

The M. D. Anderson Connection

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

New Center for Global Oncology considers alumni, retirees

Recognizing the prominent position M. D. Anderson has earned as a global leader in cancer research and treatment, President John Mendelsohn, M.D., and our Executive Committee have moved to solidify it with the formation of a new Center for Global Oncology.

The committee also recommended that M. D. Anderson alumni and retirees be considered to provide education and clinical service in other countries.

"We can't fulfill our mission by operating only out of 1515 Holcombe," says Dan Fontaine, J.D., senior vice president for business affairs and chief regulatory officer. "This new center is recognition that we've evolved in our global efforts and are pursuing a cohesive approach."

Center structure

The Center for Global Oncology will be organized in a manner similar to our existing multidisciplinary research centers, with a center steering committee and faculty based in academic departments, and will feature three distinct units, each led by a vice president responsible for a key element of the global oncology strategy:

- **Vice president for global business development:** Focused on business transactions and infrastructure issues
- **Vice president for global academic programs:** Focused on academic educational affiliations and collaborative research projects
- **Vice president for global clinical programs:** Focused on clinical consulting services and joint clinical programs

With plans to launch the center as soon as possible, a search committee, assisted by an executive recruitment firm, is conducting concurrent searches to identify and select candidates for all three positions.

Once hired, they'll form the center's steering committee, chaired by the vice president for business development, and will be charged with presenting proposals for consideration and

the formation of partnerships in selected cases.

- **Clinical care:** Using teleconferencing to provide consultation on the cases of complex patients in a multidisciplinary setting.
- **Patient referrals:** Bolstering international patient registration by 2010 to at least 8 percent of all new patients served, from 3 percent

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— Dan Fontaine, J.D.
senior vice president for business affairs
and chief regulatory officer

implementing proposals approved by an executive committee composed of administrative and faculty leaders.

Products, outcomes

Consistent with its three-pronged, three-scope structure, the center's primary products will be:

- **Educational and research collaborations:** Developing and maximizing relationships with international partners to deliver education and training programs across M. D. Anderson's mission areas to remote locations; exchanging fellows and trainees; facilitating, tracking and sharing results of beneficial collaborative research involving our faculty and their counterparts at other institutions.
- **Clinical collaborations:** Providing consultation on the development of multidisciplinary cancer care and research programs and

currently, and addressing those patients' special needs after referral.

- **Satellite facilities and practices:** Establishing stand-alone clinical programs, possibly in the mold of our community radiation treatment centers approach, in other parts of the country and the world, and, in a few carefully selected cases, establishing offerings via larger institutions, using experience from existing pilot programs such as M. D. Anderson International España. These programs will be financially self-sufficient.

M. D. Anderson faculty members interested in and suited to global activities related to such outcomes may become formally affiliated with the new center, although their academic appointments will be in departments. ■

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

Newsletter staff: Toya Candelari, Dr.P.H., Sharon Pepper, *Trainee and Alumni Affairs*
Jonathan Lowe, Kelley Moore, Brenda K. Gunter, *Communications Office*

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Cancer Care Series' latest book focuses on brain, spine tumors

Tumors of the Brain and Spine, the sixth book in the M. D. Anderson Cancer Care Series, highlights integrated care and focuses on treating the patient through the entire spectrum of the disease.

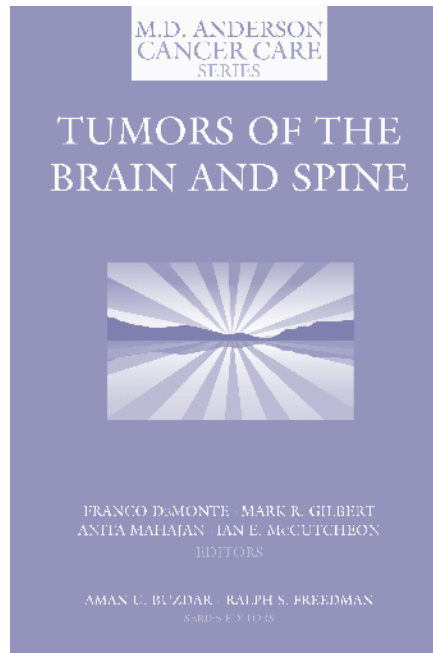
Our rapidly increasing knowledge about tumors of the brain and spine has rendered these tumors more treatable than ever before. In the new world of central nervous system oncology, maximally complete resection is followed by conformal radiation therapy and often by chemotherapy, the selection of which is based on the tumor's susceptibility to drugs that have biological actions known to interact with the tumor's particular molecular signature.

The book focuses primarily on the standard approaches to the treatment of benign, primary low-grade to high-grade, and metastatic tumors in the brain and spine used by surgeons and clinicians at M. D. Anderson. It is written mainly for the primary care oncologist, general neurologist and general neurosurgeon.

The thorough, practical volume includes more than 70 illustrations and 30 tables, and is an essential clinical guide for oncologists, surgeons, and other health care providers involved in the care of patients with central nervous system tumors.

Chapters on treatment focus on neurosurgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy, both singly and in combination. Chapters on symptom management, the molecular genetics and neuropathology of intracranial tumors, the leptomeningeal dissemination of systemic cancer, the epidemiology of brain tumors, and innovative treatment strategies round out the volume.

The book, edited by Franco DeMonte, M.D.; Mark Gilbert, M.D.; Anita Mahajan, M.D.; and Ian McCutcheon, M.D., is published by Springer Science+Business



Media and is distributed by the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association. M. D. Anderson's Department of Scientific Publications helped the editors prepare the book and served as a liaison with Springer.

Raymond Sawaya, M.D., chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, and W. K. Alfred Yung, M.D., chair of the Department of Neuro-Oncology, wrote the foreword. The Cancer Care Series also includes books on breast cancer, lung cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, pediatric oncology and gynecologic cancer.

Ralph Freedman, M.D., Ph.D., professor in Gynecologic Oncology, is editor of the Cancer Care Series.

M. D. Anderson employees, and members of the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association, can purchase copies of the book for 50 percent off the \$89.95 list price. For ordering information, call Sharon Pepper, program manager in Trainee and Alumni Affairs, at 713-563-9194.

News & Notes

Association seeks steering committee members

Would you like to serve on the steering committee for the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association? If you're interested in becoming a steering committee member and would like more information about it, call the Alumni and Faculty Association office at 713-563-9194.

Prostate cancer seminar available online

The M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association has provided the opportunity for you to view a recent seminar on prostate cancer online. Go to www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc and look for "What's New?"

For more information, call Sharon Pepper, program manager in Trainee and Alumni Affairs, at 713-563-9194.

What's on your mind? Take survey and let us know

We want to hear from you. What new offerings would you like to see from the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association?

Include your most-wanted list on a survey you'll receive from the Alumni and Faculty Association this fall. In the meantime, send your ideas to alumni@mdanderson.org. If the demand is there, the association will address it.

Trainee Awards

Trainee Recognition Day award recipients announced

M. D. Anderson recognized and exhibited the excellent research of trainees May 25 during the annual Trainee Recognition Day and Research Exposition.

Sponsored by the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association, the day included competitions for abstracts and posters.

Abstract awards

AMGEN Award in Basic Science Research

First place

Rajesh Singh, Ph.D., Hematopathology

"Discovery of the First Upstream Kinase of Integrin Linked Kinase: PAK1 Phosphorylation of ILK Controls its Subcellular Localization and Functions."

Mentor: Rakesh Kumar, Ph.D.

Second place

Suresh Rayala, Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Oncology

"Discovery of Acetylation-Dependent Transforming Activity of MTA1."

Mentor: Kumar.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Award in Clinical/Translational Research

First place

Seyed Javad Moghaddam, M.D., Pulmonary Medicine

"Promotion of Airway Epithelial Carcinogenesis Information in a K-ras Induced Mouse Model of Lung Cancer."

Mentor: Burton Dickey, M.D.

Second place

Adrienne McCampbell, Ph.D., Pathology

"Overexpression of IGF-II and Activation of Akt in the Endometrium of Neonatal DES Exposed Rodents."

Mentor: Russell Broaddus, M.D., Ph.D.

Berlex Oncology Award in Patient-Oriented Research

First place

Hushan Yang, Ph.D., Epidemiology

"Comprehensive Profiling of Genetic Variations in Inflammation Pathway Genes in Relation to Bladder Cancer Predisposition."

Mentor: Xifeng Wu, M.D., Ph.D.

Second place

Gerald Falchook, M.D., Medical Oncology

"Age-Stratified Phase I Trial of a Combination of Bortezomib, Gemcitabine and Liposomal Doxorubicin in Patients With Advanced Malignancies."

Mentor: Razelle Kurzrock, M.D.

M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association Graduate Student Award in Basic Science Research

First place

Wen-Wei Tsai, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

"LSD1 is Recruited by p53 for the Repression of the AFP Gene."

Mentor: Michelle Barton, Ph.D.

Second place

Yen-Michael Hsu, Molecular and Cellular Oncology

"CARD9 is Required for Innate Immune Responses Against Intracellular Pathogens."

Mentor: Xin Lin, Ph.D.

M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association Graduate Student Award in Clinical/Translational Research

First place:

Sarah Dunlap, Pathology

"IGFBP2 Activates the Akt Pathway and Collaborates With K-Ras or PDGFB in Gliomagenesis and Glioma Progression."

Mentor: Wei Zhang, Ph.D.

Second place:

Rachid Karam, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

"The NMD RNA Surveillance Pathway Degrades Aberrant E-Cadherin Transcripts in Hereditary Diffuse Gastric Cancer."

Mentor: Miles Wilkinson, Ph.D.

Poster presentation awards

AMGEN Award in Basic Science Research

Robert DeJournett, Ph.D., Neurosurgery

Mentor: Oliver Bogler, Ph.D.

Bramanandam Manavathi, Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Oncology

Mentor: Rakesh Kumar, Ph.D.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Award in Clinical/Translational Research

Chandra Bartholomeusz, Ph.D., Stem Cell Transplantation

Mentor: Naoto Ueno, M.D., Ph.D.

Charles Landen, M.D., Gynecologic Oncology

Mentor: Anil Sood, M.D.

Berlex Oncology Award in Patient-Oriented Research

Yuanqing Ye, Ph.D., Epidemiology

Mentor: Xifeng Wu, M.D., Ph.D.

Kedar Inamdar, M.D., Ph.D., Hematopathology

Mentor: Georgios Rassidakis, M.D., Ph.D.

M. D. Anderson Alumni Association Award in Basic Science Research

Deepti Wilkinson, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Mentor: Michelle Barton, Ph.D.

M. D. Anderson Alumni Association Award in Clinical/Translational Research

Raymund Yong, Neurosurgery

Mentor: Frederick Lang, M.D.

Richard Brennan, Ph.D., professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, the leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology. The honor recognizes him for scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology.



Richard Brennan, Ph.D.

Michael Galko, Ph.D., assistant professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received the Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Award from the March of Dimes. The award is designed to support young scientists just beginning their independent research careers.



Michael Galko, Ph.D.

Maher Karam-Hage, M.D., assistant professor in Behavioral Science, was nominated to serve a second term on the Training in Addiction Psychiatry Committee of the American Psychiatric Association. He'll serve a three-year term as the only senior member on the committee, which he also chairs. The committee develops recommendations for modifying training standards in addiction psychiatry for medical students, psychiatry residents and addiction fellows. It also is an advisory group to the APA board of directors and president on issues regarding addiction psychiatry.

Ernestina Melicoff-Portillo, M.D., and **Pankaj Shah, M.D.**, each received a Michael and Mariet Cyrus Scholar Award for winning Internal Medicine's 2007 abstract competition. They presented their abstracts during the division's research retreat in May.

Melicoff-Portillo, postdoctoral fellow in Pulmonary Medicine, won the Basic-Translational Research category for her abstract "Mast Cell Tryptase Has an Ancient Origin and Plays an Essential Role in Defense Against Bacterial Infections." Shah, assistant professor in Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, was the Clinical Research category winner for his abstract "Prevalence and Associations of Hyperglycemia and Diabetes Among Cancer Inpatients."

Issam Raad, M.D., chair of Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health, received the Scientific Achievement Award of the American Lebanese Medical Association. The honor recognizes him for contributions to the improvement of medicine in the United States and abroad.



Issam Raad, M.D.

Yu Shen, Ph.D., professor in Biostatistics, was named a fellow in the American Statistical Association, the nation's preeminent professional statistical society. The honor recognizes her outstanding professional contributions to and leadership in the field of statistical science.

Don't forget to register with online member directory

Help us to expand your M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association network. Visit the AlumniQuest Web site, at mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc, and take a few minutes to update your contact information and any information you have on "lost" alumni. We're especially interested in your career and business information. Registering and keeping your contact information current will enable the association to provide you with information about M. D. Anderson-sponsored activities and to keep you abreast of the latest clinical and scientific achievements and discoveries made at the cancer center.

Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 6-8: Living Fully With and Beyond Cancer Patient and Caregiver Conference**
Houston Marriott Westchase, Houston
- **Sept. 28-30: 11th Annual Interdisciplinary Approach to Symptom Control, Palliative and Hospice Care Conference**
Hickey Auditorium, Main Building, M. D. Anderson
- **Oct. 11-13: 60th Annual Symposium on Cancer Research, "Personalized Risk Assessment and Management"**
J.W. Marriott Hotel, Houston
- **Oct. 27: Sixth Annual M. D. Anderson Alumni Dinner**
J.W. Marriott Hotel, Houston
- **Nov. 1: Distinguished Alumnus Award and Lecture Honoring Roman Perez-Soler, M.D.**
Hickey Auditorium, Main Building, M. D. Anderson

Send us your milestones

Your achievements are important to us. 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 TX 77030

E-mail items to alumni@mdanderson.org or call Sharon Pepper at 713-563-9194.

Along with details about your news item, 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.

Contact us with your change of address.