



**Southwest
Oncology Group**

A National Clinical Research Group

May 7, 2009

TO: ALL SOUTHWEST ONCOLOGY GROUP MEMBER, UCOP AND CCOP PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS; AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

FROM: Laurence H. Baker, D.O. – Group Chairman

RE: Southwest Oncology Group Young Investigators Training Course (YITC)

MEMORANDUM

We are pleased to announce the continuation of this valuable program providing new opportunities for training investigators in cooperative group protocol development and research. Information about the training course is attached with an application form.

This training course has been successful in the past and is a unique opportunity for individual investigators and for the Group. Investigators will receive rigorous training in statistical principles, data collection and analysis, critical decision-making, protocol development and related issues, and other Group procedures. The Group desires to continue to build an infrastructure of trained clinical trial investigators with a thorough understanding of Group procedures and the ability to quickly and efficiently develop scientifically meaningful priority studies.

We are also pleased to announce the 2nd year of the Dr. Charles A. Coltman, Jr. Fellowship Program, supporting the mission of the YITC by continuing to support new investigators with salary stipends and mentorships. Two Fellowships of \$100,000 (paid over two years) will be awarded in 2009. A strong preference is granted to YITC participants; last year, the Fellows named were Deborah Bradley, MD University of Michigan, and Jason Zell, MD UC-Irvine. Both Fellows participated in the 2008 YITC. Applications for each Fellowship (one Clinical Research, one Translational Medicine) will be available by May 31st on The Hope Foundation website: <http://www.thehopefoundation.org>.

I ask you to aggressively seek out young investigators either at your institutions or who have expressed interest in your committee and who may be interested in this type of opportunity. Please note we have been able to reduce the time commitment required by making the course more intensive. All costs of travel, ground transportation, meals, lodging, materials and the workshop itself will be covered for the selected participants.

Applicants whose discipline is other than Medical Oncology (e.g., Surgery, Radiation Oncology) may be later in their academic career than the fellowship or junior faculty timeframe that is requested for Medical Oncologists.

The Hope Foundation continues to support this program financially.

PC/dbs
Attachment

cc: John J. Crowley, Ph.D.
Nathan Eriksen
Kati Laszlo, M.S.B.A.
Executive Officers
Member Institution and CCOP Head CRAs
Johanna (Jo) Horn, M.S.W.
Marjorie A. Godfrey
Division Chiefs, Department Chairs and applicable administrative personnel at SWOG Member and CCOP institutions

Operations Office

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**Southwest Oncology Group
Young Investigators Training Course (YITC)**

The intent of the program outlined below is to intensively train selected young investigators in the Southwest Oncology Group system for protocol development and research in order to develop a cadre of experts to quickly and efficiently develop priority studies. For the purposes of this training, young investigators are defined as oncology fellows in training or assistant professor equivalents affiliated with Group institutions or otherwise eligible for Group membership. (Applicants whose discipline is other than Medical Oncology [e.g., Surgery, Radiation Oncology] may be later in their academic career.) This training course will be held for four investigators once a year.

These investigators will be asked to produce a concept for a Southwest Oncology Group Phase II or Phase III protocol and follow this idea through an intensive simulation of the protocol development process. A panel composed of Group leadership and the Chair of the applicable disease committee will review each application package and choose attendees for each training course. While no guarantee is given that these ideas will be pursued within the Group, in the past many of the protocols developed during this program have been activated within the Group. The main intent of the program, however, is that the principles learned through this workshop will produce attractive protocols that will be of great interest within the committees. In efforts to support the development and activation of these protocols, SWOG and The Hope Foundation are pleased to announce the second year of the Dr. Charles A. Coltman, Jr. Fellowship Program, which provides \$100,000 over two (2) years to the successful applicants. Participation in YITC is strongly encouraged for applicants to either the 2009 Coltman Clinical Research or Translational Medicine Fellowship. Applications will be available after May 31, 2009 at <http://www.thehopefoundation.org>.

Choosing a disease committee to work with and suggesting a concept for a protocol will be used in the selection process. This will be used primarily to help evaluate the applicant's critical thinking process and to help develop a relationship with a mentoring disease committee. The relationship with a disease committee will assist the selected young investigators in eventually developing a trial in that committee, even if it is not the same one originally proposed. All costs for the workshop including travel, ground transportation, meals, lodging, materials and the workshop itself will be free of charge to the selected young investigators and their institutions. The course will take place at the Statistical Center Offices in Seattle, WA.

The selected dates for the course this year are September 15-17, 2009.

Investigators will be given appropriate protocol templates and guidelines prior to arriving. They will also receive a textbook - Clinical Trials in Oncology by Stephanie Green, Jacqueline Benedetti and John Crowley (CRC Press), and a course manual. They are expected to have completed web-based training modules during the two weeks prior to the course.

Investigators will receive rigorous training in statistical principles, data collection and analysis, critical decision-making within the Group, protocol development and related issues, and other Group procedures.

**SOUTHWEST ONCOLOGY GROUP
YOUNG INVESTIGATORS TRAINING COURSE
APPLICATION FORM**

NAME: _____

Last

First

M.I.

TYPE OF APPLICATION: APPLICANT IS A (CHECK ONLY ONE OF THE THREE BOXES BELOW AND SUPPLY THE DATE REQUESTED)

oncology fellow - anticipated date of completion of current fellowship _____

clinical scientist at the junior faculty level (Assistant Professor, Instructor or Lecturer; fellowship completed after 4/2004). Date of completion of last fellowship _____

clinical scientist at the faculty level (if from a discipline other than Medical Oncology). Date of completion of last fellowship _____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE _____

INSTITUTION _____

INSTITUTIONAL ADDRESS _____

City

State

Zip Code

TELEPHONE _____ **FAX** _____ **E-MAIL** _____

HAVE YOU ATTENDED A RELATED OR SIMILAR COURSE? YES NO. If Yes, please describe: _____

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:

a copy of your current *curriculum vitae*

a letter outlining your interest in attending this workshop

a letter from your institutional sponsor (preferably the Southwest Oncology Group Principal Investigator at the institution) recommending you and agreeing to support your efforts to pursue your concept as a Group study

a short description of your original concept for a Phase II or Phase III Southwest Oncology Group study

ASSURANCES AND SIGNATURES

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED WHERE INDICATED BY BOTH THE APPLICANT AND THE SUPERVISOR SUBMITTING A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.

APPLICANT: I CERTIFY THAT THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. IF ADMITTED TO THE WORKSHOP, I AGREE TO ATTEND ALL SCHEDULED SESSIONS. I AGREE TO HAVE COMPLETED DEVELOPING A PROTOCOL DOCUMENT BY THE END OF THE COURSE.

Signature

Date

SPONSOR OF APPLICANT: I RECOMMEND THIS APPLICANT FOR THE SOUTHWEST ONCOLOGY GROUP/THE HOPE FOUNDATION YOUNG INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP. I CERTIFY THAT THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. IF THE APPLICANT IS ADMITTED, I AGREE TO MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT WITHIN MY INSTITUTION AND/OR COMMITTEE TO ENABLE THE CANDIDATE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WORKSHOP (INCLUDING WRITING A PROTOCOL DRAFT BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE WORKSHOP) AND, IF THE PROTOCOL IS ACCEPTED FOR ACTIVATION WITHIN THE GROUP, TO CONDUCT A CLINICAL TRIAL BASED ON THE PROTOCOL DEVELOPED AT THE WORKSHOP.

Signature

Date

Submit this application and the required attachments no later than **June 29, 2009**, to:

Southwest Oncology Group
Operations Office
14980 Omicron Drive
San Antonio, TX 78245