Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach appointed acting FDA commissioner

National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director and SSO member Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, Bethesda, MD, was appointed acting Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner in September by President George W. Bush. President Bush appointed Dr. von Eschenbach acting commissioner after the resignation of Commissioner Lester M. Crawford.

Although remaining at NCI, Dr. von Eschenbach has turned over day-to-day-management of the organization to former SSO President Dr. John E. Niederhuber, Bethesda, MD. Dr. Niederhuber joined NCI in 2005 as Deputy Director for Translational and Clinical Sciences after serving as Director of the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center.

In a memo sent to all FDA employees upon his appointment, Dr. von Eschenbach said, “I look forward to bringing my experience on the discovery side of medicine to the delivery side of medicine...making sure patients get the drugs and treatments they need as quickly and safely as possible.”

He also pledged to avoid potential conflicts of interest by not participating “in certain FDA matters in which NCI is a party.”

Dr. von Eschenbach was appointed head of the National Cancer Institute, the nation’s principal federal agency for cancer research, in 2002. A two-time cancer survivor, he previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

He also served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and held the distinguished Roy M. And Phyllis Gough Huffington Clinical Research Distinguished Chair in Urologic Oncology. He is the 12th NCI Director since the organization’s creation in 1937.

Dr. von Eschenbach earned his medical degree from Georgetown University in 1967.
2005 year of noteworthy accomplishments in member education and involvement, patient care

by Dr. Timothy J. Eberlein

Let me begin by thanking all of you for the privilege of serving as your President this past year. When I attended my first annual meeting in 1980, it did not occur to me that I might one day have the honor of serving in this capacity. The Society was very different back then. It has evolved into a flagship organization dedicated to advancing the field of oncology. I would like to review some of our organization’s significant accomplishments this past year.

Our journal, *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, continues to be outstanding. In addition to publishing excellent contemporary science articles related to the field of surgical oncology, it has also become a primary publisher of clinical papers, not to mention an important source of Society revenue.

We created a new Executive Editor position, which acknowledges the extensive contributions made by Dr. Mark Roh. We also defined a new role for Editor-in-Chief, and were able to retain the visionary leadership of Dr. Charles Balch, who has presided over the growth of the Journal since its inception. This leadership team will continue to provide the oversight the Journal needs, as an important part of our Society’s overall identity.

Meanwhile, the Advisory Council for Surgical Oncology of the American Board of Surgery has expanded its membership and is actively addressing very important issues. These include Maintenance of Certification, modular examinations and potential certification for surgical oncology.

Surgical oncology is currently the only discipline in oncology without formal certification. This points to a need for change.

Efforts to address these issues involve the full participation of Society representatives. In the future, the Advisory Council will help the American Board of Surgery implement curricular changes, assist with “fast-track” residency training and develop criteria for Maintenance of Certification. Each of these topics will affect everyone in our field.

The Society’s membership continues to grow and diversify. I have received a number of letters from members who are active in private practice. These surgeons yearn for more active participation in the Society’s activities and leadership.

After a long and detailed discussion at its last meeting, the Executive Council has agreed to make a concerted effort to further involve community-based Society members in important Society committees, including the Executive Council. There are also ideal opportunities for our community membership to actively participate in clinical trials.

Toward that end, the Annual Meeting could provide an opportunity for training in the conduct of clinical trials. This would be a first step in creating an infrastructure that allows surgeons in the community to more readily participate in important clinical trials. It would also increase our accruals.

In particular, the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) could specifically direct outreach activities to community surgeons who are SSO members. This would strengthen ACOSOG’s contribution to the field of cancer clinical trials and offer new therapeutic options to patients of Society members who are not currently part of ACOSOG institutions.

Finally, I am looking forward to our Annual Meeting in San Diego. Dr. Heidi Nelson and her Program Committee have put together a spectacular program. The Committee has been able to select presentations from an unprecedented number of submitted abstracts, and there are a large number of outstanding symposia that will be of particular interest to our diverse membership.

In conclusion, this has been a year of continuing evolution as we seek to make progress in the areas of professional education, patient care, and involvement of all our membership. The challenge going forward will be to identify opportunities that will ensure the SSO continues to work for all of its members, while re-invigorating the Society through new membership. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as your President and will continue my dedication to the success of this Society.

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**2005 recruitment campaign sets record**

SSO’s 2005 membership recruitment campaign attracted a record number of new member applications for the second year in a row. The 106 applications received at the Society’s Executive Offices through SSO’s “Member, Get-a-Member” program bests the previous record of 105 set in 2004.

Dr. David P. Jaques, New York, NY, sponsored 12 new member applications, making him SSO’s top recruiter for the second straight year. To acknowledge his efforts, SSO will waive Dr. Jaques’ registration fee to the 59th Annual Cancer Symposium, March 23 - 26 in San Diego.

Other top sponsors for the program include Dr. Steven A. Curley, Houston, TX, (11 applications) and Drs. Joshua Ellenhor, Duarte, CA, and William G. Kraybill, Buffalo, NY, (9 applications each).

Members who wish to request a new member application for a colleague may visit the SSO Website, www.surgonc.org.
Annals of Surgical Oncology citations rise; Impact Factor 4th of 141 surgical journals

Articles published in Annals of Surgical Oncology were cited 3,727 times in other medical journals in 2004, boosting the Journal’s Impact Factor rating to 4.035, reported Annals’ Executive Editor Dr. Mark S. Roh, Pittsburgh, PA. Annals is now ranked 4th out of 141 surgical journals and 28th of 123 oncology titles.

A publication’s Impact Factor, determined each year by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI), determines a publication’s level of academic excellence by the number of times it is cited in other medical journals.

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 Editorial Board is constantly striving to increase Annals’ appeal to a wide spectrum of readers …”

Dr. Roh also reported that the period of time between manuscript acceptance and publication has dropped to 2.4 months, allowing the Editorial Board to bring timely information to readers more quickly.

Annals recently introduced a new Manuscript Central feature that lets authors submit manuscripts for editorial consideration online and further streamlines the review and approval process.

In addition, advances in technology are expanding Annals’ online opportunities. Plans call for offering streaming video to accompany articles posted on the Journal’s Website.

“We realize the opportunities inherent in expanding the Journal’s presence online and will take advantage of multimedia formats as the field on online publishing becomes more prevalent,” Dr. Roh added.

Currently, the Journal’s “Early Release” service, provided by Annals publisher Springer Verlag, allows articles expected to have a substantial and immediate impact to be posted as soon as they are complete. This feature allows Annals subscribers to access important topics in a timely fashion, as opposed to waiting for the print publication.

The Journal’s online capability also lets subscribers benefit from an electronic Table of Contents (eTOC) service that notifies them via e-mail when new content is posted online.

Submit Manuscripts to Annals

To submit a manuscript for potential publication in Annals of Surgical Oncology, log onto the Journal’s new online submission site: http://nc.manuscriptcentral.com/aso.

Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with the submission guidelines and uploaded directly onto the site.

For more information, contact the Annals Editorial Office at 703/299-1185, or 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 will be notified of the decision with reviewer comments, if any.

Dr. Charles Balch reappointed Annals Editor-in-Chief

The Executive Council has reappointed Dr. Charles M. Balch, Alexandria, VA, to a five-year term as Editor-in-Chief of SSO’s peer-reviewed medical journal, Annals of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Balch has served at the Journal’s helm since its inception in 1994. Originally published six times per year, Annals has grown to become one of the most respected publications in its field. It now publishes 12 issues per year and is currently ranked 4th of 141 surgical journals by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI).

Manuscripts featured in other medical journals cited Annals articles 3,727 times in 2004, increasing the Journal’s Impact Factor rating to 4.035.
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center honored Dr. Henry M. Kuerer, Houston, TX, in November as recipient of the Center’s Faculty Scholar Award.

The award, given to faculty members who exhibit outstanding ability and excellence in research, education, patient care or cancer prevention, will provide $30,000 over three years to fund Dr. Kuerer’s ongoing clinical research into multimodality management of patients with Breast cancer.

Dr. Kuerer is Associate Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgical Oncology and Director of the Breast Surgical Oncology Training Program at M. D. Anderson. He serves on the Editorial Board of Annals of Surgical Oncology, and is Vice Chair of the Society’s Scientific Program Committee.
The 59th Annual Cancer Symposium begins Thursday, March 23, with a day-long series of outstanding presentations from leading experts in the field of surgical oncology. Programs include:

**Advances in the Systematic Therapy and Surgical Management of Breast Cancer** — Moderated by Dr. Lisa A. Newman, Ann Arbor, MI, this program offers the insights of Drs. Debu Tripathy, Dallas, TX, Hiram S. Cody, III, New York, NY, Eleftherios P. Mamounas, Canton, OH, and Thomas Buchholz, Houston, TX. (Sponsored by Roche Laboratories)

**Molecular Targeted Cancer Therapies** — Dr. Kelly M. McMasters, Louisville, KY, moderates this presentation covering anti-angiogenic targets for cancer therapy, including Her2/Neu and EGFR, and new therapeutic prospects. (Sponsored by Genentech)

**Minimally Invasive Cancer Surgery — The State of the Science** — Topics include primary ablation of breast lesions, the current role of laparoscopic pancreatectomy, minimally invasive rectal resection, and laparoscopic and robotic approaches to prostatectomy. Moderated by Dr. Martin R. Weiser, New York, NY.

**CT-PET Imaging: Evidence-Based Indications and Controversies** — Dr. Seza A. Gulec, Goshen, IN, moderates an overview of the principles of current CT-PET technology, the pros and cons of clinical applications, use of PET imaging as a tumor marker and future technologies. (Sponsored by GE Healthcare)

**Breast Cancer: Evolving Research and Practice Patterns** — Moderated by Dr. Henry M. Kuerer, Houston, TX, this program offers insights into post-mastectomy radiation and its implications for reconstruction, preoperative treatments for DCIS, integrating recent systemic therapy data into clinical practice and the clinical utility of onco-type DX.

**Foregut Cancer: Evolving Research and Practice Interests** — This symposium, led by Dr. Mitchell C. Posner, Chicago, explores ways of improving esophageal, gastric and pancreatic cancer outcomes, explores adjuvant and neoadjuvant therapies, and outlines the role of minimally invasive surgery and endosurgery for foregut cancer.

**Clinical Research and the Practicing Oncologist** — This “how-to” session is designed specifically for surgeons who are interested in participating in clinical trials but don’t know where to begin. Drs. Terry Mamounas, Canton, OH, and Peter W. T. Pisters, Houston, TX, moderate.

**Advances in Nutritional Support of the Cancer Patient** — Moderated by Dr. John M. Daly, Philadelphia, PA, this presentation offers a brief history of immunonutrition, the role of Arginine in the care of surgical cancer patients, how enteral nutrition affects the body’s immune system, and provides an overview of relevant clinical trials. (Sponsored by Novartis)

**Controversies in Surgical Oncology: Can We Define an Evidence-Based Standard of Care?** — Dr. Daniel C. Coit, New York, NY, moderates a panel discussion featuring Drs. Mitchell C. Posner, Chicago, Tom R. DeMeester, Los Angeles, CA, Merrick I. Ross, Houston, TX, Vernon K. Sondak, Tampì, FL, Blake Cady, Providence, RI, and Kelly M. McMasters, Louisville, KY.

Plenary sessions held Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25, feature clinical updates from around the world. Parallel sessions and cancer forums cover vital issues in gastrointestinal cancer, breast cancer, melanoma, endocrine cancer, cancer genetics and gene therapy.

Sunday’s breakfast symposium, Multidisciplinary Management of Colorectal Cancer Metastases, is moderated by Dr. Anton Bilcik, Santa Monica, CA. The program will examine expanding criteria for hepatic resection, multimodal therapies for downstaging hepatic metastases and improving resectability, effective chemotherapeutic and biologic agents in metastatic colorectal cancer, and tailoring colorectal cancer chemotherapy using molecular profiling. (Sponsored by sanofi-aventis)

Annual Cancer Symposium featured speakers

This year’s meeting features an impressive slate of distinguished speakers. They are:

- **Dr. Bruce Stillman**, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, President, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, “Genomic Applications for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer,” American Cancer Society/SSO Basic Science Lecture (Friday, March 24);

- **Dr. James S. Economou**, Los Angeles, Director, UCLA Human Gene Medicine Program; Deputy Director, UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of California at Los Angeles, “Surgical Oncology in the Genome Era,” James Ewing Lecture (Saturday, March 25);

- **Dr. Murray F. Brennan**, New York, NY, Chairman, Department of Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, “Lessons Learned from 30 Years of Clinical Research,” John Wayne Clinical Research Lecture, (Saturday, March 25);

- **Dr. Timothy J. Eberlein**, Bixby Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, “Assessing the State of Surgical Oncology: The Future is Now,” SSO Presidential Address (Friday, March 24).

The final presentation at this year’s meeting, led by Dr. Elin Sigurdson, Philadelphia, PA, is a Clinical Update in Colon Cancer.
Drs. Rebecca Gladdy, Mary Maluccio awarded $30,000 James Ewing Oncology Fellowships

Drs. Rebecca A Gladdy, Toronto, ON, and Mary A. Maluccio, Indianapolis, IN, each 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 Economou, Los Angeles.

The awards will fund ongoing basic research for a period of one year beginning in 2006.

Dr. Gladdy’s study, *Plk-4 and Chromosomal Instability*, will seek to define the molecular interactions by which a novel polo-like kinase, Plk-4 (also known as SAK), maintains mitotic integrity and suppresses tumor development. Recently, loss of heterozygosity of Plk-4 has been associated with the development of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Furthermore, previous studies have demonstrated that reduced Plk-4 gene dosage increases the probability of mitotic errors, resulting in HCC, spindle cell and lung cancer in mouse models.

Dr. Gladdy will used genome-wide techniques such as cytogenetics and gene arrays to identify novel genetic changes in murine and human HCC. She will also determine if Plk-4 and p53, a tumor suppressor gene, interact and co-operate to drive carcinogenesis in HCC. Defining how these genes interact should lead to better understanding of mitotic stability, as alterations in genes that regulate the cell cycle are often critical in driving tumorigenesis.

The long-range goal of Dr. Maluccio’s study, *The Hepatic Stellate Cell as a Potential Mediator of Hepatocellular Cancer Growth*, is to understand how stromal changes induced by hepatitis infection potentially impact the growth and invasiveness of hepatocellular cancer.

Activation of stellate cells (myofibroblasts) within the liver is an initial response to acute liver injury, including hepatitis. There is evidence that hepatic stellate cells are strong mediators of liver fibrosis. However, the potential role of stellate cell activity in hepatitis-associated cancer is unknown.

Using a murine model of hepatocellular carcinoma, Dr. Maluccio will evaluate the downstream effects of stellate cell activation on the liver microenvironment and tumor growth. By developing an understanding of the stromal changes involved in hepatitis, caregivers may have an opportunity to use innovative approaches to modify the microenvironment and, potentially, the biologic behavior of a malignant cell growing within it.

Dr. Gladdy will conduct her study at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, an affiliate of the University of Toronto, where she is a Surgical Oncology Research Fellow.

Dr. Maluccio will perform her research at the Indiana University School of Medicine, where she is Assistant Professor of Surgery.

Drs. Gladdy and Maluccio will provide written reports on their research throughout 2006 and 2007. They will be invited to present their findings at SSO’s 2007 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

February 4 deadline to apply for $20,000 Young Investigator Award

February 4 is the deadline to apply for the 2006 James Ewing Young Investigator Award for Clinical Research. The award provides $20,000 in funding for a period of one year beginning in July 2006.

Eligible applicants must be surgeons within five years of their first faculty appointment, 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 an 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 2007 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.

Drs. Rebecca Gladdy, Mary Maluccio awarded $30,000 James Ewing Oncology Fellowships

February 4 deadline to apply for $20,000 Young Investigator Award
Members of the Continuing Medical Education Committee have updated SSO's Mission Statement and developed accompanying Vision and Values Statements, reported CME Committee Chair Dr. David N. Danforth, Jr., Bethesda, MD.

The updated Mission Statement clarifies SSO's commitment to advancing the field of surgical oncology by expanding member educational opportunities, seeking better patient outcomes and promoting public policy issues. The revised statement reads:

The mission of the Society of Surgical Oncology is to serve its members by: 1) representing and advancing the profession of surgical oncology; 2) promoting the highest quality surgical oncology patient care outcomes, education, practice, research, ethical conduct, and advocacy; and 3) promoting public policy issues related to surgical oncology.

The accompanying Vision and Values Statements are as follows:

VISION STATEMENT:
The Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) promotes the highest quality of surgical oncology care and assists its members with acquiring continuing medical education and fostering research needed to provide safe and quality patient care.

VALUES STATEMENT:
The SSO is efficient, flexible, 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.
SSO matching program places 78 candidates in Surgical Oncology, Breast Fellowships

Seventy-eight candidates were placed in surgical oncology and breast fellowship training positions at SSO-approved programs across the U.S. and Canada, reported Training Program Committee Chair Dr. Jeffrey E. Gershenwald, Houston, TX.

The majority of the two- and three-year surgical oncology and breast fellowship training positions will begin in July.

Now in its third year, 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, thereby making the application and acceptance process more structured.

Following are the residents and institutions to which they have been assigned:

**SURGICAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS**

University of Chicago — Dr. Rohit R. Sharma, Bronx, NY.

City of Hope National Medical Center — Drs. Cassandra A. Anderson, Richfield, MN; Avo Artinyan, Glendale, CA; and Perry A. Soriano, Bethesda, MD.

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center — Drs. Daniel A. Anaya, Seattle, WA; Dan G. Blazer, III, Ann Arbor, MI; Yun S. Chun, New York, NY; Keith F. Fournier, Virginia Beach, VA; Elizabeth G. Grubbs, Durham, NC; Matthew H. Katz, San Diego, CA; and Melinda M. Mortenson, Sacramento, CA.

Fox Chase Cancer Center — Drs. Marson T. Davidson, Montclair, NJ; James F. Flaherty, West Hartford, CT; and David M. Heimann, Bethesda, MD.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center — Drs. Charlotte E. Ariyan, Guilford, CT; Darren R. Carpizo, Santa Monica, CA; Rebecca A. Gladdy, Toronto, ON, Canada; Michael G. House, Baltimore, MD; Timothy J. Kennedy, Chicago, Troy F. Kinsey, Martinez, GA; and Carl R. Schmidt, Nashville, TN.

Ohio State University — Dr. Ryan L. Neff, Wilmington, DE.

Roswell Park Cancer Institute — Drs. Mohamed M. Allassas, Shreveport, LA; Nirupama Anne, Flushing, NY; Ari-Nareg Meguerditchian, Buffalo, NY; Evan S. Ong, Chicago; and Joseph J. Skitzki, Cleveland Heights, OH.

John Wayne Cancer Institute — Drs. Chris Chang Kyu Lee, Capeley, OH and Byron E. Wright, Port Orchard, WA (two years); and Drs. Michael B. Nicholl, Milwaukee, WI, and Alicia M. Terando, Minneapolis, MN (three years).

University of Miami — Dr. Manuel A. Molina, Long Island City, NY.

Roger Williams Medical Center and Cancer Center — Dr. Hideko Yamauchi, Honolulu, HI.

University of Pittsburgh — Drs. Jan Franko, Willow Grove, PA; Shane E. Holloway, Dallas, TX; Jane S. Wey, Sacramento, CA; and Linwah Yip, Chicago.

University of Toronto — Drs. Ulrich Guller, Basel, Switzerland; Erika Haase, Edmonton, AB, Canada; and Kouros Mooz, Toronto, ON, Canada.

University of Calgary — Dr. Walter J. Miller, Bedminster, NJ.

Virginia Commonwealth University — Dr. Kazuaki Takabe, San Diego, CA.

**BREAST FELLOWSHIPS**

University of Texas Southwestern — Drs. Monet W. Bowling, Noblesville, IN; and Aye Moe Thu Ma, Valhalla, NY.

John Wayne Cancer Institute — Dr. Preya Ananathkrishnan, West Orange, NJ.

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center — Drs. Regina M. Fearmonti, Pearland, TX; Julie E. Lang, San Francisco; and Loren L. Rourke, Seymour, TN.

University of California at San Francisco — Dr. Agnes Radzio, Cherry Hill, NJ.

Grant Medical Center — Dr. June J. Lee, Elkins Park, PA.

Columbia University/New York Presbyterian — Dr. Benjamin Pocock, Boston, MA.

University of Arkansas for Medical Science — Dr. Keiva L. Bland, Detroit, MI.

William Beaumont Hospital — Dr. Nafisa K. Kuwajerwala, Troy, MI.

University of Michigan — Dr. Marie C. Lee, New York, NY.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation — Dr. Karen S. Barbosa, Forest Hills, NY.

Northwestern University — Drs. Hannah Hazard, Morgantown, WV; and Aeisha K. S. Rivers, Rohnert Park, CA.

University of Southern California — Dr. Lisa E. Guerra, Chicago; and Laura M. Rivers, New York, NY.

Anne Arundel Medical Center — Dr. Jennifer R. M. Reed, Richmond, VA.

Stanford University School of Medicine — Dr. Andrea Madrigano, Chicago.

St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center/Beth Israel Medical Center — Dr. Julie L. Barone, Brookfield, IL.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center — Drs. Andrea V. Barrio, New York, NY; Sarah A. McLaughlin, Jacksonville, FL; and Jeamme Jai-Yin Yu, New York, NY.

Massachusetts General Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute & Brigham and Women’s Hospital — Dr. Laura J. Kirstein, New York, NY.

The Bryn Mawr Hospital — Dr. Catherine D. Carruthers, Brooklyn, NY; and Lori A. Chapleskie, Norristown, PA.

Baylor University Medical Center — Dr. Nate Thepatri, Iowa City, IA.

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute — Dr. John V. Kiluk, Augusta, GA.

Women & Infants Hospital — Dr. Ekaterini V. Tsiapali, Johnson City, TN.

Fox Chase Cancer Center — Dr. Martin J. O’Sullivan, Dublin, Ireland.

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School — Dr. Kimberli S. Cox, Harrirsburgh, PA.

Washington University (St. Louis) — Dr. Aisilnn S. Vaughan, Cincinnati, OH.

Mayo Clinic — Dr. Shaheen Zakaria, Rochester, MN.
Redesigned Website enhances functionality, improves access to SSO programs, activities

An extensive redesign of the Society’s Website now provides users with quicker access to timely information about SSO programs and activities, announced Website Committee Chair Dr. Funda Meric-Bernstam, Houston, TX.

The Website Committee helped guide the site’s redesign in an effort to make it more user-friendly and visually appealing.

The Website takes advantage of new technologies that enable the Society to post information of interest to members and the general public more efficiently through enhanced software compatibility.

Log on to www.surgonc.org to access a wide range of topics, including:

• Program and registration information for the 2006 Annual Cancer Symposium, March 23 - 26, San Diego, CA.

• The American College of Surgeons Legislative Action Center. Members can receive the latest information on a variety of issues, including payment updates, funding for trauma systems and an update on the Patients’ Bill of Rights. The Action Center lets surgeons contact Congressional and government leaders on pressing issues in medical care and provides a guide for contacting media outlets across the country.

• Annals of Surgical Oncology. Members can view the complete publication online.

• Back issues of SSO News.

• Job listings posted on SSO’s Career Services Center.

• SSO-approved surgical oncology and breast fellowship training programs.

The Website offers a complete listing and description of SSO-approved training programs. Surgeons can download training program applications in PDF format.

• Symposia/cancer presentations from previous Annual Meetings.

• The Society’s Prophylactic Mastectomy Statement.

“\nThe Website takes advantage of new technologies that enable the Society to post information of interest to members and the general public more efficiently...”

Online Career Center lets members explore professional opportunities

Members may explore new career opportunities in complete anonymity and post job openings through SSO’s online Career Center, accessible at www.surgonc.org.

Developed in tandem with JobTarget, the largest provider of “private label” online job boards for the medical profession, the Career Center was designed specifically for SSO members and offers unique career opportunities in surgical oncology.

The site allows SSO members to:

• Post job openings – In addition to offering Society members opportunities to explore new opportunities, the Career Center provides SSO with a significant source of non-dues revenue. When employers place an ad on the site, SSO receives 85% of the advertising revenue.

• 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 postings available at no charge;

• Create personal job alerts – Surgeons may create focused search methods that automatically alert them via e-mail of new jobs meeting their specific search criteria.

SSO’s Career 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 professional opportunities to employers nationwide.
Pancreatic cancer research advocate Paula Kim named 2006 James Ewing Layman Award Winner

Paula Kim, one of the nation’s leading advocates for pancreatic cancer research, has been selected as recipient of the 2006 James Ewing Layman Award. The award is presented annually to a non-physician who has made a significant contribution to improving the lives 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.

After her father died from pancreatic cancer less than three months after diagnosis, Kim co-founded the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN), the first national, nonprofit patient advocacy organization dedicated to providing education, awareness and research advocacy efforts for pancreatic cancer patients and researchers. She served as Board Chair, President and CEO from 1999 to 2004.

The organization’s public policy efforts engaged the research, governmental and business sectors to ensure that pancreatic cancer research became a national priority. This resulted in a 200% increase in federal funding levels for pancreatic cancer research and led Congress to proclaim November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

PanCAN also established a series of career development grants with professional research societies that total more than $1 million.

In 2005, Kim founded the Translating Research Across Communities Network (TRAC) to help foster greater interaction between the research and patient communities. A unique aspect of the TRAC program is its focus on helping organizations in the public, private and nonprofit sectors accelerate biomedical research progress by strengthening communication with each other and identifying opportunities for improvement in biomedical and cancer research, collaboration, funding, advocacy and clinical trials.

She is also Principal of Paula Kim Consulting, an internationally-recognized professional services firm focused on accelerating organizational and program strategies that enhance the productivity and results of biomedical research for patient progress.

Nominee slate ...continued from page 4

Center, Houston. He is also Associate Director of the institution’s Sarcoma Center and Chief of the Sarcoma Service.

Dr. Pisters served as the Councillor-at-Large on the SSO Executive Council from 2002 - 2005. He is a former Chair and member of the Training Committee, and served on the Membership, Nominating and Program Directors Committees. In addition, Dr. Pisters served as Associate Editor for the Bone and Soft Tissue Section of Annals of Surgical Oncology.

COUNCIL MEMBER: DR. LISA A. NEWMAN

Dr. Newman is Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the Breast Care Center at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Ann Arbor, MI. She is also on the Adjunct Surgery Staff at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Newman currently serves on the Annals' Editorial Board, is Associate Editor of the Journal’s Breast Section, and has served as a manuscript reviewer since 1999.

Cancer Symposium ...continued from page 5

Topics include primary prevention, screening, management and prognosis for the general population and individuals with familial risk, and management of malignant polyps in the colon and rectum (Sunday, March 26).

Other highlights include Friday’s Annual Heritage Presentation, where Dr. Alfred M. Cohen, Lexington, KY, honors 1991-92 SSO President Dr. Charles M. Balch, Alexandria, VA.

Another Annual Cancer Symposium staple, the Cine Clinic, features noted experts who narrate films of surgical procedures. This year’s Clinic, held Saturday, March 25, is moderated by Dr. N. Joseph Espat, Chicago, and focuses on advances in laparoscopic surgery.

Friday and Saturday Meet the Professor Breakfasts allow attendees to meet with internationally renowned speakers to discuss the latest challenges facing surgical oncologists in a smaller, more intimate setting.