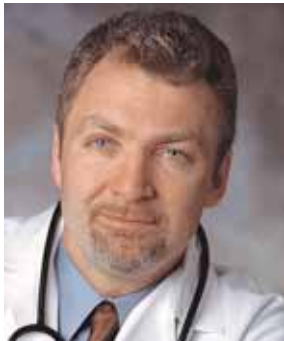


Jefferson Cancer Network News



Message from the Clinical Director, Walter J. Curran Jr., MD

The Jefferson Cancer Network (JCN) continues to grow in membership and in clinical trial enrollment. The total number of institution members in JCN is now 21, and patients enrolled in clinical trials within JCN in 2005 surpassed the previous year by more than 65%. In particular, we have witnessed a significant increase in accrual to studies conducted by the National Surgical Breast & Bowel Project (NSABP).

The Jefferson Oncology Group (JOG) will soon activate its 30th study. In addition, several new JOG studies are expected to become active in early 2006. Disease sites under study include breast, gastric and lung cancers. We are very pleased that we continue to attract new proposals from the pharmaceutical industry.

As I am sure you have heard, Dr. Richard G. Pestell has been appointed the new director of the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson. Dr. Pestell will build on the Kimmel Cancer Center's existing strengths while emphasizing growth in translational and clinical research. We can look forward to new opportunities for our cancer network membership in the near future. Dr. Pestell met with members of the JOG Executive Committee at our December 2005 meeting.

Active participation in the Jefferson Cancer Network by the membership makes all the difference. Your continued involvement is valued and I welcome your comments!

Thank you, and I wish all of you a happy and healthy 2006!

Jefferson Cancer Network

- Albert Einstein Medical Center
- Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
- Atlanticare Regional Medical Center
- Brandywine Hospital
- Ephrata Community Hospital
- Frankford Hospitals
- Hematology & Oncology Associates of Northeastern PA PC
- Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience
- Jefferson Kimmel Cancer Center
- Jefferson Radiation Oncology Center at Chestnut Hill
- Jefferson Radiation Oncology Center at Lower Bucks
- Memorial Hospital of Salem County
- Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital
- Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia
- Mercy Suburban Hospital
- Methodist Hospital
- Montgomery Hospital Medical Center
- Northeast Radiation Oncology Center
- Pocono Medical Center
- Riddle Memorial Hospital
- Sacred Heart Hospital
- Underwood-Memorial Hospital
- Wills Eye Hospital

Featured Clinical Trial: RTOG 0413/NSABP B-39

This important study is under way at Jefferson, Albert Einstein Cancer Center, Atlanticare Regional Medical Center and Frankford Hospitals. Three thousand women will participate from approximately 150 sites.

This phase III study will determine whether limiting radiation therapy to only the tumor site, partial breast irradiation (PBI), is as effective as

irradiating the whole breast (WBI) in the local management of early stage (Stage 0, I, or II) breast cancer. An important secondary aim of the study involves quality of life parameters.

Randomization is between WBI and PBI. The options for PBI are multi-catheter brachytherapy, MammoSite™ balloon catheter or 3D conformal external-beam radiation.

The PBI delivery technique will be selected by each site, according to their preference and experience.

Major eligibility criteria are: histologically confirmed DCIS or invasive adenocarcinoma of the breast; lumpectomy with cavity/whole breast reference volume < 30% on post-op pre-randomization CT scan; margins free of DCIS and

invasive cancer; axillary staging by ALND or SN biopsy.

Dr. Rani Anné serves as the Jefferson principal investigator. For more information or help to activate this study on your campus, contact Vicki Squire at 215-503-5641.

Congratulations to the investigators and research staff at Frankford Hospital, the first in our network to enroll women on this important study!

Calendar

January 19 – 22

RTOG Group Meeting
Miami, FL
www.rtog.org

February 24

Scientific & Clinical Update on Pancreatic Cancer
Bluemle 101

March 22

Clinical Research Associates Update
Bluemle 105

April 28 – May 1

NSABP Group Meeting
Denver, CO
www.nsabp.pitt.edu

May (TBD)

JOG Executive Committee Meeting
Bluemle

June 17

Comprehensive Oncology Review
Philadelphia Marriott

June 21

Clinical Research Associates Update
Bluemle 105

June 22 – 25

RTOG Group Meeting
Toronto, Canada
www.rtog.org

June 23 – 25

ECOG Group Meeting
Washington DC
www.ecog.dfci.harvard.edu

SAVE THE DATE! The Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson's Genitourinary (GU) Multidisciplinary Center will have been in operation for 10 years in early 2006. The Center, which has evaluated and treated several thousand men, was the first of its kind in this region and continues at the forefront in the multidisciplinary approach to prostate cancer management. To celebrate this milestone, several events are being planned. Mark your calendar for a prostate cancer update dinner and conference scheduled for **April 6th** at the Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia. More information will follow closer to the date. For more information about the GU Multidisciplinary Center, visit www.kimmelcancercenter.org or call 1-800-JEFF-NOW.

Membership Update

Newer members to the Jefferson Cancer Network include Pocono Medical Center in East Stroudsburg, PA; Brandywine Hospital in Coatesville, PA; Memorial Hospital of Salem County, Salem, NJ; Northeast Radiation Oncology Center in Dunmore, PA; and Hematology-Oncology Associates of Northeast Pennsylvania, also in Dunmore and Scranton, PA. For more information and contact information on these or any member please visit our website at www.kcc.tju.edu/kcc/JCN.

JOG Update

The Jefferson Oncology Group (JOG) will soon activate its 30th study. Several studies have recently closed as accrual goals have been met. We anticipate activating 5 studies in early 2006. We are very pleased to mention that JOG 26, A Randomized Phase II Study of Single Agent Erlotinib (Tarceva™, OSI-774) versus Standard

Chemotherapy in Patients with Previously Untreated Advanced NSCLC and a Poor Performance Status, recently met its accrual goal with JOG having accrued more than 10% of the total number of patients nationally. Dr. Rita Axelrod served as the principal investigator. The majority of the JOG patients were enrolled by Dr. William Tester at Albert Einstein Cancer Center.

For information on JOG, contact Vicki Squire at 215-503-5641

New Appointments

Richard G. Pestell, MD, PhD has been appointed Director of the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson; Professor and Chair, Department of Cancer Biology and Associate Dean for Cancer Programs, Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University; and Vice President for Oncology Services, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Dr. Pestell most recently served as the



Richard G. Pestell, MD, PhD

Director of the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University. Dr. Pestell is an internationally renowned expert in oncology and endocrinology. A specialist in hormone-related cancers, Dr. Pestell works toward the eventual discovery of novel targeted therapies for diseases such as breast and prostate cancers. Dr. Pestell has made significant contributions to understanding cell cycle regulation and aberrations that can lead to cells turning cancerous. His work is aimed at



Charles J. Yeo, MD

identifying molecular markers of pre-malignant disease to develop preventive approaches to cancer. Dr. Pestell can be reached at 215-503-5649.

Charles J. Yeo, MD has been appointed as the new Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Dr. Yeo had been chief of the Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery at Johns Hopkins

Hospital and professor of Surgery and Oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. An internationally known pancreas specialist with an impressive record of accomplishments, Dr. Yeo has performed more than 600 Whipple surgical procedures, among the largest number of this type of surgery performed by a surgeon in the nation. Dr. Yeo can be reached by calling 215-955-8643.

For more information please visit the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson website at www.kimmeltcancercenter.org.

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Rita Axelrod, MD

Meet the PI

Rita S. Axelrod, MD

Dr. Rita Axelrod serves as our Jefferson principal investigator (PI) on several cooperative group and industry clinical trials in both head & neck and lung cancer. In addition, she is the national medical oncology co-PI on a major new Phase III RTOG trial testing cetuximab in head and neck cancer. Dr. Axelrod came to Jefferson in 1997 after having practiced in both the community and academic settings.

Dr. Axelrod did both her undergraduate and medical school education at New York University, with a internal medicine residency at Roosevelt Hospital in New York, NY and Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. Her hematology/oncology fellowship was done at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Lankenau Hospital.

Dr. Axelrod came to Jefferson with specialization in head & neck and lung cancers. Dr. Axelrod became interested in the care of head & neck cancer patients quite by chance. She started at Temple University's cancer center at the same time as a new head & neck surgeon. Together they started a head & neck conference for treatment planning for this patient population. Dr. Axelrod says she "found it was most gratifying to plan treatment

in a rational, organized way involving all modalities to reach the goal of eradicating the tumor." In addition, as a consultant at the Deborah Heart & Lung Institute, Dr. Axelrod developed a special interest in the care of lung cancer patients.

Her interests and care extend beyond her professional life at Jefferson. Focussing on lung cancer as the most common cancer killer of women in the United States, Dr. Axelrod is an active member in WALC, or Women Against Lung Cancer. WALC is a professional alliance whose mission is to educate the public and healthcare professionals about the increasing number of lung cancer deaths in women. She also volunteers for ADD, an organization that provides social and educational programs for developmentally disabled adults.

Dr. Axelrod can be reached at 215-955-1965, or rita.axelrod@jefferson.edu

