

FALL 2018 | VOLUME 8, NUMBER 5

## New Ideas, Promising Prospects Expected When Alliance Fall Group Meeting Convenes November 1-3

The Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology will convene its 2018 Fall Group Meeting in Chicago November 1-3. Scientists, clinical research professionals, patient advocates and others interested in the latest developments in cancer research are expected to attend the three-day meeting at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel. Meeting attendees will select from nearly 100 disease, modality, administrative and special sessions to attend led by distinguished oncology researchers and clinical trial specialists from across the country. This meeting will showcase novel and innovative cancer control, prevention, and treatment trials that are conducted by investigators through a multidisciplinary academic and community research network, which is part of the NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) and Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). [Read more](#)



*Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD*

## Message from the Group Statistician Alliance Statistics and Data Center: On the Cutting Edge of Statistical, Methodological Research



*Sumithra J. Mandrekar, PhD*

Since its formation in 2014, the Alliance Statistics and Data Center (SDC) has provided statistical, data management, and IT collaboration and support for all Alliance National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) coordinated treatment and NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) trials, including more than 150 trials where patient follow-up is continuing or that are in manuscript preparation. Currently, the Alliance database contains records for more than 150,000 patients enrolled on to 891 Alliance and legacy group-led clinical trials spanning the period 1955 to present. SDC staff continue to be on the cutting edge of statistical and methodological research, publishing extensively on novel statistical and bioinformatics methods, analyses and software, and providing statistical support and leadership on publications which leverage individual patient data from multiple Alliance studies. [Read more](#)

## MEETINGS

### 2018 ALLIANCE FALL GROUP MEETING

November 1-3  
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL  
[Schedule](#)  
[Register](#)

### SPRING 2019

May 9-11 | Chicago

### FALL 2019

November 7-9 | Chicago

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Recently Activated Trials](#)

[Six Investigators Win Funding Awards from Alliance Cancer Control and Cancer Care Delivery Research Programs](#)

[In Memoriam: Renowned Thoracic Surgeon - David J. Sugarbaker, MD](#)

## Visit our website

Learn more about what's happening in the Alliance, visit the [Alliance website](#) today!

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## When Designing a Clinical Trial, Think Like a Marketing Manager



**Eva A. May, MBA**

*Eva A. May, MBA, an Alliance Patient Advocate for Prevention and Community Oncology Committees, shares insights of how the cancer clinical process can be improved by engaging the patient community.*

Did you know that only 3 to 5 percent of patients with cancer ever participate in clinical research? [1] And rates are even lower for minority populations. [2]

It's actually not surprising that accrual rates are so dismal. Researchers typically make no attempt to reach out to potential participants. They rely on oncologists or site recruiters to find eligible patients, providing trial details on a consent form or via [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov), both of which are written to comply with protocol guidelines, but are not generally intelligible to typical patients. [Read more](#)

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## Insight Spotlight: Alliance Investigator How We've Thrived in a "New" Marriage"

*Thomas C. Shea, MD, Alliance Principal Investigator at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, reflects over his 30-year involvement with cancer clinical trials with the NCI cooperative group and current clinical trials network.*



**Thomas C. Shea, MD**

Having been a member of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB) and now the Alliance for more than 30 years, I have seen many changes to the organization and to the national clinical trials infrastructure over that time.

Certainly, the biggest change for us has been the development of the Alliance itself as a merger between CALGB, the North Central Cancer Treatment Group (NCCTG) based at Mayo Clinic and the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG). Spearheaded by the centralization of the statistical office under the leadership of the late Dan Sargent and current efforts by people from each of the three organizations, this "marriage" has preserved the strengths of each Group without losing productivity, enthusiasm, or participation by individual members. [Read more](#)

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