July is Sarcoma Awareness Month

Final plans are coming into focus for the 3rd Annual Team Sarcoma 5k Event. As you are aware the venue has changed to the UAlbany campus for August 20th. Parking will be available at the Dutch Gold Parking lot. Volunteers will be at the entrance off the main UAlbany campus loop. The event tents will be on the interior campus road directly behind Indian Quad building. We will have shuttles available from parking to event tents.

There will be two tents on the lawn behind Indian Quad. One tent will be for 5k run/walk registration and post-run refreshments. The other tent is for our SARCOMA families. It will be the smaller tent with sides and a special area for us all to gather, socialize and share experiences. Food and refreshments in this tent will be for you and your friends and family who are supporting you. A give away to commemorate the event will be available for each family in this area.

Our fundraising is coming along well, but we need a final push from all of you. The fundraising page available on the 5k Run/Walk Registration link will be critical in helping us reach our goal of raising >$60,000 this year. We are more than half way there and with all of us working together we can reach our goals and beyond. No donation from your friends and family is too small. You all provide tremendous inspiration to your communities and this is a time for those who care and love you to support a greater mission.

A map of the course and the parking area:

A regional map of UAlbany campus and the surrounding roads and highways:

Saturday, August 20, 2016
9 a.m.

Please call 935-4172 to let us know how many people will be joining you. Follow sarcomastrong.com for event updates and online registration.

RSVP by August 15th, 2016

TOGETHER WE CAN STAND UP TO SARCOMA!
Cutting-edge immunotherapy was inspired by sarcoma

by Marc Shinebarger

Today’s cancer research headlines are filled with articles hailing the promise of harnessing the immune system to eliminate cancer. Reading the headlines, one could easily conclude immunotherapy is a recent discovery. However, immunotherapy actually predates radiation and chemotherapy. Additionally, results from early immunotherapy treatments (1890s - 1930s) yielded impressive results even by today’s standards (curing many patients with advanced sarcomas). You can read more about the birth of immunotherapy by visiting: http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/12/28/459218765/cutting-edge-cancer-treatment-has-its-roots-in-19th-century-medicine.

Beginning in the 1930s, cancer treatment moved away from immunotherapy in favor of radiation and eventually chemotherapy. Not until recently have researchers renewed their interest in immunotherapy. Unlike earlier versions which attempted to simulate life-threatening bacterial infections, contemporary immunotherapy targets cancer by modifying specific aspects of the immune system.

Examples:

PD1 Checkpoint Inhibitor: Attempts to disable the protective shield preventing the immune system from attacking the tumor.

CTLA-4 Blocker: CTLA-4 inhibits T-cells from attacking tumors. CTLA-4 inhibitors allow T-cell to function properly.

T-cell therapy: Program T-cells to target specific antigens found on many cancer cells.

Personalized Vaccines: Remove tumor cells from the patient and make a vaccine targeting the patient’s tumor.

To date, contemporary immunotherapy has dramatically changed outlook for cancers like melanoma. However, unlike early immunotherapy, preliminary findings of these newer treatments on advanced sarcomas have been disappointing. Ironically, the disease that inspired the birth of immunotherapy might be left behind as new treatments focus on more prevalent cancers.

sarcomastrong.com Check out your sarcoma blog site. Add a comment. Make a post request. Have a voice.

GOALS: Be an educational source for patients and families Serve as a unifying force for those dealing with sarcoma Contribute regular blog posts to disseminate knowledge, inspiration, hope and support Seek feedback on blog content and continue to perfect the site until it best serves the Team Sarcoma community

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” — LAOZI, Chinese Philosopher