

CENTER *express*

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL • UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

KU Cancer Center Develops Chemo Drug with Few Side Effects

June 27, 2008, marked a historic day for the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC) at the University of Kansas Medical Center. A Phase I clinical trial launched for Nanotax, a new drug to treat ovarian cancer. Nanotax is the first cancer treatment discovered, developed and delivered by KU researchers.

"Nanotax is a milestone in drug discovery in an extraordinary history at KU," said **Roy Jensen, MD**, director, KUCC, during a press conference at The University of Kansas Hospital's Westwood Campus. "It moves us closer to our goal of being the No. 1 academic producer of cancer-fighting drugs and in our effort to obtain National Cancer Institute designation for this region."

What is Nanotax?

Nanotax is a chemotherapy drug anticipated to ease or eliminate serious side effects patients experience during treatment. It will be delivered through the abdomen, rather than intravenously. KU researchers believe this innovative delivery



Nanotax press conference attendees included (from left) **Sam Campbell**, president, Critech, Inc.; **Stephen Williamson, MD**, clinical trial co-leader; **Bob Page**, president and chief executive officer, The University of Kansas Hospital; and **Roy Jensen, MD**, director, the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

system dramatically boosts survival rates.

Nanotax is the reformulation of Paclitaxel, a commonly used chemotherapy drug with incredibly difficult side effects for patients, Jensen explained. Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, fever, difficulty swallowing and other side effects are attributed to the solvent mixed with the drug to administer it intravenously.

Three researchers at KU-Lawrence developed a technology to break down compounds into nanoparticles. In this form, Paclitaxel can be mixed with water instead of the solvent, Cremaphor.

"By removing the source of the negative side effects, we believe Nanotax will be a less toxic treatment," Jensen said.

Why is it important?

Karen Kelly, MD, deputy director, KUCC, explained, "When side effects are so negative you can't deliver the drug, you've lost the opportunity for treatment – and you may have negatively affected the patient's quality of life."

Because only 19 percent of ovarian cancer cases are detected early, effective treatment options are crucial to increase a patient's chance of survival. The American Cancer Society estimates

ovarian cancer will result in 15,520 deaths this year.

The process so far ...

Kathy Roby, PhD, associate professor, Anatomy and Cell Biology, KUMC, and a member of the KUCC, tested Nanotax in mice. Her studies indicate the new delivery method allows the drug to stay in the abdomen where the cancer has spread.

What happens now?

Stephen Williamson, MD, Hematology/Oncology, and **Julia Chapman, MD**, Gynecology/Oncology, will lead the Phase I clinical trial for Nanotax. The trial will include about 20 carefully screened patients with solid tumors that have spread to the abdomen and who have no further treatment options. They will be treated at the hospital's Cancer Center and Medical Pavilion. The trial is expected to conclude in 12 to 18 months. Results will determine the safest dosage of Nanotax. If the Phase I trial is successful, further clinical trials will involve larger groups of patients.

"We feel passionate about being able to offer new therapy – and new hope – to cancer patients," Kelly said.

Please send news and calendar items to mmurphy@kumc.edu or contact Marli Murphy at 5-5192. Items must be received by noon on the Monday prior to publication.

eXtracurricular

Monday, July 7

BONE MARROW & STEM CELL Transplantation Conference: 8 a.m., Atrium Conference Room, Westwood Campus.

CANCER CAREGIVERS SUPPORT Group: 1-2 p.m., Atrium Conference Room, Westwood Campus.

NEURO-ONCOLOGY Conference: 5:30 p.m., Lied Auditorium.

Tuesday, July 8

LYMPHOMA & MYELOMA Conference: 8 a.m., Conference Room, Radiation Oncology.

KUMC EMPLOYEE Appreciation Cookout: Hotdogs, burgers, chips and drinks, KUMC shuttle available, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Murphy Courtyard.

BURN SURVIVORS SUPPORT Group: 6:30-8 p.m., Burnett Burn Center, Hurlbut Recovery Pavilion, 5th floor, hospital.

Wednesday, July 9

BROWNBAG LUNCH SERIES, Landon Center on Aging: "Advocating for Yourself to Get the Best Health Care Possible," Carol McAdoo, noon-1 p.m., 200 Landon Center. Register: Matt Chandler, 8-3094.

KANSAS MASONIC CANCER Research Institute: "Ontology-Based Clinical Trials Management," Mahesh Visvanathan, PhD, noon, Lied Auditorium.

HEAD & NECK CANCER SUPPORT Group: 4 p.m., Atrium Conference Room, Westwood Campus.

LUNG CANCER SUPPORT Group: 5:30 p.m., Brandmeyer Patient Resource Center, Westwood Campus.

Thursday, July 10

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE/MEMORY Disorders Caregiver Support: 2-3:30 p.m., Phyllis Switzer, facilitator, 145 Landon Center on Aging.

eXchange

Vehicles

2008 SCOOTER, less than 1K, 50cc, excellent condition, \$1,000. 816-678-1924.

2003 SATURN VUE, 86K, tinted windows, CD player, black with tan interior, excellent condition, \$7,000 OBO. 913-558-5279.

2001 BMW 325xi, 86K, 22 mpg, AWD, automatic transmission with 5-speed manual, black, loaded with upgrades, fully serviced, excellent condition, \$13,500. 816-564-7436.

1999 FORD ESCORT, 147K, 26 mpg, automatic, new tires, very reliable, lists at \$2,200, asking \$2,000 OBO. 913-645-7821.

1998 CHEVY BLAZER 4x4 LS, 167K, 22 mpg, dark blue, new tires, brakes, hubs, exhaust, under-drive pulleys and air filter, well maintained, \$4,500 OBO. 816-935-7639.

1992 TOYOTA CELICA convertible, power steering and brakes, automatic windows, good condition, fresh paint, \$3,100 OBO. 913-669-6232.

For Sale

FISHER-PRICE PAPASAN CRADLE swing, head support, excellent condition, paid \$160, asking \$50 OBO. 660-232-1536.

DISNEY'S "HIGH SCHOOL Musical," 2 tickets, Tuesday, July 15, good seats, includes coupon for Rosehill Gardens, \$50, face value. 913-441-8040.

MASSAGE TABLE with face crate and bolster, rarely used, \$250 OBO. 816-337-8198.

THOMAS THE TRAIN TABLE with storage bins, includes trains and tracks, \$50. 913-441-4656.

DANSKO PROFESSIONAL Hickory shoes, size 42, rarely worn, paid \$117, asking \$90. 913-775-2890.

AB SCISSORS by Jake, brand new, still in the box, \$100 OBO. 913-599-5207.

MAYTAG JETCLEAN PORTABLE dishwasher, 4 wash cycles, hard-wood top, white, easy-roll wheels, \$150 OBO. 913-599-5207.

PATIO FURNITURE, includes round table, 4 chairs with cushions, umbrella with cover and stand, good condition, \$75 OBO. 913-727-1080.

Housing

• FOR SALE

RANCH HOME, 3522 Bell St., 4 BR, 2 BA, 2-car garage, huge lot in quiet neighborhood, \$154,000. 913-384-8309.

OLATHE HOUSE, 105 N. Janell Drive, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, full finished basement, 2-car garage, quiet neighborhood, walk to grade school, \$155,000. 913-568-2909.

SHAWNEE MISSION HOME, 7741 England Drive, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, vaulted ceilings, washer/dryer, finished basement, deck, garage, landscaped garden, near KUMC. 913-963-5051.

HOUSE, 5039 Outlook, 3 BR, 2 BA, new paint, roof, gutters and electrical, near KUMC, \$164,700. 816-519-5113.

• FOR RENT

BUNGALOW-STYLE BRICK home, 2 BR, 1 BA, skylight, deck, full backyard, off-street parking for 2, Hanover Heights neighborhood, \$900/month, available July 15. 913-963-5472.

Pets

2 CATS, 6 years old, both are domestic short hair, neutered, declawed, great with kids and dogs, shots up to date, includes bag of food and toys. 816-679-1343.

PUPPY, 2 years old, German shepherd-Labrador mix, tan, very energetic, housebroken. 817-737-0674.

Wanted

TV SET, 19" to 24", good condition. 816-519-4424.

TWIN MATTRESS, don't need box springs or frame. 816-331-6095.

TREADMILL, willing to pay up to \$200, will pick up. 816-442-4983.

Carpool

ODESSA to KUMC, work hours 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays, can meet in Blue Springs. 816-616-7919.

eXtra: Find these and other classifieds on the hospital intranet, 24/7, <http://intranet.kumc.com>.

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