

NCCN Announces New Chief Medical Officer

NCCN has named Wui-Jin Koh, MD, as Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer; a newly created position for the nonprofit alliance of top US cancer centers. Dr. Koh will add additional physician representation at NCCN headquarters, which includes Chief Executive Officer Robert W. Carlson, MD, a practicing oncologist and internationally recognized breast cancer expert. Dr. Koh is a board-certified radiation oncologist, Professor, and Medical Director for radiation oncology at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/Seattle Cancer Care Alliance—an NCCN Member Institution. He specializes in the treatment of gynecologic and gastrointestinal malignancies.

The new CMO role will include overseeing the NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP), which strives to improve and prolong the lives of people with cancer by advancing collaborative research. Dr. Koh will also help oversee the flagship NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines) program. In addition, he will be responsible for medical leadership and oversight for NCCN's continuing medical education program, and will represent the organization at clinical and scientific meetings.

“Wui-Jin has an extensive history of strong contributions to NCCN and to the entire oncology community, patients, and providers,” said Dr. Carlson. “This is someone who has already represented our organization worldwide, most recently in Kenya, Uganda, and Trinidad. He has devoted his entire career to improving outcomes for people with cancer. That makes him an ideal representative for NCCN's mission.”

“Studies have repeatedly shown how adhering to NCCN Guidelines leads to better outcomes for people with cancer; it's been a privilege to contribute to that life-saving legacy,” said Dr. Koh. “I look forward to doing even more in this new role to make sure that everyone has access to the best possible cancer care, worldwide.”

Dr. Koh began contributing his time to NCCN as a founding member of the NCCN Guidelines Panel for Uterine/Cervical Cancers in 1997, helping clinicians stay up-to-date on evidence-based treatment standards; he was named panel Co-Chair in 2004. His work is an integral part of the ongoing creation of the NCCN Harmonized Guidelines for Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Koh also served as a member of the pancreatic cancer panel for 7 years, and currently sits on the editorial board of *JNCCN*. He is also an editorial board member for *Cancer*, *American Journal of Clinical Oncology*, and *Gynecologic Oncology Research and Practice*, and is a former member for *Gynecologic Oncology*.

In 2017, Dr. Koh was honored with the NCCN Board of Producer's Award for individuals who exceeded expectations and provided exemplary service—alongside his longtime colleague, the late Benjamin Greer, MD. Outside of NCCN, Dr. Koh has held leadership positions with NRG Oncology (formerly Gynecologic Oncology Group), Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists, International Society of Gynecologic Cancer, the NCI's Gynecologic Cancer Steering Committee, and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology.

“Looking beyond the lengthy list of impressive credentials, Wui-Jin is simply a great guy and a wonderful communicator,” said Dr. Carlson. “He interacts well with people one-on-one and in groups. I look forward to him playing an integral role in improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of cancer care at NCCN.”

Dr. Koh's official start date will be October 1, 2018.

NCCN Begins Work on Guidelines to Improve Cancer Care in the Caribbean

NCCN is embarking on a new collaboration with the Caribbean Association for Oncology & Hematology (CAOH). The nonprofit alliance of leading US cancer centers announced plans to collaborate and develop a library of NCCN Harmonized Guidelines for the

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Caribbean during the CAOH Conference, Oncology: Charting a New Course for the Caribbean, in Trinidad and Tobago on May 12.

“This project is just one example of our dedication to expanding global access to quality cancer care,” said Robert W. Carlson, MD, Chief Executive Officer, NCCN. “By partnering to create these easy-to-follow guidelines, we help overburdened clinicians stay up-to-date on research and innovation. We’re working with oncologists in low- and mid-resource countries to create recommendations that encompass evidence-based best practices. These guidelines will focus on what’s currently attainable and what we hope to make attainable in the future.”

Dr. Carlson was joined at the CAOH conference by Joan McClure, MS, Senior Vice President, Clinical Information and Publications, NCCN; Ben Anderson, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/Seattle Cancer Care Alliance; Al Benson III, MD, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University; Natalie Callander, MD, University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center; Wui-Jin Koh, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/Seattle Cancer Care Alliance; James Mohler, MD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center; and Douglas Wood, MD, FRCSEd, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

They participated in a working session with local oncologists to adapt existing NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines) and NCCN Framework for Resource Stratification of NCCN Guidelines (NCCN Framework) in order to better reflect the diverse needs and resources throughout the Caribbean. The archipelago that extends from the Bahamas in the north to Trinidad and Tobago in the south ranks among the highest regions in the world for cancer prevalence. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the Caribbean, and the rate of breast cancer deaths is currently twice that of the United States.

“This international partnership between CAOH and NCCN will enable doctors throughout the Caribbean to provide the best possible care for people with cancer,” said Marisa Nimrod, MD, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, CAOH. “We look forward to creating a blueprint for improving treatment outcomes, and tailoring the available resources to meet the demands of structured, evidence-based cancer prevention and control. These guidelines will also help inform governmental policies in the future.”

The clinical team was led by Kavi Capildeo, MBBS, FRCP (Edin), DM, Trinidad and Tobago; Sophia Edwards-Bennett, MD, PhD, DABR, Jamaica; Owen Gabriel, MD, DM (Oncology), St. Lucia; Theresa Laurent, Bsc (Hons), MBBS, DM Oncology/Haematology, Barbados; Dylan Narinesingh, FCRadOnc, MMed; and Gilian Wharfe, MBBS, DM (Haem), The University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

The NCCN Harmonized Guidelines for the Caribbean will initially cover the following cancer types: breast cancer, cervical cancer, colon cancer and colon cancer screening, multiple myeloma, non-small cell lung cancer, prostate cancer, and rectal cancer.

As always, these guidelines will be available free-of-charge for noncommercial use via NCCN.org or via the Virtual Library of NCCN Guidelines mobile app for smartphones and tablets.

For more information on the NCCN Harmonized Guidelines, visit NCCN.org/harmonized. For details on NCCN’s various efforts around the world, visit NCCN.org/global. Join the conversation online with the hashtag #NCCNGlobal.

New Tool Helps People with Leukemia Better Understand Their Treatment Options

NCCN has released a free booklet to empower people with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and their loved ones with resources for better informed medical decision-making. The NCCN Guidelines for Patients: AML publication was made possible thanks to funding from the NCCN Foundation and sponsorship from Be The Match. It contains information

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from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines), used by clinicians worldwide and translated into understandable, everyday English.

“I didn’t even know what leukemia was, really, or how I could go from having a cold to having cancer,” said Matt Tsun, who was diagnosed with AML at age 29 years. “The last thing I thought was that I would have cancer before I was 30. But when something like this is thrown at you, you have no choice but to play the hand you’ve been dealt and fight hard.”

Matt is just one of the approximately 21,000 people diagnosed with AML every year.¹ It is the most common form of acute leukemia among adults. The best course of treatment can vary depending on the subtype, but will generally involve multiple phases. AML and its treatment can also lead to severe health problems that may be prevented or relieved with supportive care.

“AML, although a rare cancer, is the most common disease treated by allogeneic bone marrow transplant (BMT). Due to advances in treatment and supportive care, potentially curative therapies like BMT are more available to patients with AML. The release of the new NCCN Patient Guidelines for AML will help patients and their families have access to easy-to-understand information so they can make informed decisions about their treatment,” said Elizabeth A. Murphy, EdD, RN, Vice President, Patient & Health Professional Services and Education & Training, Be The Match.

The NCCN Guidelines for Patients: AML is also endorsed by Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation, Blood & Marrow Transplant Information Network, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and National Bone Marrow Transplant Link. Each booklet includes a list of suggested questions to bring up with the doctor, patient-friendly illustrations, and a glossary of key terms and acronyms. They 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.

“Treating AML can be very complex and requires a team approach,” explained Margaret R. O’Donnell, MD, City of Hope. Dr. O’Donnell is the Chair of the NCCN Guidelines Panel for AML. “I’m glad that patients everywhere now have a reliable source for free, evidence-based information that they can read and absorb at their own pace.”

“People with AML often aren’t aware that this isn’t a single disease – but many different diseases that share fundamental characteristics,” said Martin Tallman, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, who is the panel’s Vice Chair. “The good news is that the future for AML is getting a lot brighter. After 40 years without much progress, 4 new medications were just approved last year, and more new treatment courses are in development as we speak.”

In addition to creating new patient guidelines, NCCN frequently updates existing ones. NCCN recently released a refreshed version of the NCCN Guidelines for Patients with Soft Tissue Sarcoma. Sarcomas represent approximately 1% of adults with cancer, with an estimated 13,000 people expected to be diagnosed in 2018.² The updated booklet includes several new treatment options, as well as up-to-date information about imaging, genetics, and staging. The booklet was made possible with funding provided by the NCCN Foundation, with special thanks to sponsorship from the Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration.

In the months ahead, NCCN plans to release new NCCN Guidelines for Patients for Hepatobiliary (liver, gallbladder, and bile duct), Bladder, and Uterine and Endometrial Cancers.

NCCN currently offers NCCN Guidelines for Patients for the following: brain, breast,* colon,* esophageal,* kidney, non–small cell lung, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate,* rectal, stomach, and thyroid cancers; acute lymphoblastic leukemia; adolescents and young adults with cancer; chronic lymphocytic leukemia; chronic myelogenous leukemia; distress/supportive care; Hodgkin lymphoma; lung cancer screening; malignant pleural mesothelioma; melanoma; multiple myeloma; myelodysplastic syndromes*;; myeloproliferative neoplasms; nausea and vomiting/supportive care; non-Hodgkin’s

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lymphomas; soft tissue sarcoma; and Waldenström's macroglobulinemia. (*Indicates guidelines with recent or upcoming updates.)

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).

References

1. Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A. Cancer Statistics, 2017. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2017;67:7–30.
2. Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A. Cancer Statistics, 2018. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2018;68:7–30.

New Translations of NCCN Guidelines for Patients Advance Global Mission to Empower People with Cancer

NCCN has published a newly translated Italian version of the NCCN Guidelines for Patients for Stomach Cancer, funded by the NCCN Foundation thanks to No Stomach for Cancer. Over the past year, the NCCN Foundation also worked with the Kidney Cancer Association to translate patient guidelines for kidney cancer into Chinese, Czech, German, and Spanish.

"There's tremendous need, worldwide, for simple explanations of complicated health concepts, in words that anyone can understand," said Marcie R. Reeder, MPH, Executive Director, NCCN Foundation. "We work hard to make these guidelines accessible for people with little-to-no familiarity with medicine. Offering NCCN Patient Guidelines in languages other than English was a natural next-step."

The NCCN Guidelines for Patients provide a user-friendly look at the clinical information contained in the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines) in order to equip patients for shared decision-making with their health care providers. The guidelines are available free-of-charge at NCCN.org/patients or via an app for smartphones and tablets. Print copies of the NCCN Guidelines for Patients are available on Amazon.com for a nominal fee. According to Maria Donatella Beccati, MD, University of Ferrara, the newly-translated Italian version of the stomach cancer guidelines meets a pressing need for patient-oriented information.

"In Italy, approximately 13,000 new patients are diagnosed with stomach cancer every year. It ranks as the third highest cause of cancer death for men, and fifth highest for women," said Dr. Beccati. "With this patient-oriented version of the professional care guidelines, we can offer Italian-speaking people with stomach cancer the help they need to understand their disease and make sure they're getting the best cancer treatment. We're proud to help raise awareness for Italian patients with stomach cancer and their loved ones."

"Our mission is to unite the caring power of people worldwide, empower patients and families, and to advance awareness and education about stomach cancer," said Jon Florin, Executive Director, No Stomach For Cancer. "The NCCN Patient Guidelines for Stomach Cancer are an invaluable resource for patients and families as they navigate the difficult journey from diagnosis to survivorship. We are committed to supporting and partnering with NCCN to expand their translations into as many languages as possible."

In 2017 alone, the NCCN Guidelines for Patients were viewed more than 8 million times by nearly 400,000 individuals, worldwide. They are written in plain language and include patient-friendly elements, such as questions to ask the doctor, a glossary of terms, and medical illustrations. The library currently contains 39 different guidelines, including breast, colon, lung, and prostate cancers.

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