

MEDIA ADVISORY

Conference Set on Aging and Cancer Connections, Complexities

**Basic scientists and industry leaders gather to discuss new insights in research
and product development**

- What: ***Aging and Cancer: Two Sides of the Same Coin?***
An American Federation for Aging Research
Scientific Conference
In collaboration with the American Association for Cancer
Research
- Where: Union League Club
38 East 37th Street
NYC
- When: Monday, October 6, 2008, noon-3:15 pm and Tuesday, October 7,
2008, 8:30am - 4:30pm

Although cancer strikes both young and old, it is primarily a disease of aging. The links between cancer and aging are complex. They involve both biological and environmental factors, including basic genetic susceptibilities and mutations and mutations resulting from environmental insults.

A potentially powerful approach to understanding the role of aging in the genesis of neoplasia is comparative gerontology. The rates at which cancers occur are tightly coupled to the rates of intrinsic biological aging. New insights concerning one of these processes will therefore inform us about the nature of the other process.

This two-day conference will explore fundamental aspects of aging and cancer processes and their interactions. Speakers will examine: genetic and epigenetic changes, environmental influences, and host factors such as oxidative stress and cell death. The evolutionary, cellular and molecular relationships among aging, tumor suppressor mechanisms and the development of cancer as well as the interactions of normal aging cells, stem cells and differences in the manifestation of cancer in young and old will also be discussed. Speakers will report on topics such as telomere biology; nuclear processes such as DNA damage, repair, replication, recombination and transcription; and relevant aspects of mitochondrial structure and function. The goal will be to elucidate genetic and epigenetic alterations that lead to aging and cancer phenotypes.

Recent applications in translational research will also be emphasized.

Featured speakers include:

George Bosl, MD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Judy Campisi, PhD, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Jack Griffith, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Richard Hodes, MD, National Institute on Aging
Thomas Rando, MD, PhD, Stanford University
Norman Sharpless, MD, University of North Carolina School of Medicine

A Discussion with Industry session will highlight product development advances in diagnostic and therapeutic areas, such as the use of magnetic resonance probes, radiopharmaceuticals, and optical probes, new chemotherapeutic agents, and methods to reduce cancer treatment side effects. Novel approaches to therapy will also be emphasized, particularly how they might apply to interventions in the geriatric population.

A full program listing can be found at <http://www.afar.org/cancerconf.html>

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The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support biomedical research on aging. It is devoted to creating the knowledge that all of us need to live healthy, productive, and independent lives. Since 1981, AFAR has awarded more than \$113 million to nearly 2,500 talented scientists as part of its broad-based series of grant programs. Its work has led to significant advances in our understanding aging processes, age-related diseases, and healthy aging practices. AFAR communicates news of these innovations through its organizational web site www.afar.org and educational web sites Infoaging (www.infoaging.org) and Health Compass (www.healthcompass.org).