser for
pediatric oncology patient relief, please contact Melanie
Cross at 504-988-6592 or mcross@tulane.edu. If you
would like to make a donation, please send a check (made
payable to Tulane Cancer Center) to

Tulane Cancer Center’s
Pediatric Oncology Patient Relief Fund
ATTN: Keadren Green
1430 Tulane Ave., SL-68
New Orleans, LA 70112

Please note on the memo portion of the check that the do-
nation is for “Pediatric Oncology Patient Relief.*

Four students from the New Orleans Charter Science &
Mathematics High School (Sci High) participated in paid intern-
ships at Tulane Cancer Center over the summer. Currently in
its fifth year, Tulane Cancer Center’s Summer Internship Pro-
gram has served 28 Sci High students thus far.

“These internships are designed to provide opportuni-
ties for students to learn more about the many professions
involved in biomedical research available to them here in
New Orleans,” said Roy S. Weiner, M.D., associate dean for
clinical research and training at Tulane School of Medicine and
president of the Sci High board. The hope is that these in-
ternships will expose promising young men and women to
the possibilities of a career in science right here at home.

Tulane Cancer Center’s interns are matched with faculty
mentors based on research interests, and they complete re-
search projects under their mentors’ supervision. They work
an average of 20 hours per week and receive a stipend upon completion of their internships at the end of the summer.

In addition to laboratory work, interns attend weekly semi-
nars where they enjoy scientific presentations, as well as learn
about laboratory safety and responsible conduct of research.
They are also taught how to give a poster presentation and
are required to participate in a poster competition at the
end of the summer.

The Sci High interns work closely with high school, under-
graduate and medical student interns participating in a very
successful summer program run by Fern Tsien, Ph.D., and
Paula Gregory, Ph.D., of Louisiana State University Health
Sciences Center’s Department of Genetics. That program is
supported by Louisiana State University Health Sciences Cen-
ter, Tulane University School of Medicine, the National Heart
Lung and Blood Institute, the Louisiana Vaccine Center, and
The Patrick F. Taylor Foundation.
Top Doctors  
Cont’d. from p. 1

1. Doctors do not pay to be included on the list. Best Doctors, Inc., maintains that it never takes compensation of any kind from doctors or hospitals in return for listing doctors in its database, nor does Best Doctors pay doctors to participate in the survey.
2. Doctors are never automatically re-included on the list. Former “Best Doctors” are re-evaluated in each poll, along with new nominees.
3. Doctors are allowed to vote on others in their hospital and medical practices.
4. All voting is strictly confidential, and Best Doctors staff conduct additional research on licensure, certification, disciplinary actions and clinical activity before a doctor is selected for the list.
5. Doctors are not notified of their inclusion on the list until after the survey process is complete.

In all, 99 Tulane physicians made the list this year. Other Tulane Cancer Center members making the list include:

- Erin E. Boh, M.D.—Dermatology
- Virendra Joshi, M.D.—Gastroenterology
- Eboni Price-Haywood, M.D.—Internal Medicine
- Hans C. Andersson, M.D.—Adult & Pediatric Medical Genetics / Pediatric Metabolic Diseases
- Vecihi Batuman, M.D.—Nephrology
- L. Lee Hamm, M.D.—Nephrology
- Paul L. Friedlander, M.D.—Otolaryngology
- Ilana S. Fortgang, M.D.—Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
- Samir El-Dahr, M.D.—Pediatric Nephrology
- Ihor Yosypiv, M.D.—Pediatric Nephrology
- Stacy Drury, M.D., Ph.D.—Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine
- John W. Walsh, M.D.—Pediatric Surgery
- Joseph Lasky, M.D.—Pulmonary Medicine
- Wayne J.G. Hellstrom, M.D.—Urology
- Benjamin R. Lee, M.D.—Urology
- Raju Thomas, M.D.—Urology

Accolades

Arthur Lustig, Ph.D.—Dr. Lustig recently received a four-year renewal of an NIH R01 grant that was originally awarded in 2004. The grant, entitled Eukaryotic Telomere Dynamics-Years 6—9, supports Dr. Lustig’s research into telomeres, or areas of repetitive DNA sequences at the ends of chromosomes which regulate cell division as well as protect chromosomes from deterioration and from fusing with other chromosomes. As cells divide, telomeres become shorter and may play a role in aging, cancer and other diseases. Dr. Lustig uses the model system Saccharomyces cerevisiae, or yeast, to study the recombination of genes in telomere DNA sequences and their impact on telomere length regulation. Dr. Lustig’s award totals $1,386,536 (4/2011—3/2015).

September is
Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Tulane Cancer Center offers complimentary prostate cancer screenings on the second Tuesday of every month.

To make an appointment, please call 504-988-5800 or 1-800-588-5800

Patient Appointments

To make an appointment to see a Tulane Cancer Center physician, please call the Tulane Cancer Center Comprehensive Clinic at 504-988-6300

How to Help

To learn more about how to make a donation to the Tulane Cancer Center please visit www.canceriscurable.com and click on “Giving”

CONTACT US: PHONE 504-988-6060, E-MAIL TULANE CANCERCENTER@TULANE.EDU, VISIT WWW.CANCERISCURABLE.COM