Love Healing Support

Wisconsin Multiple Myeloma Support Group

"Providing an opportunity for multiple myeloma patients and their loved ones to come together to exchange information for mutual support, comfort, and friendship"

Meeting: **Tuesday June 21, 2016 3:30pm – 5:30pm**
451 Junction Road
UW West Clinic Room 1287
Enter the clinic… proceed left past the vending area… turn left again and conf. room 1287 is the last one on the left.

Information: Jayne Schwartz 608- 244-2120
schwartzdon@sbcglobal.net

Mailing Address: Wisconsin Multiple Myeloma Support Group
3309 Chicago Avenue
Madison, WI 53714-1815

More Information:

International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)	Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF)
Phone: 800 - 452 - 2873	203 - 972 - 1250
Email: TheIMF@myeloma.org	info@themmrf.org
Website: www.myeloma.org	www.multiplemyeloma.org

Upcoming speakers

- **July meeting-** Peggy Wellman from Takeda will be returning. Topic to be determined later.
- **October meeting-** Dr Natalie Callander will be speaking from 4:30pm-5:30pm

June meeting speaker- Dr Aric Hall, UW Hematology faculty member will do a Q & A starting at 4:30pm. He is not able to get away sooner so we will have a general group update from 3:30 til he joins us. Dr Aric spoke to our group in February 2015. We are fortunate to have him back again to answer questions.

Advanced Clinical Cell Processing Laboratory to Improve UW's Treatments

The University of Wisconsin has historically been as a leader in the field of bone marrow and tissue transplantation. Now, with a $1 million addition to the Clinical Hematopoietic Cell Processing Laboratory (CHCPL), UW will stay apace with cutting-edge therapies.

A New Level of Cell Therapy- "The building of this lab addition will allow us to get to a new level of cell therapy," said Peiman Hematti, MD, professor of medicine and director of the lab.

The new facility will be designated cGMP, for current good manufacturing practices, as defined by the Food and Drug Administration. cGMP designation means the lab and personnel will follow strict operating procedures in a highly controlled environment to avoid contamination. With cGMP certification, UW Health physicians can conduct more complex cell processing such as growing cells in the lab before giving them to patients.

Because of the addition of these upgraded cell processing capabilities to the CHCPL, UW will be able to participate in promising new cellular therapies and clinical trials, such as a national NIH-supported multiple myeloma vaccine clinical trial. In this trial, led by Natalie Callander, MD, clinicians will collect cancerous cells from bone marrow of patients, and then culture them with a combination of peripheral blood cells and immune chemicals called cytokines to generate personalized vaccine which will be administered after a stem cell transplant. The vaccines are expected to teach the patient's immune system to fight off any relapse of myeloma.

"The only reason we have been selected to participate in this multiple myeloma clinical trial is because we are building this new lab," Hematti said. "We expect there will be more trials coming as well that could only be done in a cGMP lab."

Construction on the new University Hospital cell processing lab began in May 2016 and it is expected to open by the end of this year. The lab addition will also be benefit UW Health clinicians outside the Carbone Cancer Center. It will be used for cellular therapies by solid organ transplant surgeons, cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and for cell and tissue regeneration.

One of the Most Promising Areas in Cancer Treatment- Hematti said he would like to keep expanding the cell processing lab's capacities, helping UW Health stay ahead of the curve with exciting cell therapies, a vision he had even before the construction of the new lab began. For example, he would like to be able to complete here, from start to finish, what he calls "one of the most promising areas in cancer treatment today.

During the therapy, called CAR (chimeric antigen receptor) T-cell therapy, a patient's T cells are isolated, cultured and genetically modified to recognize a specific cancer cell surface protein. It is this genetic modification component which will require an even more sophisticated lab than the one currently under construction. Still only being tested in clinical trials, CAR T-cell therapy has been shown to have very high cure rates for leukemia and lymphoma patients. Hematti believes as research continues, this form of cellular immunotherapy will become a powerful method to treat a wide range of solid tissue cancers as well.

This was a very interesting article on what ICER is all about. Worth the time to read!
USA Today Article on ICER:
http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/05/26/health-insurance-coverage-prescriptions-drugs-icer-comparative-effectiveness-column/83868108/

Register for this Free IMF Webinar
Multiple Myeloma Highlights: 2016 ASCO Annual Meeting & 21st Congress of EHA Tuesday, June 28, 2016 • 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST
REGISTER NOW

IMF Info Line – If you or someone you care for has myeloma, you have questions. Probably, lots of them. You can search the Internet all you want, but other than asking your doctor, there is no better way to get your questions answered than to call the IMF Info Line. Missy, Judy and Paul know their stuff and they want to share what they know with you. Just ask anyone who has called the IMF Info Line. Patients or caregivers are welcome to contact the Info Line staffed by trained specialists at 800-452-CURE (800-452-2873). The Info Line is staffed between 9am and 4pm Pacific Time, 11am to 6pm Central time or infoline@myeloma.org.

The **Trillium Fund** was established by our founding support group members to facilitate Multiple Myeloma research here in Madison at the Wisconsin Institute of Medical Research. If you or your family wish to donate or send a memorial to this program, checks can be made payable to the "UW Foundation – Trillium Fund".
Katie Williquette
UW Carbone Cancer Center
600 Highland Avenue, K4/658
Madison, WI 53792-6164
(608) 263-0160
kwilliquette@uwcarbone.wisc.edu