

## **ITOG Membership Doubles in 2012**

December, 2012. The International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG) has completed a major period of membership expansion, doubling its membership. ITOG members hail from 29 leading academic medical institutions on three continents. ITOG counts numerous leading European thyroid specialists among its membership. ITOG members are drawn from every aspect of clinical, pathological, and scientific disciplines to assemble a “dream-team” of specialists for thyroid cancer. ITOG members are united by the belief that working together is the only way to catalyze a cure for thyroid cancer.

**Posted:**

Dec 31, 2012

## Philanthropy Reaches \$1,000,000



Megan Larkin Curry (left) was inspired to help her mother Maureen Larkin, a thyroid cancer survivor, by organizing the Kel Klassic golf event.

December, 2012: ITOG records its best year to date in fund raising. Since its inception in 2007, donations to ITOG have primarily come from individuals who have been personally affected by thyroid cancer. The Larkin Family, pictured, have raised over \$80,000 for ITOG through its annual Kel Klassic golf tournament. "Team Jean" reached \$100,000 in donations this year. Please contact Dwight Vicks, ITOG Treasurer, if you would like to [make a donation](#) and help ITOG catalyze a cure for thyroid cancer.

ITOG is a driving force leading advancements in the treatment of thyroid cancer. Although recent successes have been extraordinary, durable treatments remain elusive. It is vital to conduct additional clinical trials to improve outcomes for patients with advanced thyroid cancer. Donations to ITOG allow us to fund vital clinical research and catalyze a cure for these deadly diseases.

### **Posted:**

Dec 19, 2012

## **ITOG Elects New Leadership**

April, 2012: Dr. Steven I. Sherman of MD Anderson Cancer Center was re-elected as ITOG Chairman after an extraordinary year of leadership. Dr. Sherman's first year as Chairman was notable for leading a partnership agreement with ACCRU, and activating the Clinical Protocol and Correlative Science Committees. Dr. Sherman will be joined on the Executive Committee by Dr. Lori Wirth, who was elected as Secretary. Dr. Wirth is the Director, Head & Neck Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Wirth also serves as Chair of the ITOG Clinical Protocols Committee, the committee charged with evaluating proposals for clinical trials. Dwight Vicks, whose wife Jean has medullary thyroid cancer, remains as ITOG Treasurer.

### **Posted:**

Apr 30, 2012

## 2012 ITOG Annual Meeting: Innovation and Inspiration



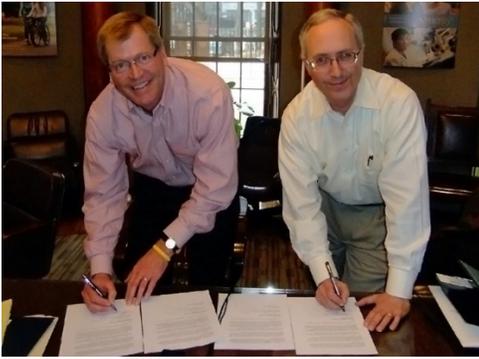
ITOG founding members Dr. Robert Gagel and Dr. Barry Nelkin were honored at the 2012 Annual Meeting at Ohio State University

April 2012: Drs. Manisha Shah and Matt Ringel hosted the 2012 Annual Meeting at The Ohio State University College of Medicine on April 29-30th. This annual event has become a critical event for ITOG members to share the latest clinical and scientific results and to prioritize the direction of future clinical and research studies. ITOG is characterized by a strong commitment to collaboration in order to advance our mission. The 2013 ITOG Annual Meeting will be hosted by ITOG members: Drs. Bible, Bernet, Menefee and Smallridge of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Posted:**

Apr 28, 2012

## ITOG Enters Collaborative Agreement With ACCRU to Perform Clinical Trials



Dwight Vicks (ITOG Treasurer) and Dr. Steven I. Sherman (Chairman) sign the Collaborative Agreement with ACCRU.

March, 2012: The ITOG Board of Directors endorsed a partnership with Academic and Community Cancer Research United (ACCRU) an affiliate of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, to conduct clinical trials. ACCRU was selected after an extensive search to identify a partner to provide robust infrastructure necessary for thyroid cancer clinical trials. ITOG's focus on clinical trials is an effort to build on recent success and bring new targeted therapies to thyroid cancer patients with advanced disease.

The timing of this agreement is ideal. ITOG has received approval from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Cancer Treatment Evaluation Program (CTEP) for its first clinical trial, Phase II Study of Cabozantinib in Patients with Radioiodine-Refractory Differentiated Thyroid Cancer Who Progressed on First-Line VEGFR-Targeted Therapy. This Phase II study of Cabozantinib (Cometriq) will be opening to enrollment at The Ohio State University, the Mayo Clinic, MD Anderson, University of Chicago and Massachusetts General Hospital. This will be one of the first trials to focus exclusively on patients whose tumors have progressed despite prior therapy with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

In 2011, FDA approved Vandetanib (Caprelsa) for patients with medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC). Dr. Samuel Wells, ITOG's founding Executive Director, was the principal investigator and several ITOG physicians participated in the study. This was a landmark event as MTC patients now have access to a therapy that improves progression free survival. FDA approval sends a strong signal to the pharmaceutical industry that advanced thyroid cancer is a diagnosis worthy of further investment.

### **Posted:**

Mar 31, 2012