View this email in your browser

MORE TIME, MORE OPTIONS

CLINICAL TRIALS NEWSLETTER

PRESENTED BY FIGHTCRC WITH SUPPORT FROM MERCK

More information. More partnership. More personalized care. This month, Fight CRC explores what happens after surgery: how circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) testing is changing conversations about recurrence risk, a new FDA approval for some patients with stage III colon cancer, and the advocates and researchers working side by side to move early-onset colorectal cancer research forward.

We want to hear from you!

What do you want to see in our Clinical Trials Newsletter?

LET US KNOW!

FEATURED STORY

After Surgery: Understanding and Reducing Recurrence

For many people, finishing treatment raises a new question: will the cancer come back? Research is starting to offer more answers.

ctDNA testing. Circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) is made up of small fragments of DNA from cancer cells that can be found in the bloodstream. Researchers are

studying whether ctDNA testing may help detect minimal residual disease (MRD), identify recurrence risk earlier, and support more personalized follow-up care.

The research is moving quickly. Clinical trials are now testing whether treatment can help patients who are ctDNA-positive after finishing therapy, even when their scans are clear.

For some patients, ctDNA testing provides reassurance between scans. For others, a positive or uncertain result without clear next steps can add anxiety. Fight CRC is committed to helping patients and caregivers navigate both the promise and the complexity of ctDNA.

A new option after surgery. Earlier this year, the ATOMIC trial was highlighted in the Clinical Trial Roundup. On October 8, the FDA approved atezolizumab together with fluoropyrimidine and oxaliplatin chemotherapy after surgery for patients with stage III mismatch repair-deficient (dMMR) colon cancer. It is the first immunotherapy regimen approved for use after surgery in this group. In ATOMIC, 86.3% of patients who received atezolizumab plus chemotherapy were alive and cancer-free at three years, compared to 76.2% with chemotherapy alone.

Ask your care team: Is ctDNA testing right for me, and what would we do with the results? Has my tumor been tested for MMR or MSI status?

Listen to the audio version of this newsletter!

CLINICAL TRIAL ROUNDUP

This month's roundup highlights research focused on reducing recurrence risk after surgery, including a new trial for patients who are ctDNA-positive after completing treatment. Our "Keep On Your Radar" bonus spotlights a Phase 3 immunotherapy trial for resectable dMMR colon cancer that is building on striking early results.

EXPLORE THE OCTOBER CLINICAL TRIALS BLOG

Disclaimer: *Inclusion in this list does not imply endorsement or a guaranteed benefit. Always consult your healthcare provider to determine whether a clinical trial is appropriate for you.*

SPOTLIGHT

Webinar Recap: What to Know Before Starting First-Line Treatment

In August, Dr. Christopher Lieu (University of Colorado) and Research Advocate Bill Thach shared what people with metastatic CRC should know about clinical trials before starting first-line treatment.

Trials are not a last resort. They can be an option at every stage, including first-line. Ask about them at your first oncology appointment.
Ask about biomarker testing early. Your tumor's profile shapes your treatment choices and which trials you may qualify for.
Ask before you start. If chemo is recommended first, ask whether any first-line trials are open to you now, and whether one cycle would disqualify you. Many trials allow one prior cycle, but it's important to ask before, not after.
Don't stop at one "no." If you don't qualify for a trial, ask about others, look beyond your cancer center, and try ChatCRC to search for trials in plain language.

As Bill put it, "There is always a trial. You just have to do some work to get there."
Read the full webinar FAQ here.

WATCH THE WEBINAR REPLAY

Supported by Pfizer. Content developed independently by Fight CRC.

BEHIND THE RESEARCH

Advocates and Researchers, Side by Side

At the Western Colorectal Cancer Consortium Conference (WC4) in Davis, California, Fight CRC Research Advocate Mike Davis joined researchers and physicians working on the questions that matter most to the early-onset colorectal cancer community.

"By adding human faces and stories to the data and trials researchers and physicians are working on, we hope we can lend an urgency and gravity to the stakes of early-

onset colorectal cancer research."
Mike Davis, Stage I rectal cancer survivor, diagnosed at 38

Mike, Dr. Joshua Demb, and Dr. Samir Gupta also work together in Fight CRC's EOCRC Global Collaborative workgroups. Stay tuned for more on this work as we head to Washington, D.C. this March for Call-on Congress, United in Blue, and the Global EOCRC Think Tank.



Fight CRC Research Advocate Mike Davis with Medical Advisory Board members Dr. Joshua Demb and Dr. Samir Gupta of UC San Diego at WC4.

READ MIKE'S FULL REFLECTIONS

Upcoming Webinar



Mark your calendar for a free webinar for patients, survivors, and care partners on managing skin-related side effects during colorectal cancer treatment.

Medical Advisory Board member, Carlin Callaway, DNP, RN, Assistant Professor and Lead Advanced Practice Provider for the Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Colorado Cancer Center, and Fight CRC Ambassadors will share why skin side effects happen, practical tips for preventing and managing them during and after treatment, and what it's really like to go through them as a patient.

Thank you to our sponsors AMGEN and La-Roche Posay

REGISTER NOW

ACTION AND AWARENESS





Join our monthly Advocacy Action Hour for one hour of connection, updates, and action with advocates from across the country. Whether this is your first time or you've been showing up every month, this is the hour that helps you take your advocacy to the next level.

COUNT ME IN FOR ACTION HOUR!

Apply for Call-on Congress 2027

From February 28 to March 2, 2027, the Fight CRC community is coming together in Washington, D.C. for three days of advocacy, connection, and action, culminating in taking our voices to Capitol Hill. For the first time, Call-on Congress, United in Blue, and the Global EOCRC Think Tank will all take place during the same weekend.

We're still seeking advocates from **Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming.** If you live in one of these states, your voice is needed! Spots are first-come, first-served within each state, and scholarships are available if you need financial support to attend.

Applications close November 18.

APPLY FOR CALL-ON CONGRESS 2027

Thank you to this month's Clinical Trials sponsors:

Bristol Myers Squibb™ Johnson&Johnson

MERCK Summit therapeutics™

EMD SERONO

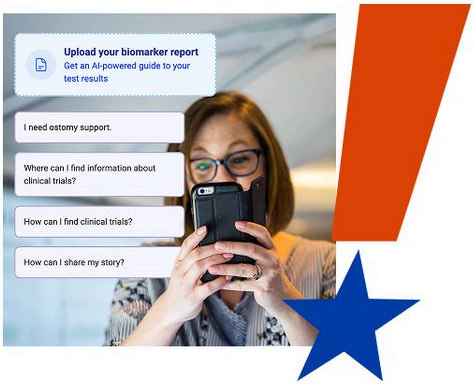
PREFER LISTENING? PLAY THE AUDIO VERSION

Got Questions?

Understand your biomarker report, explore Clinical Trials, and more with ChatCRC!

VISIT CHATBOT.FIGHTCRC.ORG

or text **318-242-8272**



FIGHT CRC SCREENING QUIZ — *Take the Quiz!*

FIGHT CRC RESOURCES & MERCH — *Shop!*

FIGHT CRC PROVIDER FINDER — *Search!*

©Copyright 2026 Fight Colorectal Cancer
FightCRC.org

DONATE TO FUND THE FIGHT

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe