FROM THE CO-CHAIRS
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Who gets cancer? Cancer risk is clearly not uniformly distributed across our society. Similarly, for patients who are diagnosed with cancer, survival appears to be determined in part by environmental issues. The patient's living conditions, income, resources for support, and nutrition may all influence both cancer risk and outcomes of treatment. In ECOG-ACRIN, under the leadership of Melissa Simon, MD and Edith Mitchell, MD, we address some of these issues as they relate to race and ethnicity. We are now ready to build upon this work, and to embark upon a broadening of this inquiry to consider the larger topic of “Social Determinants of Health.”

In this new focus we are fortunate to have the involvement of one of the most influential thinkers in the field of cancer causation, Otis Brawley, MD. From an eleven-year stint as the Chief Medical and Scientific Officer and Executive Vice President of the American Cancer Society, Dr. Brawley has recently joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University, with an appointment as the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor in both the School of Public Health and the Kimmel Cancer Center. Bringing together leaders from the Health Equity, Prevention, and Cancer Care Delivery Research Committees, along with academic and community oncologists, we will develop research objectives and specific questions over the next several months. Dr. Brawley will also bring forward some perspectives to guide the dialogue during the General Session of our Fall Group Meeting, October 24 — 26, 2019 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The General Session, open to all attendees, takes place Friday, October 25 from 6:00 — 7:30 PM. We hope that your participation and feedback in this forum will help to guide this new direction.

We also announce new leadership of the Prevention Subcommittee. Ably directed by Raymond Bergan, MD, the subcommittee has been successful in the approval of a new chemoprevention trial to investigate the protective effects of green tea, a topic of substantial scientific and popular interest. This is a remarkable development in that it represents the first new study in this field in several years. Upon Dr. Bergan's resignation to devote more time to his own research at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), we seek to maintain this momentum, and have appointed John Kirkwood, MD of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), who has graciously accepted this role. We thank Dr. Bergan for his accomplishments, and look forward to his continued involvement. In a future issue we will outline Dr. Kirkwood's plans for Prevention, and the further development of this field.

Finally, we want to remind you of an update to the structure of our semi-annual meetings, beginning with our Fall Group Meeting. Going forward, our meetings will begin with the Robert L. Comis Translational Science Symposium, a focused examination of a field of scientific opportunity. Open to all attendees, this fall's program will address a topic that resonates throughout our activities in ECOG-ACRIN: the promise and the pitfalls of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data. Symposium speakers such as Lawrence N. Shulman, MD, Deputy Director for Clinical Services, and Director of the Center for Global Cancer Medicine, at the Abramson Cancer Center, University of Pennsylvania (who directs the National Cancer Database), and Neal J. Meropol, MD, Vice President of Research Oncology at Flatiron Health, will present data-rich sources of information and their use. We hope to see you at this special session.