Cancer Program **Family Update**

Monday, August 13 - Sunday, August 26

Cincinnati Children's
Cancer & Blood Diseases Institute

## Ashish Kumar Receives National Institutes of Health Grant to Study Infant Leukemia

Ashish Kumar, MD, PhD

Dr. Ashish Kumar, a scientist and physician in the CBDI, recently received a prestigious grant from the National Institutes of Health to study infant leukemia.

Leukemia is the most common childhood malignancy. Thanks to research and clinical trials, most children will be cured of leukemia today. Unfortunately, infant leukemia, although rare, is much more difficult to treat. The biology of infant leukemia is completely different than that seen in older children. Leukemia cells in infants contain changes in a gene called MLL which research has shown are resistant to conventional chemotherapies. Recently completed clinical trials with more aggressive chemotherapy resulted in adding more side effects without any added benefits.

Dr. Kumar's laboratory is seeking better therapies that will kill the leukemia cells while sparing the normal tissues. The Kumar lab has identified a biological mechanism that is critical for the growth of leukemia cells headed by a molecule called MEIS1. The NIH grant will assist Dr. Kumar in identifying ways to suppress MEIS1 in leukemia with the hope of developed a targeted therapy that will help improve the outcome for infants with leukemia.

**To learn more about the cancer program or cancer research at Cincinnati Children's, or to make a contribution, please contact John Perentesis, MD, Director of the Division of Oncology, at (513) 636-8241 or cancer@cchmc.org**

## Njoy-It-All Camp: A Summer Experience to Remember for CBDI Patients and Siblings

UC Football Players visit with campers

Njoy-It-All Camp is what summer camp should be: an adventure with other children and adolescents in a beautiful, natural setting. Campers swim, hike, fish, canoe, conquer ropes courses, eat meals together, and form friendships. The only difference is that Njoy-It-All Camp offers specially trained staff and medical services for CBDI patients.

Camp is a place to make friends with other kids in a similar situation and leave their illness behind. Siblings attend and build bonds with campers and other siblings who have a brother or sister with an illness.

240 children, adolescents and siblings had great fun at Njoy-It-All Camp this year. They also built self-esteem, confidence, independence, and lasting friendships. Through the generous support of the CBDI and other donors, there is no cost for campers to participate.

For more information about Njoy-It-All Camp, contact Karen Martin at (513) 636-9736 or karen.martin@cchmc.org.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Cincy Brew HaHa Beer Festival** Friday, August 24, 5pm. Sawyer Point. Proceeds benefit CureStartsNow. For more information visit cincybrewhaha.com.

**CCHMC Champions Picnic** Sunday, August 26, 1pm. Camp Joy, Clarksville, OH. Contact Maggie Brennan at (513) 636-2915 for more information or to volunteer.

## Events and activities on A5

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| Monday, August 13 | Craft of the Day: Fuzzy Posters<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| Tuesday, August 14 | Craft of the Day: Decorate a t-shirt<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| Wednesday, August 15 | Craft of the Day: Create a Puzzle<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| Thursday, August 16 | Craft of the Day: Mosaic Craft<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| Friday, August 17 | Craft of the Day: Marble Painting<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| | Mom's Lunch - all moms/caregivers welcome<br>Sponsored by the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society<br>11:30 - 1:00 pm in A5.440 | Contact: Your Social Worker |
| Monday, August 20 | Craft of the Day: Beads<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| Tuesday, August 21 | Craft of the Day: Game Day<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| Wednesday, August 22 | Craft of the Day: Model Magic<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| Thursday, August 23 | Craft of the Day: Medical Play<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| Friday, August 24 | Craft of the Day: Fuse Beads<br>in the Activity Center | Contact: Your Child Life Specialist |
| | Munch and Mingle<br>All CBDI parents and caregivers welcome<br>12:00 - 1:30 pm in A5.440 *(lunch provided)* | Contact: Your Social Worker |
| | Let's Chat<br>For BMT parents & caregivers<br>2:00 - 3:00 pm in the A5 North Parent Room | Contact: Your Social Worker |

The Activity Center is open weekdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, 1:30 to 4:30 pm & 6:00 to 8:00 pm. If your child is in isolation, contact Child Life.

## Attending Physicians

### Monday, August 13 to Sunday, August 19

Christine Phillips, MD
Leuk/Lymph/Vascular
Attending Physician

Trent Hummel, MD
Solid Tumor/Neuro-Onc
Attending Physician

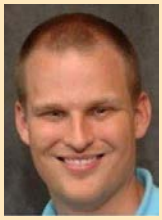
### Monday, August 20 to Sunday, August 26

Mike Absalon, MD
Leuk/Lymph/Vascular
Attending Physician

James Geller, MD
Solid Tumor/Neuro-Onc
Attending Physician

## Clinical Hematology/Oncology Fellows

Nihal Bakeer, MD
Fellow



Andrew Bukowinski, MD
Fellow

Satheesh Chonat, MD
Fellow

Samantha Michaels, MD
Fellow

Ahmad Rayes, MD
Fellow

### International Scholar

Karen Zhu, MD, PhD
Children's Hospital
Fudan University Shanghai, China

**Complimentary Breakfast** for all families available weekdays 8:00 - 9:00 am in the Parent Lounge, A5S. Please help yourself. Provided by the **Katie Linz Foundation**.

## DAILY ROUNDS

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| 8:15 - 9:00 am | **Chemotherapy Rounds** for scheduled chemotherapy admissions |
| 9:00 - 11:00 am | **Acute Rounds** for new and ill patients |