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Oncologists & Cardiologists Joining Together to Tackle Cardiotoxicity

BY DANIEL M. KELLER, PHD

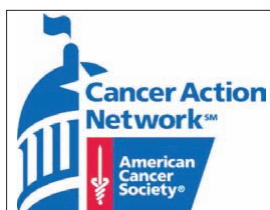
Oncologists worry about chemotherapy-related heart failure, and cardiologists treat it. Efforts are now under way to bring the two camps together to better understand the mechanisms involved, monitor cardiac function in cancer patients, treat heart failure when it occurs, and develop prevention strategies.

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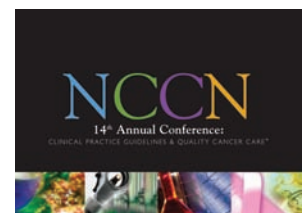
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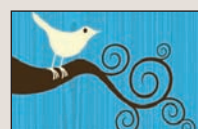


Panel Struggles to Put a Value on Cancer Care

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Shop Talk

The following cancer investigators have been elected new members of the National Academy of Sciences:

- **Doug Hanahan**, MD, of Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California,



DOUG HANAHAN, MD



TYLER JACKS, PHD

- **Rakesh K. Jain**, PhD, the Andrew Werk Cook Professor of Tumor Biology and Director of the Edwin L. Steele

San Francisco.

- **Tyler Jacks**, PhD, Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and David H. Koch Professor of Biology and Director, David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT; and the current President of AACR.



RAKESH JAIN, PHD

Center and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center in July to become Scientific Director of the Cancer Center, Vice

Laboratory at MIT and Harvard Medical School.

- **V. Craig Jordan**, OBE, PhD, DSc, Vice President and Research Director for Medical Sciences at Fox Chase Cancer Center. Dr. Jordan will be moving to Georgetown University Medical Center and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center in July to become Scientific Director of the Cancer Center, Vice



V. CRAIG JORDAN, OBE, PHD, DSC

Chairman of the Department of Oncology, and the Vincent T. Lombardi Chair of Translational Cancer Research. He was also recently elected a fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences.

- **Douglas R. Lowy**, MD, Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research.

- **Dinshaw J. Patel**, PhD, the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Chair in Experimental Physics and member of the Structural Biology Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

- **Harald Zur Hausen**, DSc, MD, Scientific Director Emeritus at the German Cancer Research Center.



DOUGLAS R. LOWY, MD



HARALD ZUR HAUSEN, DSC

Arnab Chakravarti, MD, has joined Ohio State University (OSU) as Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine and as a member of the experimental therapeutics program at the OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Chakravarti comes to Ohio State from Harvard Medical School, where he was an associate



ARNAB CHAKRAVARTI, MD

professor and a radiation oncologist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) as well as Chief of the Brian D. Silber Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Radiation Oncology at MGH-Harvard. A news release notes that Dr. Chakravarti will bring at least six cancer researchers and lab technicians with him to Ohio State, in addition to at least four adjunct faculty members from Harvard and around the world.

The American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology honored the following at its annual meeting in San Diego last month:

- **Sharon Murphy**, MD, Scholar-in-Residence at the Institute of Medicine, received the Distinguished Career Award.



SHARON MURPHY, MD

- **Donald Small**, MD, PhD, of Johns Hopkins University, was selected to deliver the Frank A. Oski Memorial Lecture, which he titled, "FLT3: Biology and Targeted in Leukemia."

- **Alix Seif**, MD, MPH, of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and **Peter Zage**, MD, PhD, of the University of Texas



DONALD SMALL, MD, PHD

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, received Young Investigator Awards.

The American Association of Immunologists has named **Chen Dong**, PhD, the recipient of the AAI-BD Biosciences Investigator Award for his discovery of T helper cell 17, its production of the inflammatory molecule interleukin-17, and their central role in both autoimmune diseases and cancer. Dr. Dong is a professor in the University of Texas M. D. Anderson's Department of Immunology and Director of the Center of Inflammation and Cancer there.

B. Mark Evers, MD, has been appointed Director of the Markey Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky and Professor of Surgery in the UK College of Medicine. Dr. Evers will also be Physician-in-Chief of the oncology service line and will hold the endowed Markey Cancer Foundation Chair. He was previously at the



ALIX SEIF, MD, MPH



PETER ZAGE, MD, PHD



CHEN DONG, PHD

University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he was Professor of Surgery, Director of both the Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Sealy Center for Cancer Cell Biology, and the Robertson-Poth Distinguished Chair in General Surgery.

AACR CEO **Margaret Foti**, PhD, has received honorary membership in the Hungarian Cancer Society, the oldest and largest cancer research organization in Eastern Europe.

Richard B. Hayes, DDS, PhD, has been appointed Associate Director for Population Sciences at the Cancer Institute at NYU Langone Medical Center and Director of the Division of Epidemiology within the Department of Environmental Medicine at NYU School of Medicine. In his new role, Dr. Hayes will lead the development of a comprehensive research program focused on cancer prevention that will identify both genetic and environmental causes of cancer as well as a program to iden-



B. MARK EVERS, MD

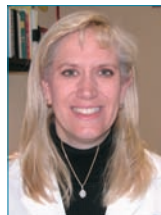


RICHARD B. HAYES, DDS, PHD

tify prevention strategies through risk profiling, early detection, and behavioral changes.

Kimberly Kasow, DO, has joined the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill as Director of the UNC Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation Program. She is also Associate Professor of Pediatrics and a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. She comes to UNC from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where she was Director of the Autologous Transplant Program and last year was honored as the Outstanding Physician of the Year.

Luana Lamkin, RN, MPH, has been elected President of the Association of Community Cancer Centers. Ms. Lamkin is the administrator for St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute at St. Luke's Boise Medical Center and has more than 25 years of oncology experience. She has served on ACCC's Board of Directors since 2002 and has been active on the Bylaws, Program, and Membership Committees.



KIMBERLY KASOW, DO



LUANA LAMKIN, RN, MPH

Harold M. Maurer, MD, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), has been inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame. The recognition honors individuals whose accomplishments in business are historically significant to the development of the city. At UNMC, Dr. Maurer spearheaded the merger of University Hospital and Clarkson Hospital to form the Nebraska Medical Center, which led to new advancements in education, research, and clinical care, including construction of new facilities such as the Durham Research Center and Durham Research Center II, the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education, the Hixson-Lied Center for Clinical Excellence, and several others in the works.

John Potter, MD, PhD, a member and senior adviser at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, received the AACR-ACS Award for Research Excellence in Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention. Dr.

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HAROLD M. MAURER, MD

→ SHOP TALK

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Potter, also Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine, was recognized for his contributions to the understanding of epidemiology and prevention of colorectal cancer.

Alexander Prokhorov, MD, PhD, Professor of Behavioral Science at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, has been awarded a \$3.7 million grant by the US Department of Defense to develop a videogame designed to help prevent and treat tobacco use in the United States military. The prototype for the game is modeled after “Escape With Your Life,” another tobacco cessation videogame he developed. The Army pilot program will feature animations, audio, video, and interactive activities that provide facts about smoking and tobacco use, as well as a soldier-designed avatar that guides troops through the educational track. Some of the modules will include educating participants on resisting peer pressure, coping with withdrawal symptoms, and preventing relapses.

Emory University Cancer Institute is now an NCI-Designated Cancer Center, the first medical facility in Georgia to earn the designation, and as such will receive \$4,285,191 in funding over the next three years.

Five institutions have been named recipients of the annual Susan G. Komen for the Cure promise grants, awarded to investigators from various disciplines working as a team to address challenges in breast cancer. The grants, totaling \$25.7 million have been awarded to:

- The University of Alabama at Birmingham, \$6.4 million co-funded by the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation, to investigate ways to add a new drug, along with chemotherapy, to fight triple negative breast cancer.
- Indiana University, \$5.8 million to establish biomarkers that doctors can use to better predict which breast cancer patients will benefit from bevacizumab, differentiating them from patients who would have significant side effects from its use.
- The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and Duke University, \$6.8 million to study early detection and prevention strategies for ER-negative breast cancer.
- Thomas Jefferson University, \$6.7 million to identify biomarkers to predict treatment response and match patients to the best treatment.

Snorri S. Thorgeirsson, MD, PhD,

Chief of the Laboratory of Experimental Carcinogenesis at the National Cancer Institute, has been named the recipient of the first annual Blue Faery Award for Excellence in Liver Cancer Research, recognizing medical professionals who develop innovative research in the fight against hepatocellular carcinoma.

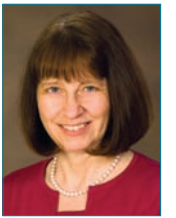


Richard K. Valicenti, MD, has joined the University of California, Davis, Health System as **RICHARD K. VALICENTI, MD**

Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology. An expert in radiation treatment for prostate and other cancers, he has advanced the use of short-distance radioactive treatments, image-guided radiation therapy, and combined radiation treatments to improve the care of patients with cancer. He was previously at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Karen Weihs, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Arizona Cancer Center, has been awarded a \$3,682,256 research project grant from the NCI to

study emotion and depression in breast cancer survivorship. The award, Dr. Weihs’s first R01 grant, will support a five-year study that will enroll 450 women with newly diagnosed breast cancer starting next year. The women will be monitored closely through their treatment and survivorship in order to determine what biologic, psychological, and social characteristics may protect the patients from clinical depression. ☐



KAREN WEIHS, MD