

# Oregon Cancer Registrars' Association Newsletter

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:*

Hi Everyone

Its May the flowers are blooming and the sun has been shining, so the year is off to a good start.

And like the weeds in the garden, my thoughts are just popping up on what has been happening since the last newsletter.

I thought April's presentation was informative regarding TNM staging. I hope many of you were able to attend.

I also hope many of you completed the survey regarding the OCRA Website. The ad-hoc committee has worked to get bids at a reasonable price and have found a couple of vendors that we are exploring. The Executive Committee hopes that you will share our desire for a better website that is more up-to-date, user friendly and more useful for our members.

The Education Committee is working hard to put together a Fall Workshop that they hope will be a great experience for everyone. They are also thinking outside the box on fund raising and it will be interesting to see it come to fruition.

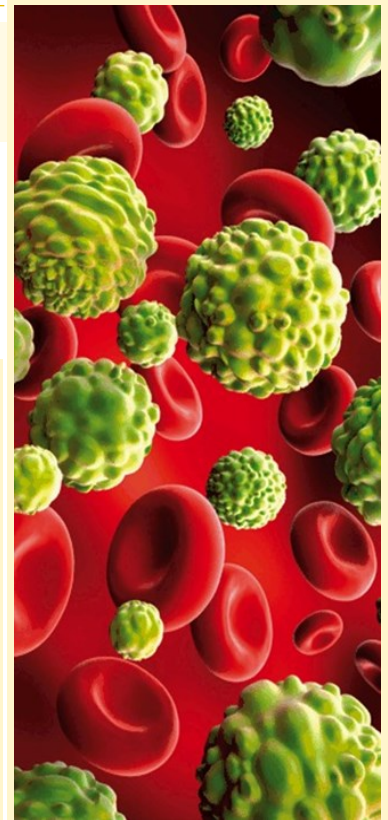
And lastly, NCRA's conference is coming fast at the end of May. San Antonio awaits, and I hope that the information will prove useful as we face more changes (what else is new) and say good-bye to Collaborative stage, well at least some of it.

So, Remember the Alamo.

Thank you

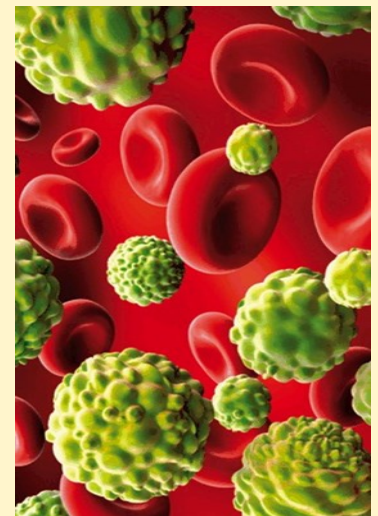
*Shannon Ramos*

2015 OCRA President



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## A FASTER WAY TO TRY MANY DRUGS ON MANY CANCERS.

Chemotherapy failed to thwart Erika Hurwitz's rare cancer of white blood cells. So her doctors offered her another option, a drug for melanoma. The result was astonishing. Within four weeks, a red rash covering her body, so painful she had required a narcotic patch and the painkiller OxyContin, had vanished. Her cancer was undetectable.

"It has been a miracle drug," said Mrs. Hurwitz, 78, of Westchester County. She is part of a new national effort to try to treat cancer based not on what organ it started in, but on what mutations drive its growth. Cancers often tend to be fueled by changes in genes, or mutations, that make cells grow and spread to other parts of the body. There are now an increasing number of drugs that block mutations in cancer genes and can halt a tumor's growth. While such an approach has worked in a few isolated cases, those cases cannot reveal whether other patients with the same mutation would have a similar experience.

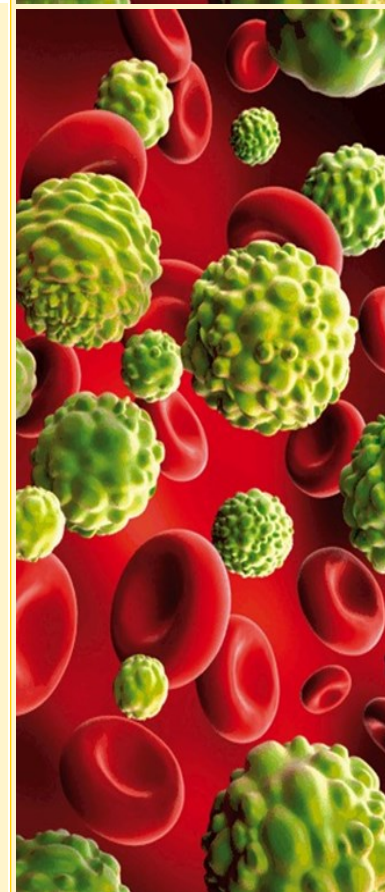
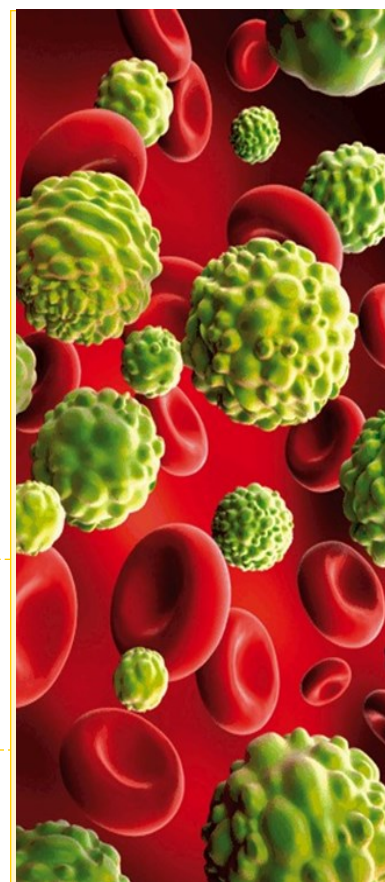
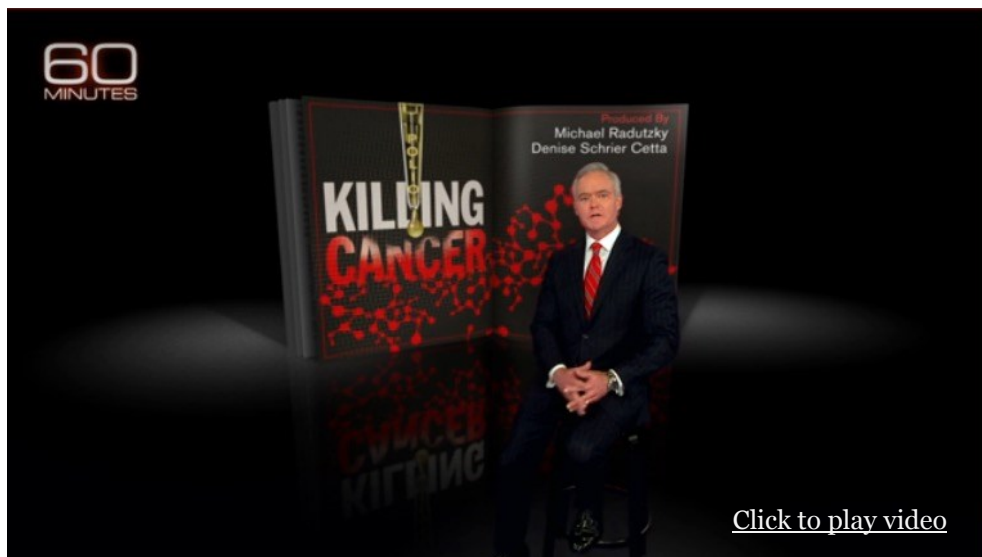
Continue reading the story at : [The New York Times](#)

## *Cancer in the news*

### OHSU DOCTORS CLIMB KILIMANJARO FOR CANCER RESEARCH



Watch their story on: [KGW News](#)



## *Cancer in the news, cont.*

### **Israeli University Joins India in Developing Cancer Drug based on Nobel Prize Winner Technology**

The drugs being developed are based on the technology of Nobel Prize Winner Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, Dr. Gila Maor, and Technion Prof. Ofer Binah.

The Israeli biotech industry and institutions of higher learning are tightening their connections with India. The Technion Israel Institute of Technology and T3, its commercialization company headed by CEO Benjamin Soffer, have announced a cooperation agreement with Indian pharmaceutical company Sun Pharmaceutical Industries for the development of new products for treatment of cancer. This development is based on the technology of Nobel Prize Winner Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, Dr. Gila Maor, and Technion Prof. Ofer Binah. The pre-clinical research has thus far been financed by Dr. Alfred Mann.

Sun, well known in Israel as a competitor of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. (NYSE: TEVA; TASE: TEVA) in the generic field, is the largest generic drug company in India and the world's fifth largest. The company, which has expanded into innovative drugs in recent years, already has strong ties with Israel. Its chairman is former Teva CEO Israel Makov, and company founder, controlling shareholder, and managing director Dilip Shanghvi has invested in Bio-Light Israeli Life Sciences Investments Ltd. (TASE:BOLT; Bulletin Board: BLGTY), controlled by Makov. Sun is also the controlling shareholder in Israeli generic company Taro Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. (NYSE: TA-RO), and has a \$35 billion market cap.

"The new agreement between Sun Pharma and Technion gives us great hope," Ciechanover and Binah said. "We are confident that this collaboration will help us move rapidly forward with our research. We explored several collaboration alternatives, but Sun Pharma's market leadership and its long term commitment have made this collaboration a very high priority for us. The Technion is very satisfied with the agreement. We sincerely believe this agreement represents the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship between the Technion and Sun Pharma."

"This collaboration is part of the various initiatives that Sun Pharma is taking to enhance its specialty pipeline. Mutually beneficial partnerships with independent research institutes, especially world renowned institutes, such as the Technion, is our preferred route to bring to the market, innovative products for unmet medical needs" said Sun Pharma senior VP business development Kirti Ganorkar.

Sun Pharma's 2014 consolidated revenue totaled \$4.5 billion (pro forma, after acquiring Indian competitor Ranbaxy), half of which came from the US. Starting in 2007, and increasingly in recent years, the company is also investing in innovative R&D, in addition to generic drugs.

**2015 NCRA CTR EXAM:**

June 20-July 11  
(Application deadline  
May 29)

October 17- November 7  
(Application deadline  
September 18)

[www.ctrexam.org](http://www.ctrexam.org)

**CTR Exam Scholarship:**

As a reminder for anyone  
who is planning on taking  
the exam there is a  
scholarship available.

Michele Henson Memori-  
al Scholarship through  
OCRA

Pays for cost of exam up  
to the NCRA members'  
cost.

Application can be found  
at



***Congratulations to:***

- ◆ *Melissa Chalkers: St. Charles Medical center*
  - ◆ *Joan Miller: Kaiser Permanente*
- for passing the CTR exam.***

*Did you know OCRA Is on Facebook?*



***AND THE WINNER IS.....***

OCRA recognizes that many have made outstanding contributions to the Cancer Registry field, whether it is locally or nationally. OCRA would like to honor those members with the Distinguished Member Award. The DMA is awarded annually at the fall workshop.

If you know someone that should be honored please complete the OCRA Distinguished Member Award Nomination form and return it to Lori Lucente by July 31, 2015

Click on award to open nomination form.

Email completed form to:  
[Lori.Lucente@providence.org](mailto:Lori.Lucente@providence.org)



# CANCER AWARENESS

MAY/JUNE

National cancer research month

May 10-16 Women's Health Week



June 15-21 Men's Health week

Oncology Nursing month

National Melanoma/Skin cancer detection & prevention month



Cancer Immunotherapy Awareness Month

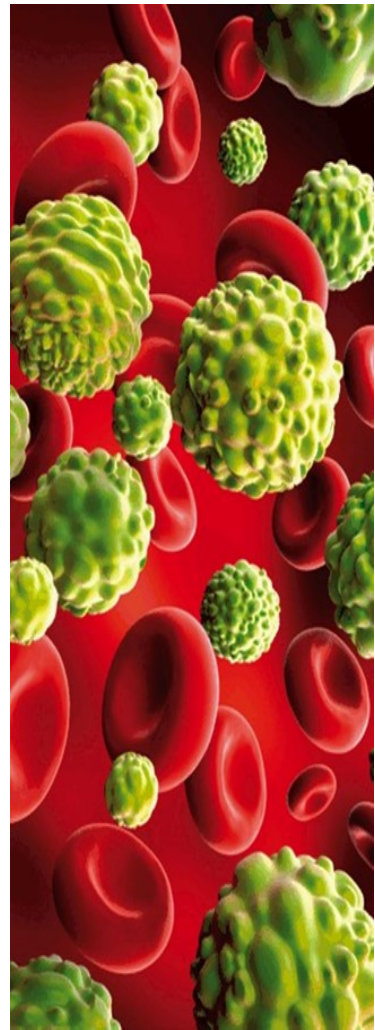
May 31 World No tobacco day

June 7th National Cancer Survivors day



Click on pictures.

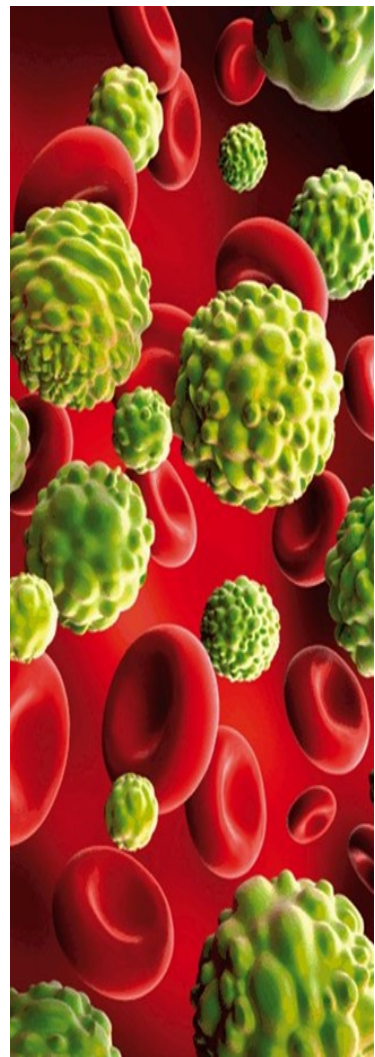
Brain Tumor Awareness Month



*Have you taken the OCRA survey yet? Your opinion matters!*

**A new OCRA Website?**

**OCRA Members: Please take the survey below to be part of this important decision.**





## Job Notifications:

- ◆ Providence, Portland Medical Center in Portland, OR. Full-time Registrar. Department: Tumor/Cancer Registry. Day shift. Apply at: <http://bit.ly/Registrar76083>

## Newsletter Submissions:

Do you have an idea that would make a great article for the newsletter? Or do you need to make an announcement?

Submit your ideas to :

Deeanna Patton

Deeanna.x.patton@kp.org

Submission deadline August 28, 2015



## 2015 ELECTED OFFICIALS:

**President: Shannon Ramos, CTR**

**President Elect: Catherine Gunn, CTR**

**Treasurer: Lori Lucente, BS, CTR**

**Secretary: Carol Funk, CTR**

**Past President: Bonnie Kubli, CTR**