

SUMMER 2018 | VOLUME 8, NUMBER 4

## Intergroup Collaboration Emphasized in an Era of Many New Drugs in Leukemia

*Richard M. Stone, MD, Chair of the Alliance Leukemia Committee, discusses new therapies now available for patients with leukemia.*

An unprecedented number of new drugs have been recently approved for patients with acute and chronic leukemias. Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) drugs include: CPX-351 in newly diagnosed secondary AML, enasidenib in advanced mutant IDH2 disease, and gilteritinib in combination with chemotherapy in newly diagnosed patients. Midostaurin in combination with chemotherapy in newly diagnosed patients with mutant FLT3 AML was approved on the basis of the CALGB 10603/RATIFY trial, conducted in many centers throughout the world, which showed that the addition of the FLT3 inhibitor led to improved survival compared to chemotherapy alone in patients with AML whose blasts harbored a FLT3 mutation, an adverse prognostic subtype. [Read more](#)



*Richard M. Stone, MD*

## Cancer Research in the Beautiful Pacific Northwest



*Alison Conlin, MD*

*Alison Conlin, MD, Principal Investigator of the Pacific Cancer Research Consortium based in Seattle, WA, provides insight on working within a large and geographically dispersed consortium.*

Living in the idyllic Pacific Northwest makes everything a little bit better, particularly cancer research. The Pacific NCORP formed more than four years ago at the announcement of the original NCORP. The three main affiliates remain in Portland (Providence Cancer Institute), Seattle (Swedish Cancer Institute) and Boise (Mountain States Tumor Institute) with sub-affiliates spanning the entire coastline from Alaska to southern California and extending eastward into Montana. This geographic diversity has challenged us to use new efficiencies for cooperation and scientific advancement. One obvious hurdle is how to have maximal participation in clinical trial selection with so many sites and more than one time zone. [Read more](#)

## Disparities Corner



### Identifying Gastric Cancer Risk Through Cancer Disparities

*Haejin In, MD, MBA, MPH, FACS, shares the outcomes of a pilot study she conducted on cancer disparities in gastric cancer.*

Gastric cancer is highly lethal in the United States with overall five-year survival of only 31 percent. In high prevalence countries, population-wide screening for gastric cancer among middle aged and older adults has resulted in 30 to 60 percent decrease in gastric cancer mortality. Yet, population-wide gastric cancer 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. [Read more](#)

## Spotlight on Trials Two Pivotal Alliance Trials Address Rare Population Subsets in Thyroid Cancer

**Hürthle Cell Thyroid Cancer**  
**Alliance A091302** - Thyroid cancers of follicular origin consist of several histologic subtypes with diverse genetic and biologic features that directly influence clinical behavior and response to systematic therapies. Papillary 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). [Read more](#)

**Advanced Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer**  
**Alliance A091305** - While thyroid cancer is the most common endocrine malignancy, 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. [1-3] [Read more](#)

## MEETINGS

**2018 ALLIANCE FALL GROUP MEETING**  
November 1-3  
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL  
[Schedule](#)

**SPRING 2019**  
May 9-11 | Chicago  
**FALL 2019**  
November 7-9 | Chicago

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Three New Trials Now Recruiting: Alliance A021602 \(CABINET\) for advanced neuroendocrine tumors; Alliance A031791 for bladder cancer; and Alliance A211601 for breast cancer](#)

[Call for Nominations: Charles G. Moertel Lecturer](#)

[Call for Abstracts: CRPs and Oncology Nurse \(Alliance Fall Meeting Poster Session\)](#)

[In Memoriam: Alliance Patient Advocates - Hank Porterfield and Robert Harrison](#)

## IN THE NEWS

[From Cattle Rancher to ASCO President: Monica Bertagnolli, MD, on her motivations and goals](#)

[Geoffrey Uy, MD, to Lead Pivotal Phase III Trial for Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia \(AML\)](#)

[Comparative Effectiveness of Decision Aids in Diverse Populations with Prostate Cancer \(Alliance 191402CD\)](#)

[Associations of Artificially Sweetened Beverage Intake with Disease Recurrence and Mortality in Colon Cancer \(CALGB 89803\)](#)

## Visit our website

Learn more about what's happening in the Alliance, visit the [Alliance website](#) today!

### Stay Connected

[Like us on Facebook](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)