

THE

CANCER LETTER INTERACTIVE

PO Box 9905 Washington DC 20016 Telephone 202-362-1809

Vol. 27 No. 33
Sept. 14, 2001

© Copyright 2001 The Cancer Letter Inc.
All rights reserved.
Price \$295 Per Year

NCI Director Klausner Resigns To Head Institute Begun By AOL Chairman Case

Richard Klausner said he will leave his post as director of the National Cancer Institute to become founding president of the Case Institute of Health, Science and Technology, formed by AOL Time Warner chairman Steve Case and his wife Jean.

Klausner could not have picked a more tumultuous day to announce his resignation. Speaking in Bethesda before the National Cancer Advisory Board Sept. 11, Klausner interrupted his remarks to inform the board about the plane crashes at the World Trade Center.

Klausner said he would leave Sept. 30, and begin his new job Oct. 1.

“It has been a privilege and an honor to head one of the world’s great
(Continued to page 2)

In Brief:

NCI Communications Director Sieber To Retire; Science Planner Waldrop Also To Leave NCI

SUSAN SIEBER, director of the NCI Office of Communications since March 2000, plans to retire this month. Sieber oversaw the reorganization of NCI's communications branches over the past year. She worked in a variety of positions at NCI over the past 30 years, including deputy director of the Division of Epidemiology and Genetics, and deputy director of the former Division of Cancer Etiology. **Mary McCabe** will serve as acting director of the office. . . . **SUSAN WALDROP**, director of the NCI Office of Scientific Opportunity for the past two years, plans to retire after 32 years at the Institute. She began her career in the Laboratory of Immunology, and then moved into science planning. . . . **JOSEPH ROSENBLATT** was appointed the William J. Harrington Chair in Hematology and chief of hematology/oncology at University of Miami School of Medicine, and scientific director of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Rosenblatt was chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology at University of Rochester and associate director for clinical research at James P. Wilmot Cancer Center. . . . **NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICAL CORP.** was named national presenting sponsor of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Third Annual Light the Night Walk, to take place in 200 locations in the U.S. Sept. 20-23. Last year, the event raised \$8.5 million. . . . **SHIMON SLAVIN**, director, National Bone Marrow Transplant Center of Israel, and director of the Cancer Immunotherapy and Immunobiology Research Center at Hadassah University, was named medical director of immunotherapy at Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

NCI Director Resigns:
In Letter To Bush,
Klausner Says NCI
In "Fantastic Position"
To Capitalize On Science
. . . Page 2

NCAB Meeting
Abruptly Ends
When Building Closed
. . . Page 2

Case Institute
To Support Projects
That Cross Disciplines
. . . Page 3

Klausner, An Outsider
To Oncopolitics, Brought
Fresh Perspective
. . . Page 4



NCI Director Klausner To Head Case Institute

(Continued from page 1)

scientific institutions dedicated to the advancement and application of science aimed at reducing the burden of one of humanity's feared diseases," Klausner said.

In a letter to President George W. Bush, Klausner wrote: "I appreciate the extraordinary support of your administration for me, for the NCI, and for biomedical research. The NCI is a jewel that I have had the honor to lead, and it is a family comprised of the most dedicated and effective public servants that I can imagine.

"We are clearly at a time of great scientific opportunity and I firmly believe that NCI and the nation's cancer research program are in a fantastic position to capitalize on those opportunities and to translate the results into reducing the terrible burden of cancer for all of our people and, indeed, for all humankind," Klausner wrote in the letter dated Sept. 7. "It has not and will not be easy, but real progress is achievable. Our research enterprise is both robust and fragile—it works well but it requires sustained nurturing."

Klausner said he plans to continue his laboratory work as a "special volunteer" in the NCI Center for Cancer Research.

After Klausner finished his remarks, board members, NCI staff, and other participants gave him

a standing ovation. Then meeting attendees filed past Klausner to offer their congratulations, and crowded around televisions to watch images of devastation in New York and at the Pentagon. The NCAB began a closed session to attempt to complete its grant-awarding business, but soon after, the word arrived that all federal buildings were to be vacated.

The "Klausner Revolution"

President Clinton appointed Klausner the 11th NCI director on Aug. 1, 1995. Klausner, then 43 and a highly cited molecular biologist, came in as a reformer after years of stagnant budgets and Congressional investigations involving the Institute.

On Day One, Klausner said he would change the culture of the Institute and rethink its programs. Over the past six years, nearly the entire organization has been reviewed and reorganized, and dozens of new programs begun. Science magazine called the changes at NCI the "Klausner Revolution."

"Rick Klausner has been an extraordinary leader in the fight against cancer," HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson said in a statement. "As NCI director, Rick summoned a unique blend of scientific and administrative talents to guide basic and clinical cancer research to new heights. His tireless efforts have contributed to a greater understanding of cancer, as well as to the development of innovative treatments that are helping thousands of people beat cancer. His vision and leadership will be thoroughly missed."

With Klausner's departure, three of the nation's top biomedical jobs are in limbo: the directorships of NIH and NCI, and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. An acting director for NCI will be named soon, Thompson said.

"Rick has made enormous contributions to the NIH," said Acting NIH Director Ruth Kirschstein. "As NCI director, he transformed the organization while moving the science forward at an exceptional pace. Over the years, he has been a trusted advisor to a number of NIH directors and always brought a 'big picture' view to medical research. Although his departure is a loss to NIH, I know that he will continue to make huge contributions to the field in his new position."

"An Exhilarating And Exhausting Job"

In his remarks to the NCAB, Klausner said he had accomplished many of his goals for the Institute.

"Reaching this very personal decision wasn't easy," Klausner said. "I thought long and hard about

THE **CANCER**
LETTER

Member,
Newsletter and
Electronic Publishers
Association

World Wide Web: [http://
www.cancerletter.com](http://www.cancerletter.com)

Editor & Publisher: Kirsten Boyd Goldberg

Editor: Paul Goldberg

Editorial Assistant: Shelley Whitmore Wolfe

Editorial: 202-362-1809 Fax: 202-318-4030

PO Box 9905, Washington DC 20016

E-mail: news@cancerletter.com

Customer Service: 800-513-7042

PO Box 40724, Nashville TN 37204-0724

E-mail: info@cancerletter.com

Subscription \$295 per year worldwide. ISSN 0096-3917. Published 46 times a year by The Cancer Letter Inc. Other than "fair use" as specified by U.S. copyright law, none of the content of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, facsimile, or otherwise) without prior written permission of the publisher. Violators risk criminal penalties and \$100,000 damages. Founded Dec. 21, 1973, by Jerry D. Boyd



how long to stay here, possible new roles for me at NIH, and of course, opportunities in what I suspected was a large world outside of the government. I have spent my whole career at NIH, 22 years.

“Running NCI has been an exhilarating and an exhausting job. It’s not that our work is done, yet I feel that I have been able to have the privilege to set in motion much of what I came here to do.

“I feel that have put an enormous amount into this, yet, I recognize that I have gotten much more than I have given,” Klausner said. “For that, I am endlessly grateful to so many. I could not imagine having been more warmly welcomed and more deeply supported.

“I always knew that at some point, it would be time for me to move on, and I always wanted that to be while I still thoroughly enjoyed myself in the job,” he said. “I still do. But more and more, I missed the time to read and write, to think more deeply, and to pursue my own menu of scientific passions. Perhaps the muse of personal change is simply better stated and listened to than fully analyzed. So, the time for change for me has come.

“I have for some time been increasingly intrigued by the need for and possibilities of a new science and technology support enterprise, structured to go beyond the constraints of funding individual projects, to attempt to attack large problems in both public health and medicine in novel ways,” Klausner said. “Such an enterprise, free from the constraints of traditional funding entities, could attempt to capture the enormous potential at the interfaces that you all know I love, of disparate scientific fields, and between science and technology, enabled by the revolution in information and communication science.

“Fortunately for me, such a vision is shared by two remarkable people, Steve Case, the founder of AOL and chairman of AOL Time Warner, and his wife Jean,” he said. “Through their family foundation, a new institute, the Case Institute of Health, Science and Technology, will be launched on Oct. 1, and I have agreed to be the founding president to guide the design, the development and the implementation of that vision.

“The Case Institute will work to identify major challenges and novel solutions to problems that emerge from the interface and interaction of the biological, physical, the information sciences, that integrate scientific discovery with new technology by designing and funding initiatives in areas such as molecular technologies, bioinformatics and knowledge

management, translational sciences, public health-oriented technologies, information science and the digital divide, science education and others of my passions,” Klausner said.

“One of the really nice things about this for me is that it is going to be in Washington, and one of the particularly nice things is that it is going to allow me to stay at NCI as an intramural scientist, which I never actually stopped being. It just didn’t look like it.”

Institute To Fund Projects Across Disciplines

The Case Foundation said it established the Case Institute to fund projects that cross the boundaries of traditional scientific disciplines, not limited to any specific disease.

“Our purpose in creating the Case Institute of Health, Science and Technology is to pioneer new ground in a space where science, medicine and technology need to converge in an unprecedented way,” Steve Case, chairman of the Case Foundation, said in a statement. “As many in these fields recognize, there is a compelling need to establish new platforms to share information and address challenges in a more collaborative way.”

Jean Case, CEO of the foundation, said Klausner’s “vast and deep knowledge and experience, combined with his ability to bring together key groups, will be essential in realizing our goals and ultimately benefiting society as a whole.”

“I’m thrilled about this extraordinary opportunity to work with Steve and Jean Case to establish an organization that will play a critical role in defining model solutions to vital problems in medicine, public health, information, and education,” Klausner said in a statement issued by the foundation. “By creating a fluid think tank environment and seeking input from outstanding individuals and organizations from diverse disciplines, we can begin identifying critical problems and design novel responses and solutions.

“The goals of the Case Institute are ambitious, but the time is ripe to create a new philanthropic entity that will grow over time to creatively integrate science, technology, information, and communication to better our world,” Klausner said.

According to the statement, examples of initiatives the Case Institute plans to develop include:

—Advanced technology discovery programs that fund research and development aimed at linking biology, nano- and micro-technology, chemistry, and information sciences to monitor health, disease, and the environment.



—Bioinformatics and knowledge management projects to foster the development of tools and standards development to better use and communicate scientific knowledge.

—Translational science partnerships to fund new platforms for and bring new technologies to clinical research to accelerate testing of molecularly targeted approaches for diseases.

—Public health technology initiatives to encourage researchers to develop new technologies and to create demonstration projects to apply these technologies to worldwide public health needs for disease control, sanitation, and access to health information.

—Web-based projects to develop open source approaches to improve science and technology education and public awareness.

—Build upon the Case Foundation's program called PowerUP, by creating new projects aimed at integrating and accelerating attempts to overcome the digital divide. PowerUp provides technology training to underserved youth.

The Case Foundation was formed in 1997 as a private family foundation to help underserved youth and families through initiatives in technology, education, health care, and community development.

Last fall, the foundation raised the ire of gay organizations after the Cases donated \$8.3 million to support Jean Case's high school alma mater, a parochial school in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., associated with an anti-gay ministry. The Cases said the funds for the Westminster Academy, run by the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, would be used to build a new school building and provide scholarships to needy children, and would not be used for the ministry.

In a statement, Jean Case said she and her husband "strongly oppose discrimination in any form."

Klausner Brought Fresh Perspective

In 1995, Klausner seemed an unlikely candidate for NCI director.

He was not a cancer specialist. He studied the internal structures of cells, not their uncontrolled growth. He was known as a charismatic lab chief at the National Institute of Child Health and Development who wore clogs, was widely believed not to own a tie, and regularly professed disdain for the NIH bureaucracy.

However, Klausner had developed a reputation as someone who could bring people together to solve problems. In 1993, as a newly-elected member of the

National Academy of Sciences, he took over a risky project to develop science education standards for kindergarten through 12th grade.

At the time, some educators thought the Academy had no business telling science teachers how to do their jobs. The previous head of the project had resigned and the project was close to being cancelled. After Klausner took over, the groups began talking to each other, and by 1995, the standards were complete and advocated nothing less than a revolutionary change in the way science traditionally has been taught in the U.S.

As an outsider to the perpetual clashes of the disciplines involved in cancer research and treatment, Klausner could bring a fresh perspective to the Institute.

Cancer research was at a turning point, Klausner said to nearly every group he encountered after his appointment.

Scientists had reached the consensus that cancer is always a disease of altered genes and gene function, whether the alteration arises from a virus, a chemical cause, or through heredity. Thus, Klausner maintained, aggressive funding of research in cancer genetics would spur discoveries that will bring cures.

In one of his first actions, Klausner worked with scientists, clinicians, and cancer survivors to establish NCI's research priorities and make them publicly accessible by rewriting the NCI Bypass Budget, the director's annual report to the President about scientific opportunities in cancer research.

"Rick Klausner has been a mensch as director of the NCI," said Phillip Sharp, chairman of the NCAB. "He has been a strong spokesman for the war on cancer, justified doubling of the budget of NCI, and used the funds to expand research across the spectrum of clinical, epidemiological, and basic sciences.

"The NCI leadership under Rick has led the community to embrace new technologies and science that have already produced a new generation of highly effective cancer drugs with promise of many more in the future," Sharp said. "He has done a fantastic job as director of the NCI."

Klausner received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his medical degree from Duke University. After postgraduate medical training at Harvard, he began his research career at NIH in 1979.

A copy of Klausner's letter to President Bush is available at <http://press.nci.nih.gov/pressreleases/rkbush.htm>.



FIFTH ANNUAL *Advances in Solid Tumors*

FALL ONCOLOGY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 11-14, 2001

**Amelia Island Plantation
Amelia Island, Florida**

15 hrs., AMA/PRA Credit Provided

We invite you to attend our fifth annual Fall Oncology Conference, *Advances in Solid Tumors*, at Amelia Island Plantation in Amelia Island, Florida.

Purpose & Content

This 3½ day conference, designed for medical and radiation oncologists, will focus on current developments of newer chemotherapeutic agents. This will include new applications of previously approved chemotherapy drugs and also a discussion of anticancer agents that have been approved or are in the process of being approved by the FDA. Special attention will be given to recent randomized clinical trials. The overall goal of this meeting will be to update attendees on developments that have taken place over the past year, since our last solid tumors conference.

Who Should Attend?

This educational program is intended for medical and radiation oncologists and other physicians with an interest in recent advances in the treatment of solid tumors. No specific skills or knowledge, other than a basic training in oncology, are required for successful participation in this activity. Fellows, nurses, and pharmacists in the oncology field are also invited to attend.

Program Directors

Vinay Jain, MD, FACP

Baylor-Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center
Dallas, TX

Marvin Stone, MD, MACP

Baylor-Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center
Dallas, TX

John Pippen, MD, FACP

Baylor-Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center
Dallas, TX

Joyce O'Shaughnessy, MD

Baylor-Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center
Dallas, TX

To view a detailed **Agenda**, please see our website at
www.cancerconferences.com

Supported by Baylor-Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center and Physicians' Education Resource

Registration Form

FIFTH ANNUAL FALL ONCOLOGY CONFERENCE

Return by fax to 214-818-7463 ~ for more information call 214-818-7462

First Name		Last Name		Credentials	
Mailing Address		Suite			
City		State		Zip Code	
Last four digits of SS Number		Phone		Fax	
Please check the appropriate category		Before Sept. 14		After Sept. 14	
<input type="checkbox"/> Physicians		<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00		<input type="checkbox"/> \$350.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fellows, Nurses, Pharmacists, Others		<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00		<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you have any special dietary needs.		Specialty:			
Please specify: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Oncology		<input type="checkbox"/> Surgery <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Payment may be made by: [] Check [] Visa [] MasterCard [] Discover [] American Express		<input type="checkbox"/> Radiation Oncology		<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing	
Card Number		Expiration Date			
Name as it appears on charge card		Signature			

Please make checks payable to PHYSICIANS' EDUCATION RESOURCE. All payments must be made by a draft on a United States Bank.

Copying Policy for The Cancer Letter Interactive

The software that comes with your issue allows you to make a printout, intended for your own personal use. Because we cannot control what you do with the printout, we would like to remind you that routine cover-to-cover photocopying of The Cancer Letter Interactive is theft of intellectual property and is a crime under U.S. and international law.

Here are guidelines we advise our subscribers to follow regarding photocopying or distribution of the copyrighted material in The Cancer Letter Inc. publications in compliance with the U.S. Copyright Act:

What you can do:

- Route the printout of the newsletter to anyone in your office.
- Copy, on an occasional basis, a single story or article and send it to colleagues.
- Consider purchasing multiple subscriptions. Contact us for information on multiple subscription discounts.

What you can't do without prior permission:

- Make copies of an entire issue of the newsletter. The law forbids cover-to-cover photocopying.
- Routinely copy and distribute portions of the newsletter.
- Republish or repackage the contents of the newsletter.

We can provide reprints for nominal fees. If you have any questions or comments regarding photocopying, please contact Publisher Kirsten Boyd Goldberg, phone: 202-362-1809, email: kirsten@cancerletter.com

We welcome the opportunity to speak to you regarding your information needs.