

15th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day Recap

The 15th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology was held November 18-21, 2010, in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Kenneth Aldape assembled an exciting program that provided a comprehensive review of cutting-edge laboratory and clinical research in the field of neuro-oncology. The meeting afforded the unique 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 central nervous system tumors.

Education Day

The pre-meeting began on Thursday, November 18th with a timely and relevant program for Education Day focused on Tumor Angiogenesis Research and Treatment and Quality of Life/Symptom Management. Co-chaired by Tracy Batchelor, Howard Colman, and Erwin Van Meir, Education Day featured talks highlighting the issues associated with the rapid adoption of anti-angiogenic treatments in neuro-oncology, such as response assessment, and mechanisms of activity and resistance. Concurrently were talks exploring the research data on cognitive effects of brain tumors and treatment as well as interventions for managing these effects.

SNO Annual Meeting

The formal meeting commenced on Friday, with Sunrise Sessions on microRNAs in Gliomagenesis,

Toxicities of Anti-angiogenic Therapies, Molecular Epidemiology, and Leptomeningeal Metastasis. After the Official Meeting Welcome by meeting chair Dr. Ken Aldape and the Presidential Address "It Takes a Village" by Dr. Frederick Lang, the Top-Scoring Abstracts were presented. These were followed by concurrent sessions on Medical and Neuro-oncology/Epidemiology, "-omics" and Prognostic Markers, Medical and Neuro-oncology/Quality of Life, and Pre-clinical, Radiation, and Stem Cells. Friday marked the inaugural Victor Levin Award and Lecture, which was given by Dr. Abhijit Guha. The evening then opened for poster sessions, which led to lively discussion and debate.

Saturday Sunrise Sessions featured Surgery-Extent of Resection, Proteomics, Li-Fraumeni Syndrome, and Ependymoma. These were followed by an IDH1 minisymposium presenting the recent work discovering IDH1 mutations in glioma, clinical implications and metabolic mechanisms of tumorigenesis, with a keynote presentation by Dr. Valeria Fantin. This was followed by plenary oral presentations on cell biology, examining the relationship between genetic events and stem cell phenotypes. The afternoon was then filled with concurrent sessions on Cell Biology and Tumor Models, Angiogenesis, Pathology and Surgery, Immunotherapy, Radiology, and Meningioma. The second poster session took place after these oral sessions concluded for the day.

Saturday evening, the SNO Banquet was the social highlight of the meeting, during which time the Society honored the many contributions to the field made by Dr. Peter Burger with the SNO Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sunday Sunrise Sessions included Cancer Stem Cells/Neural Stem Cells, Medulloblastoma, and Treated Brain Tumor Imaging Strategies supported by the American Society of NeuroRadiology. These were followed by plenary sessions in Pediatrics and Clinical Trials updates prior to the meeting adjournment.

Thanks to everyone for joining us in Montreal for this exciting meeting program! We look forward to seeing you in Orange County this November.

By Daniel Cahill

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2010 SNO Top Scoring Abstract Winners



Krishna Bhat

Award for Adult Basic Research. Supported by Merck
A Regulatory Role for TAZ in Proneural to Mesenchymal Differentiation in Glioblastoma

Pictured: Jim Pluda (L) and Krishna Bhat

Tracy Batchelor

Award for Adult Clinical Research
Supported by the National Brain Tumor Society
The Efficacy of Cediranib as Monotherapy and in Combination with Lomustine Compared to Lomustine Alone in Patients with Recurrent Glioblastoma: a Phase III Randomized Study

Pictured: Frederick Lang (L) and Tracy Batchelor



Adrian Dubuc

Award for Pediatric Basic Science
Supported by Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Medulloblastoma Genomics and Epigenomics Converge on Silencing of Genes Necessary for Synaptogenesis

Pictured: Dianne Traynor (L) and Adrian Dubuc

Frank Furnari

Award for Adult Basic Research
Supported by the American Brain Tumor Association
Tumor Heterogeneity is An Active Process Driven by a Mutant EGFR-induced Paracrine Circuit in Glioblastoma

Pictured: Elizabeth Wilson (L) and Frank Furnari



Mark Gilbert

Award for Adult Clinical Science
Supported by EMD Serono
RTOG 0625: A Randomized Phase II Trial of Bevacizumab with Either Irinotecan or Dose-dense Temozolomide in Recurrent Glioblastoma

Pictured: Joe Horvat (L) and Mark Gilbert

Rose Lai

Award for Epidemiology Research, Supported by Sontag Foundation
HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors, NSAIDS, Pharmacogenetics and Risk of Glioma

Pictured: Kay Verble (L) and Rose Lai



Not pictured: David Franz

Award for Pediatric Clinical Research, Supported by Genentech
Effect of Everolimus on Tuberous Sclerosis-Related Lesions in the Brain

Young Investigator's Committee First Annual Round Table Luncheon

At the 2010 Annual SNO meeting in Montreal, the Young Investigator's Committee had their first ever 'Young Investigators and Mentors Luncheon'. The event was held over lunchtime so as not to conflict with the main sessions.

The goal of the event was to provide sub-specialty specific career advice, and mentorship to young investigators about to embark on independent careers in neuro-oncology. Young investigators were invited through the SNO website to attend the lunch, and to choose a career category (oncology, neurosurgery, neuropathology, basic science, allied health, pediatric oncology, etc.).

At the luncheon, the mentor leading each table was asked to come to the podium and provide one or two anecdotes, or pieces of advice that they wished they had known earlier in their careers. Most of the 'mentors' were brief and provided pithy advice for early career investigators. Following this, there were round table discussions at each of the tables that were focused on different career paths. Topics of discussion included choice of a mentor, choosing the correct location for post-graduate training (i.e., Post-Doctoral fellowship or clinical fellowship), how to get more involved in organized neuro-oncology, how to get your manuscript published, and how to find and negotiate for your first job.

Overall the luncheon and the format was very well received by the Young Investigators who felt they had benefited greatly from the 'one on one' time spent with luminaries from their respective fields. While the organized comment/advice/anecdote portion of the program was also thought to be useful, it was not as useful as the one on one time with the mentors. As such, future similar activities should probably focus more on the small group/mentor discussions.

Plans for such an event at the 2011 Annual SNO meeting in Anaheim are ongoing and details will be posted on the SNO website as they become available.

By Michael Taylor

SNO and Section on Tumors Partner to Offer Course on the Basics of Clinical Trials for Young Investigators

There are known challenges to performing clinical trials in neuro-oncology. Surgically based neuro-oncology clinical trials address issues of more extensive tumor resections, evaluation of targeted therapies, improved drug delivery, immunotherapy, gene therapy, stem cell therapy and brachytherapy. These studies have unique aspects in terms of trial design, conduct and evaluation.

To highlight the challenges of neuro-oncology trials with an emphasis on surgically based studies, a three hour educational workshop is planned for young investigators that will focus on topics pertinent to clinical trials.

Members of the Section on Tumors of the AANS/CNS and SNO who have served as a Principal Investigator of clinical trials will review trial endpoints, response assessments, evaluation of treatment toxicities as well as statistical considerations. Regulatory requirements for applications to the Federal Drug Administration and Institutional Review Boards will also be reviewed.

The goal of this workshop is to engage young investigators in academic or community settings and to provide a forum for discussion of these important aspects of clinical research.

The course will take place during the Education Day of the SNO Annual Meeting, on November 17, 2011, from 1:45pm to 5:00pm. There is no charge to attend, but those interested must register for the course via the SNO website so we can make appropriate arrangements on-site.

The directors of the course are Susan Chang (representing SNO) and Mark Linskey (representing the Section on Tumors).

Plan now to attend!

**The 2011 SNO 16th Annual Scientific Meeting
in Conjunction with the AANS/CNS Section on Tumors**

**November 17-20, 2011
Orange County, CA**

For more information, visit: www.soc-neuro-onc.org



International Outreach 2010 Fellowship Update

As the inaugural SNO International Outreach Fellowship recipient, Dr. Yi Lin has now been working with Dr. Jay-Jiguang Zhu in the University of Texas Health Science Center Medical School in Houston (UT Houston) for six months (start date: October 25, 2010). During this period, Dr. Lin has followed Dr. Zhu and observed his routine clinical practices and neuro-oncology clinical trials. Dr. Lin regularly attends 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 is involved in two clinical trials for patients with Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) as a co-investigator in UT Houston's Phase III Novocure trials for newly diagnosed GBM patients and Phase Ib/II trial with Verubulin concurrent with radiation and temozolomide for newly diagnosed GBM patients.

She also systematically summarized all currently clinically utilized chemotherapeutic agents in the management of primary brain tumors, including all the drugs that are currently under clinical trial investigations. She recently completed Good Clinical Practice courses and has helped Dr. Zhu with the submission of a dendritic cell vaccine trial for GBM protocol to UT Houston's IRB. 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 trial. She also joined the supportive care activities for brain tumor patients in both UT Houston and "Neurocircle" organized by Dr. Pamela New at Methodist Hospital in Houston.

In addition, Dr. Lin has spent time working with the brain tumor research team (led by Dr. Min Li) at UT Houston and attended the 102nd AACR Annual Meeting in Orlando. She met Dr. Wei Zhang (Brain tumor researcher at MD Anderson Cancer Center) and has participated in lab meetings. These activities have given her exposure to brain tumor research and the opportunity to learn how to incorporate molecular information identified from research labs to clinical trial design. She has become more familiar with pre-clinical therapeutic measures in brain tumors.

In the next six months, she will continue her routine as described above and will be further expanding her clinical trial experience in neuro-oncology by writing protocols for clinical trials which are applicable in the USA and/or in China.

2011 Fellowship Winner Announced

The International Outreach Committee (IOC) is pleased to share with the SNO membership that Dr. Jun-Ping Zhang of Beijing Sanbo Brain Hospital in China has been selected as the 2011 SNO International Outreach Research Fellow. SNO and the International Outreach Committee would like to express its sincere thanks to the American Brain Tumor Association and EMD Serono for making this fellowship possible.

As many SNO members know, there is a great need in China for knowledge relating to the design and implementation of multi-

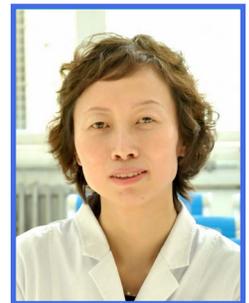
center clinical trials. As one of the only trained neuro-oncologists in China, Dr. Zhang is uniquely positioned to make a significant impact in the care and treatment of brain tumor patients upon her return home. After an international call for applications, the IOC review committee felt that with the skills developed during the fellowship, Dr. Zhang would have the potential to make a lasting improvement to the field of neuro-oncology in China.

The Dana Farber Cancer Institute has formally agreed to host Dr. Zhang for the one-year Fellowship period. Dr. Zhang will be under the supervision of Dr. Patrick Wen, Director of the Center for Neuro-Oncology at Dana Farber and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School.

The IOC has invited Dr. Zhang to be a guest of SNO at our 2011 annual scientific meeting that will take place in Orange County, California, on November 17-20, 2011, and will arrange for a time during the meeting for her to provide a progress report on her work to our membership.

By Jonathan L. Finlay and Chas Haynes

The SNO International Outreach Committee would like to thank the
American Brain Tumor Association
and
EMD Serono
for their generous support of this fellowship.



Jun-Ping Zhang

2011 Annual Meeting Travel Scholarships for Developing Regions

SNO is now accepting applications for travel scholarships to the 16th Annual Scientific Meeting to be held on November 17-20, 2011, at the Hyatt Hotel in Orange County, California.

A total of eight \$1500.00 scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the SNO leadership for each of the following geographical regions (one per region): Central America & the Caribbean, Central and Southern Africa, China & associated countries, Eastern Europe, Far East and Australasia, Indian Sub-Continent, North Africa & the Middle East and South America. The application deadline is August 29, 2011. SNO members are asked to share this information with colleagues overseas. The application is available for download on the SNO website: www.soc-neuro-onc.org.

2011 Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Basic and Translational Science Conference

This meeting, organized by SNO for the first time, was held May 19-20, 2011, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The meeting was a success, with over 200 pediatric basic and translational scientists from twelve countries in attendance.

The conference encouraged the sharing of ideas and results, new collaborations, and provided attendees with a state-of-the-art update in the field of pediatric brain tumor research. The Scientific Program Committee created a highly informative and educational program from over 130 accepted abstracts. The program featured informative plenary sessions and informal poster sessions, as well as "Meet the Expert Sunrise Sessions", at which attendees were able to catch up with late breaking areas of research and controversies in the field.

This conference was made possible by a very generous grant from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTF). SNO and PBTF are already looking for a location for the next meeting, scheduled to take place in 2013. SNO would also like to thank Dr. James Rutka, who served as the meeting chair. A full meeting recap will be published in the next issue of this newsletter.

Neuro-Oncology's Impact Factor is 5.483!

The Society for Neuro-Oncology is pleased to announce that the impact factor for our official journal, *Neuro-Oncology*, has increased by 10% to reach 5.483, in the most recent Journal Citation Reports. This means that *Neuro-Oncology* has maintained its position as the premier journal in the field. The journal is now ranked 15th out of 185 titles in the clinical neurology category, and 24th out of 184 titles in oncology. W.K. Alfred Yung, the journal's editor in chief commented: "I am delighted that *Neuro-Oncology* has achieved such a high impact factor this year, further cementing its position as the leading journal in the field. I'd like to thank our highly dedicated editorial team, authors and reviewers for their contributions and ongoing support, which enables us to provide the highest quality research to our readers."

Neuro-Oncology Extends Reach in Europe

Earlier this year representatives from SNO, the European Association for Neuro-Oncology (EANO) and Oxford University Press met to finalize the terms of a publishing arrangement that will greatly extend the availability of *Neuro-Oncology* in Europe. Under the terms of the agreement, all EANO members will now have electronic subscriptions to the journal included as part of their membership dues, effectively extending the circulation of *Neuro-Oncology* by 25%.



(L to R) Wolfgang Grisold, EANO President; Phil Bishop, OUP Senior Publisher, Chas Haynes, SNO Executive Director.

As a result of this meeting, it was also agreed that a new interorganizational committee should be formed between SNO, EANO and the other leading neuro-oncology societies. This committee will allow for regular communication between the various international organizations, addressing issues such as the Quadrennial World Federation of Neuro-Oncology, educational exchange, administrative issues and other multilateral collaborative opportunities.

Treasurer's Report

The finances of the Society for Neuro-Oncology remain sound despite the challenging economic conditions currently faced by both non-profit and for-profit entities.

Total revenue in our 2010 fiscal year was \$1.26 million, up from \$1.15 million in 2009. SNO's main source of revenue is our annual meeting which includes registration fees and financial support from the following partners: the American Brain Tumor Association, CERN Foundation, EMD Serono, Genentech, Merck, National Brain Tumor Society, Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, and the Sontag Foundation. SNO also receives income from membership dues and from a profit sharing arrangement with the publisher of our journal, Oxford University Press. Despite an increase in frequency from six to twelve issues per year, the journal enjoyed its most profitable year-to-date in 2010.

Looking forward, the Society expects to generate new revenue streams from annual "boutique" meetings, such as the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Basic and Translational Science Conference that was held in May of 2011.

Revenue generated by the Society's activities fund and maintain the SNO administrative office, the editorial office of Neuro-Oncology, SNO's international outreach efforts, as well as the costs associated with the SNO annual meeting, including travel scholarships, awards and initiatives for Young Investigators.

In all, the Society's financial health is sound and we are well positioned to support our educational mission. More detailed financial information will be included in our Annual Report which will be made available to all members at the 2011 meeting in November.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Vogelbaum
SNO Treasurer

SNO History Brochure

2010 marked the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Society for Neuro-Oncology. To commemorate this milestone, the leadership commissioned SNO historians Abhijit Guha and Vinay Puduvalli to develop a brochure to chronicle the history of our Society and to celebrate the vision and efforts of the founders and members who have steered SNO to its current place.

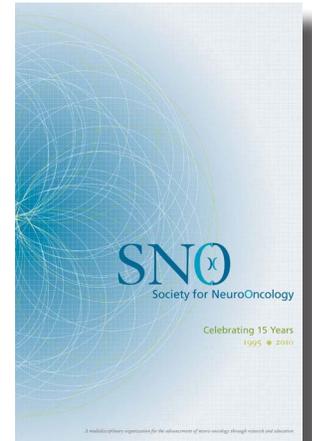
SNO has flourished since its inception, emerging from a young organization to a fully mature one, with a rich history and an awareness of the challenges and responsibilities which lie ahead. Indeed, SNO would have fulfilled its basic function if it had merely provided a reliable forum for professional and academic exchange for its members. It has clearly exceeded this goal. SNO has become a dynamic force in neuro-oncology, providing a rich environment for its diverse worldwide membership and energizing the next generation of neuro-oncology scientists and clinicians through educational and cultural forums.

The brochure highlights the history and achievements of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and acknowledges the members who actively contributed, and continue to contribute, to our Society. Electronic copies of the brochure are available for download on the SNO website, and print copies may be obtained by contacting the SNO administrative office. As you browse through the highlights of the birth and growth of this Society – *your Society* – we invite you to recognize that the past is merely a prologue to the future. As we look back, we ask that you continue to move forward with SNO in our fight against neurological malignancies. Copies of the brochure are available by emailing: office@soc-neuro-onc.org.

SNO History Committee

Jan Esenwein
Abhijit Guha
Charles Haynes

Frederick Lang
Victor Levin
Vinay Puduvalli



17th Annual Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner Meeting

The 17th Annual Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner Meeting took place on April 4, 2011, at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, FL. This meeting, for brain tumor researchers attending the AACR Annual Meeting, was organized by the Society for Neuro-Oncology with the support of Castle Biosciences, Inc., EMD Serono, Genentech, Merck and the National Brain Tumor Society.

Over twenty submitted abstracts were received of uniformly high quality. This is a decrease over the previous meeting, in parallel to an overall diminished attendance at the 2011 AACR. Submissions came from five countries and were reflective of the cutting edge, thought-provoking basic and translational research in the field of neuro-oncology. Considering time constraints of the dinner and a possibility of presenting only around fourteen talks, it was a difficult choice to pick among the submitted abstracts; however, the meeting organizers, Waldemar Debinski and Hideho Okada, selected talks that well represented a broad range of important topics of current interest.

The topics covered were in four consecutive sessions:

- Geno/Phenotyping and Personalized/Combinatorial Therapy
- Angiogenesis and Tumor Microenvironment
- New Tools and Translational Science
- New Gene and Immunotherapy

Each topic area was excellently framed by overviews from authority figures in those areas including Michael D. Taylor of University of Toronto (Geno/Phenotyping and Personalized/Combinatorial Therapy), Linda Metheny Barlow of Wake Forest School of Medicine (Angiogenesis and Tumor Microenvironment), John Park of the NIH (New Tools and Translational Science) and John Ohlfest of the University of Minnesota (New Gene and Immunotherapy).

The dinner took place in sunny and funny Orlando, near the Convention Center hosting the 2011 An-

nual 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 time-line, 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.

A large number of dinner participants remained until the last talk. It would be almost impossible to pick one talk for praise as there was a uniformly high standard. However, in each session there were talks catching a lot of attention. For the purpose of sharing the taste of this science dinner, a few of these talks are outlined here. In the first session, Marc Remke described an integrated genomic approach that suggests the existence of three major molecular variants in adult medulloblastoma. In the second session, Maria Castro presented a novel idea of glioma factors promoting the expansion of myeloid-derived suppressor cells affecting immune surveillance and tumor progression. In the third session, Zach Reitman touched upon an increasing significance of studying and understanding metabolism in glioma maintenance and progression. And in the fourth session, Katherine Murphy presented robust anti-tumor immunity induced by OX40L in combination with glioma vaccines. The evening concluded with many of the attendees remaining to engage in informal conversation prompted by the presented topics.

As in years' past, we have been fortunate to organize the Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner. The considerable expense of organizing and catering this event would not have been possible without the generous support of the following organizations: Castle Biosciences, Inc., EMD Serono, Genentech, Merck and the National Brain Tumor Society.

SNO would like to thank Waldemar Debinski and Hideho Okada for chairing the 2011 Neuro-Tumor Club Dinner.

Future Sites Committee Report

Just a note for you to mark your calendars for our upcoming coast to coast meeting venues. A reminder that after Orange County, California this year, we are off to the nation's capitol and the completely renovated Washington Hilton in election year, 2012. The Quadrennial World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Meeting will follow in 2013, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Francisco. Then, pack your beach towels and bathing suits because in 2014 it will be sunshine for SNO at the beautiful oceanfront Loews Miami Beach Hotel. This is a fantastic property in the heart of South Beach

making it a perfect November escape. After salsa dancing and mojitos in Miami, you will need to dig out your boots and spurs as we head westward to historic San Antonio, Texas, in 2015. There, we will be right in the middle of the action at the Marriott RiverCenter, where we can enjoy all the charm and activities of the famed San Antonio Riverwalk with quaint paths, barge tours, and endless dining and shopping, and more dining and shopping and, oh yes, did I mention the Alamo?

Lynn Stewart Ashby, Committee Chair

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The SNO News is published two times per year and is distributed to members and friends of the Society for Neuro-Oncology.

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