



## Northwest Natural Health Specialty Care Clinic Begins Historic Clinical Trial

**November 5, 2013: Northwest Natural Health Specialty Care Clinic** (NNH) today announced its research grant award to conduct a multiple clinical site investigation into the use of natural medicine to mitigate the side effects of bortezomib ([Velcade®](#)), a new generation targeted chemotherapy from [Millennium: The Takeda Oncology Company](#). Velcade® is FDA approved for the treatment of multiple myeloma and other cancers. It is one of a new breed of chemotherapy drugs known as targeted therapies.

NNH created the research protocol for this [FDA approved](#), double blinded, placebo-controlled trial and will direct its implementation at 5 clinical research institutions: [Swedish Cancer Institute](#) (part of Swedish Medical Center) in Seattle WA, [Island Hospital](#) in Anacortes WA, [Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital \(Northstar Lodge\)](#) in Yakima WA, [Cancer Care Northwest](#) in Spokane WA, and [Northwest Medical Specialties](#) in Puyallup WA. The trial will run for 2 years and focus on mitigating a potential side effect of Velcade® called peripheral neuropathy, a numbness of the fingers and toes.

The principal investigators for this trial are [Dan Labriola ND](#), director of NNH and [Hakan Kaya MD](#), medical oncologist, hematologist and researcher at [Cancer Care Northwest](#).

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**This grant awarded to Northwest Natural Health Specialty Care Clinic marks the first time a global pharmaceutical company has contracted with an independent naturopathic clinic. The study goal? To investigate a natural medicine combination with a state-of-the-art cancer drug—for relief of a cancer treatment side effect.**

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“Millennium is very focused on the patient experience when dealing with cancer and willing to invest in ways to improve that experience. This trial is one example of their commitment,” said Labriola.

### What's being said about this trial

#### **Dan Labriola ND, Co-Principal Investigator, Northwest Natural Health Specialty Care Clinic**

“Natural medicines have been used successfully throughout history to treat and prevent disease, relieve suffering and improve quality of life. This clinical trial will provide hard scientific data for one of the many opportunities to combine the best of both worlds, naturopathic care and conventional medicine.”

#### **Hakan Kaya MD, Co-Principal investigator**

“Science has brought us many improvements in treating disease and Velcade® is a notable example. With this trial, we are embarking on a research course to further improve the benefits of this drug for cancer survivors.”

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**Michael Milder MD, Clinical Site Principal Investigator, Swedish Cancer Institute**

"This clinical trial will advance our knowledge and potentially improve our management of a vexing problem in cancer patients."

**Thomas Brown MD, Executive Director, Swedish Cancer Institute**

"The Swedish Cancer Institute is a leader in clinical cancer research. This trial underscores our commitment to novel research that focuses on improving the quality of life for cancer survivors, both during and after cancer treatment."

**Marcel Loh, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Swedish Medical Center**

"Swedish Medical Center is best known for quality patient care but also conducts clinical research in many specialties. There are currently more than 600 clinical trials in progress at Swedish. This clinical trial partnership with Northwest Natural Health Clinic is one more example of how we strive to make healthcare as effective and efficient as possible."

**Robert McCroskey MD, Clinical Site Principal Investigator, Northwest Medical Specialties**

"This clinical trial will study the use of a non-toxic approach to controlling a major side effect associated with an important chemotherapy agent used to treat multiple myeloma and other malignancies. The knowledge gained from this trial will benefit our patients for years to come."

**Lisa Price ND, Clinical Trial Coordinator, Northwest Natural Health Specialty Care Clinic**

"Clinical research lies at the heart of good patient care. This blinded, placebo controlled trial will provide solid scientific evidence that will allow physicians to provide the most effective choices for their patients."

## About Northwest Natural Health Clinic



[Northwest Natural Health Clinic](#) (NNH) and its founder, [Dan Labriola ND](#), have provided coordinated integrative care in outpatient and in-hospital settings for more than 28 years. The clinic is an internationally recognized expert in the safe and effective incorporation of the benefits of naturopathic care to improve treatment outcomes and patient quality of life. Their groundbreaking naturopathic approach especially benefits patients receiving specialty medical care for cancer, heart disease, neurologic, women's health, gastrointestinal, immune system, elder care issues and more. NNH naturopathic physicians are specially trained, accredited and published in major scientific journals. For more information about Dr. Labriola's industry leadership and awards, [visit the NNH website](#). For media inquiries, contact Laura E. Peterson at 425.890.0095.

