

Targeted Cancer Therapies

Thanks to clinical trials, national cancer research benefits the local community.

“In the past, the work we did as medical oncologists was somewhat limited,” observes board-certified medical oncologist Patrick Acevedo, MD, “because all we had was traditional cytotoxic chemotherapy, a rather blunt instrument for treating cancer. Today, however, we have specific targeted compounds that allow us to both improve patient outcomes and provide an increase in survival.”

Some of these compounds are enzyme inhibitors and some target growth factor pathways, explains the doctor.

“Most of these compounds target protein molecules,” he adds. “For example, HER2 [human epidermal growth factor receptor 2], is a growth factor found on breast cancer cells, and is a target for an antibody we use called *herceptin*, that has become a standard part of patient care for women whose breast cancer expresses that protein on the outside of the cancer cells.

“We are currently running

a clinical trial using a newly approved compound called *tykerb*, which is newly approved for the treatment of women with HER2 expressing breast cancers.”

Most women newly diagnosed with breast cancer receive the *herceptin* antibody for one year after their surgery, explains Dr. Acevedo. “Some women, however, because they were in this in-between period where we



knew they had the protein but before the FDA approved *herceptin*, they're now eligible for *tykerb*. It's actually an oral tablet, so it's very convenient to take.”

Importance of research

Florida Cancer Institute participates in major national cancer research, notes Dr. Acevedo.

“Many people are under the impression that cancer research is conducted only at large university cancer centers,

but this isn't the case. Around two thirds of our clinical trials are through the US Oncology Network, the largest cancer organization in the country.”

With more than 200 completed trials and 179 practice sites staffed for research, US Oncology brings the search for new therapies directly into local communities. Patients receive state-of-the-art investigational treatments while their own physicians direct and closely monitor their care.

“Since 1998 we have participated in trials that have brought more than twenty new drugs into the oncology market,” adds Dr. Acevedo, “and we currently have about forty clinical trials in various stages of operation. As we look at these novel targeted therapies, it's important that we let the community know that they are available to them in close proximity to where they live.”

Other clinical trials

Dr. Acevedo emphasizes that these clinical trials address a variety of cancers.

“In non-Hodgkin's lymphoma [NHL], we use the antibody *rituxan* in combinations with

other antibodies. Another of our clinical trials combines *rituxan* with *galixamab* in patients who have relapsed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

“In renal cell [kidney] cancer, we received approval for two compounds in just the last year or so. One is *sutent*, and the other, *nexavar*. *Nexavar* also carries a new approval, and will be the new standard of care for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma, a primary liver cancer.

“In pancreatic cancer we are using a targeted agent called *tarceva* against the epidermal growth factor receptor. It is also FDA-approved for non-small cell lung cancer.

“Finally, for lung cancer, one of the other trials we are initiating utilizes a compound called *vorinostat*, which is what's called a *histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor*. We'll be combining it with *taxol* and *carboplatin*, the standard first line combination of chemotherapy, to see whether we can improve patients' outcomes. It's a completely novel way of treating lung cancer.

“Again, in the past, we had

few options for treating cancer,” concludes Dr. Acevedo, “but now many of the drugs developed for advanced disease are both improving quality of life and prolonging survival.”

Leading the charge against cancer

Dr. Acevedo welcomes calls from those interested in learning more about new cancer treatment and related topics. For further information, please call (352) 688-7744. Florida Cancer Institute is located at 10441 Quality Dr., Suite 205 in Spring Hill.

Patrick Acevedo, MD



- Board certified, American Board of Internal Medicine, with subspecialty certification in medical oncology and hematology

- Fellowship, medical oncology and hematology, Cancer Institute of New Jersey

- Internal medicine residency, Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ

- Member, American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society of Hematology

Yes! Please send me additional information about cancer treatment.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Mail to: Florida Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 5562, Spring Hill, FL 34611 Attn: Vince Vanni

PODIATRY

Trusted Specialist Proves Invaluable

Finding the right board-certified doctor can alleviate a variety of problems ... some minor, some not so minor.

Jeanne Potthast was lucky she brought an injury to a toenail to Stephen J. Leonard, DPM, FACFAS, who is board certified by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery.

“While I was in Dr. Leonard's

Florida Foot & Ankle Center, P.A.

Stephen J. Leonard, DPM, FACFAS

Dr. Leonard points out that he treats people who have foot problems, not foot problems that happen to be attached to people.

“It's important to consider the entire patient, not just concentrate on the condition,” he explains. “It's worth noting, too, that a podiatrist is a physician of the foot and ankle with special training in that area, but that I also have full medical training as well as specialized training in surgery.”

“In Jeanne's case, I was pleased to be able to diagnose her poor circulation based on our discussion and my examination. The subsequent referral to other specialists brought her the necessary resolution of the problem.

“When she returned to my office for a consultation about her painful hammertoes, Jeanne wanted to wear dress shoes that she could not possibly have worn with her foot the way it was. After surgery she was able to wear what she wanted at her son's wedding.”

People choose doctors because they have a good reputation, not just because they're good at what they do, observes Dr. Leonard.

“It's a pleasure being able to help people like Jeanne improve their health and to keep them able to participate in activities, like her son's wedding, that create memories that last a lifetime.”

office, I mentioned that my ankles were swollen,” says Jeanne. “He asked if I'd ever had my legs checked for blockages. I had no idea I had any blockages; I'd never heard of that.”

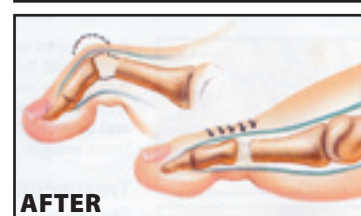
She didn't know where to go to find out more, so Dr. Leonard directed Jeanne to an ultrasound facility. There, she found out that Dr. Leonard's diagnosis was an important one.

“I had a seventy-five percent blockage in my left leg and ninety-five percent blockage in the right one,” she reports. “I'd had pain in my legs, but I never knew what it was. I brought the results back to Dr. Leonard, and he referred me to another doctor, who put a stent in my right leg.”

A couple of years later, Jeanne returned to Dr. Leonard with a less urgent problem.

“My son was going to get married in April 2007 and I had to buy wedding shoes,” she explains, “but I didn't know what I was going to get. I had these two hammertoes on my right foot. I'd thought I would just live with them, but they were so ugly, and they were beginning to hurt me.”

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF DR. LEONARD



Jeanne says she truly appreciates Dr. Leonard for all his help over the years.

“I'm so grateful to him because he saved me from losing my right leg,” she emphasizes. “I credit him with that, because I would never have gone to anybody.”

“I think he's fantastic. He's very trustworthy, very honest and he's a great guy. I can't sing his praises enough.” **FHCN**—Michael J. Sabno

Stop living with foot pain

Dr. Leonard welcomes the opportunity to answer your questions about foot health. For further information or to schedule an appointment, please call (352) 688-9558. His office is located at 4015 Mariner Blvd. in Spring Hill.



Stephen J. Leonard, DPM, FACFAS, is board certified by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery. He was born and raised on Long Island, NY, and attended college at the State University of New York, Oswego. He received his medical degree from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, Cleveland, and completed a surgical residency in Detroit, MI.

Dr. Leonard is extensively trained in techniques of plastic, orthopedic, arthroscopic, and reconstructive surgery of the foot and ankle. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Podiatric Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons. He has surgical privileges at several area hospitals and surgery centers.