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January Ray of Hope: News from VCU Massey Cancer

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Sat, Jan 30, 2021 at 8:00 AM



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RAY OF HOPE

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January 2021

Be Involved

Support advances in cancer research



Women & Wellness webinar focuses on research on women's cancers

For the past 26 years, the Women & Wellness Forum Series has raised awareness and promoted prevention of women's cancers, raising \$5 million (and counting) for women's cancer research. This year, Women & Wellness

continues as a webinar at **noon EST Tuesday, Feb. 9**. Massey Cancer Center Director Robert Winn, M.D., and WTVR CBS 6 anchor Reba Hollingsworth will be joined by Massey patient Farrah Massenburg, who will share her story about the power of hope in the face of a cancer diagnosis. Massey physicians **Mary Helen Hackney, M.D.** (H.S.'94/M); Kandace McGuire, M.D.; Leslie Randall, M.D.; and Susan Hong, M.D., will lead a dynamic discussion about advances in women's cancer treatment, care and survivorship.

Register and **show your support with a tribute gift** in honor or memory of a loved one who has faced cancer.

Be Inspired

Learn about the people who inspire us



Four-time cancer survivor Kathy Funk gives back for cancer research

Twenty-nine years ago, at the age of 40, Kathy Funk received her first of four cancer diagnoses and, on the advice of a friend, headed straight to VCU Massey Cancer Center. Since then, Funk and her husband, Wayne, have raised their children and welcomed eight grandkids. She credits the care and treatment she received at Massey for saving her life. Now, they are giving back with an unrestricted donation to Massey to support the innovative work in cancer research, prevention and treatment in central Virginia. “[Giving back to Massey is] a way to thank Massey, but it’s also about ensuring a better future for everybody.” **Watch her story** and **read more**.

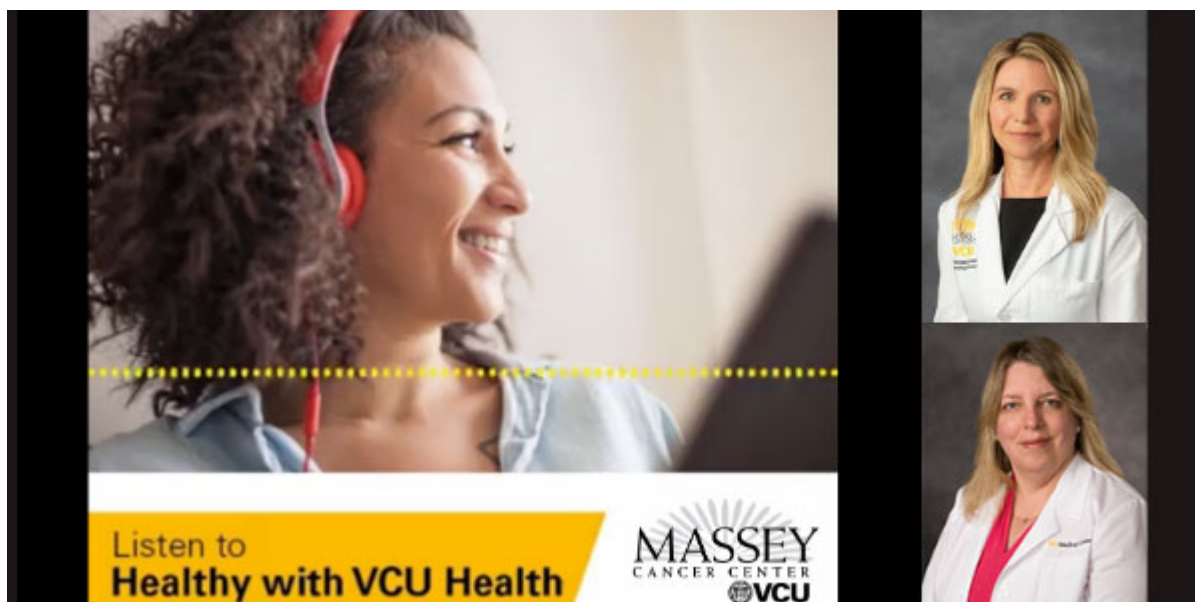


William & Mary 5K kick-starts a new year of hope, raising \$43,000

Despite the pandemic, cancer survivor Charles Crone, emeritus advisory board member, and his wife, Ginny, were determined to lead the **Massey 5K run** in Williamsburg, Virginia, again this year. The event has raised more than an estimated \$300,000 since it began in 1988 and is Massey's longest-standing community partner event. Over the years, the Crones have enlisted more help from the community, including William & Mary cross-country and track teams. This year's event took place virtually throughout December, with runners completing a 5K of their choosing (run, jog, walk, bike or swim) and raising more than \$43,000 to support cancer research and care at Massey. [Learn more.](#)

Be Innovative

Check out our latest research news



Clinical trial studies whether weight loss can prevent breast cancer recurrence

VCU Massey Cancer Center medical oncologist **Mary Helen Hackney, M.D.** (H.S.'94/M), is seeking participants for a clinical trial studying the connection between weight loss and preventing breast cancer recurrence. The Breast Cancer Weight Loss study, also known as BWEL, which began in 2016, is still enrolling women. Study investigators will track activity and weight loss among participants for 10 years; outcomes could lead to a standard treatment for millions of breast cancer patients. [Learn more](#). If you or someone you know is interested in participating, contact **Gwen Parker** (M.S.'88/N) at ggparker@vcu.edu.

Massey clinical trials offer promising cervical cancer treatment options

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. VCU Massey Cancer Center's Leslie Randall, M.D., director of gynecologic oncology, is engaged in several promising clinical trials testing new treatments for cervical cancer, which is the fourth most common cancer in women worldwide. "It's very exciting to have movement in cervical cancer research," Randall says. "As a cervical cancer leader in a national group, I've seen where we've been, with really no advances in cervical cancer treatment, to where we are today. Women with cervical cancer now have opportunities to access new treatments. ... Cervical cancer is getting its day." [Learn more](#).

Be Informed

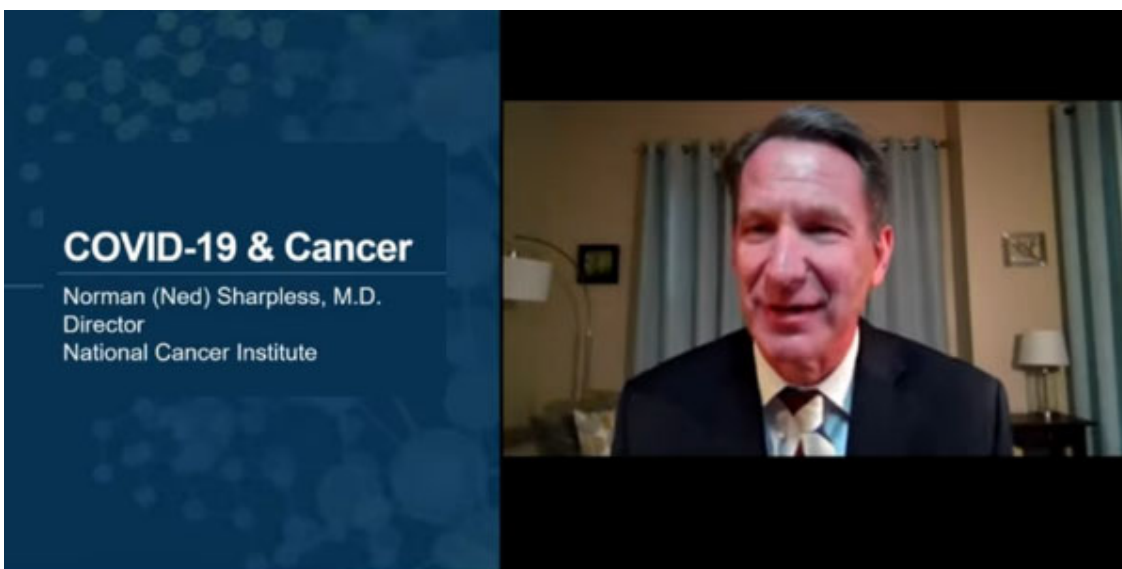
Learn about how we're addressing COVID-19



COVID-19 expert Anthony Fauci discusses the COVID vaccine in Massey's "Facts and Faith Fridays"

On Jan. 8, Anthony Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and one of the nation's leading experts on COVID-19, joined Massey's "Facts and Faith Fridays" for a virtual community discussion. Fauci, Massey Director Robert Winn, M.D., Gov. Ralph Northam, officials from the Virginia Department of Health and faith leaders across the state discussed the vaccine, dispelling vaccine myths and providing the latest information.

Watch the event.



National Cancer Institute leader discusses COVID-19 and cancer in “Facts and Faith Fridays”

On Jan. 15, Norman “Ned” Sharpless, M.D., director of the National Cancer Institute, joined Massey’s “Facts and Faith Fridays” for a virtual discussion on COVID-19 and cancer. During the public session, Sharpless discussed racial disparities in COVID-19 and cancer and the pandemic’s long-term impact on cancer screening, treatment and care. [Watch the event.](#)

Cancer doesn’t stop for a pandemic, and neither do we. Make a gift today to support lifesaving cancer research at VCU Massey Cancer Center.



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