

CIMIT Names Yolonda Colson, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Johnson & Johnson Young Clinician Research Recipient: Aims to Improve Lung Cancer Outcomes

Boston, Mass., May 1, 2006 -- It was announced today by John A. Parrish, MD, director of CIMIT, that Yolonda Colson, MD, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, will receive a "Special Study Award" for lung cancer research. The funding was made possible through Johnson & Johnson's Corporate Office of Science and Technology (COSAT).

A study using local delivery of drugs to inhibit recurrence, Dr. Colson is focusing her work on lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths in both men and women. Despite what appears to be successful surgical resection, tumor recurrence at the site of the prior surgery still often calls for removal of a large amount of normal lung. Dr. Colson is assessing safety and feasibility of using local delivery of chemotherapeutic drugs to inhibit malignant cell growth at surgical resection using minimally invasive surgery.

Dr. Colson, whose MD is from the Mayo Medical School, noted, "For an estimated 90,000 men and 70,000 women in the US, lung cancer will be fatal. I am honored to have the opportunity to pursue a course of treatment that has the potential to reduce the risk of local tumor recurrence in our patients."

An Assistant Professor of Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, BWH, and Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard University, Dr. Colson has won some of the most prestigious academic awards available to a young surgeon-scientist. She is the 2006 recipient of the George H. A. Clowes Award from the American College of Surgeons, the most prestigious career development award given by the College. She was the first surgeon at BWH to receive the Mary Horrigan Connors award for young investigators and recipient of the Starfish Award for excellence in patient care and emotional support.

Dr. Parrish States Award Goal

The opportunity to assist young clinicians came through \$250,000 in funding from Johnson & Johnson to identify rising clinical stars dedicated to patient care and translational research. One physician from each of four member hospitals was selected to receive the CIMIT-Johnson & Johnson Young Clinician Research Award. However, it also became possible to create a special study award for an outstanding physician.

John A. Parrish, MD, director of CIMIT, said: "With this award, we were looking to attract innovative clinicians in the Boston area, passionate about patient care and willing to

dedicate part of their time for translational research."

He added: "It is our mission to accelerate the work of physicians who stay awake at night thinking about how to solve complex medical problems using minimally invasive technology. I am pleased that Dr. Colson's work was selected for special study. She will make an important contribution to lung cancer research."



Patient Care Impact

David J. Sugarbaker, MD, Chief, Division of Thoracic Surgery, Harvard Medical School, added: "Dr. Colson has chosen to focus her career on the tremendous problem of lung cancer in women and will be the first Director of the Women's Lung Cancer Center at the Dana Farber/Brigham and Women's Hospital Cancer Center. She will certainly become a leading academic surgeon-scientist."

Raphael Bueno, MD, Thoracic Surgeon at BWH, is a leader in early detection for rare lung cancer, mesothelioma. He said: "With Dr. Colson's work, this new technology has the potential to allow for minimizing the surgical resection thus allowing for minimally invasive surgery and preserving more lung function for the patients."

CIMIT: Overcoming Barriers to Innovation

CIMIT is a Boston-based research consortium of the major teaching hospitals and engineering schools dedicated to advancing the standard of patient care through collaboration and development of novel technologies and therapies.

Each year CIMIT selects some 40 new research projects from multidisciplinary teams to receive science awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000. There are 150 active projects from more than 300 awarded to date. Additionally there have been 400 peer-reviewed publications. CIMIT-supported projects have led to the formation of 170 invention disclosures, 80 patent applications, and 30 options and license agreements. Ten small businesses have been created or strategically impacted by CIMIT technology. With enabled funding of more than \$120 million, CIMIT has significantly impacted the standard of care.

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As part of CIMIT's Award Program, its Office of Technology Development and its Industry Liaison Program help investigators overcome hurdles in business, law, intellectual property protection, and product development. The team of experts enables investigators to rapidly move ideas from bench to bedside.

About Brigham and Women's Hospital

Brigham and Women's Hospital is a founding member of CIMIT and is recognized internationally for its innovation and excellence in patient care, medical research, and training of outstanding young health professionals. As one of the nation's top hospitals, BWH is a 755-bed teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Along with its modern inpatient facilities, BWH boasts extensive outpatient services and clinics, neighborhood primary care satellite centers, state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment technologies, and innovative research laboratories.

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