Dear Colleagues,

I find that summer is a time for thoughtful reflection and preparation, both personally and professionally.

I hope you are taking the time to recharge with a hike, a paddle, a good book on the beach, time with your family, a long dinner with friends, and/or travel and exploration to a new destination.

This summer, the SIO Board and Conference Planning Committee are actively working to strengthen our collective professional well-being by preparing to host our International Conference on October 26-28 in Houston, Texas. We received a record number of abstract and workshop proposals this year.

This month’s NewsWire highlights the conference plenary sessions, including the launch of SIO’s soon-to-be-published breast cancer clinical guidelines. Please check out the full conference schedule. Registration is open now.

SIO strongly supports the involvement of patient advocates and early career trainees in our conference. We have opened the application process for both of these groups. Please see details below. In addition, for the first time and to increase our reach, SIO is issuing a Request for Proposals to host our 2016 conference. Please get in touch with us if you are interested in hosting a future SIO conference.

We hope to see you in Houston where we will showcase all the fruits of these summer preparations and welcome your perspectives in the discussions. Enjoy the remaining days of August!

Very best,

Heather Greenlee, ND, PhD
President, SIO

Upcoming Events

SIO Announces Plenary Speakers for 2014 Conference

SIO’s 11th International Conference in Houston, Texas will feature plenary sessions on Personalized Integrative Oncology; Integrative Approaches to Symptom Management in Cancer Patients; Epigenetics, Lifestyles and Cancer; and the SIO Breast Cancer Clinical Guidelines and Highlights From the JNCI Monograph on Integrative Oncology.

Personal Integrative Oncology: On Sunday, October 26, John Mondelsohn, MD, (right) Director, Institute for Personalized Cancer Therapy at MD Anderson Cancer Center and Past President of MD Anderson, will moderate the Personalized Integrative Oncology session. Panelists will include Patrick Hwu, MD, Chair, Department of Melanoma Medical Oncology, Division of Cancer Medicine at MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Maurie Markman, MD, President of Medicine and Science, Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Eastern Regional Medical Center, Philadelphia.

Symptom Management: On Monday, October 27, American Academy of Palliative and Hospice Medicine President-Elect Christine Ritchie, MD, MSPH, (left) will give a plenary presentation on Integrative Approaches to Symptom Management in Cancer Patients. Dr. Ritchie is Professor in Clinical Translational Research and Aging in the Division of Geriatrics, University of California, San Francisco. Panelists will include Eduardo Bruera, MD, Chair, Clinical Medical Director and Professor, Department of Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Medicine, Division of Cancer Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Shalini Dalal, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Breast Cancer Guidelines/JNCI Monograph: On Monday, October 27, SIO leaders will present the SIO Breast Cancer Clinical Guidelines and Highlights From JNCI Monograph on Integrative Oncology. The Guidelines will be presented by the Guidelines Working Group Co-Chairs, SIO President Heather Greenlee, ND, PhD, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and SIO Past President Debu Tripathy, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chair, Department of Breast Medical Oncology, MD Anderson Cancer Center. Highlights from the JNCI Monograph on Integrative Oncology will be presented by the Co-Editors, SIO Board member Jun Mao, MD, MSCE, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and SIO Past President Lorenzo Cohen, PhD, Professor and Director, Integrative Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Epigenetics, Lifestyles and Cancer: On Tuesday, October 28, a distinguished panel will present the latest research in Epigenetics, Lifestyles and Cancer. Panelists will include Jean-Pierre Issa, MD, Director, Fels Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Biology and Professor of Medicine at Temple University, and Roderick Dashwood, PhD, Director, Center for Epigenetics & Disease Prevention, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center. The session will be moderated by C. Richard Boland, MD, (right) Chief of Gastroenterology at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas.

SIO has launched a conference web site. Learn more about these sessions and other conference programs and register. Watch for updates on SIO2014.

Call for Applications: Patient and Trainee Scholarship

Patient Advocates and Trainees are invited to apply for a scholarship to attend SIO's 11th International Conference, which will be held October 26-28 in Houston, Texas. This Scholarship Program is made possible through a generous grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Scholarships are available to help cover travel, hotel, registration, and other expenses for trainees traveling from outside the greater Houston area to attend SIO2014. Applications will be evaluated and reviewed based on the scholarship eligibility criteria included in the application. Applications are due by Friday, September 5 at 11:59 pm ET. Applicants will be notified of their application status by Monday, September 15.

NEWSWIRE
Request for Proposals: Hosting SIO 2016 Conference Site

SIO invites proposals for the site of its International Conference in 2016. To aid in submitting proposals, SIO provides an RFP regarding site needs and elements. Proposals are due by Monday, September 15, 2014 to info@integrativeonc.org.

Read More

Dr. Balneaves Named IM Director at Toronto

SIO Board member and Secretary Lynda Balneaves, PhD, RN, has been appointed as the inaugural Director of the Centre for Integrative Medicine in Toronto, Ontario, effective September 1. The Centre is a collaboration with the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Medicine and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, as well as The Scarborough Hospital. Dr. Balneaves also has been appointed Associate Professor of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and will be a Scientist in the Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. More information about the Centre for Integrative Medicine will be available later this fall following the official launch. SIO congratulates Dr. Balneaves on her new appointment.

Read More

Dr. Mao Lead Investigator in Electroacupuncture Study

A new study from the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, reports that use of electroacupuncture produces significant improvements in fatigue, anxiety and depression for early stage breast cancer patients experiencing joint pain related to the use of aromatase inhibitors to treat breast cancer. The research was published in late July in the journal Cancer.

“Our results provide an opportunity to offer patients one treatment that may target multiple symptoms,” said lead author Jun Mao, MD, MSCE, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, who directs the Integrative Oncology program in the Abramson Cancer Center. Dr. Mao is a member of SIO’s Board of Trustees.

Read More

SIO Represented at Conferences

SIO Officer Richard Lee, MD, and Past President Lorenzo Cohen, PhD, spoke at the 10th Annual Integrative Oncology Training Conference for Acupuncturists, Massage Therapists and Yoga Teachers/Mind-Body Practitioners in July at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Dr. Cohen spoke on the role of integrative oncology in comprehensive cancer care, and Dr. Lee discussed the importance of communicating with medical staff.

In October, SIO Board member Mary Hardy, MD, and Past President Donald Abrams, MD, will speak at the Symposium of Integrative Medicine Professions in New Mexico. Dr. Hardy will discuss Integrative Therapies to Support Breast Cancer Patients and Modern Herbal Medicine: From Ancient Roots to Present Practice; she also will participate in the panels on Botanicals and on Clinical Care and Medical Cannabis. Dr. Abrams will speak on Integrating Cannabis Into Cancer Care.

Upcoming Conferences and Events of Interest

September 28 – October 1, 2014

American Association for Cancer Research Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 13 - 15, 2014

6th Biennial Symposium of Integrative Medicine Professions in the Land of Enchantment
Including Simply Botanicals Pre-Conference Workshop on October 12
Albuquerque, New Mexico

October 29 - 31, 2014

American Institute for Cancer Research Annual Research Conference
Washington, District of Columbia