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April 9, 2010



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PAC³ COORDINATING OFFICE TO CLOSE ON APRIL 30, 2010

After more than 5 years of supporting the comprehensive cancer control efforts of PAC³ members, **the PAC³ Coordinating Office will close on April 30, 2010.** This difficult decision was recently made by the PAC³ Board of Directors in response to the economic climate that has challenged PAC³ and other organizations during the past 18 months.

PAC³, as an organization, will continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The Board of Directors is committed to continuing the key communications and initiatives of the organization to further comprehensive cancer control efforts. Both Board members and some of their respective organizations have volunteered to take leadership of key initiatives during this transitional period.

Fox Chase Cancer Center will manage PAC³ communications, including the PAC³ website (<http://www.pac3.org/>) and the PAC³ Portal newsletter. The contact person will be Linda Fleisher (215-728-3690 | linda.fleisher@fcc.edu). As PAC³ moves forward, we would like provide our members with an opportunity to opt-out from receiving future correspondence from PAC³, including the PAC³ Portal newsletter. To do so, please contact Mark Byrne in the PAC³ Coordinating Office at byrnem2@upmc.edu.

For more information on PAC³'s decision to close the Coordinating Office and plans for future PAC³ communications, please visit <http://www.pac3.org/Files/PAC3COClosure.pdf>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April is National Cancer Control Month

By Presidential proclamation, April is National Cancer Control Month. Cancer control efforts encourage healthy lifestyles, promote cancer screening, increase access to quality cancer care, and improve quality of life for cancer survivors.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) funds and supports a variety of cancer control research initiatives and projects. NCI also develops resources to help reduce the risk of cancer and to improve the lives of all those diagnosed with cancer.

To learn more about what you can do help control the cancer burden, go to

<http://www.cancer.gov/features/cancercontrol2009>.

Pennsylvania Department of Health Announces Nearly \$20 Million in Health Research Grant Awards

Secretary of Health Everette James announced on April 7, five health research grants totaling approximately \$20 million will be awarded from Pennsylvania's share of the national tobacco settlement for 2009-2010. These competitive grants focus on specific research priorities established by the Health Research Advisory Committee. This year's priorities are cancer vaccines and blindness and visual impairment. Each grant is required to establish a research training program for minority students and faculty in order to create a diverse

MORE NEWS

Progress Made Against Tough-to-Treat Biliary Tract Cancers

Adding a second chemotherapy drug to the treatment regimen of people with biliary tract cancer improves their survival odds considerably, according to new research. This type of cancer – which occurs in the bile duct and gall bladder – is notoriously difficult to treat and often fatal.

Read More at:

<http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/637853.html>

Merck Drug Shows Promise in Pelvic Cancer Patients

An anti-cancer pill from Merck & Co can fight tumors and is safe in combination with palliative radiotherapy for patients with advanced pelvic cancer, data from early stage trials showed on Wednesday. The drug, called vorinostat and sold in the United States under the name Zolinza, is a new type of therapy called a histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor. It is thought to work by stopping tumor growth by altering the levels of several genes needed for cancer cells to grow.

Read More at:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100406/hl_nm/us_merck_vorinostat_1

Childhood Cancer Survivors at Higher Odds of Early Death

applicant pool for high-level research positions.

Read More at:

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/pennsylvania-department-of-health-announces,1238293.shtml>

IN THE NEWS

Test Detects Oral Cancer in Minutes

In a study of San Antonio patients, an experimental rapid test for oral cancer that analyzes a few cells brushed loose from inside the mouth by a dentist proved as accurate as a biopsy read by a pathologist. If the results hold up in larger studies, it could be good news for patients. The oral cancer screening is a routine part of dental visits, and suspicious lesions often are referred to a surgeon, who cuts out a piece of tissue for testing by a pathologist. The new test takes 15 minutes and can be done at the dental chair.

Read More at:

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/Test_detects_oral_cancer_in_minutes.html

People who develop cancer at a young age require lifelong monitoring and are at an increased risk of early death, according to the results of two new studies. In one report, published in the April 6 issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine, researchers estimated the cumulative effect of disease- and treatment-related death risk in 15-year-old patients who had survived at least five years after treatment for childhood cancer.

Read More at:

<http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=115079>

For more new stories and articles of interest, please visit our ***In the News*** page on our website at:

<http://www.pac3.org/ResourcesNews.asp>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

For more information about the following funding opportunities, please visit

<http://www.pac3.org/ResourcesGrants.asp>.

Children's Cancer Research Fund Invites Applications for Annual Grant Program

Application Deadline: **June 16, 2010**

There are many other grant opportunities and funding announcements that have been posted to the PAC³ website, as well. For more information about these or other archived funding opportunities and to view any application deadlines, please visit

<http://www.pac3.org/ResourcesGrantsArchive.asp>.