

AACR (Philadelphia, Pa.)

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) welcomed **Mary Lee Watts** as its Director of Government Relations. Watts will join the Washington, D.C.-based policy team. She was previously with the American Society for Nutrition.

AMGEN Inc. (Thousand Oaks, Calif.)

On June 1 the FDA approved Amgen's bone-strengthening injection Prolia™ (denosumab) for postmenopausal women with osteoporosis. Amgen also asked U.S. regulators in May to approve denosumab for the reduction of fractures and other skeletal-related problems in patients with advanced cancer. The *Financial Times* recently reported that CEO **Kevin Sharer** is considering acquisitions in the pharmaceutical industry as the company expands its geographic reach and product range and would look for targets outside both the U.S. and Europe. Prolia was green-lighted by European regulators to treat both osteoporosis and bone loss among men with prostate cancer shortly before winning its U.S. approval for osteoporosis. GlaxoSmithKline will help Amgen commercialize the product in markets abroad for the osteoporosis indication.

A.P. PHARMA Inc. (Redwood City, Calif.)

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO Ronald J. Prentki) resigned over what the company called "differences of opinion in regulatory strategy" as it announced the hiring of a consulting team and creation of a board committee to lead regulatory affairs. The specialty pharmaceutical company hopes to accelerate the regulatory process for its lead product candidate APF530, a drug to prevent chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) which will compete with Eisai Co.'s Aloxi®. **CFO John B. Whelan** is currently acting CEO.

ARIAD PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)

Timothy P. Clackson, PhD, was named the company's first President of Research and Development, effective immediately. Dr. Clackson, who joined ARIAD in 1994, also retains his position as Chief Scientific Officer.

ASTELLAS PHARMA Inc. (Tokyo, Japan)

Japan's No. 2 drugmaker, Astellas Pharma, completed its acquisition of OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc., based in Melville, N.Y., for \$4 billion on June 9. OSI manufactures and sells the leading lung cancer drug, Tarceva®.

BIOGEN IDEC (Cambridge, Mass.)

CEO **James C. Mullen** retired on June 8. The company announced on June 7 that its Board was in the final stages of selecting a new CEO and on June 30 named **George Scangos, PhD**, Exelixa's CEO, as Mullen's replacement and Biogen's new CEO. His appointment becomes effective on July 15. Dr. Scangos was also named to the Board.

CARDINAL HEALTH Inc. (Dublin, Ohio)

Cardinal, one of the three biggest U.S. drug wholesalers, will buy privately held Healthcare Solutions Holding, LLC for more than \$500 million. The deal is expected to close early in Cardinal Health's 2011 fiscal year, which began on July 1.

EISAI Co. Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan)

U.S. subsidiary Eisai Inc. opened a newly constructed parenteral facility in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The 65,000-square-foot, \$100 million facility will serve as Eisai's global commercial manufacturing and drug development site for intravenous drug products. Eribulin, an investigational agent for advanced breast cancer, currently under review for approval in the U.S., the European Union and Japan, might be the first oncology product manufactured at the new facility.

EXELIXIS Inc. (South San Francisco, Calif.)

Michael Morrissey, PhD, currently President of Research and Development, was named President and CEO of Exelixis, effective July 15. He replaces **George Scangos, PhD**, who resigned to become President and CEO of Biogen Idec, Inc. Dr. Morrissey will become a member of the Board of Directors, and Dr. Scangos will continue to serve as a Board member for the remainder of his term.

GENMAB A/S (Copenhagen, Denmark)

The Danish cancer company announced on June 15 that co-founder and CEO **Lisa N. Drakeman, PhD**, had stepped down and would be replaced by longtime **Chief Scientific Officer Jan van de Winkel, PhD**. Genmab, which has a multibillion-dollar licensing deal with GlaxoSmithKline for its chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) drug Arzerra®, has recently been rumored to be a GSK takeover target.

GENVEC Inc. (Gaithersburg, Md.)

Mark Thornton, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President for Product Development, left the company. In announcing his departure, the company did not say where Thornton was going or what position he was accepting. He left the company weeks after its key drug, TNFerade™ for pancreatic cancer, failed its third phase of clinical trials.

H. LEE MOFFITT CANCER CENTER & RESEARCH INSTITUTE (Tampa, Fla.)

Dr. Timothy Yeatman was promoted to Executive Vice President and founding Chief Scientific Officer for M2Gen™, a Moffitt for-profit subsidiary established in collaboration with Merck & Co., Inc. to advance personalized cancer treatments. Dr. Yeatman will also continue to head the Hepatobiliary Division of the Gastrointestinal Oncology Program at Moffitt.

INFINITY PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)

Winselaw S. Tucker, Jr. has joined Infinity as Vice President, Marketing. Tucker was most recently at Novartis Pharmaceuticals where he was Global Brand Leader for the company's \$4 billion Gleevec® and Tasigna® franchise in oncology.

INTERNATIONAL MYELOMA FOUNDATION (North Hollywood, Calif.)

The International Myeloma Foundation Working Group held the first-of-its-kind Inaugural Summit from June 8-9 in Barcelona. The Summit was scheduled between two major cancer conferences, 2010 ASCO in Chicago and the European Hematology Association (EHA) meeting, also held in Barcelona, at which scientific data was reported on the clinical success of continuous treatment with Revlimid® and Velcade®.

JOHN THEURER CANCER CENTER (Hackensack, N.J.)

The John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center announced the addition of **Ami Vaidya, MD**, to the division of gynecologic oncology. She was previously affiliated with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey in New Brunswick, N.J.

LYMPHOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION (LRF) (New York, N.Y.)

Bruce Cheson, MD, FACP, was elected as Chair of the Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) Scientific Advisory Board and began his two-year term on July 1. Dr. Cheson is the Director of Hematology Research at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

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

Merck announced the launch of the Merck Oncology Collaborative Trials Network, a global clinical trial network focusing on the development of Merck drugs and vaccines for cancer. Fifteen cancer research sites worldwide will design and implement clinical trials of Merck's investigational oncology drug products with the overall goal of accelerating the development of new cancer treatments. The network will enroll some 1,200 patients in 30 to 40 clinical trials annually.

MYREXIS Inc. (Salt Lake City, Utah)

The company (formerly Myriad Pharmaceuticals, Inc.) announced several strategic initiatives, including refocusing clinical efforts on its oncology pipeline; suspending its HIV drug maturation program for strategic, business reasons; and a reduction in workforce. The commercial operations team and two officers, **Dr. Ed Swabb**, Senior Vice President, Development and **Barbara Berry**, Vice President, Human Resources left the company. The company's name change became effective on July 1.

PRO-PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Newton, Mass.)

Dr. Peter G. Traber, was named acting Chief Medical Officer. He will lead the FDA Phase 3 colorectal cancer trial for Davanat®, the company's lead product candidate, as well as the overall FDA approval process. Dr. Traber was previously at GlaxoSmithKline where he was Senior Vice President for Clinical Development and Medical Affairs and CMO.

ROCHE HOLDING AG (Basel, Switzerland)

Coinciding with 2010 ASCO, the Swiss drugmaker said it expects to submit five new cancer medicines for regulatory approval within the next three years. Roche has a pipeline that currently includes 22 new investigational cancer drugs including its potential blockbuster, the experimental breast cancer drug T-DM1, metastatic cancer drug pertuzumab and CLL medicine GA101. The company plans to file T-DM1 for regulatory approval later this year.

SANOFI-AVENTIS (Paris, France)

Sanofi-aventis boosted its early-stage pipeline on June 4 with a deal worth up to \$398 million for rights to experimental cancer compounds developed by U.S. biotech firm Ascenta Therapeutics. Ascenta, which in-licensed the compounds from the University of Michigan, is working on potential medicines that would be given by mouth to reactivate the tumor-suppressing function of the p53 gene.

SARAH CANNON RESEARCH INSTITUTE (Nashville, Tenn.)

Sarah Cannon Research Institute's (SCRI) Global Services Division, which specializes in clinical research with a focus on oncology drug development, named **A. Collier Smyth, MD**, as Director, Medical Strategy; **Debbie Haynes** as Senior Director, Development Strategy and Operations; and **Carol Greenlees, PhD**, as Senior Director, Global Clinical Operations. Dr. Smyth has spent more than 30 years building and leading physician and pharmaceutical organizations devoted to oncology. Haynes has 15 years of drug development experience and was most recently with Genentech U.K. Greenlees was previously head of European clinical operations for Antisoma Research Ltd.

SEATTLE GENETICS Inc. (Bothell, Wash.)

Charles (Chip) R. Romp was appointed Vice President, Sales. Romp had been with Genentech since 1998, most recently as National Sales Director for Avastin®. **Jonathan Drachman, MD**, was promoted to Senior Vice President, Research and Translational Medicine from Vice President, Translational Medicine.

US ONCOLOGY Inc. (The Woodlands, Tex.)

Kevin Coker joined on June 1 as Vice President of US Oncology Research, US Oncology's site management organization and wholly-owned subsidiary. He had been the Director of Research Operations for Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers (RMCC), part of the US Oncology network.

YALE CANCER CENTER (New Haven, Conn.)

Erin Hofstatter, MD, was named as Assistant Professor of Medicine in Medical Oncology, effective August 1. **Lieping Chen, MD, PhD**, an internationally known expert in cancer immunobiology, was named as Director of Cancer Immunology, and will take up his post on September 1. Twenty-eight of the Cancer Center's members were named top doctors in *New York* magazine's 13th annual Best Doctors issue, published on June 14. Top physicians in the New York Tri-State area—1,119 in 66 specialties—were chosen by their peers. To see which cancer docs were included, visit www.nymag.com/bestdoctors. **NJC**

>>OBR DAILY NEWS FLASHES

Novartis' Tasigna® was approved on June 17 as a first-line treatment for chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), becoming the first new FDA-approved therapy for newly diagnosed CML patients since Novartis's Gleevec®. (*Washington Drug Letter*, 6/28/10)

Pfizer will withdraw its acute myeloid leukemia (AML) drug Mylotarg® from the U.S. market after trial results raised safety concerns and the drug failed to demonstrate clinical benefit. (*Bloomberg*, 6/21/10)