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## Reproducibility of HER2 Testing Called into Question

ASCO Abstracts 1009, 511, and 512

Two tests currently used in clinical practice to determine whether a given tumor is HER2-positive may not be as reliable as previously thought, according to data reported at the ASCO Annual Meeting. New results from three research groups (NSABP B-31, Breast Intergroup N9831 and Dartmouth Medical School study, Peter Kaufman, MD, principal investigator) suggest that women whose tumors are currently HER2-negative may derive significant benefit from the agent trastuzumab. Trastuzumab therapy has been shown to significantly increase both disease-free and overall survival in women with HER2-positive breast cancer.

HER2-positivity is based on tumor testing either by fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) that shows amplification of the HER2 gene, or by immunohistochemistry (IHC) indicating that the protein is HER2-overexpressed. The complete story can be found at Oncology Times [www.oncology-times.com](http://www.oncology-times.com) Volume 29(13)10 July 2007p 18-19.

Research Advocacy Network and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network have produced a fact sheet available on this topic at [http://www.researchadvocacy.org/publications/pdf/RAN\\_NCCN-HER2Testing.pdf](http://www.researchadvocacy.org/publications/pdf/RAN_NCCN-HER2Testing.pdf)

## **New Studies Show the Uninsured and Those on Medicaid More Likely to be Diagnosed with Advanced Cancer**

Two new studies from the American Cancer Society show Americans without health insurance and those covered by Medicaid are far more likely to be diagnosed with advanced cancer than those with private insurance. The findings, published in the July 15th issue of *Cancer*, demonstrate the need for a more comprehensive healthcare coverage plan.

The full article is available at Oncology Times: [www.oncology-times.com](http://www.oncology-times.com) Volume 29(13)10 July 2007p 5-6

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## **News for Patients from the ASCO Annual Meeting**

The ASCO publication *Cancer Advances: News for Patients from the Annual Meeting* provides summaries of important cancer research presented each year at ASCO's Annual Meeting. *Cancer Advances* feature those studies presented at the Annual Meeting that are important because they have scientific importance and a broad relevance to patients. The publication also includes information on controversial areas within oncology research. Proof of principle for novel therapies/new mechanisms and studies that will likely change the standard of care in oncology are featured. This and other information is available at [www.asco.org](http://www.asco.org) and the Patients Living with Cancer site [www.plwc.org](http://www.plwc.org).

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## **FDA Releases Guidance on In Vitro Diagnostic Multivariate Index Analysis Laboratory Tests**

FDA released the guidance document on In Vitro Diagnostic Multivariate Index Assays for comment purposes on July 26, 2007. This document incorporates many of the comments made in February when Research Advocacy Network and others testified in a public meeting sponsored by the FDA Office of In Vitro Diagnostics.

Comments on this guidance document can be made online at:  
<http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/oivd/guidance/1610.html>.

The full listing of guidance documents available for comment can be accessed at:  
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/oc/dockets/comments/commentdocket.cfm>.

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### ***Nanotechnology News:***

#### **New Report Highlights Promise of Nanotechnology for Cancer, Other Diseases**

The future of nanotechnology was the topic of a report released at a news briefing by the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies (PEN) ( <http://www.nanotechproject.org> ) of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Pew Charitable Trusts. The report, *NanoFrontiers: Visions for the Future of Nanotechnology*, grew out of a workshop in Washington in February 2006 and was sponsored by PEN along with the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

#### **FDA Report on Nanotechnology Outlines Scientific, Regulatory Challenges**

FDA has released a report recommending that the agency consider taking steps to address the benefits and risks of drugs and medical devices using nanotechnology -- the science of creating and using materials at the level of molecules and atoms (1/100,000th the width of a human hair).

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01671.htm>

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## Opportunities for Research Advocates

**August 27 and 28, 2007 LiveSTRONG - '08 Candidates** Discuss Policies to Address America's #1 Killer\* Location: U.S. Cellular Center Cedar Rapids, Iowa Democrats-Monday August 27, 2007 10 AM - 12 PM CT, Republicans-Tuesday August 28, 2007 10 AM - 12 PM CT For more information: <http://www.ambassadorsevents.com/livestrong/>

**August 31, 2007 Nominations Due--The Effective Health Care Stakeholder Group** - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) invites nominations from interested organizations and knowledgeable individuals for a Stakeholder Group to support the work of the Effective Health Care Program. The goals of this program are to develop evidence on the effectiveness and comparative effectiveness of different treatments and health care interventions of importance to the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Child Health Insurance. For more information: <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/aboutUs/index.cfm#SG>

**September 14, 2007 - 2008 NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives Application Process** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is pleased to announce the open Application Process for the 2008 Director's Council of Public Representatives (COPR) Roster. COPR is designed (1) to obtain the broadest public input to the NIH Director on matters of public importance concerning biomedical research, and (2) to conduct the broadest outreach to increase the public's understanding of the NIH and its programs. COPR maintains a balanced composition of public members. For More Information: <http://copr.nih.gov/application.asp>

**September 17, 2007 - Advisory Committee on Minority Health** - Nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Minority Health (ACMH). The Committee provides advice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, on the development of goals and specific program activities of the Office of Minority Health (OMH) designed to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority groups. For more information: <http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/content.aspx?ID=3872&lvl=1&lvlID=7>

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## Research Advocacy Network Publications

### 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. These booklets have been in high demand!!! Thanks to an unrestricted grant from Eli Lilly and Company our stock has been replenished and these are available to be shipped again. Please click here to access the [Tissue Education Booklet order form](#).

### Genomics in Cancer: An Advocate's Guide & Training Manual

The Research Advocacy Network has introduced an 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. *Genomics in Cancer: An Advocate's Guide & Training Manual* was supported by an educational grant and in-kind contributions from Genomic Health, Inc. Order your copy by completing the [Genomics Module Order Form](#).

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

August 1-3, 2007	Redes en Accion National Steering Committee Meeting, San Antonio, TX
September 5-7, 2007	ENACCT - CCPH Conference, College Park, Maryland
September 7-8, 2007	ASCO Breast Cancer Symposium, San Francisco, CA <a href="http://www.asco.org">www.asco.org</a>
September 14, 2007	NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) Hematologic Congress, New York, NY <a href="http://www.nccn.org">www.nccn.org</a>
September 15, 2007	Tissue Donor Awareness Project (TDAP) Workshop, Phoenix, AZ <a href="http://www.azmyelomanetwork.org/eventsTDAP.htm">http://www.azmyelomanetwork.org/eventsTDAP.htm</a>
September 17-18, 2007	EDICT (Eliminating Disparities in Clinical Trials) Meeting, Houston, TX
October 13, 2007	Tissue Donor Awareness Project (TDAP) Workshop, Prescott, AZ <a href="http://www.azmyelomanetwork.org/eventsTDAP.htm">http://www.azmyelomanetwork.org/eventsTDAP.htm</a>
November 17, 2007	Tissue Donor Awareness Project (TDAP) Workshop, Tucson, AZ <a href="http://www.azmyelomanetwork.org/eventsTDAP.htm">http://www.azmyelomanetwork.org/eventsTDAP.htm</a>
December 13-16, 2007	San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium <a href="http://www.sabcs.org">www.sabcs.org</a>

\*\*Some calendar items listed are by invitation only and listed only for your awareness. If you need information about events listed here without a link to the sponsoring organization, please email [info@researchadvocacy.org](mailto:info@researchadvocacy.org) . Thanks!

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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!

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**Research Advocacy Network Welcomes New Members!!!** Thanks to all of you who have recently joined the Network. For those that have not yet joined 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.

We gratefully acknowledge  
**AstraZeneca**  
for funding support for Network News for 2007 through an unrestricted educational grant.

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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Research Advocacy Network, Inc. | 6505 West Park Blvd, Suite 305. PMB 220 | Plano, TX 75093  
Phone & Fax 877-276-2187 | [info@researchadvocacy.org](mailto:info@researchadvocacy.org) | [www.researchadvocacy.org](http://www.researchadvocacy.org)

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