

MEMBERS

IN THE NEWS



John R. Durant, MD

John R. Durant, MD, Executive Vice President of ASCO received the 1999 Distinguished Southern Oncologist Award, the highest honor bestowed on an oncologist by the Southern

Association for Oncology (SAO). Dr. Durant was honored in recognition of "his extensive contributions to our better understanding of the treatment of cancer patients and his lifelong commitment as both an educational and political leader in the field of oncology," according to Anthony Greco, MD, Chairman of the SAO's Award Selection Committee. "He is deserving of an honor far greater than we have the power to bestow," he added. Before serving as ASCO's Executive Vice President, Dr. Durant was the Director of the Medical Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) (1988-1995), President of the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia (1982 to 1988), and Director of UAB's Comprehensive Cancer Center (1970 to 1982). Previously this year, Dr. Durant received ASCO's Special Recognition Award (presented at the 1999 Annual Meeting).

Ronald Beller, PhD, was recently named Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ASCO. Dr. Beller began his work for ASCO when Dr. Durant was appointed as the Society's first Executive Vice President. He was hired as the Director of Finance and Administration in 1995 and became the Vice President for Administration two years later. Over the

four years since joining ASCO, Dr. Beller's responsibilities have expanded from the management of financial and administrative systems to his current duties which entail relatively broad general management efforts in support of the Executive Vice President. Dr. Beller said that one of his major goals is to "oversee the ASCO staff's expansion and organization so that it continues to enhance its collaboration with volunteers as the Society's mission grows in size and complexity." His other goals include the completion of strategic plans for ASCO's departments that reflect and implement the recently completed round of planning by ASCO's Board of Directors, the successful transition of the successor to Dr. Durant as Executive Vice President, and a smooth move of the Society's offices to new headquarters within the next 12-15 months.



Ronald Beller, PhD

Curt Civin, MD, Director of the Division of Pediatric Oncology at Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, was honored with the 1999 Inventor of the Year Award, presented by the Intellectual Property Owners Association. Dr. Civin received the award for his development of the CD34 monoclonal antibody, which allows the isolation of stem cells. "[Dr. Civin's] breakthrough discovery of the CD34 stem cell monoclon-



Curt Civin, MD

al antibody and antigen has revolutionized basic research and provided many new options in cancer therapy and particularly bone marrow transplantation," commented Martin Abeloff, MD, Director of the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center. Dr. Civin said that he is "tremendously honored by this award," adding "I'm glad to see the work recognized for the science and its application to helping treat people with cancer." Dr. Civin has been at Johns Hopkins since 1979 and is also the King Fahd Professor of Oncology and Pediatrics at the University. He has been an ASCO member since 1980 and has served on the Cancer Education Committee, the Program Committee, and the Young Investigators Award Selection Committee. He was instrumental in the development of the policies for the Clinical Research and Career Development Award.

Patricia A. Ganz, MD, has received a Clinical Research Professorship from the American Cancer Society (ACS). The Professorship is the ACS's most prestigious research grant, and it is the first time that the award has been given in the area of health outcomes and cancer control, as well as the first time it has been given to a woman. Dr. Ganz is Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research at the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center, Los Angeles and Professor in UCLA's School of Public Health and School of Medicine.



Patricia A. Ganz, MD

The five-year grant will support Dr. Ganz's investigations of women at high risk for breast cancer, quality of life among cancer survivors, and genetic links to family histories of the disease. Dr. Ganz is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and served as the first Consultant Editor in Psychosocial Issues in Oncology for the JCO. She has been a member of several ASCO Committees, including the Program, Cancer Education, Health Services Research, and Patient Advocacy Committees.

Barrie R. Cassileth, PhD, has been named the first Chief of Integrative Medicine Service in the Department of