

SSO NEWS

World-class science highlights 58th Annual Cancer Symposium, March 3-6, in Atlanta

World-class scientific sessions and case presentations, greater opportunities for audience participation, and an emphasis on histologic cancer sub-types are highlights of the Society of Surgical Oncology's 58th Annual Cancer Symposium, March 3 - 6, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

Scientific Program Committee Chair Dr. **David Bartlett**, Pittsburgh, PA, says that the meeting will appeal to a broad audience through programs addressing critical issues and novel therapies in surgical oncology.

"The Program Committee focused on covering a wide range of histological cancer sub-types that will draw interest from surgical oncologists and other healthcare providers," he said. "In particular, these sessions will cover high-grade dysplasia, pancreatic and colon polyps, biomarkers and responses to

surgical treatments. The program also offers an overview of targeted therapies and the tumor microenvironment.

"We also focused on improving audience participation and creating opportunities for attendees to learn in a more interactive setting," he added.

In reviewing the 440 abstracts submitted for the Atlanta meeting, Program Committee members improved the review process to ensure that each selected presentation provides outstanding value and educational merit. The 58th Annual Meeting will feature 103 oral abstracts and 205 poster presentations – a vast increase from past meetings.

The goal, according to Dr. Bartlett, is to devote more time to groundbreaking research that will affect the future of cancer treatment. Upon completion of each

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Atlanta hosts the 58th Annual Cancer Symposium

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Society launches online career services center; members can post resumes anonymously

A new SSO online career services center allows members to explore new career opportunities in complete anonymity, reported SSO President-elect Dr. **Timothy J. Eberlein**, St. Louis, MO.

The new site, developed by SSO in tandem with JobTarget, the largest and fastest growing provider of "private label" online job boards to the medical profession, brings a state-of-the-art career services area to the Society. The career service center may be accessed at www.surgonc.org. SSO bore no cost in its development.

SSO and JobTarget have created an Internet job board where employers pay to purchase advertisements listing employment openings. The job board offers the latest in technology, functionality and features. It has been designed specifically for Society members and offers unique career opportunities in surgical oncology. These targeted opportunities cannot be found on Monster.com or other large job sites.

Moreover, SSO's career services center links up with hundreds of other career sites that are part of the JobTarget network. This feature significantly increases traffic flow to SSO's Website and exposes members seeking new opportunities to employers nationwide.

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58th Annual Cancer Symposium to feature remarkable educational experiences

by **Dr. S. Eva Singletary**

As 2005 dawns, final planning for the upcoming 58th Annual Cancer Symposium of the Society of Surgical



Dr. Eva Singletary

Oncology has moved into high gear.

Dr. **David Bartlett**, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, has packed a remarkable number and variety of educational experiences into the three and

a half days that we will be spending in Atlanta. From March 3 through March 6, we will have the opportunity to hear recognized experts from a broad range of disciplines present cutting-edge research in areas as diverse as tumor microenvironment, surrogate biomarkers of treatment response, and cell-based immunotherapy, to name but a few.

There will be three named lectures this year. The *American Cancer Society Lecture* on Friday morning will be presented by Dr. **LaSalle Leffall, Jr.** Dr. Leffall is the Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC, and Chairman of the Board of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Dr. Leffall has devoted his professional life to the study of cancer prevention,

treatment, and education in minority and economically disadvantaged communities, and will be speaking about health disparities in oncology management.

The *James Ewing Lecture* on Saturday morning will be presented by Dr. **William C. Wood**. Dr. Wood is the Joseph Whitehead Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine. He is recognized internationally for his contributions to cancer therapy and for his work on the design and meta-analysis of conceptually-driven national clinical trials.

“Final planning for the upcoming 58th Annual Cancer Symposium of the Society of Surgical Oncology has moved into high gear.”

Dr. **Eleftherios (Terry) Mamounas**, will present the *John Wayne Clinical Research Lecture* on Saturday morning. Dr. Mamounas is Associate Professor of Surgery at Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine and Medical Director of the Aultman Cancer Center in Canton, Ohio. He serves as chairman of the Breast Committee of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, and has published extensively over the last 10 years on the results of the numerous NSABP trials in which he has participated.

I hope that you are all planning on attending the President’s Reception and Banquet on the final evening of the symposium. As part of this gala event, the James Ewing Layman’s Award will be presented to Jane Weiner, founder (with her sister, Susan Rafté) of the Pink Ribbons Project. The story of how these two sisters, one a professional dancer and the other a breast cancer survivor, teamed up—first to support Susan’s battle against metastatic cancer, then to fight the disease itself—is truly inspiring.

As I mentioned in a prior newsletter, the *Annals of Surgical Oncology* is in the process of finding a new Editor-in-Chief. The job qualifications for the Editor-in-Chief position are available on our SSO Website.

Before signing off, I want to draw your attention to a valuable new service being offered through the SSO: The Society of Surgical Oncology Career Center. This area was designed to help our members connect with new employment opportunities. If you are a job seeker, you can post an anonymous resume, view job listings, and set up a personal alert that will e-mail job descriptions that match your search criteria directly to you. If you are an employer or recruiter, you can post jobs and review resumes, with a variety of pricing options available to suit every need. Check out this new service on the SSO Website, www.surgonc.org. See you in Atlanta! 🌐

Society launches online career center ...continued from page 1

The site allows SSO members to:

- *Post an anonymous resume* – Whether actively or passively seeking new employment opportunities, surgeons who post their resumes on the site are guaranteed complete confidentiality. Users determine, on a case-by-case basis, when and to whom their identity and contact information is made available.
- *View job openings* – Access the most recent opportunities available at no charge.

- *Create personal job alerts* – Surgeons may create job alerts that automatically e-mail announcements of new jobs that meet their search criteria.

In addition to offering Society members an added membership benefit, the Career Services Center will also provide SSO with a significant source of non-dues revenue. If, for example, an employer elects to place an ad on the site, the Society receives 85% of the revenue generated from the sale. 🌐

Committee nominates Dr. Raphael Pollock to head officers slate for 2005-06

Dr. **Raphael E. Pollock**, Houston, TX, has been nominated to serve as SSO President-elect for 2005-06, announced Nominating Committee Chair Dr. **John E. Niederhuber**, Madison, WI.

SSO will hold elections to determine its new Executive Council members at its Annual Business Meeting, Saturday, March 5, 2005, when Dr. **Timothy J. Eberlein**, St. Louis, MO, succeeds Dr. **S. Eva Singletary**, Houston, TX, as the Society's President.

Other candidates slated by the Nominating Committee include Dr. **Nicholas J. Petrelli**, Newark, DE, Vice President; Drs. **V. Suzanne Klimberg**, Little Rock, AR, and **Scott H. Kurtzman**, Farmington, CT, for three-year terms on the Executive Council.

The next Councillor-at-Large will be determined by mail-in ballots recently sent to SSO's voting membership. Members will choose between Dr. **Kelly M. McMasters**, Louisville, KY, or Dr. **Carol J. Swallow**, Toronto, ON, Canada.

The new Councillor-at-Large will be announced at the 58th Annual Cancer Symposium in Atlanta.



Dr. Raphael Pollock

DR. POLLOCK: PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr. Pollock is Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgical Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, where he heads the Division of Surgery. He is Professor of Surgery and Director of the Section of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center.

Currently the SSO Vice President, Dr. Pollock previously served on the Executive Council as Secretary, is past chair of the Membership Committee and has served on the Ad-hoc Planning Committee.

In addition, he has represented SSO as a member of the American College of Surgeons' Board of Governors, chaired the SSO Continuing Medical Education Committee and is a former member/chair of the Program Committee. Dr. Pollock also has served on the editorial board of *Annals of Surgical Oncology*.

DR. PETRELLI: VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Petrelli is Director of the Cancer Program at the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Care, Newark, DE, and Professor of Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA.



Dr. Nicholas Petrelli

Currently, he is the Gastrointestinal Oncology Section Editor for *Annals*. He previously served on the Executive Council from 2000 - 2003, and as SSO's Councillor-at-Large from 1992 - 1995.

He is former Chair of SSO's Corporate Relations and Examination Committees, and a past member of both the Training Program Directors Committee and Continuing Education Committee. In addition, he served on the James Ewing Foundation Board of Directors.

DR. KLIMBERG: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER



Dr. Suzanne Klimberg

Dr. Klimberg is Professor, Department of Surgery and Pathology, and Chief, Division of Breast Surgical Oncology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and Central Arkansas Veteran's Health Service, Little Rock, AR.

She also is Director of the Breast Cancer Program at the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, and Director of Fellowship in Diseases of the Breast at UAMS.

Dr. Klimberg is currently the Breast Section Editor for *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, a member of the Breast Fellowship Training Program Directors Subcommittee, and has served on the *Annals'* Editorial Board for Breast Oncology since 1998. She previously served on the SSO Executive Council from 2000 - 2003.

Dr. Klimberg is a former Chair of the Issues and Governmental Affairs Committee, and has served on the Nominating Committee and James Ewing Foundation Board of Directors.

DR. KURTZMAN: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER

Dr. Kurtzman is Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT, and is Chair of the Cancer Committee.

He currently chairs the Society's Training Committee, which oversees SSO's Surgical Oncology and Breast Fellowship training programs. He has served as a member of the committee since 1997.

Dr. Kurtzman previously served on the Corporate Relations and Website Committees, and was a member of the Program Committee from 1996 - 1999. 🌐



Dr. Scott Kurtzman

58th Annual Cancer Symposium ...continued from page 1

parallel session, moderators will lead audience members to the poster viewing area and host a discussion of research with poster presenters.



Dr. David Bartlett

COMPETITIVE ABSTRACTS

“We’ve created an interactive poster presentation format that showcases the excellent research conducted by these scientists,” Dr. Bartlett explained. “We were fortunate to select from the most competitive set of submitted abstracts I’ve ever seen. The sessions should be outstanding.”

The 58th Annual Cancer Symposium begins

Thursday, March 3, with a day-long series of symposia highlighting new clinical and laboratory breakthroughs, including:

- *Interdisciplinary Management of Early Breast Cancer: A Case-Based Interactive Tumor Panel Discussion* – Dr. **Neil Love**, Editor of *Breast Cancer Update*, moderates this discussion of controversial breast cancer case presentations. Faculty panel members include Drs. **Monica Morrow**, Philadelphia, PA; **Lori J. Pierce**, Ann Arbor, MI, **Peter M. Ravdin**, San Antonio, TX, **William C. Wood**, Atlanta, GA, and **Aman Buzdar**, Houston, TX. (Sponsored by [AstraZeneca](#))
- *The Tumor Microenvironment and Targeted Therapies for GI Cancers* – Dr. **Lee M. Ellis**, Houston, TX, leads this presentation that covers cytokine crosstalk, anti-VEGF and anti-EGF strategies, resistance to targeted therapies and future targets.
- *2004-05 Oncology Meeting Highlights* – Dr. **H. Richard Alexander**, Bethesda, MD, presents highlights in breast cancer prevention, ovarian and endometrial cancer therapies, and lung cancer and pancreatic cancer treatments.
- *Biomarkers and Surrogates of Response for Surgical Treatment of Cancer* – Dr. **Michael T. Lotze**, Pittsburgh, PA, moderates an overview of imaging and flow cytometry in melanoma and GI malignancies, signal pathway portraits of tissue biopsy specimens, tumor cells in the blood, RT-PCR for tumor DNA in the blood, and tumor microarray in GI malignancies.
- *Treatment Options for Hepatic Colorectal Metastases* – Topics include chemotherapy options, downstaging of unresectable metastases, methods to improve resectability and the Oncosurge Decision Model for hepatic colorectal metastases. Dr. **Martin J. Heslin**, Birmingham, AL, moderates.
- *IL-2, Vaccines and Cell-Based Immunology: What the Future Holds* – Moderated by Dr. **James Yang**, LOCATION, this symposium offers a glimpse into the future of specific immunotherapies beyond traditional vaccines, and use of CTLA-4 blockade, IL-2 dosages and peptide vaccines for cancer. (Sponsored by [Chiron BioPharmaceuticals](#))

“The Program Committee focused on covering a wide range of histological cancer sub-types that will draw interest from surgical oncologists and other healthcare providers,”

- *Surgical Management of Dysplasia* – Dr. **Carol J. Swallow**, Toronto, ON, Canada, presents a discussion of Barrett’s esophagus, IPMN pancreatic neoplasma, and ulcerative colitis with dysplasia.
- *Multidisciplinary Roundtable on Challenging Multimodality Treatment Options for Metastatic Cancer* – Dr. **Daniel G. Coit**, New York, NY, leads a series of case presentations and debates on novel multi-modal cancer treatments. (Sponsored by [Boston Scientific](#))
- *Challenging the Gold Standard: Aromatase Inhibitors in Postmenopausal Women with Early Breast Cancer* – Dr. **Terry Mamounas**, Canton, OH, serves as moderator for a program addressing improved outcomes for adjuvant endocrine treatment, the comparison

between aromatase inhibitors and tamoxifen in the neoadjuvant setting, and the continued risk of recurrence in women with early breast cancer. (Sponsored by [Novartis](#))

Friday and Saturday plenary sessions feature clinical updates from around the world, offering a glimpse at surgical oncology’s future. Parallel sessions and cancer forums cover vital issues in gastrointestinal cancer, breast cancer, melanoma, endocrine cancer, cancer genetics and gene therapy.

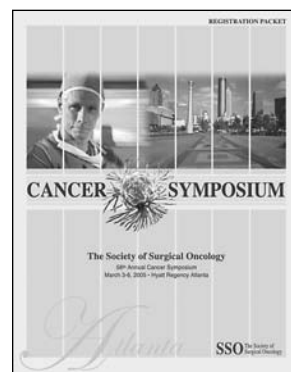
Other highlights include Friday’s **Annual Heritage Presentation**, where Dr. **John M. Daly**, Philadelphia, PA, honors 1993-94 SSO President Dr. **Samuel A. Wells, Jr.**, Durham, NC.

Another Annual Cancer Symposium staple, the **Cine Clinic**, features noted experts who narrate films of surgical procedures. This year’s Clinic, held Saturday, March 5, is moderated by Dr. **N. Joseph Espat**, Chicago, and focuses on laparoscopic surgery and radiotherapy.

Saturday’s dinner symposium, “**Management of Micrometastatic Melanoma: Interdisciplinary Perspectives**,” offers diverse surgical oncology, medical oncology and pathology points-of-view in treating micrometastatic melanoma. Dr. **Kelly M. McMasters**, Louisville, KY, moderates the program, which features faculty members Drs. **Lawrence Flaherty**, Detroit, MI, and **Arthur Zembowicz**, Boston, MA. (Sponsored by [Schering](#))

SUNDAY SESSIONS ‘MUST-SEE SCIENCE’

The Program Committee has scheduled informative sessions



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Pink Ribbons Executive Director Jane Weiner named 2005 Layman Award Winner

Jane Weiner, Executive Director of Pink Ribbons Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting breast cancer, has been selected as the recipient of the 2005 James Ewing Layman Award.

The award is presented annually to a non-physician who has made a significant contribution to improving the care of cancer patients. Previous winners include General H. Norman Schwartzkopf, former White House Chief of Staff Vernon Jordan, golf legend Arnold Palmer and Evelyn Lauder, corporate vice president of The Estee Lauder Companies.

Weiner started her career as a dancer in New York City and studied under contemporary choreographer Doug Elkins. When her sister, Susan, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1994, Weiner assembled the Pink Ribbons Project, a dance

troupe that raises money for breast cancer research.

A 1995 Pink Ribbons fundraiser helped send breast cancer survivors to testify in Washington, DC, where their stories helped push through FDA approval of three new cancer-fighting drugs. One

“The Pink Ribbons Project is the first dance organization created to promote awareness of breast cancer.”

of these was Taxotere, a drug Susan began taking the next year. Taxotere allowed Susan’s condition to improve to the point where she was able to receive a stem cell transplant.

The Pink Ribbons Project is the first dance organization created to promote awareness of breast cancer and help raise funding for breast cancer treatment. Since

its inception, it has raised more than \$500,000 for advocacy, education and research.

Beneficiary programs include the Pink Power program, which purchases mammograms for medically underserved women in the Houston area, and Pink Preparations, a program that educates young women about breast health.

The Project, based in New York City and Houston, TX, presents a series of events each year and hosts a large gala every two years in Houston. Today, Susan is Pink Ribbons’ Project Director. Jane splits her time between its executive directorship and running her own dance company, Hope Stone Dance. Together, the two organizations have raised nearly \$1 million toward the cause. 🌐

Society joins growing chorus of ‘One Voice Against Cancer’

The Society of Surgical Oncology is the newest member of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaboration of nonprofit organizations advocating greater federal funding in the fight against cancer, announced Issues and Government Affairs Committee Chair Dr. **William G. Cance**, Gainesville, FL.

OVAC consists of 56 professional and lay organizations dedicated to delivering a strong, unified message to the Legislative and Executive branches about the need for increased cancer-related funding. OVAC members include the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the American College of Surgeons and the American Cancer Society.

Acting on approval by the Executive Council, SSO President Dr. **S. Eva Singletary**, Houston, TX, appointed Dr. Cance to serve as the Society’s representative to the organization.

OVAC’s Website, www.ovaonline.org, states: “Even though we’ve made tremendous progress on treatments, more than 556,000 people will die from cancer, and more than 1.3 million will be newly diagnosed this year. For this reason, cancer remains a leading cause of death and a top health concern of Americans. We must commit

the proper resources if we are to defeat cancer.”

OVAC enhances each member organization’s ability to impact federal funding levels in the battle against cancer by creating a united front. Participating members are encouraged to develop cooperative efforts that increase governmental understanding of the need for effective cancer research and new treatment programs.

OVAC focuses its advocacy efforts on enhancing policy makers’ knowledge, the importance of funding essential cancer programs, and the need to strengthen outreach activities into ethnic minority and other underserved populations. Key organizations that OVAC seeks to motivate include:

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI);
- The National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD), recently established at NIH to promote minority health; and
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SSO News will report on the Society’s ongoing OVAC participation in future editions. 🌐



Recruitment program yields 35% increase in new applications

A robust “Member, Get-a-Member” recruitment program, which offered complimentary registration to the 58th Annual Cancer Symposium for the member sponsoring the most applicants, helped the Society realize a 35% increase in new member applications in 2004.

Dr. **David P. Jaques**, New York, NY, led the way by sponsoring 14 applicants. The program’s top recruiter, SSO will waive Dr. Jaques’ registration fee to the 58th Annual Cancer Symposium in Atlanta.

The 105 applications received by SSO’s Executive Offices marked the largest influx of interested physicians in the last decade.

“Our role as the leading cancer treatment and research organization in the U.S. offers members access to the latest breakthroughs in clinical research and patient treatment,” explained Membership Committee Chair and SSO Secretary Dr. **Fabrizio Michelassi**, New York, NY.

“Our strength comes from our members. We are building a sound future by actively recruiting colleagues who will contribute to that strength.”

Other top recruiters during the Society’s “Member, Get-a-Member” program include Dr. **Donald L. Morton**, Santa Monica, CA, (12); Dr. **Steven A. Curley**, Houston, TX, (10); Dr. **William G. Kraybill**, Buffalo, NY, (8); Dr. **Mitchell C. Posner**, Chicago, (6); Drs. **Joshua D. Ellenhorn**, Duarte, CA, and **Michael H. Torosian**, Philadelphia, PA, (5); and Drs. **David L. Bartlett**, Pittsburgh, PA, and **Frederick L. Moffat, Jr.**, Miami, FL, (4).

To request an application for a colleague, visit the SSO Website at www.surgonc.org.

SSO to vote on revised membership requirements, application procedures

Society members will vote on three proposed bylaw amendments that, if approved, would revise the criteria for SSO membership and expand the pool of eligible applicants, announced Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair Dr. **Daniel F. Roses**, New York, NY.

Mail-in ballots recently sent to the voting membership will allow surgeons a voice in whether the Society will adopt these proposals previously approved by the Executive Council.

Amendments to Article II, Section 5, would enable non-physician healthcare providers involved in oncologic patient care to become Associate SSO members. According to Dr. Roses, many non-physician healthcare providers, including physician assistants and nurse practitioners involved in oncologic patient care, are interested in becoming SSO members.

“Three proposed bylaw amendments...would revise the criteria for SSO membership.”

The revised bylaw would state: “Associate membership in the Society shall be limited to any scientist, not in clinical practice, doing research in cancer and who has published at least three cancer-related papers in peer-review journals in the

past three years, or any non-physician healthcare provider significantly involved in oncologic patient care.”

Other proposed amendments would:

- Allow Candidate members who have completed an approved SSO Breast Fellowship program to transfer to Active membership; and
- Permit physicians and scientists who have demonstrated a proven commitment to surgical oncology to become Active members, provided they meet the required qualifications. 🌐

Training program institutions reaccredited

Four institutions participating in the Society’s surgical oncology and breast fellowship Matching Programs have been re-approved as SSO training programs, announced Training Committee Chair Dr. **Scott H. Kurtzman**, Farmington, CT.

Dr. Kurtzman also reported that Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, rejoined the ranks of approved surgical oncology programs.

Site visits to each institution verified that these programs met specific training criteria required by SSO. Re-approved institutions are:

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY PROGRAMS:

- *University of Pittsburgh*, Pittsburgh, PA;
- *Roswell Park Cancer Center*, Buffalo, NY;
- *Virginia Commonwealth University*, Richmond, VA;

BREAST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS:

- *John Wayne Cancer Institute*, Santa Monica, CA;
- *University of Arkansas Cancer Research Center*, Little Rock, AK.

Over the next few months, site visits will be conducted at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, the University of Chicago, and Roger Williams Medical Center. 🌐

Surgical Oncology, Breast Fellowship Match Programs place 69 candidates

The Society's Surgical Oncology and Breast Fellowship Matching Programs have placed 69 candidates in training positions at SSO approved programs across the country, reported Training Committee Chair, Dr. **Scott Kurtzman**, Farmington, CT.

The Breast Fellowship Match 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 and make the application and acceptance process more structured.

Most of the two-year surgical oncology and breast fellowship training positions will begin in July 2005. Following are the residents and institutions to which they were assigned:

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS:

- *University of Chicago* – Dr. **Paul B. Roach**, Oak Park, IL.
- *City of Hope National Medical Center* – Drs. **Byrne Lee**, New York, NY; **Pablo L. Mojica**, Buffalo, NY; and **John Hsiang-Yeou Wang**, Jefferson, NY.
- *M.D. Anderson Cancer Center* – Drs. **Brian D. Badgwell**, Columbus, OH; **Ernest R. Camp**, Houston, TX; **Keith D. Gray**, Nashville, TN; **Susan B. Kesmodel**, Philadelphia, PA; **Sherry J. Lim**, Chicago; **Elizabeth A. Mittendorf**, Alexandria, VA; and **Curtis J. Wray**, Cincinnati, OH.
- *Fox Chase Cancer Center* – Drs. **Kimberly M. Brown**, Chicago; **Fernando Cordera**, Rochester, MN; and **Roderick M. Quiros**, Chicago.
- *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center* – Drs. **Glen C. Balch**, Nashville, TN; **Robert J. Canter**, Philadelphia, PA; **John C. Mansour**, Madison, WI; **George Miller**, Englewood, NJ; **James Oh Park**, Chicago; **Rebecca Ann C. Taylor**, Ottawa, Canada; and **Rebekah R. White**, Durham, NC.
- *Ohio State University* – Dr. **Osama H. Al-Saif**, Tampa, FL.
- *Roswell Park Cancer Institute* – Drs. **Shefali Agrawal**, Rochester, NY; **Michael G. Schlieman**, Sacramento, CA; **Richard R. Smith**, Rolla, MO; and **Jessica A. Wernberg**, Marshfield, WI.
- *John Wayne Cancer Institute* – Drs. **Aziz Ahmad**, New York, NY; **Steven Li-Wen Chen**, Ann Arbor, MI; **Douglas M. Iddings**, Grand Blanc, MI; and **Wallace Mondesire**, Houston, TX.
- *University of Miami* – Dr. **Carol Bowen Wells**, Palmyra, VA.

- *Roger Williams Medical Center & Cancer Center* – Dr. **Tarun Bhandari**, Bayside, NY.
- *H. Lee Moffitt Cancer & Research Institute* – Drs. **James M. Lewis**, New Orleans, LA; and **James M. McLoughlin**, Dallas, TX.
- *University of Pittsburgh* – Drs. **Xiang Da Dong**, Conshohocken, PA; **Niraj J. Gusani**, Chicago; **Claudia Hriesik**, Philadelphia, PA; and **Sam G. Pappas**, Chicago.
- *University of Toronto* – Dr. **Laura J. Musselman**, Toronto, Canada.
- *University of Calgary* – Dr. **Andrew McKay**, Winnipeg, Canada.
- *Virginia Commonwealth University* – Dr. **Mehran Habibi**, Bethlehem, PA.

BREAST FELLOWSHIPS:

- *University of Texas Southwestern Center for Breast Care* – Drs. **Arturo Aranda**, Laredo, TX.
- *John Wayne Cancer Institute* – Dr. **Francesca M. Hoehne**, Bakersfield, CA.
- *M.D. Anderson Cancer Center* – Drs. **Judy Boughey**, Columbia, SC; **Jacqueline S. Jeruss**, Chicago; and **Kari Rosenkranz**, White River, VT.
- *University of California at San Francisco* – Dr. **Michele L. Ley**, Tucson, AZ.
- *Grant Medical Center* – Dr. **Mark H. Cripe**, Galloway, OH.
- *Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center* – Dr. **Adora-Ann Fou**, New Rochelle, NY.
- *The Breast Health Institute, Jefferson Medical College* – Dr. **Renee P. Armour**, Collingswood, NJ.
- *University of Arkansas for Medical Science* – Dr. **Margaret E. G. Thompson**, Silver Spring, MD.

- *University of Michigan* – Dr. **Angelique F. Vitug**, Rochester Hills, MI.
- *The Cleveland Clinic Foundation* – Dr. **Lana D. Louie**, Toledo, OH.
- *Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine* – Dr. **Heidi C. Memmel**, Chicago.
- *University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine* – Drs. **Tulin D. Cil**, London, Canada; and **Premal C. Sanghavi**, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
- *Anne Arundel Medical Center* – Dr. **Lindsey P. Gold**, West Bloomfield, MI.
- *Stanford University School of Medicine* – Dr. **Laila Samiian**, Detroit, MI.
- *St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center/Beth Israel Medical Center* – Dr. **Tobi B. Greene**, Miami, FL.
- *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center* – Drs. **Carlos A. Garcia-Etienne**, Laredo, TX; **Laurie A. Wolford**, Homewood, AL; and **Mary Jo Wright**, New Orleans, LA.
- *Massachusetts General Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute & Women's Hospital* – Dr. **Dalliah M. Black**, Hillsborough, NC.
- *The Bryn Mawr Hospital* – Dr. **M. Lisa Attebery**, Brooklyn, NY.
- *Baylor University Medical Center* – Dr. **Rachel M. Zent**, Denver, CO.
- *Washington Hospital Center* – Dr. **Danielle M. Duchini**, Hermitage, PA.
- *H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute* – Drs. **John M. Cox**, Tampa, FL; and **Samira Y. Khera**, Westborough, MA.
- *Women & Infants Hospital* – Dr. **Christine Rizk**, Cleveland, OH.
- *Fox Chase Cancer Center* – Dr. **Dianne M. Opatt**, New Orleans, LA. 🌐

SSO Members contribute more than \$7,500 to James Ewing Foundation in 2004

Member contributions to the James Ewing Foundation of the Society of Surgical Oncology generated over \$7,500 in 2004.

These contributions support surgical oncology education and research, including the Fellowship Awards for Basic and Clinical 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 can be made to:
James Ewing Foundation
85 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 550
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

The Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to the following individuals who contributed this year:

Fortunato Aljure, MD	Robert L. Elliott, MD	Jonathan Koea, MD	John A. Ridge, MD, PhD
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David N. Danforth, Jr, MD	David P. Jaques, MD	Marcos F. Moraes, MD	Vic J. Verwaal, MD
Marc L. Demers, MD	James T. Kakuda, MD	Moshe Z. Papa, MD	Sharon M. Weber, MD
Dwight C. DeRisi, MD	Mohammed M. Kalan, MD	James F. Pingpank, Jr, MD	Howard A. Zaren, MD
Dwight C. DeRisi, MD	Kenneth A. Kern, MD	Elisa R. Port, MD	Stefano M. Zurrada, MD
Michael Donnellan, FRACS	Benjamin Kim, MD	Geoffrey A. Porter, MD	
Timothy J. Eberlein, MD	John L. Kiser, MD	Charles A. Portera, Jr., MD	

58th Annual Cancer Symposium ...continued from page 4

on minimally-invasive surgical oncology and radiation therapy for Sunday, March 6.

“Attendees who usually view the final day of the Annual Cancer Symposium as a time to wind down and prepare for their return to work will find two of our most exciting programs set for that day,” Dr. Bartlett explained. “We want to encourage guests to get the most out of their experience at the meeting and give them every opportunity to gain knowledge that will help further their careers.”

Sunday’s breakfast symposium, “**Minimally Invasive Surgery: Show Me,**” is moderated by Dr. **Heidi Nelson**, Rochester, MN.

The program covers laparoscopic approaches to UGI tumors, robotic assisted prostatectomy and pulmonary resections, and simple procedures for keyhole colectomy. *There is a \$35 registration fee for this session.*

Also Sunday, Dr. **Henry M. Kuerer**, Houston, TX, moderates “**Clinical Innovations in Radiation Oncology: What the Surgical Oncologist Needs to Know.**” Dr. Kuerer leads discussions on new approaches to radiation therapy, the impact of gastrointestinal adjuvant therapies and the NSABP-RTOG randomized trial (partial breast vs. whole breast radiation). The session also offers an introduction to the American Society of Breast Surgeons’ mammosite registry trial.

\$30,000 James Ewing Oncology Fellowship winners to study pancreatic cancer, GI tumor biology

Research projects by Drs. **J. Pablo Arnoletti**, Birmingham, AL, and **Eric K. Nakakura**, San Francisco, CA, have been awarded \$30,000 grants as recipients of the James Ewing Oncology Fellowship for Basic Research, reported Fellowship and Research Grant Committee Chair Dr. James S. Economou, Los Angeles.

The awards will fund ongoing basic research for a period of one year beginning in 2005.

Dr. Arnoletti will conduct his study, **“The Role of ErbB3 in Pancreatic Cancer Cell Response to Erbitux-based Therapy,”** at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he is an assistant professor, Section of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Arnoletti’s research seeks to understand the mechanisms that affect differential responses of pancreatic cancer cell lines to multi-agent treatment modalities. Recent clinical trials have shown promising activity of Erbitux (an EGFR antibody) in combination with chemotherapy in treating both colon cancer and pancreatic cancer. Certain pancreatic cancer cell lines expressing activated ErbB3 protein, however, are resistant to this type of treatment.

With a growing body of evidence suggesting that the epidermal growth factor

(EGF) family of receptors (EGFR) pathway is a crucial component of the malignant phenotype associated with pancreatic



Dr. Pablo Arnoletti

cancer, Dr. Arnoletti hypothesizes that the lack of response to Erbitux-based therapy is due to selective pancreatic cancer cell expression of activated ErbB3, which impairs EGFR internalization and leads to ongoing tumor growth.

His experiments are designed to clarify the role of ErbB3 as a potential biomarker to indicate possible response to Erbitux-based multimodality treatments.

Dr. Nakakura’s investigation, **“Elucidation of Genetic Pathways Critical for the Development and Differentiation of Gut Endocrine Cells and Gastrointestinal Carcinoid Tumors,”** seeks to understand the transcription pathways that regulate the proliferation of endocrine cells and further



Dr. Eric Nakakura

physicians’ understanding of GI carcinoid tumor biology.

Neuroendocrine tumors, such as GI carcinoid tumors, frequently metastasize to the liver. However, most patients with advanced neuroendocrine tumors are not candidates for hepatic resection at the time of diagnosis, and current therapies are ineffective for preventing tumor progression. A better understanding of GI carcinoid biology may lead to the development of more effective therapies.

Dr. Nakakura will study endocrine cell development in the gut as a paradigm for regulation of the neuroendocrine properties of GI carcinoid tumors. The mouse has been the most productive model for studying enteroendocrine differentiation.

He will focus on: (1) characterizing the expression of two transcription factors (Ascl1 and Nkx2.2) during gut endocrine cell development; (2) evaluating the consequences of targeted inactivation of these factors on enteroendocrine differentiation; and (3) determining the relationship of Nkx2.2 and Ascl1 to other genes in the transcriptional hierarchy of enteroendocrine differentiation. An improved understanding of the mechanisms underlying endocrine differentiation shared

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Apply for \$20,000 Young Investigator Award by February 4

Researchers have until February 4 to apply for the 2005 James Ewing Young Investigator Award for Clinical Research.

The award provides \$20,000 to the sponsoring institution for one year beginning in July, 2005.

Last year’s award winner was Dr. **Sophie Dessureault**, Tampa, FL, for her study on the effectiveness of a laboratory-produced MHC-negative bystander cell line vaccine in treating skin cancer.


Eligible applicants must be surgeons within five years of their first faculty appoint-

ment, be sponsored by an active SSO member and conduct research at that member’s institution. Clinical projects involving human research must contain documentation by the Institutional Review Board inclusive of the protocol approval date prior to July funding. Individuals who currently hold a SSO-sponsored fellowship award are not eligible.

The award winner will submit a final report (not exceeding four pages) one year from the funding date. The report should include a summary of the project and

acknowledge any abstracts or publications supporting the research. The winner will also be asked to give a brief presentation at the Society’s 2006 Annual Meeting.

An award application is included with this newsletter. Additional copies are available by calling the SSO Executive Offices at 847/427-1400.

Completed applications (one original and seven copies) should be sent to: JEF Fellowship Award Committee, 85 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 550, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. 

SSO seeks new *Annals* Editor-in-chief; Dr. Mark Roh appointed Executive Editor

SSO is accepting applications from members interested in serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Annals of Surgical Oncology*. Dr. **Charles M. Balch**, Alexandria, VA, has announced his intention to retire as the Journal's Editor-in-Chief after more than a decade at its helm.

Meanwhile, the Executive Council voted to restructure the makeup of the Journal's Editorial Board, appointing Dr. **Mark S. Roh**, Pittsburgh, PA, as *Annals'* Executive Editor. The Executive Editor will focus primarily on the editorial aspects of production, work closely with the Editor-in-Chief to promote a strategic vision for the Journal, enhance overall product quality and explore new marketing opportunities, according to SSO President Dr. **S. Eva Singletary**, Houston, TX.

"After speaking with Dr. Roh on several occasions, it became evident that he strongly desired the new Executive Editor position. We on the Executive Council congratulate him on his 10-plus years of dedication to the Journal and feel very fortunate to reward him with this appointment. By dividing the duties of Editor-in-Chief into two positions, we will strength-

en the Editorial Board's ability to enhance *Annals'* standing as a premier surgical oncology publication," Dr. Singletary explained.

Applicants for Editor-in-Chief must be SSO members and Fellows of the American College of Surgeons. Qualified applicants should offer a record of significant scholarly achievement, familiarity with the international community of physician scholars publishing in the field, knowledge of the relevant literature, and an understanding of the basic concepts of clinical research design and statistics. Prospective appointees should be committed to research ethics and have strong interpersonal skills.

Applications should include a letter outlining one's qualifications and vision for the Journal, as well as a recent curriculum vitae, statement of support from the applicant's institution, and two letters of reference. Submit applications by January 31 to:

Rick Slawny, Executive Director
Society of Surgical Oncology
85 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 550
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF INCLUDE:

- ▶ Ensure that *Annals* addresses cutting edge issues in surgical oncology;
- ▶ Provide overall leadership and direction for Journal content;
- ▶ Develop new sections and methods of communication designed to expand readership;
- ▶ Facilitate the orderly transition of *Annals* to an "all-electronic" submission and review process;
- ▶ Work with the Executive Editor to ensure that the solicitation, receipt and review of manuscripts are handled in a timely and efficient manner; and
- ▶ Work with the Executive Editor and Journal publisher Springer Verlag to oversee editing and production.

James Ewing Award ...continued from page 7

by gut endocrine cells and GI Carcinoid tumors may lead to novel targets for the diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

Dr. Nakakura will conduct his study at the University of California, San Francisco, where he is an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery, Section of Surgical Oncology; and at the UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Drs. Arnoletti and Nakakura will provide written reports on their research throughout 2005 and 2006. They will be invited to present their findings at SSO's 2006 Annual Cancer Symposium in San Diego.

Submit manuscripts to *Annals*

Manuscripts submitted for potential publication in *Annals* should be sent to the Editorial Office, *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, 330 John Carlyle Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703/299-1185, E-mail: asoeditorial@earthlink.net.

All manuscripts submitted are subject to peer review and editing. Each manuscript is reviewed by at least two experts in the field, who may also be members of the Editorial Board. Decisions of the Editor are final. Authors are notified of the decision by mail and with reviewer comments, if any.

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