



“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 May15, 2018 3:30pm – 5:30pm  
451 Junction Road  
Madison, WI  
UW West Clinic Room 1287

Enter the clinic... proceed left past the vending area... 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](http://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](mailto:TheIMF@myeloma.org)  
Website: [www.myeloma.org](http://www.myeloma.org)

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

Upcoming Meeting Speakers... **Mark your calendars now!**

Dr Shannon O’Mahar, MD is able to join us June 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. Dr O’Mahar was at the ASH and ASCO conferences just recently and will likely speak about those events.

Dr Sara Christensen Holz, Associate Professor Dept of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation will speak at our July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. She will join us at 4:30pm and talk about balance issues and neuropathy.

Jill Helgeson, Lead Medigap Helpline Coordinator She is one of our favorite speakers and will join us August 21<sup>st</sup>. She will present “Fitting The Pieces Around Medicare”.

Dr Natalie Callander will likely join us for our October meeting. More information to follow.

Our condolences...

Sadly, we lost another beloved group member. Al Kanner passed away on March 18, 2018. Al joined our group in April 2010. He attended many meetings and freely shared his experiences with the group. He was an avid runner and was committed to his active lifestyle. We will miss him. Our sympathies to his family members.



Get this date on your calendars now! **“On Course for A Cure 2018”, the 2nd annual golf outing** will be August 13, 2018. Last year’s event was a huge success. Come and enjoy again this year. Music by our own Joe Ripp. See you there. Here is what you need to know!

<https://birdeasepro.com/oncourseforacure>

## **Confusion of Cancer's Status After Stem Cell Transplant for Multiple Myeloma**

Oncology Times: [September 10, 2017](#) (Article abbreviated for the newsletter)

Sophisticated laboratory tests used to both diagnose the disease and follow treatment response, can send confusing messages to patients and their physicians, particularly after stem cell therapy to try to restore a healthy antibody mix, noted Gurmukh Singh, MD, PhD, MBA, Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs for the Department of Pathology.

The tests, serum protein electrophoresis and serum immunofixation electrophoresis, and serum free light chain assay, separate proteins into groups according to their electrical charge.

The M spike stands out as a distinctive, dense band of color among the layers of protein groups, while typical antibody levels create bands of lighter smears.

But after stem cell therapy, which first destroys cancerous plasma cells then restores healthy ones, follow-up profiles often yield a lineup of antibodies—called an oligoclonal pattern—that can look eerily similar to the M spike.

The confusion comes because there again may be a prominent and likely short-lived band of proteins that emerges as the antibody mix begins to normalize.

“We want to emphasize that oligoclonal bands should mostly be recognized as a response to treatment and not be mistaken as a recurrence of the original tumor,” Singh explained.

This topic has come up in our meetings on several occasions. Found this quote from the Myeloma Beacon forum. **Re: Early clue to myeloma diagnosis?** by Dr. Adam Cohen on Tue Sep 27, 2011.

“Foamy urine can definitely be seen with myeloma and usually reflects the abnormal light chains or other proteins being excreted in the urine.”

Permethrin and Myeloma... You not want to consider purchasing the “bug free clothing”. Permethrin is the chemical used to treat the clothing to keep the bugs off of you. Check your labels carefully. There may be a caution for Myeloma patients.

**BiTE Antibodies .... Bispecific T cell Engager.** Something new.... If you want to read more, check out the Amgen Oncology website. This technology was mentioned by Dr Aric Hall at our last presentation. You will likely be hearing more about it in the future.

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](mailto: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”. Sean Lynch Director of Development UW Carbone Cancer Center University of Wisconsin Foundation 1848 University Ave Madison, WI 53726 (608) 422-1714 cell [sean.lynch@supportuw.org](mailto:sean.lynch@supportuw.org)