Welcome to SABCS 2015!

Welcome to the 2015 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS), a joint presentation of the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Baylor College of Medicine, and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). The next several days will offer you the opportunity to acquire new knowledge and information that will have immediate clinical application and, in the near future, bring about changes in the standard of care for patients with breast cancer or at risk of having the disease. There are vital and important presentations in the clinical domain, including notable results in trials of adjuvant and neoadjuvant therapies, with a particular focus on endocrine and targeted therapies, as well as promising advances enlisting the immune system in treatment, plus studies of surgery and radiotherapy in local treatment and new findings on predictive factors including circulating free DNA and tumor cells.

In addition, there are valuable sessions in basic science and translational research across a wide range of topics, including new potential targets for therapy, combinations of targeted therapies, the molecular basis of endocrine resistance, and genomic and molecular biology of progression and metastasis. Our program aims to inform professionals in all domains regarding current frontiers of our knowledge, and to highlight paths leading to future progress. We hope not only to share information, but also to encourage development of new and productive collaborations.

The symposium unfolds over 5 days. Tuesday afternoon begins with a career development forum for young investigators and two special sessions: one on breast cancer management in low and middle income countries, the other an opportunity for discussions between investigators, funders, and patient advocates on best practices for collaboration. Educational sessions on a variety of current clinical and translational issues follow. During the subsequent 3 days there are oral presentations of submitted work in 6 general sessions and 6 poster sessions, as well as selected poster discussions. Interspersed with these are 3 invited plenary talks, 5 award lectures, 2 mini-symposia, and clinical and basic science forums and case discussions. On the 5th day we wrap up with a final poster session and “The Year in Review”, which brings together a panel of distinguished speakers whose succinct reports provide a synthesis of major developments in breast cancer during the past year — one of the most popular parts of the program.

We hope that you won’t forget to take some time to enjoy San Antonio! The lights on the Riverwalk, the award-winning restaurants, and the music and congenial atmosphere make for a memorable experience.
Plenary Lecture #1: Critical Decision Making in Radiation Therapy

Wednesday, December 9, 8:15 am, Hall D
Jay R. Harris, MD

Along with advances in mammographic detection and pathologic evaluation, routine adjuvant therapies for breast cancer such as radiation therapy, are attributed to the decreasing rates of breast cancer recurrence. In the past 40 years, researchers have seen the 5-year rate of local recurrence drop from 10% to 2% in groups of women who received radiation therapy after breast-conserving surgery.

But since not all women face the same degree of risk for recurrence, not all women may benefit from radiation therapy to the same degree. Recurrence risk identification measures such as subtyping for estrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR), and HER2 status, and evaluating cellular markers like the Ki-67 protein, may help assess survival benefits of radiation therapy. It has been shown that the 5-year recurrence rate in women with luminal A cancer is 1%, but women with triple-negative cancer face a higher rate of 6%. And the Early Breast Cancer Trials’ Collaborative Group showed that radiation therapy after breast-conserving surgery improves 15-yr mortality by 8.5% in node-positive patients, but only 3.3% in node-negative patients.

So with smaller benefits seen in one group of patients, compared to another, which patients if any, can be spared radiation therapy after breast-conserving surgery? And which patients can be treated with hypofractionated radiation therapy? Data from 2 clinical trials show that hypofractionated radiation therapy can be effectively delivered in 3 to 4 weeks, compared to 6 weeks. These are some of the questions that Dr. Jay Harris from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA, will address on Wednesday morning.

According to the Cancer and Leukemia Group B, hormonal therapy alone is acceptable for patients ≥70 yr of age who have low-grade, node-negative, ER-positive breast cancer. This management approach is currently being tested for other subtypes of breast cancer and in other age groups. Dr. Harris and his team are evaluating the use of hormonal therapy alone in patients 50 to 75 yr of age who have node-negative luminal A cancer, and relatively lower risk for recurrence.

Further, in cases with involvement of only 1 or 2 sentinel lymph nodes, breast tangential irradiation sufficiently targets the lower axilla and regional recurrence risk. This approach eliminates the need for complete axillary lymph node dissection. And evidence suggests that some women with axillary lymph node dissection may benefit in terms of disease-free survival with internal mammary node and supraclavicular irradiation.

But should women with 1 or 2 positive sentinel nodes receive high tangent fields or full axillary and supraclavicular irradiation? Dr. Harris will discuss the use of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center’s nomogram to predict positive non-sentinel nodes. The use of high tangent fields are supported if the prediction value lies between 25% to 30%. However, “If the primary is in the inner quadrant, it seems prudent to contour the internal mammary nodes for possible inclusion.”

SABCS 2015 Scholarship Recipients

Five programs provided scholarships designed to promote the education and professional development of early-career scientists who are actively pursuing research in breast cancer by facilitating their attendance at SABCS. Scholarships were awarded to graduate students, medical students, residents, and clinical and postdoctoral fellows whose abstracts were accepted for presentation, based on the quality of the abstracts. This year's awardees are:

AACR SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS:
- Reva Basho, MD
- Tiara Byrd, BS
- Abdul Ghaffari, PhD
- Melissa Hicks, PhD

Yun Li, BS
- Ann Moyer, MD, PhD
- April Rose, MD, PhD
- Cathy Samayoa, MD

Angie Torres-Adorno, B.Sc.
- Wathyu Wulaningsih

AVON-AACR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING TRAVEL AWARD:
To provide funding for scientists-in-training from abroad, working in any subspecialty of breast cancer research, who are presenters of meritorious abstracts at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.
- Balsez Acs, MO
- Thaiz Borin, PhD
- Wanpei Cai, Bsc

Sung Li Shin
- Ha Woo Yi

AACR SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARD – SUPPORTED BY SUSAN G. KOMEN®:
- Kamran Ahmed, MD
- Giulia Botti
- Yu-Hsiang Chen, MD
- Thomas Kolben, MD
- Sasagu Kuruzumi, MD
- Diana Liang, MD

Jennifer McCarr
- Eleni Nakos, MD
- Yuishen Qian, MD
- Jordan Reese
- Sylvia Reyes, MD
- Edward St. John, MBBS, BSc, MRCS

Sriganesh Srihari, PhD
- Gustav Stålhammar, MD
- Sandrine Tury
- Annelot van Rossum, MD
- Damar Varešlija, PhD
- Julie Wescott, MD
- Diana West, PhD

SABCS BASIC SCIENCE SCHOLARS:
For laboratory-based investigators-in-training whose work focuses on the biology of breast cancer and preclinical models of its development and progression.
- Luigi Formisano, MD
- Hitomi Mori

Mami Siegel
- Liang Hui, MD
- Sandra Nelson, MS
- Marni Siegel
- Diana West, PhD

SABCS CLINICAL SCHOLARS:
For clinical scientists-in-training who are actively pursuing clinical or clinical/translational research in breast cancer.
- Kim Aalders, MD
- Julia Greene, MD
- Valerie Jainsen, MD, PhD

Sangdahl Nelson, MS
- Marni Siegel
- Marissa van Maaren
- Mette van Ramshorst
Updated Abstract

**S2-02: THE IMPACT OF ADJUVANT DENOSUMAB ON DISEASE-FREE SURVIVAL: RESULTS FROM 3,425 POSTMENOPAUSAL PATIENTS OF THE ABCSG-18 TRIAL**


Background: Adjuvant endocrine therapy compromises bone health in pre- and postmenopausal breast cancer (BC) patients. Bisphosphonates have been shown to prevent and counteract these side effects of endocrine therapy, and to improve disease-free and overall survival outcomes in postmenopausal (natural or induced) BC patients (ECOGCG meta-analysis, Lancet 2015). The aim of ABCSG-18 was to investigate the effects of adjuvant anti-RANK-ligand Denosumab on bone health and disease outcomes in postmenopausal patients with early hormone receptor (+HR+) BC receiving AI treatment.

Patients and Methods: 3,425 postmenopausal patients with HR+ BC receiving AI were recruited in 58 trial sites into this prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase-III trial. Patients were randomized 1:1 to either Denosumab 60mg or placebo q6mo s.c. Bone end point results showed that adjuvant denosumab significantly reduced clinical fractures (primary endpoint, HR=0.5, p=0.0001), improved bone mineral density, and reduced vertebral fractures without relevant toxicity (Grant et al., Lancet 2015). Disease-free survival (DFS) is a secondary endpoint. Following an IDM recommendation based on the results of a protocol-specified interim analysis, a DFS analysis took place in September 2015. The analysis, a DFS analysis took place in September 2015. The choice unblinding option will be provided to trial patients in the year 2016. Additional disease outcome related end points (BMFs, OS) will be analysed during further study follow up.

Results: With a median follow-up of 4 years, 370 DFS events were recorded. 203 DFS events occurred in the placebo group, and 167 in the Denosumab group (HR 0.816, p=0.051). Subgroup analyses indicate that the Denosumab benefit (overall absolute 3.1% at 5 years) may be particularly driven by tumors larger than 2cm (HR=0.66, p=0.018), ductal breast cancer histology type (HR=0.79, p=0.048), and tumors with both ER and PR positive (HR=0.75, p=0.013).

Summary and Conclusion: Adjuvant Denosumab 60mg q6mo s.c. improves disease-free survival of HR+ breast cancer patients receiving aromatase inhibitors. Numerically, this benefit of adjuvant Denosumab is at least comparable to the DFS-benefit of adjuvant bisphosphonates. Based on these results and the previously reported dramatic reduction of fractures, adjuvant Denosumab should be offered to all postmenopausal HR+ breast cancer patients on AI.

Awards

**WILLIAM L. MCGUIRE MEMORIAL LECTURE**

Wednesday, December 9, 11:15 am, Hall D

The Contribution of NSABP Clinical Trials to the Management of Early Breast Cancer

Norman Wolmark, MD

Allegheny General Hospital; Pittsburgh, PA

Dr. Norman Wolmark from the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project was chosen as the 2015 William L. McGuire Lecturer for his decades long leadership in breast cancer clinical research and his leadership of the NSABP, the cooperative group that over the years has contributed more to solving the breast cancer puzzle than any other institution. Dr. Wolmark is a surgical oncologist who for many years served as Executive Medical Director of the NSABP and then as principle investigator of the NSABP program. His interests have ranged from studying corynebacterium parvum vaccination in his second publication in 1974 to directing and planning some of the most innovative surgical and adjuvant breast cancer trials that have helped to change the breast cancer landscape and our treatment and prevention of this disease. Dr Wolmark is also known for his provocative lectures which are both witty and educational and for his knowledge of the science of clinical trials.

**SUSAN G. KOMEN® BRINKER AWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC DISTINCTION LECTURES**

Wednesday, December 9, 2:15 pm, Hall D

Established by Susan G. Komen® in 1992, the Brinker Award for Scientific Distinction recognizes leading scientists for their lifetime achievements in the fields of breast cancer research, screening, or treatment. These awards are presented in 2 categories: Basic Science and Clinical Research.

Basic Science Award is presented to a researcher whose scientific discoveries or novel technologies have added substantively to our understanding of the basic biology of breast cancer and the intrinsic molecular processes that drive the disease, and/ or whose work has bridged the gap between basic research and patient care. This year the award is being presented to:

**Hacking the Hormone Code in ER+ Breast Cancer**

Myles Brown, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA

Dr. Brown is being recognized for his research into the role of steroid hormones, like estrogen and progesterone, and their receptors in normal physiology and the progression of breast cancer. His work has resulted in critical insights into the factors that regulate how steroid hormones act, and is laying the foundation for the development and clinical use of cancer drugs that target these hormones and their receptors, helping to prevent drug resistance to cancer treatment.

**Clinical Research Award** presented to a clinical or translational researcher who has advanced the identification of new prevention, detection or treatment approaches for breast cancer and promoted their incorporation into clinical care. This year the award is being presented to:

Lessons Learned from an Expedition Exploring the World of HER2 Positive Breast Cancer

Martine Piccart, MD, PhD

Jules Bordet Institute; Brussels, Belgium

Dr. Piccart has led a wide range of clinical trials that have helped shape the standard of breast cancer care for patients around the world. A strong advocate for and leader of international research collaborations, she co-founded the Breast International Group (BIG) to foster collaboration and accelerate the development of better treatments. The organization, which she still chairs, unites 56 academic breast cancer research groups from around the world, and is running over 30 clinical trials, several of which are considered landmark studies.

"Piccart is one of the great clinical trialists of our time whose leadership has led to improved survival for early-stage breast cancer patients around the globe," said George Sledge Jr., M.D., Komen’s Chief Scientific Advisor. “Her work also has significantly increased our understanding of breast cancer biology and mechanisms of drug resistance. Komen is delighted to honor her achievements.”
Conference Grants
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
SABCS is supported in part by educational grants from industry.

This activity is supported by educational grants provided by AbbVie, Inc., Amgen, AstraZeneca, Celgene Corporation, Genentech, Lilly (for further information concerning Lilly grant funding visit www.lillygrantoffice.com), Novartis, and Pfizer.

SABCS Basic Science Forum and Poster Discussion Session 2, Wednesday, December 9, are supported by an educational grant provided by AstraZeneca.

Special Appreciation
The SABCS program could not be produced without the members of the Executive Committee, the Program Planning Committee, and the Abstract Review Committee. We thank them for their hard work in making SABCS one of the premier single-site cancer conferences in the world. Almost as soon as the prior year’s meeting ends, these individuals work tirelessly all year long to determine the focus of the meeting, line up speakers, coordinate special events, and review thousands of abstracts -- selecting material and designing programs that most accurately represent the cutting edge of breast cancer research. Please refer to your Pocket Program for the names of everyone who helped make this year’s event possible.

SABCS wishes to thank Avon Foundation for support of the Avon Foundation-AACR International Scholar-In-Training Grants.

SABCS gratefully acknowledges Susan G. Komen® for generous support of AACR Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research, AACR Scholar-in-Training Awards, and partial support of Educational Sessions.

Foundation, Industry & Agency Supporters
We are proud to acknowledge the following for their contributions to and generous support of our program.

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* All updates will be noted in the Abstracts2View online program after the Symposium and on the SABCS Website.

** At Press Time
Conference Exhibitors*

Visit the Exhibitors section of the SABCS Mobile App for more information from these companies.

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- American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
- American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
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- Harborside Press
- Hem Onc Today and Helio.com by Slack Incorporated
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- Young Survival Coalition

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