

American Society of Oncology Annual Meeting

ASCO's Annual Meeting is the premier scientific event for oncology professionals. The meeting is held each spring and typically includes more than 3,500 abstracts, and attracts more than 25,000 cancer specialists. This year's meeting was held in New Orleans June 4-8th. This meeting is especially important to patients, as many of the findings presented will change the standard of care for cancer patients.

Abstracts from the meeting are presented on the ASCO website in a searchable database arranged by category. The link to the searchable abstracts is:

<http://www.asco.org/ac/1,1003,12-002700-0018-0026,00.asp>.

In addition, ASCO's [People Living With Cancer](#) has a report *Cancer Advances: News from the 2004 ASCO Annual Meeting*. This report is designed to provide you with cancer research news from the 40th Annual Meeting. Each of the articles has an additional section to help patients and families understand what the results mean to their situation. All the articles are available at: http://www.plwc.org/plwc/external_files/CA_2004_AM5.pdf

Brain:

- [Adding Chemotherapy to Radiation Therapy Improves Survival in Patients with GBM](#)
- [Chemotherapy Can Delay Brain Tumor Progression; Genetic Differences in Brain Tumors Linked to Survival](#)
- [New Tumor Marker Affects Prognosis in Glioma](#)

Breast

- [Raloxifene Continues to Lower Incidence of Invasive Breast Cancer in Postmenopausal Women](#)

Colorectal

- [Cholesterol-Lowering Statin Drugs May Reduce Risk of Colorectal Cancer](#)
- [Patients' Quality of Life May be Linked to Genetic Structure](#)

Gastrointestinal

- [New Drug Shows Promise in Treating Imatinib-Resistant GIST](#)

Hematological cancers

- [Adding Immunotherapy to Chemotherapy Benefits Patients With Various Types of NHL](#)
- [New Drug Delays Cancer Progression in Patients With Relapsed Multiple Myeloma](#)

Lung

- [Drug Shows Activity in Advanced BAC](#)

ASCO / People Living with Cancer*(Continued from page 1)*

- [Chemotherapy After Surgery Improves Survival in Patients With Early Lung Cancer](#)
- [Genetic Variation Is Associated With Treatment-Related Side Effects](#)
- [U.S. and Japanese Patients With NSCLC Respond Differently to Chemotherapy](#)

Prostate

- [Chemotherapy Improves Survival and Quality of Life for Patients With Hormone-Refractory Prostate Cancer](#)
- [Hormone Therapy for Non-Metastatic Prostate Cancer Increases Risk of Bone Fractures](#)

Renal/Kidney

- [First Time Drugs Show Promise in Treating Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma](#)

Testicular

- [Single Dose of Chemotherapy May Lead to Testis Preservation in Men With Seminoma](#)

Options/Update**Research Advocacy Network Publishes Two New Companion Publications****Research Results**

Making sure research that changes the standard of care moves quickly into clinical practice is a goal of the Research Advocacy Network. RAN believes that one way of reaching this goal is to put research results into the hands of advocates, patients and healthcare professionals. We are pleased to announce a major step toward reaching our goal. In July RAN will publish two companion newsletters, *Options* and *UpDate*.

Both 8-page newsletters cover the same important research information with *Options* aimed at advocates, patients and their families and friends and *UpDate* aimed at healthcare professionals, especially community oncologists. The premier issues focus on the treatment of adjuvant breast cancer.

Covered in this issue are:

- New Options for Hormonal Treatment
 - International Exemestane (Aromasin) Study with updates from ASCO 2004
 - Letrozole (Femara) Study with an update from ASCO 2004
- Highlights from San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium
 - Adjuvant TAC Improves Disease-Free Survival and Overall Survival
 - Waiting up to 12 Weeks to Begin Chemotherapy Does Not Affect Survival
 - New Gene-Based Test May Predict Breast Cancer Recurrence in Certain Patients
 - Survival Following Mastectomy and Chemotherapy: The African- American Experience
- Anthracyclines In Adjuvant Chemotherapy
 - New combinations
 - Long-term findings
 - Dose-dense treatment and survival with an update from ASCO
 - Does age matter?

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Options/Update (Continued from page 2)

In addition to reporting on research results that could change clinical practice, each issue of *Update* will feature an article on communication. In this issue our *Communication Corner* features: “One Size Doesn’t Fit All,” by Lidia Schapira, MD, from Massachusetts General Hospital and the Harvard Medical School, on ways doctors can improve communication with patients.

Each issue of *Options* will feature an article on patient decision-making. In this issue we present “*What do I do now?*”—*Getting Started on the Journey* that contains interviews with Terri Pedace, RN, research coordinator at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in La Crosse, Wisconsin, a member of the North Central Cancer Treatment Group (NCCTG) Patient Advocate Committee, and a 5-year breast cancer survivor and Debu Tripathy, MD, medical oncologist and Director of Breast Cancer Research at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Watch for the announcement of the July publication of *Options* and *UpDate*.

Redes En Accion

Research Advocacy Network co-founder Elda Railey joins National Steering Committee

Advocates in Action

Redes En Acción, the National Latino Cancer Research Network has asked Research Advocacy Network co-founder, Elda Railey to join the National Steering Committee (NSC) to work collaboratively for a new initiative launched by the National Cancer Institute’s Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. The goal of the program is to work to reduce cancer disparities by improving access to and utilization of beneficial cancer interventions in underserved minority populations (in particular, among Latinos). The objectives include capacity building, creating community-based research training programs and establishing credibility and sustainability for the Community Network Program.

Redes En Acción recently reported that inadequate access to cancer screening and care is the number one cancer issue for the nation’s 38 million Hispanics/Latinos. The report and information about other activities is available at <http://www.redesenaccion.org>.

New Resource for People with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

“Patients with metastatic colorectal cancer have more treatment options now than ever before, with newly approved drugs (bevacizumab, cetuximab) and recently approved combination chemotherapies (FOLFOX, FOLFIRI).

Everyone—researchers, doctors, patients—has questions about the best way to use combine and sequence these new treatments. Many of these questions don’t have answers yet. Research to answer these questions is ongoing.”

—from *Treatment Update for People with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer, Version 1.0—June 2004*

The Colon Cancer Alliance and the Marti Nelson Cancer Foundation recently released *Treatment Update For People With Metastatic Colorectal Cancer*. This resource was developed to help people with metastatic colorectal cancer understand what’s known—and what’s not—about new treatment options.

The booklet covers: Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Disease Information, Question and Answers about Treatment, Detailed Updates, Drugs and Side Effects, Research, Glossary, and Resources.

You can view and download *Treatment Update For People With Metastatic Colorectal Cancer* at: <http://www.CCAAlliance.org/treatment> or order by phone at: 1-877-4CCA-030 (1-877-422-2030).

Calendar-What is Research Advocacy Network Doing?

June 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Network News

Network News is being sent to you as a courtesy. If you would like to discontinue receiving this publication, please send an email message to info@researchadvocacy.org and type "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. The newsletter is currently published 10 times /yr and includes articles on advocacy, research results and activities.

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Research Advocacy Network

Advancing Patient-Focused Research

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Research Advocacy Network, Inc. is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation & is designated as an exempt 501(c)3 organization by the IRS. Your donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Research Advocacy Network Activities

- June 4-8 American Society of Clinical Oncologists, New Orleans
- June 14-18 NCCTG Patient Forum, Rochester MN
- June 17-18 Patient Advocate, ACOSOG Semi Annual Meeting
- June 23 Presentation at ECOG Coordinating Center on Patient Focused Research
- June 24-28 Patient Advocate, RTOG Semi Annual Meeting
- June 25-28 Patient Advocate, NSABP Semi Annual Meeting
- July 10-13 Representative from Northwestern Breast SPORE, SPORE Workshop, Baltimore, MD
- August 25 August/September issue of **Network News** published

**Research
Advocacy Network
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Number
877-276-2187**

Features on <http://www.researchadvocacy.org>

- Advocate Opportunities
- RAN accomplishments
- Tools for advocates
 - Glossary
 - Drug naming article
- Current and archived newsletters
- Survey

Our mission: To develop a network of advocates and researchers who can influence medical research from concept to patient care through education, support and collaborations.

This newsletter is supported in part by an unrestricted educational grant from AstraZeneca.