

Program: Tour of Purdue Cancer Research Center

Speakers: Jerry Alberts, Cheryl Pierce, Stephanie Lowery

Arranged by: Jim Bettner

Attendance: 52

Guests: Several, All Welcome

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Monday members of the Sciencetech Club had the opportunity to tour the Purdue Center for Cancer Research, The Center is located at the Hansen Life Science Building at Purdue University. Everyone was impressed by the research that was being done there and the lab facilities.

The Center was founded in 1976 and since 1978 it has been a National Cancer Institute-designated basic cancer research center. Just seven institutions in the United States have earned this title. Cancer patients are not treated directly. The work focuses on investigating cancers where they begin--at the cellular level, understanding the biology of cancer cells, developing innovative technology that can be used to diagnose and deliver treatment to cancers. The Center specializes in translational research that saves lives by translating laboratory findings into new innovative therapies.

The Program is headed by Timothy L Ratliff, the Robert Wallace Miller Director and Professor of Comparative Pathology.

The program is organized into 3 areas:

1. Cellular Identity and signaling research
- 2 Drug delivery and molecular sensory technology
- 3 Targets, structure and drugs

In the first area, faculty from the basic sciences use non-animal models to study cancer formation. These include yeast, flies, fish, mice and human tumors. These models are used to examine questions that focus on cell signaling, gene expression, metastases and cell differentiation.

The mission in the second area is to provide physical science/engineering solutions to improve prevention, detection and treatment of cancer. These solutions are the result of integrating diverse Purdue strengths to find new means of drug delivery, imaging and drug sensitivity

The mission in the third area is to accelerate the discovery and development of agents with anti-cancer potential. Also, preclinical and clinical evaluation of new therapies in canine models will be evaluated for perhaps trials in humans.

The tour was great. Thanks to Purdue for their hospitality. The research that is going on there is impressive.



Jerry Alberts, Cheryl Pierce, Stephanie Lowery



Welcome meeting –

with snacks