NRG Oncology NCORP PI, Dr. Bruner, Appointed as NCI Global Health Working Group Co-Chair

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Deborah Watkins Bruner, RN, PhD, FAAN, NRG Oncology’s National Cancer Institute (NCI) National Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) grant contact primary investigator (PI) and deputy group chair of the organization’s Scientific Publications Committee, was recently appointed as Co-chair of NCI’s Global Health Working Group.

In her new role, Dr. Bruner will be reviewing the NCI global portfolio and providing recommendations for the allocation of NCI’s resources. In the February 16, 2018 edition of The Cancer Letter, NCI Director Norman E. Sharpless, MD, mentioned that NCI created the new Global Health Working Group to advise the director on topics such as the balance of functions for NCI’s Center for Global Health (CGH), analyzing the global portfolio across NCI, and providing recommendations given the tremendous international burden of cancer. Dr. Bruner will be joining Dr. Satish Gopal in the leadership of this working group. Dr. Gopal is assistant professor of medicine and Cancer Program Director of University of North Carolina’s Project-Malawi at the university’s Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Bruner is the first and only nurse to be the PI of one of the NCI’s cancer clinical trials cooperative group grants with her leadership of a Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP) grant and for NRG Oncology’s NCORP. In addition to her governance of NRG Oncology’s NCORP grant and Publications Committee, Dr. Bruner serves on the NRG Oncology Executive Committee and Concept and Protocol Review Committee. She is the Associate Director for Mentorship at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University and the Assistant Dean of Mentorship and Faculty Advancement, the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Dr. Bruner currently serves as a Presidential (Obama) appointee to the NCI National Cancer Advisory Board, has previously served on NCI’s Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee, and is a member and former chair of the NCI Symptom Management and Health Related Quality of Life Steering Committee.

“We are fortunate to be in a time when many communicable diseases that historically took most global health resources are coming under control. This provides tremendous opportunities for strategically setting priorities for global cancer research and resources. It also affords chances to explore improving partnerships with global organizations to increase capacity and funding for strategic initiatives,” stated Dr. Bruner.
Dr. Bruner’s expansive involvement and efforts continue to shape and develop the NCI National Clinical Trials Network’s practices and allow NRG Oncology to better achieve our mission of improving the lives of patients with cancer.

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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 NSABP Foundation, the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), and the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG). The research network 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 1,300 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.