

## Treatment Outcomes in Adults with Favorable Histology Wilms Tumor

**W**ilms tumor is rare in those 16 years of age or older, who for this discussion are considered adults. Adults with Wilms tumor treated in the past had very poor survival. Only one in four adults diagnosed with Wilms tumor in 1982 survived. However, the likelihood of recovery now is far better. In earlier years treatments were less consistent. Post-operative radiation and chemotherapy were used inconsistently, and the most effective drugs were not always employed. Reports from the National Wilms Tumor Study suggested better outcomes for these patients when they are treated by methods similar to those used with children.

A recent study by Dr. John Kalapurakal at Northwestern Memorial Hospital provides data on 45 adults with favorable histology (FH) Wilms tumor who received surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy (RT) similar to treatment for Wilms tumor in children. All 45 had stage and

histology-appropriate therapy after surgical removal of the tumor. Thus, they all received multi-agent chemotherapy with or without RT according to the extent of their disease. Their survival rates are similar to those reported for children, which is now very good.



Until now there have been no cooperative clinical trials of adult Wilms tumor patients. Such studies are done by nationwide groups of institutions called cooperative groups. The Children's Oncology Group (COG) currently oversees the development of clinical studies of Wilms tumor. The COG has raised the age limit for patient entry on future trials to include adolescents and young

adults. Until the next generation of COG studies is completed, we recommend that adults be treated according to the guidelines in the NWTS-5 protocol. Adult patients and their physicians may contact us about these guidelines.

### Thank You!

**T**hanks to many of you 2004 has been a busy and productive year for our office. You have permitted us to obtain medical records to document pulmonary problems, second tumors, many pregnancies (congratulations!), and some other health related issues. Thank you for this. You are helping us make strides in learning more about what conditions may be related to treatment, and thus to be able to provide all of you and your physicians with guidelines to improve your health care and your well being.

We very much appreciate your donations which support our research and supplement our funding from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Thank you to everyone who sent photographs. We have pictures of participants, their children, their families, and even a wonderful photo of a wedding party. Please keep sending these in. Seeing the faces of our participants helps us keep our mission in focus.

A final note of thanks to everyone who took time to write a personal note. We love to find out who is going to college, becoming a nurse or doctor, getting married and reports of everyday life. We also hear from some of you who are having health problems, and we try to provide what resources we know are available. And to those of you who write us words of appreciation and encouragement, we are grateful for the sentiment and the support.