

President's Message

The mission of SIO:
To advance evidence-based, comprehensive, integrative healthcare to improve the lives of people affected by cancer.



Greetings!

SIO's work to realize our mission, stated above, takes many forms and occurs in many venues. This effort to advance the best science was very clear in my review of initiatives over the past month. I am pleased to update you in this issue of the NewsWire.

All of our committees are active in planning for the 12th International Conference on November 14-16, 2015 in Boston, Massachusetts, where in educational presentations, we will share the latest in research and clinical practice in integrative oncology. Read in this issue about our historic joint day of programming and our plenary sessions.

We are expanding our webinar series, which was launched in late February by a very well-attended and received webinar by Immediate Past President Heather Greenlee on SIO's Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Use of Integrative Therapies as Supportive Care in Patients Treated for Breast Cancer. This widely publicized resource is the latest in our series of guidelines.

SIO Perspective

In addition, SIO monitors the ever-growing news and perspectives about integrative oncology in public and professional literature.

In the February 19 issue of *Nature Reviews Cancer*, you will see SIO's response, "[Integrative Oncology – Strong Science Is Needed for Better Patient Care.](#)" which we prepared as a result of a perspective piece published previously.

Also in February, the New York State Attorney General released a report on DNA testing of herbal supplements at major retail chains. SIO has prepared an article, in this issue, on the reliability of using DNA barcoding technology in authenticating botanical supplements and urging more testing and oversight. In both



Call for Workshops Opens for SIO2015

SIO is accepting workshop submissions for the 12th International Conference, which will be held November 14-16, 2015 in Boston, Massachusetts. The submission deadline for the proposals is **Friday, May 8 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time**. [Click here](#) for the guidelines and form for submission. Workshop proposals must be authored by at least two organizers from two different institutions. Notifications concerning the proposal review will be sent in late May. Announcement of the call for abstract submissions will be made soon.

Historic Joint Conference to Begin SIO2015

In a first-of-its-kind event, SIO, the Society of Acupuncture Research, and the Fascia Research Society will co-host the one-day **Joint Conference on Acupuncture, Oncology and Fascia** on **November 14, 2015 in Boston, Massachusetts**. They will share the platform at Harvard Medical School, brought together by the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine. SIO will follow the Joint Conference with two days of programming on November 15 and 16, also in Boston - see *article below*.

Featuring 12 plenary talks, the joint conference will address the respective interfaces between Acupuncture and Oncology, Oncology and Fascia, and Fascia and Acupuncture. The joint conference will synthesize clinical and basic science research that highlights the importance of connective tissue in cancer biology and the role of acupuncture in an integrated approach to health promotion and cancer prevention. The conference will culminate in a panel discussion with an audience Q&A.

This unique all-plenary format will provide a common, shared experience for all attendees and will maximize the opportunity for participants to synthesize the information presented at the conference. Watch for details.



SIO2015 Features 3 Plenaries

SIO will present three plenary sessions to complement [keynotes](#) for the 2015 International Conference November 14-16, in Boston, Massachusetts.

The first plenary, preceding the keynote of [Herbert Benson](#), MD, on November 15, will focus on relationship-based patient-centered care. Plenary presenters will be [Jacqueline Sommerville](#), PhD, RN, Chief Nurse and VP for Patient Care, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston; [Jennifer Temel](#), MD, Clinical Director of Thoracic Oncology and Associate Director of the Dana Farber/Partners Cancer Care Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, Boston; and [Luana DeAngelis](#), Patient Advocate and President of You Can Thrive! Foundation, New York, New York.

The second plenary on November 15 will follow the keynote by [Jennifer Ligibel](#), MD, and examine lifestyle changes, exercise and nutrition. Speakers will be [Peter Wayne](#), PhD, Research Director, Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, and Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston; [Linda Larkey](#), PhD, CRTT, Professor, College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona; and [Valter Longo](#), PhD, Edna M. Jones Professor - Gerontology and Professor of Biological Sciences, Davis School of Gerontology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

Following the November 16 keynote of [Bruce Rosen](#), MD, PhD, the third plenary will pursue the Mind-Body Connection Oncology: From Mechanism to Practice, with [Sara Lazar](#), PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston; [Linda Carlson](#), PhD, CPsych, Enbridge Endowed Research Chair, Psychosocial Oncology, Department of Oncology, Faculty of Medicine, and Associate Professor, Division of Psychosocial Oncology University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; and [Craig Blinderman](#), MD, MA, Director, Adult Palliative Medicine Service, Columbia University Medical Center/New-York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, New York.

of these examples, SIO emphasizes its core principle of advancing evidence-based practice and safety.

In all our initiatives, we will continue promoting the best science and integrating therapies with high quality science into clinical care to provide the best possible care for patients with cancer.

Suzanna Zick, ND, MPH

President, SIO

Upcoming Events

November 14 - 16, 2015

[12th International Conference of the Society for Integrative Oncology](#)
Boston, Massachusetts

SIO Reacts to NYS Attorney General DNA Testing

On February 3, 2015, New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman released results of DNA testing of herbal supplements at major local retail chains. [See the AG's announcement](#). Given the large number of cancer patients using supplements, SIO has prepared a paper reacting to the Attorney General's announcement, stating that "questions remain as to the conclusions of the study – that the botanical supplements were falsely labeled or dangerous until proven otherwise." Noting that DNA technology is relatively new, SIO urged further assessment of its accuracy. SIO concluded, "We believe that natural supplements have a place in health care as a whole... What we must do is ensure safety and transparency [of supplement use]. We should be working together – the business community, medical and scientific community, as well as regulatory forces – to ensure that we are promoting standards that are accepted, enforced and fair." [Read the full statement](#).

The American Botanicals Council also issued a statement on the Attorney General's testing report, expressing concern with reliance on DNA barcoding technology alone. [Read ABC's statement](#).

SIO Members in the News

Herbal Therapy Shows Promise for Depression

President-Elect Jun J Mao, MD, MSCE, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, Community Health and Epidemiology and colleagues at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, has conducted a proof of concept trial to evaluate the relative safety and efficacy of *Rhodiola rosea* (*R. rosea*) versus sertraline for mild to moderate major depressive disorder. "These results are a bit preliminary but suggest that herbal therapy may have the potential to help patients with depression who cannot tolerate conventional antidepressants due to side effects," Dr. Mao said. "Larger studies will be needed to fully evaluate the benefit and harm of *R. rosea* as compared to conventional antidepressants." The project was supported by a National Institutes of Health Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine grant. [Access the abstract and full article](#).

SIO Guidelines Presented

Lynda Balneaves, RN, PhD, SIO Executive Committee member, gave a presentation for the British Columbia Cancer Rehabilitation Network on SIO's [Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Use of Integrative Therapies as Supportive Care in Patients Treated for Breast Cancer](#). In other presentations, Dr. Balneaves discussed "Acupuncture to Zinc: The Role of Complementary Therapies in Prostate Cancer" on a national webinar of Prostate Cancer Canada. Her March presentations include "The Perils and Promise of Complementary Medicine" for the University of Toronto Alumni, and "Acupuncture or Ativan? Addressing the Growing Reality of Integrative Medicine," for CancerCare Manitoba Nursing Rounds in Winnipeg, Canada.

Article on Growth of Complex Cancer Care

SIO Past President Gary Deng, MD, PhD, was interviewed in a Clinical Oncology article on ["The Growth of Complex Cancer Care"](#) in the January issue.

Upcoming Conferences and Events of Interest

April 23 - 26, 2015

[Oncology Nursing Society](#)
Orlando, Florida

May 3 - 5, 2015

[Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health Annual Meeting](#)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

May 29 - June 2, 2015

[American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting](#)
Chicago, Illinois