

### **AGIOS PHARMACEUTICALS (Cambridge, Mass.)**

The company, which focuses on the emerging field of cancer metabolism, has doubled its staff to around 45 on the heels of a lucrative drug-development deal announced last April with Celgene Corp. **David Schenkein**, who became Chief Executive Officer (CEO) a year ago, had been in pursuit of just such a “transformative partnership,” according to the *Boston Business Journal*. **Lewis Cantley**, Director of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center’s Cancer Center in Boston, will serve in the newly created role of Distinguished Scientific Advisor. Dr. Cantley already serves on Agios’ Board as well as on its Scientific Advisory Board.

### **ALTOS SOLUTIONS Inc. (Los Altos, Calif.)**

**Barbara Robbins, RN**, joined the company as Director of New Market Development. Robbins will be responsible for marketing OncoEMR, a web-based, oncology-specific clinical management system, to community-based oncology practices across the country.

### **AMGEN Inc. (Thousand Oaks, Calif.)**

**Jonathan Peacock** became Amgen’s new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) as of September 1. Peacock joined Amgen from Novartis, where he had been CFO since 2005. He will be in charge of Amgen’s finance and investor relations operations. Peacock replaces **Michael Kelly**, who had been acting CFO since May 2010.

### **ARAGON PHARMACEUTICALS (San Diego, Calif.)**

The privately held company, which focuses on the discovery of treatments for hormonally driven cancers, named co-founder **Richard A. Heyman, PhD**, as CEO.

### **BIOVEX Inc. (Woburn, Mass.)**

**Steven Kelly** was appointed as Chief Commercial Officer. He will have overall responsibility for commercial activities in preparation for the potential launch of BioVex’s investigational product, OncoVEX (GM-CSF), which is currently in a pivotal Phase 3 study in melanoma. An experienced commercial oncology executive, Kelly previously oversaw the launches of Rituxan® and Zevalin® for IDEC and Eloxatin® for Sanofi Synthelabo.

### **CALISTOGA PHARMACEUTICALS (Seattle, Wash.)**

**Langdon L. Miller, MD**, was appointed as Executive Vice President, Research and Development. Dr. Miller joins Calistoga from PTC Therapeutics, where he was Chief Medical Officer. He also held previous positions at Pharmacia Corp. and the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

### **CELGENE Corp. (Summit, N.J.)**

Celgene received antitrust approval to buy Abraxis Bioscience, Inc. and expects to close the transaction in the third or fourth quarter of this year. In June, Celgene announced it would buy the company for about \$2.9 billion in a move to expand its array of cancer treatments. Abraxis’ only approved drug is the breast cancer treatment Abraxane®, which has the potential to treat other types of cancer.

### **CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (Baltimore, Md.)**

President Obama named **Donald Berwick, MD**, as head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which had been without a permanent administrator since 2006. Dr. Berwick had previously served as President and CEO at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement at Harvard Medical School and is a professor at Harvard University.

### **DENDREON Corp. (Seattle, Wash.)**

Here are some facts related to the marketing of Provenge®, Dendreon’s recently approved immunotherapy for advanced prostate cancer:

- » The CMS is conducting a rare review to make a National Coverage Determination (NCD) as to Medicare reimbursement with a final decision expected before the end of June 2011.
- » Despite its hefty cost—\$93,000—private insurers including Humana, Aetna, and Kaiser Permanente have already said they’ll cover Provenge.
- » Doctors have written 500 prescriptions for the treatment since its launch in May 2010.
- » **CEO Mitch Gold** says the company is on track to treat 2,000 men in the first full year Provenge is on the market.

### **FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER RESEARCH CENTER (Seattle, Wash.)**

**Lawrence Corey, MD**, an internationally renowned expert in virology, immunology and vaccine development, was named as the new Director and President. Dr. Corey will begin his new post on January 1, 2011. He succeeds Nobel laureate, **Lee Hartwell, PhD**, who will retire this fall after 13 years leading the Center.

### **GENEREX BIOTECHNOLOGY Corp. (Worcester, Mass.)**

**Craig Eagle, MD**, was named to the Scientific Advisory Board to help advance the synthetic cancer and influenza vaccine development efforts of the company’s wholly-owned subsidiary, Antigen Express, Inc., dba Generex Oncology. Dr. Eagle currently serves as Vice President of Strategic Alliances and Partnerships for the Oncology Business Unit at Pfizer.

### **MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER (Houston, Tex.)**

Dallas businessman and philanthropist **H. Ross Perot** has donated \$20 million to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for research to advance and design novel targeted therapies. The funds will be divided equally between two new initiatives at MD Anderson: an Institute for Personalized Cancer Therapy (IPCT), which matches patients with the most effective treatments, and a Center for Targeted Therapy (CTT), which speeds the delivery of targeted drug therapies from the research bench to the clinic.

**Mark Roh, MD**, an internationally renowned liver cancer surgeon at MD Anderson Cancer Center—Orlando, has been appointed Medical and Scientific Director. The Cancer Center—Orlando also recently welcomed five oncologists to its team: **Debashish Bose, MD**, joined the Surgical Oncology team as a pancreatic surgeon; **Christopher Bryant, MD**, joined the Gynecologic Oncology team; **Sreeram Maddipatla, MD**, joined the Medical Oncology/Hematology team; **Kavita Pattani, MD**, joined the Head and Neck Surgical Oncology team; and **Justin Rineer, MD**, joined the Radiation Oncology department.

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

**Craig B. Thompson, MD**, was named the new President and CEO of MSKCC effective November 2. Dr. Thompson, a renowned cancer researcher and clinician, has served since 2006 as Director of the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania and Associate Vice President for Cancer Services of the University of Pennsylvania Health System. He succeeds **Harold Varmus, MD**, who will head the NCI.

## M2GEN (Tampa, Fla.)

Pharmaceutical industry veteran **Cathy Kerzner** was appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer at M2Gen™, a wholly owned for-profit subsidiary of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa. M2Gen focuses on advancing personalized medicine in a partnership with Merck & Co.

## NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (Bethesda, Md.)

Nobel Prize winner **Harold E. Varmus, MD**, took the oath of office on July 12 to become the NCI's 14th director. Dr. Varmus most recently served as President of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, and was Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from 1993 through 1999.

## NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK (Fort Washington, Pa.)

The nonprofit alliance of 21 leading cancer centers received two individual \$2 million research grants from GlaxoSmithKline to evaluate the effectiveness of its cancer medicines Arzerra® in hematologic malignancies and Votrient® in the treatment of solid tumors. Investigators from NCCN member institutions are eligible to apply for the research funding. Arzerra is approved for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), while Votrient is approved for advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC).

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE (London, U.K.)

Britain is providing an extra 50 million pounds (\$78 million) to pay for cancer medicines from October, bringing forward a government promise to give access to drugs even if they have not been approved by cost watchdog NICE. The new money will allow doctors to prescribe treatments on the state health service that may have been rejected or not yet assessed by NICE.

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER (Columbus, Ohio)

**Steven Devine, MD**, Director of the Blood and Marrow Transplant program at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCC) – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute, is the new Chair of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB) transplant modality committee.

## ONYX PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Emeryville, Calif.)

**President and CEO N. Anthony (Tony) Coles** was appointed to a one-year term on the board of Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. Coles, who has been at the helm of Onyx since March 2008, is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University.

Onyx is moving its headquarters—and about 220 employees—from Emeryville to South San Francisco this September, taking space formerly occupied by Exelixis, Inc., a biotech which laid off

about 40 percent of its employees earlier this year. The new location is: 249 E. Grand Ave., South San Francisco, CA 94080.

## SANOFI-AVENTIS SA (Paris, France)

Sanofi-aventis announced a \$65 million expansion in Cambridge, Mass., that will create about 300 jobs. The drug maker is in the process of leasing space in Cambridgeport, where it will establish a joint headquarters for a new cancer division. **Debassish Roychowdhury, MD**, who runs Sanofi's new oncology unit, said in a statement that Cambridge was a natural choice "given the city's role as one of the world's most important centers for biotech research and talented oncology minds."

Sanofi's Jevtana® became available in the U.S. on July 19 for patients with metastatic hormone-refractory prostate cancer (mHRPC) previously treated with a docetaxel-based treatment regimen. Jevtana launched just one month following a priority review and its approval by the FDA on June 17.

## SPECTRUM PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (Irvine, Calif.)

**George Tidmarsh, MD, PhD**, was named as Senior Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer and Head of Research and Development Operations. Prior to joining Spectrum, Dr. Tidmarsh founded Metronome Therapeutics, a privately held biopharmaceutical company focused on novel cancer drug development. He served as a consultant to Spectrum prior to his appointment.

## SUNESIS PHARMACEUTICALS Inc. (South San Francisco, Calif.)

The company's lead drug candidate, formerly voreloxin, will now be called vosaroxin. Sunesis' pivotal Phase 3 trial of vosaroxin in relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia (AML) will begin enrollment later this year.

## U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (Silver Spring, Md.)

The Office of Oncology Drug Products (OODP) is planning a reorganization that is expected to take effect in 2011. The OODP, which now comprises three divisions, will change its name to the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products (OHOP) and will create a new structure with four divisions. A distinct division to be called the Division of Hematology Oncology Toxicology (DHOT) will be dedicated to reviewing the nonclinical pharmacology and toxicology of oncology products.

## US ONCOLOGY Inc. (The Woodlands, Tex.)

**John E. Osborn** joined as Executive Vice President and General Counsel on August 23. Osborn will manage US Oncology's legal and government relations departments, and will lead the development of public policy strategy. He was previously Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Cephalon, Inc.

**Claire Hatty Crye** recently joined the corporate communications team as Manager of Public Relations. Crye is an award-winning broadcast journalist who formerly worked for ABC's local affiliate, WBRZ-TV, in Baton Rouge, La.

## YALE CANCER CENTER (New Haven, Conn.)

**Anees B. Chagpar, MD**, was appointed Director of the Yale Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital, effective on September 1. She was previously Director of the Multidisciplinary Breast Program at James Graham Brown Cancer Center in Louisville, Ky.

