

ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS (Rockville, Md.)

Charles M. Balch, MD, FACS, received the ACCC's 2009 Clinical Research Award during the organization's 26th National Oncology Economics Conference. Dr. Balch has had a distinguished career as a clinical and academic surgical oncologist and is a leading authority in both melanoma and breast cancer. He is Professor of Surgery and Oncology and Dermatology and Deputy Director at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research in Baltimore, Md.

BEST CANCER HOSPITALS & BEST PAID DOCS

U.S. News & World Report's annual "America's Best Hospitals" guide, which appeared in the August 2009 issue, ranked the top fifty cancer treatment centers. The top five for 2009-2010 are as follows:

- 1) University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Tex.
- 2) Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.
- 3) Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.
- 4) Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.
- 5) Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass.

Some of the criteria cited by Health Rankings Editor Avery Comarow in making the cut as a top cancer hospital included National Institutes of Health designation as a cancer center, accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) which sets standards for procedures such as bone marrow transplants, and whether or not the hospital has a formal palliative care team. What would Comarow like to have captured in the rankings that wasn't included? The five-year survival rate for cancer patients treated at each facility—he said the data just isn't there yet.

Hematologists/oncologists rank # 8 as the best-paid profession for doctors in America, by specialty, making an average yearly salary of \$335,000 for 2008-2009 according to a *Forbes* online report. The data was based on a recently released annual list of physicians' salaries from Merritt Hawkins & Associates, a medical staffing and consulting firm. Could hem/oncs be feeling the effects of healthcare reform so soon? The specialists' salaries were down from 2007-2008 when the yearly average was \$365,000.

BIOGEN IDEC Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)

Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, is retiring from the Board of Directors. Dr. Sharp, a Nobel Laureate, co-founded the company in 1978 has served as a Director since 1982. Biogen hasn't indicated whether it will replace Dr. Sharp's seat on the Board.

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB CO. (New York, N.Y.)

Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. announced on July 23 that it would pay \$2.4 billion—\$16-a-share, a 90 percent premium—to acquire Princeton, N.J.-based Medarex, Inc. The biotechnology company specializes in monoclonal antibodies and has partnered with BMS since 2005 in developing ipilimumab, a promising treatment for late-stage melanoma. The deal was expected to close in late August.

Wall Street speculates that more deals involving midsize, cancer-focused companies are likely in the second half of 2009, with Seattle Genetics, Inc. and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. being two of the most likely targets. Both companies have biologic cancer drugs in late-stage development, and each has already-established partnerships with big pharma: Regeneron with sanofi-aventis and Bayer AG, and Seattle Genetics with Roche Holding AG.

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS (Austin, Tex.)

Rebecca Garcia, PhD, was named Chief Prevention Officer of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). She was formerly Vice President, Continuing Professional Development, for Physicians' Education Resource (PER), a medical education and communications company involved in professional oncology education.

CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER (Columbus, Ohio)

Peter Houghton, a top researcher at the nation's preeminent pediatric cancer center for over 30 years, has left St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Houghton will direct the Center for Childhood Cancer in the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital and will also serve as a leader of the emerging pediatric-oncology program at Ohio State University.

CEPHALON Inc. (Frazer, Pa.)

Craig C. Phillips was named Vice President and General Manager of the Oncology Business Unit. In his new role, Phillips will manage all aspects of the U.S. oncology business including Sales, Marketing and Medical Affairs. He joined Cephalon's Oncology Business Unit in 2007 as Senior Group Director of Sales, National Accounts and Sales Training. Phillips led a sales team that was instrumental in the successful U.S. introduction in 2008 of two indications for Treanda®, the most recent addition to the Cephalon Oncology portfolio.

ELI LILLY & CO. (Indianapolis, Ind.)

The drugmaker announced that its ImClone group, based in New York, will move to the East River Science Park in Manhattan, slated to open in 2010. The building is adjacent to the New York University Medical Center and north of Bellevue Hospital Center. The company said in a statement that the location will allow Lilly's ImClone unit to work more closely with its academic partners. Lilly bought ImClone last November to expand in the \$48.2 billion market for cancer medicines, adding Erbitux® and six experimental compounds to its oncology portfolio.

FACET BIOTECH Corp. (Redwood City, Calif.)

Mark Rolfe, PhD, was named Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, joining the company on August 20. Rolfe was previously Vice President, Oncology Discovery at The Takeda Oncology Co.

GENENTECH Inc. (South San Francisco, Calif.)

Sandra J. Horning, MD, was appointed as Senior Vice President, Global Head, Clinical Development Hematology/Oncology. Dr. Horning joins Genentech in September after more than 25 years

as a practicing oncologist, investigator and professor at Stanford University. In addition to her Stanford affiliation, she has also held many significant leadership roles within the oncology community. She served as President of ASCO from 2005-2006 and has chaired the Lymphoma Committee of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) since 1995.

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (Chicago, Ill.)

JAMA® has issued a “call for papers” in connection with its publication of a theme issue devoted to cancer in March 2010. Authors are invited to submit manuscripts on any topic relevant to the issue of cancer biology, etiology, epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment. Manuscripts received by October 1 will have the best chance of consideration for inclusion in the cancer-specific issue.

JAMES P. WILMOT CANCER CENTER (Rochester, N.Y.)

Hepatobiliary oncologist **Aram Hezel, MD**, joined the University of Rochester Medical Center’s James P. Wilmot Cancer Center. Dr. Hezel, an Assistant Professor of Medicine, will join the Gastrointestinal Oncology Team at Wilmot where he will focus on the research and treatment of pancreatic and liver cancers. He relocated from Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON (New Brunswick, N.J.)

J&J completed its \$893.7 million acquisition of Cougar Biotechnology, Inc. on July 10. The deal strengthens the healthcare giant’s position in the global oncology market and gives it access to abiraterone acetate, Cougar’s late stage, first-in-class compound for the treatment of prostate cancer, which is currently in two Phase 3 trials.

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

Vaccines chief **Margaret McGlynn**, who oversaw the launch of Merck’s blockbuster cervical cancer vaccine Gardasil® among other products, will resign as of November 1. *Reuters* reported that McGlynn’s departure is likely just the beginning of other executive level shake-ups at the company, which is expected to complete its \$41 billion acquisition of Schering-Plough Corp. by the end of the year.

ONCOHYREON Inc. (Seattle, Wash.)

Diana Hausman, MD, most recently Senior Director of Clinical Research at Seattle-based ZymoGenetics, Inc., was appointed as Vice President, Clinical Development. Dr. Hausman will spearhead cancer drug development of the two small molecule product candidates PX-866 and PX-478 as they move into Phase 2 trials.

OSI PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Melville, N.Y.)

In a blow to Long Island, OSI Pharmaceuticals, the area’s largest biotech company, said it plans to relocate from Melville, N.Y., to Ardsley, N.Y. in lower Westchester County, after it ran into bureaucratic problems trying to expand in its present location. OSI said in a statement that it “hopes to consolidate its U.S. operations onto a single campus,” a 43-acre site with a price tag of \$27 million. All of OSI’s 350 employees, including 200 on Long Island, will be offered positions at the Ardsley facility. The move will commence at the end of the year.

SUPERGEN Inc. (Dublin, Calif.)

Mohammad Azab, MD, joined SuperGen’s management team as Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Azab’s responsibilities will include the design and execution of clinical trials, including the recently com-

menced Phase 1 study of the first-in-class PIM Kinase Inhibitor, SGI-1776. Before moving to SuperGen, Dr. Azab was President and CEO of Intradigm Corp., a privately held Palo Alto, Calif. company developing siRNA cancer therapeutics.

TAMPA BAY RADIATION ONCOLOGY (Tampa, Fla.)

John M. Koval, MD, a board certified radiation oncologist, joined the group practice on August 17. TBRO also expanded by opening a new full service radiation oncology location in Tampa at 12206 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard. TBRO is one of the few locally physician owned and operated radiation centers in the greater Tampa Bay area.

THERAPEASE CUISINE Inc. (Greenfield, Wis.)

TherapEase Cuisine, a new company founded by cancer survivors, has launched a one-of-a-kind nutritional service and meal-planning program for cancer patients which can be accessed online.

The web-based program is based on accepted oncology-dietetic practice and features expert advice customized to each patient’s diagnosis, treatment and criteria. It is available to both individual cancer patients and to the healthcare systems treating them to help patients maintain the proper nutrition throughout cancer treatment.

US ONCOLOGY Inc. (The Woodlands, Tex.)

R. Dale Ross retired as Executive Chairman and from the Board of Directors, effective September 1. **Bruce Broussard**, the company’s Chief Executive Officer and President, will retain his current position but will also become Chairman of the Board as of that date.

Medical oncologist and renowned cancer researcher **Nicholas J. Vogelzang, MD**, has joined the US Oncology Research network and will treat patients at Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada (CCCN), an affiliate of US Oncology, Inc. Dr. Vogelzang will serve as Chair and Medical Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Committee for US Oncology Research and Co-Chair of the Genitourinary Committee

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