Translating Cancer Research into Cancer Treatments

**NEED**

The chasm between faculty research and cancer therapy must be bridged so that cancer patients can quickly benefit from the most up-to-date treatments.

**INITIATIVE**

The Oncological Sciences Center at Purdue's Discovery Park developed the Cancer Research Clinical Partnership. Its mission is to "get cutting-edge technology out of the laboratory and into doctors' offices." Laboratory scientists now involve clinicians in their research. Both parties benefit from ongoing communication.

Since June 2007, the partnership also has sponsored seven workshops that each attracted 20 to 40 Purdue faculty and medical professionals. A faculty member or clinician presented a current case or promising technology at each workshop, which was followed by an exchange of ideas.

**IMPACTS**

- Dan Raftery, professor of chemistry, presented his research on identifying molecules that signal early breast cancer. His research, which has netted promising results, has led to the creation of MatrixBio. The company's goal is to develop early screening procedures to be used in doctors' offices in the next couple of years.

- The Horizon Oncology Center is participating in the first-ever human drug trials in Lafayette. The new drug used in the trials was developed by Endocyte, whose founder also serves as an executive committee member of the Oncological Sciences Center. The trials, developed in part through the Cancer Research Clinical Partnership, are focused on advanced lung and ovarian cancer with tumors that resist typical treatments. Trial participant Dave Williams of Petersburg expressed his appreciation to the *Journal & Courier*. "It's great that locals are working to speed up advancements in cancer treatment," Williams said.

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