

The Ongoing Hopes and Challenges of Cancer Vaccines

Table 5. Cancer Vaccine Activities by Pharmaceutical Companies

Pharmaceutical Company	Cancer Vaccines in Development	Partners	Acquisitions
Pfizer	CDX-110	CellDex Therapeutics; Cytos Biotechnology	Coley Pharmaceutical Group (immunostimulators/ adjuvants); PowderMed (DNA vaccine delivery)
Merck	V934/V935	Geron; Inovio (DNA delivery); Idera (adjuvant)	—
Merck KGaA (EMD-Serono)	Stimuvax	Oncothyreon	—
Kirin	AGS-003	Argos	—
Bristol-Myers Squibb	MDX-1379 + MDX-010	Medarex	—
Celgene	GI-4000	Globelimmune	—
GlaxoSmithKline	MAGE-A3, WT1	—	—
sanofi-aventis	MEL11	—	—

clinical trials should have a positive impact on study design for vaccines, clearly these recommendations will significantly increase complexity and development costs through need to screen patients, to test combination therapies, and to include more patients and longer timelines. After selling off manufacturing rights to Merck KGaA for its lung cancer vaccine Stimuvax, Oncothyreon recently made the decision to leave the cancer vaccine space to work on more traditional cancer therapeutics. Cancer vaccine companies Genitope, Favril, CancerVax, Aphton, LipoNova and Pharmexa all had Phase 3 vaccines and no longer exist today to continue development of these products.

With lessons learned from the failed trials of the past, there is still hope for the future of cancer vaccines. However, further challenges related to the commercialization of these products could remain. These in addition to recommendations will be covered in the second article of this two-part series. **KD** **SB** **PV**

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ASCO (Alexandria, Va.)

The ASCO Cancer Foundation (TACF) appointed **Nancy Riese Daly, MS, MPH**, as its new Executive Director, and **Martin J. Murphy, Jr., PhD, DMedSc**, assumed his new role as the Chair of TACF's Board of Directors. Also appointed to the TACF Board are **Richard L. Schilsky, MD** and **Thomas A. Marsland, MD**. **Stephen A. Cannistra, MD**, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School will become Editor-in-Chief of ASCO's peer-reviewed publication, The Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO) in May 2011. Dr. Cannistra has served JCO in various capacities since 1989. He will replace **Daniel G. Haller, MD**.

ASH (Washington, D.C.)

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) welcomed to its Executive Committee **Armand Keating, MD**, who will serve a one-year term as Vice President; and new Councillors **Marilyn J. Telen, MD**, and **Kenneth C. Anderson, MD**, will serve four-year terms, while **Mohandas Narla, DSc**, will serve as Councillor for a one-year term. The 2009 Lasker-De-Bakey Clinical Medical Research Award was given to **Brian Druker, MD**, of the Oregon Health & Science University, and **Charles L. Sawyers, MD**, of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, for their research on Gleevec®.

Amgen Inc. (Thousand Oaks, Calif.)

The company was honored with two 2009 Scrip Awards: Best Overall Pipeline and Best New Drug for Nplate®. Amgen's focus on satisfying unmet clinical need was singled out by the judges in making their selection for both awards. Nplate, designated an orphan drug, also won the Best New Drug honor due to its novel mode of action. It is the first treatment specifically developed to treat chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), a rare autoimmune disorder which can lead to serious bleeding events.

Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center (Dallas, Tex.)

The Cancer Center became a full member of Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG), one of the largest cancer clinical trials cooperative groups in the U.S. SWOG is comprised of more than 5,000 physician researchers at 516 institutions.

CancerCare® (New York, N.Y.)

CancerCare named **Helen H. Miller, LCSW**, as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective January 4, 2010. Miller most recently served as Executive Director of The Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation in New York City. She succeeds CancerCare's long-time CEO, **Diane Blum, MSW**.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (Austin, Tex.)

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) named **Jerald S. Cobbs, MBA**, as Chief Commercialization Officer. Cobbs was most recently a principal and Managing Director of Signet Healthcare Partners, a private equity healthcare venture fund. **Stephen W. Wyatt, DMD, MPH**, Dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky, has been chosen to chair CPRIT's Prevention Review Council which oversees the selection of prevention grants.

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Peter C. Adamson, MD, a pediatric oncologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute, has been selected to lead the Children's Oncology Group (COG). His new role begins January 1, 2010.

The Claudia Cohen Research Foundation (New York, N.Y.)

The nonprofit, in association with the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation (GCF), announced that it will award an annual \$50,000 prize to an individual in recognition of his or her outstanding contributions to research improving the care of women with gynecologic cancer. The prize honors **Claudia Cohen**, a well-known journalist and philanthropist, who died from uterine leiomyosarcoma in 2007.

Contra Costa Oncology (Walnut Creek, Calif.)

The cancer specialty practice, headed by **Michael Sherman, MD, PhD**, has moved to a new location at 500 Lennon Lane, Walnut Creek, Calif. 94598, a few minutes from the John Muir Medical Center. The group also includes oncologists **Ann Wexler, MD**, and **Diana Superfin, MD**.

Dendreon Corp. (Seattle, Wash.)

The company hired a new Chief Operating Officer, **Hans Bishop**, who had been President of Bayer's specialty business and oversaw a diverse portfolio of oncology, hematology, and neurology products. Bishop will prepare for and lead the commercial launch of Provenge®, in anticipation of an FDA approval on or before May 1, 2010. The company is ramping up its production and manufacturing capabilities too. Dendreon also expanded its Board of Directors and added **Ian Clark**, who became Genentech's CEO on January 1, 2010, and **Pedro Granadillo**, a now-retired, ex-manufacturing executive from Eli Lilly & Co. Since Genentech is now fully owned by Roche, Clark's appointment signals something bigger to investors—such as a possible partnership outside the U.S. between the Swiss drug maker and Dendreon.

ImmunoGen Inc. (Waltham, Mass.)

Stephen C. McCluski was named Chairman of the Board, replacing former ImmunoGen Chief Executive **Mitchel Sayare, PhD**. Sayare continues to serve on the Board as a Director. In addition, **Howard Pien** was elected to ImmunoGen's Board.

Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)

Adelene Q. Perkins was named President and CEO and joins the Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2010. **Steven H. Holtzman**, Infinity's founder, and current Chair and CEO, will continue his full-time involvement with the company as Executive Chair of the Board. Perkins, who joined Infinity in 2002, has played an integral role in developing the company's strategic plan leading its transition from a platform to a product-based organization.

IntrinsiQ, LLC (Waltham, Mass.)

Mike Raquet was appointed as the company's first Vice President of Business Development. **Maria Rugani** will take over Raquet's previous role as General Manager of the pharmaceutical data division. IntrinsiQ is a leading provider of medical oncology clinical information systems.

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (New York, N.Y.)

Diane Blum, MSW, will succeed **Suzanne Bliss** as CEO, effective January 25, 2010. Blum had been CancerCare's Executive Director for the past 20 years.

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (Norwalk, Conn.)

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) appointed **Robert Lucas** to the new position of Vice President of Development. In addition, **Anne Quinn Young, MPH**, was promoted to Vice President of Communications. Both Lucas and Quinn Young will serve on the MMRF Exec-

utive Committee. The Multiple Myeloma Research Consortium (MMRC) awarded the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and its clinical researchers, **Kenneth Anderson, MD**, and **Paul Richardson, MD**, with the 2009 MMRC Center of the Year Award. The award recognizes the outstanding efforts of an MMRC Member Institution and its respective principal investigators in advancing the field of multiple myeloma research and drug development. Under the leadership of Drs. Anderson and Richardson, Dana-Farber has opened numerous MMRC clinical trials to date and has consistently met or exceeded patient enrollment forecasts. **Frederick Joseph**, who had served as a Board member of both MMRF and MMRC since 2008, succumbed to multiple myeloma on November 27, 2009 after a courageous battle with the incurable blood cancer.

NCI (Bethesda, Md.)

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded the University of California, Berkeley and 11 other leading institutions \$22.7 million for fiscal year 2009 to open a new front in the war on cancer. A collaborative network of Physical Science-Oncology Centers (PS-OCs), supported by the NCI, will team scientists from physical sciences/engineering with experts in the cancer biology/oncology fields in the hopes of bringing new perspectives to the mechanisms of cancer.

Nektar Therapeutics (San Carlos, Calif.)

Lorianne Masuoka, MD, formerly Nektar's Vice President of Clinical Development, was promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer.

NeoPharm Inc. (Lake Bluff, Ill.)

Aquilar Rahman, PhD, was appointed as President and CEO. Since returning to NeoPharm in 2007, Dr. Rahman had been Chief Scientific Advisor and played a key role in advising the company on its research and development activities. He succeeds **Laurence P. Birch**, who is stepping down as President and CEO to pursue other opportunities.

SciClone Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Foster City, Calif.)

The company said it planned to complete a corporate restructuring in the fourth quarter of 2009 which would reduce its U.S.-based workforce by approximately 17%—or about 7 jobs—primarily in research and development. The downsizing follows the discontinuation of SciClone's RP101 Phase 2 clinical trial in late-stage pancreatic cancer after a data safety monitoring committee's recommendation.

Susan G. Komen for The Cure® (Dallas, Tex.)

The leading nonprofit organization for breast cancer research announced that its founder, Nancy G. Brinker, had been named President and CEO. Brinker will replace Hala Moddemog, who resigned from the post in November 2009. The Board also named Mike Williams, previously Chief Financial Officer, as Interim President.

Trubion Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Seattle, Wash.)

Peter Thompson, MD, FACP, President, CEO, Chairman of the Board and co-founder, has retired to pursue other interests but will act as a consultant to the company. Steven Gillis, former Lead Director of the Board, was appointed Executive Chairman and Acting President. The company plans to initiate a search for a new CEO.

Yale Cancer Center (New Haven, Conn.)

The Smilow Cancer Hospital, part of the Yale Cancer Center and the first cancer treatment facility in New England to house inpatient and outpatient care under the same roof, officially opened its doors to patients on October 26, 2009. The new hospital is part of a broad strategy to improve Yale-New Haven's standing—U.S. News & World Report currently ranks the institution 21st in the nation in cancer treatment. **NIC**