

## Alliance Elects Group Leaders

At its first Board of Directors meeting held in Chicago, IL, on July 15, 2011, the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology launched the newly formed cooperative group by ratifying its constitution, and electing and appointing more than 15 new leaders. These leaders will serve a three-year term during the transition, and consist of former members of three recently merged National Cancer Institute-funded cooperative groups: Cancer and Leukemia Group B/CALGB, North Central Cancer Treatment Group/NCCTG and American College of Surgeons Oncology Group/ACOSOG.

Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli, former CALGB Group Chair since April 2010, was elected Group Chair to lead the Alliance, spearheading the merger of the three legacy groups. She currently serves as the Chief of Surgical Oncology at Dana-Farber Brigham and Women's Cancer Center and Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, and is a noted clinical and translational researcher.

"I am proud to say that a generous spirit of cooperation and shared purpose has allowed us to come together in record time without hampering the ongoing work of our individual scientific and accrual teams," said Dr. Bertagnolli. "It takes a community to do the work that we do, and I am very grateful for the confidence this community has entrusted in me to move our new group forward."

The board also elected several board representatives to serve on the Executive Committee, listed on page 4. The Executive Committee is responsible for recommending to the Board of Directors, overall policy and direction, as well as Alliance priorities and activities. The Executive Committee is chaired by the Group Chair and includes the Vice Chair, Program Principal Investigators, and eight representatives elected from the voting members of the Board of Directors, including four Principal Investigators from academic institutions and four Principal Investigators from community member institutions.

In addition, the Alliance board approved the following senior leadership appointments.

- Alliance Vice Chair: Edith A. Perez, MD (Mayo Clinic)
- Principal Investigator and Director, Central Protocol Operations Program: Gini Fleming, MD (University of Chicago)
- Principal Investigator and Group Statistician: Daniel J. Sargent, PhD (Mayo Clinic)

- Principal Investigator and Director, Translational Research Program: Phillip G. Febbo, MD (University of California, San Francisco)
- Principal Investigator and Director, Cancer Control, Prevention and Health Outcomes Program: Jan C. Buckner, MD (Mayo Clinic)
- Principal Investigator and Director, American College of Surgeons Clinical Research Program: Heidi Nelson, MD (Mayo Clinic)

### Alliance Vision

Under Dr. Bertagnolli's leadership, the vision of the Group is to reduce the impact of cancer by uniting a broad community of scientists and clinicians from many disciplines that are committed to discovering, validating and disseminating effective strategies for the prevention and treatment of cancer.

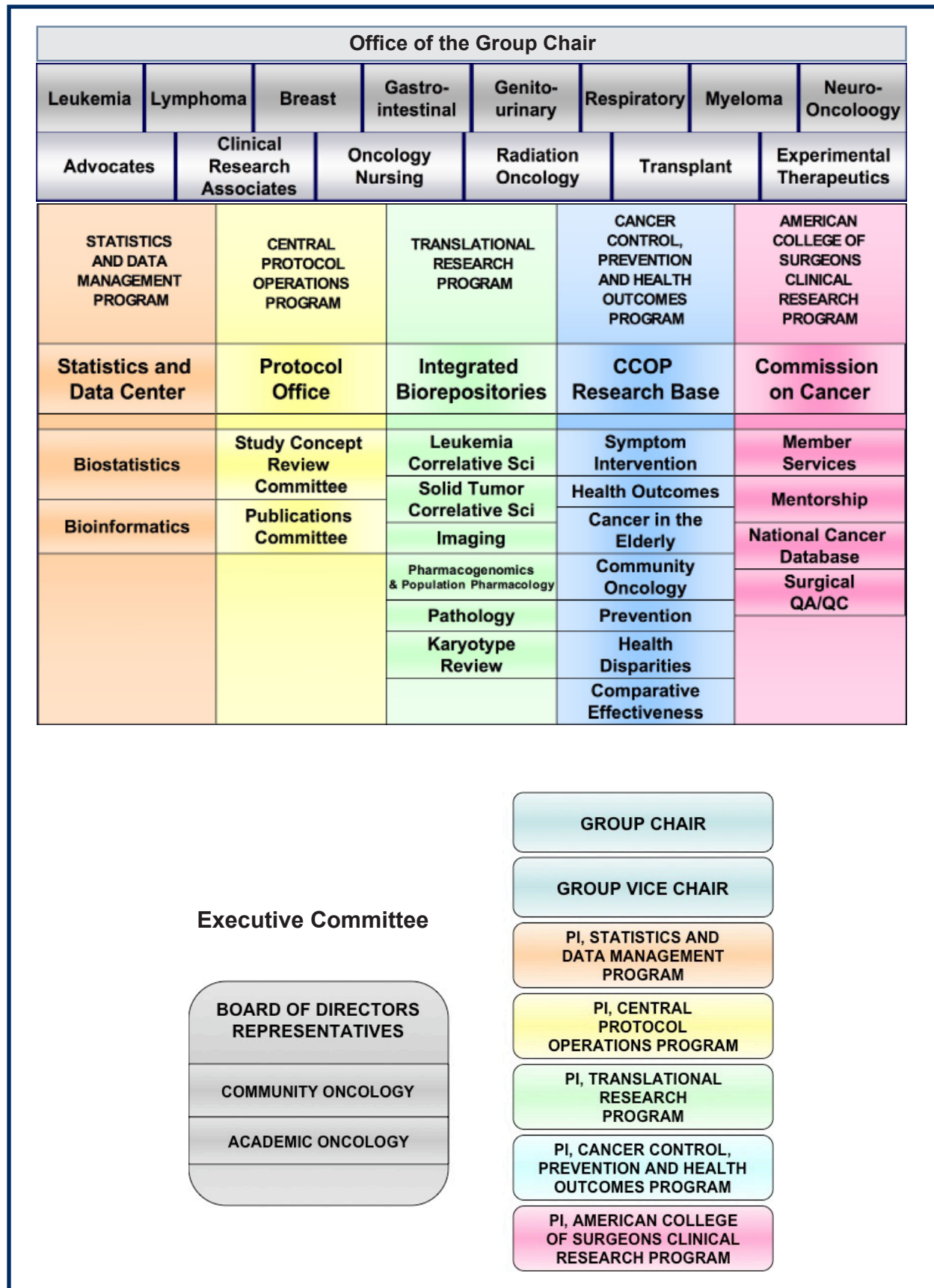
To accomplish this, the Alliance will be guided by a mission to conduct high-quality, multi-disciplinary cancer control, prevention and treatment trials that engage a comprehensive research network. It will continue to further an understanding of the biological basis of the cancer process and its treatment from discovery to validation to clinical practice. It will also provide a scientific and operational infrastructure for innovative clinical and translational research in academic and community settings.

The scientific committees will meet on September 16-17, 2011 in Chicago, to define the new group's scientific agenda. All members are invited to attend the first Alliance meeting, which will be held November 17-19, 2011 in Chicago. The Alliance will operate using an accrual-based institutional membership model. The Alliance transition is anticipated to be a three-year process, culminating in 2014 with the election of a new Alliance Group Chair to serve a full term of office.

**About the Merger** *The merger of the CALGB, NCCTG and ACOSOG reflects the call in April 2010 from the Institute of Medicine to strengthen and streamline operations among NCI clinical trials cooperative group programs. In June 2010, CALGB, NCCTG and ACOSOG integrated their statistical, data management and information technology functions. In November 2010, NCI announced plans to transform the clinical trials system by reducing the number of adult cooperative groups from nine to four. Having already merged some functions, the three groups began evaluating the possibility of full integration to further streamline operations, expand their scientific research opportunities and apply for funding as a new integrated cooperative group.*

# Alliance Structure

The Alliance structure is comprised of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Office of the Group Chair and five programs.



# Alliance Transition Board of Directors

Maheer Abbas, MD	Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles
Steven Alberts, MD	Mayo Clinic
James Atkins, MD	Southeast Cancer Control Consortium CCOP
Nancy Bartlett, MD	Washington University School of Medicine
Robert Behrens, MD	Iowa Oncology Research Association CCOP
Clara Bloomfield, MD	The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center
Judy Boughey, MD	Mayo Clinic
Daniel Budman, MD	North Shore University Hospital - LIJ CCOP
Harold Burstein, MD, PhD	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Jeffrey Crawford, MD	Duke University Medical Center
Shaker Dakhil, MD	Wichita CCOP
Martin Edelman, MD	University of MD Greenebaum Cancer Center
Patrick Flynn, MD	Metro-Minnesota CCOP
Stephen Graziano, MD	SUNY Upstate Medical University
Howard Gross, MD	Dayton CCOP
Stephen Grubbs, MD	Christiana Healthcare Services CCOP
Clifford Hudis, MD	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Kelly Hunt, MD	MD Anderson Cancer Center
David Hurd, MD	Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Anthony Jaslowski, MD	St. Vincent's CCOP, Green Bay
Maged Khalil, MD	Geisinger Medical Center CCOP
Hedy Kindler, MD	University of Chicago
Jeffrey Kirshner, MD	Hematology Oncology Associates of Central New York CCOP
John Kugler, MD	Illinois Oncology Research Association CCOP
Rodney Landreneau, MD	University of Pittsburgh
Marilyn Leitch, MD	UT Southwestern Medical Center
John Leonard, MD	Weill Cornell Medical College
Ellis Levine, MD	Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Minetta Liu, MD	Georgetown University Medical Center, Lombardi Cancer Center
Alan Lyss, MD	Heartland Cancer Research CCOP
Benjamin Marchello, MD	Montana Cancer Consortium CCOP
Miroslaw Mazurczak, MD	Sanford - Sioux Falls
Bryan Meyers, MD	Washington University School of Medicine
Rex Mowat, MD	Toledo Community Oncology Program CCOP
Daniel Nikcevich, MD	Duluth Clinic CCOP
John Olson, MD	Duke University Medical Center
Barbara Parker, MD	Moore's University of California San Diego Cancer Center
Michael Perry, MD	University of Missouri/Ellis Fischel Cancer Center
Bruce Peterson, MD	University of Minnesota
Mitchell Posner, MD	University of Chicago
Kendrith Rowland, MD	Carle Cancer Center CCOP
Thomas Shea, MD	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Gamini Soori, MD	Missouri Valley Cancer Consortium CCOP
Preston Steen, MD	Sanford Medical Center - Fargo
Phillip Stella, MD	Michigan Cancer Research Consortium CCOP
Gary Zezeitig, MD	Doctors Hospital of Laredo
Donald Wender, MD	Siouxland Hematology-Oncology Associates, LLP
Richard White, MD	Carolinas Medical Center/Levine Cancer Institute
Edward Wos, MD	Medcenter One Health Systems - Bismarck
Robin Zon, MD	Northern Indiana Cancer Research Consortium CCOP

# Alliance Executive Committee

Monica Bertagnoli, MD – *Chair*  
Edith A. Perez, MD – *Vice Chair*  
Daniel J. Sargent, PhD – *PI & Group Statistician*  
Gini Fleming, MD – *PI & Director*  
Phillip G. Febbo, MD – *PI & Director*  
Jan C. Buckner, MD – *PI & Director*  
Heidi Nelson, MD – *PI & Director*  
Clara Bloomfield, MD  
Patrick Flynn, MD  
Stephen Grubbs, MD  
Clifford Hudis, MD  
Kelly Hunt, MD  
John Leonard, MD  
Philip Stella, MD  
Gary Unzeitig, MD

Dana-Farber Brigham and Women's Cancer Center  
Mayo Clinic  
Statistics and Data Management Program  
Central Protocol Operations Program  
Translational Research Program  
Cancer Control, Prevention and Health Outcomes Program  
American College of Surgeons Clinical Research Program  
The Ohio State University  
Metro-Minnesota CCOP  
Christiana Healthcare Services CCOP  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Michigan Cancer Research Consortium CCOP  
Doctors Hospital of Laredo

## Alliance Committee Chairs\*

### Office of the Group Chair

Breast

Clifford Hudis, MD

Gastrointestinal

Eric Winer, MD

Genitourinary

Alan Venook, MD

Leukemia

Eric Small, MD

Lymphoma

Richard Stone, MD

Myeloma

Bruce Cheson, MD

Neuro-Oncology

Paul Richardson, MD

Respiratory

Evanthia Galanis, MD

Clinical Research Associates

Everett Vokes, MD

Experimental Therapeutics

Kandie Dempsey, MS, RN

Oncology Nursing

Charles Erlichmann, MD

Radiation Oncology

Lisa Kottschade, MSN, RN

Transplant

Ellen Lavoie Smith, PhD

Jeffrey Bogart, MD

Steven Devine, MD

### Cancer Control, Prevention and Health Outcomes Research Program

Cancer in the Elderly

Hyman Muss, MD

Community Oncology

Harvey Cohen, MD

Comparative Effectiveness Research

Jeffrey Kirshner, MD

Health Disparities

Daniel Nikcevich, MD

Health Outcomes

Walter Peters, MD

Deborah Schrag, MD, MPH

Prevention

Electra Paskett, PhD

Symptom Intervention

Jeffrey Sloan, MD

Ethan Basch, MD

James Marshall, MD

Charles Loprinzi, MD

### Translational Research Program

Imaging

Larry Schwartz, MD

Leukemia Correlative Sciences

Guido Marcucci, MD

Pathology

Eric Hsi, MD

Pharmacogenomics and Population Pharmacology

Mark Ratain, MD

*\*All other committee chairs are in the process of being appointed.*





## 'Time Flies When You're Having Fun!'

### A Closer Look at the Alliance Statistics and Data Center

*By Daniel J. Sargent, PhD  
Alliance Group Statistician*

They say, 'Time flies when you are having fun,' and I can only agree. This June marked one year since I was named Group Statistician of the CALGB, and now of the Alliance. In this short time, I have been incredibly impressed by both legacy CALGB Statistical Center faculty and staff as well as the legacy ACOSOG and NCCTG staff, who all remain totally dedicated to the many ongoing initiatives within our new Alliance.

The largest new initiative for the statistical center remains the implementation of Medidata RAVE®. This advance, which will upgrade the Alliance to a true state-of-the-art system, is requiring a revision of almost all aspects of data collection and management. ACOSOG Z4099 Phase III study of sublobar resection versus stereotactic body radiation therapy in high risk patients with stage I non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is already open in RAVE, and the first CALGB study (CALGB 50901 A phase II trial of ofatumumab in previously untreated follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL)), opened July 15. As of early 2012, we plan that all new Alliance studies will open in the RAVE system.

The other major focus of effort within the statistical center is the ongoing project to integrate the systems and processes of three legacy groups (CALGB, ACOSOG and NCCTG). A great deal of coordination is involved in such an undertaking, and we have had multiple face-to-face meetings between the Duke and Mayo staffs (including Duke staff coming to Minnesota in January – a true sign of dedication!) We are working through the nitty-gritty details of harmonizing policies and procedures, with the single purpose of creating the most efficient and effective policies for the new organization.

On the IT side, we have already come to several important decisions that are in the process of being implemented. It is targeted that by winter 2012, all new trials launched by the Alliance will use a single registration/randomization application, the protocol administrative information for all studies will be stored centrally in a single system, all study data will go into a single instance of RAVE, and the rosters for the three groups will be contained within a single database.

In addition, on April 5, 2011, we launched a major project to consolidate the physical hardware (computer servers) for all Alliance activities to a single center at the Mayo Clinic. This will have substantial functional and financial benefits to the Alliance. This is a major project that will take approximately 15 months to complete (ending June 30, 2012). The Alliance has created an open dialogue with the affected IT personnel at Duke and is committed to retaining these staff members through the completion of this project.

Within the biostatistics staff, we have completed our initial staffing model for the Alliance. As most disease committee leaders know, I have been meeting individually with committee chairs, co-chairs, and statistical faculty to understand the existing collaborations. The Alliance is blessed with a 'multitude of riches' in this regard, with expert statistical staff at multiple locations (Duke, Mayo Clinic, Ohio State and MD Anderson). I am committed to maintaining this irreplaceable expertise, while at the same time ensuring operations are consistently organized and managed and that existing productive relationships are maintained. The statistics faculty and staff at all four statistical center institutions are excited about the possibility of creating new collaborations and sharing their knowledge with new colleagues.

The next years will bring continued exciting changes, and we welcome input from all Alliance members as we work together to build the new statistics and data center. Thank you for everything you do to make our Group the success that it is, and for your continued patience and cooperation as we work through these transitions.



**ACTION NEWS**

*ACTION NEWS is published by the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology bi-monthly and distributed to the Group's active membership through the Alliance website (www.alliance-website.org) and by broadcast e-mail. ACTION NEWS reserves the right to make corrections, changes and deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the newsletter's editorial policies.*

*Forward all correspondence to Jamilah Owens, Alliance Communications Specialist, at jowens@uchicago.edu.*

**2011-2012 Alliance Meeting Dates**

2011 Fall Committee Meetings\*  
September 16-17, 2011  
Hyatt Regency O'Hare  
Rosemont, IL

2011 Fall Group Meeting  
November 17-19, 2011  
InterContinental Chicago O'Hare  
Rosemont, IL

2012 Spring Committee Meetings\*  
March 15-17, 2012  
InterContinental Chicago O'Hare  
Rosemont, IL

2012 Summer Group Meeting  
June 28-30, 2012  
InterContinental Chicago O'Hare  
Rosemont, IL

2012 Fall Committee Meetings\*  
November 15-17, 2012  
InterContinental Chicago O'Hare  
Rosemont, IL

*For questions regarding Alliance meetings and travel information, please contact Katherine Faherty, Alliance Administrative and Meetings Coordinator, at 617-525-3022 or kefaherty@partners.org.*

*\*Closed meetings open to members of committees or invited guests.*



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