

**BACKGROUNDER:
CANCER RESEARCH STUDIES, INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCHERS
FUNDED BY ATHENA PARTNERS**

Athena Partners' donation will support the following three research studies at three leading medical institutions.

BREAST CANCER BIOMARKER STUDY

About the Study

Athena Partners supports breast cancer biomarker discovery work at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The research team, led by Nicole Urban, Sc.D. and Nathalie Scholler, M.D., Ph.D., has identified some of the most promising ovarian cancer early detection markers currently under evaluation. Athena's gift will supplement an ongoing ovarian cancer biomarker study, so that similar laboratory methods can be used to identify early detection biomarkers for breast cancer.

About Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, home of two Nobel laureates, is an independent, nonprofit research institution dedicated to the development and advancement of biomedical research to eliminate cancer and other potentially fatal diseases. Fred Hutchinson receives more funding from the National Institutes of Health than any other independent U.S. research center. Recognized internationally for its pioneering work in bone-marrow transplantation, the center's four scientific divisions collaborate to form a unique environment for conducting basic and applied science. Fred Hutchinson, in collaboration with its clinical and research partners, the University of Washington and Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in the Pacific Northwest and is one of 38 nationwide. For more information, visit the center's Web site at <www.fhcrc.org>. *Advancing Knowledge, Saving Lives*

BREAST CANCER VACCINE STUDY

About the Study

Athena Partners supports breast cancer vaccine research at UW Medicine. Led by Nora Disis, M.D., the research team conducts some of the most promising cancer vaccine trials taking place in the nation today. Athena's gift will be used to discover new antigens that will be a component of a multi-antigen vaccine to prevent breast cancer relapse.

Relapse after successful treatment for breast cancer is a major clinical problem. Several proteins implicated in the development of breast cancer have been identified and many of those proteins can stimulate an immune response in breast cancer patients. Vaccines targeting proteins that may cause breast cancer could potentially be effective in triggering long term immune responses that may prevent distant relapse.

About UW Medicine

UW Medicine long has been among the nation's leaders in medical education, biomedical research, and patient care. UW Medicine — composed of the Harborview Medical Center, UW Medical Center, the University of Washington School of Medicine, and affiliated

neighborhood clinics — continues to define and expand the new frontiers of biomedicine. Through partnerships with other institutions such as the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center, UW Medicine expands its participation in many medical initiatives that each year affect countless individuals across the Pacific Northwest and the nation.

www.uwmedicine.org.

OVARIAN CANCER BIOMARKER STUDY

About the Study

Athena Partners supports ovarian cancer biomarker research facilitated by the Marsha Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research. Athena's gift will be used to fund pilot studies focused on discovery and/or development of biomarkers that can be used in a serum marker panel to detect ovarian cancer while it is still confined to the ovary and curable.

About Marsha Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research

Founded in 1996 by renowned oncologist Dr. Saul Rivkin and his five daughters in memory of his wife who passed away after a long battle with ovarian cancer, the Marsha Rivkin Center works closely with its renowned partners: Swedish Medical Center, the region's most extensive cancer treatment facility which has been treating cancer patients for more than 80 years; and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, internationally recognized for its pioneering research. The Marsha Rivkin Center is dedicated to saving lives and reducing suffering through improved treatment, early detection and prevention of ovarian cancer.

www.marsharivkin.org.

ABOUT THE RESEARCHERS

Nicole Urban, Sc.D.

Nicole Urban, Sc.D. is program head of the Gynecological Cancer Research Program and member of the Cancer Prevention Research Program of the Public Health Sciences Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC). In addition, she is research professor at University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Department of Health Service and also serves as scientific director of the Marsha Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research.

Dr. Urban received her Sc.D. from Harvard University. She heads the Translational and Outcomes Research (TOR) group at FHCRC, which spans the process of discovery, development, and evaluation of targets and interventions to improve outcomes for individuals at risk for cancer. In September 1999, Dr. Urban and colleagues at five local collaborating research institutions were awarded a National Cancer Institute Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant in ovarian cancer. Dr. Urban is also the principal investigator of a Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Center of Excellence grant for the Evaluation of Biomarkers for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer.

Dr. Urban's research goal is to define serum marker panels that can be used in conjunction with current screening methods to improve early detection of ovarian and breast cancer, particularly aggressive cancers and those frequently missed by imaging. She serves as co-

chair of the Gynecologic Cancers Progress Review Group for the National Cancer Institute, charged with developing a national plan for the next five years of gynecologic cancer research.

Mary L. (Nora) Disis, M.D.

Dr. Disis is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Washington and associate member of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC). Dr. Disis is an expert in breast and ovarian cancer immunology and translational research. She is co-principal investigator of the Ovarian Cancer SPORE awarded to the FHCRC. Dr. Disis is the recipient of a Mid-Career Investigator Award from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop a training program in tumor immunology for cancer vaccines, and was the 2003 recipient of the UW School of Medicine Center of Women's Health Award for Outstanding Mentorship. She pioneered the development of HER-2/neu as a human tumor antigen and has led several clinical trials vaccinating cancer patients to develop immunity against HER-2/neu. She holds 10 patents in the field of targeted cancer therapy.

Dr. Disis is a member of the CTEP/NCI Vaccine Working Group, the AACR Immunology Task Force, NCI Clinical Oncology Study Section, and an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation. She is also the co-Director of Translational Research for the UW Breast Cancer Program, Associate Program Head for the Gynecologic Malignancy Program at the FHCRC, and Director of the Center for Translational Medicine in Women's Health at the UW.