Dr. Chakravarti Selected to Serve on NCI Advisory Board of Scientific Counselors

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Arnab Chakravarti, MD of the Ohio State University and co-Chair of the NRG Oncology Brain Tumor Committee, was recently selected to serve a five-year term on the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Advisory Board of Scientific Counselors. In his new role, Dr. Chakravarti will be chairing the review of the NCI Radiation Oncology Program and of the NCI Neuro-Oncology Program in future years.

Dr. Chakravarti’s experience includes research regarding novel biomarkers and uncovering key molecular and genetic mechanisms of treatment resistance in cancer. His team was among the first to report that the dysregulation of PI3K/AKT signaling is associated with radiation resistance in glioblastomas. It also was the first to identify that dysregulation of PI3K signaling is significantly associated with adverse clinical outcomes in GBM patients. These findings led to some of the first clinical studies to combine radiotherapy with kinase inhibitors targeting this pathway. The Chakravarti laboratory also conducted the definitive translational research studies that validated IDH as key prognostic biomarker in low-grade gliomas in RTOG 9802, as published in the New England Journal of Medicine (2016 Apr 7;374(14):1344-55), which has guided current treatment approaches for these brain tumors. Accordingly, Dr. Chakravarti’s research has served to define the current standard of care of patients with central nervous system tumors.

“I am gratified to be appointed to this important position and look forward to adding my abilities to support the Program,” said Dr. Chakravati.

Dr. Chakravarti serves as the Klotz Family Chair of Cancer Research, the Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, the director of the Brain Tumor Program, and a member of the James Translational Therapeutics Program at the Ohio State University. He Chairs the National Institute of Health (NIH) Cancer Biomarker Study Section and the board of the International Society of Neuro-Radiation Biology. Additionally, Dr. Chakravarti serves on the Board of the Ohio Neuro-Oncology Consortium.

“Dr. Chakravarti’s knowledge in clinical trials and bio-molecular research will add greatly to the NCI’s Neuro-Oncology Program. NRG Oncology is proud to have such a member participate is such endeavors,” stated Walter J. Curran, MD, Executive Director of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University and one of NRG Oncology’s Group Chairmen.
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.