During the General Session, NRG Oncology leadership updated attendees on our recent strategic planning initiative and the very successful committee retreat efforts. Members also received progress reports from our Operations Research Center, the Statistics and Data Management Center (SDMC), and our Biobank. The top accruing NRG member institutions were announced by Dr. David Miller, and special recognition was given to Dr. Joseph Costantino, our Group Statistician and Director of the NRG Oncology SDMC, and Dr. J. Tate Thigpen, Co-chair of the Concept Prioritization and Advisory Committee on the announcement of their upcoming retirements.

Dr. Larry Copeland dedicated a speech to the life and legacy of our late NRG Oncology Group Chair, Dr. Philip DiSaia, which was followed by a moment of silence in commemoration.

Look for our tributes to Drs. Thigpen and Costantino in future NRG Oncology communications!

Full top ten accruing site listings and other NRG Oncology Membership updates can be found in the slides on the website.

The NRG Oncology General Session

NRG Oncology Top Accruing Sites

Main Members
1. Seoul National University Hospital
2. Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
3. CHUM – Centre Hospitalier de l’Universite de Montreal
4. Women and Infants Hospital
5. CHU de Quebec-L’Hôtel-Dieu de Québec (HDQ)

Non-US Sites
1. CHUM – Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal
2. CHU de Quebec-L’Hôtel-Dieu de Québec (HDQ)
3. Seoul National University Bundang Hospital
4. Saskatoon Cancer Center
5. Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Center

Lead Academic Participating Sites (LAPS)
1. Washington University - Siteman Cancer Center LAPS
2. CWRU - Case Comprehensive Cancer Center LAPS
3. University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center LAPS
4. Wayne State University - Karmanos Cancer Center LAPS
5. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center LAPS

NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP)
1. Kaiser Permanente NCORP
2. Southeast Clinical Oncology Research Consortium NCORP
3. Delaware/Christiana Care NCORP
4. New Mexico Minority Underserved NCORP
5. Heartland Cancer Research NCORP
NRG Oncology New Investigator Committee Co-chair Angeles Alvarez Secord, MD, a gynecologic cancers specialist at Duke University, hosted “An Introduction to NRG Oncology” on Thursday evening. This educational session provided attendees with some insights into the many processes behind the scenes in an NRG Oncology trial’s lifespan and examined best practices for utilizing the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) Project Team Member Applications (PTMA). Lastly, this session assessed strategies to use NRG Oncology study data for ancillary projects.

Michael W. Sill, PhD of the Clinical Trials Development Division, Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and a Senior Biostatistician for NRG Oncology, discussed the role of the statistician in the clinical trial process and emphasized that a statistician’s goal is to build a good reputation with accurate or conservative estimates. Nancy Soto, the Director of Protocol Development with NRG Oncology, delved into the review processes and roles of the various clinical trial stakeholders; from NCI and NRG Oncology’s review through the protocol administrator’s and study chair’s involvement. Ms. Soto encouraged new investigators to get involved in disease site committees, find mentors, seek out involvement with ancillary projects, and befriend the protocol administrators. Steven Waggoner, MD, Principal Investigator for NRG Oncology and GOG Foundation at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center and Division Chief of Gynecologic Oncology at UH Seidman Cancer Center, presented on ancillary data and data sharing projects and provided more information on where to find materials, how to develop proposals, and what expectations to have from the typical proposal process.

Carol Aghajanian, MD, NRG Oncology Gynecologic Cancer Committee Chair and medical oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, reviewed the procedure involved with submitting letters of intent and concepts to NRG Oncology, PTMA, and the Biomarker Review Committee (BRC).

We Are NRG Oncology!

One of the many great things that occurred during the NRG Oncology Semiannual Meeting was the social media roll out of our new video. You can view the video on our YouTube channel here. We want to hear your stories and feedback! Let us know on social media, what does NRG Oncology mean to YOU? Use our hashtag #WeAreNRG and tag us when you post!
NRG Oncology Scientific Session

The Scientific Session, hosted by the NRG Oncology Publications Committee, reviewed several landmark impactful NRG Oncology trials and their implications for changing clinical practice. Robert Burger, MD and Sarah Temkin, MD presented results of NRG-GY003, which suggest that adding ipilimumab to a regimen with nivolumab could improve response and progression-free survival for women with recurrent epithelial ovarian cancer. Vinai Gondi, MD and Paul Sperduto, MD discussed how hippocampal avoidance could allow whole-brain radiotherapy to be delivered more safely to patients with brain metastases, as shown in NRG-CC001. Alan Pollack, MD and William Hall, MD assessed the results of the SPPORT trial (NRG-RTOG 0534) in which men, who still showed signs of prostate cancer after prostatectomy, were treated in one of three arms comparing standard prostate bed radiotherapy alone with the addition short term androgen deprivation therapy (STADT) and then with the further combination of STADT with pelvic lymph node radiotherapy. Men treated with the combination experienced significantly lower rates of cancer progression. William Regine, MD and Richard Tuli, MD reviewed the prospective evaluation of NRG-RTOG 9704 which suggests post-resection CA19-9 levels are a predictor of local/regional recurrence (LRR) and distant failure in patients with pancreatic carcinoma; whereas surgical margin status was not a predictor LRR/distant failure. The results of NRG-RTOG 9704 support consideration of adjuvant radiotherapy dose intensification in patients with elevated CA19-9 post-resection. Andy Trotti, MD, PhD, and Stuart Wong, MD analyzed the NRG-RTOG 1016 trial that established the treatment combination of accelerated IMRT (70 Gy in 6 weeks) radiation and 2 cycles of concurrent cisplatin as the standard of care for HPV-related head and neck cancer of the oropharynx. Lastly, Frank Vicini, MD, and Atif Khan, MD presented data from the NSABP B-39/RTOG 0413 trial which indicated that partial-breast irradiation (PBI) was not equivalent to whole-breast irradiation (WBI) based on 10-year ipsilateral breast tumor recurrence rates post-treatment.

NRG Oncology Patient Advocate Committee Meeting

The NRG Oncology Patient Advocate Committee (PAC) meeting began with Mary Jackson Scroggins, PAC co-chair, welcoming several new members to the committee: Wendy Ericsson, Lynette Fahnestock, Dellann Elliott Mydland, Westley Sholes, and Jeffery Shoop. Agenda topics included an update on NRG Oncology activities that was provided by Executive Director Kati Stoermer. PAC co-chair Pat Halpin-Murphy and PAC member Debbie Miller presented an overview of the NRG Oncology Strategic Planning Retreat held in Ft. Lauderdale in December 2018. Other agenda items included the planned redesign of the NRG Oncology website and the launch of the NRG Oncology Patient Engagement website; the court challenge to the current federal requirement that insurers cover pre-existing conditions and to the Affordable Care Act; committee assignments and concept protocol review; ongoing PAC activities, upcoming patient advocacy meetings, and other announcements.

Available NRG Meeting slides can be found on the Meeting Resources page of the website.
NRG Oncology Social Media and Mobile Technology Workshop

The NRG Oncology Communications Committee hosted a fun, interactive workshop that provided a look into the world of social media and mobile technology and their impact on our professional and personal lives. NRG Oncology Communications Committee member Michael Cowher, MD West Virginia University led the workshop. Hannah Hazard-Jenkins, MD, FACS, the Director of Clinical Services at West Virginia University Cancer Institute delivered compelling information on how ePRO symptom management could improve clinical outcomes by resulting in fewer doctor visits and symptom burden for patients. Jame Abraham, MD, FACP, an NRG Oncology Research Strategy Committee Vice Chair and the Director of Breast Oncology and a Professor of Medicine at the Lerner College of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic delved into the importance of all social media platforms, especially Twitter, and their ability to allow you to connect with a community with up-to-date and timely information at your fingertips. Rebecca Previs, MD, Assistant Professor of Gynecologic Oncology at Duke Cancer Institute and a member of the NRG Oncology New Investigator Committee, taught the audience Twitter 101, full of tips and tricks on how to get started on Twitter.

NRG Oncology NCORP PI Meeting

The NCORP Principal Investigators and Administrators Meeting on Saturday morning noted the absence of Dr. Larry Wickerham, now retired, and Dr. Deborah Bruner, who was unable to attend. Dr. Joan Walker presided. Dr. Walker noted the work that the group has been engaged in and the planning for an NRG NCORP retreat that is being planned for later this year. She also noted the recent grant U01 submission the NRG NCORP had completed, and planning to respond to the NIMHD HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long Term) funding opportunity. Dr. Sandra Russo, DCP Program Manager for NRG Oncology presented latest updates from NCI DCP.

Notably, Dr. Russo pointed to grant opportunities and current portfolio for the NCORP program. Kati Stoermer, NRG Executive Director, updated related to recent strategic planning activities and discussed the current status of the member site agreements, which would send out before 3/1/2019. She referenced the mandated change from a contract relationship to a subrecipient relationship and the audience asked questions related to that change. The committee leaders presented updates from the NCORP committees and current initiatives.
**NRG Oncology Welcome Reception and Birthday Celebrations**

During the Welcome Reception of the NRG Oncology Semiannual Meeting, we celebrated NRG Oncology’s 5th birthday, complete with a birthday cake, candles and singing! Attendees were able to eat, drink, mingle, and get their photo taken at our Happy Birthday Photo Booth. The photos can be found online at the [Birthday photo booth gallery](#).

**US Veterans Health Association Meeting**

On Friday, a number of representatives from the US Veterans Health Association (VA) attended a meeting with NRG Oncology colleagues to discuss opportunities for a coordinated partnership. Spearheaded by Dr. Michael Chang from the Richmond VA, several VA radiation oncology leaders are forming a collaboration (VA – Radiation Oncology Collaboration) for the purpose of streamlining the process for conduct of Radiation Oncology clinical research and seek to partner with NRG Oncology as one of their primary goals. While early in planning stages, NRG Oncology leadership and VA Leadership, including Dr. Michael Hagan, VA National Director of Radiation Oncology have been enthusiastically engaged. NRG Oncology provided travel awards to several of the VA colleagues in attendance in support of the endeavor.

**Relive the moments! Follow #NRG19**

Our social media meeting hashtag #NRG19, was trending in Phoenix thanks to all the wonderful posts our attendees shared. If you missed the meeting or just want to relive the experience, you can follow #NRG19 on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Be sure to follow our accounts while you’re there!

Check out our top social media influencers for the NRG Oncology Semiannual Meeting (pictured right).

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**Outstanding Publications Awards**

*Continued from previous page*

Vinai Gondi, MD  
NRG Oncology Outstanding Abstract  
Preservation of neurocognitive function (NCF) with hippocampal avoidance during whole-brain radiotherapy (WBRT) for brain metastases: Preliminary results of phase III trial NRG Oncology CC001

Rekha Pal, MD  
NRG Oncology Outstanding Manuscript  
Molecular subtypes of colorectal cancer in pre-clinical models show differential response to targeted therapies: Treatment implications beyond KRAS mutations

Mack Roach, MD  
NRG Oncology Outstanding Manuscript  
Sequence of hormonal therapy and radiotherapy field size in unfavourable, localised prostate cancer (NRG/RTOG 9413): long-term results of a randomised, phase 3 trial

Mohan Suntharalingham, MD  
NRG Oncology Outstanding Manuscript  
Questions about a clinical trial evaluating the addition of cetuximab to definitive chemoradiation therapy with paclitaxel and cisplatin for patients with esophageal cancer

Frank Vicini, MD  
NRG Oncology Outstanding Abstract  
Primary results of NSABP B-39/RTOG 0413 (NRG Oncology): A randomized phase III study of conventional whole breast irradiation versus partial breast irradiation for women with stage 0, I, or II breast cancer

Kelly C. Young, PhD  
NRG Oncology Outstanding Manuscript  
Improving quality and consistency in NRG Oncology Radiation Therapy Oncology Group 0631 for spine radiosurgery via knowledge-based-planning

Available NRG Meeting slides can be found on the Meeting Resources page of the website.
Clinical Trials Nurse/Clinical Research Associate Workshop-Educational Session

The NRG Oncology Protocol Support Committee (PSC) continues to provide updates in the conduct of clinical trials and educational information. It means a long day, but for the people who were able to attend to the end of the session (and still get to the reception), it was worth it. About 150 people attended the CTN/CRA Workshop-Educational Session Friday afternoon.

Updates on the quality assurance process (audits), monitoring, and performance reports were presented by Mimi Passarello. Ginger Riley from CTSU presented an overview of resources and tools on the website, source document portal, delegation of tasks log (DTL’s), serious adverse events and business rules for site protocol PI.

Jeffrey Burmeister presented an overview of USP 800, what it is and the requirements for drug handling, storage and even unpacking. Norissa Honea presented information about the impact of disease on the patient’s at home caregiver. Mark Shahin provided an overview of ovarian cancer and changes to care based on clinical trials. During the presentation, he stressed the impact of legacy GOG and NRG Oncology clinical trials. All presentations were enjoyable and informative.

If you missed any of these presentations, the PDF version of the Power Points are available on the NRG Oncology website. The important item: you must log in using your CTEP account information. When logged in the presentations are found under the Nurses & CRA tab (red horizontal bar). Open Education and Training in the column on the left. To see the Education and Training line, you must be logged in.

Introduction to Clinical Trials: Principles of Clinical Trial Management

A full-day orientation session for nurses and research associates who are new to clinical trial research and NRG Oncology was held on Thursday. The purpose of this introductory session was to provide basic information for nurses and CRAs who have been involved in clinical trial procedures for one year or less. The morning session consisted of a series of lectures by NRG Oncology Headquarters staff, physicians, and members of the CRA and CTN Subcommittees. The afternoon portion of this educational forum consisted of four breakout rooms with smaller groups and provided the opportunity for the new members to meet other participants and ask questions. The training session is provided annually and is coordinated and facilitated by the CRA and CTN Subcommittees. This year’s session was extremely well attended, with approximately 175 individuals participating.

SAVE THE DATE

When:
Thursday July 18, 2019
8:00am to 4:30pm

Where:
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown

What:
Clinical Trials Nurse/Clinical Research Associate Educational Session

Morning session
Updates from NRG Oncology SDMC
Updates from CTSU
Educational presentations
Discussion of a disease and protocol

Lunch (to be provided)
Presentation TBD

Afternoon session
Roundtables - small group question and answer
Topics
Audits
Adverse event reporting
CTSU
IROC
Biospecimen Bank
Membership/payments
Protocols TBD

If you have any suggestions for educational topics or roundtable discussions please send to the Protocol Support Committee mailbox: NRG-PSC@nrgoncology.org