

September 2021

MSCO Newsletter

Dedicated to Improving Cancer Care & Treatment Together



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

MSCO Annual Meeting & Award Presentations

We are pleased to host the MSCO Annual Meeting virtually this year on Wednesday, November 10th at 6:30 p.m. We have an excellent agenda, and are delighted to have Dr. Kathleen M. Howland present, "Musicophilia: An Evening of Musical Tales in Oncology."

In addition, we look forward to honoring this year's winners of the Audesse Award and the Oncologist of the Year Award.

Registration is free to all members. Not a member, [join now](#) for free.

[Register Now](#)

WHAT'S NEW

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- THANK YOU, CORPORATE MEMBERS
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dr. Kala Seetharaman

Dear Members,
I am honored to have led MSCO over the past year. With over 250 members, we are a strong and vital organization focused on working together to improve patient care. Today, MSCO continues to connect cancer physicians in Massachusetts by providing a unique forum to address and advocate important issues such as third-party reimbursement, legislation, and barriers to quality care.

I'm proud of our Chapter's successes this year including...
Continue reading [HERE](#).

Legislative Report

The Massachusetts State House remains closed and the legislature continues to meet in virtual sessions, as well as conduct public hearings on bills virtually. As we move into the fall, there is a hope the State House will reopen, but the Delta variant is putting a damper on expectations.

MSCO continues to be active on the legislative front on behalf of oncologists and their patients. This session MSCO has joined with patient advocates and other medical specialty societies to support the following bills:

- **Step Therapy/Fail First Legislation, H.1311 & S.756**
- **Co-Pay Accumulators, S.644 & H.1053**
- **Telehealth**

[Read full report](#)

Young Investigator Grant Award



The Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists (MSCO) is proud to announce that they are collaborating and supporting the Conquer Cancer Foundation Young Investigator's Grant Program. The Young Investigator Award (YIA) provides funding to promising investigators to encourage and promote quality research in oncology. The grant supports pre-clinical and clinical cancer research projects by oncologists who are undergoing a career transition from a fellowship program to a faculty appointment.

Praful Ravi, MBBChir, MRCP, a Medical Oncologist at the Lank Center for Genitourinary Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, is the 2021 Recipient of the inaugural YIA Award supported by MSCO.

Dr. Ravi commented "I am delighted and honored to receive a Young Investigator Award supported by MSCO. This prestigious award will



be invaluable in providing me with protected time and funding to conduct research alongside my clinical duties. I am hopeful that the research project funded by the award - a phase 2 clinical trial evaluating a triplet therapy combination in advanced kidney cancer - will lead to improved outcomes for patients with kidney cancer."

The text "Thank You" is written in a large, elegant, cursive font. The word "Thank" is in a light blue color, and "You" is in a dark blue color. The letters are slightly overlapping and have a soft shadow effect.

MSCO Corporate Members

Thank you for your Support

On behalf of MSCO, thank you for being a generous sponsorship this year. With your support, MSCO can work towards its mission to support and enhance the quality of cancer and treatment in Massachusetts.

Your contribution will enable MSCO to dedicate its resources to professional education, representation of cancer physicians, and advocacy for cancer patients. The Society also works to address important issues such as third-party reimbursement, legislation, and barriers to quality care.

Without your support, we would not be able to reach our goals. Thank you once again for your generous support to MSCO.

[View Our Corporate Members](#)

FDA Approvals

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved **EXKIVITY™ (mobocertinib)**, the first oral therapy to target epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) exon 20 insertion mutations in metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). [More information](#). September 15, 2021. [Press Release](#).

Food and Drug Administration approved **zanubrutinib (Brukinsa, BeiGene)** for adult patients with Waldenström's macroglobulinemia (WM). [More information](#). August 31, 2021.

Food and Drug Administration approved **WELIREG™ (belzutifan)** 40-mg tablets. WELIREG is

Foundation Medicine has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for

indicated for the treatment of adult patients with von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease who require therapy for associated renal cell carcinoma (RCC), central nervous system (CNS) hemangioblastomas, or pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (pNET), not requiring immediate surgery. [Press Release](#). August 12, 2021. [Drug Information](#).

FoundationOne Liquid CDx as a companion diagnostic for TABRECTA (capmatinib.) FoundationOne Liqueide CDx is now approved to identify patients with MED exon 14 (METex14) skipping metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who may be appropriate for treatment with TABRECTA (capmatinib). [Press Release](#). July 15, 2021. [Drug Information](#).

Merck would like to share that the Food and Drug Administration approved **KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab)** Injection 100 mg for the treatment of patients with locally advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC) that is not curable by surgery or radiation. This follows the 2020 approval of KEYTRUDA to treat patients with recurrent or metastatic cSCC that is not curable by surgery or radiation. [Press Release](#). July 6, 2021. [Drug Information](#).

New Patient Support Programs

Janssen Compass

Janssen Compass is a new patient offering, with a single point of contact for your patient, helping to clarify their path by providing information, education, and helping them become better advocated for themselves. [Janssen Compass Program Overview](#) to learn more or visit the website at <https://www.janssencompass.com/>.
