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Posted on Thu, Apr. 23, 2009

Childhood cancer: On the front lines

Ayyappan K. Rajasekaran and Sigrid Rajasekaran

Director of the year-old Nemours Center for Childhood Cancer Research at A.I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Ayyappan envisions "a 100 percent cure rate." The key, he says, is developing the kind of "personalized" medicine that is improving adult-cancer treatment.

Ayyappan, a native of India, and his wife, Sigrid, from Germany, were doing adult-cancer research at UCLA when Nemours beckoned. The cell biologists studied growth factors involved in numerous adult cancers - research that won Sigrid a major grant that she will use to study childhood cancers.

Liz and Jay Scott

In the five years since Alex Scott died of neuroblastoma at age 8, Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation has raised \$25 million, making it the second-biggest childhood-cancer philanthropy in the world.

Her parents, who work out of a modest office in Wynnewood, are much in demand as speakers. But Jay says the really inspiring people are the sick children and the foundation's 100,000 volunteers: "We get letters from people thanking us for letting them help us."

- Marie McCullough



Clem Murray / Staff Photographer
 Doctors Sigrid A. (left) and Ayyappan K. Rajasekaran, with the Nemours Center for Childhood Cancer Research in Wilmington (he's the director) sit in a high tech lab with a new, unique high-resolution microscope (left) that studies cell surfaces. On the computer monitor are images of cells that are being studied/researched into how best to avoid cancer cell migration and metastasis. (Clem Murray / Staff Photographer)

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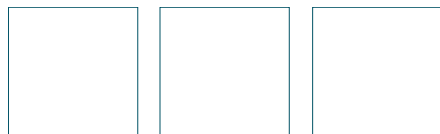
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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Mixed signals from Castros?

HAVANA - Fidel Castro wrote in an essay published yesterday that President Obama had "misinterpreted" his brother Raul's seeming conciliatory remarks regarding the United States, and he bristled at the suggestion that Cuba should free political prisoners or cut taxes on dollars that Cuban Americans send to the island.

Housing crisis hits home

Most N.J. school budgets approved



Plus, minus: The Prez so far

BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA has been our president for almost 100 days, and since EVERY PUNDIT IN THE WORLD and EVERY NEWS OUTLET IN THE WORLD and EVERY BLOGGER IN THE WORLD will be assessing The Man, how can I resist?

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Crab-cake king's home INQ

There's the "Wow!" factor at the home of Linda and Bobby Sliwowski, of Bobby Chez fame. Not only do jaws drop in the vast space, but the sense go into overload at what's known as Chez Noel.

Prepping your yard for spring

INQ A green thumb, with blisters on it 

Lifestyle: Pleating



"I'm still going! Wonderful care"

Living with Cancer

FOX CHASE CANCER CENTER

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