

UI Hematology/Oncology

# Connections

Winter 2015

## Faculty Focus: Emeritus Professor Richard L. DeGowin MD, FACP



After a distinguished career, Richard L. DeGowin retired in 1997 as professor emeritus, Internal Medicine–Hematology, Oncology & Blood and Marrow Transplantation. Today, he enjoys reading, writing, and spending time with his family in northeast Iowa overlooking the upper Mississippi River—and he gives credit to one of our former fellows for his current health.

"As a patient of Dr. Gerald Clamon, I'm fortunate to be able to tell him, 10 years after my diagnosis of metastatic cancer, how grateful I am for his care," DeGowin said.

Born at UI Hospitals and Clinics on May 14, 1934, DeGowin earned his medical degree from the University of Chicago. As Captain, U.S. Army Medical Corps (1963-65), he designed a sulfone regimen that prevented infection with multidrug-resistant falciparum malaria in our troops deployed in Vietnam.

Appointed assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago (1965-68), he also served as research project director in the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital. He came to the UI in 1968 as associate professor of medicine and radiation research, where in addition to his clinical service, he taught medical students, house officers, and graduate students.

In his lab, he identified the murine hemopoietic stem cell and described the effects of tumor-bearing, inflammation, and radiation on stem cells and on cells of the bone marrow microenvironment.

Along with his father, Elmer L. DeGowin, MD, MACP (for whom the UI DeGowin Blood Center is named), Richard authored *DeGowin's Diagnostic Examination*, which has been translated into seven foreign languages. The book's third edition was adopted by every medical school in the U.S., and with McGraw-Hill's 2015 release of its tenth edition, it has attained 50 years in print.

Additionally, in December 2014, Ice Cube Press released DeGowin's *House of Moffitt, The First 20 Years: A Memoir*.

DeGowin served as founding director of the UI Cancer Center (1978-1993). In 2009, during his 50-year medical school reunion, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Chicago Medical & Biological Sciences Alumni Association.



## Catching Up with Vikram Chand, MD



Vikram Chand's desire to become an oncologist is rooted in childhood memories and strengthened by family loss.

"Whenever someone asked what I was going to be when I grew up, my answer was always 'a doctor,'" says Chand, recalling his childhood in New Delhi, India. "I always had a deep respect for the profession and the physicians I knew."

Chand had several role models to look up to — his grandfather and uncle were doctors, and his father was in the allied health field. "My grandfather passed away from metastatic lung cancer, perhaps related to his history of smoking, which was prevalent even among physicians. I remember saying that one day I would find a cure for cancer."

That drive eventually led him to the UI, where he was a hematology/oncology fellow from January 2002 - December 2004. "Here, I received invaluable mentoring support in not only delivering great care to patients, but in becoming a clinical researcher." That exposure to the research side of the profession sparked an interest that has taken Chand all the way to his current position, as senior clinical program leader in global clinical development - oncology at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

"The last three years, I've focused on drug development in lung cancer and was a key member of the team that worked on the regulatory submission and approval of Afatinib," Chand says. "I still oversee several additional trials in the Afatinib program that could offer advantages for patients with terminal lung cancer. I consider myself a learner for life and want to be at the forefront of developing treatment options for patients affected by such devastating illnesses."

## Welcome New Fellows



**Grerk Sutamtewagul, MD**  
Hematology and oncology is experiencing the most rapid growth in any field of medicine at this point. I find it challenging and fun at the same time, especially when we can apply molecular discoveries to real patient care. In my free time, I play guitar and keyboard and sing in a choir. I also love going to the gym and riding my bike.

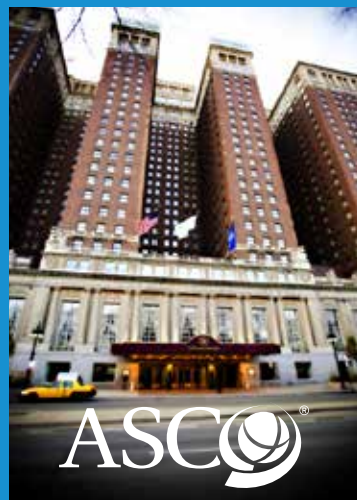


**Rohan Garje, MD**  
I earned my medical degree from Osmania Medical College, India, and then moved to the U.S. to complete an internal medicine residency. Here, I've been amazed with the advances in the cancer field both in terms of research and patient management. In my spare time, I go on long drives with my wife and take pictures of beautiful landscapes.



**Ravi Patel, MD**  
I pursued a career in oncology because of the amazing patient experiences I had during training. Cancer carries a lot of stigma, and it's incredibly gratifying to help comfort patients during this journey. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, running, and biking. I hope to ride RAGBRAI for this first time this year. I'm also a diehard Notre Dame fan.

Save the Date!  
5/30/2015



Join us at this year's ASCO Annual Meeting! You and a guest are invited to a reception being hosted by the UI Division of Hematology, Oncology and Blood & Marrow Transplantation. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

**WHEN:** 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, May 30  
**WHERE:** Joliet Room, Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue