



*Accelerating
the
Search
for a
Cure*

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MYELOMA FOCUS

Newsletter of the

MMRF

Bonnie Hunt and The Chicago Cubs Go To Bat For The MMRF

On Wednesday, April 14th, the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation held its second annual Chicago Awards Dinner. The event took place at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago, IL, raising nearly \$600,000 toward funding myeloma research.

Kathy Giusti, MMRF President, presented Dusty Baker, Manager of the Chicago Cubs, with the **MMRF Spirit of Hope Award** for his efforts to raise awareness of the devastating effects of cancer and to promote a positive outlook toward recovery. Dusty, a prostate cancer survivor, attributes his courage to the strength he receives from family and friends. Dusty's longtime friend, Don Baylor, bench coach for the New York Mets and myeloma patient, inspired Dusty to tackle his own disease head-on and help to raise awareness about myeloma through the MMRF.



Kathy Giusti, Dusty Baker and Bonnie Hunt



Lee Miller, Sue Miller and Dusty Baker

The great success of the event came from the enormous team effort of volunteers, staff and contributors. Bonnie Hunt, actress, director, producer and writer served as the evening's Mistress of Ceremonies. Lee Miller, Partner, Piper Rudnick, LLP chaired the event, and the event's leadership team included Bob DeBaun, Lester Knight, Michael O'Halloran, David Purcell, Phil Purcell and Perry Snyderman.

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Welcome Letter

Families Funding Research

Dear Friends,

At a time when so many nonprofits are under scrutiny, it is important that donors know the dollars they give go directly to an organization's mission and are used wisely. We are proud to once again confirm that by contributing to the MMRF you are directly supporting the discovery of a cure for multiple myeloma.

The MMRF's recent four-star rating by Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charitable organizations, and our rating of excellence by the Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance confirm the MMRF's status as one of the most fiscally responsible nonprofit organizations in the country. These ratings validate what we already know -- that the MMRF places every possible dollar into research and related programs.

In addition, the MMRF's accreditation by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) means that these dollars are directed at the most strictly evaluated, highest quality research. Approval from the NCI makes the MMRF one of nine private, charitable research organizations to meet the same rigorous scientific standards that the NCI applies to its own grant issuing process.

Taken together, these three ratings mark the first time a nonprofit organization has achieved these standards. It is an amazing achievement and one of which we can all be proud.

As a contributor to the MMRF, you can feel good knowing every dollar you give is funding the best research in the world with the goal of bringing new treatments to patients as quickly as possible. By giving to the MMRF, you truly are accelerating the search for a cure.

Sincerely,



The Hurre Family

When Steve and Barb Hurre originally set up a charitable family fund, they were not sure exactly which direction they wanted the funding to go. Then Barb was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in November of 2003, and their decision became clear.

Barb was referred to the MMRF by her hematologist at Indiana University, Dr. Rafat Abonour, and immediately accessed the MMRF website to learn more about her options and about the work that was being done toward finding a cure. "The MMRF was the first organization I turned to, and their support of research and strong focus on finding a cure made them stand out among other informational resources."

The Hurrles knew that by making a gift to the MMRF they would be contributing to the most promising myeloma research and treatment development. Their gift will fund a MMRF Senior Research Award and help to ensure that this progress continues.

As for Barb, "I've been doing great and am still in the learning stage, but it's wonderful to know that the MMRF is there for me when I need them." She feels even better knowing that her family's contribution can help make a difference for her and thousands of other patients.

The Hurrles are looking forward to becoming even more involved with the Foundation, and attending the MMRF's events in Chicago, near their hometown of Beech Grove, IN.

"More than any other organization, the MMRF is truly making a difference. We're confident that by supporting the Foundation we are directly supporting the discovery of a cure."

National Accreditation

One-Of-A-Kind Organization

The MMRF's promise to patients, families and contributors has always been that the greatest percentage of funds we raise will go directly into myeloma research and related programming. The success of the MMRF and our ability to impact patients' lives depends on this promise.

The MMRF is proud to be recognized, once again, for our exceptional fiscal management. Our recent four-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charitable organizations, indicates that the MMRF has outperformed most of our peers in our ability to manage and grow finances in direct support of our cause. This four-star rating confirms that our fundraising efforts, backed by our lean and efficient operating budget, make the MMRF one of the most responsible and effective charities in the nation.



The MMRF is also proud to be in compliance with the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance standards for charity accountability. This accreditation is further indication of our financial responsibility and confirmation that contributions made to the MMRF are directly contributing to the cause of finding a cure for multiple myeloma.

These accountability ratings are complemented by the MMRF's recent approval from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for our grant review and research selection process. The MMRF's research grant issuance process is one of only nine private, charitable research organizations that meet the same rigorous scientific standards that the NCI applies to its own grant issuing process. The MMRF distributes contributions only to the most strictly-evaluated and highest quality research.



These accreditations from Charity Navigator, the Better Business Bureau and the National Cancer Institute mark the first time a nonprofit organization has earned all three of these elite designations. The MMRF is truly a one-of-a-kind organization.

"We have worked hard at the MMRF to ensure we commit as much of our funding as possible into supporting pivotal multiple myeloma research and related programming," said Kathy Giusti. "Receiving these distinctions validates our business model, and we're pleased to be recognized by such prestigious organizations."

Estate of Carolyn Arnold Bequests \$105,000 to MMRF

When Carolyn Arnold drafted her will she made several gifts to friends and family members to recognize those she cared about. Carolyn also wanted to shape the future after her lifetime by leaving a legacy of hope. She did so, by choosing an organization that helped her a great deal and one that she cared about deeply - the MMRF.

In her will, Carolyn made a generous bequest of \$105,000 to the MMRF in support of our research and programming efforts. Carolyn has left a lasting impression on our organization and we are certain that her generosity will resonate among the thousands of myeloma patients her support will ultimately serve.

Making a bequest is easy - you can designate the bequest through wording in your will simply stating:

"I hereby give _____ (a dollar amount or percentage) from my estate to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, located at 51 Locust Avenue, Suite 201, New Canaan, CT 06840." It is that simple.

If you or anyone you know is interested in making a bequest to the MMRF, or if you would like to learn about other planned giving opportunities, contact Scott Santarella, Executive Director at 203-652-0202 or email at santarellas@themmrf.org.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Shelley Christie
Kathy Giusti
Sara Nichols
Anne Quinn Young
Joanna Parzakonis

MEDICAL WRITER

Marie Recine

PRODUCTION

backOfficenyc

ACCELERATING THE SEARCH FOR A CURE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Karen Andrews
Time, Inc
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Robert Wolf
UBS Warburg
William Willson III
Wilson, Meany, Sullivan
Donna Zaccaro
Multimedia Producer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scott Santarella

The Multiple Myeloma
Research Foundation
51 Locust Avenue, Suite 201
New Canaan, CT 06840

Telephone (203) 972-1250
Fax (203) 972-1259
E-mail: info@themmrf.org

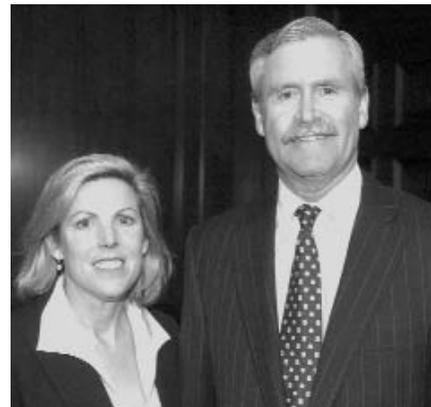
Visit our website at
<http://www.multiplemyeloma.org>

The information herein is not intended to replace the services of trained health professionals (or to be a substitute for medical advice.) You are advised to consult with your healthcare professional with regard to matters relating to your health, and in particular, regarding matters which may require diagnosis or medical attention.

Bonnie Hunt and Chicago Cubs Go To Bat for MMRF

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Torrance Campbell, MMRF Myeloma Mentor, touched the audience with his personal story of the effects of myeloma. Once paralyzed from the chest down from a compression fracture, Torrance is now back to playing basketball with his two sons and dancing with his wife, Jennifer.



Karen Andrews, MMRF Board Member with Dennis FitzSimons, Chairman, President and CEO of Tribune Company

Bringing hope to patients, Dr. Philip Greipp, Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic and MMRF Scientific Advisor spoke about the latest developments in myeloma. Dr. Greipp discussed some of the new clinical trials and treatments currently available that are changing the fate of myeloma patients.

The MMRF thanks all of our friends in Chicago for a memorable and successful evening.



Scott Santarella, MMRF Executive Director, presents Jane and Bob DeBaun with MMRF's Appreciation Award for their support of the MMRF



Bonnie Hunt with Dinner Chair Lester Knight and his wife Becky



Joe Damico, Founding Partner and Operating Principal of RoundTable Healthcare Partners

Raising Funds

MMRF Race for Research - San Francisco



The MMRF Race for Research series kicked off on April 17th with a successful 5K Walk/Run at Crissy Field in San Francisco, CA. This event, in its third year, attracted 500 participants who helped the MMRF raise \$180,000 to fund myeloma research.

We would like to specially thank our Event Chairmen, Dr. Keith Stockerl-Goldstein, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Stanford BMT Program; Nat Thurmond, NBA Legend and AI Attles, VP and Assistant GM, Golden State Warriors.

Thanks to our corporate sponsors: Scios; Kyphon; Chiron; Wilson, Meany, and Sullivan; Webcor Builders; Capital Embarcadero Partners; Dr. Clyde Burch and Mondavi Family of Wines.



The Heydlauff Yellow Team enjoyed their 3rd consecutive participation in the San Fran race

The MMRF **Hero's Award** for top individual fundraiser went to Jack Aiello for raising \$12,285!

The MMRF would also like to thank our **Grand Club** members -- those individuals who raised \$1,000 or more: Fred Armstrong, Mary Anne Armstrong,

Mary Azevedo, Marilyn Bautista, Viki Blake, Laura Carrieri, Jana Cannon and team, Beth Compton, Doug Cox, Jenny Cygan, Maureen DaiBoi, Ingrid and Vincent Faber, Linda Henderson, Toni Heydlauff, Jennifer Marsh, Charlotte Martinez, Erika Mielka, Tara Mohr, Joe and Maria Neves, Theresa Nicoletto, Diana Santos, Laurel Shimizu, Karen Uretsky, Nancy Blodgett Villalpando, Monica Ware, Laura Wilson and Cythnia Wienke.

In total, over \$100,000 was raised from individual donations. The MMRF Race for Research -- San Francisco was the result of a tremendous group effort. Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work, your dedication and commitment to the MMRF.



MMRF Executive Director, Scott Santarella, race co-chair. Dr. Keith Stockerl-Goldstein & Hero's Award winner Jack Aiello

SAVE THE DATE MMRF Race for Research coming to a city near you!

Boston, MA
Sat., May 8, 2004

Seattle, WA
Sat., July 10, 2004

Cleveland, OH
Sun., June 13, 2004

Chicago, IL
Sun., September 12,
2004

New Canaan, CT
Sun., June 27, 2004

For more information, please visit the NEW MMRF Race for Research web address at www.mmrfpace.org

Boston Marathon Fundraisers

Thank you to Tom Esch and Ethan Bagley for running the 109th Boston Marathon for the MMRF. Bill Rodgers, Marathon legend, awarded the bib numbers.

Nearly \$15,000 was raised between the two young men who ran the marathon in honor or memory of loved ones with multiple myeloma.



Raising Funds

MMRF Krall Family Fund



Michelle Wigmore, Adella & Diana Krall

The MMRF is proud to announce its partnership with the Krall Family Fund. This family fund was conceived by Diana Krall and Michelle Krall Wigmore, in honor of their mother, Adella Krall, a myeloma patient and passionate advocate, whose myeloma journey ended in 2002.

Adella Krall, a long time friend and supporter of the MMRF, developed a close bond with Kathy Giusti, MMRF President,

based on their similar circumstances. Both were diagnosed around the same time, both passionate mothers and career women, and they shared a philosophy about the importance of advancing the understanding and treatment of multiple myeloma. Like Kathy, Adella took full advantage of her resources and talents to advance this cause.

One of her valued resources was her daughter Diana's popularity as a Grammy Award winning jazz musician. Helped by Diana's celebrity, Adella was a powerful voice for multiple myeloma, taking her message of research and progress across the country and raising funds in support of the cause. Diana and her sister Michelle are proud to continue their mother's tradition of giving through the MMRF Krall Family Fund.

"Mother would be extremely proud of this partnership. The MMRF served as a guidepost on our mother's journey with multiple myeloma, providing her with a tremendous source of support and inspiration. She wholeheartedly believed that progress in multiple myeloma would only be made with an increased commitment to research. The MMRF's unwavering dedication to funding the world's most promising myeloma research provided a great deal of hope, not only to our mother, but for our entire family," expressed Michelle Krall Wigmore.

A kickoff event celebrating the Krall family's partnership with the MMRF will take place at the San Francisco Four Seasons on September 11th and will feature a performance by Diana Krall.

An Evening of Jazz
with
Diana Krall
Sat, September 11th
Four Seasons Hotel,
San Francisco

For tickets & information,
please contact Kim McCall
at McCallk@themmrf.org

Upcoming Golf Outings

Show your support of the MMRF by attending a local golf tournament near you!

Saturday, June 26, 2004
Averill Park, NY

3rd Annual Albert G. Young Multiple Myeloma Memorial Golf Tournament
Burden Lake Country Club
For more information, contact
Tim Young at (518) 286-2211

Monday, July 26, 2004
Beverly, MA

6th Annual Bruce Figurido / MMRF Golf Fundraiser
Beverly Golf and Tennis Club
For more information, contact
Lou Malaquias at
lmalaquias@attbi.com

Thursday, August 19, 2004
Harrisburg, PA

1st Annual Golf For a Cure
Dauphin Highlands Golf Course
For more information, contact
Geoffrey Rich at 717-774-7371 or
garadvertising@comcast.net

Friday, August 20, 2004
Somers, CT

2nd Annual Sherwood C. Waldron Wapping Community Church Memorial Golf Tournament
Cedar Knob Golf Course
For more information, contact
Bob Waldron at 860-290-8131

August 23, 2004
Hardyston, NJ

1st Annual Marc Mayer Memorial Golf Tournament
Wild Turkey Golf Club
For more information, contact
Brian Mayer at 212-785-4377 or
mayerb@mcginnsmith.com

Volunteer **Appreciation**

Sue Korn



The MMRF was Sue Korn's first "ray of hope" after getting the news in October of 2000 that her sister, Carol Goldschein, had been diagnosed with multiple myeloma. It was an organization that was doing something in the fight against this disease when she was otherwise informed that there was nothing that could be done.

Northeast Division. But she wanted to do something to reach out to all the people she knew, including extended family and friends, who wanted to be involved but couldn't necessarily attend high ticket events or travel to Washington DC.

Sue began brainstorming with other volunteers and eventually hit on a great idea -- an evening at a local comedy club, and the event now known as the MMRF's Laugh for Life. This event has become a huge success, bringing together friends and family for an evening of fun and a show of support of a cause they all care about.

This year Sue and her co-chair, Cindi Stern, organized the event at the largest comedy club in New York and raised over \$160,000 for the MMRF.

Not only is the event "fun and rewarding," it's an idea that Sue hopes can be replicated in cities across the country. "It's an easy event to plan because the comedy club takes care of the big details." The rest is just getting the word out and making sure everyone knows they are welcome. According to Sue, that's not really 'work' at all. Like all the work she's done for the MMRF, and for her sister, "it's a mission of love."

Sue Korn explains, "we are a family who takes action; so simply accepting this diagnosis and the helplessness, frustration and anger that came with it wasn't an option. When we found out that the MMRF was working hard to find a cure, we knew we wanted to work hard with them."

Sue began this pledge by volunteering at the MMRF's fundraising events and by serving on the committee of Advocacy Day, eventually becoming the Chair of the

Laugh for Life Doubles In Its Second Year!



The second annual Laugh for Life, held on Wednesday, April 21st at Caroline's on Broadway in New York City, exceeded all expectations, raising an incredible \$160,000! This highly anticipated show attracted over 350 guests who celebrated life through laughter with family and friends on this special evening.

Special thanks to Pepsi, the event's presenting sponsor as well as Novartis, NYU Cancer Institute, Dr. Arnold and Barbara Greenberg, Callisto Pharmaceuticals, Grey Healthcare Group, Systemax, Jerome & Elizabeth Cohen and Harrigan-Bodick Marketing Strategy. The night would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts of Co-Chairs Sue Korn and Cindi Stern. Money raised from this event will support a MMRF Senior Research Award and a Fellows Research Award in honor of the event.



Carol Goldschein, Jon Korn, Jonathon Soler, Cindi Stern, Laurie Goldschein and Hayley Korn

Funding Research

\$400,000 Awarded Toward 2004 Fellows Grants

The MMRF is proud to announce that we have awarded eight 2004 Fellows Grant Awards, totaling \$400,000. Each of these researchers will receive a one-year, \$50,000 grant award. Their research topics include identifying novel therapeutic targets, understanding how to overcome resistance to conventional therapies, finding synergies between targeted therapies and pursuing new approaches in immune therapy. The MMRF has funded more than \$16 million in cutting-edge research since its inception and in 2004 has committed to distribute funding of \$5 million.



Nichole Aqui, MD
Univ of PA

Immune assessment after autotransplantation followed by adoptive transfer of ex vivo costimulated autologous T-cells in conjunction with Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine immunization for MM patients

The purpose of this project is to study the immune system of patients with multiple myeloma who have undergone a stem cell transplant followed by an infusion of their own T cells. We will vaccinate these patients using a pneumococcal vaccine at different time points to determine the optimal schedule for vaccination. These studies will lead to a better understanding of immune system recovery after transplantation and how to improve immune responses to myeloma and antimyeloma vaccines.



Ebenezer David, PhD
Winship Cancer Center, Emory University

Molecular mechanisms and synergy between proteasome inhibition and farnesyl transferase inhibition in multiple myeloma cells

The proteasome inhibitor bortezomib has dramatically changed the landscape of myeloma therapy. Our research seeks to further understand the molecular mechanisms at work when bortezomib is combined with another novel agent, lonafarnib. Preliminary data suggest significant synergy when used together. A better understanding of the specific mechanisms at work will allow for improved trial design when this approach is tested in humans, as well as better understanding of the basic biology of multiple myeloma.



Qing Chen, PhD
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center

Involvement of Fanconi anemia/BRCA DNA repair pathway in acquired melphalan drug-resistant myeloma cells

Melphalan, an important DNA damaging agent, is a widely used and effective drug in the treatment of multiple myeloma. Unfortunately, many acquire resistance to the drug. Evidence suggests that a DNA damage repair pathway called FANCD1/BRCA1 may contribute to the melphalan resistance. The goal of my proposed study is to verify that the FANCD1/BRCA1 pathway is important to melphalan-resistant human myeloma cells. This study will enhance our understanding of why patients become resistant to melphalan and possible means to improve therapeutic response. to melphalan.



Irene M. Ghobrial, MD
Mayo Clinic

Studies of the CXCR4/PI3Kinase pathway in multiple myeloma

To improve therapies in multiple myeloma, we need to understand the molecular proteins involved in the malignant cells. We propose to study the PI3 kinase proteins and their interaction with the receptor CXCR4. Our aim is to determine the level of the proteins in the malignant plasma cells compared to normal plasma cells and the activity of the CXCR4 receptor and the PI3 kinase pathway in the movement of the malignant cells in the bone marrow. This research will use cells obtained from multiple myeloma patients in correlation with a clinical trial using a PI3 pathway inhibitor.

Funding Research



Bao Hoang, PhD
UCLA - West LA
VA Medical Center

Adhesion-mediated effects on mTOR in MM cells

One factor that contributes to multiple myeloma drug resistance is the interaction between myeloma cells and the components of their microenvironment. This interaction causes a change in cell growth characteristic of myeloma cells so that they somehow become less susceptible to drug toxicity. The objective of this proposal is to assess how a cell adhesion protein, fibronectin, regulates this resistance to drug toxicity.



Jennifer Lisa Bromberg-White, BA, PhD
Van Andel Research Institute

Validation of melphalan-resistance targets in vitro in human mm cell lines utilizing a retroviral based RNAi delivery system

The major obstacle for curing multiple myeloma is drug resistance, whereby multiple myeloma cells become resistant to melphalan. In order to enhance the effectiveness of currently available chemotherapeutic drugs, we must understand how multiple myeloma cells become resistant to therapy. The goal of this proposal is to utilize a viral system to learn about melphalan-resistance genes. This approach will lead to a better understanding of melphalan resistance.



Irina B. Mazo, MD, PhD
Harvard Medical School

Role of differential CD8 T cell therapies for MM

Multiple myeloma is a cancer that affects preferentially the bone marrow (BM). Precise knowledge of the mechanism(s) mediating lodging of tumor cells in the bone marrow (BM) and their proliferation there may lead to new therapies that could block tumor progression. Another promising therapeutic approach is the generation of specific T lymphocytes that kill multiple myeloma cells. We will dissect in vivo the molecules responsible for multiple myeloma cell recruitment to and traffic within the BM; generate T cells that can migrate from blood to BM to kill tumor cells; and characterize how these T cells interact with multiple myeloma in the BM of living mice.



Huajun Yan, PhD
West LA
VA Medical Center

Translational control of apoptosis in multiple myeloma: molecular mechanisms whereby mTOR inhibitors sensitize cells to apoptosis

mTOR inhibitors such as rapamycin were previously shown to strongly suppress proliferation of myeloma cells. Now we have shown that rapamycin can also drastically kill cultured myeloma cells when combined with dexamethasone for myeloma patients. We plan to figure out why it can do this and test whether it can do the same thing in a mouse model. This study will provide a basis for future clinical trials of combining these two kinds of drugs and result in identification of new targets for developing novel drugs.

This year we are asking you to help us meet our funding goals by donating to the MMRF. We apply 100% of every donation from our Spring Appeal directly to myeloma research. By contributing to the MMRF Spring Appeal, you are directly supporting the discovery of a cure for multiple myeloma. Mail your donation today or visit www.multiplemyeloma.org or donate online now.

MEDICAL CORNER

Oncology Survey Results

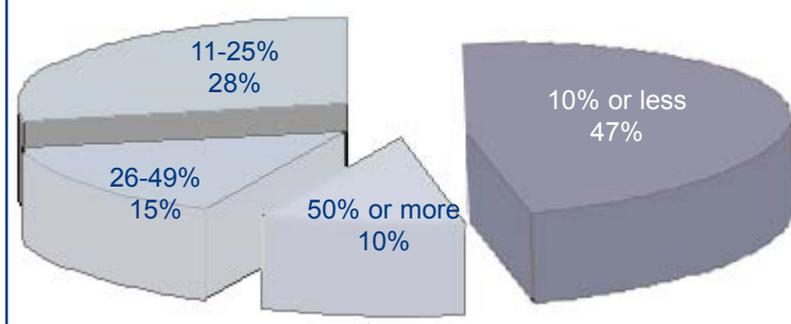
Oncologist Survey Indicates Need to Educate Physicians and Patients about Clinical Trials

The MMRF commissioned a survey late last year that was fielded to clinical professionals who treat multiple myeloma patients and who are enrolled in the MMRF database.

A key finding of this survey indicated that, despite a record number of new treatment options being researched and available for multiple myeloma patients, oncologists are referring surprisingly few patients to NCI-designated cancer centers or enrolling them in leading-edge clinical trials.

Seventy-five percent of the oncologists polled reported referring less than one-quarter of their patients to NCI-designated centers where patients have greater access to clinical trials and additional cutting-edge therapeutic options and resources. One-third (33%) of the oncologists reported having "none" of their multiple myeloma patients enrolled in clinical trials, and another third (36%) have 10% or fewer of their patients participating in the critical, data-collecting studies.

Percent of Multiple Myeloma Patients Referred to NCI-designated Cancer Centers



"With so many advancements being made to treat this disease, we were shocked to see how few multiple myeloma patients are being referred to NCI-designated cancer centers for treatment or enrolled into clinical trials," said Kathy Giusti, president and co-founder of the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. "Multiple myeloma is an orphan cancer and it is critical to send patients to centers that see a large number of myeloma patients. The more patients that are enrolled into clinical trials and are referred to these centers, the faster we will be able to cure this disease."

The 2003 oncologist survey builds upon data uncovered by the 2002 MMRF Patient-Caregiver Survey that showed the single biggest factor of patients enrolling or not enrolling in a study is whether or not their oncologist raised the option. Survey results from last year showed that 62% of patients did not enroll in clinical trials because either their doctor did not recommend one (48%) or they did not know they could enroll in a clinical study (14%). Of those myeloma patients that did participate in clinical trials, an overwhelming 87% learned about the trial from their oncologist.

Physicians Familiarity with (and use of) Multiple Myeloma Treatments

Medication	Very Familiar With	% Use in 25+% of MM Patients
Neupogen	98%	38%
Procrit	98%	66%
Aredia	97%	46%
Alkeran	97%	31%
Zometa	92%	72%
Thalomid	89%	65%
Aranesp	86%	40%
Doxil	64%	6%
Velcade	53%	6%

MEDICAL CORNER

Oncology Survey Results

Oncologist Survey Indicates Need to Educate Physicians and Patients about Clinical Trials

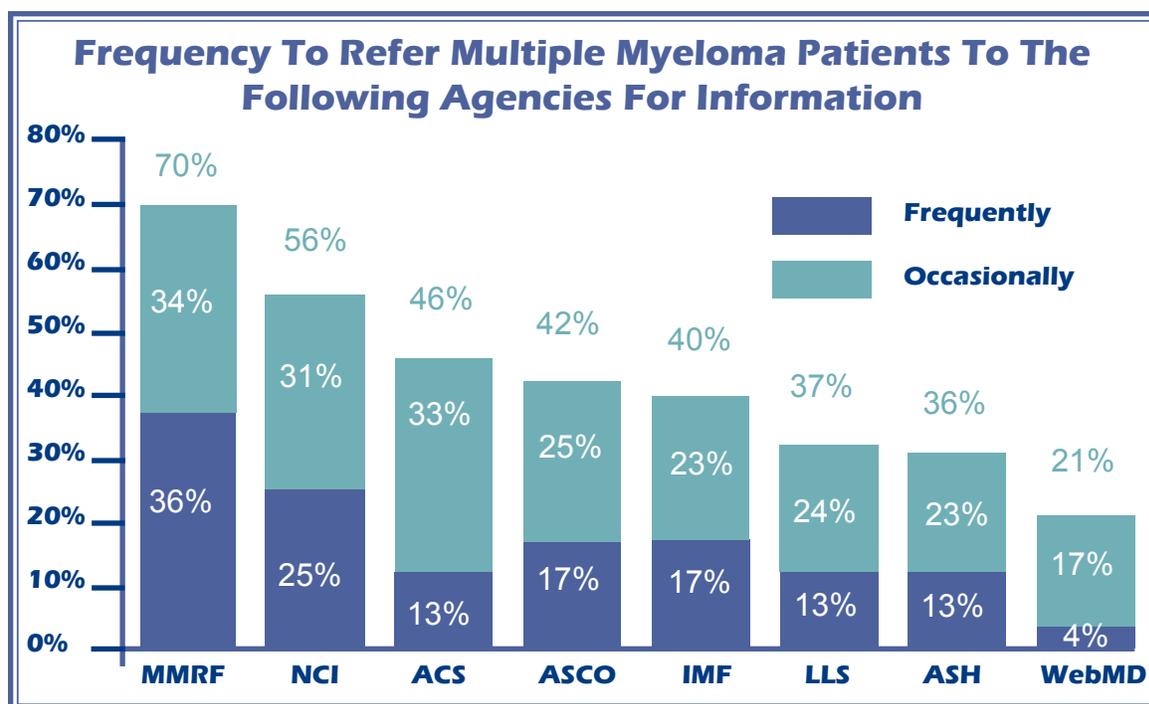
Despite relatively low enrollments in clinical trials and referrals to NCI centers, the survey indicated that oncologists are well aware of Velcade® (bortezomib) for injection, and are using it in a small proportion of their patients. Ninety-four percent (94%) reported being "somewhat" or "very familiar" with the therapy and 66% of oncologists reported using the drug since its approval in May 2003. The majority (65%) of those physicians, however, are using it in less than 10% of their total myeloma patient population.

The survey also confirmed that the MMRF is used by nearly all (more than 80%) of the respondents as a source of information about multiple myeloma. The survey results also indicated that physicians, particularly those in academic settings, refer

multiple myeloma patients to the MMRF more frequently than any other organization.

The role that MMRF plays for both oncologists and patients points to an important opportunity for the MMRF, and one that it is prepared to meet.

"The MMRF continues to provide the most current information to patients and oncologists about open clinical trials and treatment options; however, it is clear that we need to do more work to increase oncologists' comfort level with these new agents -- both approved and in testing" said Giusti. "Our goal is to have as many patients benefit from the current research and treatments as possible."



INDUSTRY UPDATE

Velcade Receives European Approval

Velcade® (bortezomib, Millennium Pharmaceuticals) was approved on April 27, 2004 by the European Commission for the treatment of myeloma patients who have received at least two prior therapies and have demonstrated disease progression on the last therapy. This is the same patient population for which Velcade was approved in the US in May 2003.

Under this authorization, Velcade can be marketed in the 15 member states of the European Union, the 10 accession member countries, plus Norway and Iceland.

Thalomid sNDA Filing Accepted by the FDA

On February 23rd, the U. S. Food and Drug Administration accepted for review Celgene's Supplemental New Drug Application (sNDA) seeking to market Thalomid® (thalidomide) for the treatment of myeloma.

A New Drug Application (NDA) is a compilation of information on the safety and efficacy of a new drug that is submitted to the FDA in order to request approval to market the drug as therapy for a particular disease indication. Because Thalomid has already been approved for use to treat certain forms of leprosy (an infectious skin condition), a supplemental NDA rather than a full NDA was needed. The sNDA contains data on the use of thalidomide in relapsed and refractory disease, as well as in early-stage disease.

STR Phase III Trial Open

The Phase III trial of STR™ (skeletal targeted radiotherapy, NeoRx) has just begun enrollment. The trial, which is expected to enroll about 240 patients at up to 40 sites in the US and Canada, is designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of STR in patients with primary refractory myeloma. STR is a targeted cancer therapeutic that delivers radiation directly to cancer in the bone and bone marrow. It is used in conjunction with high-dose melphalan chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation.

MEDICAL CORNER

Radiopharmaceutical Therapy for Myeloma

Radiopharmaceuticals are radioactive drugs used in the diagnosis or treatment of disease. Two radiopharmaceuticals being evaluated for use in myeloma include Quadramet® (Samarium Sm-153 lexidronam, Cytogen) and Skeletal Targeted Radiotherapy (STR™, ¹⁶⁶Ho-DOTMP, NeoRx). Both contain different chemicals that attach to bone, thus they target the therapeutic radioactivity to the site of myeloma disease and reduce exposure of healthy tissue. A Phase III trial of STR in combination with transplant in primary refractory myeloma has just begun enrollment.

Quadramet is approved in the US for relieving bone pain in patients with confirmed osteoblastic metastatic bone lesions that are visible on a bone scan, as is sometimes the case in myeloma. It is being further investigated at higher doses in conjunction with high-dose chemotherapy/stem cell transplant. A small pilot study recently showed that standard-dose

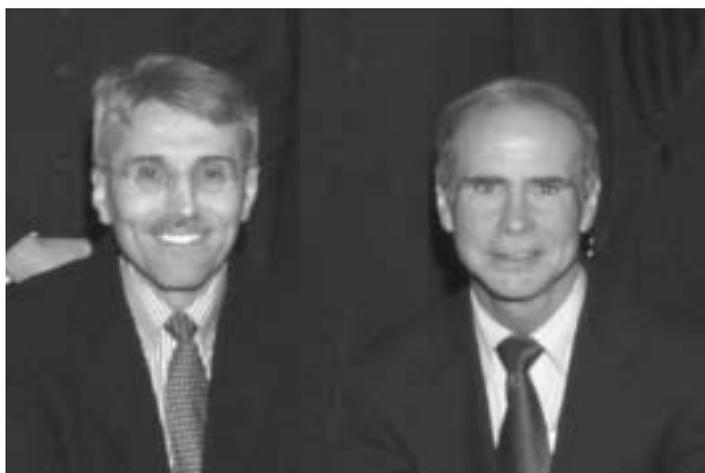
Quadramet, in combination with zoledronic acid (Zometa®, Novartis), provided significant pain relief in elderly patients with symptomatic chemotherapy-refractory myeloma, with some effect on disease activity. Future studies of this combination regimen for disease modification are planned in earlier stage myeloma and other cancers.

According to Angela Dispenzieri, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, radiopharmaceuticals have the potential to increase the efficacy of stem cell transplantation. Data regarding response rates from Phase II trials, including a high-dose Quadramet trial she led at Mayo, compare favorably with other transplant regimens. "The data thus far are exciting and encouraging," she notes. "However, these are still experimental treatments in myeloma and unexpected toxicities can arise. Phase III trials will be necessary to determine their safety and efficacy in this disease."

Research Roundtable

The MMRF Research Roundtable, **Establishing a Framework for Conducting Multiple Myeloma Clinical Trials**, provided a unique opportunity for myeloma experts, the pharmaceutical industry and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to partner along a common goal. The common goal is to move promising myeloma drugs more rapidly from the lab to the clinic and on to FDA approval.

Experts in clinical care and myeloma research and medical and scientific representatives from pharmaceutical companies currently developing novel targeted therapies for myeloma, attended The Research Roundtable. Also in attendance was Richard Pazdur, MD, Director of Oncology Drug Products, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) and members of his staff at the FDA who are involved in the review of applications for cancer treatments.



**MMRf Roundtable co-chairs
Dr. Richard Pazdur and Dr. Kenneth Anderson**

Kenneth Anderson, MD of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Dr. Pazdur co-chaired the Roundtable, which was held in Washington, DC on February 24-25. Using Velcade® (bortezomib, Millennium) as a case study, the participants discussed the types of preclinical studies necessary to get a novel agent to the level of the FDA, and once there, key elements necessary to expedite FDA approval. The participants then devised a potential framework for clinical trials that incorporates these key elements.

"It will be very useful to establish a framework for myeloma clinical trials to expedite preclinical testing and clinical evaluations of novel agents," noted Dr. Anderson. "This will ultimately result in more rapid availability of these agents for patient care." A draft of the proposed framework discussed at the Roundtable will be submitted for publication soon.

Geraldine Ferraro Blood Cancer Education Program

The MMRF was pleased to be a part of the March 24 announcement by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) regarding funding for the Geraldine Ferraro Blood Cancer Education Program, providing \$4.9 million for the establishment of a blood cancer education program at the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This program was part of the Hematological Cancer Research Investment and Education Act, sponsored by Senator Hutchison and authorized in 2002. The MMRF is eternally grateful for Senator's Hutchison tireless commitment to increasing funding for blood cancer research and education, and we thank all of the myeloma advocates who have helped to raise awareness of blood cancers over the past several years and make this funding possible.



**Anne Quinn Young, Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach,
Geraldine Ferraro, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and
MMRF President Kathy Giusti**

Ask The Expert

This issue's **Ask the Expert** features the MMRF's Scientific Advisor, James R. Berenson, MD, Medical and Scientific Director of the Institute for Myeloma and Bone Cancer Research in Los Angeles, CA.



Dr. Berenson, why are various combinations of drugs being tested in myeloma?

Drugs are combined mainly to improve efficacy. In many cases drugs act synergistically, which means that one drug enhances the effectiveness of the other. One example is the enhanced efficacy seen when you add a steroid to a drug regimen. In some cases, one can also use lower doses of each drug together that are effective, which may also reduce toxicity.

Deciding what drugs to combine is determined in a rational way. Because we usually have a good idea of how a drug acts on the myeloma cell, we can try to improve efficacy in several ways. We can combine drugs that:

- ◆ have the same cellular target
- ◆ target different steps in the same cellular pathway, and/or
- ◆ target multiple cellular targets and pathways

These combinations are first tested in the lab and in animal models to determine their effectiveness before proceeding to clinical trials. Interestingly, many of the new drug combinations have been shown in the lab to overcome drug resistance (restore sensitivity of tumor cells to conventional chemotherapy agents that they have become resistant to), an important concern in myeloma. One such combination is melphalan and Velcade® (bortezomib, Millennium). In our clinical trial, we are seeing significant responses with minimal toxicity when using one-tenth of a conventional dose of melphalan in combination with up to 60% of a typical Velcade dose in patients with refractory myeloma.

In the lab, we have found that Trisenox® (arsenic trioxide [ATO], CTI) is an active agent when combined with low doses of conventional chemotherapy. We are now testing ATO in combination with various agents in clinical trials (box below).

Agents	Status
ATO + Melphalan	Phase II
Velcade + Melphalan	Phase I/II
ATO + Velcade	Phase I
Velcade + Doxil® (liposomal doxorubicin, Ortho-Biotech)	Phase I
ATO + Doxil	Planned

NOW Is An Exciting Time For Myeloma Research!

The MMRF's **TEN** new clinical trials have been added to Clinical Trials Monitor (**CTM**). **CTM** is an easy-to-use, searchable database that includes the most multiple myeloma clinical trials found anywhere. **CTM** is available online, and allows you to search for trials by type, disease stage, and/or geographic location. Trials are available for all stages of disease throughout the world.

Log on to CTM today at www.myelomatrials.org
to learn more about these new trials!

You Need To Know

MMRF Institutional Insights

February 6, 2004, The MMRF's Institutional Insights was held in Los Angeles, CA. Dr. James Berenson directed the program co-sponsored by the Lymphoma Research Foundation. The professional CME program, titled "Novel Therapeutic Approaches to the Treatment of Myeloma and Lymphoma" was well attended by community oncologists and oncology nurses from the LA Metro area. The patient and caregiver program was both emotional and inspirational.

The MMRF and the LRF are appreciative of the more than 200 participants who attended. The MMRF would like to give special thanks to Drs. Christos Emmanouilides, Steven Coutre, Stephen Forman, Randy Gascoyne, David Siegel, Edward Stadtmauer and John Timmerman for sharing their expertise and inspiration. In addition we would like to thank Sheila Wilson and the LA support group who shared a special Saturday afternoon providing insights to making the myeloma community stronger.



Myeloma Leaders Join Us In LA
Dr. Edward Stadtmauer; Dr. David Siegel; Dr.
Jim Berenson (Chair); Scott Santarella and
Sara Nichols



Sheila Wilson,
LA Support Group

Upcoming Programs

May 21, 2004
Philadelphia, PA

Patient Symposium
Physician Symposium
Chair: Dr. Edward Stadtmauer

May 26, 2004
Atlanta, GA

Patient Symposium
Physician Symposium
Chair: Dr. Sagar Lonial

June 12, 2004
Cleveland, OH

Patient Symposium
Chair: Dr. Mohamad Hussein

For more information, please contact
Sara Nichols, Program Coordinator at
nicholss@themmrf.org

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the following corporations for their
support of Myeloma Focus



Updates from the ASCO – Stay Posted

Webcast

The MMRF will host a live webcast on **Tuesday, June 8th** on the MMRF's website (www.multiplemyeloma.org) with highlights from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)'s annual meeting in New Orleans. New data on the use of thalidomide and dexamethasone in newly diagnosed patients and an interim analysis of the Phase III Velcade clinical trial will be presented by Drs. David Maloney, Vincent Rajkumar and Paul Richardson.

Teleconference

Thursday, June 17th from 1:30 - 2:30 PM EST, the MMRF will present "Update from ASCO", an interactive teleconference featuring Drs. Sundar Jagannath and David Vesole. Registration information is available online at www.cancer.org or by calling CancerCare at 1-800-813-HOPE (4673).

Raising Funds

MMRF 2004 Spring Appeal

The MMRF's goal is your goal -
A cure for multiple myeloma.

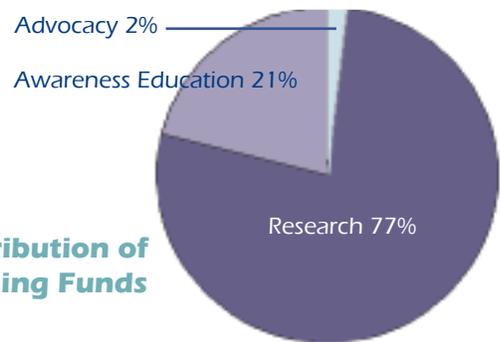
As the world's number-one private funder of myeloma research, the MMRF has funded over 100 grant awards at 49 institutions worldwide on behalf of myeloma patients. Last May, the MMRF played an instrumental role in the rapid development of the first approved myeloma drug in decades - Velcade. We are truly helping to accelerate the "bench to bedside" process.

Our influential role in the drug development process has been, and will continue to be, a direct result of your support.

Today, the MMRF is the only organization directly funding new myeloma compounds. Specifically, we have funded more than 20 novel targeted therapies and immunotherapy-based approaches.

With the grant funding budgets of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institute of Health (NIH) remaining level this year, the onus of ensuring continued progress falls primarily on private funding through the MMRF -- making your donations all the more critical.

The MMRF is committed to increasing support of myeloma research by 14% in 2004. Your assistance is critical in helping us maintain this much needed pace. We need every person to partner with us in this fight by investing in the advancement of research that helps make new treatment options available to patients.



2004 Distribution of Programming Funds

We apply 100% of every donation from our appeal directly to myeloma research, eventually benefiting every myeloma patient. This year we are asking you to help us meet these goals by donating to the MMRF today. By contributing to the MMRF Spring Appeal, you are directly supporting the discovery of a cure for multiple myeloma.

Fall 2003 Donors

The MMRF 2003 Fall Appeal raised nearly \$150,000 with only 3% of those who were mailed an appeal responding. If the MMRF is to continue funding the world's most promising therapies and treatment options, we need your help. You should have received the MMRF 2004 Spring Appeal in your mail. If not, please contact the MMRF office and we will forward one to you today.

The MMRF is grateful to those of you who supported the Fall Appeal. As we do each year, 100% of every appeal donation is applied directly to support cutting-edge myeloma research. A list of supporters follows. The MMRF was careful to include all of those who have donated to the appeal as indicated by receipt of the annual appeal envelope and reply form. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted your name. If you supported the appeal and your name is not listed, please contact Kim McCall, Director of Events at 203-972-1250.

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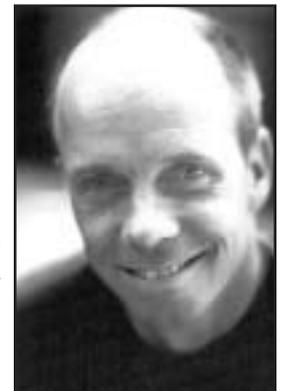
MMRF Honorary Board

MMRF is pleased to announce that Cindy Crawford and Scott Hamilton have joined the MMRF's Honorary Board



World renowned supermodel, Cindy Crawford is a dedicated cancer advocate who understands first-hand the toll that cancer care giving can take on individuals and families. Ms. Crawford lost her brother Jeffrey to leukemia. She launched "Strength for Caring", a national education and support program for cancer caregivers, and remains involved with "Kids With Courage", a yearly public awareness event sponsored by University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center Pediatric & Oncology Program. Ms. Crawford continues to bring awareness and courage to cancer survivors, caregivers and family members.

Figure skating champion and cancer survivor Scott Hamilton was recognized in 2002 with the MMRF's Public Awareness Award for his tireless efforts to raise funds for research, educate and inspire. He founded Chemocare.com to educate newly diagnosed cancer patients about chemotherapy, and the Scott Hamilton CARES Initiative with the mission to advocate cancer research and education. Today, he is cancer-free and continues to raise significant funds to support cancer research, education, and patient care programs.



The MMRF is grateful for their continued support of the MMRF