

Ideas for protocols sought

It has been four months since this column was initiated to provide communication from the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) to the College membership. In that time, major emphasis has been placed on broadening our communication and focusing our scientific efforts. We hope the communication efforts have delivered useful information.

As we gain experience and feedback, we hope to create dialogue among all stakeholders. We are opening the dialogue in this issue's column in the form of a "call for concepts" that encourages all members of the College to send us ideas for protocols. We need to hear from you. Thank you in advance to those of you who are sending ideas.

Regarding the scientific interest of ACOSOG, progress has been made toward focusing the efforts of ACOSOG on a vision and three themes with an emphasis on novel therapies relevant to the surgical patient (please see the call for concepts that appears on the next page for more information). We are now starting to work specifically on writing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant and the NIH site visit, due in 13 and 18 months, respectively.

As a result of the need for grant and site visit planning, we regret that the January

2006 semi-annual ACOSOG meeting was not open to full member participation. The January meeting was conducted as a strategic planning session with ACOSOG leadership. We have little more than a year to address all concerns raised at the previous site visit, and we needed this opportunity to focus our efforts.

We fully recognize it would be most desirable to have a well-attended meeting, as the membership of ACOSOG is vital to the organization, but please be assured that we are working hard to bring forward the best surgical science and to meet your needs. Thank you for your patience and understanding. *The June semi-annual meeting will be open to full member participation.*

June semi-annual ACOSOG meeting:

When: June 22–24, 2006

Where: Chicago, IL

Who: All ACOSOG members welcome

Topics and guest speakers to be announced at a later date

New ACOSOG trials

Following are new ACOSOG trials posted to the Web site (www.acosog.org).

- **Z4032**—A Randomized Phase III Study of Sublobar Resection versus Sublobar Resection plus Brachytherapy in High-Risk Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

(NSCLC), 3 cm or smaller

Primary investigator (PI):
Hiran C. Fernando, MD

- **Z6041**—A Phase II Trial of Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation and Local Excision for uT2uN0 Rectal Cancer

PI: Julio Garcia-Aguilar, MD

- **Z1031**—A Randomized Phase III Trial Comparing 16 Weeks of Neoadjuvant Exemestane (25 mg daily), Letrozole (2.5 mg daily) or Anastrozole (1 mg daily) in Postmenopausal Women with Clinical Stage II or III Estrogen Receptor Positive Breast Cancer

PI: Matthew Ellis, MD