

# NEWS/OBITUARIES

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## Warding off notorious killer Study finds Lilly drug delays return of pancreatic cancer

By CARLA K. JOHNSON  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### CHICAGO

Offering a glint of hope for treating a notorious killer, researchers found that a common chemotherapy drug can help pancreatic cancer patients who have undergone surgery stave off a return of the disease longer.

In the German study, the group receiving Gemzar, or gemcitabine, lived on average of 13.4 months without their cancer coming back. A comparison group that did not receive the drug lived without disease for 6.9 months.

The 6½-month gain may look modest. And scientists said they have seen no difference so far in the overall survival rates between the two groups.

But pancreatic cancer is such a rapid and efficient killer that the findings were still highly encouraging.

Pancreatic cancer has one of the worst chances of recovery of all types of cancer. Most patients

**"This study says to me that gemcitabine can keep the disease at bay for a period of time after surgery."**

Dr. Sunil Hingorani

of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle on a drug developed by Lilly to ward of pancreatic cancer after surgery

are not diagnosed until the cancer has spread, and fewer than one in 10 patients are alive five years after diagnosis.

Only 20 percent of newly diagnosed patients are good candidates for surgery, the best hope for a cure. And even then, the disease returns in the vast majority of cases.

The new findings, when considered along with preliminary results from a large U.S. trial reported last year, suggest that chemotherapy after pancreatic cancer surgery should at least include gemcitabine.

The study appears in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

"This study says to me that

gemcitabine can keep the disease at bay for a period of time after surgery," said Dr. Sunil Hingorani of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

But it also "underscores the essential incurability of the disease," he said.

"If you wait long enough, the beast comes back."

The findings apply only to those patients who can have surgery, just 6,000 to 6,500 patients a year in the United States. Those are the patients whose cancer was diagnosed before it spread beyond the pancreas.

Gemcitabine already is used to fight breast, lung and ovarian cancer.

It is also used to treat inoperable pancreatic cancer. It costs about \$2,800 a month and has relatively mild side effects such as fatigue and hair thinning.

Doctors disagree about the best treatment following surgery for pancreatic cancer. Some watch for the disease to recur before starting other therapies.

Others recommend chemotherapy right away, or a combination of chemotherapy and radiation.

Unlike other cancers, pancreatic cancer appears to spread almost as soon as it appears, possibly because the pancreas is not as self-contained as other organs.

Some of the study's authors reported financial ties to drug makers including Gemzar's manufacturer, Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Co.

A grant from Lilly Deutschland supported the study, but the company had no say in its design or data interpretation, the researchers reported.

### INDIANAPOLIS

#### Martha C. Brune

Martha C. Brune, 98, died Monday, Jan. 15, 2007. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include a daughter, Connie M. Brune of Indianapolis; a son, William (Marilyn) Brune of Grand Rapids, Mich.; three grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William J. Brune; and her parents, August and Clara (Gietz) Brakob.

A service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center, 7602 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the mortuary. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bethesda Lutheran Homes, 600 Hoffmann Drive Watertown, WI 53094; or Calvary Lutheran Church, 6111 Shelby St., Indianapolis, IN 46227.

**Information:** www.singletonmortuary.com

### FRANKLIN

#### Norma L. Bennington Legge

Norma L. Bennington Legge, 84, died Monday, Jan. 15, 2007, at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin. She was a resident of Franklin.

Survivors include three sons, Jack Bennington of Sebring, Fla., Robert Bennington of Martinsville and David Bennington of Plainfield; two daughters, Linda McGehee of Madison, Miss., and Lisa Donica of Franklin; a brother, Richard Byrd of Jacksonville, Fla.; a sister, Mary Bough of Martinsville; 19 grandchildren; and 36 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Everett and Lucille (Yates) Byrd; her first husband, William "Jack" Bennington; her second husband, Edmond "Eddie" Legge; and a son, Bill Bennington.

The Rev. Max Downs will conduct a service at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Costin Funeral Chapel, 539 W. Washington St. in Martinsville. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday and from 9:30 a.m. until service time Friday at the funeral home.

### INDIANAPOLIS

#### Tome Steve Rusomaroff

Tome Steve Rusomaroff, 41, died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include a son, Connor

Franklin

Norma L. Bennington Legge, 84

Indianapolis

Martha C. Brune, 98

Tome Steve Rusomaroff, 41

Russell H. Stogsdill, 89

Nicholas Hall; his fiancée and mother of his son, Sheila Hall; his father, Steve M. Rusomaroff; his stepmother, Terry L. Rusomaroff; two sisters, Maria Steve (Clyde Gaw) Rusomaroff-Gaw and Anga Steve (William D.) Hinton; and three brothers, Vlademir Steve Rusomaroff, Steven Michael (Amy) Park and Christopher Steve Rusomaroff.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley May Rusomaroff.

A service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home, 5141 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Scipio Cemetery.

### INDIANAPOLIS

#### Russell H. Stogsdill

Russell H. Stogsdill, 89, died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include his wife, LaVerne M. (Flynn) Stogsdill; three daughters, Karin (Ron) Bolyard of Indianapolis, Rhonda (David) Lyon of Greenwood and Susan (Tim) Jarvis of Terre Haute; a sister, Thelma Branam of Kokomo; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Joyce Stogsdill; and his parents, Lemuel and Maude (Hendricks) Stogsdill.

A service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Rosedale Hills United Methodist Church, 4450 S. Keystone Ave. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center, 7602 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis, and from 9:30 a.m. until service time Thursday at the church. Burial will be at Clear Creek Cemetery in Bloomington.

Memorial contributions may be made to Murat Shrine Transportation Fund, 510 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

**Information:** www.singletonmortuary.com

## ● Roads

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

slated along County Road 800 North and in the Shady Creek subdivision.

The city council has appropriated \$2.3 million toward the road projects this year.

Last year, the city completed street repairs in the Coopers and Country Aire subdivisions and road rebuilding in the Valle Vista subdivision. Street repairs in the Northern Park subdivision, another large project, will be finished this year.

"Over the next few years, all of the streets in this city will look like new," Henderson said. "Drive around. Don't take my word for it."

City projects shouldn't strain taxpayers' wallets, he said.

Henderson said Greenwood taxpayers pay less for police and fire services than residents of Columbus, a smaller Indiana city. Carmel, another comparable city,

## MAYOR'S PLANS

Here are some of Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson's priorities for the coming year:

### Street improvement projects

- The Oaks: New base, curbs and paving
- Glen Oaks Commons: new base and surface
- Greenwood Commons: new base and surface
- Whispering Trails: full reconstruction including under drains

### Repavings

- Joy Court and Joy Drive in Shady Creek

spent four times as much on its fire department last year.

City departments run efficiently without becoming bloated with unneeded staff, Henderson said. The city can then keep its share of the property tax bill low despite rising utilities and health insurance costs.

The city's average property tax bill per household — \$203 last year — has decreased from 2003, Henderson said.

He did not focus solely on taxes

- Stop 18 east and west on County Road 800 North

### Goals for 2007

- Repair streets
- Keep property taxes low
- Add sidewalks, curbs and trails where needed
- Look into a converting old sanitation plant into sledding hill
- Lobby General Assembly and Congress on home foreclosure issue
- Lobby to curb illegal immigration
- Attend summit on video game violence, educate parents and guardians on dangers

and roads while addressing the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce at the Valle Vista Conference Center.

The mayor announced his wish to convert the old sanitation disposal plant off Main Street and Howard Road into a sledding hill. The city has been filling over the plant near Greenwood Cemetery with deposits of concrete from roadwork for years. The plant has been unused since 1980.

A layer of dirt could be laid

down after the filling is complete, so the man-made hill could be used for sledding, Henderson said.

Such a project would be a few years off and overseen by the parks department.

The mayor also has goals for 2007 too ambitious to be carried out by city government.

As newly appointed chairman of the Small Cities Council of the National League of Cities, Henderson hopes to tackle a high foreclosure rate, illegal immigration and video game violence.

He plans to lead lobbying efforts on the state and federal levels to address problems the city can't handle with ordinances, such as restrictions on predatory lending that force homebuyers out of their homes after higher interest rates take effect.

After attending an April summit on video game violence, Henderson hopes to spearhead a local educational effort, perhaps a video to show parent-teacher associations.

Henderson encouraged residents to "commit to get fit" and walk Greenwood trails, as he has the past few years.

## Doctors advise using anti-clotting medications with drug-coated stents

By JAMIE STENGLE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### DALLAS

Heart patients who had drug-coated stents inserted to prop open blocked coronary arteries should stay on anti-clotting drugs for at least a year, several doctor groups said in an advisory issued Tuesday.

The advisory recommends that doctors tell their patients to take an anti-clotting drug like Plavix and aspirin for a year to reduce the risk of clotting, which could lead to a heart attack or death.

The long-term safety of Plavix in stent patients has not been established.

Drug-coated stents are often

chosen over bare metal stents because they slowly release medication that reduces the chance of arteries relogging, which can mean follow-up surgery. However, the newer stents mean a small but significant risk of clotting.

The new advisory cited research showing blood clots in up to 29 percent of patients who stopped anti-clotting drugs early after receiving a drug-coated stent.

The doctors also cited a study of 500 patients who received the drug-coated stents after a heart attack in which the death rate over the next 11 months was 7.5 percent for those who stopped taking anti-clotting medication compared to 0.7 percent for those

who continued the regimen.

The recent information on drug-coated stents and the recommended drug regimen of up to a year means more dialogue between patients and doctors, said Dr. Cindy Grines, chair of the advisory writing committee.

"I think what's happened with the drug-eluting stents is the patients are scared too much," said Grines of William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich.

The recent publicity about drug-coated stents is on patients' minds, said Dr. John Warner, medical director of the heart, lung and vascular center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.



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