

## Leaders' Update

### A message from Deputy Director Steven Grossman

Dear colleagues,

One of the key aspects of my role as deputy director at Massey Cancer Center is to help plan and develop both disease-specific and mechanism-based research working groups (RWG's). My goal is to bring forth new groups of researchers from basic science to clinical and cancer prevention and control research to collaborate around a common interest or cancer type.

Approximately two years ago, the GI Cancer RWG was formed. On the last Thursday of each month, we meet to hear a research presentation of interest and to discuss the clinical trial menu – what GI cancer trials are currently open at Massey, what kind of GI cancer trials are needed and how to move forward in translating promising GI cancer basic science studies into trials.

Within the last year, both the Metabolism and Cancer and Palliative Care RWG's were formed, led by me and Brian Cassel, Ph.D., respectively. The Metabolism and Cancer RWG meets on the second Friday every month, while the Palliative Care RWG meets on the third Monday. Currently I am partnering with the Developmental Therapeutics program on ways of accelerating the translation of concepts arising from Massey programs into investigator-initiated clinical trials. Stay tuned for more information on this initiative.

Other research groups at Massey that have long been in existence include the Breast Cancer Research Interest Group, which meets monthly on the first Thursday, and the P53 Working Group, which meets on the third Thursday of each month.

My hope is to continue forming new disease- and mechanism-based RWG's, and I welcome any ideas and suggestions for new groups. For more information about when and where Massey RWG's meet, please contact Amy Jones at [ajones@vcu.edu](mailto:ajones@vcu.edu).

Finally, I recently had the pleasure of participating on Massey's behalf in a Twitter chat with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and ABC News about advances in cancer. Thousands of researchers, patients and survivors, advocacy groups and community members participated to discuss the progress made in cancer research and treatment. A recap of the chat is available on [Massey's news blog](#). If you're a Twitter user, be sure to follow [@VCUMassey](#) to keep up with Massey's latest news.

Regards,

Steven R. Grossman, M.D., Ph.D.  
Deputy director