60th Annual Cancer Symposium to explore innovations, controversies, March 15 – 18

An exploration of advances and controversies in surgical oncology practice standards, and a comprehensive overview of emerging innovations form the core of the Society of Surgical Oncology’s 60th Annual Cancer Symposium, Thursday, March 15 – Sunday, March 18, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C.

“The 60th Annual Cancer Symposium will feature excellent educational symposia and world-renowned professors to encourage focused discussion on topics that are critically important to surgical oncologists,” explained Scientific Program Committee Chair Dr. Henry M. Kuerer, Houston, TX. “This year’s Program Committee has done an exemplary job in providing a balanced perspective on topics ranging from translational laboratory research and practical clinical standards to large protocol-based national clinical trials.”

A record 520 abstracts were submitted for this year’s meeting, with 350 selected for oral and poster presentation. “The quality of the submitted studies was outstanding. We have a lot to look forward to at the meeting,” Dr. Kuerer added.

The 60th Annual Cancer Symposium will feature a series of scientific programs covering a diverse range of topics, including:

- Advances and Controversies in the Treatment of Early Stage Breast Cancer — Drs. Terry Mamounas, Canton, OH, and Jane Méndez, Boston, MA, moderate this breakfast symposium that covers controversies in axillary sentinel lymph node biopsy, the pros and cons of partial breast irradiation, new systemic therapies, and whether genomic profiling for prognosis and prediction is ready for “prime time.” (Thursday, March 15)

Former SSO President Dr. John Niederhuber appointed National Cancer Institute Director

Former Society President Dr. John E. Niederhuber became the 13th Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD, in October 2006. He succeeds Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, another Society member, who was confirmed as FDA Commissioner last year.

Dr. Niederhuber, 2001-02 SSO President, was appointed by President George W. Bush after having served as NCI’s acting director since June 2006. He was sworn in by Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt during a ceremony at the NIH campus.

“NCI has an important mission in protecting the health of the American people and many important initiatives underway,” Secretary Leavitt said. “Dr. Niederhuber’s commitment to service and experience as a surgeon, laboratory scientist, and a leader in translating lab advances into treatments for patients will serve NCI and the nation well.”

“Dr. Niederhuber is a nationally renowned surgeon and researcher, and has dedicated his entire academic career to the treatment and study of cancer, thus making him an excellent choice to be the next Director of NCI,” said NIH Director Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Niederhuber was NCI’s Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director for Translational and Clinical Sciences. In 2002, President Bush appointed him chair of the National Cancer Advisory Board, a role he later resigned to become NCI’s deputy director.

Dr. Niederhuber held leadership positions at some of the nation’s most respected cancer research facilities, including...
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Strategic Plan leads series of new initiatives designed to maintain Society’s leadership role

By Dr. Raphael E. Pollock

A happy 2007 to everyone!

It has been a busy past several months, beginning with July’s strategic planning retreat in Chicago. Members of the SSO Executive Committee, as well as several former Society Presidents, gave their time to discuss a number of important issues. These deliberations have been instrumental in developing a Strategic Plan for the SSO — the implementation of which will extend considerably beyond my term as your President.

The SSO Mission and Vision Statements, not altered since the early 1990s, were revised and are presented in the preamble of the new SSO Strategic Plan, available for your examination on the SSO website and on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

Among the major features of this strategic initiative, several new committees and task forces have been created with the intent of broadening the SSO membership while also proactively addressing several critical issues that will have major impact on our specialty.

A Committee of Community Surgical Oncologists has been established, and I have appointed Dr. Peter Beitsch, Dallas, TX, to chair this new group. There are many issues that impact community-based surgical oncologists. This committee will provide a mechanism to identify/research pertinent concerns and bring them forward to the SSO Executive Council and general membership for further consideration.

The Executive Committee also authorized creation of an International Committee to be chaired by Dr. Joseph Klausner, Tel Aviv, Israel. Surgical oncology is subject to the same forces of globalization as all other aspects of clinical medicine; more vigorous input from — and connection with — our overseas members will help broaden the SSO membership base. This will provide a more formal conduit for important international perspectives as we maintain our position as the world’s preeminent professional organization focusing on surgical oncology.

The chairmen of both the Community Surgical Oncologists and International Surgical Oncology Committees will serve as members of the SSO Executive Council to ensure that the agendas of these membership constituencies are best considered.

Three new task forces have also been created, including:

- **Outcomes Task Force**, chaired by Dr. Stanley Leong, San Francisco, CA;
- **Disparities Task Force**, chaired by Dr. Lisa Newman, Ann Arbor, MI;
- **American Board of Surgery Task Force**, led by Dr. James Goodnight, Sacramento, CA.

The Surgical Oncology Advisory Council of the American Board of Surgery, where SSO is represented by Drs. John Daly, Ronald Weigel, Jeffrey Moley, Rache Simmons, Fabrizio Michelassi and myself, has been asked by the American Board of Surgery to consider how Maintenance of Certification (and board certification processes and procedures) will change in the future.

The American Board of Surgery Task Force will provide a mechanism to help ensure that your perspectives are heard and forwarded to the Surgical Oncology Advisory Council as these important issues are deliberated over the next several years.

An additional area of major activity has been the development of the SSO Clinical Investigator Award Program. A number of individuals have been instrumental in this effort.

Dr. James Economou, Chair of the Fellowship and Research Grants Committee, provided outstanding leadership that enabled rapid development of an electronically-based application mechanism. Dr. Charles M. Balch has been extremely helpful in coordinating a series of meetings involving SSO Executive Committee members and the senior leadership of many “Big Pharma” groups. My personal thanks go to the Executive Committee and other Society members who generously participated in these visits.

Based on the success of these shared efforts, I am pleased to announce that the SSO Clinical Investigator Awards program will be initiated this year, with the first awards presented at the SSO Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. I hope to see you there!

Dr. Raphael Pollock

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Annual Cancer Symposium boasts impressive slate of featured speakers

The 60th Annual Cancer Symposium in Washington D.C., will feature a distinguished list of guest lecturers. They are:

- Dr. John E. Niederhuber, Director, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, NCI Director's Update (Thursday, March 15);
- Dr. Raphael E. Pollock, Head, Division of Surgery, Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgical Oncology, U.T.M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, “The SSO at the Crossroad: The Future is Now,” SSO Presidential Address (Friday, March 16);
- Dr. Lawrence D. Wagman, Duarte, CA, and Francis R. Spitz, Philadelphia, PA, “Systems Medicine: Predictive, Preventive, Personalized and Participatory,” American Cancer Society/SSO Basic Science Lecture (Friday, March 16);
- Dr. John Mendelsohn, President and Professor of Cancer Medicine, U.T.M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, “The EGF Receptor as a Target for Cancer Therapy,” John Wayne Clinical Research Lecture (Saturday, March 17);
- Dr. Donald L. Morton, Chief, Melanoma Program and Director, Fellowship Program, John Wayne Cancer Institute, Santa Monica, CA, “Evolution and Present Status of Lymphatic Mapping and Sentinel Node Biopsy in Melanoma,” James Ewing Lecture (Saturday, March 17).

CPT coding program to offer reimbursement tips

An interactive panel discussion and review session designed to help surgical oncologists maximize reimbursement through CPT Code use will take place Friday, March 16, during the 60th Annual Cancer Symposium in Washington, D.C.

Maximizing Reimbursement: The Use of CPT Coding in a Surgical Oncology Practice will focus on how to effectively code for the most common procedures performed by SSO members as indicated in last year’s membership survey.

Drs. Lawrence D. Wagman, Duarte, CA, and Francis R. Spitz, Philadelphia, PA, will moderate the program.

“As expenses increase and reimbursement levels remain flat, this program will explore critical coding issues facing surgical oncologists in the academic and private practice settings,” Dr. Wagman said. “The panel will offer tips for improving reimbursement for professional services, maximizing compliance and avoiding potentially costly challenges.”

Topics and presenters featured during the CPT coding program include:

- Activity and Role of the American College of Surgeons General Surgery Coding and Reimbursement Committee (GSCRC) and Where in the Process Can the SSO Organization and Membership Contribute and Participate? — Dr. John O’Gage, Pensacola, FL;
- Practice Management Strategies — Dr. Charles D. Mabry, Pine Bluff, AR;
- Fundamentals of Coding for the Surgical Oncologist — Dr. Michael B. Flynn, Louisville, KY.

A panel review and discussion, How I Bill It, will close out the program.

“We believe surgical oncologists should be paid for the value of their services.”

“Due to the “budget-neutral” nature of CPT Codes, however, increases in reimbursement for one particular code will affect other codes negatively. Ultimately, effective coding will affect surgical oncologists’ ability to remain in the business of caring for our patients.”
Aromatase Inhibitors and Early Breast Cancer: Treatment Strategies for Surgical Oncologists — A panel of experts led by Dr. Helen A. Pass, Royal Oak, MI, will discuss how neoadjuvant AI therapies improve outcomes. The panel will also address biomarkers as predictors of neoadjuvant treatment outcomes, and the role of endocrine therapy in ductal carcinoma in situ. (Thursday, March 15)

Advances in Molecular and Cellular Staging of Breast Cancer — Drs. Kelly M. McMasters, Louisville, KY, and Judy Boughey, Houston, TX, will moderate this symposium featuring presentations covering rapid intraoperative molecular assay, the molecular characterization of circulating tumor cells, novel molecular prognostic assay for lymph node-negative breast cancer, and micrometastases in bone marrow. (Thursday, March 15)

Advances in Melanoma Therapy — New inroads to adjuvant therapy, optimal use of imaging studies for patients, the current status of vaccine therapy and the current status of clinical trials are topics that will be covered during this symposium moderated by Dr. McMasters. (Thursday, March 15)

Management of Familial Cancer Syndromes — This overview of the diagnosis and management of MEN, hamartomatous polyposis syndromes, HNPCC, FAP, and familial breast and ovarian cancers will be moderated by Drs. Miguel A. Rodriquez-Bigas, Houston, TX, and Lisa A. Newman, Ann Arbor, MI. (Saturday, March 17)

Management of Rectal Cancer — Moderated by Drs. James C. Cusack, Jr., Boston, MA, and Timothy J. Yeatman, Tampa, FL, this symposium on rectal cancer covers total mesorectal excision, minimally invasive resection, preoperative staging of rectal cancer with MRI, and management options following neoadjuvant therapy. (Thursday, March 15)

Current Status: Surgical Therapy for Peritoneal Carcinomatosis — Drs. Edward A. Levine, Winston-Salem, NC, and Jesus Esquivel, Washington, D.C., moderate this session that provides a history of peritoneal surface disease, peritoneectomy procedures, selection criteria, and an overview of CS and IPHC mesothelioma, colorectal and appendicdial cancers. (Friday, March 16)

Other sessions to be presented during the meeting include Optimizing the Management of Anemia in Cancer Surgery; Multi-Modality Management of Primary and Metastatic Liver Lesions; Stress and Burnout in Surgical Oncology Practice; Controversies in Hepatobiliary Surgery; and Multidisciplinary Advances in Head and Neck Cancer: Implications for Surgical Oncology.

Plenary sessions, held Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17, feature clinical updates from around the world. Parallel sessions and cancer forums cover vital issues in gastrointestinal cancer, breast cancer, melanoma, endocrine cancer, sarcoma and surgical outcomes.

Other Annual Cancer Symposium highlights include Saturday and Sunday Meet the Professor Breakfasts, where featured speakers of international prominence discuss the latest challenges in surgical oncology in a more intimate setting.

The Issues and Government Affairs Committee will host a presentation on Medical Malpractice Issues for Surgeons (Saturday, March 17). In addition, a symposium on Surgical Quality and Safety will be presented by the Society’s Clinical Affairs Committee (Thursday, March 15).

Former SSO President Dr. S. Eva Singletary, Houston, TX, will honor 1998-99 Society President Dr. Edward M. Copeland, Gainesville, FL, during the Annual Heritage Presentation (Friday, March 16).

The complete program is available online at www.surgonc.org.
**Annals to launch Policies/Outcomes section; non-meeting submissions increase 130%**

*Annals of Surgical Oncology* will introduce a Healthcare Policies/Outcomes section in 2007 geared toward enhancing interest among community surgical oncologists, Executive Editor Dr. Mark S. Roh, Pittsburgh, PA, reported.

Dr. Roh also announced that non-meeting submissions to the Journal have increased 130% in the past year.

Publication of the new section is part of the Editorial Board’s long-term strategy to increase readership and interest in *Annals*.

“The Healthcare Policies and Outcomes section is especially relevant to surgical oncologists who work primarily in the service of patients,” Dr. Roh explained. “We in academia tend to be ‘protected’ from these issues, whereas private practitioners must deal with them on a daily basis. *Annals* will provide topics of interest that are directly relevant to the community surgical oncologist and further expand the appeal of the Journal’s editorial excellence.”

Dr. Roh believes that the quality of manuscripts submitted for editorial consideration is the root cause of the Journal’s continued success and enhanced prestige. The Journal’s growing reputation, in turn, has resulted in the 130% increase in the number of submitted abstracts that are not affiliated with the Society’s Annual Cancer Symposium.

“The Editorial Board is constantly striving to increase *Annals*’ appeal to a wide spectrum of readers,” Dr. Roh explained. “That involves aggressively seeking manuscripts that cater to our ever-expanding readership base, including educational reviews on groundbreaking cancer treatment and research. We also are publishing a greater number of editorials that highlight controversies and ongoing dilemmas facing today’s cancer specialists,” he added.

**Whippen named Annals senior managing editor; Editorial offices relocate to Orange Park, FL**

Deborah Whippen, Orange Park, FL, was named new Senior Managing Editor of the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, Executive editor Dr. Mark S. Roh, announced. With her hiring, the Journal’s editorial offices have relocated from Alexandria, VA, to the Jacksonville, FL suburb.

Ms. Whippen comes to *Annals* after serving as Managing Editor of *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, the journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

“We are extremely excited to welcome Deb to her new position as *Annals*’ Senior Managing Editor,” Dr. Roh said. “Her 30 years of editorial and management experience will play a key role in further establishing *Annals* as the premiere medical journal serving surgical oncology professionals.”

**SSO to serve as ‘intellectual partner’ for 2007 ASCO conference**

SSO will serve as an “intellectual partner” for the 2007 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Breast Cancer Conference, September 7 – 8, in San Francisco.

Although SSO will not have any financial involvement in the meeting, ASCO invited the Society to appoint four of its members to serve on the meeting’s Steering and Program Committees, according to SSO President Dr. Raphael E. Pollock, Houston, TX.

Dr. Pollock, with Executive Council approval, appointed Dr. Funda Meric-Bernstam, Houston, TX, to the Steering Committee. He also tapped Drs. Lisa A. Newman, Ann Arbor, MI; Kimberly Van Zee, New York, NY; and Anees B. Chagpar, Louisville, KY, to serve on the Program Committee.

**Submit manuscripts to Annals**

To submit a manuscript for potential publication in *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, log onto the Journal’s online submission site: [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aso](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aso).

Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with the submission guidelines and uploaded directly onto the site. For more information, contact Deborah Whippen, Senior Managing Editor, at 904/451-6263, or info@asoeditorial.org.

All manuscripts submitted are subject to peer review and editing. Each manuscript will be reviewed by at least two experts in the field.
Vision:
The Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) promotes the highest quality of surgical oncology care by advancing the education and training of its members and fostering oncology research needed to improve multidisciplinary cancer patient care.

Mission:
The mission of the Society is to serve its members by: 1) representing and advancing the profession and the world; 2) promoting the highest quality multidisciplinary patient care and practice; 3) promoting cancer education and research training using meetings, print and electronic media; 4) promoting research, with an emphasis on clinical trials; 5) facilitating the career development of surgical and community-based practice and 6) promoting public policy and patient advocacy issues related to surgical oncology.

SSO Strategic Plan

Goal 1 – Multispecialty Member Needs
SSO will provide for the professional needs of its multispecialty membership, both domestic and international.

Objectives:
- Position SSO as the organization that best serves the multispecialty and disease-oriented educational needs of all surgical oncology subspecialties, both domestically and internationally.
- Expand its membership to include community surgeons who devote the majority of their practice to cancer management, including developing or emphasizing programs that are relevant to their practice environment.
- Expand membership to surgical oncologists who practice outside North America and establish mutually beneficial educational collaborations with other Surgical Oncology societies worldwide.
- Explore ways to enhance educational and research training collaborations with other national and international oncology societies that primarily serve other oncology specialties.
- Enhance the capability of the surgical oncology profession to enhance their roles and functions as oncologists.
- Enhance the capability of the SSO to address the special issues of disparities in surgical oncology care.

Goal 2 – Education and Training
SSO will provide continuing education, training and workshops designed to meet the needs of its diverse membership.

Objectives:
- Develop and disseminate high-caliber educational programs, products and services throughout the year; via meetings and workshops, the Annals of Surgical Oncology and the SSO website.
- Ensure that educational programs and materials emphasize state-of-the-art knowledge about surgical oncology science and technology, outcome, and the conduct/methodologies of surgical oncology research.
- Work closely with Program Directors of SSO-approved Surgical Oncology Training Programs to maximize their educational value.
- Disseminate educational content that communicates advances in surgical oncology research.
- Work with the ABS and RRC to initiate an “added qualification” certificate in Surgical Oncology.

Goal 3 – Clinical and Translational Research
SSO will promote high-quality clinical and translational research in surgical oncology, with a focus on clinical trials and outcomes research.

Objectives:
- Position SSO’s Annual Meeting as the premier forum for presentation of major advances in surgical oncology research.
- Provide presentations of research through multiple venues and forums, including the Annual Meeting and other smaller meetings, the Annals of Surgical Oncology and additional publications, and Internet-based ventures.
- Increase participation in high-quality clinical trials, especially those under the auspices of ACOSOG.
- Develop and advocate for tools and resources required to facilitate clinical trials, outcomes and translational research.
- Advocate for greater resources essential to the training of surgical investigators and the conduct of surgical research; collaborate with other professional organizations to provide workshops and training materials to enable surgical oncologists to conduct clinical trials in their practice.
- Develop and provide information and educational material to help clinical investigators compete successfully for funding and other resources to conduct their research.
- Partner with other organizations (such as the NCI) to develop surgical oncology oriented clinician investigator award programs using shared/leveraged financial resources.
Plan 2007–2010

**Value:**
The SSO is efficient, flexible, innovative, fiscally responsive, and will perform at the highest level of ethical behavior in all activities. The SSO provides and supports programs and activities that are responsive to its member needs, embracing individual and organizational diversity. Surgical oncology professionals provide leadership through communications, collaboration with patients, and others in the development of educational programs, research activities and advocacy for the highest quality, cost-effective, safest surgical oncology care.

**GOAL 4 – CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
SSO will help new surgical oncology specialists and trainees establish productive careers, both in academic and community settings.

**Objectives:**
- Promote activities that enable new surgical oncology specialists to establish productive careers in community practices, academia, and other settings.
- Provide educational opportunities and materials tailored to meet the needs of surgical oncology fellows and new practitioners.
- Advocate for appropriate resources and infrastructures to optimize training of surgical scientists.
- Promote the recruitment and retention of minorities in oncology careers.
- Facilitate and support the activities of directors of surgical oncology training programs.

**GOAL 5 – QUALITY OF CANCER CARE AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT**
SSO will strive to enhance the quality of life and survival of the surgical patient with cancer, and improve the practice environment in which high-quality surgical oncology care is delivered.

**Objectives:**
- Collaborate with other surgical and oncology professional societies in implementing health care policies affecting surgical oncology care and clinical practice management.
- Provide expert opinion that establishes or clarifies standards of evidence-based cancer surgery and peri-operative oncology management.
- Develop and disseminate practice management tools and materials to members that enhance the delivery of cost-effective, high-quality cancer care.
- Work to improve cancer care and practice management in the community setting, including collaboration with state societies affiliated with ACS and C on C.
- Encourage increased focus on educational and research involving quality of care and outcomes research involving surgical oncology patients through the Annual Meeting and the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, develop and disseminate outcome standards of surgical oncology care.

**GOAL 6 – GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS**
SSO will optimize its organizational vitality, its operational excellence, and its technological capacity.

**Objectives:**
- Increase awareness among members and other oncology professionals of the products, programs, services, and structure of the Society.
- Increase SSO’s electronic and digital communications capacity.
- Provide information and tools to members to facilitate the effective and efficient use of information technology in their practices.

**Executive Council approves Strategic Plan**
The Executive Council approved the Strategic Plan to guide the Society through 2010, after SSO leaders past and present convened in Chicago last summer to assemble a vision for the future.

Current Executive Council members, and past Society presidents from the last 15 years were invited to attend the conference. In determining SSO’s future direction, planners undertook an exhaustive study of the membership’s views on the Annual Cancer Symposium, current membership requirements, *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, professional issues, educational activities and special programs.
Match Program places 85 candidates in surgical oncology, breast fellowships

The Society’s Surgical Oncology and Breast Fellowship Matching Programs placed a record-high 85 trainees in SSO-approved programs across the U.S. and Canada, reported Training Program Committee Chair Dr. Jeffrey E. Gershenwald, Houston, TX. A majority of fellowships will begin in July.

The Breast Fellowship Match, now in its fourth year, is the result of a coordinated effort by SSO, the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBS) and the American Society of Breast Diseases (ASBD) to standardize breast fellowship training, thereby making the application and acceptance process more structured.

Following are the residents placed by the Match program and the institutions to which they have been assigned:

### SURGICAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS

- **City of Hope National Medical Center** — Drs. Eduardo A. Guzman, San Antonio, TX; Minia Hellan, Azusa, CA; and Nicole Kounalakis, Basking Ridge, NJ.

- **Dana Farber-Partners** — Dr. Charles H. Yoon, New York, NY.

- **Fox Chase Cancer Center** — Drs. Donald P. Lesslie, III, Houston, TX; Tawakaliu S. Oseni, Davie, FL; and Karyn B. Stitzenberg, Chapel Hill, NC.

- **H. Lee Moffitt Cancer & Research Institute** — Drs. Jeffrey M. Farma, Philadelphia, PA; Mark I. Gimbel, Bronx, NY; Gia Q. Phan, St. Louis, MO; and Alfredo A. Santillan, El Paso, TX.

- **John Wayne Cancer Institute** — Drs. William C. Conway, Oak Park, MI; Jennifer R. Gerreau, Portland, OR; Simon H. Telian, Van Nuys, CA; and Nabil Wasif, New York, NY.

- **The Johns Hopkins Hospital & Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center** — Dr. Matthew T. Hueman, Kensington, MD.

- **M. D. Anderson Cancer Center** — Drs. Debashish Bose, Baltimore, MD; Glenda G. Callender, Chicago, IL; Abigail S. Caudle, Chapel Hill, NC; Sharon B. Chang, Sacramento, CA; Christine D. Ching, Durham, NC; Joshua M. Mammen, Cincinnati, OH; and Kerrington D. Smith, Chicago, IL.

- **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center** — Drs. Steven C. Katz, New York, NY; Shishir K. Maithel, Brookline, MA; Heather B. Neuman, New York, NY; Jason, Park, Winnipeg, Canada; Venu G. Pillarisetty, Worcester, MA; Udo Rudloff, New York, NY; and Adam C. Yopp, Brooklyn, NY.

- **Ohio State University** — Dr. Suhail Sharif, Lombard, IL.

- **Roger Williams Medical Center & Cancer Center** — Dr. Bing Yi, Omaha, NE.

- **Roswell Park Cancer Institute** — Drs. Rachel A. Burke, Norfolk, VA; Rohit K. Sahai, Pittsburgh, PA; and Konstantinos I. Votanopoulos, Houston, TX.

- **University of Calgary** — Dr. Wesley P. Francis, Southfield, MI.

- **University of Chicago** — Dr. Eva Galka, Hummelstown, PA.

- **University of Louisville** — Dr. Nathaniel P. Reuter, Grand Forks, ND.

- **University of Miami** — Dr. Michelino Scarlata, New York, NY.

- **University of Pittsburgh** — Drs. Tsafir Vanounou, Newton, MA; David P. Eisenberg, New York, NY; Philip Q. Bao, Nashville, TN; and Arun A. Mavanur, West Hartford, CT.

- **University of Toronto** — Drs. Hany F. Sawires, Mississauga, Canada; and Peter K. Stotland, Toronto, Canada.

- **Virginia Commonwealth University** — Dr. Roger H. Kim, Central Islip, NY.

### BREAST FELLOWSHIPS

- **Akeron General Medical Center** — Dr. Hanadi Bu-Ali, Southfield, MI.

- **Anne Arundel Medical Center** — Dr. Elizabeth D. Feldman, Washington, DC.

- **Baylor University Medical Center** — Dr. Brian D. Biggers, Prairie Village, KS.

- **Bryn Mawr Hospital** — Drs. Anjeanette T. Brown, Williamstown, NJ; and Leila C. Thanasoulis, Staten Island, NY.

- **Cleveland Clinic Foundation** — Dr. Clarisa C. Hammer, Madison Heights, MI.

- **Columbia University/New York Presbyterian** — Dr. Marlene M. Mancuso, Manhasett, NY.

- **Emory University School of Medicine** — Dr. Radha G. Iyengar, Dallas, TX.

- **Fox Chase Cancer Center** — Dr. Robin M. Ciocca, Philadelphia, PA.

- **John Wayne Cancer Institute** — Dr. Laura L. Kruper, Philadelphia, PA.

- **Magee Women’s Hospital/University of Pittsburgh** — Dr. Rochelle L. Rosenfeld, Loveland, OH.

- **Massachusetts General Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute & Brigham and Women’s Hospital** — Drs. Colleen D. Murphy, Indianapolis, IN; and Sara H. Javid, Jamaica Plains, NY.

- **Mayo Clinic** — Dr. Nicole Sookhan, Bronx, NY.

- **M. D. Anderson Cancer Center** — Drs. Amanda L. Kong, New York, NY; Jonathan Nelson, Houston, TX; and Alexandre N. Shaye, Houston, TX.

- **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center** — Drs. Everett J. Bonner, Jr., Savannah, GA; Alice P. Chung, Los Angeles, CA; and Amer K. Karam, Los Angeles, CA.

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ACOSOG clinical trial announcements posted online

A listing of active, open clinical trials being conducted by the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) has been posted on the SSO Website.

Log onto www.surgonc.org, then click on “ACOSOG Trials Need Patient Enrollment” to access information on trials currently underway.

“ACOSOG is dedicated to cancer trials that are relevant to SSO members and has expended considerable resources educating surgeons on the regulations and conduct of clinical trials,” explained ACOSOG Group Co-Chair Dr. David Ota, Durham, NC. “It is critical to recruit surgical investigators and patients willing to participate in these important research studies.”

As an NCI-funded cooperative group, ACOSOG develops and conducts multi-institutional clinical trials that have a direct impact on how surgical oncologists approach patient treatment. In fact, ACOSOG is the only cooperative group whose primary focus is the surgical management of patients with malignant solid tumors.

The scientific mission of ACOSOG is to:

• Conduct studies that evaluate new surgical or non-surgical interventions in patients with malignant solid tumors;
• Study patients with early stage disease and to design neoadjuvant or adjuvant therapeutic trials;
• Conduct trials that define the optimal management of patients with metastases confined to a region or organ.

The Group is comprised of general and specialty surgeons, representatives of related oncologic disciplines, and allied health professionals in academic centers and private practice around the world. ®

Participation in ACOSOG clinical trials on the rise

By Drs. David Ota and Heidi Nelson, ACOSOG Group Co-Chairs

The American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) is very close to reaching its patient accrual targets for breast, thoracic and gastrointestinal cancer clinical trials, thanks to SSO member enrollment. These trials are crucial to ACOSOG’s continued success.

In its Summer 2006 issue, SSO News called upon Society members to evaluate patients for upcoming studies and join the active open trials listed on the Group’s Website, www.acosog.org. Continued patient accrual into these clinical trials will allow ACOSOG to continue to meet its targets and maintain the NCI funding on which its existence depends.

We take this opportunity to thank the following SSO members who answered our call to service and enrolled in current ACOSOG clinical trials:

Dr. Edward Levine, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC;
Dr. Funda Meric-Bernstam, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center;
Dr. Paul Mosca, Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown, PA;
Dr. S. David Nathanson, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI;
Dr. Roshni Rao, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center;
Dr. Perry Shen, Wake Forest University;
Dr. Kemp H. Kernstine, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA;
Dr. Rodney Landreneau, Jameson Health System, New Castle, PA; and University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA;

Z1031 (STAGE II & III BREAST CANCER TRIAL)
Dr. Charles Balch, Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, MD;
Dr. Peter Beitsch, Dallas Surgical Group, Dallas, TX;
Dr. Mark Gittleman, Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, PA;

Z4032 (STAGE I LUNG CANCER TRIAL)
Dr. Kemp H. Kernstine, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA;
Dr. Rodney Landreneau, Jameson Health System, New Castle, PA; and University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA;

…continued on page 10
SSO to announce winners of $100,000 Clinical Investigator Awards in Washington D.C.

SSO will announce the recipients of new $100,000 Clinical Investigator Awards at the 60th Annual Cancer Symposium in Washington, D.C.

The awards, funded through grants from Genentech and AstraZeneca, were created to promote patient-oriented research through the training of surgical oncologists in clinical and translational science. Awards will be funded for two years ($50,000 per year) beginning in July 2007.

Nineteen Society members applied for this year's awards. Applications are being reviewed by the Fellowship and Research Grants Committee, chaired by Dr. James Economou, Los Angeles, CA.

Applicants must be surgical oncologists who have completed their training in the last 10 years, and be full SSO members.

The awards will be given to the sponsoring institutions and may be used for applicant salary support, administrative support, tuition, travel and supplies.

The award recipients are required to submit a one-year progress report in February 2008, and a final report in February 2009. The winners will also make brief presentations at the 2009 Annual Cancer Symposium.

[World Map Page]

Match Program ...continued from page 8

- Northwestern University — Drs. Honnie R. Bermas, Saco, ME; and Marga F. Massey, Park City, UT;
- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School — Dr. Kathia V. Alejandro, Bayamon, Puerto Rico;
- St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center/Beth Israel Medical Center — Drs. Allyson F. Jacobson, Chicago, IL; and Juhi Asad, Novi, MI;
- Stanford University School of Medicine — Dr. Jennifer L. De la Peña, Las Vegas, NV;
- University of Arkansas for Medical Science — Dr. Kristin L. Cox, Palmyra, PA;
- University of California at San Francisco — Dr. Jennifer L. Zakhireh, Redlands, CA;
- University of Michigan — Dr. Kandice E. Kilbride, Temple, TX;
- University of Pennsylvania — Dr. Cecilia Stroede, Cherry Hill, NJ;
- University of Southern California — Drs. Anna Kaminiski, Manhattan Beach, CA; and Robina M. Smith, Brooklyn, NY;
- University of Texas Southwestern — Drs. Christopher A. Menendez, New York, NY; and Amy W. Moldrem, Dallas, TX;
- Washington Hospital Center — Dr. Lea M. Blackwell, Jermyn, PA;
- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute — Dr. Paramjeet Kaur, Huntington, WV;
- Washington University (St. Louis) — Dr. Dana M. Holwitt, Richmond, VA;
- William Beaumont Hospital — Dr. Jamie L. Symons, East Grand Rapids, MI;
- Women & Infants Hospital — Dr. Abida K. Sattar, Providence, RI.

Participation in ACOSOG trials ...continued from page 9

Dr. Alex Little, Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton, OH;
Z6041 (Stage I Rectal Cancer Trial) Dr. Ronald Bleday, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA;
Dr. Kirk Ludwig, Duke University Medical Center, Winston-Salem, NC;

These open trials are relevant to both academic and community-oriented surgeons. We also call upon all surgeons who have previously enrolled in ACOSOG trials to evaluate their patients for upcoming studies.

ACOSOG members who wish to become ACOSOG members will find simple instructions for joining on the Group's Website. For more information, contact Helen Harbett, ACOSOG Membership Coordinator, at 919/668-8836 (harbett001@notes.duke.edu), Dr. Heidi Nelson, ACOSOG Group Co-Chair, (nelsonb@mayo.edu), or Dr. David Ota (david.ota@duke.edu). ACOSOG appreciates your continued involvement.

[Future SSO Meetings]

Chicago, Illinois
March 13 – 16, 2008

Phoenix, Arizona
March 5 – 8, 2009

St. Louis, Missouri
March 4 – 7, 2010

San Antonio, Texas
March 3 – 6, 2011
Dr. William Cance heads 2007-08 Executive Council nominee slate

Dr. William G. Cance, Gainesville, FL, has been nominated to serve as SSO President-elect for 2007-08. Nominating Committee Chair Dr. Alfred M. Cohen, Lexington, KY, announced.

Dr. Cance heads a slate of Executive Council nominees that includes Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, New York, NY, as Vice President; Dr. Monica Morrow, Philadelphia, PA, as Secretary; and Drs. Kenneth K. Tanabe, Boston, MA, and Douglas S. Tyler, Durham, NC, for three-year terms on the Council.

The nominee slate will be voted on during the Society’s Annual Business Meeting, Saturday, March 17.

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Executive Council as Secretary and Councillor-at-Large.

He was chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2001 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and has served on several committees, including the Continuing Medical Education, Local Arrangements, and Clinical Affairs Committees.

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Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

Vice President: Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

Dr. Michelassi is the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and Surgeon-in-Chief at the New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center.

An SSO member since 1989, Dr. Michelassi has previously served on the Executive Council.

Secretary: Dr. Monica Morrow

Dr. Morrow is the G. Willing Pepper Chair in Cancer Research and the Chairperson of the Department of Surgery at Fox Chase Cancer Center. She is also Professor of Surgery, Temple University School of Medicine.


Dr. Morrow was Secretary/Treasurer of the James Ewing Foundation, and chaired the SSO Committee on Standards for the Diagnosis and Management of Breast Disease.

Executive Council Member: Dr. Kenneth Tanabe

Dr. Tanabe is Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Associate Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School. He is also Deputy Clinical Director of the MGH Cancer Center.

He chairs the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, and former chair of the Fellowship & Research Grant Committee. Dr. Tanabe is a member of the Editorial Board of Annals of Surgical Oncology, and has served on the Examination and Program Committees.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER: DR. DOUGLAS TYLER

Dr. Tyler is Professor of Surgery, Chief of the Section of Surgical Oncology, and Vice Chairman (VA Services) of the Department of Surgery at Duke University Medical Center. He is also a member of Duke’s Institute of Genomic Sciences and Policy, and the Institution’s Comprehensive Cancer Center.

In addition, Dr. Tyler is Chief of the Surgical Services at Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Dr. Tyler currently serves on the Issues & Government Affairs Committee and the Editorial Board of Annals of Surgical Oncology. He served a three-year term on the Membership Committee.
Sister Alice L. Potts is James Ewing Layman Award Winner

Sister Alice Louise Potts, who has spent more than 30 years ministering to cancer patients, was named recipient of the 2007 James Ewing Layman of the Year Award.

The award is given annually to a non-physician who has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of cancer patients.

Previous winners include golf legend Arnold Palmer, former White House Chief of Staff Vernon Jordan, General H. Norman Schwartzkopf, and Evelyn Lauder, corporate vice president of The Estee Lauder Companies, among others.

Throughout her childhood, Sister Alice was active in Catholic Action organizations that served children, the poor, elderly and the sick. She became a nun in 1943, serving people as a Sister of Providence at St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana.

Sister Alice spent 25 years as a principal in the Illinois and Indiana School systems, then served as a member of the co-Provincial Superior's Group of the Illinois Province from 1968 – 1975. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Mary of the Woods College in 1963, and a Master of Arts from Marygrove College, Detroit, MI, in 1968.

In 1975, Sister Alice received a grant for a yearlong training program in Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Joseph Hospital, Houston, TX. Her experience working with cancer patients caused her to enroll in a C.P.E. program at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. There, she enhanced her skills in ministering to cancer patients and became a staff chaplain.

On top of her many work commitments, Sister Alice volunteers as co-facilitator for a Grief Support Group for the American Cancer Society, and as facilitator for patient family support groups at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. She also conducts bereavement seminars.

Sister Alice is a two-time recipient of the Rogers Award for Excellence in Patient Care, was named one of 10 Outstanding Women by the Women’s Hospital, and was the 1995 recipient of the GAIA Award. In Greek mythology, GAIA was the mother and nourisher of all things, representing the original feminine force of nature.

Catholic Charities recognized Sister Alice as a Founding Member for Texas Medical Center Housing. In addition, she was honored as Woman of Influence by the National Council of Jewish Women of Greater Houston, and in 2000 was honoree of the Chaplaincy Endowment at M. D. Anderson.

2006 recruitment program breaks previous year’s record

The Society’s 2006 recruitment campaign resulted in a record number of applicants, Membership Committee Chair Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, New York, NY, reported.

The 130 new member applications received through SSO’s “Member, Get a Member” program surpassed the two previous records of 106 and 105, set in 2005 and 2004, respectively.

The top recruiter for the 2006 program was Dr. Steven Curley, Houston, TX, who sponsored 13 new member applications. To acknowledge his efforts, SSO will waive Dr. Curley’s registration fee to the 60th Annual Cancer Symposium, March 15 – 18, in Washington, D.C.

Physicians may access new member applications through the Society’s Website, www.surgonc.org.

Tax-deductible contributions to James Ewing Foundation support surgical oncology education, research projects

Each year, member contributions to the James Ewing Foundation of the Society of Surgical Oncology generate thousands of dollars to help support surgical oncology education and research.

The Foundation is a 501 (c)(3), not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing research and education in the field of surgical oncology.

It relies completely on private donations from SSO members, other individuals and organizations to support a variety of programs.

Tax-deductible gifts may be made to:

James Ewing Foundation
85 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 550
Arlington Heights, IL 60005.