



Saturday, May 17, 2025

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER
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- **The next meeting will be on Saturday June 21, at the SBP Auditorium from 10 am to 12 noon with Dr. Rajiv Chopra, who will discuss a procedure called Tulsa-Pro, Transurethral Ultrasound Ablation of the Prostate.**
- The will be a light lunch provided after the meeting
- For links to further Reading: <https://ipcs.org.blogspot.com/>
- If you have Comments, Ideas or Questions, email to Newsletter@ipcs.org

There was no April Meeting

Items of Interest

Recent Prostate Cancer Breakthroughs

Based on recent research and news in prostate cancer, here are some of the latest breakthroughs and advancements.

Improved Imaging and Diagnostics:

- **Micro-ultrasound as an MRI alternative:** A significant study (OPTIMUM trial) has shown that high-resolution micro-ultrasound is as effective as MRI in identifying areas for prostate biopsy when cancer is suspected. This offers a less expensive, more accessible, and potentially more comfortable alternative for patients. It also allows for simultaneous viewing and biopsy, reducing anxiety and wait times.
- **PSMA-PET imaging:** This advanced imaging technique can detect tiny deposits of prostate cancer that are too small to be seen with regular imaging. It helps in identifying men at high risk of cancer recurrence and may predict who needs more aggressive treatment.

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Prostate Cancer: GET THE FACTS

Other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in American men.

1 in 6 
men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime.



Prostate cancer can be a serious disease, but most men diagnosed with prostate cancer do not die from it. In fact, more than 2.5 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point are still alive today.

Organization

a 501c3 non-profit organization - all positions are performed gratis



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NEWSLETTER

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PROSTATE CANCER—2 WORDS, NOT A SENTENCE

What We Are About

Our Group offers the complete spectrum of information on prevention and treatment. We provide a forum where you can get all your questions answered in one place by men that have lived through the experience. Prostate cancer is very personal. Our goal is to make you more aware of your options before you begin a treatment that has serious side effects that were not properly explained. Impotence, incontinence, and a high rate of recurrence are very common side effects and may be for life. Men who are newly diagnosed with PCa are often overwhelmed by the frightening magnitude of their condition. Networking with our members will help identify what options are best suited for your life style.

Join the IPCSG TEAM

If you consider the IPCSG to be valuable in your cancer journey, realize that we need people to step up and HELP.

From the Editor (*SPD*)

In this issue:

For original articles see the blog at <https://ipcsblog.blogspot.com/> .

First, we do not have a summary of the April meeting since there was none. We will just have items of interest. Next month we will go back to the normal format.

This month, there is so much that has gone on in the last year, we have included a broad description of items of interest:

1. Recent Prostate Cancer Breakthroughs
2. Breakthroughs In Prostate Cancer Care: New Hope Across All Stages
3. Who's Behind The Breakthroughs: Institutions & Companies Leading Prostate Cancer Advances

- **MRI-targeted biopsy:** Combining MRI images with real-time ultrasound guidance allows for more accurate biopsies of suspicious areas identified on MRI. This can increase the detection of high-grade cancers and decrease the detection of low-grade cancers that may not progress.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in diagnosis:** Researchers are developing AI to improve the recognition of suspicious areas in prostate MRI scans and to assist pathologists in accurately assessing prostate cancer grade.
- **New urine and blood tests:** Several new tests analyze urine (ExoDx Prostate(IntelliScore), SelectMDx, Sentinel PCa Test) or blood (IsoPSA) to help determine a man's risk of having aggressive prostate cancer.
- **Multiparametric MRI (mpMRI):** This technique provides detailed information about the extent and aggressiveness of prostate cancer, influencing treatment options.

•**Novel Treatment Approaches:**

- **Expanded use of Pluvicto (177Lu-PSMA-617):** This radioligand therapy, which targets the PSMA protein on cancer cells to deliver radiation directly, has received expanded FDA approval for use earlier in the treatment course, even before chemotherapy in some patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). This has shown superior disease control, fewer side effects, and better quality of life in some cases.
- **NXP800: A potential drug for hormone therapy-resistant cancer:** Research has shown that this drug can slow the growth of prostate cancer cells, including those resistant to common hormone therapies like enzalutamide, by targeting the heat shock response mechanism in cancer cells. It is moving towards clinical trials.
- **Talazoparib with enzalutamide:** This combination therapy has been approved for mCRPC patients with homologous recombination repair gene mutations other than BRCA, offering another treatment option in this setting.
- **Capivasertib with abiraterone and ADT:** This combination has shown promise in improving radiographic progression-free survival in patients with PTEN-deficient metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC).
- **Focal therapy:** This experimental approach aims to destroy only the cancerous areas within the prostate, minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissue and reducing side effects. Several techniques are currently being trialed.
- **Immunotherapy advancements:** While checkpoint inhibitors have shown limited success in most prostate cancers, research continues to explore various immunotherapy approaches, including vaccines and engineered immune cells, particularly for advanced disease.
- **"Starving" prostate cancer:** New research in animal models has identified a potential way to target prostate tumors by depriving them of essential amino acids, which could lead to new drug development.

•**Other Notable Developments:**

- **Active surveillance:** With improved diagnostics, active surveillance is increasingly used for low-risk prostate cancer, delaying or avoiding the need for immediate aggressive treatment.

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- **Shorter radiation therapy regimens:** Advances in imaging and radiation delivery techniques now allow for shorter courses of radiation therapy with more precise targeting, reducing side effects.
- **Genetic testing:** Identifying specific gene mutations in prostate cancer can help guide personalized treatment decisions, including the use of PARP inhibitors and other targeted therapies.
- **Plant-based diet:** Research suggests that a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and nuts, with fewer animal products, may be associated with a reduced risk of prostate cancer progression.
- It's important to note that prostate cancer research is a rapidly evolving field, and these are just some of the recent highlights. Many ongoing clinical trials are exploring new diagnostic and treatment strategies that hold promise for improving outcomes for men with prostate cancer.

BREAKTHROUGHS IN PROSTATE CANCER CARE: NEW HOPE ACROSS ALL STAGES

May 2025 Edition

The landscape of prostate cancer treatment is evolving rapidly in 2025, with significant advances offering new hope for patients at every stage of the disease. From improved diagnostic imaging to groundbreaking treatments, these developments are extending lives and improving quality of life for men facing prostate cancer.

REVOLUTIONARY IMAGING CHANGES TREATMENT PATHS

One of the most transformative advances in prostate cancer care has been the widespread adoption of PSMA PET imaging. This technology has demonstrated superior accuracy in detecting prostate cancer compared to conventional imaging methods, particularly for men with biochemical recurrence after treatment.

"PSMA PET imaging can detect recurrent prostate cancer even at very low PSA levels, allowing for earlier intervention when treatment is most effective," explains Dr. James Wilson, oncologist and IPCSG medical advisor. "This technology is changing how we approach treatment decisions at nearly every stage of the disease."

The improved accuracy of PSMA PET is also enabling more precise treatment planning, helping doctors determine whether cancer is truly localized or has spread, potentially sparing men from unnecessary treatments or ensuring they receive appropriate therapy for their actual disease stage.

GAME-CHANGING ADVANCES FOR METASTATIC DISEASE

For men with advanced prostate cancer, several breakthrough treatments are showing remarkable promise:

Radioligand Therapy Expands

The FDA-approved radioligand therapy Lu177-PSMA-617 (Pluvicto), which delivers targeted radiation directly to prostate cancer cells, continues to show impressive results. Initially approved for men who had already undergone chemotherapy, clinical trials are now evaluating its use earlier in treatment.

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The UpFrontPSMA trial is investigating the combination of Lu177-PSMA-617 followed by docetaxel in newly diagnosed metastatic patients, with preliminary results suggesting this approach may improve outcomes compared to standard care.

Additionally, a second radioligand therapy (Lu177-PNT2002) is showing promise in clinical trials, potentially offering more options for patients with PSMA-expressing tumors.

Combination Approaches Show Superior Results

The treatment paradigm for metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer has shifted dramatically toward combination therapies. The latest data supports "triplet therapy" – combining androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) with both an androgen receptor signaling inhibitor and docetaxel chemotherapy – particularly for men with high-volume disease.

"We're seeing unprecedented survival improvements with these intensified approaches," notes Dr. Wilson. "While the side effects need careful management, these combinations are giving men with advanced disease significantly more time with good quality of life."

Novel Drug Targets Hormone Resistance

A promising experimental drug, NXP800, is showing potential for treating prostate cancer that has become resistant to hormone therapies like enzalutamide. By targeting the Heat Shock Factor 1 pathway, which cancer cells use to survive stress, this novel approach may offer hope for men whose cancer has stopped responding to current treatments.

EARLY-STAGE DISEASE: REFINING APPROACHES

For men with early-stage prostate cancer, treatment approaches continue to be refined:

Active Surveillance Gets Smarter

For men with very low-risk and some low-risk prostate cancers, active surveillance protocols are becoming increasingly sophisticated. With better imaging and biomarkers, doctors can more confidently identify cancers that are unlikely to cause harm, potentially sparing men from unnecessary treatments that might affect quality of life.

Precision Radiation Advances

Advances in radiation technology, including intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and image-guided approaches, are allowing for more precise targeting of prostate tumors. These techniques aim to increase effectiveness while reducing side effects by better sparing surrounding healthy tissue.

QUALITY OF LIFE FOCUS INTENSIFIES

Researchers are increasingly focusing on how to maintain quality of life during prostate cancer treatment:

Managing ADT Side Effects

New approaches to managing the side effects of androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), such as hot flashes, muscle loss, and metabolic changes, are helping men maintain better quality of life during treatment.

Clinical Trial Access Expands

Greater awareness is growing about the availability of clinical trials for patients at all stages of prostate cancer – not just those who have exhausted standard options. These trials offer access to cutting-edge treatments while advancing the science of prostate cancer care.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR PATIENTS

These advances collectively represent a significant step forward in prostate cancer care. While challenges remain, the array of new options means more personalized approaches and improved outcomes across the spectrum of prostate cancer.

"It's an exciting time in prostate cancer treatment," says Bill Johnson, IPCSG President. "Men diagnosed today have more effective options than ever before. These advances are turning what was once often a terminal diagnosis into a manageable condition for many patients."

The IPCSG encourages all members to discuss these new approaches with their healthcare providers to determine which might be appropriate for their individual situations.

WHO'S BEHIND THE BREAKTHROUGHS: INSTITUTIONS & COMPANIES LEADING PROSTATE CANCER ADVANCES

RADIOLIGAND THERAPY PIONEERS

Novartis has emerged as the leader in radioligand therapy with its FDA-approved Pluvicto (lutetium Lu 177 vipivotide tetraxetan). In March 2025, the FDA approved an expanded indication for Pluvicto that approximately triples the number of eligible patients, allowing it to be used earlier in treatment before chemotherapy in PSMA-positive metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. In clinical trials, Pluvicto reduced the risk of disease progression or death by 59% compared to standard care.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center has been at the forefront of PSMA imaging and radioligand therapy development, with Dr. Michael Morris serving as Principal Investigator of key U.S. clinical trials. Dr. Morris notes that this earlier indication "could really change our treatment paradigms for patients with mCRPC."

University of Chicago Medicine is participating in Phase III clinical trials looking to add radioligand therapy as a first-line treatment for newly metastatic prostate cancer. UChicago Medicine was the first in Illinois to offer Pluvicto and has earned designation as a Comprehensive Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Center of Excellence.

Purdue University was the birthplace of the original technology behind Pluvicto. The drug was initially developed at Purdue and subsequently acquired by Novartis through its purchase of Endocyte, a Purdue-startup company.

PROMISING NEW DRUG APPROACHES

The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London has discovered NXP800, a novel drug that targets the Heat Shock Factor 1 (HSF1) pathway in prostate cancer. Recent studies show NXP800 can overcome resistance to hormone therapies like enzalutamide. The ICR's research demonstrated that prostate cancers with higher levels of heat shock proteins have significantly worse outcomes.

Nuvectis Pharma is sponsoring clinical trials of NXP800, which has been granted Fast-Track and Orphan Drug

Designation by the FDA for other cancer types. The company has licensed worldwide development and commercialization rights for this promising new treatment approach.

The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust partners with ICR on clinical trials, including the NXP800 studies. Professor Johann de Bono, who leads research at both institutions, believes targeting heat shock proteins could help patients with advanced prostate cancer "look forward to longer and better-quality lives."

COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH CENTERS

Pacific Northwest Prostate Cancer SPORE, headquartered at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, brings together researchers from Fred Hutch, University of Washington, Oregon Health & Science University, and the University of British Columbia. Their 25-year research program has made practice-changing breakthroughs in treatment options for prostate cancer patients.

National Cancer Institute supports multiple research programs including the Early Detection Research Network, Prostate Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (Prostate SPOREs), and the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET), all aimed at improving detection, treatment, and outcomes for prostate cancer patients.

The Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium connects 10 leading prostate cancer research centers, including Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (Coordinating Center) and Ohio State University's Comprehensive Cancer Center. This consortium focuses specifically on accelerating early-phase clinical trials for promising new therapies.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT FOR PATIENTS

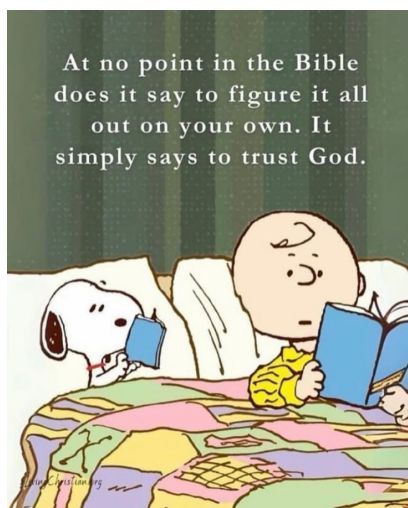
These institutional partnerships are already changing treatment options for patients today. Radioligand therapies are becoming available to more patients in earlier treatment stages, while comprehensive genetic testing is helping match patients with appropriate clinical trials for targeted therapies.

Patients can access these advances by:

1. Discussing PSMA PET imaging with your oncologist if you have progressive disease
2. Asking about eligibility for expanded Pluvicto treatment if you've progressed on an androgen receptor pathway inhibitor
3. Inquiring about clinical trials at major cancer centers for novel treatments like NXP800
4. Seeking second opinions at NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers, where cutting-edge treatments are often available first

For more information about accessing clinical trials, contact the Prostate Cancer Foundation (www.pcf.org) or the Prostate Cancer Research Institute (www.pcri.org).

On the Lighter Side



NETWORKING

Please help us in our outreach efforts. Our speakers bureau is available to speak to organizations of which you might be a member. Contact me at Newsletter@ipcsg.org to coordinate.

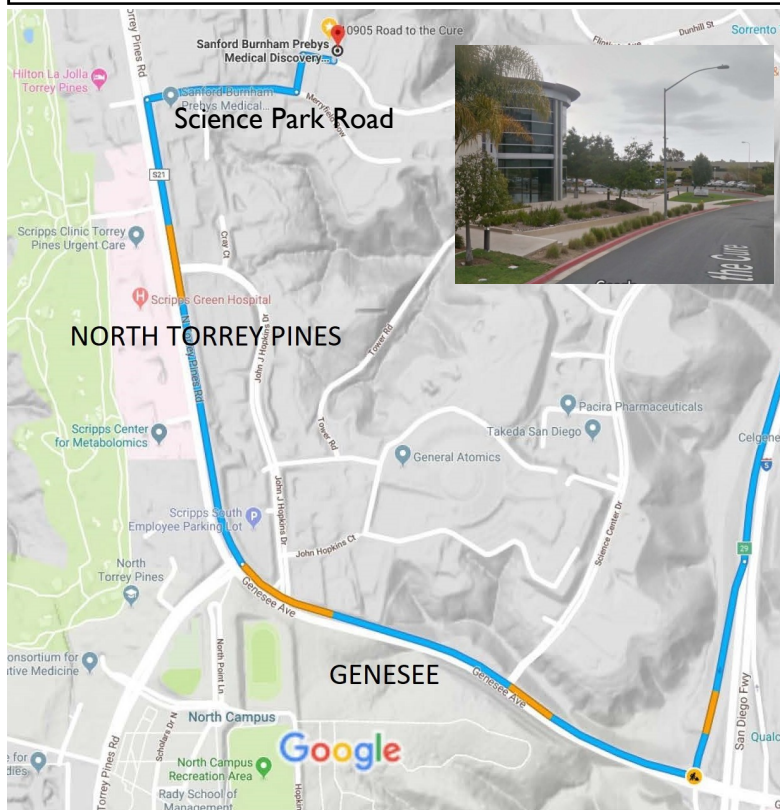
Member John Tassi is the webmaster of our website and welcomes any suggestions to make our website simple and easy to navigate. Check out the Personal Experiences page and send us your story. Go to: <https://ipcsg.org/personal-experience>

Our brochure provides the group philosophy and explains our goals. Copies may be obtained by mail or email on request. Please pass them along to friends and contacts.

FINANCES

We want to thank those of you who have made special donations to IPCSG. Remember that your gifts are tax deductible because we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

We again are reminding our members and friends to consider giving a large financial contribution to the IPCSG. This can include estate giving as well as giving in memory of a loved one. You can also have a distribution from your IRA made to our account. We need your support. We will, in turn, make contributions from our group to Prostate Cancer researchers and other groups as appropriate for a non-profit organization. Our group ID number is 54-2141691. Corporate donors are welcome!



Directions to Sanford-Burnham-Prebys Auditorium 10905 Road to the Cure, San Diego, CA 92121

- Take I-5 (north or south) to the Genesee exit (west).
- Follow Genesee up the hill, staying right.
- Genesee rounds right onto North Torrey Pines Road.
- **Do not turn into the Sanford-Burnham-Prebys Medical Discovery Institute or Fishman Auditorium**
- Turn right on Science Park Road. Watch for our sign here.
- Turn Left on Torreyana Road. Watch for our sign here.
- Turn Right on Road to the Cure (formerly Altman Row). Watch for our sign here.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETINGS