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## ***The Society of Hematologic Oncology (SOHO): Moving Forward in the Battle Against Hematologic Malignancies***

The study of hematologic malignancies has provided an important tool in the malignant diseases. Because the malignant transformation occurs in an organ that is disseminated in the outset, hematologic malignancies present the challenge of systemic cancer. It is for this reason that the first curative therapy for systemic metastatic cancer was discovered in the treatment of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia in the mid 1960s. Since that time, the study of hematologic malignancies has played a unique role in understanding and manipulating the natural history of systemic cancers. By the year 2000, the number of investigators who have devoted their careers to the study of the hematologic malignancies was so large that we needed an opportunity to share our research experiences at a meeting, which was first convened in the year 2000. Over the subsequent 10 years, meetings have been held on an annual basis, and the number of investigators who have found this an attractive opportunity to share their research information continued to grow.

A group of clinician scientists gathered in Houston, Texas on October 10-14, 2012 for the annual Hematologic Malignancies Conference. On the occasion of this meeting, a group of investigators recognized the virtue of having a meeting devoted to the study of the hematologic malignancies and decided to form a new society: the Society of Hematologic Oncology (SOHO). This concept was introduced, and the response and enthusiasm was such that we decided to proceed.

Thus, SOHO was established as a nonprofit corporation in 2012 with aims to promote worldwide research, education, prevention, clinical studies, and optimal patient care in all aspects of hematologic malignancies and related disorders. The mission of SOHO is "to expedite the discovery and application of knowledge of the biology, therapy, etiology, and prevention of the hematologic malignancies. These findings should provide a platform for the progress needed for 'cancer control'." The members of the association recognized that the volume of innovative data in preclinical and clinical work that accrues on an annual basis is sufficiently large and requires more time and attention than can be offered in meetings of other major societies involved in the study of human malignancies.

The society was organized with a secretariat that consists of Emil J Freireich, MD (acting president), Hagop Kantarjian, MD, and Michael J. Keating, MB, BS. To assure that the society will fulfill its objectives, we assembled a group of outstanding clinician scientists that will serve as a steering committee to complete the development of SOHO and to help organize the annual meeting in 2013. The members of this committee are as follows:

Michele Bacarani, MD  
 Bart Barlogie, MD  
 Alan K. Burnett, MD  
 John C. Byrd, MD  
 Anthony Goldstone, FRCR(M)  
 Andreas Hochhaus, MD  
 Dieter Hoelzer, MD, PhD  
 Tim P. Hughes, MD, MBBS  
 Sundar Jagannath, MD  
 Alan F. List, MD  
 Francesco Lo Coco, MD  
 Emili Montserrat, MD  
 Ching-Hon Pui, MD  
 David A. Scheinberg, MD, PhD  
 Charles A. Schiffer, MD  
 Wendy Stock, MD  
 Moshe Talpaz, MD  
 Ayalew Tefferi, MD  
 Julie Vose, MD  
 Meir Wetzler, MD, FACP

At the outset, Houston, Texas, will provide an ideal venue for the SOHO annual meeting, analogous to the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

At the Hematologic Malignancies 2012 Conference, attended by more than 600 participants, we opened registration to SOHO, and more than 400 of the conference attendees became members of the new society. The first meeting of SOHO will take place on September 18-21, 2013, in Houston, Texas, and the Web site will be established at <http://www.societyofhematologiconcology.com> so that information can be widely distributed. *Clinical Lymphoma, Myeloma, and Leukemia*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Elsevier, will serve as the official journal of SOHO.

It is the hope of the founding members that SOHO will not only improve the exchange of scientific information among investigators but will accelerate our progress in the control of not only the hematologic malignancies but of all the malignancies that affect humans.

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