



ACCRF - Inaugural Scientific Meeting – April 2006

On April 2, 2006, ACCRF held its inaugural Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC during the Annual Meetings of the American Association of Cancer Researchers (AACR). In attendance were our four Scientific Advisory Board members (Drs. Sidransky, Chabner, Haddad and Sharpless) as well as the following invitees:

Dr. Christine Chung	Vanderbilt University
Dr. Daniel Deschler	Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
Dr. Bill Faquin	MGH Cancer Center
Dr. Henry Frierson, Jr.	University of Virginia
Dr. George Laramore	University of Washington
Dr. Quynh Le	Stanford University
Dr. Christopher Moskaluk	University of Virginia
Dr. Jeffrey Myers	MD Anderson Cancer Center
Dr. David Pfister	Memorial Sloan Kettering
Dr. Mary Jean Sawey	NORD Medical Advisory Committee
Dr. Greg Verdine	Harvard University
Dr. Everett Vokes	University of Chicago

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce ACCRF to top researchers in the field of Head & Neck Oncology and to begin building a community that will help design and implement the foundation's research agenda. The topics discussed were:

ACCRF's Concept and Activities	Jeff & Marnie Kaufman
Role and Approach of the Scientific Advisory Board	Dr. David Sidransky
Clinical Challenges of ACC	Dr. Robert Haddad
State of the Basic Science of ACC	Dr. Christopher Moskaluk
Recent Research Developments in ACC	Dr. Jeffrey Myers
Future Projects	All

The discussion was enthusiastic, highly technical and at times quite animated. The need for basic research infrastructure (tumor banks, cell lines and mouse models) was generally agreed upon, and a collegial willingness to coordinate efforts across multiple institutions prevailed. Additional project ideas were described and debated with differing views expressed on the appropriate prioritization – exactly the type of intellectual vetting of ideas we had hoped for.

In sum, the Scientific Meeting was an extraordinary success. Not only did it begin the process of forming a community of ACC-focused researchers, it also provided excellent fodder for future deliberations on awarding research projects. Watch this space for further updates as ACCRF continues to work towards its mission – to improve therapies and accelerate a cure for adenoid cystic carcinoma.