

• [www.rtog.org](http://www.rtog.org)

• [www.nsabp.org](http://www.nsabp.org)

**CONTACT:** RTOG  
Sharon Hartson Stine  
[shartson@acr.org](mailto:shartson@acr.org)  
Office: 215.717.0834  
Mobile: 609.458.5604

NSABP  
Joan Beyer Goldberg, CEO  
[joan.goldberg@nsabp.org](mailto:joan.goldberg@nsabp.org)  
Office: 412-330-4601

## **RTOG & NSABP Intent to Form an Alliance Announced**

**Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, PA** – The Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) and the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) have announced their intent to join together to conduct oncology research and apply for National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding as a collaborative alliance. Both RTOG and NSABP are National Cancer Institute-funded cooperative oncology groups.

“NCI has described its plan to support no more than four adult cancer cooperative groups as of January 2014. Given this scenario, the two groups believe it is in the mutual best interests of the groups and for cancer patients to form an alliance which will ultimately constitute one of these funded cooperative groups,” said Walter J. Curran, Jr., M.D., the RTOG Group Chair and the Executive Director of the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. “Many of the details of this alliance will be developed in order to improve clinical trials and respond to NCI’s funding opportunity application (FOA) anticipated to be released within the next 18 months.”

According to Norman Wolmark, M.D., the NSABP Group Chair and Director of Oncology at West Penn Allegheny Health System, “NSABP with its internationally renowned research for patients with or at risk for breast and colorectal cancer and RTOG with its outstanding research portfolio for patients with brain tumors, digestive and respiratory cancers, and prostate cancer, complement each other in many ways. Our two groups have worked in a truly collaborative and complementary manner on a large phase 3 trial testing partial breast irradiation for women with early stage breast cancer (NSABP-B39/RTOG-0413) and are developing a joint phase 2 trial for women with breast cancer. We are confident that our new alliance will create a cancer research organization that is even stronger than the sum of the two existing organizations.”

Representatives of the two groups have already met and have formed a transition team. The groups have agreed to structure the new leadership and governance structure in a manner which is efficient for the function of the new alliance and respectful of the culture of each of the existing cooperative groups.

Both Drs. Wolmark and Curran emphasized that the NSABP and RTOG will seek every opportunity to create optimal synergies between the strengths of each organization and to leverage the strengths of both groups into a robust cancer research enterprise.

###

*The NSABP Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation, is headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA. Over its 50 year history, the NSABP has designed and conducted clinical trials that have changed the way colorectal and breast cancers are treated. NSABP breast cancer prevention studies have provided high risk women with chemoprevention options. With research sites at nearly 1,000 major medical centers, university hospitals, large oncology practice groups, and health maintenance organizations nationally and internationally, the NSABP has enrolled more than 110,000 women and men in clinical trials in breast and colorectal cancer. More than 7,000 physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals conduct NSABP treatment and prevention trials.*

*The Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) is administered by the American College of Radiology (ACR), and located in the ACR Center for Clinical Research in Philadelphia, PA. RTOG is a multi-institutional international clinical cooperative group funded primarily by National Cancer Institute grants CA21661, CA32115 and CA37422. RTOG has 40 years of experience in conducting clinical trials and is comprised of over 300 major research institutions in the United States, Canada, and internationally. The group currently is currently accruing to 40 studies that involve radiation therapy alone or in conjunction with surgery and/or chemotherapeutic drugs or which investigate quality of life issues and their effects on the cancer patient.*