ASBMT Notes

**DIPERSIO RECEIVES NCI OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD**

ASBMT President-Elect John F. DiPersio, MD, PhD, of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, has received a $6 million outstanding investigator award from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support research aimed at improving therapies for leukemia.

“One of our major goals is to optimize stem cell transplantation—both in making the process of donating stem cells faster and more efficient and in finding ways to control the potentially damaging side effects of the transplant,” DiPersio said. “A stem cell transplant is often the only curative therapy for these types of blood cancers. But the transplant itself can be life-threatening if the donor’s stem cells begin to attack the patient’s vital organs. If we can control and prevent these side effects, it could have a significant impact on patients.”

The NCI’s outstanding investigator award recognizes physician-scientists who have a long history of successful research and are deemed likely to make major gains in the cancer field with the support of continuous funding for seven years.

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**ATTEND THE 2018 BMT TANDEM MEETINGS VIRTUALLY!**

If you can’t get away to the 2018 BMT Tandem Meetings in Salt Lake City this year—but don’t want to miss out on things your colleagues are experiencing, there is a way to participate VIRTUALLY. Once again, you can actively participate in several of the sessions right from your computer—without getting on a plane. This year, ASBMT will be using a different platform—without avatars. You will still see what the “in-person” Tandem attendees are seeing and hear what they hear in real time. Read more at http://bit.ly/DecTandemUpdate.

**ASBMT SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING QUIZ**

On behalf of the ASBMT Committee on Education, we are pleased to introduce “Basic Principles and Practices of Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation and Cell Therapy—Question and Answer Approach,” a new self-directed learning quiz highlighting hematopoietic cell transplant and cell therapy topics. Answers to each question appear with evidence-based “non-exhaustive” peer-review commentary. Our aim is to provide you with a credible and freely available educational resource. Questions are generated and reviewed by Syed Abutalib, MD, Mark R. Litzow, MD, and William A. Wood, MD. Take the quiz at http://bit.ly/ASBMTQuiz.

**2018 FUNDAMENTALS OF HEMATOPOIETIC CELL TRANSPLANTATION TRAINING COURSE**

The Fundamentals of HCT Training Course will be held Saturday, March 24 from 1:00-6:00 PM and Sunday, March 25 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, held proceeding the HOPA 14th Annual Conference at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO. This course is jointly planned by the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation and the National Marrow Donor Program®/Be The Match®. This course provides practitioners with the skills required to care for patients undergoing hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT), with a focus on pharmacotherapeutic management throughout the transplant process. The target audience for this course includes pharmacists, pharmacy student and residents, physicians (including residents and hematology/oncology fellows), advanced practice providers and nurses. Register now at http://bit.ly/Fundamentals18.

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This year, the ASBMT is celebrating its 25th Anniversary!

To celebrate, each monthly issue of BBMT will contain something special about ASBMT’s anniversary, including histories, photos, and personal memories from those who were there when it all started.

Last month, we covered some of ASBMT’s origins and talked about the first meeting and the first officers. You can’t talk about the history of the ASBMT without discussing the Annual Meetings:

The beginnings of ASBMT can be traced to an ad hoc committee that met in 1993 in Oak Brook, Illinois. The idea of an organization for clinicians and scientists working in the field of blood and marrow transplantation was first proposed by Richard Champlin, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Blood and Marrow Transplantation at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He invited leaders from major transplant centers across the country to meet to discuss the founding of a new society. “Beginning with the founders of the Society, we’ve tried to be inclusive of all the centers and people across many disciplines, who have an interest in the field of blood and marrow transplantation,” said Dr. Champlin. The goal was to bring together clinicians as well as clinical and basic investigators with an interest in hematopoietic transplantation.

Attending were Joseph Antin, MD, James Armitage, MD, Bart Barlogie, MD, Richard Champlin, MD, Joseph Fay, MD, John Hansen, MD, Armand Keating, MD, John Kersey, MD, Richard O’Reilly, MD, Robertson Parkman, MD, Rein Saral, MD, and Keith Sullivan, MD, among others.

At that meeting it was determined that the society’s purpose would be to further the development of the BMT field by supporting clinical research, providing professional education, establishing guidelines for training, facilities and practice, and advocating for appropriate regulation.

The Society’s first national symposium was in March 1994 and was attended by a small but growing membership. The theme of the meeting was “Clinical and Societal Issues in Bone Marrow Transplantation,” and it was co-sponsored with the Leukemia Society and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

The ASBMT’s first annual meeting was held in January 1995 in Keystone, Colorado. It was held jointly with the International Bone Marrow Transplant Registry (IBMTR) and the Autologous Blood and Marrow Transplant Registry (ABMTR) which later merged to become the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR).

In March 1996, in conjunction with the Leukemia Society of America, ASBMT co-sponsored the Fourth Annual Conference on Clinical and Managed Care Issues in Blood and Marrow Transplantation, in Washington, D.C. The Society’s second annual meeting, held jointly with the American Association for Cancer Research, was in October 1996 in San Diego. The theme, “Novel Approaches in Blood and Marrow Transplantation,” was carried through plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations, invited lectures and workshops to promote interaction between investigators and clinicians.

Following a very successful 1997 annual meeting in San Diego, the 1998 national meeting was held March 25-28, in Miami Beach, Fla. Among the “firsts” at the 1998 meeting were an allied health professionals program that ran parallel to the general sessions, technical and commercial exhibit opportunities for companies that market to the related fields, a “President’s Plenary Session” dedicated to the outgoing ASBMT president on a topic selected by the President, a “Best Abstracts Plenary Session,” the presentation of the first annual “Dr. Donnall Thomas Lecture,” and the first ASBMT “Public Service Award in Blood and Marrow Transplantation.”

The 1999 Annual Meeting was held March 3-6, in Keystone, again in tandem with the IBMTR and the ABMTR. Attendance at the tandem meetings exceeded 1300.

At the 2000 Tandem BMT Meetings, registration moved online and paper registration forms were eliminated. A BMT Pharmacists Conference was also added, thereafter becoming a regular part of the meeting, and an ASBMT Lifetime Achievement Award was given for the first time.

The 2001 (Keystone) and 2002 (Orlando) meetings continued the co-located, “back-to-back” style meetings for the ASBMT and IBMTR/ABMTR. In 2003 the ASBMT and IBMTR/ABMTR annual meetings were fully merged.

Today, the “BMT Tandem Meetings” currently attract more than 3000 BMT clinicians, investigators, laboratory technicians, clinical research associates, nurses, pharmacists, data managers, transplant center administrators and other allied health professionals.

In next month’s issue, we will continue ASBMT’s story spanning 25 years!