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FOCUS ON RESEARCH COURSE ASCO 2007

Research Advocacy Network will be accepting applications for the 2007 Focus on Research Course in preparation for the ASCO Annual Meeting. This year's course will feature a robust schedule of web lectures on the Genomics Module. Classes on Clinical Trial Design will also be included. Watch your inbox for a notice within the next 5 days to download the application.

IVDMIA Guidance Comments Due March 5

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) held a public meeting on In Vitro Diagnostic Multivariate Index Assays on February 8th. The FDA panel heard presentations and comments from 32 stakeholders regarding the draft guidance entitled "Draft Guidance for Industry, Clinical Laboratories, and FDA Staff on In Vitro Diagnostic Multivariate Index Assays." This draft guidance is intended to provide clarification on FDA's approach to regulation of in vitro diagnostic multivariate index assays.

Two days prior, the FDA approved the Mammaprint test as an IVDMIA through a de novo 510K. However, comments on the draft guidance on this classification and process for approving the category of test does not close until March 5.

The presentations by over thirty stakeholders represented a broad range of viewpoints. Elda Railey, co-founder of RAN, was one of the presenters. RAN's presentation as well as the comments we have filed for the draft guidance can be accessed here ([RAN Presentation](#)) ([RAN Comments on Draft Guidance IVDMIA](#)).

From the ASCO Expert Corner: Research Highlights From the 2007 Prostate Cancer Symposium

Leading experts in prostate cancer recently met in Orlando, Fla at the 2007 Prostate Cancer Symposium to present and discuss new research related to the prevention, screening, and treatment of prostate cancer. Cosponsors of the symposium included the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO), and the Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO). Click [here](#) to read the full text of this article.

Disparities in Colon Cancer Screening Remain Among Medicare Patients

CHICAGO--Although Medicare coverage for colorectal cancer screening has increased, there are still significant disparities in screening practices by ethnicity, sex, age, education and income level, according to a report in the February 12, 2007 issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine, one of the JAMA/Archives journals.

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer affecting men and women in the United States with approximately 145,290 new cases in 2005, according to background information in the article. "There is evidence that screening for colorectal cancer decreases incidence and mortality from the disease," the authors write. Please link to the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable for the full article 2/12/2007 Arch Intern Med. 2007 http://www.nccrt.org/News/NewsDetail.aspx?article_id=490.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Oncolink and National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance Colorectal Cancer SurveyThis confidential survey was developed by cancer experts as an interactive way to help leading scientists study families with a history of colorectal cancer. http://www.oncolink.org/nccra/survey_intro.cfm

- **For more information about Colorectal Cancer Month and events:**
- Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation
<http://www.preventcancer.org/colorectal/facts/month.cfm>
- Colorectal Cancer Alliance
www.cca.org
- Colorectal Cancer Coalition: C3[®]
<http://www.fightcolorectalcancer.org>
- Colorectal Cancer Network
<http://www.colorectal-cancer.net/central.htm>

Research Advocacy Network Announces Availability of New Publications

Genomics Module

The Research Advocacy Network has introduced a new education module for advocates interested in learning more about genetics and genomics and the role of this emerging field in cancer research. The module covers the science behind genomics, including scientific concepts and examples of how genomic technology is currently being incorporated into clinical research. To help bring this information to life, the module also includes basic definitions, diagrams, and graphics - all in an effort to de-mystify the science and technology. The module was supported by an educational grant from Genomic Health. To order the printed workbook click for the [Genomics Module Order Form](#)

Tissue Donation for Research Education Booklets

Research Advocacy Network has developed booklets for prospective donors and institutional review boards to understand the importance and implications of donating tissue for research purposes.

Thanks to a grant from Eli Lilly and Company, we have been able to reprint these booklets and they are now available in English and Spanish for your use. Please click here to access the [Tissue Booklets Order Form](#).

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**Research Advocacy Network Activities
and
Events of Interest to Research Advocates
2007**

March 14-18, 2007	National Comprehensive Cancer Network Annual Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL www.nccn.org
March 26-27, 2007	NCI meeting "Preoperative Therapy in Invasive Breast Cancer: Reviewing the State of the Science and Exploring New Research Directions" http://ctep.cancer.gov/bcmeeting
April 14-18, 2007	American Association of Cancer Research, Los Angeles, CA www.aacr.org
April 17 - 20, 2007	North Central Cancer Treatment Group Meeting
April 24-27, 2007	Oncology Nursing Society, Las Vegas, NV
June 1- 5, 2007	American Society of Clinical Oncology, Chicago, IL www.asco.org

Also of interest:

- The Group Room Schedule is available at www.vitaloptions.org
- CancerCare Telephone Education Workshop schedule is available at www.cancercare.org

We need your help! Your Donation Makes a Difference! If you believe in the hope of research and the power of advocacy, you can help the Research Advocacy Network (RAN) by sending a donation. RAN is an exempt 501 c 3 organization and dependent on your support to keep going.

PLEASE NOTE our new mailing address is: 6505 W. Park Blvd, Suite 305, PMB 220, Plano, TX 75093.
Thanks!

Research Advocacy Network Welcomes New Members!!! Thanks to all of you who have recently joined the Network. For those that have not yet please go to <http://www.researchadvocacy.org/> and click on "Join" There are no dues for Network membership and this will assure that you receive all notices and have access to Network programs.

Editor: Elda Railey

Network News is currently published 10 times per year and includes articles on advocacy, research results and activities. Please share Network News with your friends with the link above. Research Advocacy Network is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation and 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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