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# **THE CANCER CENTER NEWSLETTER**

**a consortium of BCM · BTGH · TCH · TMH · VAMC**

**VOLUME 1, NO. 8**

**February 2004**

**A Collaboration among Baylor College of Medicine, The Methodist Hospital, Ben Taub Hospital, VA Medical Center, and Texas Children's Hospital**

## **PROTOCOL REVIEW AND MONITORING SYSTEM UPDATE**

The Cancer Center continues to actively move towards submission of the P-30 Cancer Center Support Grant by developing key pieces of organizational infrastructure required by the NCI. We appreciate the enthusiastic and overwhelming response already seen in the development of our comprehensive Center, and will soon achieve yet another important milestone as we work together towards fulfillment of that vision.

One of the key components of an NCI Designated Cancer Center is the presence of a Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee and System (generically PRMS) to assure adequate internal oversight of the scientific and research aspects of all clinical trials under the purview of the Center. This review board is complementary to the Institutional Review Board (IRB), which will continue to focus on the protection of human subjects. The PRMS is intended to provide a more focused review of scientific merit, help prioritize enrollment in similar trials, and monitor progress towards protocol enrollment goals. It also will function to enhance the quality of clinical research being conducted in our consortium by providing an effective front-end, peer review mechanism to enhance overall trial design.

All new Cancer Center therapeutic and prevention clinical trials involving cancer patients will receive scientific review by the appropriate PRMS workgroup (Adult, Pediatric, or Cell and Gene Therapy) prior to protocol approval and activation by the PRMS Committee. A work group of the PRMS Committee is presently developing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which will define the responsibilities and process for the PRMS function and that of the workgroups. The committee is closely following the NCI guidelines for both the P-30 Cancer Center Support Grant and Comprehensive designation. Ultimately our PRMS plan will need external review by the NCI before P-30 submittal. We are also working to modify BRAIN to support the PRMS process.

We anticipate completion of this effort soon, and also that all new protocols will be channeled through this process beginning next month. You will be receiving further specific information regarding this process as well as access to these SOPs in the very near future. We look forward to working closely with you to continue to improve this process and our Center in the future.

## **CANCER CENTER LAUNCHES INTRANET AND INTERNET COMING SOON**

We are pleased to announce that the Cancer Center Intranet is now up and running. On it you will find information about Cancer Center Programs and Cores as well as calendars and information about clinical trials and the institutions which we serve. If you have a Baylor email you can access it directly by visiting [www.bcm.tmc.edu/cancercenter/internal](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/cancercenter/internal). We are working with Baylor IT to get access for individuals at other institutions without a Baylor email address. We hope to have access for the rest of you in the near future.

We are also making plans to quickly deploy an internet site which initially will contain much of this same information. A standing work group is being formed that will develop the future content and structure for this site as well as to serve to coordinate cancer information and messages across our partner institutions. People interested in participating in this process should contact Erica Hsieh at 713-798-8810 or email [hhsieh@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:hhsieh@bcm.tmc.edu).

We want to acknowledge the hard work of Erica Hsieh and Frederick Ubberrud in bringing this project to fruition.

## WELCOME....

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Ted Yank as Associate Director of Administration for The Cancer Center. Ted was previously the Associate Director for Administration of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa. Ted's wide experience in health care administration and center development in particular will help us implement our cancer center vision and will be a great attribute as we move forward with our P30 cancer center support application. Ted holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota and a Masters in Hospital and Health Care Administration with a focus in Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota. Many of you have had a chance to meet with Ted this past month and he looks forward to working with all of you in the future.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Dr. Matthew Anderson, Dept. of OB/GYN and Dr. Scott Goode, Dept. of Pathology for a grant award of \$50,000 from the Gyn Cancer Foundation for their project entitled "Dissecting the Role of AIB-1 in Ovarian Epithelial Invasiveness."

## DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVE IN TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH (DITR)

Dr. Michael Lieberman has set up a forum where investigators interested in translational research can meet to exchange ideas and network. Dr. Lieberman has planned a monthly meeting which he will lead that will serve as a focus for our efforts. He is encouraging all of you (whether basic scientists or clinicians) to attend these forums and hope that you will indicate your willingness to come to a session by emailing Shari Stark at [sharir@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:sharir@bcm.tmc.edu).

**February 23 @ 4:00 p.m., Baylor College of Medicine, Alkek, Room N311**

**Dr. Timothy Thompson, Scott Department of Urology will present "RTVP-1: A Tumor Suppressor and Therapeutic Protein for Prostate Cancer."**

## CONFERENCES

### **International Conference on Malignancies in AIDS and Other Immunodeficiencies: Basic, Epidemiologic and Clinical Research**

#### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

April 29-30, 2004

Main Auditorium, Natcher Conference Room, National Institutes of Health Campus, Bethesda, MD

Presented by the National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Information about the conference may be found at <http://cancer.gov/dctd.aids/conference>

Contact: Jamie Kenyon, [kenyonj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:kenyonj@mail.nih.gov)

Deadline for Abstracts: March 1, 2004

Guidelines for online abstract submissions may be found at <http://cancer.gov/dctd.aids/conferences>.

## **9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium on Minorities, The Medical Underserved & Cancer**

March 24-28, 2004, OMNI Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

Information about the symposium including a preliminary program can be found at <http://iccnetwork.org/symposium>. Please contact the symposium office if you are unable to register and make travel arrangements. Write to: 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium, Baylor College of Medicine, 6655 Travis, Suite 322, Houston, TX 77030-1312 or call 713-798-5383.

### **National Cancer Institute (NCI) Videocasts**

Cancer Center members may be interested in viewing NCI videocasts. Future programs can be found at <http://videocast.nih.gov/FutureEvents.asp>. Past programs (most recent 50 videocasts) are available at <http://videocast.nih.gov/PastEvents.asp>.

### **The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer**

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer is presenting a series of Webconference Programs on the Role of the Cancer Liaison Physician. Information and a list of the webconference schedule may be found at <http://facs.org/cancer/coc/webconfschedule.pdf>.

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Cancer Care – Telephone Education Workshops**

Cancer Care is a patient advocate group. They have an interesting website at [www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org) which includes free Telephone Education Workshops. Some of the workshops are oriented to patients, some to professionals.

Pre-registration at least one week in advance of seminars is required. If you would like to take part, register on line at <http://www.cancercare.org/Feedback/Feedback>. Or, please call Cancer Care's National Office at (212) 712-8080, or the toll-free line at 1-800-813-HOPE, and ask to have a registration form sent to you. You will need to return this form to take part.

### **Upcoming Telephone Education Workshop Seminars**

Unless otherwise indicated, all Telephone Education Workshops are scheduled from 1:30-2:30pm, E.S.T.

## **MARCH**

### **Emerging Therapies for Colorectal Cancer**

#### **Friday - March 5**

*John S. Macdonald, MD, Lynn Wood Neag Distinguished Professor of Gastrointestinal Oncology, Medical Director and Chief of the Gastrointestinal Oncology Service, St. Vincent's Comprehensive Cancer Center, New York, NY; Mark B. Pochapin, MD, Director, Jay Monahan Center, Chief, GI Endoscopy, New York-Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, NY.* Presented in partnership with the Colon Cancer Alliance and the Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health. Made possible by an educational grant from Novartis. Continuing Education Units are available for social workers.

## **Cancer Survivorship: Living With, Through & Beyond Cancer**

### **Part I: Living With Uncertainty**

**Wednesday - March 10**

**1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Eastern Time**

*Rick Dickens, CSW, Program Coordinator, Staff Development, CancerCare, New York, NY; Merle Mishel, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; Susan M. Shinagawa, Community Director, Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness & Training, Co-Founder/Co-Coordinator, Asian Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network, Spring Valley, CA.* Presented in partnership with the Lance Armstrong Foundation, Intercultural Cancer Council, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, the National Cancer Institute and the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. Made possible by an educational grant from the Lance Armstrong Foundation and the National Cancer Institute.

## **Living With Prostate Cancer**

### **Part I: The Pros and Cons of Radiation Therapy**

**Thursday - March 18**

*Adam P. Dicker, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Bodine Center for Cancer Treatment, Kimmel Cancer Center, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA.* Presented in partnership with Prostate Net and Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education & Support. Made possible by an educational grant from AstraZeneca.

## **Hormonal Treatment of Breast Cancer**

### **Part I: Advances in the Treatment of Early Breast Cancer**

**Wednesday - March 31**

*Diana E. Lake, MD, Attending Physician, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY; Bert M. Petersen, MD, Attending, Surgery, Beth Israel and St. Luke's Roosevelt Medical Center, New York, NY.*

Presented in partnership with The Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Made possible by an educational grant from AstraZeneca.

## **APRIL**

## **Cancer Survivorship: Living With, Through & Beyond Cancer**

### **Part II: Talking About Cancer With Children of All Ages**

**Wednesday - April 14**

**1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Eastern Time**

*Wendy S. Harpham, MD, FACP, Attending Physician, Department of Internal Medicine, Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, Dallas, TX; Melissa Hicks, MS, CCLS, LPC, RPT, Child Life Specialist, Program Director Camp Sunshine, President, Child Life Council, Co-Founder, Wonders & Worries, Inc., Decatur, GA; David K. Wellisch, PhD, UCLA School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Los Angeles, CA.* Presented in partnership with the Lance Armstrong Foundation, Intercultural Cancer Council, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, the National Cancer Institute and the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. Made possible by an educational grant from the Lance Armstrong Foundation and the National Cancer Institute.

## **Living With Prostate Cancer**

### **Part II: I've Just Been Diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. What Next?**

**Thursday - April 22**

*Leonard G. Gomella, MD, The Bernard W. Godwin Professor of Prostate Cancer, Chairman, Department of Urology, Director of Urologic Oncology, Kimmel Cancer Center, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA.* Presented in partnership with Prostate Net and Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education & Support. Made possible by an educational grant from AstraZeneca.

## **Hormonal Treatment of Breast Cancer**

### **Part II: Innovations in the Hormonal Treatment of Advanced Breast Cancer**

**Wednesday - April 28**

Speaker to be announced. Presented in partnership with The Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Made possible by an educational grant from AstraZeneca.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **BCM FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

The Office of Research is currently accepting applications for the following three funding programs from the American Cancer Society (ACS):

**JUNIOR FACULTY SEED FUNDING PROGRAM** - Supports new investigators as they begin their careers as independent researchers. Applicants must be full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professors, appointed during the past three years (on or after January 1, 2001). One-year grants in the amount of \$25,000 will be awarded.

**ACS-IRG FUNDS FOR CANCER RESEARCH** - Supports promising new cancer-related research projects by junior faculty. Applicants must be full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professors, appointed during the past three years (on or after January 1, 2001), who do not hold independent, nationally competitive research grants. One-year grants in the amount of \$25,000 will be awarded.

**BASIC AND CLINICAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM** - Supports collaborative research between established independent investigators in the basic and clinical sciences. The program is open to all tenured and tenure-track faculty. Applications should propose collaborative projects between two faculty, one in a basic science department and one in a clinical department (based on primary appointment). Awards are \$60,000 for one year (divided evenly between the two investigators) and are intended to support collaborative research that will generate the preliminary data required for subsequent multi-investigator grant applications.

Proposals are due by Friday, February 27th. Additional information on all programs is available on the Office of Research webpage ([www.bcm.tmc.edu/research/Whats\\_New/whats\\_new.html](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/research/Whats_New/whats_new.html)).

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) / NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (NCI)**

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has numerous cancer-related Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Program Announcements (PAs) available. We are in the process of providing a link to these funding opportunities on our Cancer Center web-site.

### **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

The Department of Defense (DoD) Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) has released a Clinical Trial Development Award Program Announcement to provide support to establish the necessary collaborations and develop the necessary research resources that will serve as a foundation for investigator-initiated clinical trials in prostate cancer. Electronic submission deadline is April 13, 2004. Researchers can view the Program Announcement by going to the CDMRP funding opportunities web pages: <http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/04pcrp.htm>; or by going to the CDMRP electronic submission web site: <https://cdmrp.org/>. You do NOT have to login to review the Program Announcements. An additional reference synopsis table briefly describes each of the Program Announcements, eligibility, focus, amounts, and deadlines at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/ndf/04pcrpreftable.pdf>.

Coming up later: 4 submission deadlines for the remaining 4 DoD Prostate Cancer Research Program Announcements.

1. DoD PCRP HBCU Collaborative Partnership Awards: Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern
2. DoD PCRP Clinical Trial Development Awards: Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern
3. DoD PCRP Physician Research Training Awards: Tuesday, June 15, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern
4. DoD PCRP HBCU Undergraduate Collaborative Summer Training Program Awards: Tuesday, June 15, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern

Below is a preview of the 2004 Breast Cancer Research Program 9 Funding Mechanisms to be released later this month. The Fiscal Year 2004 (FY04) Defense Appropriations Act provides \$150 million to the DoD Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP). The FY04 BCRP Program Announcement for proposal in the following mechanisms are expected to be released in late February 2004 and include, but not limited to:

1. Center of Excellence Pilot Awards, anticipated proposal submission date May 13, 2004.
2. Center of Excellence Awards, anticipated pre-proposal submission date March 24, 2004.
3. Idea Awards, anticipated proposal submission date May 13, 2004.
4. Collaborative Idea Awards, anticipated proposal submission date May 13, 2004.
5. Innovator Awards, anticipated pre-proposal submission date March 24, 2004.
6. Era of Hope Scholar Awards, anticipated pre-proposal submission date March 24, 2004.
7. Historic Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions Partnership Training Awards, anticipated pre-proposal submission date March 24, 2004.
8. Predoctoral Traineeship Awards, anticipated proposal submission date by May 13, 2004.
9. Multi-disciplinary Postdoctoral Awards, anticipated proposal submission date by May 13, 2004.

Detailed descriptions of each of these mechanisms, evaluation criteria, and submission requirements, and deadlines will be available in the FY04 BCRP Program Announcements. Each Program Announcement will be available electronically for downloading from the CDMRP website (<http://cdmrp.army.mil>) and also on the electronic submission website <https://cdmrp.org> upon release in late February.

## **CHARLOTTE GEYER FOUNDATION OFFERS FUNDING FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

Based in Sarasota, Florida, the Charlotte Geyer Foundation supports research into the cause, prevention, and treatment of cancer.

The foundation offers interim funding to researchers whose proposals have been reviewed by the National Cancer Institute and were ranked within ten percentage points of the NCI payline.

The foundation will review recent proposals – either the original proposal, a revised proposal, or a portion of the original proposal deemed to have special merit – that were submitted to NCI; received a peer review ranking in the ten percentiles above the NCI payline; and did not receive funding.

The foundation reviews proposals three times a year (June 1, October 1, and February 1, annually) and awards grants of up to \$100,000. See the foundation's website at [www.charlottegeyer.org](http://www.charlottegeyer.org) for complete application guidelines and procedures.

## **THE BRAIN TUMOR SOCIETY**

The Brain Tumor Society (TBTS), a national research organization, is inviting all scientists to apply for a basic science research grant study brain tumors. Requested funding can be up to \$100,000 per year for up to two years.

The Society invites applications for basic scientific research on brain tumors directed at finding a cure. Any project with the potential to advance basic scientific brain tumor research will be considered. Clinical projects will not be funded.

Grants are awarded annually for up to two-year period, at a maximum of \$100,000 per year. Funds may not be used for start up projects or supplementary funding. Funds will not be grants for indirect costs. Salaries for graduate students or postdoctoral fellows may be included at the PI discretion.

Materials may be downloaded from the following web-site: [www.tbts.org](http://www.tbts.org)

Applications must be received by April 16, 2004. Please contact Carrie Treadwell at 1-800-770-8287, extension 10 or e-mail [grants@tbts.org](mailto:grants@tbts.org) for eligibility criteria and for a detailed description of the grant.

## **CLINICAL TRIALS**

There are two clinical trial studies that are ready for enrollment.

1) S9900 - A Randomized Phase III Trial of Surgery Alone or Surgery Plus Preoperative Paclitaxel/Carboplatin in Clinical Stage IB (T2N0), II (T1-2N1,T3N0) and Selected IIIA (T3N1) Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

2) S0124 - Randomized Phase III Trial of Cisplatin and Irinotecan (NSC-616348) versus Cisplatin and Etoposide in Patients with Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer (E-SCLC)

Please contact Sheena Sharma at (713) 363-7994 for the inclusion/exclusion criteria for these studies.

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Please send comments or ideas for future issues to Shari Stark, Cancer Center, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX 77030

Email: [sharir@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:sharir@bcm.tmc.edu)

### **Center Director**

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### **Editor**

Shari Stark

