ACG 2012 Couric Lecture: Optimizing Diagnosis and Management of Patients with Hereditary Colorectal Cancer

The era of personalized genomic healthcare is here. Practitioners can no longer rely only on their clinical intuition to make decisions. With the sequencing of the human genome, valuable information is available to help make diagnostic, predictive, treatment, and prognostic decisions for optimal benefit of our patients. Discussing the role of genomics and genetics in the diagnosis and management of patients with colorectal polyps and cancer, Carol A. Burke, MD, FACP, delivered the ACG 2012 Emily Couric Memorial Lecture, “Optimizing the Diagnosis and Management of Patients with Hereditary Colorectal Cancer.”

Carol A. Burke, MD, FACP, delivered the ACG 2012 Emily Couric Memorial Lecture entitled, “Optimizing the Diagnosis and Management of Patients with Hereditary Colorectal Cancer.”

Her lecture also reviewed the importance of universal testing of colorectal cancer to allow the timely diagnosis of Lynch Syndrome, which she said accounts for 1 in 35 colorectal cancers, and for consideration of APC and MYH testing for patients with multiple cumulative adenomas (Sapna Syngal, JAMA 2012).

“I hope my lecture increased a clinician’s awareness of the tools available for gastroenterologists, colorectal surgeons and other endoscopists to make the molecular diagnosis of the cause of colorectal cancer and allow the optimal treatment of patients, and especially their families, when a diagnosis of hereditary colon cancer is made.”

Dr. Burke is the Director of the Center for Colon Polyp and Cancer Prevention in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Cleveland Clinic. Through 20 years of gastroenterology practice, Dr. Burke has balanced her passion for treating patients with colorectal cancer prevention research.

Dr. Burke is internationally known for her work in hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes and research on the use of agents to prevent colon polyps and cancer. Her research funding sources include the National Cancer Institute, Department of Defense, the ACG, and industry.

She is past Chair of ACG’s Educational Affairs Committee, Women in Gastroenterology Committee, and is currently on the Board of Trustees. She is past Associate Editor of The American Journal of Gastroenterology, has authored numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts, abstracts, and book chapters, and is a frequent reviewer for many digestive disease journals.

About the Emily Couric Lecture

The Emily Couric Lecture was developed by the ACG, the Virginia Gastroenterological Society and the Old Dominion Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates to honor Virginia State Senator Emily Couric who died of pancreatic cancer in October 2001. Senator Couric was a strong advocate for health care issues, particularly in her instrumental work to pass the nation’s first legislation mandating health insurance coverage for colorectal cancer screening.

Mass General Hospital Team Wins GI Jeopardy Competition at ACG 2012

Massachusetts General Hospital’s Harry Thomas, MD, and Manish Gala, MD, were the winners of this year’s GI Jeopardy competition in Las Vegas. In a particularly challenging battle, the two secured their lead and the win with the correct final answer – systemic mastocytosis. GI Jeopardy is just one of several trainee activities created and executed annually by ACG’s Training Committee.

Mass General beat four other two-person teams, all representing the five highest scoring programs from the online competition that took place in August. Along with the coveted GI Jeopardy trophy to proudly display back at their home institution, Dr. Thomas and Dr. Gala were both awarded a $1,000 travel grant to the 2013 ACG Annual Meeting and Postgraduate Course in San Diego, California. Past Chair of ACG’s Training Committee, Ronald Szyjkowski, MD, FACP, again served as host for the event, providing an entertaining experience for all.

This year’s GI Jeopardy teams were Massachusetts General Hospital, Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education (Rochester), Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital (Cornell Campus), Stanford University and UCLA Medical Center.

Massachusetts General Hospital’s Harry Thomas, MD, and Manish Gala, MD, flank Dr. Ronald Szyjkowski, who served as the emcee.