

PRESS RELEASE:

Arizona Myeloma Network hosts 9th annual Living with Myeloma Conference

TGen scientists featured with others experts March 20-21 in Scottsdale

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — March 16, 2015 — Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) scientists will present research findings to the Arizona Myeloma Network (AZMN) when it hosts its 9th annual Living with Myeloma Conference on March 20-21 in Scottsdale.

On March 20, from noon to 5:30 p.m. the conference includes a scientific roundtable in the Ballroom of Chaparral Suites, 5001 N. Scottsdale Road.

On March 21, the public is invited from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the same location to hear about the latest myeloma research and the newest and most exciting therapies for myeloma cancer patients.

Annually, the free conference attracts more than 300 participants, and is open to all patients, caregivers, family, friends, health care providers, cancer researchers and the business community.

TGen's Dr. Bodour Salhia and Dr. Jonathan Keats will be joined by Mary DeRome, Translational Research Manager of the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF), during the March 20 roundtable to discuss the latest findings in Multiple Myeloma, including a landmark multiple-year, 1,000-patient, research project at TGen funded by MMRF.

TGen is analyzing patient samples using an unprecedented breadth of genomics platforms. The data emerging from this work should provide the most comprehensive view of myeloma at the molecular level. It also should enable the research community to better understand what drives a patient's response to treatment, or to disease progression, and should generate new leads for targeted drug development.

"With MMRF's support, we believe this unparalleled research initiative should make a significant difference in the way multiple myeloma is treated," said Dr. Keats, head of TGen's Multiple Myeloma Research Laboratory.

"The rigor and breadth of this effort will enable a much more sophisticated understanding of the molecular changes that give rise to myeloma, and that affect a patient's course of disease. Our hope is that this study will result in the next significant breakthroughs against this disease," said Dr. Keats, who also is an Assistant Professor in TGen's Integrated Cancer Genomics Division.

"We believe our scientific studies will lead to better treatments, and perhaps someday a cure, for this awful disease," said Dr. Salhia, also an Assistant Professor in TGen's Integrated Cancer Genomics Division. "I think there is great value in sharing some of our latest discoveries with AzMN's patient-based audience."

This year's conference also highlights a partnership with Scottsdale's Cure Corridor, a string of biotechnology and medical facilities that generally run along Shea Boulevard, east of Loop 101, and the conference will feature a welcome talk on March 21 by Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane.

“We are excited to be partnering with Scottsdale’s Cure Corridor to bring a wealth of information and support resources to patients and families,” says Barbara Kavanagh, Founder and President of the Arizona Myeloma Network. “Our myeloma conferences continue to be a place for those affected by myeloma to learn about this rare form of blood cancer and feel less alone.”

Medical faculty for the conference includes: Dr. Robert Kyle, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; Dr. Frits Van Rhee, the Myeloma Institute for Research and Treatment, University of Arkansas; Dr. Javier Munoz, Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center; Dr. Clarence Adoo, AZ Center for Cancer Care; and Dr. Rafael Fonseca, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale.

“There have been tremendous advances in the study and treatment of myeloma over the course of the past decade. I am pleased to share the latest treatment and clinical trial options with participants of the Arizona Myeloma Network conference,” said Dr. Fonseca, a hematologist and Chair of Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, who also will be a featured speaker at the conference.

Registration is available online at www.azmyelomanetwork.org as well as at the conference, starting at 8 a.m. March 21 A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided, and 5.75 Continuing Medical Education credits are available to medical and healthcare professionals.

“Successfully taking great challenges begins with assembling a great team,” said AZBio President and CEO Joan Koerber-Walker. “AzMN will again gather the team this year as myeloma/oncology researchers and clinicians, medical educators and students, cancer organizations, insurance and pharmaceutical representatives, and community oncologists, come together to share ideas on how we can all work on behalf of myeloma patients and their caregivers. Conversations lead to collaborations and collaborations can lead to cures. AZBio is honored to support the AzMN in this important effort.”

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About TGen

Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) is a Phoenix, Arizona-based non-profit organization dedicated to conducting groundbreaking research with life changing results. TGen is focused on helping patients with cancer, neurological disorders and diabetes, through cutting edge translational research (the process of rapidly moving research towards patient benefit). TGen physicians and scientists work to unravel the genetic components of both common and rare complex diseases in adults and children. Working with collaborators in the scientific and medical communities literally worldwide, TGen makes a substantial contribution to help our patients through efficiency and effectiveness of the translational process. For more information, visit: www.tgen.org.

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