

Cover legend: **H. Kim Lyerly**; a member of The Editorial Academy of
The International Journal of Oncology



Dr Lyerly was appointed the director of Duke Comprehensive Cancer Institute in May 2003. He is the George Barth Geller Professor of Cancer Research and is currently the principal investigator of the Cancer Center Core Grant, the Duke Specialized Program in Research Excellence (SPORE) grant in breast cancer, and a program project grant directed toward developing antigen specific immunity in patients with cancer. He is an internationally recognized expert in cancer therapy and cancer immunotherapy and has published over 150 scientific articles and has edited 10 textbooks on surgery, cancer immunotherapy, and novel cancer therapies. He serves on the editorial board of 12 scientific journals.

Dr Lyerly came to Duke University in 1983 as a resident in surgery. During his surgical training, Dr Lyerly was a post-doctoral fellow with Dr Dani P. Bolegnesi at Duke, and with Dr Bryan Cullen at the Howard Hughes Institute at Duke. After serving as chief resident in Surgery, Dr Lyerly joined the faculty at Duke in 1990 as a member of the Surgery and Pathology departments.

Dr Lyerly's research career has been focused on the basic and clinical immunology of cancer and chronic viral infections. Dr Lyerly is well known for his innovation in bringing basic science concepts into clinical testing and was part of the team of investigators who first reported the use of azidothymidine (AZT) for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. He developed strategies targeting virally associated tumors with viral-specific immune cells, and was the first to show this approach to be effective in eradicating tumors in mice, a technique that is now in clinical practice. He was a pioneer in the clinical testing of gene therapies for

breast cancer, colon cancer, lung cancer, and pancreatic cancer.

Dr Lyerly was one of the first investigators to explore the clinical utility of dendritic cell based vaccines for the treatment of cancer. He was the first investigator to use RNA modified cells as a therapeutic vaccine, receiving approval from the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee of the National Institutes of Health and the Federal Food and Drug Administration in February 1997. Dr Lyerly initiated and led the Program in Molecular Therapeutics at Duke which is focused on innovative strategies in cancer immunotherapy and incorporates a multidisciplinary team of basic and clinical scientists to perform basic, translational, and clinical studies of cancer vaccines and adoptive immunotherapy. The program represents a true translational research program, as basic observations are brought into the clinic in the form of innovative clinical trials, and observations from these clinical trials are then studied in laboratories of the investigators.

Dr Lyerly has devoted a considerable amount of effort to professional education. He has mentored a number of prominent investigators, and his former trainees serve on academic faculties such as Duke University; the University of California, San Francisco; the University of Wisconsin; and the University of Texas Southwestern. He is the principal investigator on a T32 training grant in surgical oncology. Dr Lyerly has served as the director of the NCI-sponsored AACR/ASCO Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop in Vail, Colorado. This workshop has trained over 1,000 clinical investigators in the principals of clinical research in cancer-targeted therapies.

Dr Lyerly is currently a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the Burroughs Wellcome Foundation. He has previously served as chairperson of the executive committee of the integration panel of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs in Breast Cancer. He also serves on American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) Grants Selection Committee, of which he served as chair in 2006. Dr Lyerly is a member of the American College of Surgeons, of which he is a fellow. In 2008, Dr Lyerly was appointed to the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) by President George W. Bush. In November 2008, Dr Lyerly was named chair of the Cancer Centers NCAB Standing Subcommittee.