The combined 16th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and AANS/CNS Section on Tumors Satellite Symposium was held November 17-20, 2011, in Orange County, CA. Drs. Tim Cloughesy (SNO Scientific Program Chair) and Michael Vogelbaum (Section on Tumors Scientific Program Chair) collaborated to create a stimulating program which provided a comprehensive review of cutting-edge laboratory and clinical research in the field of neuro-oncology. The meeting afforded a distinctive environment for the multidisciplinary exchange of ideas among neuro-oncologists, medical oncologists, neurosurgeons, neuropathologists, radiation oncologists, neuroradiologists, pediatricians, laboratory scientists, nurses and other specialists involved in the research, diagnosis, care and treatment of patients with tumors of the central nervous system.

Education Day

The pre-meeting began on Thursday, November 17th with a well-timed and relevant program for the Education Day consisting of a morning session focused on Stereotactic Radiosurgery and concurrent afternoon sessions on Quality of Life / Symptom Management and a Clinical Trials Course for Young Investigators.

SNO Annual Meeting

The formal meeting launched on Friday November 18th with Sunrise Sessions on Viral Gene Therapy, Cancer Cell Metabolism, Surgery for Non-malignant Skull Base Tumors, and Advances in Neuro-Imaging. After the Official Meeting Welcome by Drs. Cloughesy and Vogelbaum, the Top-Scoring Abstracts were awarded. The morning session was followed by an address from SNO president Dr. Frederick Lang, followed by the Victor Levin Award and Lecture by Dr. Kenneth Aldape of the MD Anderson Cancer Center.
2011 SNO Top Scoring Abstract Winners

Frank Furnari, PhD
Award for Excellence in Translational Research
Supported by EMD Serono
PTEN phosphorylation by fibroblast growth factor receptors and SRC mediates resistance to epidermal growth factor receptor inhibitors in glioma
Pictured: Frank Furnari (L) and Stan Lechpammer

Pablo A. Valdes, PhD
Award for Excellence in Translational Research
Supported by Merck, Inc.
Combined fluorescence and reflectance spectroscopy for in vivo quantification of cancer biomarkers in low- and high-grade glioma surgery
Pictured: Pablo A. Valdes (L) and Jim Pluda

Mark R. Gilbert, MD
Award for Excellence in Clinical Research
Supported by the National Brain Tumor Society
RTOG 0525: A randomized phase III trial comparing standard adjuvant temozolomide (TMZ) with a dosedense (dd) schedule in newly diagnosed glioblastoma (GBM)
Pictured: Mark Gilbert (L) and Paul TonThat

Kenneth D. Aldape, MD
Award for Excellence in Translational Research
Clinical utility of G-CIMP and IDH1 status as dual prognostic markers in glioblastoma
Pictured: Nino Chiocca (L) and Ken Aldape

Terri Armstrong, PhD
Award for Excellence in Quality of Life Research
Supported by the Sontag Foundation
Clinical utility of Quality of Life (QOL) and symptom assessment as prognostic factors for survival and measures of treatment effects on RTOG 0525
Pictured: Terri Armstrong (L) and Kay Verble

 Justin D. Lathia, PhD
Award for Excellence in Basic Research
Supported by the American Brain Tumor Association
Seeing is believing: Utilization of intravital microscopy to evaluate tumor growth and therapeutic response of transplanted human glioma stem cells
Pictured: Justin Lathia (L) and Elizabeth Wilson

Kristine Dziurzynski, MD
Award for Excellence in Basic Research
Supported by Genentech
Cytomegalovirus subverts the monocyte lineage to become glioma propagating
Pictured: Kristine Dziurzynski (L) and Asha Das
A Young Investigators Luncheon Roundtable was held at noon on Friday at which trainees and early phase independent investigators participated in informal discussions with senior investigators at roundtables organized into eight different areas: Neurosurgery, Neurology, Adult Neuro-Oncology, Pediatric Neuro Oncology, Pathology, Allied Health Sciences, Basic Science, and Translational Science. The luncheon symposia were followed by afternoon concurrent sessions on Immunology and Cell Biology/Microenvironment, and subsequent concurrent sessions on Radiology and Preclinical Studies. After industry-sponsored satellite symposia, the evening opened for poster sessions, offering lively discussion and debate.

Saturday Sunrise Sessions featured meetings on Brain Cancer Cells of Origin, Intraoperative Surgical Adjuncts for Visualizing Tumor, Neurological Complications of Cancer Therapy in the CNS, and Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas and other pediatric astrocytic tumors. These were followed by a plenary session presenting the Top Scoring Abstracts and the Keynote Lecture delivered by William Kaelin entitled Using Cancer Genetics to Guide Drug Target Selection: Lessons from Gleevec and Beyond. Another highlight of the morning session was the presentation of the SNO Lifetime Achievement Award to Jerome Poser. The first afternoon concurrent sessions were “-omics” and Pediatrics, and the subsequent afternoon concurrent sessions focused on Quality of Life and Surgical Therapies. The second poster session took place after the oral sessions concluded. Saturday evening, the SNO Banquet was held as the social highlight of the meeting.

Sunday, November 20th Sunrise Sessions included Molecular Pathology, Atypical and Malignant Meningioma, and Immunobiology. These were followed by a plenary session on Medical and Neuro-Oncology with a Clinical Trials update prior to the meeting adjournment.

Mark your calendars!
17th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day
November 15-18, 2012
Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC
For more information, visit www.soc-neuro-onc.org
Final Report of the Inaugural SNO International Outreach Fellowship

As the inaugural SNO International Outreach Fellowship recipient, Dr. Yi Lin has finished her 12 month fellowship training with Jay-Jiguang Zhu, MD, PhD, in the Department of Neuro-Oncology, at the University of Texas Health Science Center Medical School in Houston (UT Houston). Dr. Lin’s official start date in Houston was October 25, 2010.

During the one year fellowship, Dr. Lin was mentored by Dr. Zhu and observed his routine clinical neuro-oncology practice and neuro-oncology clinical trials. Dr. Lin regularly attended brain tumor boards at UT Houston and MD Anderson Cancer Center as well as Neuroscience grand rounds at UT Houston/Memorial Hermann at Texas Medical Center. She was involved in the following three clinical trials for patients with Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) as a co-investigator in UT Houston:

- Phase III Novocure trials for newly diagnosed GBM patients;
- Phase Ib/II trial with Verubulin concurrent with radiation and temozolomide for newly diagnosed GBM patients; and
- Phase IIb dendritic cell vaccine ICT-107 with Temozolomide for newly diagnosed GBM patients.

While in the United States, she completed Good Clinical Practice (GCP) courses and helped Dr. Zhu with the submission of a dendritic cell vaccine trial for a GBM protocol to UT Houston’s Internal Review Board. She became familiar with the infrastructure of American medical systems and procedures involved with conducting clinical trials, as well as the laws, regulations and policies of clinical trials. She also participated in the supportive group activities for brain tumor patients in both UT Houston organized by Dr. Zhu and Methodist Neurocircle organized by Dr. Pamela New at Methodist Hospital in Houston. During the year she also attended the American Society for Clinical Oncology meeting, in Chicago. In addition, Dr. Lin spent time working with the brain tumor research team led by Dr. Min Li at UT Houston and attended the 102nd American Association of Cancer Researchers meeting in Orlando.

She worked with Dr. Wei Zhang, a brain tumor researcher at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, and participated in Dr. Zhang’s lab meetings. These activities gave her a broad range of exposure to brain tumor research and provided her with the opportunity to learn how to incorporate molecular information identified from research labs to clinical trial design and clinical application. She also became familiar with pre-clinical therapeutic measures in brain tumors. She helped Dr. Li on the project of investigating the significance of ZIP4 protein in brain tumors. The manuscript of “Gene Profile of Zinc Transporters Predicts Glioma Survival” is currently under review by the journal, Clinical Cancer Research.

During her “spare” time, Dr. Lin reviewed and summarized articles on brain tumors in the Texas Medical Center Library. She reviewed and catalogued chemotherapeutic agents, including all the drugs that were under brain tumor clinical trial investigations as of late 2011. The data she and her colleagues in China collected was subsequently published in the Chinese Medical Journal.

Currently, Dr. Lin is working as a junior attending in the Department of Neurosurgery, First Affiliated Hospital, China Medical University, Shenyang, Liaoning 110001, China, where she is involved in neurosurgery and neuro-oncology as well as the molecular biology lab.
Dr. Lin and the Society for Neuro-Oncology extend their sincere thanks to the American Brain Tumor Association and EMD Serono for their support of this fellowship. During her time in the United States, Dr. Lin benefitted from broad exposure in both the research and clinical aspects of neuro-oncology and she has returned to her home country well equipped to share this knowledge with her colleagues in China.


Progress Report of the Second SNO International Outreach Fellowship

As SNO members are aware, there is an acute need in China for better understanding of the design and implementation of multicenter clinical trials. As the 2011 SNO International Outreach Fellowship recipient, Dr. Jun-ping Zhang of the Beijing Sanbo Brain Hospital in China has gained such knowledge by spending time with Dr. Patrick Wen, the Director of the Center for Neuro-Oncology at Dana Farber and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School.

During her time at DFCI, Dr. Zhang has observed Dr. Wen both in his routine clinic and in the neuro-oncology clinical trials unit. Dr. Zhang regularly attended clinics for adult and pediatric patients with brain tumors as well as a weekly tumor board. She also completed research design course work like Sponsoring and Managing Multi-Center Clinical Trials and Study Staff and Scientific and Institutional Review Boards. She has become familiar with the infrastructure of US medical systems involved with conducting clinical trials, as well as the laws, regulations, policies and SOPs of clinical trials. Additionally, she recently completed Good Clinical Practice courses and assisted with manuscript preparation and submission with regard to a premetrexed study in CNS lymphoma.

As one of the only neuro-oncologists in China and armed with the knowledge gained through this fellowship, Dr. Zhang is uniquely positioned to make a significant impact in the care and treatment of brain tumor patients upon her return home.

SNO Announces Winner of Third International Outreach Fellowship

The Society for Neuro-Oncology is pleased to announce that Dr. Rahul Krishnatry of India has been selected as the third SNO International Outreach Research Fellow.

The review committee was very impressed with his application and gave his submission uniformly high marks. Dr. Krishnatry is a promising clinician/scientist who has distinguished himself in his home country. While he has received excellent training at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, pediatric neuro-oncology is still in its infancy in India, and the committee felt that this Fellowship would provide him with the necessary expertise to make a significant difference upon his return to India. Tata is the largest hospital in India seeing 40,000 new cancer patients per year. Consequently, through this Fellowship, Dr. Krishnatry has a tremendous opportunity to take a leadership role in advancing pediatric neuro-oncology both at Tata and within the Indian Society for Neuro-Oncology of which he is an active member.

The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto has agreed to host Dr. Krishnatry for the one-year Fellowship period. While in Canada, he will be under the mentorship of Eric Bouffet who has an established track record of supporting outreach programs in developing countries.

Dr. Krishnatry has been invited to be a guest of SNO at our 2013 annual scientific meeting that will take place in San Francisco, in November, 2013 where he will have the opportunity to update our membership on his progress in Toronto.
Annual Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner
Meeting Recap

Edited by Charles Haynes, JD

The 18th Annual Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner Meeting took place on April 2, 2012, at the Allegro Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. This meeting, for brain tumor researchers attending the American Association of Cancer Researchers Annual Meeting, was organized by the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

The event drew approximately 150 investigators from diverse disciplines relevant to brain tumor research, and was very successful in strengthening existing personal research connections and collaborations, generating new associations and presenting the group with updates in topics important to brain tumor research.

Twenty-eight abstracts were received of uniformly high quality, a slight increase from the 2011 event. Submissions came from seven countries and were reflective of the cutting edge, thought-provoking basic and translational research in the field of neuro-oncology.

Trying to reduce the submissions to fourteen talks was difficult given the high standard of the abstracts; however the meeting chair, Jeffrey Raizer, MD, did an excellent job of selecting talks that well represented a broad range of important topics and themes.

The talks were in four consecutive sessions that encompassed the following topic areas:

- New Gene and Immunotherapy
- Geno/Phenotyping and PersonalizedTherapy/Stem Cells/Tumor Biology
- Angiogenesis and Tumor Microenvironment
- New Tools and Translational Science

Each topic area was excellently framed by overviews from authority figures in those areas including Derek Wainwright (New Gene and Immunotherapy); Alexander Stegh (Geno/Phenotyping and PersonalizedTherapy/Stem Cells/Tumor Biology); Ian Miller (Angiogenesis and Tumor Microenvironment) and Adilia Hormigo (New Tools and Translational Science).

The dinner took place at the Allegro Hotel, a boutique property near the 2012 Annual AACR Meeting. Attendees’ registration continued right up to the dinner and in the end there were over one hundred and fifty researchers present. The fourteen speakers were scheduled over three hours, requiring a tight timeline, which was kept judiciously by all presenters. All speakers managed to finish on time and yet conveyed an astonishing amount of background information and experimental data. The talks were followed by lively discussions. There were many excellent presentations during the night. In the first session, Derek Wainwright presented data on IDO, which might have implications for a new therapeutic target.

In the next session, Anat Erdreich-Epstein presented a novel new gene that affected tumorogenesis. More research into this might again lead to novel therapies. In session three, Chad Potts showed interesting findings in medulloblastoma signaling that was paralleled in normal brain development in the Sonic hedgehog and HIF-1 alpha pathway.

The final session had four excellent presentations that showed data on how targeting certain abnormalities would lead to better tumor control; these included targets of lipid metabolism, microglia, notch inhibition and the use of oncolytic adenovirus.

The evening concluded with many of the attendees remaining to engage in informal conversation prompted by the presented topics.

Members are encouraged to mark their calendars for the next Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner, scheduled to take place on Monday, April 8th, 2013, in Washington, DC.

SNO would like to thank Jeffery Raizer, MD, for chairing the 2012 Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner.

SNO would also like to recognize the following supporters of the 2012 Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner:

- Castle Biosciences
- Genentech
- Merck
- National Brain Tumor Society
Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology Meeting Report

By Susan Chang, MD

The 9th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology was held in Taipei, Taiwan from 4/20-22, 2012. Dr. Ham Min Tseng, who is the Chief of the Section of Neuro-Oncology in the Department of Neurosurgery, National Taiwan University Hospital and President of Taiwan Society for Neuro-Oncology, was the president of the meeting. The education day was focused on neuropathology of various primary brain tumors and there were special luncheon symposia on lessons learned from RTOG 0525 as well as integrated therapy for tuberous sclerosis. Scientific sessions highlighted recent results of basic research, predictive biomarkers, neuroradiology and brain tumor management.

Drs. WK Alfred Yung, Patrick Wen and Susan Chang were invited speakers from the Society of Neuro-Oncology, and the topics covered by them included novel treatments for glioblastoma, the challenge of personalized molecular therapy as well as clinical trial endpoints and design. Dr. Chang was invited to attend the ASNO business meeting and shared the international collaborative efforts that span the special issue of Neuro-Oncology focused on quality of life, international fellowships and scholarships and the upcoming World Federation of Neuro-Oncology in San Francisco in 2013. Dr. Masao Matsutani will be the ASNO liaison for the planning of the WFNO.

Indian Society of Neuro-Oncology Meeting Report

By Charles Haynes, JD

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Indian Society of Neuro-Oncology (ISNO) was held in Bangalore, India, from 4/6-8, 2012. Organized by Professor Vani Santosh, the meeting was themed “Molecular Biology and Targeted Therapies in Neuro-Oncology”. Over two hundred registrants from around the country attended the meeting, a significant increase over the year before. The meeting began on Friday with sessions on the biology of malignant gliomas and improving outcomes of infiltrative gliomas, and afternoon sessions were focused on pediatric neuro-oncology. The next day began with sessions on emerging therapeutic innovations, management of aggressive meningiomas and cavernous sinus lesions, followed by talks on the current management of patients with hereditary brain tumors. The final day of the meeting addressed molecular genetics.

In addition to the many excellent Indian speakers, the meeting was complemented by a broad international faculty including Michael Brada, Webster Cavenne, Stefan Van Gool, Frank Furnari and many others. Speakers representing SNO included Ken Aldape, WK Alfred Yung, Vinay Puduvalli and Charles Haynes, who were also invited to participate in a panel on fostering international brain tumor collaborations.

In 2013, ISNO has the privilege of hosting the 10th Annual Meeting of the Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology which will take place in Mumbai.

SNO Audit Report

By Gene H Barnett, MD, MBA

The most recent Independent Auditor’s report of the Society of Neuro-Oncology was submitted by Durio and Company on June 15, 2011 and summarized the financial position of the Society as of June 30, 2010. Total Assets were $1,263,362, Liabilities $277,796 and Net Assets were $1,263,362. Total Revenues and Other Support were $1,211,372 and Total Expenses were $863,543, resulting in a Change in Net Assets of $347,829, and Total Net Assets of $895,066. Cash at the beginning of our fiscal year was $378,223 and at end of year was $475,126. Journal Expenses were $43,633, Victor Levin Founders Society expenses were $34,334, Meeting expenses were $702,918, Membership Expenses were $38,095, Management and General Expenses were $58,974, Fund Raising Expenses were $20,191, resulting in Total Expenses of $898,145. Investment Assets were $703,186 and Investment Earnings were $82,291. It was the auditor’s opinion that these numbers fairly represent the state of the Society’s finances as of June 30, 2010.
New Initiatives for Young Investigators

By Jason Huse, MD

For the first time, this November’s SNO meeting will include a “Speed-Networking and Career Development Reception”. This event is designed to promote and facilitate mentorship and collaboration within the Neuro-oncology community. Attendees will take part in an organized networking and mentoring session. Each participant will have the opportunity to interact with many potential collaborators and mentors for brief, high-value exchanges that will form the basis of mutually beneficial professional relationships. The organized session will be followed by an informal reception to allow for more extensive follow-up conversations. Lunch and refreshments will be available for registered participants. Please visit the SNO website to register for this event and learn more about this and other young investigator-related initiatives.