

Leaders' Update

A message from Donna Berrier, M.P.A., chief administrative officer

Around this time last year, I gave an update about how our cancer center research and administrative leadership teams were busy at work on the yearly progress report for Massey's National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG), which is the grant that provides Massey's NCI designation. Our progress report is due this year on March 1, so the team has been at it again, compiling the scientific accomplishments, trans-disciplinary collaborations, new recruitments, facilities improvements, shared resources support and administrative efforts that occurred in the last year. I am pleased to share that Massey made considerable progress on each of these fronts and, as a result, has a strong report to share. These achievements would not have been possible without the efforts of each of our members, so thank you for your contribution.

Our administrative leadership team is also currently working to establish Massey's operating budget for fiscal year 2016. Our aim is to develop a budget that best supports the priorities of the cancer center's Vision 2016 strategic plan and that best positions the cancer center for the competitive renewal of its NCI designation in May 2016.

As part of the strategic plan, Massey has a number of high-priority positions under various stages of recruitment. These positions include, among others, a [cancer physician-scientist with a health services research focus](#), a [cancer molecular genetics researcher](#), a [senior cancer physician-scientist with a focus on solid tumors research](#), [molecular genetics and epidemiology of nicotine dependence researcher](#) and a [director for the Cancer Informatics Core](#). We have had some strong candidates visit Massey for several of these positions, and we will announce when the new recruits have been secured.

Additionally, there are a couple of upcoming events that should bring heightened community awareness of Massey. On March 23 at the Byrd Theatre, Massey is co-hosting with Community Idea Stations WCVE/WHTJ and the American Cancer Society a free, one-hour preview of the documentary, *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, a three-part PBS series from filmmaker Ken Burns based on the book by Siddhartha Mukherjee. The preview will be followed by a discussion with Massey researchers Richard Moran, Ph.D., and Charles Geyer, M.D., and local survivors and advocates about cancer in our community and the research advances and resources available. [Learn more](#)

On Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11, Massey will host its fourth annual Clinical Research Affiliate Retreat, including a cancer symposium with presentations by Glenn Lesser, M.D., from Wake Forest University, David Gerber, M.D., from UT Southwestern and John McCarty, M.D., and Dr. Geyer from Massey. This free event will offer a great opportunity to interact with our research partners from our statewide Clinical Research Affiliate Network. [Learn more](#)

I hope you can join us at these events, and I look forward to working together toward continued progress at Massey.

Sincerely,

Donna Berrier, M.P.A.
Chief administrative officer
Associate director for administration