As summer brings us long days and outdoor activities, there is no room for torpor among the oncology community. The annual lead-in to summer consists of two big events: the ECOG-ACRIN Spring Group Meeting in May, and the ASCO Annual Meeting in June. Both have reported results – detailed in this issue – that will keep us busy over the next several months. As you heard at the EA General Session, Dr. April Salama presented the results of Arm H of MATCH – a trial of dabrafenib (a RAF inhibitor) and trametinib (a MEK inhibitor) in patients whose tumors harbor a V600 mutation. The results were markedly positive across a range of different histologies. Our goal is to expand accrual to this trial, in the hope that with a larger number of patients, these results across tumor types will be confirmed – and if so, support a broad regulatory approval for this combination. Though MATCH was designed as a screening trial, the opportunity to bring effective drugs and regimens to genomically-defined patient populations, no matter how rare their tumor, must be availed of. We believe that there is the will on the part of all involved to help make this happen, and we will certainly keep you updated. The observation and the drive to carry MATCH forward for maximum impact emphasizes further the value of this initial precision medicine approach in oncology. Of the eleven treatment arms of MATCH reported to this point, three have been positive so far, and will help to define standards of care. So it is with some confidence that we work with our colleagues at NCI and in the other cooperative groups to develop the next generation of such trials.

Since March, planning has been underway to branch out the current EA-led NCI-MATCH trial to three trials based on the same model: ComboMATCH to be led by EA, an AML trial led by the NCI, and an immunological trial, I-MATCH, to be led by SWOG. Following preliminary meetings in Rockville, both pharma and interested investigators from across the groups were invited to meet at ASCO, where the plans were outlined and ideas invited for arms of the ComboMATCH trial. The ideas can come from companies or from investigators, and each group is tasked with organizing and prioritizing a set of trial proposals. This effort in EA is being chaired by Dr. James Ford, Stanford, who also serves as Co-PI of the trial. The therapeutic trial protocols in ComboMATCH are being proposed now, and discussions will continue over several months. We detail in this issue the process for submitting proposals, and encourage all investigators to participate.

Significant advances in randomized trials from ECOG-ACRIN are also discussed in this issue. Refinement of recurrence risk in young women with breast cancer by the addition of tumor size and grade was presented by Dr. Joseph Sparano. These features have long been known to determine recurrence risk, and their identification as independent variables provides context (as do the results of MATCH) to the incorporation of genomic data into treatment decisions. Dr. Ahmad Tahrini’s presentation showing that ipilimumab is superior to high-dose interferon in adjuvant therapy of high-risk melanoma in E1609 is an important milestone in this disease, and provides solid underpinning of the emerging role of checkpoint inhibitors. Dr. Len Appleman’s presentation of the results of E2810, showing that adjuvant pazopanib has no benefit in unselected patients with resected high-risk kidney cancer adds to the weight of evidence that the oral anti-angiogenic agents are inactive in this setting, and emphasizes the importance of our current IO trial in this area, EA8143. Finally, Dr. Sagar Lonial presented data that early treatment of smoldering myeloma with lenalidomide can prevent progression, a finding that will change practice in the management of this disease.

Lastly, we salute the awardees of LAPS grants in this cycle, and the new ECOG-ACRIN institutions in the Program. The scientific contributions, proficiencies in the careful conduct of ground-breaking clinical research, and accrual to trials across the groups are all recognized in these awards, and we add our congratulations.