NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Research aimed at monitoring cancer's spread

Better tumor treatment putting patients' brains at risk of disease

By Lauran Neergaard THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

No one ever checked whether Leslie Bather's breast cancer was spreading to her brain, until the day tumors caused three frightening seizures. MRI scans can help spot when cancer in another part of the body sends seedlings into the brain, but few patients get routine checks.

Neurology specialists say it's time to change that: More patients are surviving initial tumors long enough for their brains to be at risk, as treatments get better at battling cancer below the neck yet fail to protect the brain. And improved technology is making it easier and safer to treat those new brain tumors, if they're caught early.

"If I were diagnosed with cancer tomorrow, the first thing I'd want is a brain scan," says Dr. Leonard Cerullo, director of the Chicago Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroresearch.

This type of brain cancer "is becoming a bigger and bigger clinical problem," adds Dr. Frank Lieberman, neuro-oncology chief at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Cancer.

Already, about 150,000 Americans a year are diagnosed with what is called a metastatic brain tumor, cancer that spread into the brain from some other part of the body.

Any cancer can spread to the brain. But lung cancer is the leader; it will happen in up to 40 percent of lung cancer patients, often very early in their disease.

Up to a third of breast cancer patients will experience a brain metastasis. Other common spreaders are melanoma and kidney and colon cancer.

Not too many years ago, doctors mostly discovered metastatic brain cancer when its victims already were close to dying from tumors riddling other parts of their bodies.

Now, breast specialists in particular are reporting an increasing number of women who beat back cancer elsewhere in the body, only to have it flare in the brain. It seems to be a special concern among users of Herceptin, a powerful drug that targets an aggressive type of breast cancer, everywhere except in the brain, because it's too

TRACKING CANCER

Scientists are studying ways to track the spread of cancer to the brain. Here's a look at some of their

New drug: Studies are under way to see if an experimental drug called lapatinib, made by GlaxoSmithKline, can treat breast cancer that spreads to the brain. Lapatinib targets the same aggressive breast cancer as Herceptin but is thought to easily penetrate the brain.

Old drugs: Also under study is whether some commonly used cancer drugs could ever cross into the brain, especially if used in conjunction with brain radiation

Getting checked: Neurology specialists are urging general oncologists to start checking patients, especially those with lung or breast cancer, for spread to the brain well before symptoms appear.

large a molecule to penetrate the blood-brain barrier, explains

But it's a more widespread concern. While the American Cancer Society doesn't yet have a count of the reported increase, it notes that cancer patients overall are living longer, providing more time for microscopic tumor cells incubating in the brain to take root.

There are no formal guidelines, but at Pittsburgh, MRI scans not CT scans that Lieberman calls less sensitive in the brain — are being incorporated shortly after original diagnosis. After that initial scan, Chicago's Cerullo advises including the brain in any routine check for cancer spread. He says insurance generally pays.

High doses of whole-brain radiation once were the only treatment for metastatic brain cancer and could cause such troubling side effects as memory loss,

Now, treatment is more sophisticated, especially for tumors caught early. Topping the list: radiosurgery, using focused beams of radiation to zap just the cancerous cells and not surrounding healthy brain tissue.

Whole-brain radiation today comes in safer doses with fewer side effects, but when to use it is controversial. Some studies suggest a preventive course could protect certain lung cancer patients, for example.

Space services for those without deep pockets

By Mike Schneider THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

Scotty will be blasted into space not beamed up — and Gordo is returning for his third flight.

The planned launch sometime in March of a rocket carrying the ashes of actor James Doohan, who played chief engineer Montgomery Scott on "Star Trek," and Mercury program astronaut Gordon Cooper will give a fitting send-off to two men who helped popularize human space exploration.

The craft also will carry the ashes of 185 others, including a telephone technician, a nurse and a college student.

Their families paid \$995 to \$5,300 for the flight, being conducted by one of a handful of growing businesses hoping to give a space experience to the common folk.

It broadens the market, which is important to us because our whole business plan is about getting more people access to space," said Harvin Moore of Space Services Inc. of Houston, which is sponsoring the ashes flight. "Space needs to be affordable for all in some way."

Along with these services, space tourism businesses hope to send customers into suborbital space at a cost of \$25,000 to \$250,000 a person, far less than the \$20 million businessman Gregory Olsen paid Russia last fall for a ride to the International Space Station. Richard Branson's company, Virgin Galactic, already has 100 people who have paid \$200,000 apiece for



In this undated photo provided by Space Services Inc., the capsules shown will hold the ashes of 187 people whose families have paid to

launch them into space in a rocket. flights, which the company has said

it hopes to begin in 2008. Kathie Mayo knew her 20-yearold daughter would have loved the idea of having her ashes sent into space. Rachael Mayo died in 2003 from complications of Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"She would have said, 'It's about time, Mom, rather than keeping my ashes around the house," said Kathie Mayo of Winona, Minn.

Another company, ZeroG Aerospace Inc. of Seattle, hopes to launch a rocket next month with mementoes from people who paid as little as \$49.95.

Colorado-based Beyond-Earth Enterprises plans to launch a rocket on a brief flight in October with hair samples or fingernail clippings sent by people who paid \$34.95 for the "DNA kit" package. The company will also transport science experiments no animals allowed — for \$2,500.

ZIONSVILLE **Kenneth Crockett**

Kenneth Crockett, 80, died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006, in Zionsville. He was a former longtime resident of Franklin.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Pauline (Burres) Crockett. Services are pending at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home in Franklin.

WHITELAND Florence Harbert

Florence Harbert, 88, died Monday, Feb. 20, 2006, at Franklin United Methodist Community. She was a resident of Whiteland.

Arrangements are pending at Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Greenwood.

David Elwood Hiatt

David Elwood Hiatt, 95, died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006, at the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin. He was a resident of Franklin and a former resident of Rock-

ville and Colorado Springs, Colo. Survivors include two daughters, Donna (Dale) DePlanty of Marshall and Ann Martin of Zionsville; five grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jess W. and Myrtle (Byers) Hiatt; and his wife, Pauline Kidwell.

A service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday at Kresge Chapel at the Indiana Masonic Home, 690 State St. in Franklin. Friends may call from 10 a.m. until service time Thursday at the chapel. Burial will be at Sunset Memorial Park in Danville, Ill. Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home in Franklin is handling arrangements.

FRANKI IN Donald McGillem Jr.

Donald McGillem Jr., 50, died Friday, Feb. 17, 2006. He was a resident of Franklin.

Survivors include his mother, Esther (Northerner) McGillem; and two sisters, Linda Young and

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald McGillem Sr.

A memorial service will be conducted at 7 p.m. today at Flanner & Buchanan Funeral Center, Decatur Township, 5463 Kentucky Ave. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 5 to 9 p.m. today at the funeral center. Burial will be at Fairfield Friends Cemetery in Camby.

INDIANAPOLIS Opal C. Sandler

Opal C. Sandler, 84, of Indianapolis, died Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006, in Indianapolis.

She was born in Westmoreland, Tenn., on Nov. 26, 1921, to Walter and Ora (Gammon) Smith.



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Franklin

David Elwood Hiatt, 95 Donald McGillem Jr., 50

> Greenwood Walter G. Wise, 85

Whiteland Florence Harbert, 88 Indianapolis

Opal C. Sandler, 84 Louie B. Thomas, 79 Elsewhere

Kenneth Crockett, 80 Phyllis E. Wilson, 94

She was a member of Order of the Eastern Star and Smyrna Shrine Guild.

Opal is survived by her son, Stephen Sandler; a granddaughter, Erica Sandler (Joe Moore); and a great-granddaughter, Brianna Moore.

A funeral service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Interment will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

INDIANAPOLIS Louie B. Thomas

Louie B. Thomas, 79, died Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include two sons, David and Brian Thomas; a sister, Frances Hopkins; a half brother, Jerry N. Thomas; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Dovie (Steenbergen) Thomas; and his wife, Dorothy (Bunch) Thomas.

A service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

BEECH GROVE Phyllis E. Wilson

Phyllis E. Wilson, 94, died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006, at St. Paul Hermitage in Beech Grove. She was a resident of Beech Grove and a former resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include four grandchildren and many great- and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alexander and Bernice Olszewski; her husband, Donald Wilson; and a son, Dennis Wilson.

A memorial service will be conducted at a later date. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis. G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

GREENWOOD Walter G. Wise

Walter G. Wise, 85, died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006, at St.

Francis Hospital in Beech Grove. He was a resident of Greenwood.

He was born April 27, 1920, in Morgantown. parents were Walter and Hattie (God-

man) Wise. He married Betty J. (Prince) Wise on Dec. 31, 1950. She survives. Other survivors include two daughters, Toni (Eric) Wise-Eggleton of Rockville, Md., and Lea Ann Wise-Martyn of Indianapolis; and two grandchildren, Alexander W. Eggleton of Rockville, Md., and Matthew W. Martyn of Indianapolis. He was preceded in death by a sister, Hester Ann Flanders; and a brother, Carl Richard Wise.

He was a 1938 graduate of Morgantown High School and graduated from National Submarine School in New London,

He was a chief petty officer with the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving on the Tuna, Sarda and Guardfish sub-

He founded and was the president of Wise Corp. in Indianapolis from the 1960s until he retired in 1992. He designed and manufactured dryers and sealers for printing and paper boards, which were used worldwide. In his earlier years before going into the Navy, he helped with the

family farm. He was a member of Morgantown United Methodist Church, World War II Submarine Veterans Association, American Legion Post 252 in Greenwood and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. He also was a private licensed pilot.

He was instrumental from start to finish in overseeing and securing funds for the veterans memorial monument at East Hill Cemetery in Morgantown and the Morgan County Veterans Memorial Monument in Martinsville.

He enjoyed flying and fishing. The Rev. Cheryl Garbe will conduct a service at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Morgantown United Methodist Church, 20 E. Washington St. in Morgantown. Friends may call from $\bar{4}$ to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Meredith-Clark Funeral Home, Cremation and Personalization Center, 179 E. Mulberry St. in Morgantown, and one hour before the service Thursday at the church. Military graveside rites will be conducted by Greenwood American Legion Post 252 Honor Guard at East Hill Cemetery in Morgantown.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674.

Condolences may be sent to the family through www.meredithclark.com. **Information:** (812) 597-4670



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