

AACR (Philadelphia, Pa.)

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) welcomed **George C. Prendergast, PhD**, as the new Editor-in-Chief of *Cancer Research*. Prendergast, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lankenau Institute for Medical Research in Wynnewood, Pa., assumed the post on January 1, 2010, and will serve for five years. He was previously a Senior Editor and Deputy Editor for the journal.

ADVENTRX PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (San Diego, Calif.)

Brian M. Culley, previously Chief Business Officer and a Senior Vice President, was promoted to CEO and **Patrick L. Keran**, previously General Counsel, was named President and Chief Operating Officer (COO). Keran also will continue to serve as Secretary and Principal Financial and Accounting Officer.

ARRAY BIOPHARMA Inc. (Boulder, Colo.)

Bengt Bergstrom, MD, joined the company as Vice President of Clinical Development. He will lead Array's clinical science and drug safety activities for its growing pipeline of targeted small molecule drugs to treat cancer and inflammatory diseases. Dr. Bergstrom most recently served as Clinical Science Leader in oncology drug development at Hoffmann-La Roche.

ASCO (Alexandria, Va.)

Michael P. Link, MD, a leader in the field of pediatric oncology, was elected President of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) for a one-year term beginning in June 2011. He will take office as President-Elect during ASCO's 46th Annual Meeting in June 2010. Dr. Link is currently the Lydia J. Lee Professor of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Stanford University School of Medicine and Director of the Bass Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases at the Lucile Saltzer Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford in Palo Alto, Calif.

ASH (Washington, D.C.)

Hal Broxmeyer, PhD, internationally recognized as a founder of the field of umbilical cord blood stem cell transplantation, was elected President of the American Society of Hematology (ASH). As a result of research conducted by Dr. Broxmeyer and his colleagues, cord blood has been used in transplantation therapy for more than 16,000 patients with over 70 life-threatening diseases, such as leukemia, lymphoma, thalassemia, and sickle cell anemia. Dr. Broxmeyer is the Chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology of the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Ind.

BARBARA ANN KARMANOS CANCER INSTITUTE (Detroit, Mich.)

Gerold Bepler, MD, PhD, a thoracic oncologist, was named President and CEO of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. Dr. Bepler previously was program leader of the Lung Cancer Program at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla. The Center also announced that **Christopher Steffes, MD**, had been appointed Co-Chief of Surgical Oncology Service. Dr. Steffes is also team leader of the Sarcoma Multidisciplinary Team at Karmanos.

BioNJ (Trenton, N.J.)

John H. Johnson, President of Global Oncology and Senior Vice President of Eli Lilly and Co., was recently presented with the third annual **Dr. Sol J. Barer** Award for Vision, Innovation and Leadership. Named for Dr. Barer, the Chairman and CEO of Celgene Corp. in Summit, N.J., the award recognizes outstanding research and business leaders who have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the biosciences industry in the state and worldwide. Dr. Barer presented Johnson with the award during BioNJ's 2010 Annual Meeting Dinner in January.

BIOSANTE PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Lincolnshire, Ill.)

Jeffrey W. Winkelman, PhD, JD, was appointed as Vice President, Oncology Programs. He will be primarily responsible for managing BioSante's oncology products, including collaborations with John Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, contracts, licensing and intellectual property. Dr. Winkelman was most recently an independent consultant to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry. He had previously been a Vice President at Cell Genesys, Inc., which BioSante recently acquired.

COA (Washington, D.C.)

Community oncologists nationwide, mobilized by the Community Oncology Alliance (COA), launched a national initiative, The Stop Cancer Cuts Petition, to urge the Administration and legislators to reverse drastic cuts in reimbursement for cancer care implemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on January 1, 2010 and compounding through 2013. COA says that the oncology-specific cuts, in addition to a 21 percent physician payment cut scheduled to take effect on March 1, 2010 as we go to press, seriously threaten the future of community cancer clinics, where 84 percent of U.S. cancer patients are treated, and could dismantle the U.S. cancer care delivery system.

GENOMIC HEALTH Inc. (Redwood City, Calif.)

Building on the success of the *Oncotype DX*[®] breast cancer test, Genomic Health announced the worldwide commercial availability of its *Oncotype DX*[®] colon cancer test, the first multigene expression test developed for the assessment of risk of recurrence in patients with stage II disease follow-

ing surgery. New clinical results also suggest a potential role for the test in patients with stage III disease pending further study, the company said in a statement.

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (Philadelphia, Pa.)

To assist providers and patients in navigating the complex healthcare system, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) launched CARES by GSK, a comprehensive program that provides a single point of contact to GSK services and programs designed to improve access to GSK oncology and specialty medications. In addition to offerings that include specialty reimbursement services and free medicine, CARES by GSK now offers its first oncology co-pay assistance program to further help eligible patients with limited insurance coverage obtain better access to GSK oral oncology and specialty medicines. For more information, patients and their healthcare providers can visit <http://www.CARESbyGSK.com> or call 1-888-ONE-GSKCARES.

IRX THERAPEUTICS (San Francisco, Calif.)

The privately-held company, which discovers and develops cancer and viral disease therapies, appointed **Neil L. Berinstein, MD**, a global pioneer in cancer vaccines, as Chief Scientific Officer (CSO). He succeeds **John W. Hadden, MD**, IRX's Founder, who remains a Director. Prior to joining IRX, Dr. Berinstein was Assistant Vice President and Global Program Leader at sanofi pasteur where he was in charge of leading the development of sanofi's cancer vaccines both strategically and operationally. He had worked with IRX previously as a consultant.

ISORAY Inc. (Richland, Wash.)

William Cavanagh joined IsoRay Medical, Inc. as the subsidiary's Vice President of Research and Development. For the past six years, Cavanagh had been CSO for Sangretech Biomedical, where he oversaw the design and implementation of a novel cancer therapy. IsoRay Medical is the sole producer of the Cesium-131 brachytherapy seed, which is used in the treatment of prostate and other cancers.

MEDCO HEALTH SOLUTIONS Inc. (Whitestown, Ind.)

The Medco Therapeutic Resource Center® (TRC) was launched for oncology patients. The new oncology TRC consists of nearly 150 specialist pharmacists and more than 250 support personnel who will actively participate in the care of cancer patients, identify treatment gaps and address quality of life issues, such as managing side effects of their drugs. The initiative places Medco's oncology specialist pharmacists in a more central role in improving health outcomes for the company's more than 850,000 patients currently living with cancer. **Dr. Milayna Subar** is Medco's National Practice Leader for the Oncology TRC.

MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER (New York, N.Y.)

Dr. Harold E. Varmus, the Nobel Prize-winning President and Chief Executive of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), said that he would be stepping down after 10 years as the head of the renowned medical institution. He plans to continue in his present position until a successor is found. Dr. Varmus arrived at MSKCC in 2000 after serving as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for six years under the Clinton Administration.

MOLECULAR INSIGHT PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)

The company said that it would eliminate nine positions in alignment with its plan to support the development of its oncology product candidates and to reduce operating costs. The cutbacks bring its number of employees to 61.

MYRIAD GENETICS (Salt Lake City, Utah)

The molecular diagnostics company said that **Dr. Greg Critchfield** would retire as President of the Myriad Genetic Laboratories unit in order to focus on philanthropy. **Mark Capone**, COO of Myriad Genetic Labs, will succeed him as unit president. In what might turn out to be a precedent-setting case for the biotechnology industry, a U.S. District Court judge in Manhattan recently weighed whether or not a lawsuit should proceed challenging Myriad's ownership of patents for two genes that can determine a woman's increased risk of breast or ovarian cancer. The American Civil Liberties Union and several medical groups sued Myriad, the University of Utah Research Foundation and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in May 2009 over the patents. The plaintiff's side claims that barring other researchers from studying the genes, BRCA1 and BRCA2, is an unconstitutional restriction on knowledge. The judge has not yet ruled on the case.

NOVARTIS INTERNATIONAL AG (Basel, Switzerland)

Novartis named a new CEO based on a succession plan begun in 2008 along with plans to simplify its top leadership organization. **Joe Jimenez**, formerly head of the Pharmaceuticals Division, succeeded Chairman and CEO **Dr. Daniel Vasella**. Dr. Vasella will continue in his role as Chairman. **David Epstein**, who had been head of the Novartis Oncology business, Novartis' fastest growing unit in pharmaceuticals, was promoted to head of the Pharmaceuticals Division. Both management changes became effective on February 1, 2010. Along with Jimenez, Epstein will serve on the Executive Committee.

ONPOINT ONCOLOGY, LLC. (Hudson, Ohio)

Joe Baffone, an 18-year oncology executive with sanofi-aventis, joined onPoint Oncology LLC., a full service health-

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care data solutions and reimbursement analytics firm. His extensive background includes oncology-managed market strategy. Baffone conceptualized, developed and led a non-traditional account management team responsible for working with commercial payers and oncology providers while at sanofi.

ONYX PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Emeryville, Calif.)

Nuvelo, Inc.'s former CEO, **Ted Love, MD**, was chosen to head the research and development unit. Love will oversee Onyx's burgeoning pipeline, which includes the proteasome inhibitor, carfilzomib, which was acquired when the company bought Proteolix. **Michael Kauffman, MD**, who had been Proteolix's Chief Medical Officer (CMO), was named CMO, and will report to Dr. Love.

PFIZER Inc. (New York, N.Y.)

Pfizer presented its first pipeline update since closing a deal to buy Wyeth in October 2009. Post-merger, the drug maker is targeting six so-called "Invest to Win" research areas, and oncology is one of them. It has 30 compounds in development for various oncology indications, including PF-02341066, a c-MET-ALK inhibitor in Phase 3 for non-small cell lung cancer, and axitinib, a VEGF inhibitor in Phase 2 for a variety of solid tumor cancers and also in Phase 3 studies for renal cell carcinoma (RCC).

PONIARD PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (South San Francisco, Calif.)

Poniard reduced its work force by 57 percent, leaving 21 employees, after receiving mixed news from a Phase 2 trial of its lead pipeline candidate, picoplatin. President and COO **Ronald Martell** was named CEO, succeeding **Jerry McMahon, PhD**, who will remain at the company as Non-executive Chairman. In addition, Poniard appointed **Michael Perry, DVM, PhD**, as President and CMO. Perry replaced former CMO **Robert De Jager, MD**, who will continue as a consultant. The changes were effective on February 5, 2010.

SIRTEX (Wilmington, Mass.)

Michael Mangano was appointed President of Sirtex Medical, Inc. He will lead U.S. business activities, including sales of Sirtex's SIR-Spheres® microspheres, the only FDA-approved microsphere for colorectal cancer that metastasizes to the liver. Mangano is a 15-year veteran of Boston Scientific.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL (Memphis, Tenn.)

Two leading medical centers are teaming up on the largest effort to date to find all of the genetic mutations that cause childhood cancer. The three-year, \$65 million project, which is privately funded, could help researchers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis develop new treat-

ments for pediatric cancer. The project will complement the NIH's Health Cancer Genome Atlas initiative, which focuses largely on adult malignancies.

TUFTS MEDICAL CENTER (Boston, Mass.)

The Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care and Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center recently opened The Neely Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic. The new Clinic is a state-of-the art, 5,000 square foot facility at the Floating Hospital, designed as a "home away from home" for pediatric cancer patients and their families.

US ONCOLOGY (The Woodlands, Tex.)

The US Oncology Foundation changed its name to the Life Beyond Cancer Foundation. The Foundation helps patients at the grassroots level with everyday expenses, survivorship and community educational programs. The organization also announced that **Robert A. Ingram**, general partner at Hatteras Venture Partners and former CEO/Chairman of GlaxoWellcome, had joined its Board of Directors.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY (Nashville, Tenn.)

Debra Friedman, MD, was named Director of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Friedman had served as interim Director since July 2009. She was formerly at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.


VERMILLION Inc. (Fremont, Calif.)

Gail S. Page was reappointed as CEO and **Eric T. Fung, MD, PhD**, as Senior Vice President and CSO. Page, who was appointed Executive Chair in March 2009 and led the company through a successful reorganization and exit from Chapter 11, will continue to act as Chair of the Board of Directors.

YALE CANCER CENTER (New Haven, Conn.)

Henry Durivage, PharmD, was named as Director of the Clinical Trials Office. Durivage is currently Director of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Oncology Group and Human Research Services.

IN MEMORIAM

Teresa J. Vietti, MD, an internationally renowned pioneer of pediatric cancer research and treatment for more than 40 years, died on January 25, 2010 at age 82 from natural causes. Among her many other accomplishments, she founded what is today known as the Children's Oncology Group (COG) and chaired the group for its first 15 years. 

>>OBR DAILY NEWS FLASH

Results from a small but promising Phase 2 trial of Johnson & Johnson's experimental therapy abiraterone found that the pill shrank or stabilized men's advanced prostate cancers for an average of almost six months. *(Cancer Research UK press release, 2/16/10)*