

## First Alliance Group Meeting November 17-19 Have You Registered?

Gearing up for its first Group meeting, the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology invites all members to register online through the Alliance web site ([www.alliance-website.org](http://www.alliance-website.org)) or through a link individuals may have received in an e-mail correspondence. The meeting will be held November 17-19 at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare. Registration is required for everyone to attend the Group meeting.

**Here are some tips to ensure a successful meeting.**

- **Register online early.**  
Your printed name badge will be waiting for you at the registration desk, ensuring virtually no wait time.
- **Register for individual sessions, including special educational sessions that you plan to attend.**  
Meeting rooms will be setup to accommodate all registered attendees, ensuring that everyone has a seat and is comfortable. Meeting attendees are welcome to attend all open meetings or sessions. However, closed or invitation only sessions can be attended only by those invited.
- **Check the meeting schedule prior to attending the meeting.**  
A revised meeting schedule reflecting up-to-the-minute room changes will be e-mailed to meeting attendees the week of the meeting.
- **Attend the plenary session.**  
This all-meeting attendee session allows members and guests to learn more about the Alliance, and to glean insights from experts in the field of clinical cancer research.
- **Hang all scientific posters for the Alliance Poster Session between 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 18, and remove them directly after the plenary session.**  
For all Alliance investigators who receive an invitation to display their scientific posters at the Group meeting, make sure to send an e-mail to [jowens@uchicago.edu](mailto:jowens@uchicago.edu) to let us know that you plan to display a poster.

**For travelers funded by the Alliance Office of the Group Chair:**

- **Check individual meeting invitation received from Katherine Faherty for instructions.**
- **Make room reservations through the online registration site.**
- **Book your flights early using Egencia, the official travel agency of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology.**

**If you have specific questions about the meeting, send an e-mail to [kefaherty@partners.org](mailto:kefaherty@partners.org).**

# Alliance Myeloma Committee to Present Comprehensive Scientific Agenda

The Alliance Myeloma Committee, chaired by Paul Richardson, MD, of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), with vice chairs Philip McCarthy MD, of Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI), and Kenneth Anderson MD, also from DFCI, will focus on developing trials that will improve outcome of patients diagnosed with multiple myeloma, an incurable malignancy which arises in the bone marrow and originates from neoplastic plasma cells. Multiple myeloma is the most common hematologic malignancy after non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; it has widespread effects throughout the body, including the bone marrow, the skeleton, the immune system, the kidneys and the peripheral nervous system, and is responsible for two percent of cancer deaths.

Earlier phase and translational studies will have a prominent role in this research committee's agenda, as will larger phase III initiatives, targeting various scenarios and specific disease settings, such as newly diagnosed, high-risk multiple myeloma; combination approaches in older patients; novel approaches to transplant; improving the management of renal disease, and rarer but important entities such as solitary osseous plasmacytoma.

"Collaboration with the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) and the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) will be a major emphasis," said Dr. Richardson. "The activity of the committee will be strengthened by the presence of designated statistical experts and pathologists, together with myeloma leaders from multiple centers in the Alliance network. A strong partnership with pharmaceutical companies will be another feature to this committee's work, and in so doing help foster state of the art studies incorporating multiple novel agents and emerging new drugs."

Alliance Myeloma Committee members come from leading nationwide centers, including DFCI, RPCI, Duke University Medical Center, Fox Chase Medical Center, Mayo Clinic, University of Chicago Medical Center, The Ohio State University, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, University of Utah, Massachusetts General Hospital, New York Presbyterian Hospital, University of California San Francisco and University of North Carolina, so ensuring that the committee has diverse and broad representation, with community and patient participation as well. The committee will meet formally four times a year and in addition to these meetings will also conduct regular teleconferences to engender an inclusive, collegial and productive environment for cutting edge clinical research to be developed, with the goal first and foremost of enhancing clinical benefit and improving patient outcome.

## New Member Web Site Available Soon

Starting October 24, Alliance members will gain access to the new Alliance Member web site. The site was created to meet immediate member information needs, and it contains information not available to the general public. It will not contain information specific to each legacy Group such as protocols, data forms, etc.; that information will continue to be available on individual legacy web sites. The Alliance Member web site will contain links to each legacy web site.

The new web site will require members to login with a username and password. Stay tuned for specific details about how to access the new member site.

## Recent Alliance Appointments\*

### Office of the Group Chair

Conflict of Interest Committee

*Co-Chair – James D. Bearden, III, MD, Upstate Carolina CCOP*

*Co-Chair – Jeffrey Crawford, MD, Duke University Medical Center*

Audit Committee

*Co-Chair – Thomas Habermann, MD, Mayo Clinic*

*Co-Chair – David Hurd, MD, Wake Forest University School of Medicine*

### Cancer Control Program

Community Oncology Committee

*Co-Chair – Robert Behrens, MD, Iowa Oncology Research Association*

*\*Other appointments are currently underway.*