Alex A. Adjei, MD, PhD, FACP, has been appointed Professor of Oncology at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, US. He is also Director of the Early Cancer Therapeutics Program and Director of Global Oncology at Mayo’s three sites in Arizona, Florida, and Minnesota. Dr. Adjei is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Thoracic Oncology and previously was Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine and the Katherine Anne Gioia Chair in Cancer Medicine at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Dr. Federico Cappuzzo, MD, PhD, has been appointed as the new Director of Medical Oncology at Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale (AUSL) della Romagna in Ravenna, Italy. Dr. Cappuzzo was previously the Director of the Medical Oncology Department at the Ospedale Civile, Livorno.

Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO, has been elected President of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) for the term beginning in June 2017. Dr. Johnson is Chief Clinical Research Officer and Institute Physician at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, US, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and Director of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Lung Cancer Program.

Karen Kelly, MD, has been named chair of the Lung Committee of SWOG, one of the US’s leading cooperative cancer research organizations. Dr. Kelly is Professor of Medicine, holds the Jennifer Rene Harmon Tegley and Elizabeth Erica Harmon Endowed Chair in Cancer Clinical Research, and is the Associate Director for Clinical Research at the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, Sacramento, US.

Lee M. Krug, MD has taken a position as the Immuno-Oncology Disease Area Head for Lung and Head & Neck Cancers in US Medical at Bristol-Myers Squibb. He assumes this role following 15 years on the Thoracic Oncology Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where he focused his clinical research primarily in small-cell lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Prof Sylvie Lantuejoul moved in May 2015 to Centre Léon Bérard, a cancer institute under the aegis of the Unicancer Consortium in Lyon, France. She continues as Professor in Pathology at the Grenoble Alpes University. Prof Lantuejoul also works for the National Reference Center, MESOPATH-dir Pr F Galateau-Sallé, a French network dedicated to the diagnosis of mesothelioma and rare tumors of the peritoneum and translational research in these diseases.

Suresh S. Ramalingam, MD, has been appointed Deputy Director of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University and Assistant Dean for Cancer Research in the Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, US. Dr. Ramalingam previously was Director of Medical Oncology at Winship and its Lung Cancer Program, and co-led Winship’s Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics Program. He is also the Chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group Thoracic Committee.

Ravi Salgia, MD, PhD has been appointed Chair for the Department of Medical Oncology and Therapeutics Research and the Associate Director for Clinical Sciences in City of Hope’s Comprehensive Cancer Center, Duarte, US. Dr. Salgia was on faculty at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for a decade and then moved to the University of Chicago as the Director of Thoracic Oncology Program, where he served as Professor of Medicine, Pathology, and Dermatology.

Joan H. Schiller, MD, has been appointed Deputy Director for Clinical Investigation at the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, Falls Church, US. Dr. Schiller was previously the Professor and Chief, Hematology/Oncology Division at the UT Southwestern Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Frances A. Shepherd, MD, FRCPC, has been appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada for her leadership in improving treatment options and outcomes for individuals with advanced lung cancer. Dr. Shepherd is Senior Staff Physician at The Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada, where she holds the Scott Taylor Chair in Lung Cancer Research. She is Full Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto.
Names and News

Abbas El-Sayed Abbas, MD, has been appointed Thoracic Surgeon-in-Chief and Surgical Director of Lung Cancer, Thoracic Malignancy and Foregut Disease Programs for Temple University Health System, Philadelphia, US. Dr. Abbas will continue as Vice Chair of Thoracic Medicine and Surgery at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, Director of Foregut Surgery program, Section Chief of Thoracic Surgery, and Associate Professor of Thoracic Medicine and Surgery.

Michael R. Blackburn, PhD, has been appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), US. Dr. Blackburn has served as Vice Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth since 2011. In 2012, Dr. Blackburn was named joint Dean of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston.

Paul A. Bunn, Jr, MD, received the 2016 David A. Karnofsky Memorial Award and Lecture, which is given annually to an oncologist who has made outstanding contributions to cancer research, diagnosis, and treatment. Dr. Bunn is Distinguished Professor of Medicine and the James Dudley Endowed Professor of Lung Cancer at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, US.

Professor Jean-Yves Douillard, MD, PhD, has been appointed the first Chief Medical Officer of the European Society of Medical Oncology. Prof. Douillard was previously Professor of Medical Oncology at the Integrated Centres of Oncology R. Gauducheau and University of Nantes Medical School, France, where from 2009–2011, he was Director of Clinical and Translational Research.

Waun Ki Hong, MD, FACP, DMSc (Hon), received the 10th AACR Margaret Foti Award for Leadership and Extraordinary Achievements in Cancer Research and the 2016 ASCO Special Recognition Award, which honors an individual whose research and innovations have had a transforming and lasting effect in the areas of clinical oncology, cancer research, clinical trials, or patient advocacy activities. Dr. Hong is Professor of Medicine at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, US.

Roman Perez-Soler, MD, has been named to the US National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Board of Scientific Counselors for Clinical Sciences and Epidemiology, which provides advice on NCI intramural and extramural research programs. Dr. Perez-Soler is Chairman and Chief, Department of Oncology, Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care; Chief and Professor, Division of Medical Oncology, Department of Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine; and Deputy Director of Albert Einstein Cancer Center, all in New York, US.

Cathy Pietanza, MD, has been appointed Global Director of Scientific Affairs for Oncology in Merck Research Laboratories. Prior to joining Merck, Dr. Pietanza was an Assistant Attending Physician at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, US, on the Thoracic Oncology Service, and also held an appointment at the Weill Cornell Medical College.

Suresh Senan, MRCP, FRCR, PhD, received the 2016 Heine H. Hansen Award, which recognizes a lung cancer investigator who has made a special contribution to lung cancer research and education on an international basis. Prof. Senan is Vice Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the VU University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and is Professor of Clinical Experimental Radiotherapy.

Patrick Soon-Shiong, MD, FRCs (C), FACS, has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of Altor BioScience Corporation. Dr. Soon-Shiong is the inventor of Abraxane, an albumin-bound nanoparticle of paclitaxel approved for lung, breast, and pancreatic cancer. He announced the Cancer MoonShot 2020 Program in January 2016.

Charles Swanton, MD, PhD, received the Biochemical Society 2016 GSK prize in recognition of distinguished research leading to new advances in medical science. Prof. Swanton is Professor of Cancer Medicine and Chair of Personalized Cancer Medicine, University College London, and Manchester University, UK.

Stefania Vallone has been elected President of Lung Cancer Europe (LuCE), which provides a European platform for already existing lung cancer patient advocacy groups and supports the establishment of national lung cancer patient groups in different European countries where such groups do not yet exist. Ms. Vallone, Italy, is a lung cancer patient advocate, who has also been active with Women Against Lung Cancer Europe.

Readers are invited to submit new content for a future Names and News column to Editor@iascllungcancernews.net; submissions received will be subject to review and approval by the Editor, and selection for publication is not guaranteed.
Names and News

Anton Berns, PhD, FAACR, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). NAS membership is in recognition of distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Dr. Berns is the Senior Group Leader of the Division of Molecular Genetics at the Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, and is a former director of the NKI.

Jean-Marie Cuillerot, MD, has been appointed Vice President and Global Head of Clinical Development at Agenus, Inc, Lexington, US, overseeing ongoing clinical development of checkpoint targeted antibodies, including AGEN1884 targeting CTLA-4 and INCAGN1876 targeting GITR. Dr. Cuillerot was Global Head of Clinical Development, Immuno-Oncology, and Vice President of Clinical Immunotherapy/ImmuNo-Oncology at EMD Serono Research and Development Institute, an affiliate of Merck Serono, and prior to that at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Jeffrey Engelman, MD, PhD, has been appointed Vice President and Global Head of Oncology at the Novartis Institutes of BioMedical Research. Prior to joining Novartis, Dr. Engelman was Director of the Center for Thoracic Oncology and Molecular Therapeutics at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, US, and Harvard Medical School professor.

Laurie Fenton Ambrose received the 2016 James L. Mulshine, MD Leadership Award, which recognized her efforts in guiding patient advocacy and other stakeholder groups in the successful efforts to gain coverage of lung cancer screening by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Ms. Ambrose is President and CEO of the Lung Cancer Alliance.

David H. Johnson, MD, received the 2016 ASCO Distinguished Achievement Award, which is given annually and recognizes leadership or mentorship by a scientist, practitioner, or researcher who has benefited patients with cancer or those who treat them. Dr. Johnson is Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at The University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center, Houston, US.

Mark A. Socinski, MD, has been appointed Executive Medical Director of the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute, and will oversee the coordination of clinical cancer services for the Florida Hospital network. He will also be a member of the Institute’s Thoracic Oncology Program. Dr. Socinski was previously Professor of Medicine and Cardiovascular Surgery; Director of the Lung Cancer Section for the Division of Hematology and Oncology; Co-director of the Lung Cancer Center of Excellence; and Co-director of the Lung Cancer Program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Cancer Pavilion, Pittsburgh, US.

David Spigel, MD, has been appointed chief scientific officer of Sarah Cannon Research Institute, Nashville, US, and will oversee the development and operations of Sarah Cannon’s clinical research program. Dr. Spigel joined Sarah Cannon in 2003 as the director of the lung cancer research program.

Glen Weiss, MD, MBA, was named 2016 Healthcare Leadership Awards’ Researcher of the Year by AZ Business magazine. Dr. Weiss is Director of Clinical Research, Director of Phase 1 and II Clinical Trials, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Arizona, US, and is Clinical Associate Professor at University of Arizona College of Medicine.

The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, opened this summer, is a new purpose-built facility for cancer research, treatment, care, and education in Melbourne’s Parkville biomedical precinct. In addition to the new facilities, ten world-leading cancer organizations have come together to form the VCCC Alliance to share knowledge and resources and to drive the next generation of cancer research, education, treatment, and care.

NGS in China from page 13

multiple, repeat sampling from the same patient, and it opens up the chance to gauge genetic evolution, to monitor for residual disease, to determine treatment efficacy, and to identify the development of therapeutic resistance. Oncologists in China have generally accepted the idea of liquid biopsy testing and have employed this technology on some end-stage patients from whom tissue biopsies are not feasible. The recent approval of cobas EGFR Mutation Test v2 (Roche) by the FDA is likely to attract more interest and accelerate development in this area.

Several obstacles challenge the nationwide adoption of NGS-based tests in China. Cost is still a major issue. Most genetic tests are not covered by governmental health insurance in China, and most patients end up paying out-of-pocket. Understanding and making use of the vast amount information generated by NGS-based tests is another. Many oncologists feel overwhelmed by the reports—systemic elucidation of clinically relevant information is important. Regulatory approval and quality control are also key in guiding the field. With Precision Medicine being part of the central 13th 5-Year Plan commencing this year, the Chinese government is taking a positive view toward developments in this area, even though, so far, none of the NGS-based tests have been officially approved by the China Food and Drug Administration, and proper and minimal guidelines will be required to ensure the quality of various available commercial products.

Last, pharmaceutical companies have been late adopters of this technology. Most clinic trials do not routinely require or accept NGS-based tests as entry criteria, though the potential benefits from this comprehensive technique are clear.

In summary, NGS-based genotyping is a rapidly emerging and promising field in China that can bring tangible clinical benefits to patients and fulfill the vision of Precision Medicine, particularly in thoracic oncology. It has the potential to turbocharge translational research and speed up therapeutic innovation. ♦

References

Submit new content for the Names and News column to Editor@iasclungcancernews.net. Submissions are subject to approval by the Editor, and selection for publication is not guaranteed.
**Names and News**

**David Ball, MD, FRANZCR**, was appointed Director of the Lung Tumour Stream for The Royal Melbourne Hospital, The Royal Women’s Hospital and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, which are now part of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance. As reported in issue #3 of IASLC Lung Cancer News, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre recently moved into new facilities within the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre building in Parkville, Victoria, Australia. Professor Ball is Chair of the multidisciplinary Lung Service at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and a Professorial Fellow of the University of Melbourne.

**Dr. Philip Bonomi** completed his service as Director of the Division of Hematology, Oncology and Cell Therapy at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, US, a position he has held since 2002. Professor Bonomi is the Alice Pirie Wirtz Professor of Medical Oncology at Rush, where he continues his work as a lung cancer researcher and clinician.

**Martin J. Edelman, MD**, has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Hematology/Oncology and Deputy Director for Clinical Research at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. He will also be the G. Morris Dorrance Professor of Hematology/Oncology. Prior to joining Fox Chase, Dr. Edelman was Head of the Section of Solid Tumor Oncology and Associate Director of the Division of Hematology/Oncology for the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, Baltimore, US.

**Richard B. Gaynor, MD**, will retire as Senior Vice President, Global Development and Medical Affairs, Lilly Oncology as of January 2017. Prior to joining Lilly, Dr. Gaynor was a professor of medicine and microbiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, US. Editor note: See the interview with Dr. Gaynor on page 8.

**Tony Mok, MD**, has been selected by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) as a candidate for the 2017 ASCO Board of Directors. Professor Mok is a professor in the Department of Clinical Oncology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong. Professor Mok is also the Immediate-Past President of the IASLC.

**Charles B. Simone II, MD**, has been appointed the Medical Director of the Maryland Proton Treatment Center (MPTC). Previous to this appointment, Dr. Simone was Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Chief of the Thoracic Oncology Service, and Co-Director of the Penn Mesothelioma and Pleural Program at the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Pennsylvania, US.

**Thomas Stinchcombe, MD**, has been recruited to the Duke Cancer Institute (DCI) where he will be promoted to Professor of Medicine in Medical Oncology. Tom will help lead the thoracic oncology group in the Solid Tumor Therapeutics Program and serve as co-PI for the Alliance in the DCI. Prior to this, Dr. Stinchcombe was director of the thoracic medical oncology program and Co-Director of the Multidisciplinary Thoracic Oncology Program, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

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