Drs. Bruner and Gillison Elected to National Academy of Medicine

Deborah Watkins Bruner, R.N. Ph.D., FAAN and Maura Lianne Gillison, M.D., Ph.D. were among 79 members internationally to be elected into the National Academy of Medicine on October 17, 2016. Members are elected based on the individual’s major contributions and commitment to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care, and public health. Election into the National Academy of Medicine is considered one of the highest honors in the health and medicine fields.

Dr. Bruner is the associate director of mentorship, education, and training at the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, a professor of nursing at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, and a professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Emory University School of Medicine. Bruner is an internationally renowned cancer researcher, scholar, and mentor. She has worked for over two decades with the NCI National Clinical Trials Network and, as one of the principal investigators for NRG Oncology National Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), Bruner is the first and only nurse to lead a National Cancer Institute sponsored clinical trial program.

Dr. Maura Lianne Gillison, M.D. Ph.D. is a professor of internal medicine at the Ohio State University College of Medicine and the Jeg Coughlin Chair of Cancer Research. Dr. Gillison collaborated with NRG Oncology to establish HPV as a strong, independent prognostic factor for head and neck cancer and is the principal investigator for several ongoing phase III randomized clinical trials in the head and neck committee. Gillison is also a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has previously received the Richard and Hilda Rosenthal Award from the American Association for Cancer Research in 2012. Her laboratory studies focus on the role of human papillomavirus in the pathogenesis of head and neck cancer and improving the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of these cancers.

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NRG Oncology conducts practice-changing, multi-institutional clinical and translational research to improve the lives of patients with cancer. Founded in 2012, NRG Oncology is a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit corporation that integrates the research of the National Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, and the Gynecologic Oncology Group. The research organization seeks to carry out clinical trials with emphases on gender-specific malignancies, including gynecologic, breast, and prostate cancers, and on localized or locally advanced cancers of all types. NRG Oncology’s extensive research organization comprises multidisciplinary investigators, including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, physicists, pathologists, and statisticians, and encompasses more than 1300 research sites located world-wide with predominance in the United States and Canada. NRG Oncology is supported primarily through grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and is one of five research groups in the NCI’s National Clinical Trials Network.