Honoring the

Daniel F. Hayes, M.D.,
Breast Cancer Research Professorship
in the University of Michigan Medical School

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Carol R. Bradford, M.D.
Executive Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Medical School
Chief Academic Officer, Michigan Medicine
Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

REMARKS

Eric R. Fearon, M.D., Ph.D.
Emanuel N. Maisel Professor of Oncology
Director, University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

John M. Carethers, M.D.
John G. Searle Professor of Internal Medicine
C. Richard Boland Distinguished University Professor of Internal Medicine and Human Genetics
Chair, Department of Internal Medicine

Daniel F. Hayes, M.D.
Stuart B. Padnos Professor of Breast Cancer Research

Pavan R. Reddy, M.D.
Frances and Victor Ginsberg Professor of Hematology/Oncology
Chief, Division of Hematology and Oncology

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Norah Lynn Henry, M.D., Ph.D.
Daniel F. Hayes, M.D., Breast Cancer Research Professor

CLOSING REMARKS

Carol R. Bradford, M.D.
The guidance of mentors and a willingness to say “yes” to opportunities led Daniel F. Hayes, M.D., to a more than 35-year career in breast cancer. Throughout that career, he has provided similar advice and opportunities to others, including Norah Lynn Henry, M.D.

“Dr. Hayes is the reason I ended up in breast oncology,” she says.

His focus on mentoring may stem from his initial plan to become a high school science teacher and basketball and track coach. That changed when he asked his brother, who was studying to be a doctor, for advice. His brother pointed out that he could teach in a medical school — and would have much more motivated students.

Seeking career input also led Dr. Hayes to spend a year in a research laboratory; complete a rotation with an oncologist who was successfully testing a new approach to curing testicular cancer; take the lead in his first breast cancer research project; and come to the University of Michigan to follow a collaborator.

“Most of what I’ve done was because someone else suggested I do it,” he says, happy with the results and grateful for those who inspired him.

Dr. Hayes is the Stuart B. Padnos Professor of Breast Cancer Research and a professor of internal medicine in the U-M Medical School. For 16 years, he served as the clinical director of U-M’s breast oncology program, a position now held by Dr. Henry, in addition to many other administrative roles.

He is widely recognized as an expert in discovering and testing biomarkers in breast cancer tissue and in blood. These biomarkers guide the management of patients, and his work has led to tests that are now used clinically. He also developed globally accepted guidelines for researchers and clinicians pursuing the discovery and use of additional biomarkers.

Dr. Hayes has led or contributed to numerous clinical trials to test new anti-cancer medications and evaluate new ways to use established ones. He has led major committees in collaborative clinical trials groups with hundreds of doctors and thousands of patients.

He is a leader in cancer policy and is active in the American Society of Clinical Oncology, which he served as president from 2016-17. He was the inaugural recipient of the organization’s Gianni Bonadonna Breast Cancer Award and Lecture, given for achievement in translational research and mentoring.

He is dedicated to helping early-career faculty progress in their careers, training countless fellows and more than 20 investigators who are now leaders in the field.

One key piece of advice he offers: think like a doctor, and think like a scientist.

“I have told every trainee that at the end of every clinic day, you have to ask, ‘What happened and how can we make it better?’ And, at the end of a day in the lab or doing research, you have to ask, ‘How is this going to change the way I practice in the clinic?’

Dr. Hayes earned his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1979 and completed an internship and residency training at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. He completed a clinical fellowship in medicine at Harvard Medical School and a fellowship in medical oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Following faculty appointments at Harvard and Georgetown universities, Dr. Hayes joined the U-M faculty in 2001 as a professor of internal medicine.

His dedication to career development and the clinical impact of research makes him especially pleased to be honored with a professorship in his name — and thrilled that Dr. Henry will be the first to hold it.

Philanthropic support is a cornerstone of progress, he says. “Governmental grants and pharmaceutical partnerships keep medical research moving forward, but philanthropic support is essential to innovation. It ensures talented individuals can get started in the field, and it helps us test new ideas and generate proof-of-concept data to show that novel approaches can work. It enables us to succeed.”
Holding a professorship named for Daniel F. Hayes, M.D., is especially meaningful for Norah Lynn Henry, M.D., Ph.D. The opportunity to work with Dr. Hayes — a highly regarded clinician, researcher, and educator — was one of the reasons she chose to come to the University of Michigan in 2004 to complete a fellowship in hematology and oncology. She began her work in breast cancer with his team.

“I have appreciated all of the guidance and mentorship he has given me over the years, so to hold a professorship in his name is truly an honor,” she says.

“Phil Jackson was the coach of the Chicago Bulls, and they won the NBA championship several times during his tenure,” Dr. Hayes says. “A reporter asked him what made him such a good coach. He said, ‘I have Michael Jordan on my team.’ What makes me a good mentor? I have people like Lynn Henry to mentor. I am very proud of her and all of the things she’s accomplished.”

As a leader in Michigan Medicine’s breast cancer program, Dr. Henry is devoted to her patients and to advancing research that directly benefits everyone facing the disease. Her goal is to enable people to live full lives throughout their breast cancer journeys, an approach that is highly valued at U-M, she says. She collaborates with a wide range of laboratory and clinical researchers to pursue shared goals.

“My research focuses on symptom management and trying to help patients better tolerate their treatments,” she says. “Cancer medications improve survival, but because of the side effects, up to half of patients stop taking them. I try to identify ways to reduce the side effects.”

In one key achievement, Dr. Henry led a national clinical trial demonstrating the effectiveness of taking duloxetine, an antidepressant, during treatment with anti-hormone cancer medications. The combination reduced pain for patients, enabling them to stay on the cancer drugs longer. She also is well-known for her work incorporating questionnaires and other patient-reported outcomes into clinical trials.

“The patient voice is so important,” she says. “If we can understand how treatments impact them both positively and negatively, that will help us personalize and improve therapies.”

Dr. Henry is an associate professor of internal medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and associate chief for the Division of Clinical Research. She holds administrative positions on campus and nationally. At the Rogel Cancer Center, she serves as breast oncology disease lead and co-chair of the breast clinical research team.

Nationally, she co-chairs the Symptom Control and Quality of Life Committee for the Southwest Oncology Group, an organization that is supported by the National Cancer Institute to conduct clinical trials for adult cancers. She is a member of the National Cancer Institute’s Symptom Management and Health-Related Quality of Life Steering Committee. In addition, she helps develop national care guidelines for breast cancer patients, among many other contributions.

After joining the faculty at U-M, Dr. Henry briefly left to serve as an associate professor at the University of Utah, then returned. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University, her Ph.D. from Stanford University, and her medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She did postdoctoral clinical training at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases before completing a residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

It is fitting that the professorship in her mentor’s name will allow Dr. Henry more time to assist up-and-coming clinicians and clinical researchers in the field — and to pursue novel research to benefit patients.

“I’m truly appreciative of the support both from colleagues and people in the community who believe in cancer research and are willing to give broad support to ensure we can continue to improve lives,” she says.
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