

# The M. D. Anderson Connection

Published by the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association

## Strategic planning to help set direction for association

The M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Department of Trainee and Alumni Affairs, has begun a strategic planning process that will guide the association over the next 5-10 years.

Fred Schmitt, managing director of Executive Development Group L.L.C., has been contracted to assist the Steering Committee in its strategic planning efforts. He facilitated an initial discussion in June that focused on outlining a strategic direction for the association and determining priorities based on that direction.

"Setting a strategic direction will provide everyone with a better understanding of the importance of participating in Alumni and Faculty Association activities," says Naoto Ueno, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Alumni and Faculty Association.

From the planning session, the following major points emerged as important to the success of the association:

- Building bridges between current and past faculty and trainees to develop a more credible and recognizable association.
- Building a sense of mutual support and connection between M. D. Anderson and alumni members.
- Developing a mission for the association that will help achieve its goals, while remaining aligned in part with the overall mission of M. D. Anderson.

From these key points, structural and operational priorities are being developed. Structural priorities under consideration include:

- Clarifying membership and benefits.
- Building an effective database and membership directory.
- Increasing membership.

Operational priorities being considered include:

- Publicizing and marketing the association.
- Defining and increasing outreach activities.
- Increasing student support.
- Developing regional alumni groups.
- Increasing funding.
- Expanding the database and directory.

"The strategic planning has defined priorities and set short-term goals, which will enable alumni to communicate more effectively with the institution. Alumni networking across institutions also will be facilitated," says Joya Chandra, Ph.D., chair-elect of the association. "We anticipate that our efforts will build a stronger Alumni and Faculty Association that will benefit the institution, as well as serve the needs of current and former trainees."



Joya Chandra, Ph.D.



Naoto Ueno,  
M.D., Ph.D.

### New name, new home

Welcome to the first issue of The M. D. Anderson Connection, the quarterly newsletter of the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association.

The newsletter previously was called The Associate Connection as an acknowledgement of the organization's former title, the M. D. Anderson Associates. While we have a new name, our goal remains to help alumni and current faculty and trainees feel "connected" to each other and to the institution.

From this issue forward, you will receive the newsletter inside each issue of Conquest, which is published four times a year. You can count on Conquest to highlight the institution's achievements and expertise in cancer research, patient care, education and prevention, while The M. D. Anderson Connection will focus on the people and programs of the Alumni and Faculty Association.

### The M. D. Anderson Connection

M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association information is available on the Internet:  
[www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc](http://www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc)

**Newsletter staff:** Toya Candelari, Dr.P.H., *Trainee and Alumni Affairs*; Sharon Pepper, *Trainee and Alumni Affairs*  
David Berkowitz, Kelley Moore, *Communications Office*

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# Chamberlain honored for career mentoring efforts

Colleagues describe Robert Chamberlain, Ph.D., as a compassionate and creative teacher whose enthusiastic efforts have educated physicians, scientists, patients and the public about cancer prevention.

During a June 7 ceremony, Chamberlain was honored for his work with the first M. D. Anderson Postdoctoral Association Distinguished Mentor Award. The award, which is now named in his honor, recognizes his success as a mentor and the positive role he has played in the professional growth and development of countless postdoctoral fellows at M. D. Anderson.

Chamberlain is the Ashbel Smith Professor and deputy chair of the Department of Epidemiology. As director of the Cancer Prevention Education and Teaching Program since 1988, he leads the nation's largest grant-funded training program for preventive oncology. The R25 training grant supports both graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Science.

National Institutes of Health records

place Chamberlain above the 95th percentile of the distribution of extramural NIH grants during the past 25 years. Many of the postdoctoral fellows he has mentored and fostered through his training grants have achieved noted success in their subsequent independent careers.

Postdoctoral fellows have described Chamberlain as a teacher, coach, sponsor, advisor, counselor, advocate and champion — one who is generous with both time and wisdom, and who celebrates his trainees' successes as his own.

The M. D. Anderson Postdoctoral Association established the Robert M. Chamberlain Distinguished Mentor Award this year to recognize and honor faculty members whose careers have underscored the value of mentoring postdoctoral fellows at M. D. Anderson, and who exemplify the fundamental mentoring qualities of teacher, coach and sponsor.

The award was presented to



Robert Chamberlain, Ph.D. (right), receives the new mentor award from Richard Swartz, Ph.D., former chair of the Postdoctoral Association.

Chamberlain by Richard Swartz, Ph.D., instructor in the Department of Biostatistics and Applied Mathematics, who recently completed his service as chair of the Postdoctoral Association Steering Committee. The committee elected Tracy Costello, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Epidemiology, as the new chair.

Nominations for the 2006 award are due Aug. 31. E-mail [Postdoctoral Association@mdanderson.org](mailto:PostdoctoralAssociation@mdanderson.org) for more information.

# Pediatric oncology latest focus of Cancer Care Series

Innovative research conducted during the past four decades has resulted in important advances in the clinical management of cancer in children and adolescents. Today, the five-year survival rate for all children with cancer is 70 percent.

*Pediatric Oncology*, the fourth volume of the M. D. Anderson Cancer Care Series, details the institution's standard approach to the clinical management of pediatric patients with cancer.

Written for physicians practicing in the community, the 18-chapter book presents guidelines practiced at M. D. Anderson in the multimodality treatment of the most common childhood cancers. It also describes

the institution's Adolescent and Young Adult Program, a national model for cancer care in these select age groups.

As in previous volumes of the series, each chapter ends with a list of suggested readings and key practice points. The latter provides an at-a-glance summary of the important principles of pediatric oncology clinical practice.

The book, edited by Ka Wah Chan, M.D., and R. Beverly Raney Jr., M.D., is published by the M. D. Anderson Alumni

and Faculty Association and Academic Programs in conjunction with Springer Science+Business Media. Scientific Publications helped the editors prepare the book and served

as a liaison with Springer.

Eugenie Kleinerman, head of the Division of Pediatrics, wrote the foreword of the book. Series editors Aman Buzdar, M.D., and Ralph Freedman, M.D., Ph.D., wrote the preface. The Cancer Care Series includes books on breast cancer, lung cancer and gastrointestinal cancer.

The book is available to M. D. Anderson employees and members of the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association for \$41.97, a 30 percent discount off the retail price of \$59.95. To receive the discount, fill out an order form available online ([www.mdanderson.org/featured\\_sites/cancercare/](http://www.mdanderson.org/featured_sites/cancercare/)) and return it to Sharon Pepper with the Alumni and Faculty Association at the fax number or mailing address indicated at the bottom of the form.



## AACR reception draws 450 attendees

The M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association sponsored a reception April 17 during the 2005 annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Anaheim, Calif. Approximately 450 faculty, trainees and alumni attended the event held at the Hilton Anaheim. John Mendelsohn, M.D., president of M. D. Anderson, made opening remarks. He was followed by Naoto Ueno, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor in Blood and Marrow Transplantation and chair of the Alumni and Faculty Association.

## Trainee Recognition Day winners named

M. D. Anderson recognized and exhibited the excellent research of trainees May 27 during the annual Trainee Recognition Day and Research Exposition. Sponsored by the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association, activities included abstract and poster competitions. This year, for the first time, a separate category of awards was presented to graduate students. A total of 169 abstracts were submitted by graduate students and fellows. Cash awards were presented in basic science research and translational research for graduate research assistants, and in basic science research, clinical/translational research and patient-oriented research for fellows.

### Abstract Awards

#### Basic Science Research

- First place — Zhibo Yang, M.D., Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Oncology; Rakesh Kumar, Ph.D., mentor.
- Second place — Zhiyong Ding, Ph.D., Molecular Therapeutics; Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D., mentor.

#### Clinical/Translational Research

- First place — Thomas Shellenberger, M.D., D.V.M., Head and Neck Surgery; Gary Clayman, M.D., D.D.S., mentor.
- Second place — Christopher Pelloski, M.D., Radiation Oncology; Kenneth Aldape, M.D., mentor.

#### Patient-Oriented Research

- First place — Joseph Dang, M.D., Medical Oncology; Luis Fayad, M.D., mentor.
- Second place — Robert Andtbacka, M.D., C.M., Surgical Oncology; Barry Feig, M.D., Surgical Oncology.

#### Graduate Student Basic Science Research

- First place — Ke Zhang, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Sharon Dent, Ph.D., mentor.
- Second place — Shuling Zheng, M.D., Molecular Genetics; Guillermina Lozano, Ph.D., mentor.
- Honorable mention — Jon Lyons, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Pierre McCrea, Ph.D., mentor.

#### Graduate Student Clinical/Translational Research

- First place — Jennifer Dembinski, Blood and Marrow Transplantation; Michael Andreeff, M.D., Ph.D., mentor.
- Second place — Kirstine Klos, Surgical Oncology; Dihua Yu, M.D., Ph.D., mentor.
- Honorable mention — Lingchen Fu, M.D., Hematopathology; Richard Ford, M.D., Ph.D., mentor.

#### Poster Awards — Graduate Students

##### Alumni Association Award in Basic Science Research

- Melissa Olson, Neuro-Oncology; Juan Fueyo, M.D., mentor.

##### Alumni Association Award in Clinical/Translational Research

- Lingchen Fu, Hematopathology; Richard Ford, M.D., Ph.D., mentor.

#### Poster Awards — Postgraduate Students

##### AMGEN Award in Basic Science Research

- Ping Bu, Ph.D., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Sharon Dent, Ph.D., mentor.
- Weihua Zhang, Ph.D., Cancer Biology; Isaiah Fidler, Ph.D., D.V.M., mentor.

##### Bristol-Myers Squibb Award in Clinical/Translational Research

- Meera Nanjundan, Ph.D., Molecular Therapeutics; Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D., mentor.
- Georgios Chamilos, M.D., Infectious Diseases; Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, M.D., Sc.D., mentor.

##### Berlex Oncology Award in Patient-Oriented Research

- Fadi Braiteh, M.D., Cancer Medicine Phase I Program; Razelle Kurzrock, M.D., mentor.
- Chiyu Wang, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Oncology; Agop Bedikian, M.D., mentor.

## Upcoming Events

The following presentations and events may be of interest to M. D. Anderson faculty and alumni. For additional information, check online at [www.mdanderson.org/mdacalendar](http://www.mdanderson.org/mdacalendar).

- **Sept. 10-12 — Mechanisms and Treatment of Cancer-Related Symptoms**  
InterContinental Hotel, Houston
- **Sept. 16-18 — Learning to Practice and Teach Evidence-Based Health Care: An Intensive Workshop**  
Hickey Auditorium, M. D. Anderson
- **Sept. 24-25 — Oncologic Imaging for the Practicing Radiologist**  
Westin La Cantera Resort, San Antonio
- **Sept. 24-27 — 27th Annual Pharmacy Symposium on Cancer Chemotherapy**  
J.W. Marriott Hotel, Houston
- **Sept. 27-Oct. 2 — A Comprehensive Board Review in Hematology and Medical Oncology**  
Hickey Auditorium, M. D. Anderson
- **Oct. 5-8 — Current Concepts in the Management of Thyroid and Parathyroid Neoplasms**  
Santa Fe, N.M.
- **Oct. 7-8 — 2nd Urologic Oncology: Advances in Clinical Practice**  
Hickey Auditorium, M. D. Anderson
- **Oct. 14-16 — 9th Annual Interdisciplinary Approach to Symptom Control, Palliative and Hospice Care**  
Hickey Auditorium, M. D. Anderson
- **Oct. 15-16 — Houston Radiological Society Annual Conference: Breast Imaging Update**  
Renaissance Hotel, Houston
- **Oct. 20-22 — Society for Hematopathology/European Society for Hematopathology 2005 Workshop: Progress in T-cell Malignancies**  
Marriott Medical Center, Houston
- **Oct. 22 — Early Detection of Women's Cancers: Partnering With the Women's Health Community**  
Cancer Prevention Building, M. D. Anderson
- **Oct. 25-28 — 58th Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research**  
J.W. Marriott Hotel, Houston
- **Oct. 28-30 — Oncologic Imaging for the Practicing Radiologist: PET and PET/CT**  
Asheville, N.C.
- **Nov. 10-11 — Infections in Cancer Symposium**  
Cancer Prevention Building, M. D. Anderson

# Milestones

**Kelly McMasters, M.D., Ph.D.**, a 1996 M. D. Anderson surgical oncology fellow, has been named chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. McMasters is a nationally known surgical oncologist who has been with the department since 1996. He holds the prestigious Sam and Lolita Weakley Endowed Professorship and is a prolific researcher who has led dozens of clinical trials, including the Sunbelt Melanoma Trial, which is the world's largest study of melanoma. McMasters has been director of University of Louisville's Division of Surgical Oncology, one of the largest divisions of surgical oncology in the country, for the past three years.

**Sandy Chang, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor in Molecular Genetics at M. D. Anderson, has been selected to receive a Kimmel Scholar Award from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation for Cancer Research. The award will provide Chang with \$100,000 per year for two years to support his research in mouse models that offer clues to aging and cancer development. The Kimmel Scholar Awards are designed to further the careers of some of the youngest and brightest minds in cancer research. In addition to his position here, Chang is an adjunct professor in the Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine.



Sandy Chang,  
M.D., Ph.D.

**Elsa Flores, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in Molecular and Cellular Oncology at M. D. Anderson, has been selected as a Rita Allen Foundation Scholar. The award, which includes a grant of \$50,000 a year for up to three years, recognizes faculty in the early stages of their careers who show promise

of becoming leaders in cancer research and other areas. Flores' general interests involve understanding the genetic alterations of a tumor and how these changes affect the interplay of families of genes that lead to the formation of that tumor. The goal is to use this knowledge to design more targeted therapies for cancer patients.



Elsa Flores, Ph.D.

M. D. Anderson President **John Mendelsohn, M.D.**, is one of three individuals who received a 2005 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, May 17 in Washington, D.C. The medal is awarded periodically to Fulbright alumni whose career accomplishments and civic and cultural contributions are judged to have expanded the boundaries of human wisdom, empathy and perception. Mendelsohn was a Fulbright fellow in Scotland in 1958-1959. Mendelsohn and his wife, Anne, also recently received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

**Emil J Freireich, M.D.**, professor and director of Special Medical Education Programs at M. D. Anderson, has been elected president of the Association for Patient-Oriented Research. The association was founded in 1998 as an



Emil J Freireich, M.D.

international organization to champion clinical research. Among its goals are to foster activities that promote and recognize successful careers in

patient-oriented research, develop more effective training programs for such careers, and to advocate adequate funding for patient-oriented research.

**Ronald Rapini, M.D.**, chair of Dermatology at M. D. Anderson and professor of pathology at UT Medical School at Houston, has been selected to receive the 2005 Walter Nickel Award for Excellence in Teaching of Dermatopathology. The honor from the American Society of Dermatopathology will be presented in October during the society's annual meeting in Seattle.

**Tina W.F. Yen, M.D.**, has been appointed assistant professor of surgery in the Division of Pancreatobiliary and Endocrine Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and to the medical staff of Froedtert Hospital, a major hospital affiliate. A native of Hanover, N.H., she completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at M. D. Anderson, where she received the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons Clinical Award. Yen is a board-certified general surgeon who specializes in surgical oncology, including breast, thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreatic tumors, as well as melanoma and endocrine surgery.

## Send us your milestones

Your achievements are important to us. Please send recent news we can share with your fellow alumni to:

M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association  
Department of Trainee and Alumni Affairs – Unit 165  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
1515 Holcombe Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77030

E-mail items to [alumni@mdanderson.org](mailto:alumni@mdanderson.org) or call Sharon Pepper at (713) 563-9194.

Along with details about your news item, please include your name, degree(s), years when you were at M. D. Anderson, current title and affiliation, city, state, country, and a telephone number and e-mail address so we can contact you if we need additional information.