

May Ray of Hope: News from VCU Massey Cancer Center

2 messages

VCU Massey Cancer Center <teammasssey@vcu.edu>
Reply-To: VCU Massey Cancer Center <teammasssey@vcu.edu>
To: jennyruckartowen@gmail.com

Fri, May 28, 2021 at 5:30 PM



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RAY OF HOPE

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May 2021

Director's Update



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Owen,

May is a month of celebrations, including several days that are particularly important to Massey's mission and to me personally. We were proud to observe **International Clinical Trials Day** on May 20 and to celebrate **Nurses Day** on May 6 and **Mother's Day** on May 9.

Leading clinical trials is a priority for Massey because they save and improve lives by testing new and better therapies and prevention methods. Nearly **150 clinical trials are currently open for enrollment** at Massey. Clinical Trials Day was a chance to thank our clinical researchers and to engage with patients about the importance of participating in trials.

I'm getting revved up for the Massey Challenge on June 3-6, when the community comes together to support our efforts while exercising to improve health and prevent cancer. My **Team Massey Nation** is one of several fundraising teams that Massey doctors and scientists are leading to move us closer to a future without cancer.

If we are to advance cancer breakthroughs and a better tomorrow for our patients and community, it is by STEPPING UP through continued innovation and a commitment by all of us to stay active and healthy.

Best,

Robert Winn, M.D.

Director and Lipman Chair in Oncology, VCU Massey Cancer Center
Senior Associate Dean for Cancer Innovation, VCU School of Medicine

Be Involved

Support advances in cancer research

STEP TO THE UP 2021 Massey Challenge



Time to STEP UP: The Massey Challenge and Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K, June 3-6

It's time — time to get up, lace up and STEP UP to the 2021 Massey Challenge. The race's motto is "It's not RVA without the 10K," and it's not the Massey Challenge without Massey Nation. Will you step up with us on June 3-6? Join and support virtually or in person by walking or running on one of the 10K's two courses, or in your own neighborhood. This year's team captains are inspiring members of Massey Nation to support Massey in honor or memory of a loved one affected by cancer. Teams led by doctors **Robert Winn**, **Emma Fields** (Cert.'16/E), **Khalid Matin**, **Kandace McGuire** and **Jose Trevino** are stepping up to support their patients, and they invite you to join them.

Join the Massey Challenge



Massey Club celebrates innovation in pancreatic cancer research

The Massey Club hosted its spring Innovator's Forum event on May 25, highlighting our innovations in pancreatic cancer research at Massey. **Saïd Sebti, Ph.D.**, associate director for basic research, and **Jose Trevino, M.D.**, surgeon in chief, discussed their work to improve outcomes and provide seeds of hope for those facing pancreatic cancer. Julie and Karen Shutz shared their family's experience with pancreatic cancer in memory of Geoff, Julie's husband and Karen's son, and how the **power of positivity** continues to inspire them to invest in pancreatic cancer research. The Massey Club is Massey Cancer Center's annual leadership giving society, which recognizes committed supporters who make annual cumulative unrestricted gifts totaling \$1,000 or more. By making a yearly commitment at this level, you lead by example, help save lives and shape Massey's future.

[View a video of the full program](#)

[Learn more about the Massey Club](#)

Be Inspired

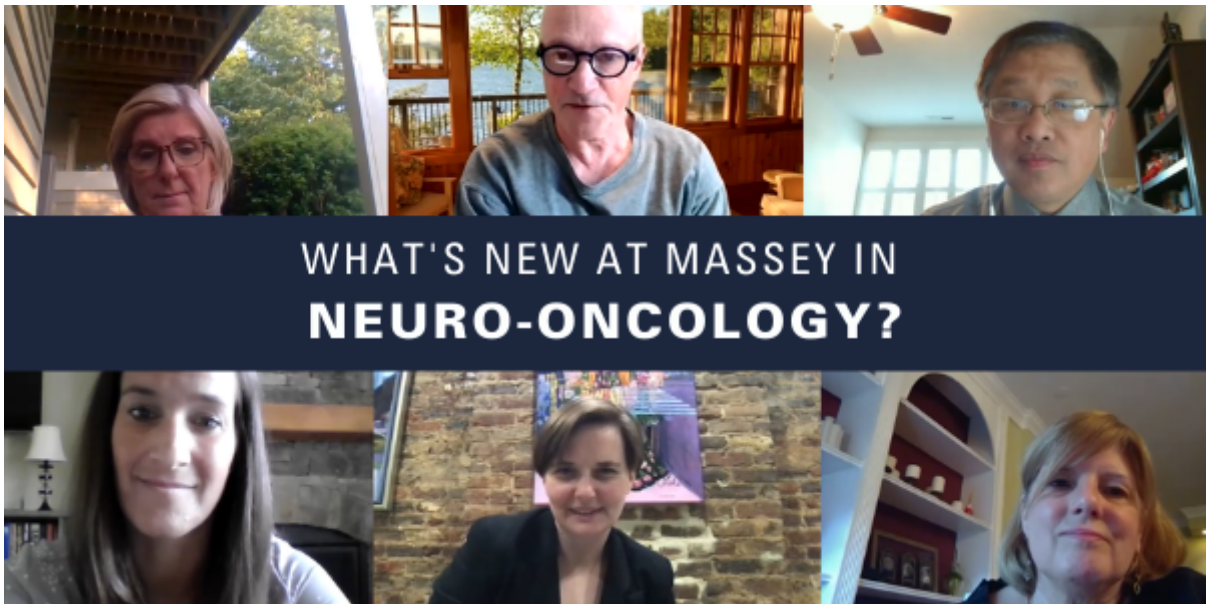
Meet the people who inspire us



24-year-old nursing student STEPS UP in honor of a special mom

It takes a family to fight cancer. Whether as a patient, family member or Massey team member, together we can all imagine a future without cancer. This month, Massey is proud to recognize Eleanor Templeton, a new Massey Challenge team captain who is raising money in honor of her mother. Templeton's "sweet mum" has been bravely fighting acute myeloid leukemia since February 2020 with her family by her side, including daughters Eleanor and Ocelia Hudson, Massey Development team member. First-time fundraiser Eleanor and her team, **SCOPE**, have raised \$3,500 and counting. "Cancer is one of the hardest trials that many families experience," Eleanor says. "I am humbled and honored to play a small part in raising funds for cancer research to give more families more time to love."

Read more



WHAT'S NEW AT MASSEY IN NEURO-ONCOLOGY?

Gray Matters: Advances in neuro-oncology

On Thursday, May 20, in honor of Brain Cancer Awareness Month, **VCU Massey Cancer Center's neuro-oncology** team hosted a virtual panel presentation highlighting critical breakthroughs and advances in neuro-oncology that are improving care of patients with brain cancer. “[Our team] is dedicated to an interdisciplinary and comprehensive focus,” says Mark Malkin, M.D., chair of the Division of Neuro-oncology. “This is Brain Cancer Awareness Month, which is why we are all wearing gray — for gray matter [the outermost layer of brain tissue]... because gray matters.”

[Read more](#)

[View a video of the presentation](#)

Be Informed

Learn how we are improving health



Virtual tour of VCU's Adult Outpatient Pavilion: See what progress looks like

Scheduled for completion in December, VCU Health's new Adult Outpatient Pavilion will include a new world-class oncology pavilion and serve as a new hub for the majority of Massey's outpatient cancer services in downtown Richmond. We invite you to take a virtual "hard-hat" tour of the 17-story Adult Outpatient Pavilion. The \$384 million, 615,000-square-foot building will feature a dedicated tower for outpatient oncology care, in addition to an on-site laboratory, medical imaging services and welcoming, healing green spaces for patients and families.

[View the video](#)



Hope for a better day: Clinical trials offer opportunities

Today, more people are surviving cancer and thriving, thanks to improved treatments and detection methods tested in clinical trials. In honor of International Clinical Trials Day on May 20, VCU Massey Cancer Center recognized the advances, and hope, that **clinical trials** bring. A **video** message from Massey medical oncologist **Andrew Poklepovic, M.D.** (H.S.'07/M; H.S.'11/M) noted that clinical trials offer opportunities, Director Robert Winn, M.D., co-authored a column in the **Richmond Times-Dispatch** about the benefits of trials and physicians **Sarah Gordon, M.D.** (H.S.'16/M), and **Arun Sanyal, M.D.** (H.S.'90/M), answered questions about trials in a Facebook Live Q&A for the community. Recognizing the need for clinical trials, Gov. Ralph Northam issued a **proclamation** observing Clinical Trials Day in Virginia. Massey Nation shared their support of clinical trials on social media using #CTD2021 and #ClinicalTrialsDay hashtags. You can view posts on our **Facebook page** — and it's not too late to share a post; be sure to tag @VCUMassey.

Read more

Be Innovative

Check out our latest research news



Massey researcher-led study finds Black and Latinx surgeons continue to hit glass ceiling

Black and Latinx representation has remained flat in the upper echelons of academic surgery departments in the U.S. for much of the 2010s, according to a study led by Massey physician-researcher **Jose Trevino, M.D.**, and published in JAMA Surgery. Although the data revealed modest diversity gains among early-career faculty from 2013-19, especially for Black and Latina women, the percentage of full professors and department chairs identifying as Black or Latinx continued to hover in the single digits.

[Read more](#)



All of Us: Massey takes a lead in nationwide research for a healthier future

Massey patients can now join the All of Us research program, a national initiative enrolling 1 million or more people living in the United States, to learn how differences among us could lead to different types of treatments. People who join will share information about their health, habits and what it's like where they live and possibly share details about family history and genes. Massey Director Robert Winn, M.D., VCU Wright Center Director F. Gerard Moeller, M.D., and Massey researcher Tamas Gal, Ph.D., are leading this project at VCU.

[Read more](#)

Massey in the News



Cancer Health: May 26, 2021

Top cancer centers call for action to get HPV vaccination back on track

Massey joins other NCI-designated cancer centers urging reinvigoration of HPV vaccination.

USA Today: May 9, 2021



Ending cancer as we know it? National Cancer Institute Director Ned Sharpless lays out his vision

Sharpless mentions his recent visit to Massey Cancer Center with first lady Jill Biden, Ed.D.



The Cancer Letter: May 7, 2021

Menthol ban has been a no-brainer for decades — will it finally happen?

Massey Director Robert Winn, M.D., co-authors an editorial on menthol cigarette regulation.



U.S. News & World Report: May 5, 2021

Most top U.S. surgeons are white and that's not changing

Featuring new research published by Massey physician-researcher Jose Trevino, M.D.



Oncology Times: May 5, 2021

NCCN 2021: Read about Massey Director Robert Winn's role in the 2021 Comprehensive Cancer Network annual conference and the Elevating Cancer Equity Initiative.



WTVR CBS Buddy Check 6: May 6, 2021

Nurse's cancer journey helps her to better connect with patients: "I understand"

Featuring Massey lung cancer screening nurse coordinator and navigator Michelle Futrell.

Cancer doesn't stop for a pandemic, and neither do we. This month, in honor of National Nurses and Mother's days, make a tribute gift to support lifesaving cancer research at VCU Massey Cancer Center.

At Massey, a future without cancer is how we will measure our success.



Virginia Commonwealth University | Massey Cancer Center
Box 980214 Richmond, Virginia 23298-0214
Phone: (804) 828-1450 | Email: teammassey@vcu.edu | [Privacy Policy](#)

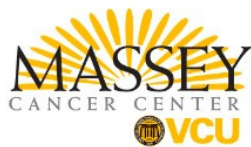


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Jenny Owen <jennyruckartowen@gmail.com>
To: Jennifer Owen <jrowen2@vcu.edu>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 12:42 PM

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