Colleagues,

Please circulate to junior statistics/biostatistics faculty interested in cancer work. Dean Post (dean.post@aacr.org) or I can answer any questions you might have.

Thanks,

Mithat

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As many of you know, AACR has been working for some time on a re-launch of the workshop on cancer biostatistics that was held in 2008-2009. For the past two years, AACR has been working with an Organizing Committee led Dr. Steven Piantadosi and I am pleased to announce that the AACR Workshop on *Methods in Cancer Biostatistics: Clinical Trial Designs for Targeted Agents* will take place June 7-13, 2015 at the Resort at Squaw Creek in Lake Tahoe, California. This new Workshop has been designed specifically for early-career biostatisticians interested in learning how to apply their statistical knowledge to oncology clinical trials.

As you know, biostatistics is a cornerstone of clinical trials, as it underpins the robustness and validity of the findings. It is essential to integrate statistical considerations into clinical trial design as early in the process as possible, in order to adopt an effective protocol that will allow drawing statistically-sound conclusions. Increasingly, clinical testing of novel cancer therapies requires complex clinical trial designs, posing additional challenges for investigators, clinicians, and biostatisticians.

The Workshop will cover many important and topical biostatistical aspects of cancer drug development, from translational clinical trials and drug combinations, to precision medicine, targeted agents and comparative designs using biomarkers. Early-career biostatisticians selected to participate will (1) learn how to apply their statistical knowledge to oncology clinical trials; (2) be introduced to many important and topical biostatistical aspects of cancer drug development, from translational clinical trials and drug combinations, to precision medicine, targeted agents and comparative designs using biomarkers; (3) gain knowledge and experience about the role of biostatisticians in oncology clinical trials, and how to interact effectively with biologists and clinical researchers on these team efforts; and (4) be encouraged to consider a long-term career in cancer research, to improve the therapeutic options available to cancer patients and make a difference in clinical practice.
Similar to the Vail Workshop that you have been a part of, the Workshop will be an intense, yet collegial experience with a faculty-to-student ratio of 1:2 to help promote close mentorship and networking amongst the attendees. The program will feature a combination of lecture sessions, case studies, and group problem-solving sessions. Applications will be accepted from 35-40 biostatisticians who obtained their PhDs within the past five years who are currently involved in cancer research and who wish to pursue additional training in oncology-related biostatistics, as well as statisticians with more advanced careers who are considering transitioning to oncology-related research.

Since you have been a part of the “sister” program in Vail, I am hopeful that you will help us spread the word about this new Workshop to your colleagues and collaborators. There is a brief description on the new AACR website and we should have the application and related Workshop information available online before the end of the year, with applications due in mid-February.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season,

Dean

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