Joint Metastasis Research Society-AACR Conference

In conjunction with the Tumor Microenvironment Working Group of the AACR

The Joint Metastasis Research Society – AACR Conference, in conjunction with the Tumor Microenvironment Working Group of the AACR, will be held in Boston, MA. At this time, two timeslots are under consideration, September 10-16 or 19-24, 2010. Please hold both dates until further notice. The meeting will be co-chaired by Patricia Steeg, President of the MRS and Bruce Zetter, Chairperson of the Tumor Microenvironment Working Group of the AACR. We plan joint sessions as well as some concurrent sessions to accommodate the wealth of interests of the two groups. Boston is a
Chinese Metastasis Research Society Meeting

Report of Potential Areas of Collaboration with the MRS

Rik Thompson

Meeting to discuss collaboration between China metastasis research society (CMRS) and the International metastasis research society (MRS): Lunchtime meeting at the 8th Chinese Tumour Metastasis Meeting (8CTMM), Tianjin, July 3-6, 2009.

The meeting agenda was developed at a joint meeting between Drs. Patricia Steeg, President, MRS and Qinghua Zhou, President Elect, CMRS, during the AACR meeting at Denver, Colorado, USA on April 19, 2009. The meeting was predicated on the shared agreement that both societies are willing to initiate collaboration between MRS and CMRS.

Attendees:

Wei-gang Fang, President CMRS (Chair); Qinghua Zhou, Vice-President, CMRS ; Yinglin Lu, Associate President CMRS, PLA Medical Institute, China; Yanqin Ding, Associate President CMRS, Southern Medical University, China; Hongquan Zhang, CMRS Board Member, Beijing University, China; Guangying Zhu, Cancer Hospital/Institute, Beijing University, China; Hui Li, Zaoyang Hospital, Beijing Capital Medical University, China; Chengping Hu, Xiangya Hospital, South-Central University, China; Li Cai, Cancer Hospital/Institute, Haerbin Medical University, China; Rik Thompson, Pres. Elect, MRS, Australia; Yibin Kang, MRS Board Member, USA; Kazuyuli Itoh, MRS Board Member, Secretary General of JMRS; Nora Navone, MD Anderson, USA; Evan Keller, Michigan, USA; Elizabeth Williams, Melbourne, Australia; Leland Chung, Atlanta, USA; Jian Zhang, Pittsburgh, USA; Jesse Roman, Atlanta, USA

Several discussion points agreed upon by Drs. Steeg and Zhou were as follows:

A. Collaboration in organising a Joint meeting every two years in China. This proposal was met favourably by both sides. Both CMRS and MRS meet every two years, on an alternating schedule. The possibility that MRS can join CMRS it’s gap year is thus very real. This possibility was very well received. Such biennial integration of MRS members would strongly facilitate interaction. It was noted that discussions are ongoing for similar joint meetings with the European MRS, and something similar may be possible with the Japanese MRS.

B. Collaboration in carrying out clinical trials. Dr. Fang described the extensive involvement of Chinese Hospitals / Institutions in clinical trials, and expressed a willingness to encourage collaboration. Some discussion ensued on which bodies may best coordinate this, and the involvement of clinical trials networks. The relative lack of clinical members in MRS compared to CMRS and JMRS was noted, however, it was felt this as an important area to develop further. Dr Itoh described the membership of ~15
pharmaceutical companies in JMRS and a large proportion of pharmaceutical company members (~30-40%) and clinicians (~30-40%), which facilitates clinical trial access. Dr Fang mentioned that clinician membership in CMRS is growing, but so far they have no Pharmaceutical members. Dr. Thompson mentioned that while MRS is very keen to encourage clinical involvement in MRS, we have not yet been very successful. As a first step, it was suggested that we compile a list of metastasis-relevant clinical trials ongoing in China and internationally. In particular, knowledge of clinical trials and access, through appropriate mechanisms, to the clinical trial materials could lead the way to important collaborative work.

Leland Chung suggested a clinical trials workshop / course, such as that provided at Cedar Sinai, to educate and orientate young researchers about clinical trials.

Yibin mentioned Sino-American Pharmaceutical Organization (SAPA) which has a large poll of members in both the US pharmaceutical companies and in biotech/pharma companies in China. Many of these members are actively involved in outsourced preclinical development and clinical trial work in China. SAPA organizes annual Bioforum meetings in China (Shanghai) and their involvement with MRS/CMRS joint meetings may facilitate the discussion about collaboration in clinical trials.

C. Collaboration in applying for international grants both in China and the USA (internationally) Two types of grant were discussed:
   a. Organisational grants to government agencies, to seek funds for better cooperation between the two societies, given the importance of metastasis to the cancer mission. It was agreed for both CMRS and MRS members and executive to search for such opportunities.
   b. Investigator-initiated research applications It was agreed that the opportunity for several MRS members to attend the CMRS meeting was an important first step in identifying future collaborators and co-applicants for such applications. It was mentioned that NIH, DOD, Susan Komen and many other agencies has specific grants for international cooperation. It was mentioned that the Natural Science Foundation and the Ministry of Science and Technology in China has two mechanisms for international cooperation, one for collaborative work and another to support visiting scientists, etc. Funds can be used both for domestic labs and for collaborating labs overseas. In light of the rapidly growing investment on scientific research in China, such funding could become a major source for supporting international collaborations in the future.

Both CMRS and MRS should work on coming up with a comprehensive information package about currently available funding mechanisms (in US, China, and other countries) for international collaborations. It was agreed that the newsletter (MRS) and e-mail network (CMRS) would be a good instrument to keep members updated about such opportunities.
D. **Collaboration in Translational Research** In the interests of time this item was considered as similar to item B above, with strong support to explore further.

E. **Collaboration in helping MRS to set up training programs for Chinese post-docs for overseas study (USA, Australia, Europe, etc)** Three possibilities were raised, with an decision to initially start with the first:
   a. *Screening of Chinese applicant CVs by CMRS* MRS may send CVs of applicants to the CMRS secretary, and CMRS will provide an ad-hoc assessment as to their credentials
   b. *CMRS Certification system* whereby applicants seek such a certification pre-application;
   c. *CMRS coordinated collection* of potential postdocs. A call would be made from CMRS to all graduating PhD students or other interested postdocs as to whether they were interested in postdoctoral opportunities abroad (such information can be provided by MRS members based on their lab funding situation). Those who did would be assessed for authentication and the whole package sent to MRS. The timing of such recruiting effort can be arranged in Spring, when Chinese graduate students are approaching the time for their graduation.

This would be a great help. In discussion it was noted that opportunities for foreigners to post-doc in China were growing, and Dr. Thompson noted that MRS will be happy to reciprocate. This mechanism may encourage student membership in MRS/CMRS, since they can have the accreditation when applying outside. Approach (a) above is not limited to CMRS members.

F. **Collaboration in exchange program of Clinical Fellows** (left for next discussion due to lack of time)

G. **Collaboration in establishing Practise Guidelines for the treatment of tumour metastases** (left for next discussion due to lack of time)

H. **Collaboration in other areas as opportunity arises**: Dr Chung tabled a request to help disseminate information to the Chinese population in particular, for cancer prevention. Much of China’s population is spread out and not well educated about cancer risk, prevention, early detection and the importance of clinical intervention when cancer is detected. This as well supported by both sides, and Dr Fang indicated that the China Anti-Cancer Association, which co-sponsored the 8CTMM, is actively involved in general cancer awareness education in China, but the effort is mostly limited in big cities. A suggestion was raised by Dr. Kang to help prepare visitors (such as ourselves) and especially young Chinese researchers returning home to visit, with material they can pass on through public lecture, and to encourage such public lectures. A workshop annexed to each of our meetings was suggested, to provide this information and training. It was suggested that MRS and CMRS could support this activity jointly, and submissions made to Government to help provide for it.
The meeting was felt by both sides to be a great start. It was planned that this summary be prepared jointly by Drs. Thompson, Kang, Fang and Zhou, and circulated to MRS and CMRS executive and members for further discussion and development, subsequently, of an action plan.

In writing the summary, we further thought to publish the CMRS program / abstracts in Clin Exp Metastasis, so that more awareness of ongoing projects is extended further to MRS members and readers of CEM.

Erik Thompson, Yibin Kang, Wei-Gang Fang, Qinghua Zhou

July 6, 2009

MRS BYLAWS FOR YOUR REVIEW

DAN WELCH, JOHN ROBERTS, SUE ECCLES AND COLLEAGUES

Thanks to Dan and colleagues for successfully forming a subcommittee of the MRS Board to “re-do” our bylaws. This is a boring but important job. As this society has grown from a group of interested colleagues to an international organization with expanding missions, the bylaws become important. Please review the approved revision following on the next pages.

We will set up a formal vote as soon as the website works.
METASTASIS RESEARCH SOCIETY

Constitution and Bylaws

Organized October 1984

Ratified: November 1984
Revised and Approved: January 2010
PREAMBLE

Whereas cancer is one of the most deadly and fear-inducing diseases affecting mankind throughout the world;

Whereas metastasis is directly or indirectly responsible for the majority of morbidity and mortality in cancer patients;

Whereas it is the sincere belief of scientists and clinicians that control of metastasis would result in significant improvements in survival and quality of life for cancer patients;

A society dedicated to promoting increased research, to more rapidly disseminating accurate research findings, and to efficiently translating research discoveries into clinical practice is established with the goal of ending pain and suffering due to metastatic cancer.
**Article I**

**NAME**

The Organization shall be called the "Metastasis Research Society" (hereafter abbreviated MRS or Society).

**Article II**

**PURPOSE**

**Section 1** - The MRS is an international not-for-profit, volunteer, biomedical research and educational organization dedicated to:

a) promoting the advancement of research designed to understand the biology, biochemistry and molecular mechanisms responsible for, or involved in, cancer metastasis, including, but not limited to, invasion, adhesion, motility, dissemination, genetics and tumor cell-host cell interactions;

b) facilitating more effective translation of basic science findings into clinical practice that will prevent and treat cancer metastasis.

**Section 2** - The MRS will actively encourage and promote activities that improve the detection and more effective treatment of metastasis, primarily by encouraging the exchange of accurate and scientifically-based information.

**Article III**

**ORIGINS AND GOVERNANCE HISTORY**

During the conference “Treatment of Metastasis: Problems and Prospects” held at the Strand Palace Hotel in London, United Kingdom (October 15-17, 1984), seventy-nine attendees unanimously voted to form the MRS. Bylaws were adopted on November 1, 1984 and subsequently modified by amendment. In 2008, the Board of Directors recommended evaluation and updating of the bylaws. These bylaws were approved by the membership of the society in accordance with the prior bylaws and became effective on January 1, 2010.

**Article IV**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1** - Anyone meeting the qualifications in Section 3 and interested in the biological, biochemical or molecular bases of cancer metastasis, invasion, tumor progression or related processes; or interested in the clinical management of malignancies, especially metastases, may become a member by the payment of dues (See Article V) to the Secretary/Treasurer.

**Section 2** - The MRS is open to men and women over 18 years of age, without regard to race, color, creed or national origin.

**Section 3** - Membership in the Society shall be in three categories: Full, Postdoctoral or Student.

- a) Full Members are those who have completed postgraduate training and are serving in independent positions (e.g., faculty, scientists in research organizations or industry, research administrators);

- b) Post-doctoral membership shall be available to those who have completed an M.D., Ph.D., D.V.M. or equivalent graduate studies and currently serving in a non-permanent, post-doctoral training position. Eligibility for post-doctoral membership shall not last longer than seven (7) years beyond completion of the post-graduate degree. Any person desiring to become a Postdoctoral member must provide written verification of eligibility from an appropriate institutional official.

- c) Student membership is available to any full-time student currently enrolled in a program...
designed to lead to a Masters, M.D., Ph.D., or D.V.M. degree or the equivalent. Any person desiring to become a Student member must provide written verification of eligibility from an appropriate institutional official (including graduate program director or department head).

d) Sustaining membership shall be open to organizations in recognition of regular financial support

e) The Board of Directors of the Society may establish other categories of membership as they see fit.

Section 4 - Only members whose dues are paid in full and are otherwise in good standing shall be participants in voting or governance-related activities.

Section 5 - Membership can be terminated voluntarily at any time by the member himself or herself.

Section 6 - Membership can be suspended or revoked by the Board of Directors for non-payment of dues or for other ‘good and sufficient reason.’ The Board of Directors shall have full discretion as to what constitutes ‘good and sufficient reason,’ and the decision of the Board of Directors shall be final. Examples of what constitutes a good and sufficient reason include, but are not limited to: obscene, threatening or personal behaviors that disrupt MRS activities or meetings to the detriment of other members’ participation.

Article V  FISCAL YEAR, DUES AND FINANCES

Section 1 - The MRS operates on a January 1 - December 31 fiscal year.

Section 2 - Dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Current dues are established as follows. Unless explicitly designated, any dues received will be credited to the current fiscal year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Date</th>
<th>Full Member</th>
<th>Postdoctoral Member</th>
<th>Student Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$50</td>
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Section 3 - Finances will be deposited in bank accounts located and managed within the United States of America. Banking will be fully transacted in one or more accounts designated “Metastasis Research Society.”

Section 4 - The treasury of the MRS will be located in United States of America.

Section 5 - The funds and estates of the Society shall be derived from the annual subscriptions of members, grants, donations and other endowments accepted on behalf of the Society. They shall be administered by the Secretary/Treasurer acting on instructions from the Board of Directors for the furtherance of the objects of the Society.

Section 6 - The Society shall be a non-profit organization with all funds being used for the benefit of the membership by providing a forum for the exchange of scientific information.

Section 7 - The accounts of the Society shall be audited annually by a non-member and a full report made by the Secretary/Treasurer to the next General Meeting of the Society.

Section 8 - The Society may enter into relationships with other legally authorized organizations, firms or businesses at any time to facilitate the missions of the Metastasis Research Society.

Section 9 - Financial obligations in excess of $5000 will require a vote and approval by the Board of
Article VI  ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Section 1 - Management of the MRS shall be directed by the Board of Directors, composed of elected officials as stated in Articles VII and VIII.

Section 2 - The Board of Directors will, insomuch as possible, reflect the international composition of the society. At least one representative from the Americas, Europe/Africa and Australasia will be among the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consist of nine (9) members in good standing plus the officers. All members of the Board of Directors and officers will be elected by a vote of all members in good standing at the time the election is announced.

Section 3 - Officers of the Board of Directors will be:
   a) President
   b) Immediate Past-President
   c) President-elect
   d) Secretary/Treasurer

Section 4 - MRS members in good standing may attend Board of Directors meetings and may, upon invitation, make comments. However, non-Board members may not vote at Board of Directors meetings.

Section 5 - Transactions of the Board of Directors are conducted preferably in face-to-face meetings. However, the Board of Directors may, at its choosing, conduct business using electronic, video and/or telephony, provided that a quorum has participated according to Article IX.

Section 6 - Recognition of Special Interest Groups (SIG) will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 7 - The establishment of committees to perform the duties required for the functioning of the society may be established by the Board of Directors at their discretion.

Section 8 - The Society shall hold General Meetings at a time and place as determined by the Board of Directors. The General Meetings shall be held no less than once every two calendar years, typically at the International Congress meetings.

Section 9 - Business meetings of the Society and Board of Directors will be conducted using Robert’s Rules of Order.

Article VII  DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall transact all routine Society business and generally determine Society policy, in addition to performing the duties specifically outlined in the Bylaws.

Article VIII  DUTIES AND TERMS OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - The President, in addition to being Chair of the Board of Directors and ex officio member of all committees, shall preside at all Society meetings and Board of Directors meetings, appoint and remove chairpersons of committees, act as Society spokesperson, and generally supervise communication with members.

Section 2 - The President-elect will assume the duties of the President in his/her absence. The President-elect may also serve as an ex officio member of any committee at the request of the President.
**Section 3** - The Secretary/Treasurer will:

a) maintain records of the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings and regular meetings of members. The minutes shall be promptly prepared and distributed to all Board members for corrections, if any, and confirm to all Board members final corrections, if any;

b) handle Society correspondence and, as necessary, prepare ballots for elections or surveys of the membership;

c) maintain records and custody of Society funds and membership dues, pay expenses and prepare reports of Society transactions;

d) serve as the signing official for research grants and/or contracts for the Society.

**Section 4** - All members of the Board of Directors will be expected to bring business to the Board for consideration and discussion. All members of the Board will have an equal vote.

**Section 5** - No officer or member of the Society shall receive compensation for any service he/she renders to the MRS in his/her official capacity. Officers are entitled to reasonable reimbursement for actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of his/her duties upon submission of original receipts.

**Section 6** - The terms of officers and members of the Board of Directors will be:

a) President - two (2) years;

b) President-elect - two (2) years followed by two (2) years as President;

c) Secretary/Treasurer - four (4) years and can be re-elected for another four (4) year term;

d) Immediate Past-President - two (2) years;

e) All other member of the Board of Directors - four (4) years.

f) The terms of officers and members of the Board of Directors will commence at the end of the General Meeting/International Congress following their election.

**Section 7** - Vacancies

a) In the event that a member of the Board of Directors misses three meetings during his/her term without advance notification, his/her position shall be considered vacated and the Board of Directors shall appoint a willing member for the expired portion of the term;

b) In the event of absence, resignation, death, incapacity or removal from office of the President, that office shall be taken over for the unexpired portion of the term by the President-elect;

c) If, for any reason, the President-elect is unable to assume the role of President, it shall be filled for the unexpired term by an appointment of a Board Member by the Board of Directors;

d) If any office shall become vacant, for any reason, the Board of Directors will fill the unexpired term by appointment of a member in good standing.

**Section 8** - If service by any member or officer involves duties that are in conflict with policies and procedures of their organization, government or laws, these duties will be delegated to another member of the Board of Directors. If, however, there is not another member of the Board of Directors who can assume those responsibilities, the conflicted member of the Board of Directors must resign to allow the appointment of a person who can fulfill these responsibilities.

**Article IX QUORUM**

**Section 1** - A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of not less than one half of the Board participating in any discussion, whether face-to-face or electronically.
**Section 2** - A quorum of the Society shall consist of not less than 30 members or one-half of the current membership, whichever is less, whether attending a meeting or voting electronically.

**Article X**  
**ELECTIONS**

The Secretary/Treasurer of Board of Directors shall present a single slate of nominees in good standing who are willing to serve on the Board of Directors or as Officers as described in Article VI.

The slate of nominees will be distributed to the membership by post, electronically or using a website no less than 2 months before a biennial meeting of the Society. All members in good standing will be allowed to vote for officers and Board members.

A simple majority of voting members will determine the outcome of an election. In the event of a tie, a majority vote by the Board of Directors shall determine the winner.

**Article XI**  
**MEETINGS AND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES**

**Section 1** - Announcement of Scientific and General Meetings will be made by the Secretary/Treasurer not less than four calendar months prior to the opening session of the meeting.

**Section 2** - Extraordinary Meetings will be announced by the Secretary/Treasurer not less than two weeks from the date of request.

**Section 3** - Committee Meetings will be announced by the Secretary/Treasurer not less than four weeks before the first committee meeting. Thereafter, the chairperson of the committee will announce meeting times and locations to all members of the committee not less than two weeks before a scheduled meeting.

**Section 4** - Meetings by tele- or video-conference can be called by any member of the Board of Directors to conduct society business. The Secretary/Treasurer or any officer may convene a meeting provided that a quorum is present at any time.

**Section 5** - The proceedings of the Board shall not be invalidated by an accidental omission to give any notice required in the Bylaws or by any vacancy among its members or by any defect in the election or qualification of any of its members.

**Article XII**  
**OFFICIAL JOURNALS**

**Section 1** - The Society designates the scientific journals *Clinical and Experimental Metastasis* and *Cancer and Metastasis Reviews* as its official organs.

**Section 2** - Additional journals may be chosen and sanctioned by the Society as recommended by the Officers and approved by members as allowable by the rules.

**Section 3** - Proceedings of Scientific Meetings shall normally be published at the discretion of the Society and the publishers of the official journals.

**Section 4** - The Board of Directors may, at their discretion and upon majority vote of the Board of Directors, publish newsletters, magazines, blogs, letters or other technologies to more effectively communicate with the members or the scientific and/or medical community as needed to advocate positions of the Society.

**Article XIII**  
**BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1** - A copy of the Bylaws and amendments shall be posted at the Official Metastasis Research
Society website(s) at all times. Upon request, the Secretary/Treasurer will provide a copy to any member requesting the Bylaws.

Section 2 - Amendments to the Bylaws shall first be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer in writing for consideration by the Board of Directors. The proposed amendments with the recommendations of the Board of Directors shall be submitted to membership at a business meeting or by correspondence. A two-third majority vote of those present at the General Meeting or of those voting by correspondence shall be required for adoption of a proposed amendment.

Section 3 - No alteration to the Bylaws may be made which would cause the body to cease to be charitable at law.

Article XIV  DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Proposals for the dissolution of the Society shall first be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer in writing for consideration by the Board of Directors. The proposed dissolution with the recommendations of the Board of Directors shall be submitted to the active membership by correspondence. A two-third majority vote shall be required for dissolution of the Society. The Board of Directors shall designate trustees charged with the liquidation of the Association's assets which will be donated to one or more non-profit making organizations having objectives similar to those of the Society.

Article XV  STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1 - The Paget-Ewing Award

a) Excellence in the field is recognized by the Paget-Ewing Award, named after Sir Stephen Paget and Dr. James Ewing, pioneers in metastasis research in the late 19th and early 20th centuries who proposed the two major theories to explain organ selectivity of metastasis. The Paget-Ewing Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Metastasis Research Society and will honor a person's scientific excellence and substantial contributions to the understanding and/or control of cancer metastasis. Nominations and selection of Paget-Ewing Award winners will be done in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall constitute a committee of at least three members of the society, at least one of whom is not a member of the Board of Directors, that will evaluate the qualifications of scientists and physicians for their contributions to the understanding and/or control of cancer metastasis.

Article XVI  INDEMNIFICATION

The Society shall indemnify Officers, members of the Board of Directors, and duly appointed or elected committee members ("Indemnified Parties") against expenses and liabilities actually and necessarily incurred or imposed in connection with any claim, action, suit, or proceeding (whether actual or threatened, brought by or in the right of the Society, or otherwise, civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including appeals) to which (s)he may be or is made a party by reason of being or having been an Indemnified Party of the Society to the full extent permitted by law.

The Society may exercise any powers it is authorized to exercise, including the power to purchase and maintain indemnification insurance. Indemnification will not apply to matters in which Indemnified Parties are adjudged to be guilty of a criminal offense.

Amounts paid in indemnification of expenses and liabilities may include, but shall not be limited to, counsel fees and other fees, cost and disbursements judgments, fines, penalties, and amounts paid in settlement by such Indemnified Parties. The Society may, at its expense, undertake the defense of any Indemnified Party, provided that the Indemnified Party will reimburse such expenses, if it is ultimately determined that (s)he is not entitled to indemnification under this Article.

The indemnification provided for in this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such Indemnified Party may be entitled, under any law, bylaw, agreement, and vote of the
Board of Directors and shall not restrict the power of the Society to make any indemnification permitted by law. Indemnification as provided for in this Article shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators, or other legal representatives of an Indemnified Party. If any part of this Article shall be found, in any action, suit, or proceeding, to be invalid or ineffective, the validity and the effectiveness of the remaining parts shall not be affected.