Cancer Research in the Beautiful Pacific Northwest

Allison Conlin, MD, principal investigator of the Pacific Cancer Research Consortium based in Seattle, WA, provides insight on working within a dispersed consortium. Living within the dyclad Pacific Northwest makes everything a little bit better, particularly when it comes to cancer research. The Pacific NCORP formed more than four years ago at the announce-ment of the original NCORP. The idea was to form a network of cancer institutions (Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and others) and major academic institutions in the entire cascade from Alaska to southern California and extending westward into Montana. This geographic diversity has challenged the structure of the network to advance. One obvious hurdle is how to have maximal participation in clinical trial selection with so many sites and more than one time zone.

Disparities Corner

Identifying Gastric Cancer Risk Through Cancer Disparities

Virginia L. Wu, MD, MPH, FACP, shares the outcomes of a pilot study undertaken to conduct cancer disparities in gastric cancer.

Gastric cancer is highly prevalent in the United States with overall five-year survival rates of only 23 percent. In high prevalence countries, population-wide screening for gastric cancer among middle aged and older adults has resulted in a 35 to 40 percent decrease in stomach cancer mortality. However, population-wide screening is not feasible in the U.S. due to low incidence in the general population. However, gastric cancer disproportionately affects lower-socioeconomic status ethnic minority groups.

Spotlight on Trials

Two Pivotal Alliance Trials Address Rare Population Subsets in Thyroid Cancer

Hürthle Cell Thyroid Cancer

Alliance A091302 - Hürthle cell cancers of follicular origin consist of irregular follicular glands with branching stroma, and are characterized by rapid proliferation of thyroid cells and in-vasiveness to systematic therapies. Pralatrexate thyroid cancer (PTC), representing 80 percent of all thyroid cancers, follicular thyroid cancer, and Hürthle cell thyroid cancer make up a group of malignancies known as differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC).

Advanced Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer

Alliance A091301 - Anaplastic thyroid cancer is the most common endocrine malignancy, androgens. Advanced anaplastic thyroid cancer (ATC) is extremely rare. This year, the estimated incidence rate for thyroid cancer in the United States is about 62,450 newly diagnosed cases, of which ATC comprises less than 2 percent.

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Pivotal Phase III Trial for Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)

Geoffrey Uy, MD, on her Motivation and Goals

Hank Porterfield, MD, on her Cattle Rancher to Cancer Nurse (Alliance 191402CD)

G. Moertel Lecturer

IN THE NEWS

Advocates - Cancerl and Neuroendocrine tumors; (CABINET) for advanced metastatic tumors; (CABINET) for advanced metastatic cancers; (CABINET) for advanced metastatic melanoma; (CALGB 89803) with gemtuzumab ozogamicin; (CALGB 89803) with gemtuzumab ozogamicin; (CALGB 89803)

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