From the Director:

Julie Culver MS, a genetic counselor at USC Norris, whose program provides a concerned family with a comprehensive evaluation to identify inherited cancer risks as well as describe cancer risks for the children of ovarian cancer patients. As a result, he reached out to Ms. Culver on behalf of his patient, a 56-year-old woman diagnosed with ovarian or other gynecologic cancers. Genetic testing is vital for patients diagnosed with ovarian or other gynecologic cancers. It not only provides a way to determine if a patient is at risk for developing ovarian cancer but also identifies the potential for cancer to recur and provides options for treatment.

Deeply impressed by Ms. Culver’s efforts, Dr. Kronish made a generous donation on behalf of his patient, a 56-year-old woman diagnosed with ovarian or other gynecologic cancers. The gift will enable the USC Norris Foundation to offer genetic testing at no cost for patients without insurance who are diagnosed with ovarian or other gynecologic cancers.

Richard Kronish, PhD, founded the Research Foundation for the Treatment of Ovarian Cancer (RCTOC) in 1988 and became its executive director, a position he still holds. Dr. Kronish has had a long-standing personal and professional commitment to the fight against ovarian cancer. He also supported work in cell and gene therapy, both areas that are at the forefront of cancer research. The gift will enable the USC Norris Foundation to offer genetic testing at no cost for patients without insurance who are diagnosed with ovarian or other gynecologic cancers.

For questions regarding this service, or to refer a patient, please contact Ms. Culver at 310-243-2928. For more information, please visit our website.

Cancer-on-a-Chip Model

Dr. Mohamed Abou-el-Enein joined USC Norris, the Keck School of Medicine of USC, as a tenured associate professor in 2020. He specializes in the development of cancer-on-a-chip models to identify cancer treatments and to improve disease outcomes. His focus is on developing a micro-engineered colorectal cancer-on-a-chip model. This model will allow researchers to study disease progression and test potential treatments in a more realistic and cost-effective way than traditional in vitro and in vivo models.

The model will be used to study the effects of different treatments, providing new data to inform drug development for this disease. This work is supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Dr. Abou-el-Enein has been recognized for his contributions to the field of cancer research. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Society for Cell Biology. He has also served as an editorial board member of the journal Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology.

Dr. Abou-el-Enein earned his PhD in molecular and cellular biology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and completed postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Francisco. He then joined the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, where he became a tenured associate professor in 2013. He was recruited to USC Norris in 2020 to continue his research in cancer-on-a-chip models.

Dr. Abou-el-Enein's research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying cancer development and progression. His work has identified new targets for cancer therapy and has led to the development of novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.

Dr. Abou-el-Enein is a member of the USC Norris Cancer Institute, a research institute dedicated to the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. The institute brings together experts in basic and clinical research to advance the development of new treatments, her husband Ken. With hope and faith in God, positivity, laughter, support from her loved ones, and her spiritual mentor, she found comfort in her faith. "He is with me every day throughout my entire life’s journey, whether it be through my happiness or my struggles. Only He knows what that journey is and how it will affect the blood, bone marrow, and lymph nodes." Deborah.

"No matter what I go through in my life, I know God will never leave me nor forsake me. "In God. "In what I go through in my life, I know God will never leave me nor forsake me." Deborah.

According to Deborah, USC Norris was a magnet for the best minds in cancer research, cancer education, and edge research to prevent, detect, and treat cancer. She is proud to be an innovative leader in the cancer field, setting a global standard for cutting-edge research and patient care.

The USC Norris Cancer Hospital, but also young adults nationwide. For more information, please contact Robert Weiner, Assistant Vice President of Development, at 310-825-6454 or email rweiner@med.usc.edu.

The AYA@USC Program is free to anyone under the age of 39 who was diagnosed with cancer between the ages of 15 and 39. The program is designed to help young adults navigate the challenges of cancer treatment and survivorship. The AYA@USC Program was established in 2013 in a joint effort between USC Norris, the USC Norris Cancer Hospital, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Children’s Hospital.

The AYA@USC Program addresses the psychosocial needs for cancer patients and survivors to improve their health outcomes and quality of life through clinical care, research, education, and support services. The program consists of a team of experts, including physicians, nurses, social workers, and therapists. The team works together to provide comprehensive care that is tailored to the unique needs of young adults.

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Dr. Aura Kuperberg, special project administrator; and Shu Li, program administrator. The additional team members are Jan Huynh, clinical social worker; Elaine Vieira, nurse navigator; and Hinde Kast, patient advocate. The team works together to provide comprehensive care that is tailored to the unique needs of young adults.

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