
ACOSOG news

ACOSOG announces new statistical leadership

The scientific leadership of the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) is pleased to announce the transition of statistical leadership from Dr. Stephen George to Karla Ballman, PhD, and Daniel Sargent, PhD, effective March-June 2006.

Dr. Stephen George, professor of biostatistics in the department of biostatistics and bioinformatics at Duke University Medical Center, assumed the role of the statistical leader of ACOSOG following the October 2004 site visit. Dr. George has been the long-time leader of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B Cooperative Group. After a highly successful and regard-

ed career in the cooperative groups, he announced his plans to transition out of the cooperative group leadership role and move toward a focused effort at the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. We are grateful for his leadership and wish to thank him for his many important contributions to ACOSOG, including the drafting of our Data Monitoring Committee charter and the mentorship of that newly formed committee. We will also be bidding farewell to Dr. James Herndon and Dr. Kouros Ozwar, staff statisticians, who will also be focusing future efforts at the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. A sincere thanks to Steve,

Jim, and Kouros for their past contributions to ACOSOG. Linda McCall, MS, has been an ACOSOG statistician for the last five years and we are delighted that Linda will be staying on with ACOSOG.

We are pleased to introduce Dr. Karla Ballman, Dr. Dan Sargent, and Shauna Hillman as the new statistical leadership for ACOSOG. Dr. Ballman will be a co-director of the ACOSOG Statistical Center and will transition to sole director of the center over the period 2006-2008. Dr. Ballman has been the lead statistician for the North Central Cancer Treatment Group's (NCCTG) neuro-oncology committee, is



Dr. George



Dr. Ballman



Dr. Sargent

the director of Biostatistics Core for the Mayo Brain Cancer Specialized Programs of Research Excellence, has experience initiating and leading a disease committee research effort (subject of a 2005 American Society of Clinical Oncol-

ogy oral presentation), has served as an ad hoc reviewer on several National Cancer Institute (NCI) study sections, and is actively engaged in statistical methodology research for data from high-throughput genomics technology. Dr. Ballman will as-

sume primary responsibility for the oversight of the majority of the ACOSOG statistical activities with counseling, support, and mentorship provided by Dr. Sargent.

Dr. Sargent is an established cooperative group statistician leader, with past accomplishments including chair of Subcommittee H, co-chair of a joint NCI-European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer committee on tumor markers, director of the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center (MCCC) Biostatistics Shared Resource, director of the NCCTG Statistical and Data Center, member of the NCI's Program for the Assessment of Cancer Clinical Tests strategy group, first author or co-author of numerous statistical and clinical publications, and invited lecturer at numerous national and international medical and statistical conferences. In the last five years, Dr. Sargent has successfully recruited junior statisticians with genomics expertise to the MCCC, led the successful implementation of remote data capture in the NCCTG, spearheaded a new membership evaluation policy within the NCCTG, overseen the successful conversion of the NCCTG data editing process from paper to electronic databases, and actively engaged the NCCTG and the MCCC in the cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid process.

Drs. Ballman and Sargent would like to convey their excitement and delight with the prospect of becoming part of the ACOSOG team.

ACOSOG semi-annual meeting

When: June 22–24, 2006

Where: Wyndham Hotel, Chicago, IL

Preliminary program

Thursday, June 22, 12:00 noon–8:30 pm

Data and safety monitoring

Executive Committee

Scientific direction committees

Breast, gastrointestinal, sarcoma, thoracic, basic science, diagnostic imaging, radiation oncology, medical oncology, nursing/clinical research associate

Individual administrative committees

Friday, June 23, 8:00 am–9:00 pm

Plenary session

Opening remarks

Scientific Committee presentations (breast, gastrointestinal, thoracic, sarcoma)

Accrual campaign

Community outreach

“How I do it”

“Why we should do it”

“What it takes to do it”

Questions and answers to common trial questions

Disease committees

General session/protocol team breakout sessions

Executive Committee

Saturday, June 24, 8:00 am–2:00 pm

Plenary session

Closing remarks

Educational forum (continuing medical education credits)

Nursing/clinical research associate training