



### **ACCRF Scientific Forum at the Salk Institute - April 2008**

On April 14, 2008, ACCRF convened a group of highly-prominent researchers to review the results of ongoing projects as well as to discuss the most promising avenues of research to pursue in the future. The Forum was graciously hosted by the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. The twenty-four participants are listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Role</u>
Marnie Kaufman	ACCRF	ACCRF Board of Directors
Jeffrey Kaufman	ACCRF	ACCRF Board of Directors
Kara Gelb	ACCRF	ACCRF Board of Directors
Dr. David Sidransky	Johns Hopkins University	ACCRF Scientific Advisory Board
Dr. Norman Sharpless	University of North Carolina	ACCRF Scientific Advisory Board
Dr. Robert Haddad	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	ACCRF Scientific Advisory Board
Dr. Irwin Jacobs	Salk Institute	Host & Interested Participant
Dr. Inder Verma	Salk Institute	Host & Interested Participant
Dr. Ronald Evans	Salk Institute	Host & Interested Participant
Dr. Reuben Shaw	Salk Institute	Host & Interested Participant
Dr. Adel El-Naggar	MD Anderson	Collaborating Researcher/Speaker
Dr. Andrew Futreal	Sanger Institute	Collaborating Researcher/Speaker
Dr. Edward Harlow	Harvard University	Collaborating Researcher/Speaker
Dr. Christopher Moskaluk	University of Virginia	Collaborating Researcher/Speaker
Dr. Jeffrey Settleman	Massachusetts General Hospital	Collaborating Researcher/Speaker
Dr. Michael Wick	START	Collaborating Researcher/Speaker
Dr. David Eisele	University of California, San Francisco	Collaborating Researcher
Dr. Henry Frierson	University of Virginia	Collaborating Researcher
Dr. Patrick Ha	Johns Hopkins University	Collaborating Researcher
Dr. Neil Hayes	University of North Carolina	Collaborating Researcher
Dr. Frederic Kaye	National Cancer Institute	Collaborating Researcher
Dr. Gigi Lozano	MD Anderson	Collaborating Researcher
Dr. Yasaman Shirazi	Nat'l Inst.of Dental & Craniofacial Res.	Collaborating Researcher
Dr. Osamu Tetsu	University of California, San Francisco	Collaborating Researcher

The primary purpose of the Forum was to improve ACCRF's Research Agenda and thereby accelerate the development of improved therapies and a cure for patients with adenoid cystic carcinoma. By way of background, ACCRF held its initial Scientific Meeting in April 2006 to identify the most important potential contributors to advancing the understanding of this rare malignancy. The broad consensus was two-fold: (1) researchers required access to more specimens and models of ACC for both basic and translational projects, and (2) genomic studies were crucial to determining the mechanisms of action in ACC. These two goals were the cornerstones of ACCRF's initial Research Agenda.

Nearly two years later, the first goal is well on its way to being met: many specimens are being banked, the number and availability of cell lines have risen dramatically, and many human tumor mouse models have been created. Much remains to be done, however, the trajectory is encouraging for the development of ACC specimens and models. This April's Forum offered the opportunity to share and appraise the progress of ACCRF-affiliated researchers in reaching the



second goal of identifying mechanisms of action. From the presentations at the Salk Institute, it is evident that impressive steps have been taken in advancing our knowledge of the genetic basis of ACC.

### Agenda

- 9:00 Welcoming Remarks  
Marnie and Jeffrey Kaufman (ACCRF Co-Founders)  
Dr. Irwin Jacobs and Dr. Inder Verma (Salk Institute)
- 9:15 ACCRF Research Agenda Overview  
Jeffrey Kaufman and Dr. David Sidransky (Johns Hopkins; ACCRF Scientific Advisory Board)
- 9:30 Genomic and Proteomic Characterization of ACC  
Dr. Christopher Moskaluk (UVA)
- 10:00 Comparative Genomic Hybridization Study  
Dr. Adel El-Naggar (MD Anderson)
- 10:20 Resequencing Project Report  
Dr. Andrew Futreal (Sanger Institute)
- 10:40 Break
- 10:50 Identification of Essential Kinases in ACC Tumor Cells  
Dr. Edward Harlow (Harvard)
- 11:10 Cell Line Screening of Clinically-Relevant Compounds  
Dr. Jeffrey Settleman (Massachusetts General Hospital)
- 11:30 In Vivo Screening of Novel and Approved Anticancer Agents in ACC Tumor Models  
Dr. Michael Wick (START)
- 11:50 Proposed Research Directions: An Introduction  
Dr. David Sidransky
- 12:00 Working Lunch and Open Discussion
- 1:00 Summary and Milestone List Generation  
Kara Gelb (ACCRF Director) and Dr. David Sidransky
- 1:30 Conclusion

The presentations were very well received, with many participants commenting on the “all-star cast” that had been assembled to discuss a relatively rare cancer. Several researchers remarked upon the collaborative spirit and the multidisciplinary breadth of the Forum, pointing to ACCRF’s research approach as an appropriate and effective model for all cancers.



The speakers covered a wide range of study types: gene expression, comparative genomic hybridization, resequencing, RNA interference, high-throughput in vitro screening and in vivo screening. Each technological platform is capable of generating valuable insights into the biological processes that underpin ACC. However, the real power lies in the integration of all these studies, with samples and results shared quickly among interested colleagues. No single laboratory or institution is capable of producing this wide range of high-quality studies for a rare cancer, and the researchers were enthusiastic to be part of a coordinated and effective process.

Much of the data presented at the Forum was partial. Only a portion of DNA samples, cell lines, mouse models, compounds and genes had been analyzed in each of the projects. However, even the partial data was fascinating, throwing up potential areas of interest and linkages for further study. The prospect of reviewing complete data sets within months clearly excited the participants.

The relatively small size of the Forum as well as the familiarity of the ACCRF-affiliated researchers with each other led to a collegial atmosphere. Vibrant discussions took place throughout the presentations and during the working lunch. ACCRF's Scientific Advisory Board was able to benefit from the insights and perspectives of all the participants at the Forum and solicited additional, detailed feedback in the following weeks.

Overall, the ACCRF Scientific Forum at the Salk Institute was remarkably successful. It continued to expand and deepen the community of interested ACC researchers. It reviewed the scientific progress achieved thus far. It considered and evaluated future avenues of research, ensuring an improved Research Agenda. In sum, the Forum accelerated progress toward everyone's goal: improved treatments and a cure for ACC.