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White House Preparing To Nominate Von Eschenbach As FDA Commissioner

By Paul Goldberg

The Bush administration is preparing to nominate Andrew von Eschenbach to the permanent job of FDA commissioner, sources said.

Soon after von Eschenbach was named FDA acting commissioner, HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt indicated that it was unlikely that the NCI director would be the administration's choice for permanent commissioner. Now, it appears that von Eschenbach's nomination will be announced in mid-March.

Under federal law, von Eschenbach could remain in the acting role for 210 days, a deadline that expires April 21.

It is unclear—and possibly not decided—whether von Eschenbach would continue to serve as the NCI director.

Von Eschenbach's active roles at the helm of the institute and the
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In the Cancer Centers:

John Mendelsohn Selected To Share Prize; Opipare Named EVP At City Of Hope

JOHN MENDELSON, president of M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, was selected as co-recipient, with **Joseph Schlessinger**, chairman of pharmacology at Yale University School of Medicine, of the 2006 Dan David Prize, recognizing innovation in cancer research. Mendelsohn was awarded the prize for developing the field of antibody-mediated cancer therapy. With **Gordon Sato** and collaborators in the early 1980's, he created the antibody cetuximab (Erbix). Mendelsohn and Schlessinger will share a \$1 million prize, which will be awarded at Tel Aviv University on May 21. The foundation also awarded prizes to cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** for preserving cultural heritage, and to four print journalists from Italy, Chile, Poland, and Indonesia, for their pursuit of democracy and human rights. . . . **VIRGINIA OPIPARE** was appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer of City of Hope, where she will oversee the operational activities within the National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute. Her responsibilities include patient care and support programs, human resources, safety, facilities, construction, information technology, finance, annual and capital budgets, quality and the implementation of the research and clinical strategic plans of the institution, said **Michael Friedman**, president and CEO. She was executive vice president and chief operating officer of Roswell Park Cancer Institute. . . . **THERESA LARIVÉE** was appointed CEO of Fox
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Dual Role Could Continue Despite Likely Nomination

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regulatory agency have raised questions of conflict of commitment and conflict of interest on Capitol Hill. Many key players in the cancer field have voiced similar concerns.

Now, his future is more likely to be determined by the controversy over the agency's failure to make a decision on Plan B, the morning-after contraceptive. Unless Plan B is approved, the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee would be unlikely to support von Eschenbach's nomination, said sources on both sides of the aisle.

In what appears to be preparation to von Eschenbach's nomination, FBI agents in recent weeks have been conducting interviews with individuals who have known von Eschenbach, sources said.

A background check would be expected when an official is about to be nominated to a higher position in the government, especially one that requires confirmation by the Senate, said FBI spokesman Paul Bresson.

"The scope of the investigation varies depending upon the nature of the position for which the candidate is being considered," Bresson said. "It is a thorough process consisting of personal interviews and a wide variety of records checks to assist the client entity in the decision making process concerning the candidate's suitability for federal employment and access to classified information." Bresson said he was precluded

from discussing specific investigations.

If nominated, von Eschenbach would be allowed to continue to run the regulatory agency while the Senate considers his candidacy.

However, confirmation may not be the administration's goal, observers said. Just maintaining the status quo—and keeping Plan B off the market—could well get the administration through the mid-term elections in November.

If von Eschenbach isn't confirmed, the law would allow the administration to keep him in the FDA job for another 210 days.

Von Eschenbach's critics in oncology and on Capitol Hill have said that no one individual should run both NCI and FDA. Many are dismayed to see the NCI grant payline slip close to 11 percent, and many view von Eschenbach's goal to "eliminate the suffering and death due to cancer by 2015" as an unrealistic promise.

Administration sources acknowledge that it's unlikely that, Plan B aside, the Senate would sign off on a permanent dual role for von Eschenbach at NCI at FDA. Yet, von Eschenbach will not necessarily have to relinquish his position at the institute while his FDA candidacy is under review by the Senate, observers said.

His boss Leavitt maintained his job at the Environmental Protection Agency for several weeks while going through confirmation for HHS secretary. Thus, it's conceivable that von Eschenbach's dual role at NCI and FDA could continue for months, if not years.

The impending appointment could explain recent changes in von Eschenbach's speeches.

When von Eschenbach speaks as NCI director, he continues to vow to "eliminate suffering and death due to cancer by 2015." However, when he speaks as acting FDA commissioner, he stops conspicuously short of mentioning the 2015 goal.

The 2015 goal has been tolerated, but never embraced, by the administration. A recent press release quoting HHS officials mentioned the FDA "critical path" program and the NIH "road map," but didn't mention the 2015 goal (The Cancer Letter, Feb. 17).

"Sex-Based Cults"

In both his jobs, von Eschenbach is known to extol "personalized medicine," "the fruits of science," and the "magic strategy" of reliance on biomarkers, proteomics, and nanotechnology, which, he promises, would save many lives.

However, his apparent political mission—and his legacy—will be shaped by a decidedly low-tech drug



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Founded Dec. 21, 1973, by Jerry D. Boyd.

that was first approved in 1999 for the prevention of pregnancy following unprotected sex. Plan B is a birth control pill, as opposed to an abortion pill, its supporters point out.

In 2001, FDA received applications for over-the-counter sale of the agent. In December 2003, members of two FDA advisory committees voted 23-4 to allow the drug to be marketed over-the-counter.

Nonetheless, the agency's senior management ignored the recommendation and repeatedly overruled objections from its review staff, ultimately declaring Plan B "not approvable" because the sponsor failed to present data "to support adolescent use in the over-the-counter setting."

According to court documents recently released in a New York law suit against the agency, then-FDA Deputy Commissioner for Operations Janet Woodcock warned that approval could lead to "extreme promiscuous behaviors, such as the medication taking on an 'urban legend' status that would lead adolescents to form sex-based cults centered around the use of Plan B."

In May 2004, the contraceptive's sponsor, Barr Pharmaceuticals, received a "not approvable" letter from the agency. Barr then submitted an amended application, restricting the drug's over-the-counter availability to women over 16.

From "Novel Issues" to "Enormous Complexity"

The Senate has reasons to be highly skeptical when it considers von Eschenbach's candidacy.

His predecessor at FDA, Lester Crawford, was confirmed only after Leavitt assured Sen. Michael Enzi (R-Wyo.) that FDA would take action on Plan B.

This prompted Democrats on the committee to remove holds they had placed on the nomination, clearing the way for the confirmation. However, soon after he was confirmed, Crawford didn't deliver on Leavitt's promise. Instead, in an Aug. 26, 2005, letter to Barr, Crawford claimed that Plan B raised "difficult and novel issues" and began the process of public comment on the application.

The issues that troubled Crawford were:

—The agency would have to determine whether a drug can be available by prescription or over the counter, depending on the age of the individual using the drug.

—The agency would have to decide how an age-based distinction could be enforced.

—FDA had never had to decide whether prescription and over-the-counter versions of the same active ingredient could be marketed in a single package.

Crawford lasted only two months in his hard-

won job as permanent commissioner, but the questions that apparently troubled him generated over 10,000 comments which are now being reviewed by von Eschenbach's FDA.

At a hearing of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Feb. 16, von Eschenbach described Plan B as an issue of "enormous complexity," adding that the agency was in the process of analyzing the responses.

"There are obviously a large number of them, and they are complex," he said.

Von Eschenbach's answers to the committee weren't "forthright," said Susan Wood, former assistant FDA commissioner for women's health, who left the agency in protest over its failure to approve Plan B.

"Indeed, he is telling us that he cannot act independently or on the basis of the scientific and medical evidence," Wood said to *The Cancer Letter*. "This has consequences beyond Plan B. I hope [the Senate] insists that the agency be able to maintain its scientific credibility and reputation. Unfortunately, unless FDA is allowed to make a decision on Plan B, all of that is at risk.

"We expect more from our health agencies and we should not allow them to be taken off track," said Wood, who is now a senior policy adviser to the Reproductive Health Technologies Project.

FDA last week suffered a legal setback when a New York magistrate ruled that the agency and its former and current officials must submit to depositions in a case brought by reproductive health organizations over Plan B.

The magistrate's decision, which includes a detailed summary of the case, is posted at www.crlp.org/pdf/1040OrderDenyingMotionProtectiveOrder.pdf. Last November, the Government Accountability Office published a report on FDA's handling of Plan B. That document is posted at www.gao.gov/new.items/d06109.pdf.

FDA Approves Erbitux For Head And Neck Cancer

FDA approved Erbitux (cetuximab, ImClone Systems Inc.) on March 1 for use in combination with radiation therapy to treat patients with squamous cell cancer of the head and neck that can not be removed by surgery.

Erbitux was also approved for use alone to treat patients whose head and neck cancer has metastasized despite the use of standard chemotherapy. The drug will be distributed and marketed by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. It is the first drug approved to treat head and neck

cancer since methotrexate became available in the 1950s, FDA said.

Approval of Erbitux in combination with radiation therapy was based on a study that showed it prolonged survival by 20 months compared to treatment with radiation alone. Approval of Erbitux monotherapy was based on evidence of tumor shrinkage in 13 percent of patients, lasting on average of 6 months.

Commonly reported side effects of Erbitux were infusion reactions, skin rash, fatigue/malaise, nausea. It was first approved in 2004 to treat colon cancer.

Last month, ImClone said it was considering selling the company.

Professional Societies:

Nancy Davidson Elected ASCO President For 2007-08

Nancy Davidson, a medical oncologist who has specialized in breast cancer for more than 20 years, was elected president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology beginning in June 2007 for a one-year term.

Davidson will take office as president-elect during ASCO's annual meeting in Atlanta in June. She is professor of oncology and director of the Breast Cancer Program at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. She holds a joint appointment in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. An ASCO member since 1985, she has held numerous volunteer positions with the society, including serving on the Board of Directors from 1996-1999.

Bruce Roth, professor of medicine and urologic surgery at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, was elected secretary-treasurer for the 2006-2009 term.

Five new members were elected to the ASCO Board of Directors for three-year terms beginning June 6:

Howard Burris III was elected to an Undesignated Specialty, Oncology, or Hematology/Oncology seat. He is director of drug development at the Sarah Canon Research Institute and an associate with Tennessee Oncology.

Waun Ki Hong was elected to an Undesignated Specialty, Oncology, or Hematology/Oncology seat. He is head of the Division of Cancer Medicine and Professor at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Thomas Marsland was elected to a Community Oncologist seat. He is president of Integrated Community Oncology Network, a medical and radiation oncology group in northeast Florida.

Gregory Reaman was elected to a Pediatric Oncology seat. He is chairman of the Children's Oncology Group and professor of pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Children's National Medical Center.

Martine Piccart-Gebhart was elected to a Non-U.S. Oncologist seat. Piccart-Gebhart is professor of oncology at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles and Director of the Medicine Department at Institut Jules Bordert, Belgium.

Two newly elected ASCO Nominating Committee members will serve three-year terms beginning in June:

Edith Perez, professor of medicine at the Mayo College of Medicine, will serve as the Nominating Committee chairman for the 2008-2009 term.

Eric Winer, director of the Breast Oncology Center at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

NCI Programs:

University of New Mexico Is NCI's Newest Cancer Center

By Kirsten Boyd Goldberg

The NCI Cancer Centers Program funded its first new cancer center in several years, the University of New Mexico Cancer Research and Treatment Center in Albuquerque, in fiscal 2005.

The university received a Cancer Center Support Grant of \$1.3 million for FY 2005 and NCI designation as a clinical cancer center. Center Director and CEO Cheryl Willman, professor of pathology and medicine at UNM, joins just three other women currently serving as directors of NCI-designated cancer centers.

NCI this week released the funding amounts for Cancer Center Support Grants for FY 2005. A chart listing the centers and grants appears on page 5.

Also last fiscal year, the program, collaboration with the NCI Imaging Program, provided grant supplements to eight centers to establish shared resources to strengthen the role of imaging in measuring response to therapy in clinical trials. Another four centers were funded for pre-clinical and early translational studies of oncologic image-guided interventions. Also, the program provided supplements through funding from Avon for early clinical interventions.

Linda Weiss, director of the Cancer Centers Program, said the FY 2006 budget for the program isn't available yet.

Cancer Centers by State (P30 Core Grants), Fiscal Year 2005

(Dollars in Thousands)

State	Grantee Institution	Type	Amount
Alabama	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Comprehensive	\$5,800
Arizona	University of Arizona	Comprehensive	4,096
California	Burnham Institute	Lab/Basic	3,397
	Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope	Comprehensive	2,418
	Salk Institute for Biological Sciences	Lab/Basic	2,872
	University of California Davis	Clinical	3,028
	University of California Irvine	Comprehensive	2,579
	University of California Los Angeles	Comprehensive	4,523
	University of California San Diego	Comprehensive	6,558
	University of California San Francisco	Comprehensive	7,121
	University of Southern California	Comprehensive	6,105
Colorado	University of Colorado Health Sciences Center	Comprehensive	3,563
Connecticut	Yale University	Comprehensive	82
District of Columbia	Georgetown University	Comprehensive	3,128
Florida	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute	Comprehensive	2,349
Hawaii	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Clinical	1,500
Illinois	Northwestern University	Comprehensive	4,661
	University of Chicago	Clinical	3,834
Indiana	Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis	Clinical	1,468
	Purdue University West Lafayette	Lab/Basic	1,261
Iowa	University of Iowa	Comprehensive	2,447
Maine	Jackson Laboratory	Lab/Basic	2,697
Maryland	Johns Hopkins University	Comprehensive	6,551
Massachusetts	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Comprehensive	4,525
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Lab/Basic	2,900
Michigan	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	Comprehensive	5,162
	Wayne State University	Comprehensive	2,750
Minnesota	Mayo Clinic Rochester	Comprehensive	4,971
	University of Minnesota Twin Cities	Comprehensive	3,531
Missouri	Washington University	Clinical	4,332
Nebraska	University of Nebraska Medical Center	Clinical	1,450
New Hampshire	Dartmouth College	Comprehensive	2,919
New Jersey	Robert Wood Johnson Medical School	Comprehensive	3,250
New Mexico	University of New Mexico Albuquerque	Clinical	1,382
New York	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	Lab/Basic	4,250
	Columbia University Health Sciences	Comprehensive	1,842
	Institute for Cancer Prevention*	Clinical	569
	New York University School of Medicine	Clinical	2,575
	Roswell Park Cancer Institute Corp	Comprehensive	3,795
	Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research	Comprehensive	10,130
	Yeshiva University	Clinical	3,888
North Carolina	Duke University	Comprehensive	6,717
	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	Comprehensive	6,662
	Wake Forest University Health Sciences	Comprehensive	1,322
Ohio	Case Western Reserve University	Comprehensive	4,438
	Ohio State University	Comprehensive	4,033
Oregon	Oregon Health & Science University	Clinical	1,169
Pennsylvania	Fox Chase Cancer Center	Comprehensive	8,152
	Thomas Jefferson University	Clinical	4,489
	University of Pennsylvania	Comprehensive	7,565
	University of Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh	Comprehensive	5,242
	Wistar Institute	Lab/Basic	2,658
Tennessee	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	Clinical	4,975
	Vanderbilt University	Comprehensive	5,072
Texas	University of Texas San Antonio Health Science Center	Clinical	3,069
	University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Comprehensive	9,301
Utah	Huntsman Cancer Institute/University of Utah	Clinical	780
Vermont	University of Vermont & St. Agric College	Comprehensive	1,348
Virginia	University of Virginia Charlottesville	Clinical	1,983
	Virginia Commonwealth University/Massey Cancer Center	Clinical	1,857
Washington	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center	Comprehensive	10,012
Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin Madison	Comprehensive	5,586
	Total P30s	61	242,689
	Total Planning Grants (P20s)		7,555
	Center for AIDs Research (CFARs)		3,753
	Other P30s & U41s		1,265
Total Cancer Centers			\$255,262

* Not included in count because institution has closed.

In the Cancer Centers:

Faye Austin To Step Down At Dana-Farber/Harvard Center

(Continued from page 1)

Chase Cancer Center. She was deputy vice president and associate dean of budget and finance at Columbia University Medical Center, where she was in charge of the \$1.3 million Medical Center Division. . . . **FAYE AUSTIN**, senior vice president for research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute since 1998 and deputy director for administration of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, will step down from those positions on April 1. She plans to pursue part-time consulting work with Dana-Farber and other cancer centers. "It is a good time to make a transition to more balance in my life, and to spend more time with family and friends" in the Washington, D.C., area, she said. Before joining Dana-Farber, Austin was director of the NCI Division of Cancer Biology. Soon after her arrival, DFCI President Emeritus **David Nathan** asked her to organize a competitive grant application to fund DF/HCC, a complex collaboration that includes Dana-Farber, Harvard Medical School, four of its other affiliated hospitals, and the Harvard School of Public Health. With about 900 researchers and 18 core facility laboratories, DF/HCC "is, without a doubt, the most amazing cancer center in the world," Austin said in her farewell remarks to staff earlier this week.

. . . **JOHN BOICE**, professor of cancer epidemiology at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, and a team from Denmark and Finland received a \$4 million NCI grant to study the effects of cancer treatment among children of cancer survivors. Over the next five years, Boice and his colleagues will look at data from individuals diagnosed with cancer under the age of 35 after 1943 in Denmark, and 1952 in Finland. Because no comparable system exists in the U.S., collecting data here is more problematic, he said. "Adverse outcomes are rare, so we have to be able to study large groups of cancer survivors in order to develop precise estimates of risk," Boice said. Boice is collaborating with scientists in Vanderbilt departments, including **Bertrand Brill**, research professor of radiology and radiological sciences, and **James Whitlock**, professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric oncology. The Danish Cancer Society, Finnish Cancer Registry, International Epidemiology Institute, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Westlakes Research Institute, U.K., are part of the research project. . . . **RICE UNIVERSITY, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute** are collaborating on Translational Bioengineering for Cancer Diagnostics

and Therapeutics, a new Ph.D. training program for Rice bioengineering students to participate in clinical rounds and coursework at M. D. Anderson. The program integrates courses in cancer biology, clinical medicine, bioengineering and translational research; internships in clinical cancer care and translational research; and jointly mentored inter-disciplinary Ph.D. projects. **Rebecca Richards-Kortum**, chairman of the Department of Bioengineering at Rice, is the principal investigator. The program is funded by a four-year, \$850,000 award from HHMI, which funds 12 other translational medical research programs with its HHMI Med to Grad initiative.

David Baltimore Begins Term As President-Elect Of AAAS

Nobel laureate David Baltimore, a biologist and president of Caltech, began his service as president-elect of AAAS on Feb. 21, at the close of the organization's annual meeting.

John Holdren began a one-year term as AAAS president. Holdren is director of the Woods Hole Research Center, as well as Teresa and John Heinz Professor of Environmental Policy and director of the Science, Technology and Public Policy Program at Harvard University.

Gilbert Omenn begin a one-year term as chairman of the AAAS Board of Directors at the close of the Annual Meeting. Omenn is professor of internal medicine, human genetics and public health at the University of Michigan.

In remarks at the annual meeting, Baltimore criticized the Bush administration's science policy. "It's no accident that we are seeing such an extensive suppression of scientific freedom," he said. "It's part of the theory of government now, and it's a theory we need to vociferously oppose." His remarks were first reported in The New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/19/national/19science.html>

In Brief:

Pizzo Reappointed Dean Of Stanford Medical School

PHILIP PIZZO was reappointed medical school dean for a new five-year term by Stanford University President **John Hennessy**. Pizzo became dean of the medical school in 2001. Before coming to Stanford five years ago, Pizzo was physician-in-chief of Children's Hospital in Boston and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Hennessy

credited Pizzo for his role in innovation, including work with other Stanford schools on interdisciplinary research, such as Bio-X and the creation of the new Department of Bioengineering. "His academic leadership in areas such as human genetics and stem cell and cancer research is critical to the future of the Medical School and the university," Hennessy said.

. . . **HENRY RODRIGUEZ** was named director of the Cancer Proteomics Technologies program in the NCI Office of Technology and Industrial Relations. Rodriguez has led programs in biological standards development at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, including protein detection and measurement platforms. . . . **HARVEY PASS** was named professor of cardiothoracic surgery and first division chief for thoracic surgery and thoracic oncology at the NYU School of Medicine. Pass is also program leader for the Thoracic Oncology Clinical Research Program at the NYU Cancer Institute. Pass was professor of surgery and oncology for Wayne State University and the Karmanos Cancer Institute. He was senior staff fellow in the Thoracic Oncology Section at NCI from 1983-1986 and became head of Thoracic Oncology at NCI from 1986-1996. . . . **MITCHELL ANSCHER** was named professor and chairman of the Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Radiation Oncology as of June 1. Anscher, a prostate cancer researcher and clinician, is professor, vice chairman and clinical director for the Department of Radiation Oncology at Duke University Medical Center. His immediate goals as department chairman will be to fill positions and expand clinical research initiatives, he said. An alumnus of the VCU School of Medicine, Anscher received his medical degree in 1981. His appointment as chairman follows a national search to replace **Rupert Schmidt-Ullrich**, who died in 2004. . . . **NATIONAL ACADEMY of Sciences** will present its John J. Carty Award for the Advancement of Science, a \$25,000 prize, to **Russell Doolittle**, research professor, department of chemistry and biochemistry and division of biology, University of California, San Diego. He was recognized for using computers as an aid to characterizing protein function, in comparing amino acid sequences, and for phylogenetic reconstructions. At its annual meeting scheduled for April 23 in Washington, D.C., the academy also will honor several other scientists for their contributions, including these in biology: **Samuel Danishefsky** will receive the Award in Chemical Sciences, a \$15,000 prize, for his accomplishments in natural products total synthesis and for his work in the chemical synthesis of carbohydrates for the development of anticancer vaccines. He is the

Eugene W. Kettering Chair and director, laboratory for bioorganic chemistry, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; and professor of chemistry, Columbia University. The Award in Molecular Biology, a \$25,000 prize, will be awarded to **Ronald Breaker**, investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Henry Ford II Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, Yale University; and to **Tina Henkin**, professor, department of microbiology, Ohio State University. Breaker and Henkin were chosen for establishing a mode of regulation of gene expression in which metabolites regulate the activity of their cognate pathways by directly binding to mRNA. **Peter Vitousek**, professor, department of biological sciences, Stanford University, is the recipient of the Award for Scientific Reviewing, a \$10,000 prize, for his scholarly and inspirational book and reviews on nitrogen cycling and its role in the evolving patterns of ecosystem productivity and diversity.

Reports:

AMERICAN JOURNAL of Nursing released a consensus report to improve care for long-term cancer survivors, with recommendations for clinical practice, research, education and health policy. The report, "The State of the Science on Nursing Approaches to Managing Late and Long-Term Sequelae of Cancer and Cancer Treatment," concludes that science and nursing approaches for long-term cancer survivors are in the early stages and that nursing leadership, coordination and participation are central to communication and collaboration with organizations engaged in improving survivorship care, said **Carol Curtiss**, adjunct faculty member at Tufts University School of Medicine who served as co-leader of a symposium last year on which the report was based. The symposium was a joint project of AJN, the American Cancer Society, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Advocacy & Philanthropy:

Lustgarten Awards \$2 Million In Grants, Opens New Round

LUSTGARTEN FOUNDATION for Pancreatic Cancer Research announced the awardees of seven research grants totaling \$2 million. They consist of two three-year grants of \$750,000 and five one-year grants of \$100,000. The foundation also announced three new Requests for Applications for grants, up to \$250,000 each, for novel therapies and early detection, said

Robert Vizza, president of the Lustgarten Foundation. The two recipients of the three-year RFA grants of \$750,000 are: **Steven Leach**, chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology and director of research, Department of Surgery at Johns Hopkins University. He recently joined the department as the first Paul K. Neumann Professor in Pancreatic Cancer. **David Tuveson**, assistant professor in the Department of Hematology and Oncology, University of Pennsylvania. The recipients of the one-year \$100,000 grants are: **Joshua Mendell**, assistant professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; **Lewis Murtaugh**, assistant professor of human genetics, University of Utah; **Anna Riegel**, professor of oncology, Georgetown University; **Roland Schmid** and **Jens Siveke**, both of the Technical University Munich; and **Diane Simeone**, associate professor, University of Michigan Medical Center. The foundation also announced a new round of Requests for Applications for pancreatic cancer in the areas of novel therapies and early detection. Each grant will provide a maximum funding of \$250,000 per year for up to three years. Letter of intent receipt date is Feb. 10. Application deadline is Feb. 27. Applications are available at www.lustgartenfoundation.org. . . .

EDUCATION NETWORK to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials and the Lance Armstrong Foundation, its founding partner, announced the recipients of its Pilot Education Program grants. Over the next three years, ENACCT will provide financial support, training and technical assistance to three community organizations: The Cross Cultural Collaborative of Pierce County, Tacoma, Wash.; Cherishing Our Hearts and Souls Coalition, Boston; Decatur Community Partnership, Decatur, Ill. The partnerships would increase community education, attitudes, and beliefs about clinical trials among health care providers and community leaders, said **Margo Michaels**, executive director of ENACCT. . . .

MULTIPLE MYELOMA Research Consortium received more than \$8 million in research grants and funding from the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation in 2005. Thirty-five grants totaling \$3.5 million were awarded to investigators from 31 institutions worldwide, said **Anne Young**, program director. . . . **CANCER/CARE** honored three individuals for their efforts to improve the lives of people with cancer. The awards were presented Feb. 28. **Timothy Rothwell**, president and CEO of sanofi-aventis U.S., received the Human Services Award; **Laura Schoen**, president of Global Healthcare, Weber Shandwick Worldwide, received the Regulus Award; and **Mitch Stoller**, president and

CEO of The Lance Armstrong Foundation, received the Beacon Award. . . . **LYMPHOMA RESEARCH Foundation** has begun Lymphoma Awareness for Multicultural Populations, or LAMP, an educational initiative for underserved populations. The multilingual, interactive Web site, available at www.lymphomafacts.org and toll-free at 1-800-500-9976, provides lymphoma information in Spanish and Chinese for patients, families and healthcare providers.

Funding Opportunities:

RFA Available

RFA-CA-06-504: NCI Competitive Supplements for Pilot Projects for Community Networks Program to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. Letters of Intent Receipt Date: March 24. Application Receipt Date: April 24. The RFA is soliciting competitive supplements from the NCI Community Network Program awardees for pilot projects. The funding opportunity will use the NIH competitive supplement to an existing CNP cooperative agreement grant. The RFA is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-CA-06-504.html>.

Inquiries: Kenneth Chu 301-496-8589, kc10d@nih.gov.

RFP Available

RFPN02-CM-62401-96: Primary Animal Production and Support Center. NCI Biological Testing Branch seeks contractor for production of pathogen-free laboratory animals and operation of a repository that provides support for the cryopreservation and storage of rodent foundation stock for the NIH campus, NCI at Frederick, and NIH contract laboratories within the Washington metropolitan area. The RFP is available at www.fbodaily.com/archive/2006/03-March/01-Mar-2006/FBO-00995849.htm. The solicitation is available at www.ncifcrf.gov/about/mosb.asp.

Inquiries: Scott Drega, 301-846-1115.

Other Funding Notices

Multiple PI Update to RFA-DK-05-014: The Obese and Diabetic Intrauterine Environment: Long-term Metabolic or Cardiovascular Consequences in the Offspring. Modified Letter of Intent Receipt Date: April 11. Modified Application Receipt Date: May 11.

NIDDK, NHLBI, and NCI announce their participation in a pilot program at NIH to allow more than one principal investigator to be named on a research grant application. To accommodate the change, the deadlines for receipt of the letter of intent and application have been extended. The notice is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DK-06-007.html>.

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