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# August E-News Update

Updates from the [Arizona Cancer Center](#)

August 2009

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Educational support series for patients, families and staff**

"Moving in the now: Embody presence, happiness and lasting health"

Wednesday, August 5

Noon - 1 p.m.

Arizona Cancer Center

1515 N. Campbell Ave., Room 2920

Contact: Marsha Drozdoff, (520) 694-4605 or [mdrozdoff@umcaz.edu](mailto:mdrozdoff@umcaz.edu)

### **Better Than Ever - ACC fitness training program**

[Information Sessions and Kick-Off Event](#)

August 17 - September 2

**Support groups and other events:** [ACC Calendar of Events](#)

## Arizona Cancer Center Web site has a new focus: You



The Arizona Cancer Center's Web site has been redesigned with a focus on providing cancer information to patients and their families, as well as researchers, community physicians, the news media and anyone with an interest in cancer.

The yearlong project involved creating a new design and a developing number of tools and features to make it easier to find information, locate a physician or researcher, make an appointment or give to the Cancer Center.

Major news stories rotate at the top of the main page, and navigation tools across the top of the home page and down the left side aid in finding information. A calendar of events anchors the right side of the home page.

Check out the site at [www.arizonacancercenter.org](http://www.arizonacancercenter.org) and watch for frequent updates and additional tools and information.

## Cancer Center studies lead to new trials for malignant melanoma treatment

July 18, 2009

Research at the Arizona Cancer Center has resulted in the opening of a Phase 3 clinical trial for the treatment of metastatic malignant melanoma using an approved breast-cancer drug.

The center has been studying the drug nab-paclitaxel, trade named Abraxane, for seven years. The therapy was developed by biotechnology company Abraxis BioScience, which is conducting a worldwide, multicenter, multinational Phase 3 trial of Abraxane in metastatic melanoma, with Arizona Cancer Center physician scientist Dr. Evan Hersh as the principal investigator.

Abraxane is used to treat breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body after treatment with other medications has not been successful.

"If the efficacy of the drug is confirmed in the Phase 3 trial and it is shown to be superior to standard therapy, then we will have a new drug to add to our fight against this terrible disease," Hersh said. "It is a tribute to the Arizona Cancer Center and its leadership that encourages the development of new drugs to fight cancer, particularly after the disease has spread around the body."

After determining an optimal dose and schedule for the drug and observing possible effects in a few patients with advanced melanoma, the Arizona Cancer Center team led by Hersh conducted a Phase 2 study in patients who had extensive prior treatment for the disease, as well as those who had not been treated for their widespread metastatic melanoma.

Those findings, which Hersh and others have presented at meetings of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Chemotherapy Foundation, led Abraxis BioScience to sponsor the Phase 3 trial headed by Hersh.

## Endocrine Surgeon Joins UA Department of Surgery

July 21, 2009



Marlon A. Guerrero, MD, an expert in endocrine surgery and research, has been appointed assistant professor of surgery at The University of Arizona Department of Surgery in the College of Medicine. He will direct the department's new Endocrine Surgery Center at University Medical Center, a multidisciplinary program specializing in treating patients with benign and malignant diseases of the thyroid gland, parathyroid glands, adrenal glands and neuroendocrine pancreas.

The Endocrine Surgery Center will offer open, laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery and serve as a resource for complex endocrine surgery, including reoperative neck and abdomen procedures.

"The Endocrine Surgery Center will combine the diagnostic and treatment strengths of experts from numerous medical fields, including endocrinologists, endocrine surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, oncologists and geneticists," said Dr. Guerrero. "This enables us to unify state-of-the-art treatment options into a treatment plan that gives our patients the highest quality and greatest continuity of care."

Dr. Guerrero's research includes the study of thyroid carcinogenesis, advanced thyroid cancers and adrenocortical carcinoma. He also is interested in studying the systemic effects of the hypercalcemia seen in primary hyperparathyroidism. Dr. Guerrero has 20 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Guerrero received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College, Nashville. He completed his residency training at Baylor Medical College, Houston, and a fellowship in endocrine surgery at the University of California, San Francisco.

"Dr. Guerrero will be an invaluable resource for the Department of Surgery and the Arizona Cancer Center," said Rainer Gruessner, MD, professor and surgery department chairman. "With increases in endocrine cancers such as thyroid cancer, there is an urgent need for surgeons trained in this specialty."

Dr. Guerrero, a University Physicians Healthcare provider, is available to see patients for consultation. For appointments, please call the Arizona Cancer Center at UMC North at 694-CURE (2873).

## AZCC in the news

[Greg Hansen: Probation-laden Lancers winning game off the field](#)

July 8, 2009

[UA researcher earns Presidential Award for work on hidden virus](#)

July 9, 2009

[Investigating the health of e-cigarettes](#)

July 16, 2009

[Bone marrow donation is so much easier than it used to be](#)

July 16, 2009

The Arizona Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center headquartered in Arizona. With primary locations at The University of Arizona in Tucson and in Scottsdale, the Center has more than a dozen research and education offices throughout the state, and 300 physician and scientist members working to prevent and cure cancer. For more information, go to [www.arizonacancercenter.org](http://www.arizonacancercenter.org).

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