

2019 Impact Report

"This year we launched a five-year strategic plan, our blueprint for ensuring scientific leadership, fostering innovation and collaboration, leading in training and mentoring, developing new approaches to partnerships, and using resources effectively and efficiently. We're already executing our plan, and have a bright future ahead."

Charles D. Blanke

— Charles D. Blanke, MD
SWOG Cancer Research Network Group Chair

Dr. Primo "Lucky" Lara, Jr.,
SWOG's deputy chair, is leading
our strategic planning efforts



Our Data

- **13** SWOG trials activated | **8** SWOG trials closed
- **38** SWOG trial concepts reviewed by leadership
- **15** requests for trial data granted
- **3,462** patients enrolled on all SWOG-run trials, not counting screening registrations
- **88** journal articles published
- **63%** published in high-impact factor journals
- **74** oral or poster presentations made
- **45%** of presentations were oral

Dr. Dawn Hershman launched S1916, a pilot study from the cancer care delivery committee that will track adherence to opioids. It's the very first cancer clinical trial to test the digital medicine system developed by Proteus Digital Health, which includes an ingestible and trackable "digital pill."

85 New Member Sites



Our Highlights



Eileen Fuentes



Michelle Denault

Welcome **Eileen Fuentes** and **Michelle Denault**, our first community advocates. The community advocate program will bring in a total of 10 additional advocates to SWOG to provide a front-line patient view and help members connect with diverse patient communities. Eileen Fuentes, a clinical coordinator at Columbia University's Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, has strong ties to the Latinx cancer community, while Michelle Denault, a young survivor of stage IV non-Hodgkin lymphoma who participated in a CART trial, has experience in the advanced stage cancer community and has ties to Native American communities.

• **We developed and launched our first strategic plan in years.** Thanks to the more than 50 committee chairs who gathered in San Francisco to reflect on our work, and shape it through 2024 by giving us input on our future goals. Members can access the new strategic plan that came from our San Francisco session by logging into SWOG.org and visiting this [page](#).

• **We got our grant funding.** This year we received National Cancer Institute notices of award for our National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) and NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) core grants, as well as a notice of award on our statistics and data management center grant. We got very strong scores on all three grants, and in every case, we will get more funding for the next six years than we did in our last grant cycle.

• **We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the SWOG Latin America Initiative.** Since its founding, the initiative has enlisted the cancer institutes of Mexico, Colombia, and Peru as members, enrolled over 600 Latin American patients onto NCTN trails, and trained more than 500 Latin American researchers. Five NCI studies are close to activation in Latin America, and three more regional countries are slated to join SWOG in 2020.

• **We showed – again – that NCTN research matters.** In *JAMA Network Open*, SWOG biostatistician and health services researcher Dr. Joseph Unger showed how SWOG and other NCTN groups delivers high value at a comparatively low cost. The analysis of 82 phase III SWOG trials showed that 45 percent influenced clinical care guidelines or new FDA drug approvals. And the average cost of an NCTN-run trial that led to an FDA approved drug was \$123.6 million, compared to the \$1.73 billion average cost of a similar industry trial.

• **We'll change the standard of cancer care – again.** It was a good year for practice-changing SWOG trial results. Dr. Rita Mehta published S0226 results in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that showed that women with metastatic hormone receptor-positive breast cancer live longer when they receive a combination of two anti-estrogen drugs. Also in *NEJM*, Dr. Ian Thompson, Dr. Catherine Tangen, and Phyllis Goodman published final, long-term data from our landmark Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial, which showed that the prostate cancer prevention effects of the hormone-blocking drug finasteride are long-lasting and that fewer than 100 of the 18,882 men enrolled on the trial died from the disease. Finally, most people diagnosed with the most common type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma can safely skip radiation treatment after a clear PET scan, according to S1001 findings presented by Dr. Daniel Persky at the *ASH* annual meeting.

THE HOPE FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH



Propelling Cancer Research Careers

“ Dr. Virginia Sun is making great research happen, and she's doing it with help from The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research. Since 2016, Dr. Sun has leveraged five different Hope grants to further her research, take on new leadership roles within SWOG and, as of December 2019, launch her first network-wide clinical trial. S1820 is the culmination of years of hard work, and we're so pleased we could support its development along the way. It's our mission to help SWOG improve lives through cancer clinical trials, and success stories like Dr. Sun's help us show how we're doing just that. Thank you to our donors who make all our efforts possible. ”

JRH
Johanna R. Horn
President & CEO
The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research

- 2016**
SWOG Young Investigator Training Course
- 2016-18**
SEED Fund Grant
- 2019**
Great Idea Grant:
Immunotherapy SAE Symposium
- 2019**
Trial-Specific Education Grant
- 2019**
SWOG Trial Support Grant
& Launch of S1820

Virginia Sun, PhD, RN
SWOG Investigator

