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ACCC's COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUP: AN UPDATE

by Lloyd K. Everson, M.D., and Marilyn M. Mannisto

Since the ACCC Board approved the formation of a Collaborative Research Group earlier this year, a significant number of ACCC institutions have applied for membership, two protocols are under way at as many as seven sites, and discussions of other potential protocols have been held with a number of biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

The ACCC Collaborative Research Group (CRG), formed in the Spring of 1990, acts as a liaison between ACCC members involved in clinical research and national pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to further community-based clinical investigations of new cancer therapy products. The CRG was not formed as a competing cooperative clinical trials group. All participating ACCC members must be approved for participation by the CRG Steering Committee. The Steering Committee also must review and approve all potential protocols sponsored by interested pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

Due to the significant level of interest in the CRG, on the part of both ACCC members and pharmaceutical/biotechnology companies, the nine-member Steering Committee recently was expanded to 12 members. The three newly appointed Committee members are John Feldmann, M.D., Mobile (AL) Infirmary Medical Center; Carl Kardinal, M.D., Ochsner Cancer Institute, New Orleans, LA; and Burton Schwartz, M.D., Metropolitan-Mount Sinai Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN.

To date, the Steering Committee has approved 31 sites that comply with the CRG's requirements for membership, including ACCC delegate institution membership, affiliation with qualified physician investigators, demonstrated patient populations, documented protocol experience and evidence of quality data management, and an experienced data manager. (See the sidebar on this page for a list of newly approved institutions.) An additional 12 applications from delegate institutions are

pending Committee approval. Members of the Steering Committee have also met with the representatives of 10 various pharmaceutical/biotechnology corporations to provide information on the CRG and/or to discuss potential protocols. Those companies include Amgen, Inc.; Cetus Corporation; Ciba-Geigy; Cytogen Corporation; Roche Laboratories; Immunex Corporation; Lederle Laboratories; NeoRx Corporation; Sandoz Pharmaceuticals; and Schering Corporation.

The Collaborative Steering Group meets twice a year, in conjunction with the Association's two national meetings, to review and approve new members and potential protocols. It is expected that additional protocols will be available to ACCC approved institutions shortly after the ACCC Annual Meeting in March 1991.

Currently, two active protocols, sponsored by Adria Laboratories, are now under way. Six ACCC institutions are currently participating in a study of ADR-529 as a cardioprotective agent in a Phase III randomized trial of FAC vs. FAC +

ADR-529 in the treatment of disseminated breast cancer.

A second Adria protocol, a study of the efficacy and safety of Toremifene vs. Tamoxifen in postmenopausal patients with metastatic breast cancer, is underway at seven sites.

The following article by Joyce A. Filppi, Ph.D., and Robert E. Enck, M.D., of Adria Laboratories, is the first of what will be a continuing series of scientific reviews of investigational agents that are being studied on approved, active protocols of the ACCC Collaborative Research Group. These reviews are intended to provide Association members with background information and/or the results of Association-sponsored research studies. For further information on the CRG, including application packets, contact Carol Johnson at the ACCC Executive Offices. ■

Lloyd K. Everson, M.D., is Chairman, Steering Committee, ACCC Collaborative Research Group, and Marilyn M. Mannisto is Managing Editor, Oncology Issues.

NEW CRG INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Abbott-Northwestern Hospital,
Minneapolis, MN
Baptist Hospital, Pensacola, FL
Baptist Medical Center-Princeton,
Birmingham, AL
Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, OH
Mercy Hospital, Davenport, IA
Mountain States Tumor Institute,
Boise, ID
Rapid City (SD) Regional Hospital

Scott and White Hospital, Temple, TX
St. Luke's Cancer Center, Davenport, IA
St. Vincent Hospital and Medical
Center, Portland, OR
Sutter Cancer Center, Sacramento, CA
Thompson Cancer Survival Center,
Knoxville, TN
William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak,
MI