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MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™

Investigators Highlight Improvements in Immune and Endocrine Therapies for Breast Cancer

Breast oncologists recap findings from the 2022 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. [Sasha E. Stanton, MD, PhD](#), says that for patients with hormone receptor–positive disease finding the best immunotherapeutic choice can present a challenge. [Rupert Bartsch, MD](#), highlights findings from the phase 2 RIGHT Choice study (NCT03839823), which demonstrated promise with ribociclib (Kisqali) plus goserelin acetate plus hormonal therapy among patients with advanced/metastatic disease. [Erika P. Hamilton, MD](#), reviews exciting novel endocrine therapies that may soon play a role.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/3ITTDtD.

WELLBEING CHECKUP™

Husband and Wife Duo Pursue Medicine Together

[Manmeet Singh Ahluwalia, MD](#), chief of medical oncology, chief scientific officer, and deputy director at Miami Cancer Institute, and his wife, [Harneet Kaur Walia, MD](#), director of sleep medicine and continuous improvement at Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute, say that they learn from each other's experiences and share in successes. The couple talk about what inspired them to pursue medicine and the importance of keeping a strong work/life balance, communication, and priorities, including their 2 children, in mind. Walia advises the audience to "keep going and keep connecting," and Ahluwalia says she is his biggest supporter.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/3yjRa6U.

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS DEEP DIVE™

Gulhati Details Treatments and Advances in Pancreatic Cancer

[Prateek Gulhati, MD, PhD](#), delivers takeaways from his presentation at the 2022 Annual Oncology Clinical Practice and Research Summit and key trials in pancreatic cancer that have moved the field forward. He cites approvals of FOLFIRINOX (leucovorin calcium, fluorouracil, irinotecan hydrochloride, and oxaliplatin) and gemcitabine/paclitaxel chemotherapy regimens as notable advances of the past decade. However, further research is needed to determine what patients derive benefit from immunotherapies and maintenance PARP inhibitors, Gulhati says, adding that the biggest unmet needs are a technique for early detection of pancreatic cancer and more active therapies, as chemotherapy remains the primary treatment in the metastatic setting.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/3JdWsXL.

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS DEEP DIVE™

Smith Details Insurance Barriers to Optimal Gynecologic Cancer Care

Anna Jo Bodurtha Smith, MD, joins Medical World News Deep Dive to highlight the effects that insurance has on availability, access, and affordability of gynecologic cancer care in the United States. Barriers with private insurance may include underinsurance when patients encounter narrow health care networks, issues with prior authorization, and high costs. Smith notes that private insurance is not required to cover the cost of follow-up after screenings and gynecologic visits are not consistently covered. Smith explains that public insurance gains under the Affordable Care Act have led to early-stage diagnoses, with recent data showing correlations with improved survival.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3Zqj1hN](https://bit.ly/3Zqj1hN).

WELLBEING CHECKUP™

Determining When to Prioritize Telehealth Over In-Person Care

Krupal Patel, MD, MSc, FRCSC, reviews changes to cancer care brought on by telehealth and discusses when the virtual visit should be considered over an in-person trip to the clinic. Although the human connection can sometimes be lost when caring for patients via telehealth, it's about ensuring patients have access to high-quality care, and telehealth offers resources as well as flexibility, according to Patel. When giving extensive surgical counseling, going over treatment options, performing an examination, or delivering tough news, Patel notes in-person visits are the more appropriate option.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3kS84Gy](https://bit.ly/3kS84Gy).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™

Clinicians Highlight the Meaning of World Cancer Day

For World Cancer Day, 4 oncologists discuss the importance of coming together to help patients and combat persistent disparities that affect care. Jonathan Mizrahi, MD, says the day, held on February 4, 2023, reminds physicians of the work that still needs to be accomplished, as well as the importance of prevention, ensuring patients receive screenings, and moving forward with advancing therapies. Pamela Goetz, BA, OPN-CG, notes that thinking more inclusively is the best way to care for patients and that reinstating the Cancer Moonshot initiative is a positive step forward to make advances.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3yih9eT](https://bit.ly/3yih9eT).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™

Clinicians Provide Insights Into Increased Metastatic Prostate Cancer Diagnoses

Four oncologists discuss data from the American Cancer Society's 2023 Cancer Statistics report, which shows an increase in cases of advanced prostate cancer and how screening access is an issue that needs to be addressed. Noting that there is no national consensus on screening, Michael S. Cookson, MD, MMHC, says that strategies must be reassessed to detect the disease at an earlier stage. Additionally, Derek J. Lomas, MD, PharmD, addresses evolving screening methods, and Andres Correa, MD, highlights the implications from changes to the 2012 US Preventive Services Task Force recommendation that prostate specific antigen-based screening should not be used.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3mAfGOS](https://bit.ly/3mAfGOS).

AFTER HOURS™**A Physician's Love for Photography Parallels Passion for Medicine**

Scott Lundy MD, PhD, a urologist at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, first became interested in photography when he was 15 years old. Sparked by an increase in travel, his beloved hobby began as he documented his journeys on film. He enjoys sharing the beauty he captures with others in the hope that it makes them smile. Lundy adds that photography is like medicine in that there is a balance between following the rules and knowing when to break them to get something unique. Although he now focuses on portraits, for years he worked in professional underwater photography and has a collection of some 50 vintage underwater cameras.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3nnBvRK](https://bit.ly/3nnBvRK).

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▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3nnBvRK](https://bit.ly/3nnBvRK).

WELLBEING CHECKUP™**Overcoming Barriers to Optimal Health Care Remains Crucial**

Loretta Erhunmwunsee, MD, a thoracic surgeon and assistant professor in the divisions of Health Equities and Thoracic Surgery at City of Hope in Duarte, California, argues that to reduce health disparities, individual practices must identify the barriers that prevent them from providing high-quality care to every patient. In addition, including patients and their families in the decision-making process after providing data and their expert opinions is another way to minimize barriers to care, and care decisions should be patient-centric and informed by an understanding of the social and environmental factors that may affect patients outside of the clinic.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3LfZtIm](https://bit.ly/3LfZtIm).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS DEEP DIVE™**ChatGPT May Become Useful in the Clinic**

The artificial intelligence (AI) tool ChatGPT has the potential to help physicians establish a new workflow, according to David Canes, MD. He explains that the program can complete tasks with low complexity or repetitive activities, giving doctors more control of their time. Canes notes that the AI technology, which is available to the public, has assisted him with writing letters for patients' insurance companies through guided prompts. ChatGPT composes a draft, which he lightly edits, allowing him more time in the day to spend with patients.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3muDsM5](https://bit.ly/3muDsM5).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™

Top Takeaways From 2023 ASCO GU Symposium

Practice-informing data from several clinical trials focused on genitourinary cancers, including prostate cancer, renal cell carcinoma, and urothelial cancer, were presented at the 2023 American Society of Clinical Oncology Genitourinary Cancers Symposium. In this episode, [Matt Galsky, MD](#), highlights findings from the phase 3 IMvigor130 trial (NCT02807636), which aimed to determine the optimal frontline treatment for patients with metastatic urothelial cancer. Although the combination of checkpoint blockade with atezolizumab (Tecentriq) and chemotherapy did not produce the marked benefits in this setting that have been seen in other solid tumor types, the data are hypothesis generating, according to Galsky.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/3o8OVBI.

AFTER HOURS™

A Physician and His Daughter Connect Over Taylor Swift

Relaxing on the weekend for City of Hope Orange County's physician-in-chief [Edward S. Kim, MD, MBA](#), includes bonding with his daughter, Elyssa, by getting dairy-free ice cream, dressing up, and attending global sensation Taylor Swift's sold-out Eras Tour. Kim notes that being a part of his daughter's TikToks documenting their adventures fills his heart with joy similar to what he takes away from being part of a patient's journey. Kim pulled double duty as a fan and physician once more in early June, attending the Chicago, Illinois, concert the weekend of the 2023 American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting!

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/3BjzBoO.

WELLBEING CHECKUP™

Health-Related Quality-of-Life Benefit Is Observed in GRIFFIN

Patient-reported outcomes from the phase 2 GRIFFIN study (NCT02874742) showed that patients in the 2 arms receiving daratumumab (Darzalex), lenalidomide (Revlimid), bortezomib (Velcade), and dexamethasone, or lenalidomide, bortezomib, and dexamethasone reported improvements over the course of treatment, according to [Rebecca Silbermann, MD, MMS](#). There were reductions in fatigue as well as pain, and improvements in patients' overall assessments of quality of life. As Silbermann explains, "It's important for patients with myeloma to realize that they often will begin to feel better as they're being treated. Many patients presume that television and movie perceptions of how cancer treatments look will be applicable to them."

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/414bINy.

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™

Top Takeaways From the 2023 AUA Annual Meeting

Expert oncologists reflect on presentations from the 2023 American Urological Association (AUA) Annual Meeting. [Jason M. Hafron, MD](#), explains that developing culturally competent care remains crucial to addressing disparities in clinical trials. Hafron calls attention to the 14 agents approved for prostate cancer during the past decade, noting that in addition to building upon the foundation of these advances for systemic treatment, the surgical technology improvements discussed at the conference were also of interest. Resident [Geoffrey Rosen, MD](#), explains that the "When Disaster Strikes" section of AUA is his favorite and allows him to learn from experienced clinicians.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/42xCyhy.

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS DEEP DIVE™**Faiman Examines Shifts in Multiple Myeloma Care**

Beth Faiman, PhD, CNP, emphasizes the importance of improving educational resources for advanced practice providers who are treating patients with multiple myeloma. She explains that, in light of the evolving treatment landscape, patients are given 3 to 4 therapies up front, stressing the importance of continuing to evaluate sequencing and which agents to use if relapse occurs. Advanced practitioner knowledge, she adds, is critical in helping the patient and their caregiver navigate this complicated treatment landscape because trusted advanced practitioners, such as the nurse practitioners and physician's assistants, are who patients will see in the clinic.

► TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/41vQtDE](https://bit.ly/41vQtDE).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™**Requirements for National Breast Density Notifications Are Seen as Step Forward in Care**

Clinicians highlight implications of the final ruling from the FDA that will require a national breast density notification concerning mammography starting on September 10, 2024. **Emily Conant, MD**, explains that this will unify guidelines across the country, which is crucial because approximately 43% of women have dense breasts and are thus at an increased risk to develop breast cancer. **Kathy Schilling, MD**, says notifying patients of their breast density is key because breast cancer may be missed in those with dense breasts. At her institution, patients have been provided with their breast density since 2010.

► TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/43a70ys](https://bit.ly/43a70ys).

AFTER HOURS™**Music Therapist Discusses Rhythm and Blues and High-Quality Cancer Care**

For **Dean Quick, MT-BC**, a board-certified music therapist at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina, a passion for music began by learning to play the drums in the middle school band. Quick, who also sings and plays guitar, piano, ukulele, banjo, and dulcimer, explained that creating for the sake of creating is what songwriting is all about. He highlights his songwriting process as well as his favorite aspects of music and playing it at work. He notes that as part of a clinical treatment team, he supports not only patients but also their families throughout the process of cancer care.

► TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3o61Ep7](https://bit.ly/3o61Ep7).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS DEEP DIVE™**Clinician Explains Implications From the Lasting BCG Shortage**

Brian Chun, MD, delves into the BCG shortage and the continuous challenges that urologists have faced over the years as a result of having a single company manufacture BCG, which is the gold standard for treatment of patients with high-grade, non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer. Although mitomycin C has emerged as the primary alternative to BCG treatment, rising costs remain an issue, and Chun notes that the silver lining may be a push to look at alternative regimens such as gemcitabine and docetaxel, which have shown promising preliminary data. Looking to diversify BCG production sources with different strains is an additional possibility.

► TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/41TKxo6](https://bit.ly/41TKxo6).

WELLBEING CHECKUP™

Collaboration Is Key to Managing Work-Related Stress

Extracurricular activities outside of the clinic are one way to clear the mind, according to [Julie M. Vose, MD, MBA](#). But finding ways to reset and recharge from day-to-day career challenges may be more difficult to identify. Vose notes that collaboration with coworkers and efforts to maintain a healthy work environment are key factors in combating work-related stress. Although communication with colleagues is critical, Vose adds that focusing on the factors that may be contributing to workplace burnout is vital to ensuring that institution-level changes are set in motion to address and prevent recurring stressors.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3NCttzd](https://bit.ly/3NCttzd).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™

Examining the Impact of the IRA on Biosimilar Use

Experts in the biosimilar space delve into provisions regarding biosimilars from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), passed in August 2022, as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is temporarily increasing Medicare payments for qualifying biosimilars for 5 years. Adam Colborn, JD, notes that one of the provisions will incentivize the use of biosimilars. Previously, biosimilars given at hospitals were reimbursed at a rate of average sales price plus 6%, but under the IRA they are reimbursed at average sales price plus 8%. However, a number of experts, including Colborn, say many unknowns remain regarding the effects of the act.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3NC5tfp](https://bit.ly/3NC5tfp).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS DEEP DIVE™

Oncologist Highlights the Evolving Role of AI in Cancer Care

Applying artificial intelligence (AI) to cancer care can aid with treatment planning and selection, ultimately making it easier for clinicians to provide individualized care for patients, according to [Tufia C. Haddad, MD](#). Haddad notes that if more data can be gathered on patients that encompass their electronic health record, such as genomics, images, and other information that can be difficult to collect from wearables and smart devices, AI can combine them to help create a continuous learning system. In the future, algorithms could be developed to run real-time simulations to help select the best treatment with the least toxicity, she adds.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/463liBU](https://bit.ly/463liBU).

AFTER HOURS™

A Beloved Hobby on the Court Leads to Relaxation Off the Court

For [Max S. Chiu, MD](#), after a day at work as a radiation oncologist, stepping onto the tennis court with his friends every Thursday night and competing in a summer league as a group is a fun hobby. Chiu explains that having that work-life balance is possible "if you think something's important and you enjoy it," because "then you create your own time for it." Chiu reflects on bonding with patients over hobbies and how in addition to tennis, he enjoys breakdancing and even started a club, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Breakdancing Club, during his time in college at the University of Nebraska.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/42VSJF6](https://bit.ly/42VSJF6).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS DEEP DIVE™**Multidisciplinary Collaboration Is Key Between Transplant Doctors and Oncologists**

In this episode of Deep Dive, **Christopher D. Blosser, MD**, highlights the Cancer and Organ Transplant Clinic at Fred Hutch Cancer Center. The first-of-its-kind clinic offers patients with cancer who have received or are planning to receive a transplant a consultation with both the transplant doctor and oncologist. Additionally, Blosser leads the only national level patient registry of patients with cancer in the transplant setting. He goes on to detail how the interdisciplinary clinic aims to alleviate issues that arise from the transplant doctor and oncologist being in different locations.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3NA64ym](https://bit.ly/3NA64ym).

AFTER HOURS™**Urologist Challenges Himself on the Track**

Maintaining a competitive edge, managing stress, and practicing self-discipline for urologic surgeon **Joshua J. Meeks, MD, PhD**, are all achieved through his intensive running regimen. A day for Meeks sometimes starts at 3:30 am with a 1-hour or 1.5-hour run before heading to work at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois. The current challenge for Meeks is whittling away at his run times and to meet his goal of completing a marathon in under 3 hours.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/43Vd4uq](https://bit.ly/43Vd4uq).

WELLBEING CHECKUP™**Urologist Discusses Self-Care and the Importance of Time Management**

Jennifer M. Taylor, MD, MPH, an assistant professor of urology at Baylor College of Medicine, describes the importance of managing and maintaining components of your life that are not related to work in order to help ease the demands of being a clinician. She suggests picking an area to protect in your life to preserve well-being by allotting time for activities you enjoy. Taylor protects the times she gets together with bandmates to sing and perform in addition to allotting time every night to spend with her family.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/4451OyO](https://bit.ly/4451OyO).

WELLBEING CHECKUP™**Increasing Cancer Screening Rates Remains Paramount**

To help combat the decline in cancer screening rates resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, **Susan Escudier, MD, FACP**, advises that reaching out to patients and providing education is the best way to help them get caught up on missed screenings. Education encompasses explaining the efficacy of the tests to patients and their personal risk for disease, as well as providing reassurance that some early-stage cancers can be curable and are best detected via screenings. She suggests being realistic and giving patients a manageable period to get screened.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT [bit. ly/3KoFJBr](https://bit.ly/3KoFJBr).

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™

Clinicians Detail Strides Being Made for Patients With Hemophilia

Physicians discuss the importance of integrative care when treating patients with hemophilia. Oncologist [Margaret Ragni, MD, MPH](#), of the Hemophilia Center of Western Pennsylvania, explains that efforts are underway to establish guidelines on required monitoring for patient, with organizations such as the Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee working on procedures for those undergoing gene therapy. Lynn Malec, MD, MSc, notes that other unmet needs in the space include health equity and further ways to individualize care.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/45adm1x.

AFTER HOURS®

Massachusetts General Clinician Races to Benefit Patients

In 1998, [Howard Weinstein, MD](#), established a team of 10 individuals to run the Boston Marathon and raise funds for pediatric cancer. He is still running today, with a team that has grown to approximately 100 individuals. Each year, Weinstein and his fellow runners partner with patients from Massachusetts General Hospital. In this episode, he recalls training with the community and the patients he's been paired with over the past 25 years, including his first patient, a 16-year-old he was treating who is now 41 years old.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/3Yzr6jf.

WELLBEING CHECKUP™

Investigator Highlights Efforts to Close Gap in Cervical Cancer Screening

Results of a Harris Poll survey of 872 women show that access to cervical cancer screenings is a key issue. [Jeff Andrews, MD](#), explains that more of the screenings that occur in the United States are opportunistic. In addition to racial disparities and a knowledge gap on how frequently screenings should occur, self-sampling, at-home tests are not available in the United States. Andrews also explained that because the persistence of human papillomavirus infection (HPV) can lead to cervical cancer, HPV screenings and vaccines may serve as preventive measures.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/3DRfLmA.

MEDICAL WORLD NEWS BEHIND THE SCIENCE™

Lymphoma Experts Highlight Steps to Advance Lymphoma Therapeutics

As clinicians learn more about the biology of lymphoma, the development of more effective agents with improved outcomes with less toxicities remains an unmet need in the lymphoma space. [Christopher J. Melani, MD](#); [Tycel Phillips, MD](#); [Ann LaCasce, MD, MMSc](#); [Gustavo Fonseca, MD, FACP](#); [Mwanasha Merrill, MD](#), and more join the program to discuss challenges in lymphoma treatment, including the cost of novel drugs, the search for an effective first-line agent in the relapsed/refractory setting, and finding solutions to overcome Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor resistance.

▶ TO WATCH, VISIT bit.ly/3HEKt3w.