



**Seventh Annual Meeting
National Functional Genomics Center
September 30-October 1, 2009**

Executive Summary

The National Functional Genomics Center (NFGC) held its seventh annual meeting September 30-October 1, 2009 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to showcase the specialized research areas of NFGC affiliates, provide affiliates time to network, and allow opportunities to present updates on research projects.

The majority of members of both the External Advisory Board (EAB) and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) attended. In addition, representatives from the Department of Defense and multiple universities attended. Many Moffitt Cancer Center scientists were present, including Chief Executive Officer and Center Director Dr. William Dalton.

The meeting began with an opening address delivered by John Parker, MD, Major General USA (retired), chairman of the EAB and SAC. Dr. Parker emphasized the importance of engaging the public when speaking of medical research by “telling stories” that demonstrate the benefit to the public, rather than simply reporting data. He said that the value of the consortium is in providing more definitive diagnostics to improve medical error, reduce costs, and improve quality.

Four sessions followed over the next two days: Oncogenomics, Animal Models in Translational Research, Cancer Stem Cells, and Personalized Medicine. Each session featured research by an NFGC Affiliate and notable researchers in these fields, including Stephen P. Ethier, PhD, Karmanos Cancer Institute; Terry Van Dyke, PhD, University of North Carolina; Max Wicha, MD, University of Michigan Cancer Center; and William Dalton, MD, PhD, Moffitt Cancer Center. A poster session highlighting sixteen NFGC projects took place on the first day. Additionally, two break out sessions were offered, one on Government Relations and one on Honest Broker Services.

On the morning of October 2nd, members of the EAB, led by Dr. John Parker, met with the leaders of the NFGC projects, a representative from the Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center and Moffitt administrators to discuss the progress of the consortium and to plan the research activities for the upcoming year.