



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

Meeting: **In person meetings will resume when we are allowed to gather at the address below.**

451 Junction Road
Madison, WI
UW West Clinic Room 1287

Enter the clinic... turn left and walk down a short hall...turn left again and conference room 1287 is the last one on the left.

Group Information:

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Madison Multiple Myeloma Support Group website
madisonmultiplemyeloma.org

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

Information Sources :

International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)
Phone: 800 - 452 - 2873
Email: TheIMF@myeloma.org
Website: www.myeloma.org

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation(MMRF)
Phone: 203 - 972 - 1250
Email: info@themmrf.org
Website: www.multiplemyeloma.org

Myeloma Crowd /Health Tree Foundation
P.O. Box 1286
Draper, UT 84020
www.myelomacrowd.org

March 2022 Myeloma Newsletter

Upcoming Meeting Speakers

Dr Aric Hall from the UW Carbone Cancer Center will be available for the April 19th meeting. He will do his usual Q & A session. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this meeting. He will join us at 4:30pm.

Working on the May meeting to feature someone from the IMF. More information to follow.

Dr Timothy Schmidt, UW Carbone Cancer Center will be out featured speaker for the July 19th meeting. He will be presenting information related to chromosomes and genetics.

Kimberly A. Gibbs RN, BSN, OCN.,Patient Advocacy Liaison from Takeda Oncology will be our featured speaker for the August meeting. Topic to be determined later.

Shannon Ramirez, Oncology Clinical Educator from the Janssen Pharmaceutical Company will be our featured speaker for the March 15, 2022 meeting. Her presentation will be the “Shared Decision Making Deck”. Shannon will present from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

The IMF’s New Tip Card on Bispecific Therapy

This new tip card can be downloaded to learn more about bispecific therapy. Bispecific antibody therapies are a combination of two immunotherapy approaches in one drug. Bispecifics are comprised of two monoclonal antibodies that bind to two different antigens and trigger the immune system to destroy the patient’s myeloma cells.

Very interesting article and easy to read. Here is an excerpt from the article published by the Wisconsin State Journal on Sunday February 6, 2022. To read the entire article, Google the Los Angeles Times January 19, 2022

Sunday February 6, 2022 Los Angeles Times, Jon Healy

Here’s a breakdown of how the body’s immune system works and how it’s been tested by Omicron

B cells, T cells, NKs and Dcs

Think of the immune system as having three layers of defense. One tries to keep hostile molecules — pathogens — on the outside, looking in. That job is performed by the skin, the body’s largest organ, whose cells can defeat invaders and warn the rest of the immune system that trouble is at hand.

The second layer tries to stop the attackers once they’ve entered the body, but before they have infected cells. This is where the bone marrow comes in. It produces “**natural killer**” or NK cells as well as B cells, the ones that generate antibodies. Both are types of white blood cells, or lymphocytes.

NKs earned their name because they aren’t produced in response to an attacker; they’re already present and ready to kill cells that don’t belong in the body, such as tumor cells. NKs are part of what scientists call the innate immune system. According to [researchers at Rockefeller University](#), NKs hang out in the tonsils, lymph nodes and spleen, then rush to confront attackers where they emerge.

Antibodies, on the other hand, are generated after an attacker is discovered, making them part of what’s known as the adaptive immune system. They attach themselves to specific pathogens, which then get gobbled up and destroyed by other members of the immune system’s team.

There is a third line of defense: T cells. Like B cells and NKs, T cells are white blood cells that originate in the bone marrow, but they **develop in and emanate from the thymus gland** in the upper chest. Their special power is their ability to detect viruses and other germs after they’ve gotten inside a cell, where they’re hidden from antibodies.

T cells come in two basic flavors: killers and messengers. The lethal version detects cells that have been infected with a virus, then kills them (by releasing a toxic version of a granule called a cytokine) to stop the virus from replicating. The messengers alert B cells to the new threat, and they respond by making antibodies designed to meet that threat.

It’s a complex molecular dance with many other vital parts, including dendritic cells or DCs, which act as sentinels and couriers within the immune system. Among other things, the DCs tell the T cells which specific threat to hunt down and kill.

Once an infection is overcome, the immune system naturally winds down and sheds some antibodies and T cells. But some T cells live on as memory T cells, ready to respond by killing infected cells and stimulating the production of new antibodies if the same attacker returns. And some B cells remain as memory cells to handle antibody production.

CancerCare's CAR T-Cell Therapy: What's New

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 1:30 – 2:30 pm, Eastern Time (CST 12:30pm) **REGISTER NOW**

Registrants can listen in live over the phone or online as a webcast. 1-800-813-4673

Topics Covered

- Overview of CAR T-Cell Therapies, in the Context of COVID-19 & Its Variants
- Understanding CARs - Chimeric Antigen Receptors
- When to Consider CAR T-Cell Therapies as a Treatment Choice
- Clinical Trials for CAR T-Cell Therapies
- Discussion of CAR T-Cell Therapies
- Managing Potential Treatment Side Effects
- Specific Examples of How CAR T-Cell Therapies Contributes to Oncology Care
- Key Questions to Ask Your Health Care Team about CAR T-Cell Therapies
- The Benefits of CAR T-Cell Therapies
- Follow-Up Care: What to Expect
- Guidelines to Prepare for Telehealth/Telemedicine Appointments, including Technology, List of Questions & Follow-Up Care Appointments
- Quality-of-Life Concerns & Discussion of OpenNotes
- Questions for Our Panel of Experts

President Biden Reinvigorates Cancer Moonshot Initiative

On February 2, 2022, President Biden announced the relaunch of the Cancer Moonshot initiative that he started during his time as Vice President. The Administration has stated their primary goals surrounding the project are “to reduce the death rate from cancer by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years, and improve the experience of people and their families living with and surviving cancer— and, by doing this and more, end cancer as we know it today.”

We are deeply encouraged by the Administration’s desire to dedicate resources and work on this important issue. On February 25th, The IMF joined with a group of advocacy groups in sending a letter to the Administration expressing their support for these efforts.

If you wish to read more about the Cancer Moonshot efforts, click [here](#).

Our virtual meetings are on the Zoom platform.

Our meeting for March 15, 2022 will be from 3:30pm to 5:00pm featuring Shannon Ramirez, Oncology Clinical Educator from the Janssen Pharmaceutical Company

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://myeloma-org.zoom.us/j/84457667535?pwd=V0lJTdNQWU2FOZlhmUkFaRmJBc0Qzd09>

Meeting ID: 844 5766 7535

Passcode: 678275

One tap mobile

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 844 5766 7535

Passcode: 678275

Find your local number: <https://myeloma-org.zoom.us/u/kyMbCRs05>

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” and sent to UW Carbone Cancer Center, University of Wisconsin Foundation, 1848 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726. Donations may also be made online at www.supportuw.org/give (Trillium Fund in Multiple Myeloma Research – 112903576). For any questions, please call Daniel Rosen at (608) 264-5437 or email curecancer@supportuw.org.