



## Overview

### **The National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP)**

The National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) is a clinical trials cooperative group supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). We have a more than 40 year history of designing and conducting clinical trials that have changed the way breast cancer is treated, and, more recently, prevented. It was the NSABP's breast cancer studies that led to the establishment of lumpectomy plus radiation over radical mastectomy as the standard surgical treatment for breast cancer. We were also the first to demonstrate that adjuvant therapy could alter the natural history of breast cancer, increasing survival rates, and the first to demonstrate on a large scale the preventive effects of the drug tamoxifen in breast cancer.

Since its beginning, the NSABP has enrolled more than 100,000 women and men in clinical trials in breast and colorectal cancer. We are headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and have research sites at nearly 750 major medical centers, university hospitals, large oncology practice groups, and health maintenance organizations in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Australia, and Ireland. At those sites and their satellites, more than 10,000 physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals conduct NSABP treatment and prevention trials. Their presence at local hospitals and medical facilities means that state-of-the-art clinical trials can be provided to patients near their homes.

The NSABP was one of the first organizations to undertake large-scale studies in the prevention of breast cancer, and our Breast Cancer Prevention Trial (BCPT), which included more than 13,000 women at increased risk for breast cancer, demonstrated the value of the drug tamoxifen in reducing the incidence of the disease in this population. The second prevention trial, the Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene (STAR) entered

more than 19,000 women to compare the effects of these two drugs in reducing the incidence of breast cancer.

The Office of the Chairman and the NSABP Operations Center are located on the campus of Allegheny General Hospital, and the group's Biostatistical Center is at the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to funding from the NCI, which the NSABP has received since it began, the NSABP also receives support from other sources for ancillary studies, training, and educational programs.

**The NSABP Laboratory study team was led by:**

**Dr. Soonmyung Paik**, M.D. is a board certified pathologist with training in molecular biology. He graduated from the College of Medicine, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea in 1981 and received his residency training in the United States. After his residency, he joined Dr. Marc Lippman's group at the National Cancer Institute as a post-doctoral fellow and worked with him at Lombardi Cancer Center, Georgetown University as a faculty member until 1996 when he joined the NSABP as the Director of the Division of Pathology. His main research interest is in developing predictive markers for treatment response in breast cancer. He has contributed in elucidating the role of the HER2 oncogene in breast cancer since his post-doctoral fellowship days in 1989 when he demonstrated that patients with increased expression of the HER2 protein confers a poor prognosis in women with breast cancer. He has since demonstrated that HER2 positive tumors are more responsive to a doxorubicin containing regimen, and thus, established a baseline regimen for this subset of breast cancer patients. In 2004 his lab, in collaboration with Genomic Health, Inc developed a multi-gene based test called *OncoTypeDx* that is used to predict prognosis and response to chemotherapy in node-negative, hormone-receptor-positive breast cancer.

**Charles E. Geyer, Jr.**, M.D., FACP, is a board certified medical oncologist with expertise in the study and treatment of breast cancer. Currently, he is Director of Medical Affairs for the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) and Director of Breast Medical Oncology, Allegheny General Hospital. His NSABP responsibilities include the development and oversight of clinical trials in breast and colorectal cancer. He served as the protocol officer for a recent study that proved that the drug Herceptin™ (trastuzumab) dramatically improved survival in women with HER2 positive early stage breast cancer. His most recent academic appointment is Associate Professor of Medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine. A graduate of Texas Tech University School of Medicine, Dr. Geyer completed his medical residency and Medical Oncology Fellowship at the Baylor College of Medicine Affiliated Hospitals in Houston, Texas.

For more information contact:

Frank Catanzano  
Emerald City Communications  
412-965-5269  
fcatanzano@truebaseline.com