

## Molecularly Driven Oncology Steers the Alliance Translational Research Program

With today's genomic advances coupled with a better understanding of cancer biology, the Alliance Translational Research Program is poised to conduct groundbreaking research that will help transform the care of cancer patients. Within the Alliance, the program provides a keen focus on molecularly driven oncology and plays an important role in the development and execution of trials conducted by each Alliance disease and modality committee. According to Phillip G. Febbo, MD, Principal Investigator and Program Director, basic and translational researchers assigned to each committee help drive the program's scientific agenda – to ensure optimal integration of translational endpoints into Alliance trials and to maximize the scientific productivity resulting from pre-existing and developing Alliance tissue resources.

The program and associated researchers also promote successful collaboration between Alliance committees and researchers within the National Cancer Institute's Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORes), cancer centers and individual research laboratories. By integrating the scientific agenda across Alliance committees and ensuring standardized processes of tissue collection and analysis, the program will help define the best practices of bio-banking and biomarker validation that will facilitate the validation of molecularly driven care.

The program's Leukemia Correlative Sciences Committee (chaired by Guido Marcucci, MD, of The Ohio State University Medical Center) continues to  
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Phillip G. Febbo, MD



Guido Marcucci, MD



Mark J. Ratain, MD



Lawrence H. Schwartz, MD



Eric D. Hsi, MD



Andrew J. Carroll, PhD



Mark Watson, MD, PhD



Paula N. Friedman, PhD



R. Katie Kelley, MD



Richard L. Schilsky, MD

# Alliance Translational Research Program

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demonstrate the importance of rigorous, prospective molecular characterization for optimal care of patients with leukemia as well as the scientific productivity that results when molecular and clinical annotation are combined. The program's four discipline committees provide both scientific and operational support for Alliance translational research, and include the Pharmacogenomics and Population Pharmacology (chaired by Mark J. Ratain, MD, of the University of Chicago), Imaging (chaired by Lawrence H. Schwartz, MD, of Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital), Pathology (chaired by Eric D. Hsi, MD, of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation), and Karyotype Review (chaired by Andrew J. Carroll, PhD, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham).

In addition, the program provides management of tissue resources collected during the performance of Alliance clinical trials as a key operational component. It coordinates the Alliance Biorepository Systems, an integrated biorepository program with locations at The Ohio State University, Washington University Medical Center, Mayo Clinic, and Brigham and Women's Hospital. The integrated biorepositories are directed by Mark Watson, MD, PhD, of Washington University School of Medicine. The program also manages a network of molecular reference core laboratories that provide specialty biospecimen and image analysis services that are required for Alliance research protocols.

Paula N. Friedman, PhD, is the program's Director of Translational Research, and she continues to bring investigators, laboratories and industry partners together to facilitate the development of trial and project concepts with integral and/or integrated biomarkers and correlative science objectives. R. Katie Kelley, MD, of the University of California San Francisco, is the program's Executive Officer.

Program priorities, processes and allocation of resources are overseen by the Translational Research Program Executive Committee that includes broad representatives from Alliance committees, biorepositories, and reference laboratories. Additionally, the Translational Research Program Advisory Board provides external scientific consultation and will convene for the first time at the Alliance Committee Meeting this month. The board is chaired by Richard L. Schilsky, MD, of the University of Chicago, and its members include Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD, of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Carlos Arteaga, MD, of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center; William Dalton, MD, PhD, of the Moffitt Cancer Center; Maureen Cronin, PhD, of Foundation Medicine, Inc.; Robert Gillies, PhD, of the Moffitt Cancer Center; Steven Shak, MD, of Genomic Health, Inc.; and Stephen Friend, MD, PhD, of Sage Bionetworks, Inc.



**2012**

## **Richard L. Schilsky Cancer and Leukemia Group B Achievement Award**

The Richard L. Schilsky Cancer and Leukemia Group B Achievement Award was established in 2010 to recognize the 15-year tenure of Dr. Schilsky as Group Chair of the CALGB. The award acknowledges the significant contributions of an individual to cooperative group research.

As an organization, it is vital for the Alliance to identify and honor the talented people responsible for its success. The award is made possible through generous donations from our members and industry supporters. The award is presented each year during the Plenary Session of the Alliance Group Meeting.

All Alliance members are welcome to submit nominations for this award.

The deadline for nominations is March 19, 2012. To nominate an individual, submit a letter by e-mail that describes the contributions of the nominee to: Denise Brennan, Interim Treasurer, Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology Foundation  
e-mail: [dcollinsbrennan@partners.org](mailto:dcollinsbrennan@partners.org)

## **Alliance Studies Moving to CTSU Menu**

If you have visited the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Therapy Support Unit (CTSU) web site lately, you may have noticed the appearance of an "Alliance" tab on the CTSU menu while looking for protocols by lead organization. This new tab is where you will find Alliance group protocols that are available to the legacy group membership only. Legacy Alliance group members include all individuals and institutions that are current members of the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG), Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB) and North Central Cancer Treatment Group (NCCTG).

Phase III studies coordinated by each legacy group will continue to be found under their CTSU tab. These trials are available to the broader cooperative group membership, and will allow participation by any of the adult cooperative group CTSU investigators. N1048 is an example of this type of study.

Select phase I or phase II studies coordinated by the legacy groups that are not available to the broader cooperative group membership will be found under the Alliance tab. This tab will provide legacy Alliance members access to these trials.

A current Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) Identity and Access Management (IAM) account is necessary to access protocol materials and continue to enroll patients through the CTSU. To obtain a CTEP-IAM account, visit the CTSU web site at [https://www.ctsu.org/public/RegProced\\_ir-ar.aspx](https://www.ctsu.org/public/RegProced_ir-ar.aspx).

# Alliance Members on the Move

**Tanios S. Bekaii-Saab, MD**, and **Andrew H. Ko, MD**, have been recognized by the National Cancer Institute with 2011 Leadership Awards as exceptional clinical investigators and for their contributions to the advancement of clinical research through collaborative team science. Dr. Bekaii-Saab is Assistant Professor of Medicine at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, and a member of the Alliance GI Committee. Dr. Ko is Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology/Oncology and Department of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and is a member of the Alliance GI Committee.



*Tanios S. Bekaii-Saab, MD*



*Andrew H. Ko, MD*



*Mitesh J. Borad, MD*

**Mitesh J. Borad, MD**, has been elected to the Pancreatic Cancer Research Team (PCRT) Board of Directors. PCRT is an international network of clinical trials sites organized under TGen Drug Development (TD2), a subsidiary of Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen). Dr. Borad is Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic Arizona.



*David D. Hurd, MD*

**David D. Hurd, MD**, is the first-ever recipient of the Joan K. Maurer Memorial Award for Excellence in Clinical Trial Audits and Quality Assurance from the National Cancer Institute. The award, which will be presented the Alliance Group Meeting in June, was recently established in honor of the former Branch Chief of NCI's Clinical Trials Monitoring Branch. Dr. Hurd is Professor of Internal Medicine-Hematology and Oncology at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, and Co-Chair of the Alliance Audit Committee.



*Electra D. Paskett, PhD*

**Electra D. Paskett, PhD**, has received the American Society of Preventive Oncology's Distinguished Achievement Award for 2012. The award recognizes excellence in research related to cancer prevention and control. Dr. Paskett is a Marion N. Rowley Professor of Cancer Research, Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, and Associate Director for Population Sciences at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. She is also Chair of the Alliance Cancer Health Disparities Committee.

## Do you know an Alliance Member on the Move?

If so, send us an e-mail to [info@alliance-website.org](mailto:info@alliance-website.org). Please include the member's name, affiliation, and a brief description of the member's accomplishment. We want to highlight members who have been recognized recently for their outstanding contributions to cancer research.

# Alliance Committee Meeting

## March 15-17 / Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare

### Future Meeting Dates

#### **2012 Group Meeting**

June 28-30, 2012  
InterContinental Chicago O'Hare  
5300 N. River Road  
Rosemont, IL 60018

#### **2012 Fall Expanded Committee Meetings**

November 15-17, 2012  
InterContinental Chicago O'Hare  
5300 N. River Road  
Rosemont, IL 60018

#### **2013 Spring Committee Meetings**

March 14-16, 2013  
InterContinental Chicago O'Hare  
5300 N. River Road  
Rosemont, IL 60018

For meeting and travel queries,  
contact Katherine Faherty  
phone: 617-525-3022  
e-mail: kefaherty@partners.org

For more information on the Alliance  
and updates to meeting information,  
visit [www.alliance-website.org](http://www.alliance-website.org)