



CANCER BIOMARKERS RESEARCH GROUP

*"The best prevention,
is Early Detection"*

EDRN Today

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IN THIS ISSUE

Early Detection Research Network (EDRN)

by Michelle Pitt, MHA and Felicia Evans Long, MBA

What's Going on with EDRN?

As many of you know, the 10th Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) Scientific Workshop, Cancer Biomarkers in Precision Medicine Flagship Program took place March 6-8, 2018 in Bethesda, Maryland. This workshop was a forum Discussion on Collaborations, supported by NCI and DMCC. At this meeting participants updated and discussed the collaborations led by Dr. Sudhir Srivastava and several other NCI staff. The meeting supported international collaborations to apply genomics research for cancer biomarkers research, early detection, and cancer prevention.

EDRN convenes this workshop for the research community about every 2 years to evaluate the state of early cancer detection. Lectures by experts in diverse fields, distinguished guests such as NCI Director Ned Sharpless, and EDRN investigators focused on state-of-the-art precision cancer detection and its role in improving clinical care.

The workshop, which attracts more than 300 participants from academia, industry and foundations, facilitates dissemination of new information and highlights accomplishments in cancer biomarker development. Topics of the meeting included: Novel technologies that lead to identification of biomarkers; promising discoveries; methods to distinguish aggressive from non-aggressive cancers to reduce over treatment; and hurdles in translating basic science into clinical application. The second half of the workshop was jointly sponsored by EDRN and the NCI Consortium for the Molecular and Cellular Characterization of Screen Detected Lesions.



A Message from our Chief Sudhir Srivastava, Ph.D., M.P.H

The NCI's EDRN is committed to making molecular diagnostics a reality that will allow physicians to provide individualized treatment to cancer patients. The EDRN is committed to provide up-to-date information on biomarker research through this Website and scientific publications.

Program Director of the Month



Dr. Kagan is a Program Director for genitourinary (GU) cancers at the Cancer Biomarkers Research Group (CBRG), Division of Cancer Prevention, the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Kagan is well recognized for his earlier studies that led to the discovery and cloning of oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes and cancer associated genes.

He is a NCI Program officer for the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) Genitourinary (GU) Cancers Collaborative group. In this capacity he was actively involved in all the GU groups' multi-institutional validation studies. He is also the lead Program Director for the EDRN proteomics interest group.

Champions of the 3 C's

*The EDRN works effortlessly through
Communications, Collaboration, Coordination*

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

During the EDRN Meeting, we featured over 90 posters during the viewing session that highlighted the vast amount of research our scientists are working towards.



Barnett S. Kramer, MD, MPH

Director, Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP)

"EDRN is an ongoing network of a wide spectrum of scientists dedicated to identifying and validating biomarkers, with an emphasis on validating. Too often the public, and even researchers, are convinced that a newly discovered test is a good idea, when we don't really know its worth. EDRN is a vehicle for the validation for cancer early detection biomarkers. No vehicle is any good if it only has an accelerator, so a key in our vehicle is brakes. We actually discard more biomarkers that we advance. So if a biomarker successfully makes it through EDRN validation, we are confident that it has passed a very high bar, and we are confident that we should spend resources on that test."



Arul M. Chinnaiyan, M.D., Ph.D.

"The EDRN is a unique consortium of like-minded investigators advancing the development of biomarkers for the early detection of cancer. We have been fortunate to be involved with several urine biomarkers that have been developed and validated by the EDRN including the TMPRSS2-ERG gene fusion and the long non-coding RNA PCA3 in prostate cancer. An array of biomarkers across cancer types is under active development by the EDRN and we hope many of these will be established as diagnostic tests over the next few years."



Joshua LaBaer, M.D., Ph.D.

"We are very proud to participate in the EDRN. There is no better organization so devoted to the development of markers for the early detection of cancer and so knowledgeable about the steps necessary to demonstrate their reliability. The most rewarding aspect of the network is its devotion to collaboration and team development of a product that will make a difference in patients' lives."



News and Views

Dr. Norman Sharpless, Director, National Cancer Institute provided an overall Perspective of how he sees the NCI moving forward and early thoughts on where we're headed at the 10th EDRN Workshop.

Significant Events in the Entire EDRN Family

Dr. Sudhir Srivastava of the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) received the 2017 Clinical and Translational Proteomics Award from the Human Proteome Organization (HUPO). Dr. Srivastava's research efforts focus on molecular biology of malignancies, early malignancies, risk assessment, and informatics, providing leadership in the areas of molecular screening and early detection.