

ITOG Announces Inaugural Robert F. Gagel Discovery Award



Dr. Robert F. Gagel

Dr. Robert F. Gagel is a principal founder of ITOG. After treating patients with rare thyroid cancers at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas, he had the foresight to design a better approach to utilize the limited funding resources available and envisioned a new organization to bring experts together to share research, debate ideas and to develop a logical approach for prioritizing new treatments. In 2004, he and Dr. Barry Nelkin selected a “Dream Team” of physicians and scientists to attend the first ITOG meeting in Bethesda, MD. He worked tirelessly to get the organization off the ground and was elected to become the first Chair and was then reelected to serve a second term. One of Dr. Gagel’s greatest contributions to ITOG was his focus on establishing a culture of trust in order to foster collaboration. His professional accomplishments, including his research in familial medullary thyroid cancer (MTC), speak for themselves.

In honor of Dr. Gagel’s tremendous contributions to ITOG, the Board of Directors established a grant of \$100,000 for the ITOG member with the best scientific proposal that would have direct translational implications toward developing novel treatments for thyroid cancer. After a competitive scientific peer review process, ITOG awarded the inaugural *Robert F. Gagel Discovery Award* to Dr. Yariv Houvras, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College.



Dr. Yariv Houvras

At the ITOG Annual Meeting at Duke University in April 2017, Dr. Houvras presented a progress report to the general membership. The award is being used to examine the effects of kinase inhibitors on thyroid and vascular endothelial cells. Using zebrafish models, scientists from Dr. Houvras' lab are examining the FDA approved kinase inhibitor, lenvatinib (Lenvima), to better understand the precise mechanism of its action. Dr. Houvras explained, "A major advantage of the zebrafish models is the ability to visualize thyroid cells in a living organism, and study the effects that drugs we use in clinic have. By doing this in a whole organism we can see effects on blood vessels and thyroid cells."

Applications for the second Robert F. Gagel ITOG Discovery Award were received by The ITOG Committee for Correlative Sciences, chaired by Dr. James Fagin. This committee will review the numerous research proposals submitted by ITOG members including preclinical studies, mechanism-based correlative studies of thyroid cancer clinical trials, and proposals for resources to assist in the identification of subjects for ITOG-sponsored clinical trials. The final funding decision of one project will be approved by the Board of Directors and an announcement of the second grant recipient will be made at the Annual Meeting of the ITOG in 2018, to be held in Los Angeles, CA.

Posted:

Oct 13, 2017

ITOG Elects New Leadership



Dr. Manisha Shah

The Board of Directors has elected Dr. Manisha Shah as the incoming chair of ITOG. Her three-year term as the Director of ITOG will begin following the 2018 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. Dr. Shah currently serves as ITOG Secretary, Co-chair of the Protocol Committee and has been on the Executive Committee for three years.

Dr. Shah is the co-Director of the Neuroendocrine Tumor Program and Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Medical Oncology at The Ohio State University, Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Shah's research focuses on the discovery of new targeted therapies for patients with thyroid cancers, neuroendocrine cancers, and adrenal cancers. She has served as the principle investigator of numerous clinical trials for the treatment of progressive thyroid cancer. She was instrumental in the early studies examining the efficacy of sorafenib in the treatment of differentiated thyroid cancer, the first trial of its kind in this patient population. The findings of this study, on which she served as a lead PI, resulted in the acceptance of sorafenib as a first-line therapy and approval by the FDA for patients with iodine-refractory thyroid cancer. Dr. Shah also served as the lead investigator for ITOG's first clinical trial, the results of which were recently published in the prestigious *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

She continues to strive to improve our understanding of thyroid cancer through these and other clinical trials. The studies shed light on the mechanisms of tumor progression, the appropriate treatment of aggressive tumors, and how tumor genomics impact response to therapy. She will utilize these insights and her boundless energy to propel ITOG forward in continuing effort to create novel clinical trials for the management of progressive thyroid cancer.

World Congress on Thyroid Cancer

The 3rd World Congress on Thyroid Cancer took place July 27-30 in Boston, MA. This scientific meeting attracted experts from around the world to share research and ideas to further the understanding of the management of thyroid cancer. Additionally, the delegates attending this congress laid the groundwork for collaborations and the direction of future thyroid cancer research.

Several ITOG members delivered lectures during this exciting meeting. Please see the list below for the lecturers and their topics. Check back for short video clips of some of the lectures which will be posted on this site.

For full information about the World Congress on Thyroid Cancer, please see the website: <http://thyroidworldcongress.com/>

Friday, July 28th

Time	Program	Role/ITOG Member
8:00 – 9:30 am	Panel #1 <u>Evaluation and management of thyroid nodules: integrating imaging, cytology and molecular markers</u>	Panelists: Yuri Nikiforov
9:30 – 10:00 am	Keynote #1 <u>The Genetic Landscape of Thyroid Cancer 2017</u>	Dr. James Fagin
10:30 – 12:00 pm	Panel #2 <u>Management of low-risk thyroid cancer</u>	Panelists: Bryan Haugen
12:30 – 1:15 pm	Hot Topic #1 <u>One Size Does Not Fit All: Selecting Tumors for Active Surveillance or Less Aggressive Surgery</u>	Panelists: Michael Tuttle
2:10 – 3:30 pm	Panel #3 <u>Assessment and Management of Lymph Node Metastases in Thyroid Cancer: Radiographic mapping, pcmd, plnd, RF-Etoh options</u>	Moderator: Gregory Randolph
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Keynote #3 Surveillance and Management of Persistent or Recurrent Thyroid Cancer	Dr. Bryan Haugen
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Panel #4 Medullary Thyroid Cancer	Moderator: Rossella Elisei Panelists: Jeff Moley

Saturday, July 29th

Time	Program	Role/ITOG Member
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Chair: [Steven Sherman](#)

6:00 – 7:30 am **Breakfast Symposium**
Sponsored by Sanofi Genzyme

8:00 – 9:30 am **Panel #5**
Radioactive Iodine Therapy and Redifferentiation Therapy for Thyroid Cancer: Who, Why, When and How?

Moderator: [Michael Tuttle](#)

10:30 – 12:00 pm **Panel #6**
Management of Invasive Thyroid Cancer

Panelists:
[James Brierley](#)

12:15 – 1:15 pm **Hot Topic #2**
Radiology vs. Endocrine Vs. Surgery guidelines

Panelists:
[Bryan Haugen](#)
[Gregory Randolph](#)

12:30 – 1:30 pm CBL Path Product Theatre

[Yuri Nikiforov](#),

1:30 – 2:00 pm **Keynote #5**
Adjuvant therapy for differentiated thyroid cancer

[Dr. Martin Schlumberger](#)

2:10 – 3:30 pm **Panel #7**
Evaluation and Management of Poorly Differentiated, Anaplastic and Aggressive Variants of Thyroid Cancer

Moderator: [Ezra Cohen](#)
Panelists:
[Robert Smallridge](#)
[Keith Bible](#)
[Marcia Brose](#)

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Keynote #6**
Systemic Therapy for Metastatic Thyroid Cancer

[Dr. Lori Wirth](#)

Sunday, July 30th

Time **Program** **Role/ITOG Member**

6:00 – 7:30 am **Breakfast Symposium**
Sponsored by [Veracyte](#)

peakers: [Richard T. Kloos](#)

8:00 – 9:30 am **Panel #8**
Systemic Therapy for Metastatic Thyroid Cancer

Moderator: [Keith Bible](#)
Panelists:
[Lori Wirth](#)
[Sophie Leboulleux](#)
[Matthew Ringel](#)
[Naifa Busaidy](#)

9:30 – 10:30 am **Hot Topic #3**
NIFTP and Bethesda 2

Panelists:
[Yuri Nikiforov](#)

10:30 – 12:00 pm **Conversation with the Masters**

Moderators: [Gregory Randolph](#)
Panelists:
[Ezra Cohen](#)
[Bryan Haugen](#)