BTOG presents an annual lifetime achievement award

The British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) presents an annual lifetime achievement award to a healthcare professional involved in thoracic oncology who is considered to have made a major impact in the thoracic oncology field. BTOG is proud to announce that Professor Julian Peto was presented with the BTOG Lifetime Achievement Award 2014 at the 12th Annual BTOG Conference 2014 held in Dublin in January 2014. The award was presented by Mr John Edwards, Consultant Thoracic Surgeon at Northern General Hospital, Sheffield.

Professor Julian Peto holds the Cancer Research UK Chair of Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. After five years as a statistician at Edinburgh University, the Institute of Psychiatry and the Medical Research Council’s T.B. Unit he moved to Oxford in 1974 to join the ICRF Cancer Epidemiology and Clinical Trials Unit headed by Sir Richard Doll. In 1983 he was appointed to the Cancer Research UK (formerly CRC) Chair of Epidemiology at the Institute of Cancer Research. He moved to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2004. His work on asbestos, which began almost 40 years ago, included the dose-response models for lung cancer and mesothelioma that were used internationally to regulate working conditions when asbestos was still being used, the first projection of future mesothelioma rates, and the MARS (Mesothelioma and Radical Surgery) Trial. He is now conducting case-control studies on asbestos lung burden and lifetime occupational history in relation to lung cancer and mesothelioma to predict future mesothelioma rates and assess the extent of current occupational and environmental asbestos exposure from the asbestos still present in many buildings.

For further information visit: www.btog.org

Professor Andrew Tutt appointed as Director of the Breakthrough Toby Robins Breast Cancer Research Centre

Professor Andrew Tutt, one of the UK’s leading specialists at running clinical trials of targeted therapies for breast cancer, has been appointed as Director of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre at The Institute of Cancer Research, London.

Professor Tutt will be working as Centre Director while maintaining his roles as Director of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit at King’s College London and Consultant Oncologist at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust - linking Breakthrough and the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) with these prestigious institutions.

Professor Andrew Tutt, Director of the Breakthrough Toby Robins Breast Cancer Research Centre and Consultant Oncologist at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, said: “I’m enormously proud to have been offered this role. My vision is to enable Breakthrough to harness the potential of the resources we are fortunate enough to receive from donors and use them to recruit and partner with talented scientists from around the world to generate fresh ideas and in turn stimulate a new era of life-saving research.”

AACR awards honouring Ludwig Cancer Research scientists

• Jedd Wolchok, MD, PhD, Director of Ludwig’s Collaborative Laboratory at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) received the 38th Annual AACR-Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Memorial Award for his significant and continuing contributions to the development of immunotherapy for melanoma and his application of the strategy to other malignancies.
• Web Cavenee, PhD, who has since 1991 been the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research San Diego founding director is best known for having provided the first indisputable evidence of tumour suppressor genes. He has received the 8th Annual Margaret Foti Award for Leadership and Extraordinary Achievements in Cancer Research for his sustained contributions to the prevention and cure of cancer.
• A team of Ludwig scientists at Johns Hopkins University, including Bert Vogelstein, MD, and Kenneth Kinzler, PhD, co-directors of the Ludwig Center for Cancer Genetics and Therapeutics at Johns Hopkins, are co-recipients with researchers from the US National Cancer Institute and Duke University of the Eighth Annual Team Science Award. They are honoured for their contributions to the scientific understanding of brain tumours and the development of novel therapies for such tumours.
Blue Faery Rewards Liver Cancer Research

Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association is proud to announce the fifth annual Blue Faery Award (BFA) for Excellence in Liver Cancer Research. Primary liver cancer, also known as hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), is the third leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. Blue Faery created the award to recognise medical professionals who develop innovative research in the fight against HCC, which has no cure.

This year’s recipient of the Blue Faery Award is Dr Xin Wei Wang, Liver Carcinogenesis Section Chief and Senior Investigator at the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr Wang’s work seeks to identify better biomarkers for early detection, molecular signatures that can help predict prognosis and molecular mechanisms of liver cancer that may allow for personalised therapy for the treatment of HCC and other liver diseases.

Andrea Wilson started Blue Faery in honour of her sister Adrienne, who died of HCC only 145 days after her diagnosis at the age of 15. Blue Faery announces the recipient of the BFA on April 8 – Adrienne’s birthday. She would have been 28 years old this year. Dr Wang will receive $3,000 to commemorate his achievement; he is donating his cash reward to NCI.

For more information on how to apply for the BFA, visit www.bluefaery.org. To learn more about liver cancer, sign up for the Blue Faery quarterly e-newsletter. You can also call Andrea Wilson at 818.636.5624 or email her at andrea@bluefaery.org

Queen’s University Vice-Chancellor receives top European award

Queen’s University Belfast’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick Johnston, whose work has transformed cancer care in Northern Ireland, has been elected as a Fellow of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences.

Professor Johnston, whose leadership has seen cancer survival rates in Northern Ireland move from the bottom of the UK league table to near the top, has been honoured for his outstanding contribution to cancer research. Professor Johnston has worked alongside some of the world’s leading cancer experts and patient groups to launch a European Cancer Patient’s Bill of Rights. The result of two years of work by the European Cancer Concord and Co-Chaired by Professor Johnston, it aims to address the disparities that exist in cancer care from one European country to the next.

12th Annual British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) Conference 2014

29th to 31st January 2014 – Dublin
Published in Lung Cancer - Lung Cancer 83 Suppl. 1 (2014) S1–S83
Link to supplement http://www.lungcancerjournal.info/issues?issue_key=S0169-5002(14)X0003-6#