

ABRAXIS BIOSCIENCE Inc. (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Abraxis Bioscience named **Lex H.T. Van der Ploeg, PhD**, as Senior Vice President of Integrative Medicine and Translational Science. Van der Ploeg, will lead research and development efforts at the new company.

Abraxis Bioscience Chief Executive **Patrick Soon-Shiong, MD**, will continue to serve as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairman of both companies.

AGIOS PHARMACEUTICALS (Cambridge, Mass.)

The privately held company appointed **Charles Sawyers, MD**, to its Scientific Advisory Board. Other recent leadership additions include **Valeria Fantin, PhD**, as Director, Molecular Oncology and **Jennifer Fujii, PhD**, as Director, Business Development and Operations.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (Atlanta, Ga.)

Victor G. Vogel, MD, a renowned breast-cancer specialist known for his cancer-risk assessment and prevention research, left the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center after 16 years to become National Vice President of Research in Atlanta. Dr. Vogel will oversee \$120 million in research grants at the ACS and will lead the agency's Cancer Action Network of 60 full-time congressional lobbyists.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY (Alexandria, Va.)

George W. Sledge Jr., MD, was elected to become President for a one-year term beginning in June 2010. Dr. Sledge serves as the Ballve-Lantero Professor of Oncology at Indiana University Simon Cancer Center and also chairs the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

ARIAD PHARMACEUTICALS INC. (Cambridge, Mass.)

The company expanded its management team by naming three new senior executives: **Daniel M. Bollag, PhD**, was appointed as Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Quality, **Andreas Woppmann, PhD**, was appointed as Vice President, Manufacturing Operations and **Kelly M. Schmitz** was appointed as Vice President, Information Technology and Operations.

ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS (Rockville, Md.)

Leaders from the nation's state medical oncology societies gathered in Alexandria, Va. for the 17th Annual Oncology Presidents' Retreat, sponsored by ACCC and ASCO. Healthcare reform and its impact on cancer care in 2009 took center stage with oncology professionals in attendance particularly interested in sessions that

explored emerging coverage trends from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, e-prescribing and the future of clinical trials.

BIOGEN IDEC Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)

Carl Icahn plans to nominate four Directors, **Alexander J. Denner, Richard C. Mulligan, Thomas J. Deuel**, and **David Sidransky**, to Biogen Idec's Board at the company's upcoming 2009 Annual Meeting, signaling another attempt by the investor to gain control of the company.

COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY ALLIANCE (Chesapeake, Va.)

Patrick Cobb, MD, a community-based oncologist and managing partner of Hematology-Oncology Centers of the Northern Rockies in Billings, Mont., was elected President of the Community Oncology Alliance (COA). Dr. Cobb previously served as Vice-President of COA and will continue to lead its advocacy efforts in the nation's capitol.

FACET BIOTECH Corp. (Redwood City, Calif.)

Ted Llana, PhD, was named as Senior Vice President, Commercial and Corporate Development. Dr. Llana was most recently Vice President, Oncology/Rheumatology Strategic Business Unit at Biogen Idec Inc. Facet—recently spun off from PDL BioPharma Inc. and led by new CEO Faheem Hasnain—was reported to have terminated **Jaisim Shah**, its Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer.

FAVRILLE Inc. (San Diego, Calif.)

John P. Longenecker, PhD, resigned as President and CEO and **Tamara A. Seymour** resigned as CFO and Secretary as the company announced the completion of its merger with MyMedicalRecords, Inc. on January 28. Both will serve in a transition role during the two companies' integration into one entity.

FDA (Rockville, Md.)

Frank M. Torti, MD, MPH, was named the Acting U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner to replace Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach, MD, who stepped down on January 20. Dr. Torti had served as the agency's Principal Deputy Commissioner and its first Chief Scientist and was Director of Wake Forest University's Comprehensive Cancer Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. prior to his FDA post.

FORMA THERAPEUTICS Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)

The startup company, founded by academic scientists, **Stuart Schreiber, PhD, Todd Golub, MD**, and **Michael Foley, PhD**, from the Broad Institute at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology, debuted as a drug discovery company. Initial funding raised \$25 million to further the company's goal of discovering anti-cancer compounds for difficult oncology targets based on genetic research. **Steven Tregay, PhD**, formerly Managing Director of the Novartis Option Fund, is President and CEO.

GENENTECH Inc. (South San Francisco, Calif.)

Jennifer A. Doudna, PhD, was named to the new position of Vice President, Discovery Research. She was previously a Professor at the University of California, Berkeley in the Departments of Molecular and Cell Biology and Chemistry.

GENOMIC HEALTH Inc. (Redwood City, Calif.)

Chairman Randy Scott stepped down as CEO and was succeeded by President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) **Kimberly J. Popovits**, who remains President. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) **G. Bradley Cole** assumed Popovits' former role as COO and will continue to serve as CFO.

GERON Corp. (Menlo Park, Calif.)

John P. Walker, Novacea's former CEO, resigned from Geron's board after 12 years of service. Walker, said he had accepted a position to head another company, as-yet unidentified.

IMMUNOGEN Inc. (Waltham, Mass.)

Daniel Junius became President and CEO on January 1, 2009, succeeding **Mitchel Sayare**, who continues to serve as Chairman of the Board. **Gregory Perry** joined the company as Senior Vice President and CFO, a role previously held by Junius.

JENNEREX Inc. (San Francisco, Calif.)

The clinical-stage oncology biotherapeutics company named **Samantha Miller** as Vice President of Corporate Development. Miller has over 15 years of biotechnology and pharmaceutical business development experience.

LIGHT SCIENCES ONCOLOGY Inc. (Bellevue, Wash.)

Former FDA Commissioner **Frank Young, MD, PhD**, was elected to a newly created seat on the Board of Directors.

MERCK & CO. Inc. (Whitehouse Station, N.J.)

D. Gary Gilliland, MD, PhD was named Senior Vice President of Merck Research Laboratories and Oncology Franchise Head. Dr. Gilliland replaces **Stephen H. Friend, MD, PhD**, who joined Merck in 2001. Dr. Friend plans to spearhead the development of an open access database of scientific knowledge for researchers.

On the heels of the FDA's rejection of an application to broaden Gardasil's® use in older women, *Forbes* reported that SVP **Bev Lybrand**, who had been in charge of developing and selling the \$1.5 billion vaccine, was reassigned to Merck's cardiovascular business. **Soren Bo Christiansen**, another SVP who had previously been responsible for the osteoporosis drug Fosamax® and the allergy pill Singulair®, will replace Lybrand.

MOLECULAR INSIGHT PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)

The company announced the election of **John W. Babich, PhD**, as CEO. He will also retain the titles of President and Chief Scientific Officer. Former CEO **David S. Barlow** was asked to step down by the Board, which cited a need for new leadership.

Barlow also resigned as a Director last December, prior to Babich's being named as permanent CEO, due to "significant and sustained disagreements" over the company's business philosophy, strategy and practices.

PERLEGEN (Mountain View, Calif.)

Mark J. Ostrowski was hired as Senior Vice President of Sales in anticipation of the mid-2009 launch of Perlegen's lead product, MammaPLUS™.

RESPONSE GENETICS Inc. (Los Angeles, Calif.)

The company, which develops molecular diagnostic tests for cancer, announced that it would triple the size of its sales force to begin serving most major national oncology markets due to higher demand for its ResponseDX™ genetic testing services.

SYNTA PHARMACEUTICALS Corp. (Lexington, Mass.)

Vojo Vukovic MD, PhD, was named as Vice President, Clinical Research. He will act as medical lead for elesclomol, Synta's lead cancer drug candidate for the treatment of metastatic melanoma.


US ONCOLOGY (Houston, Tex.)

Lloyd Everson, MD, Vice Chairman at US Oncology was recently elected to the Board of C-Change, a collaboration of the nation's key cancer care leaders from government, business and nonprofit sectors working to eliminate cancer as a major public health problem.

VANDERBILT-INGRAM CANCER CENTER (Nashville, Tenn.)

William Pao, MD, PhD, accepted the new post of Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology and was also named Assistant Director of Personalized Cancer Medicine; **William Tansey, PhD**, was appointed Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology and co-leader of the Genome Maintenance Program.

ZIOPHARM ONCOLOGY Inc. (New York, N.Y.)

CEO and Chief Medical Officer **Jonathan Lewis, MD, PhD**, received the Sarcoma Foundation of America's 2009 Vision of Hope Award. 

>>>OBR DAILY NEWS FLASH

With healthcare reform on the horizon, UnitedHealth plans to test bundled payments for oncologists later this year which would pay a single, bundled fee to doctors for a few months of cancer treatment or what's considered an "episode of care." (*The Wall Street Journal*, 1/30/09)