

# Cancer Information and Support Service

## Cancer News 22 November 2010

### **Family-based risk assessment could help identify at-risk individuals**

FRIDAY, Nov. 19 (HealthDay News) -- Screening unaffected individuals through demographic and family histories to determine who should be offered genetic testing for Lynch syndrome mutations may be a cost-effective approach to identifying people at higher risk for endometrial and colorectal cancer, according to research published online Nov. 18 in *Cancer Prevention Research*.

### **Celldex cancer vaccine meets goal in midstage trial** Nov 20, 2010

(Reuters) - Celldex Therapeutics Inc said its experimental vaccine for the most common type of brain cancer met the main goal of extending survival time for patients without a progression of the disease in a mid-stage trial. The vaccine rindopepimut or CDX-110 is Celldex's lead product candidate. The Needham, Massachusetts-based company had faced a setback on it earlier this year when partner Pfizer pulled out from a co-development deal, saying it was no longer a priority for them. The trial, named ACT III, showed 66 percent of patients had no disease progression at 5.5 months from the start of vaccination, a statistically significant increase over a predetermined progression-free rate estimate of 53 percent, with standard of care.

### **Off-Label Use of Clotting Factor Remains Unproven** November 19, 2010 -

Using recombinant factor VIIa in patients who do not have hemophilia has very little proven benefit, researchers reported. A systematic review and meta-analysis found slight benefits when the compound was used to prevent anticipated bleeding but no benefit at all when it was used therapeutically, according to Yulia Lin, MD, of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, and colleagues. For either application, there was no significant improvement in mortality or significant increase in thromboembolic events, Lin and colleagues reported online in *CMAJ*

### **World health officials take aim at tobacco additives** Nov 20, 2010

(Reuters) - World health officials recommended on Saturday limiting additives that make cigarettes more palatable, but they postponed until 2012 a number of other issues after five days of deliberations. The World Health Organization meeting in Uruguay's fashionable beach resort of Punta del Este was aimed at fleshing out the so-called Framework Convention for Tobacco Control, which 171 countries have signed.

### **Nutrition: TV ban ad bid**

Unhealthy food and drink advertisements should be banned from television screens until after 9pm, a children's advocacy group says.

"Year after year we see the same usual suspects ignoring parents' concerns and peddling their junk-food products to children, using highly influential marketing campaigns backed with massive budgets," The Parents Jury manager Karen Sims said. As well as a ban on unhealthy food and drink TV advertisements, they called for government restrictions on other unhealthy food marketing aimed at children, including "internet and email marketing, in-store and on-pack promotions that target children using cartoon and celebrity endorsement, giveaways and competitions." *Sunday Times* 21/11/10 pg 42

### **Screening: Cash to thwart cancer**

Thousands of Victorians will be screened for cancer earlier as part of Labor's \$100 million-plus of election promises to boost the state's cancer services.

Premier John Brumby said an early intervention program to be announced today will over the next three years screen an additional 57,000 Victorians over 50 years of age for bowel cancer. This will include an \$18.8 million program to increase awareness for skin and bowel cancer.

Mr Brumby said tackling cancer was a key priority because every day 70 Victorians were diagnosed with the disease and about 10,000 died every year. *Herald Sun* 22/11/10 pg 9

### **Oncology Update:**

Surveillance warranted 12 months after bowel cancer surgery. Australian experts are recommending early follow up for bowel cancer patients after finding that some malignant metachronous tumours are identified within 3 years after surgery for the index cancer. *Australian New Zealand Journal of Surgery*.

### **AICR**

### **Red Meat May Up Risk for Esophageal/Stomach Cancer**

Consuming relatively large amounts of red meat may increase the risk of esophageal cancer and possibly stomach cancer, suggests a new study of almost half a million Americans published in the *American Journal of Gastroenterology*.

The study used data from 494,979 Americans ages 50 to 71. After ten years of follow up, researchers found that those in the top fifth category of red meat consumption had a 79 percent higher risk of developing esophageal squamous cell carcinoma compared to those who ate the least meat. Researchers also found a link between a type of compound found in red meat after it is cooked at high temperature. Those who consumed the highest amount of the compound, called DiMeIQx for short, were linked with an increased risk of stomach cancer compared to those who consumed the least. Neither white meat nor processed meat was associated with any of the cancers investigated.

AICR's expert report found that consuming high amounts of red meat (over 18 ounces) per week and processed meat is a cause of colorectal cancer. The evidence linking red and processed meat intake to esophageal cancer was limited suggestive. For stomach cancer, the link between processed meat was also limited suggestive, with insufficient data for a red meat finding.

### **Coffee and Tea for the Brain**

Drinking approximately half a cup of coffee or tea per day may decrease the risk of the most common type of brain tumor, suggests a large new study of Europeans. The study, published in the November issue of *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, supports an earlier study of Americans linking total coffee and tea consumption with lower risk of the brain tumor.

Study researchers evaluated data from approximately 400,000 participants from nine European countries. After an average of 8.5 years, the study found that drinking 100 mL or more of coffee or tea a day was linked to a 34 percent reduced risk of glioma brain tumors compared to those who drank less than 100 mL. Men who were coffee and tea drinkers had a slightly greater reduced risk of glioma than women. No link was found between coffee and tea intake and the other type of brain tumor studied, meningioma.

Coffee and tea contain caffeine and many other compounds, many of which are antioxidants, which may explain the possible protective effect against some types of brain tumors, note the authors. Yet brewing methods and intake patterns varies greatly by country, which could affect estimating the amount of caffeine or other coffee and tea compounds people consumed. For example, coffee consumption was highest in Denmark and lowest in Italy. Tea consumption was highest in the U.K. and lowest in Spain.

### **Lets talk about Sex: Illness should not stop the fun! A free workshop for Victorian women-their partners are also welcome. Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 from 10am-2pm**

Join the teams from the Psychosexual Service of the Women's Hospital and the Cancer Information and Support Service at the Cancer Council Victoria.

**Learn** how to build sexual confidence after a chronic illness diagnosis, particularly cancer.

**Discover** how to cope with and enhance your relationship within a safe environment.

Workshop will include: **Communication;**

**Building confidence and increasing intimacy after an illness.**

**Venue:** The Women's Hospital, Cnr Grattan Street and Flemington Road,

Cancer News-Doreen. [Akkerman@cancervic.org.au](mailto:Akkerman@cancervic.org.au) or [Doreen.akkerman@gmail.com](mailto:Doreen.akkerman@gmail.com)

Parkville, Victoria

**Registration is essential (no cost) and lunch is provided.**

**To register** for this free workshop or for further information please contact the Cancer Council Helpline **13 11 20**

**If you or someone you love is affected by cancer, call the Cancer Helpline at 13 11 20 or view our website [www.cancervic.org.au](http://www.cancervic.org.au)**  
**If you wish to include an item in the Cancer News contact [Doreen.Akkerman@cancervic.org.au](mailto:Doreen.Akkerman@cancervic.org.au)**

**This newsletter does not reflect the views of the Cancer Council Victoria. It is put together from items in various medical journals and newsletters. If you are interested in an item, we suggest that you Google the resource and find the article on their website.**