NCCN Moves Global Headquarters to Plymouth Meeting, PA

NCCN has moved from Fort Washington, PA, into new headquarters in Plymouth Meeting, PA, near Philadelphia. The new location will allow for greater hosting capacity for meetings, guests, and a growing staff.

“This new building is just one example of how NCCN is increasing our ability to address the diverse needs of people with cancer, and the clinicians who provide their care, all over the world,” said Robert W. Carlson, MD, Chief Executive Officer, NCCN. “Our expanding capabilities allow us to do more every day to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of cancer care so that patients can live better lives.”

The NCCN Guidelines detail the sequential management decisions and interventions for 97% of malignant cancers. In 2018, so far, the organization has added 5 new NCCN Guidelines, 4 new NCCN Guidelines for Patients, 4 NCCN Harmonized Guidelines for the Caribbean, and is currently developing 17 additional NCCN Harmonized Guidelines for Sub-Saharan Africa. There are now >160 international adaptations and translations of the NCCN Guidelines available in 11 different languages at NCCN.org or via app.

“International surveys repeatedly show that oncologists worldwide are relying on NCCN Guidelines to stay up-to-date on the best evidence-based cancer care,” Dr. Carlson continued. “By growing our global program, we’re better able to meet the challenge of making NCCN Guidelines as useful as possible across various settings and circumstances.”

Navigating Neuroendocrine Tumors

NCCN has published a brand new NCCN Guidelines for Patients focused on neuroendocrine tumors (NET). This cancer type can originate in many different parts of the body, have variable symptoms, and require individualized and complicated treatment approaches. These new guidelines offer up-to-date information to help patients and caregivers make knowledgeable medical decisions. The NCCN Guidelines for Patients: NET were funded by the NCCN Foundation, with sponsorship from the Neuroendocrine Cancer Awareness Network (NCAN) and The Healing NET Foundation. The content has also been endorsed by The Carcinoid Cancer Foundation, Inc. and the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation (NETRF).

“It is imperative to have access to the best and most accurate information when coming up with a treatment plan,” said Maryann Wahmann, Patient and Founder of NCAN. “The NCCN Guidelines for Patients: NET is an amazing resource for patients and caregivers, helping them become their best self-advocate.”

“As a NET patient and an advocate for NET education, I especially like that the patient guidelines provide a better road map to understand and navigate care, as well as the opportunity to communicate more effectively with health care providers,” said Cindy Lovelace, Patient and Co-Founder of The Healing NET Foundation. “NETs are complicated, and the treatment paths are varied because the disease presents and behaves differently in each patient. The NCCN Patient Guidelines offer a common ground of understanding so patients and providers can work as a team to achieve the best possible care.”

As with all NCCN Patient Guidelines, the information is based on the evidence and expert-consensus available in the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. The treatment recommendations are presented in user-friendly terms, complete with glossary, illustrations, and space for notes. The guidelines are intended to empower patients while also safeguarding them from misinformation.

“When people with NETs seek information on what to expect, they often find a lot of confusing advice online,” explained Whitney S. Goldner, MD, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, Vice-Chair of the NCCN Guidelines Panel for Neuroendocrine and Adrenal Tumors. “They might even know someone with a NET, but in a different

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location, leading them to expect symptoms and treatment courses that won't apply to their circumstances."

The most common types of NETs are carcinoid tumors found in the lung, airways, small intestine, rectum, appendix, and thymus. Another common type is found in the pancreas. In some locations, NETs can cause hormones to be released into the blood system.

"It really takes a multidisciplinary team to treat these tumors," Dr. Goldner continued. "Everybody plays a different role in the care of NETs, including endocrinologists, medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and sometimes nuclear medicine radiologists. These guidelines help prepare patients for the group of people who will comprise their treatment team, and ensure they understand the need for specific testing and therapies for their tumor."

Although NETs often occur in patients without any risk factors, there are some that result from hereditary and genetic syndromes. Awareness of NETs has increased over the past decade, helping doctors to correctly diagnose them more quickly. Advances in imaging have also led to more targeted therapies.

The NCCN Guidelines for Patients are available free-of-charge online at NCCN.org/patients, or via the NCCN Patient Guides for Cancer app. Printed versions can be purchased at Amazon.com for a small fee. NCCN Guidelines for Patients and NCCN Quick Guide sheets DO NOT replace the expertise and clinical judgment of the clinician. To help support these tools, visit NCCN.org/patients or text "GIVE" to 856-FOR-NCCN (856-367-6226).

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NCCN Awarded \$2 Million in Research Funding From Taiho Oncology to Study Trifluridine and Tipiracil in Various Cancers

The NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP) announced plans to develop a program to scientifically evaluate and facilitate clinical trials on the efficacy of trifluridine and tipiracil chemotherapy. The project will focus on colorectal and gastric cancers, though not exclusively. The research funding comes from a \$2 million grant from Taiho Oncology.

"This grant gives researchers at NCCN Member Institutions a great opportunity to lead investigator-initiated studies into the effectiveness of this treatment combination for people with various metastatic cancers," said Susan Most, RN, MBA, Director, Clinical Operations, NCCN ORP. "Our scientifically structured, peer-reviewed systems allow us to collaborate with some of the top researchers in oncology in order to advance our collective understanding of how to provide the safest, most patient-centric courses of treatment."

"We are proud to support NCCN ORP research as it is an important means to add to our knowledge of trifluridine/tipiracil in metastatic cancer care," said Martin Birkhofer, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Taiho Oncology, Inc. "This grant is illustrative of our commitment to positively impact the lives of patients living with colorectal, gastric, and other advanced cancers."

The combination of trifluridine, a nucleoside metabolic inhibitor, and tipiracil, a thymidine phosphorylase inhibitor, is used to treat people with colon or rectal cancer that has spread to other parts of the body and who have previously been treated with or cannot receive certain chemotherapy medicines.

The first phase of this research project will involve the creation of a Request for Proposals Development Team to evaluate existing data and define the types of studies needed to further explore the safety and clinical effectiveness of trifluridine and tipiracil. The Request for Proposals is scheduled to go out in the fourth quarter of 2018. To learn more about the NCCN ORP and ongoing clinical trials, visit NCCN.org/ORP.