



HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES  
Coalition of Georgia

# HMHB Resource Watch

*Improving the health status of Georgia's families.*

## Public Health News Pancreatic Cancer Month

Vol. 12 Issue 5  
November 25, 2009

### Chemo Fails to Treat Pancreatic Cancer

by David Gutierrez, staff writer

(NaturalNews) Scientists are investigating why chemotherapy often proves ineffective in patients suffering from pancreatic cancer.

In a recent study, published in the journal *Science*, researchers from Cancer Research UK may have uncovered the answer. The researchers studied the tumors of mice genetically engineered to develop prostate cancer, finding that the tumors had only a sparse network of blood vessels -- in contrast to most tumors, which need a steady supply of blood for their growth and survival. When the researchers examined human [prostate cancer](#) tumors, they saw the same pattern.

The researchers therefore hypothesized that [chemotherapy drugs](#) might have trouble reaching pancreatic [tumors](#) to affect them. The paucity of [blood vessels](#) in pancreatic tumors also suggests that these tumors are less dependent on a large [blood](#) supply. This, in turn, could explain why VEGF inhibitors, [chemotherapy](#) drugs that seek to cut off blood to tumors, so often prove ineffective in treating [pancreatic cancer](#).

There are 230,000 new cases of pancreatic [cancer](#) each year, including 37,000 in the United States and 7,600 in the United Kingdom. It is among the most lethal forms of cancer, due to its tendency to spread quickly. Because the cancer is often detected only in an advanced stage, surgical removal is often impossible. Only three percent of pancreatic cancer patients are still alive five years after diagnosis

The researchers in the current study found, however, that pancreatic tumors responded significantly better to chemotherapy when the drug Gemzar was combined with the experimental drug IPI-926, manufactured by Infinity Pharmaceuticals.

"We're extremely excited by these results as they may help explain the disappointing response that many pancreatic cancer patients receive from chemotherapy [drugs](#)," researcher David Tuveson said. "But these are early days and we need to show this approach is safe to use in humans before we can consider adding the new compound to cancer treatments."

### References

[http://www.naturalnews.com/z026944\\_cancer\\_tumors\\_blood.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/z026944_cancer_tumors_blood.html)

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**HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES**  
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**Save the Date!**

## **Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia's**

2010 Legislative Reception  
Wednesday, February 3, 2010  
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Central Presbyterian Church  
201 Washington St. SW  
Atlanta, GA. 30303

**Planning is underway for this educational and networking opportunity.  
Registration and a complete agenda will be available on our website soon.**

For more information please contact HMHB at (770) 451-0020  
[www.hmhbga.org](http://www.hmhbga.org)



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## **HMHB in the Community**

The Galloway School - Atlanta, GA

December 1, 2009 | 2009 Galloway Service Fair  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mercer University – Macon, GA

December 4, 2009 | GPHA Informational Business Meeting  
7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cobb Galleria - Marietta, GA

December 14-18, 2009 | Lactation Counselor Certificate Training Program



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## News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies – November 23, 2009

### This Week:

- 1) Webinar: Supporting Breastfeeding During Flu Season
- 2) Dr William Sears on Fish Consumption During Pregnancy
- 3) Perinatal Care Core Measures
- 4) National Handwashing Awareness Week
- 5) From CPSC: Recall of Wooden Play Sets
- 6) Cub Scout Automotive Safety Patch Program

### MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

**1) WEBINAR: SUPPORTING BREASTFEEDING DURING FLU SEASON** Sign up now for a free Webinar, "Supporting Breastfeeding During Flu Season: Working with the CDC Guidelines in Your Hospital." Sponsored by the International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA) and the US Lactation Consultant Association (USLCA), the Webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2009 from 2:00 until 3:30pm EST and is designed for lactation consultants, educators, and health care professionals who work with new families. The presentation will include information on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the care of mothers and infants in obstetric settings, in addition to positive solutions for implementing protocols that support breastfeeding. To sign up for the Webinar, go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/549220739>. For more information, access the ILCA Web site at [http://www.ilca.org/files/in\\_the\\_news/Webinars2009/CDC\\_Webinar\\_122009.pdf](http://www.ilca.org/files/in_the_news/Webinars2009/CDC_Webinar_122009.pdf).

**2) DR. WILLIAM SEARS ON FISH CONSUMPTION DURING PREGNANCY** Dr. William Sears and 11 of his physician colleagues have written a letter, commending the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its draft report on the net effect of eating fish for pregnant women and their babies and consumers at risk for coronary heart disease and stroke. The group is urging the FDA to finalize the report and revise current fish guidance for pregnant and nursing women, which is now five years old. The letter states that a clear, consistent public health message will benefit women, children and the greater U.S. population. To read the letter and sign on in support, please visit [http://www.askdrsears.com/news/Seafood\\_11\\_09.asp](http://www.askdrsears.com/news/Seafood_11_09.asp).

### **3) PERINATAL CARE CORE MEASURES**

In 2010, Joint Commission-accredited hospitals will be able to report on perinatal care core measures to meet Joint Commission accreditation requirements. The Joint Commission first began requiring accredited hospitals to collect data on standardized—or core—performance measures in 2002. The purpose of the standardized measures is to improve the quality of care provided to hospital patients and bring focus to the processes and results of care. The five measures represent the areas of care, assessment/screening, prematurity care and infant feeding. Hospitals that choose to use this set of measures will collect and report on data on: elective delivery, cesarean section, use of antenatal steroids, health care-associated bloodstream infections in newborns; and exclusive breast milk feeding. The perinatal care measures will be part of 10 measure sets available for use in the Joint Commission's ORYX performance measures initiative. To learn more about the perinatal care measures, visit <http://manual.jointcommission.org/releases/TJC2010A/>. For questions about the measure selection process, contact Frank Zibrat, associate director, ORYX Implementation, at [fzibrat@jointcommission.org](mailto:fzibrat@jointcommission.org) or 630-792-5992.

### CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

#### **4) NATIONAL HANDWASHING AWARENESS WEEK**

December 6-12th is National Handwashing Awareness Week, designed to decrease the spread of infectious diseases by empowering individuals to educate and help protect their communities. Hand Awareness is more than handwashing alone – it includes hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and cross contamination. The Henry the Hand Web site includes resources for commemorating the week, including Kits for use in schools, homes and hospitals that simplify infection prevention teachings. For more information and resources, go to <http://www.henrythehand.com/pages/content/hwaw.html>.

**5) FROM CPSC: RECALL OF WOODEN PLAY SETS** The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Health Canada have announced a recall of Wooden Play Sets manufactured by Adventure Playsets of Amarillo, Texas. The plastic-coated lumber on the monkey bar/swing beam is reported to weaken over time due to the rotting of the wood, resulting in a fall hazard. Adventure Playsets has received more than 1,400 reports of rotting ladders involving 16 injuries that resulted in nine emergency room visits. The injuries include two arm fractures, lacerations, scrapes, and bruises to children younger than 8 years old. The swing sets were sold at Walmart, Toys R Us, Academy Sports, Menards and Mill stores throughout the US, and online at Walmart.com, Toysrus.com, Willygoat.com and through the CMSI catalog from January 2004 through December 2007. Consumers should immediately stop using the swing sets and contact Adventure Playsets at 877-840-9068 or <http://www.adventureplaysets.com/> to receive a replacement kit. For more information, including model numbers of play sets involved in the recall, go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml10/10029.html>.

**6) CUB SCOUT AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY PATCH PROGRAM** Safe Kids Buckle Up and Chevrolet have teamed up with the Boy Scouts of America to teach Cub Scouts and their parents and caregivers about safety in and around vehicles. These hands-on educational activities are conducted by Safe Kids Coalitions and held at Chevrolet dealerships designed to educate families with children ages 7 to 10 about being safe inside and outside of moving and parked vehicles. After the Scouts successfully complete all of the educational stations, they are presented with their Automotive Safety Patch. The Safe Kids Web site includes resources to assist in getting your local Cub Scout pack, Safe Kids Coalition or Chevrolet dealer involved with the program. Access the Web site at <http://www.safekidsweb.org/cubscouts/default.asp>.

#### Sources:

<http://manual.jointcommission.org/releases/TJC2010A/>  
<http://www.adventureplaysets.com/>  
[http://www.askdrsears.com/news/Seafood\\_11\\_09.asp](http://www.askdrsears.com/news/Seafood_11_09.asp)  
<http://cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/preteens-adol/07gallery/default.htm>  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml10/10029.html>  
<http://www.henrythehand.com/pages/content/hwaw.html>  
[http://www.ilca.org/files/in\\_the\\_news/Webinars2009/CDC\\_Webinar\\_122009.pdf](http://www.ilca.org/files/in_the_news/Webinars2009/CDC_Webinar_122009.pdf)  
<http://www.safekidsweb.org/cubscouts/default.asp>  
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/549220739>

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# News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies – November 16, 2009

**This Week:**

- 1) Study: Impact of Low Maternal Folate Levels in Pregnancy
- 2) Recall of Maclaren Strollers
- 3) CCIC Healthy Kids Thank-A-Thon
- 4) From CDC: Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work
- 5) Resources on Health Reform

**MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS**

**1) STUDY: IMPACT OF LOW MATERNAL FOLATE LEVELS IN PREGNANCY** Low folate levels during pregnancy may be associated with higher odds for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in offspring aged 7 to 9, according to new research published in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry. Folate (folic acid) levels in expectant mothers have long been thought to influence their children's nervous system development. The study authors examined for associations between maternal folate status and dietary intake during pregnancy with brain growth and behavioral difficulties in children later in life. In a prospective cohort study, they measured maternal red blood cell folate at 14 weeks of pregnancy and total folate intake from food and supplements was assessed in early and late pregnancy. Children's head circumference and body weight were measured at birth and infancy, and 100 mothers reported on children's behavioral difficulties at a mean age of 8.75 years. The study authors conclude that, while "the associations are small and residual confounding is possible, our data provide preliminary support for the hypothesis that lower folate status in early pregnancy might impair fetal brain development and affect hyperactivity/inattention and peer problems in childhood. To access the study online, go to <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122665861/abstract>.

**CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS**

**2) RECALL OF MACLAREN STROLLERS** The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has announced the recall of about one million Maclaren single and double umbrella strollers. According to reports, the stroller's hinge mechanism is a fingertip amputation and laceration hazard to the child when the consumer is unfolding/opening the stroller. There have been 15 reports of children placing their finger in the stroller's hinge mechanism, resulting in 12 reports of fingertip amputations in the US. Affected models of the stroller include the Volo, Triumph, Quest Sport, Quest Mod, Techno XT, Techno XLR, Twin Triumph, Twin Techno and Easy Traveller. The strollers were sold at Babies R Us, Target and other retailers across the US from 1999 through November 2009. Consumers should immediately stop using these recalled strollers and contact Maclaren USA to receive a free repair kit. Access the Maclaren USA Web site at <http://recall.maclaren.us/>. For more information, go to the CPSC Web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10033.html>.

**3) CCIC HEALTHY KIDS THANK-A-THON** As Thanksgiving approaches, the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC) is using social media (YouTube, Facebook and Twitter) to share parents' gratitude for healthy kids. Parents, grandparents and parents-to-be are encouraged to submit comments, photos, videos and blog online explaining why they are grateful for a healthy child. The CCIC Healthy Kids Thank-A-Thon 2009 will spread gratitude for healthy kids during Thanksgiving weekend by tweeting these submissions on Twitter, creating a video for YouTube and updating their Facebook fan page. Deadline for submissions is Monday, November 23, 2009. For more information, go to <http://www.childreimmunization.org/thanks>.

**5) FROM CDC: GET SMART: KNOW WHEN ANTIBIOTICS WORK** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has launched a campaign to educate pharmacists, health care providers and the general public about the importance of appropriate antibiotic use and the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. The "Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work" program is designed to increase awareness of the importance of appropriate antibiotic use by working with state-based campaigns, non-profit partners, and for-profit partners. Antibiotic resistance is the ability of bacteria to resist the effects of an antibiotic designed to treat infections. Every time a person takes an antibiotic, bacteria that normally live in our bodies are killed, but resistant germs may be left to grow and multiply. Repeated use of antibiotics can lead to an increase in dangerous bacteria that are difficult to treat. These are often referred to by the media as "superbugs." Key messages of the campaign are that antibiotics will not cure viral infections and that pharmacists play an important role in educating patients about appropriate antibiotic use. For more information about the campaign, go to <http://cdc.gov/getsmart/>.

**ADVOCATES IN ACTION**

**6) RESOURCES ON HEALTH REFORM** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has released its report on the effects of the House of Representatives' health reform bill. According to news reports, the report concludes that 32 million more people would get insurance with passage of the bill, but that it may lead to price increases. A synopsis of news coverage of the release of the report is available online at [http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2009/November/14/cms-health-reform-costs.aspx?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+khn+%28All+Kaiser+Health+News%29](http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2009/November/14/cms-health-reform-costs.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+khn+%28All+Kaiser+Health+News%29). To read a copy of the CMS report, go to <http://thehill.com/images/stories/news/2009/november/weekend111309/cmsactuarynumbers.pdf>. For an overview of the issue of health care reform and updates from the Department of Health and Human Services, go to <http://www.healthreform.gov/>.

**Sources:**  
<http://cdc.gov/getsmart/>  
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/124/5/e844>  
<http://recall.maclaren.us/>  
<http://thehill.com/images/stories/news/2009/november/weekend111309/cmsactuarynumbers.pdf>  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10033.html>  
<http://www.childreimmunization.org/thanks>  
<http://www.healthreform.gov/>  
[http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2009/November/14/cms-health-reform-costs.aspx?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+khn+%28All+Kaiser+Health+News%29](http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2009/November/14/cms-health-reform-costs.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+khn+%28All+Kaiser+Health+News%29)  
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122665861/abstract>

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## Public Health Conferences and Events

- **Second Joint European Public Health Conference: Human Ecology and Public Health** - (European Public Health Association (EUPHA)) - November 25-29, 2009, Lodz, Poland
- **Fifteenth Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference: Making Methods and Practice Matter for Women, Children and Families** - (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) - December 7-11, 2009, Tampa, FL
- **2010 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance** - (National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)) - February 1-3, 2010, Bethesda, MD
- **9th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference** - February 4-6, 2010, Seattle, WA
- **Association for Community Health Improvement Annual Conference** - (Association for Community Health Improvement (ACHI)) - March 4-5, 2010, Jacksonville, FL
- **2010 Food Safety Education Conference** - (United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)) - March 23-26, 2010, Atlanta, GA.

## November Health Observances

1-30

**COPD Awareness Month**  
The US COPD Coalition  
[www.uscopdcoalition.org](http://www.uscopdcoalition.org)

1-30

**National Family Caregivers Month**  
National Family Caregivers Association  
[www.thefamilycaregiver.org](http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org)

1-30

**National Healthy Skin Month**  
American Academy of Dermatology  
[www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)

1-30

**National Hospice Palliative Care Month**  
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization  
[www.nhpco.org](http://www.nhpco.org)

1-30

**Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month**  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
[www.pcan.org](http://www.pcan.org)

1-30

**Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month**  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
[www.phassociation.org](http://www.phassociation.org)



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