

Summary Report

UPDATE 2005: Cancer Research and Treatment Symposium Tallahassee, Florida Saturday, April 9, 2005

The purpose of the UPDATE 2005 program hosted by the SynCure Cancer Research Foundation, with Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center as a lead sponsor, was to provide a substantive educational program on advancements in cancer research and treatment for cancer patients and survivors, their friends and family, the health care/support community, and the general public. Based on the level of attendance and the written evaluations by the participants, the symposium was a tremendous success. There were 195 registrants and an audience of approximately 140.

The Agenda for the full-day symposium was:

8:15 a.m.	-	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast and Exhibits
9:00 a.m.	-	9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction Michael D. Devine, Ph.D. - SynCure Cancer Research Foundation Christy Harrison - Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center
9:15 a.m.	-	9:45 a.m.	New Generation Cancer Drugs and Immunotherapy James Gulley, M.D., Ph.D. - National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD
9:45 a.m.	-	10:15 a.m.	Advances in Screening and Diagnostics James S. Killius, M.D. - Radiology Associates of Tallahassee
10:15 a.m.	-	10:45 a.m.	Innovations in Radiation Oncology Zainab Ilahi, M.D. - Moffitt Cancer Center
10:45 a.m.	-	11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	-	11:30 a.m.	Surgical Innovations in Breast and Skin Cancer Alfredo Paredes, M.D., Larry Harper, M.D. - Tallahassee Plastic Surgery Clinic
11:30 a.m.	-	12:00 p.m.	Advances in Women's Cancers Banu Arun, M.D. - M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
12:00 p.m.	-	1:00 p.m.	Luncheon – Complementary & Alternative Medicine in Cancer Holly Hough, Ph.D. - University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1:00 p.m.	-	3:00 p.m.	Q&A Panel Discussion – Women's Cancers Banu Arun, M.D. Holly Hough, Ph.D. Alfred Paredes, M.D. James S. Killius, M.D. Zainab Ilahi, M.D.
1:00 p.m.	-	3:00 p.m.	Q&A Panel Discussion – Other Cancers James Gulley, M.D., Ph.D. Tim Broeseker, M.D. - Hematology-Oncology Associates of NW Florida Hardeep Singh, M.D. - Digestive Disease Clinic Jean-Paul Tran, M.D. - Southeastern Urological Center Larry Harper, M.D.

The agenda encompassed ten speakers and panelists representing Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center, Moffitt Cancer Center, the National Cancer Institute, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the University of NC, the Digestive Disease Clinic, Radiology Associates of Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Plastic Surgery Clinic and Hematology-Oncology Associates of NW Florida. The morning session consisted of five 30-minute PowerPoint presentations by each of the speakers followed by a luncheon speaker and two 2-hour Q&A breakout sessions. In these sessions, the panel of speakers addressed written questions from the audience about “women’s” cancers and “other” cancers.



The symposium was well attended.



Dr. Hough addresses the audience at lunch.

We thank the many Update 2005 sponsors who made this program possible at no cost to the attendees:

Platinum Sponsor: Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center

Other Sponsors:

- ◆ **American Cancer Society**
- ◆ **RB Oppenheim Associates**
- ◆ **National Ovarian Cancer Coalition**
- ◆ **Graphateria**
- ◆ **Digestive Disease Clinic**
- ◆ **FL Dept. of Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program**
- ◆ **Interim HealthCare**
- ◆ **AstraZeneca**
- ◆ **sanofi-aventis Group**
- ◆ **Tallahassee Democrat**
- ◆ **NCI’s Cancer Information Service**

Included in the attendees were staff members of several cancer patient support groups who exhibited materials at the symposium. These organizations were:

American Cancer Society
NCI's Cancer Information Service
Reach to Recovery
I Can Cope/Still Coping
Bosom Buddies

CHICKS
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Survivors Exercising Together
FL DOH, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Based on both verbal and written comments from the audience, the program was very well received. (A Comment/Suggestion form was provided and attendees were encouraged to leave the completed form at the end of the program.) The following is a sampling of the comments received:

- 1) *Thanks much to all involved, SynCure, etc. Nice to have professionals take time to speak to the populace.*
- 2) *Great informative program – up-to-date information. Good to have local support represented.*
- 3) *This is my second year and I think it gets better each time. I found answers to questions I didn't even know I had. Every one of the speakers was outstanding. On a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate this meeting as a 10 +.*
- 4) *The speakers were very impressive, engaging and informative. I really enjoyed all of them. The information was great.*
- 5) *Excellent! All of the presentations were informative. I was especially happy to hear and see the CAM presentations.*
- 6) *Wonderful presentations. Very enlightening and informative; handouts were very helpful. This program has confirmed that I made the right decision about my treatment.*
- 7) *This was an excellent program. Very informative. The speakers did not lose the audience in medical terminology. Speakers were excellent!*
- 8) *Very good program overall. Good idea splitting the Q&A session into “women” and “other.”*
- 9) *I thought that you put on a great program. It was very, very good. All of the doctors were wonderful. Don't think it could be improved.*
- 10) *It is wonderful to have access to this type and caliber of information. Thanks to SynCure and Tallahassee Memorial.*
- 11) *I was most impressed with this program. I will highly recommend this program next year to all my co-workers.*
- 12) *Excellent informational program for cancer patients and their families. The information is primarily presented in layman's terms and makes it easier to understand. This is my 2nd year and I feel I was more able to understand my cancer and treatment this past year with the information and knowledge of questions to ask and study.*
- 13) *This program is so encouraging. Thank you!*
- 14) *Excellent program – very informative. As a newly diagnosed breast cancer patient, this program leads to new avenues I can and will turn to for education.*
- 15) *This is my second year attending SynCure's conference. This is a wonderful, informative conference.*

As the comments demonstrate, the speakers did an excellent job in presenting complex topics to a lay audience. In addition, the speakers commented how valuable and well organized the program was and several indicated a willingness to participate in future programs. They also indicated that the experience of presenting their research to a non-technical audience was very valuable to them personally.



Cancer support groups exhibit their materials.



A panel of speakers address the audience's questions on women's cancers.

In conclusion, the UPDATE 2005 symposium in Tallahassee, Florida provided a highly valued program and serves as an excellent model for conducting similar programs at least annually.