

Cancer Innovation

JOHN WAYNE CANCER INSTITUTE



SUMMER 2020

Issue 01

We have a deep scientific knowledge base on how the immune system interacts with cancer, and it turns out those same lessons are very relevant to how the immune system is interacting with viruses.

Dr. Steven J. O'Day, M.D.



[WATCH OUR VIDEO TO LEARN MORE](#)

Life Saving COVID-19 Research

The world class cancer clinicians and translational scientists at the John Wayne Cancer Institute work collaboratively to advance patient care. Our patients have access to the latest treatments and cutting edge new drug clinical trials. We are at the forefront of transforming discoveries leading to advancements in cancer medicine and patient survival. With the novel coronavirus pandemic among us, our cancer experts pivoted to join the fight to find a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19,

under the leadership of Dr. Steven J. O'Day, M.D., Executive Director of the John Wayne Cancer Institute & Cancer Clinic, and Director of Providence Los Angeles Regional Research.

[COVID-19 CLINICAL TRIALS ►](#)

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Steroid Drug Breakthrough for Serious Cases of COVID-19

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Bladder Cancer Drugs

Thanks to the participation of John Wayne Cancer Institute and our proactive approach to offering new treatments through novel clinical trials, **TWO** new bladder cancer drugs have been approved by the FDA. We are very proud to be part of this wonderful advancement.

01

Pembrolizumab Immunotherapeutic Bladder Cancer First Line Treatment:

The Food and Drug Administration approved Pembrolizumab on January 8, 2020.

02

Jelmyto: FDA Approved First Therapy for Low-Grade Upper Tract Urothelial Cancer (UTUC):

The Food and Drug Administration approved Jelmyto (mitomycin gel) on April 15, 2020.

LEARN MORE ►

FDA Approved Drugs



Breakthrough Therapy for Prostate Cancer

[Przemyslaw W. Twardowski, M.D.](#), medical oncologist and professor of medical oncology and urologic oncology at the John Wayne Cancer Institute his colleagues: Johann de Bono, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., Joaquin Mateo, M.D., Ph.D., Karim Fizazi, M.D., Ph.D., Fred Saad, M.D., Neal Shore, M.D., Shahneen Sandhu, M.D., Kim N. Chi, M.D., Oliver Sartor, M.D., Neeraj Agarwal, M.D., David Olmos, M.D., Ph.D., Antoine Thierry-Vuillemin, M.D., Ph.D., et al, have published a new study in the **New England Journal of Medicine**, entitled: [Olaparib for Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer](#). This publication demonstrates significant benefit of therapy with olaparib (PARP inhibitor) in patients with advanced prostate cancer who harbor certain mutations of DNA repair system and who failed standard treatments.

Based on the results of that study, on May 19, 2020 the Food and Drug Administration granted approval of olaparib, providing a valuable treatment option for about 25% of patients with advanced prostate cancer with certain mutations of DNA repair. These mutations can be detected by performing an analysis of a patient's cancer specimen and sometimes also on a specialized blood test.

LEARN MORE ►

Reasons to Celebrate!



Celebrating 20 years of Survivorship

When Dawn was diagnosed with breast cancer 20 years ago, she was determined to stay strong and resilient. Now 20 years later with 5 beautiful children, her family celebrated her survivorship anniversary by shaving their heads. This all couldn't have been possible without the support of Dr. Steven O'Day, her medical oncologist, and the cancer experts at the John Wayne Cancer Institute at Providence Saint John's Health Center. We are so honored that Dawn shared her beautiful family photo with us. When it comes to cancer, we know it's an emotional journey for everyone involved, but as your partners in care, you're never alone in the fight!

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Steroid Drug Breakthrough for Serious Cases of COVID-19

A steroid, dexamethasone, is the first drug shown to help save severely ill coronavirus patients, according to scientists in Britain. Dr. Steven O'Day, M.D., Executive Director of the John Wayne Cancer Institute and Cancer Clinic, and Director of Providence Los Angeles Regional Research, was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times, CBS/KCAL and NBC, about Britain's new study as a promising breakthrough for the treatment of severely ill coronavirus patients. Dr. O'Day believes this treatment should only be used for the sickest patients, suffering "massive inflammation" of the lungs. Misuse in early infection may kill T-cells and allow the virus to further progress.

[WATCH DR. O'DAY'S INTERVIEW ►](#)



Fellowship Class of 2020

Congratulations to our 2020 graduating fellows. Check out where they will be working as nationally respected academic surgeons in their respective fields.

[LEARN MORE ►](#)

Genomic Sequencing Center

The Sequencing center welcomes **Linh Tran** and **Sue Ryu**! We are a preferred core facility for HTG Diagnostics and Illumina Inc., providing sequencing services to both internal and external researchers.

[LEARN MORE ►](#)

Computational Biology Laboratory

The bioinformatics department has recently welcomed two new bioinformaticians, **Daria Kessler, Ph.D.**, and **Kristen McGreevy, M.S.**! Meet our team & learn how we provide bioinformatics data analysis support to our cancer research departments.

[LEARN MORE ►](#)

Cutting-Edge Care



Open Clinical Trials

Our clinical trial teams are helping to find medical advancements for our patients every day. Click on the links below to view our open clinical trials:

- [All Solid Tumors](#)
- [Brain, Head & Neck Cancer](#)
- [Breast Cancer](#)
- [Gynecologic Cancer](#)
- [Hematologic Cancer](#)
- [Lung Cancer](#)
- [Melanoma](#)
- [Urologic Cancer](#)
- [Cancer Support](#)
- [COVID-19](#)

[VIEW ALL CLINICAL TRIALS ►](#)

Don't Delay Care!

Since the onset of COVID-19, our team at the John Wayne Cancer Institute at Providence Saint John's Health Center, continues to meet the needs of our cancer patients every day.

Now, that we have successfully restarted all surgeries under enhanced safety protocols and continue to schedule your care in a thoughtful manner, we encourage you to seek services when you need them and not delay care.

Contact us today to schedule an appointment in-person or virtually through telehealth. Click the link below to learn how Dr. Jennifer Linehan, uses Ceevra's AI-driven 3D digital models for telehealth surgical consultations.

[SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT ►](#) [WATCH A TELEHEALTH CONSULTATION ►](#)

Grants:

In Q1 and Q2 of 2020 we were awarded 16 grants to help us fight cancer. 3 of our grants were awarded by the ABCs and 3 by FFANY.

Publications:

In Q1 and Q2 of 2020 we had 39 publications! All publications are featured on [PubMed](#).

CONNECT WITH US

