



*Accelerating  
the  
Search  
for a  
Cure*

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# MYELOMA FOCUS

Newsletter of the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation

## FRIENDS FOR LIFE **FALL**

**T**his year's "Friends for Life" Fall Gala raised \$850,000 to aid in the search for a cure. The Gala took place November 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Grand Hyatt in Greenwich, CT. Over 800 guests turned out to show support for the MMRF and to help raise funds to support myeloma research.

Emmy Award winner, Deborah Norville, of Inside Edition, returned this year to emcee this exciting event. General H. Norman Schwarzkopf was honored with the MMRF Leadership Award for his outstanding efforts toward raising awareness about cancer. Among his many accomplishments, General Schwarzkopf served as honorary chairman for the "*The March: Coming Together to Conquer Cancer*" event in Washington, DC, last fall to demonstrate the need for increased funding for cancer research and treatment. The MMRF was also very pleased to have in attendance Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Olympic gold medalist Dan Jansen, who lost his sister to leukemia. The evening was a dazzling affair, which included cocktails, a silent auction, dinner, and a

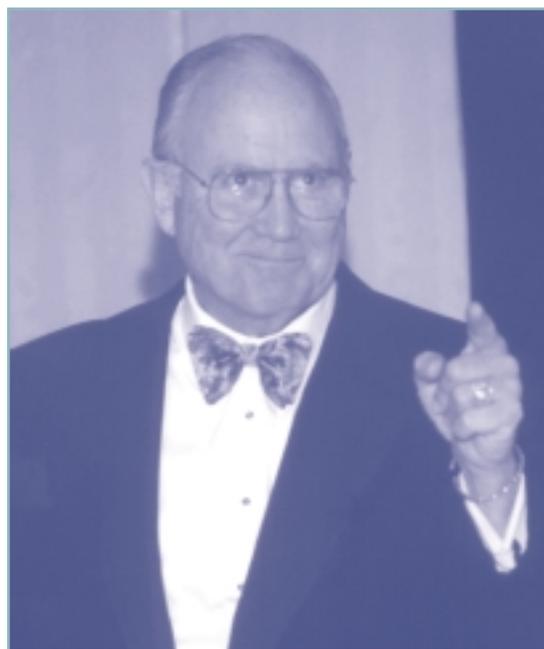


Photo by Stephanie Tracy

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf  
sounding the call to arms:  
*"Let's get out there  
and win this thing."*



Photo by Thomas Newberger

(L-R) John Hartig, *Parenting Magazine*, Cleary Simpson, *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, Amy Keohane, *In Style Magazine*, and friend Bridgett Quelly enjoy the night.

live auction, followed by dancing until midnight. One of the highlights of the evening was the excitement of open bidding on items as part of the live auction. Good-natured "one-upsmanship" was the name of the game as guests competed for amazing auction items for myeloma research. Among the top items was the "Grammy Extravaganza", a one-week trip to California including airfare, executive lodging at the Four Seasons, Grammy Rehearsals, the "MusiCare's Gala Person of the Year" event

# Welcome Letter

Dear Friends,

What a privilege it was to award the MMRF Leadership Award to General H. Norman Schwarzkopf at this year's Fall Gala. I have tremendous respect for this great American war hero's willingness to go public when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and to become an advocate for all cancer patients. It is never easy to share a cancer diagnosis with the world, especially when you are such a public figure, but putting a face to a disease can often make an enormous difference in our success in fighting the battle.



Photo by Stephanie Tracy

Genl. Schwarzkopf receiving the special MMRF, "You're My Hero" hug from Kathy Giusti.

General Schwarzkopf joined our team the same way Deborah Norville, Dan Jansen and Eric Davis did. He received a heartfelt letter from my twin sister, Karen Andrews, asking him to work with us on this important cause. After hearing the grim statistics associated with myeloma, and seeing the rapid progress the MMRF was making, he felt he must also join in our battle. These individuals are my heroes - my inspiration. The fact that they don't suffer from myeloma, yet join in our fight against the disease, gives me the strength to keep the MMRF moving forward - funding research at breakneck speed.

There are so many heroes in this battle - the volunteers who worked with us to make our Fall Gala a resounding success, the Scientific Advisors who make certain we fund the most promising research, and our Board of Directors and Board Advisors who provide sound advice and expertise. Most important, however, are the patients and family members, heroes who find the strength and courage to keep up the fight. I wish all our heroes a wonderful holiday season, and thank you for your support.

Together, we will find a cure!

## Families Funding Research Peter Freeman & Family

Peter Freeman and his partner Karen McCaffrey are active MMRF volunteers. They wanted to support a foundation that focused specifically on multiple myeloma. Funding for myeloma can become lost in the broad agendas of larger cancer organizations, whereas donating to the MMRF has "more direct impact on the lives of more than 50,000 myeloma patients." Shortly after being diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 1997, Mr. Freeman learned of the MMRF, and was struck by the fact that the MMRF's mission was to accelerate the search for a cure. Mr. Freeman said, "this focus, coupled with the MMRF's strong volunteer force, results in an extraordinarily efficient investment of funds to directly support research grants and symposia."

With this in mind, Mr. Freeman turned to the Palmer Foundation for assistance. Palmer, a family foundation, which is known to only makes grants to non-profit organizations in the areas of the arts, education, and community services. Since myeloma research funding is so limited, the Foundation decided that it was important to increase communication within the research community, minimize duplication of effort and maximize dissemination of information. Therefore, in both 1998 and 1999, the Palmer Foundation provided grants to the MMRF for these activities.



Peter Freeman (top row, far right) with his family.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS IN MEMORY OF DR. SYDNEY SALMON OF THE ARIZONA CANCER CENTER. DR. SALMON, A MEMBER OF THE MMRF'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD, WILL BE MISSED BY ALL.

# FRIENDS FOR LIFE



Gala guests inspect auction items before the bidding begins. Photo by Thomas Newberger



Janet Burke from Silversea Cruises presents Kathy Giusti, of the MMRF, with the first check from the Silversea Endowment.

Photo by Stephanie Tracy

Matt DeLuca enjoying the auction



Photo by Thomas Newberger



Photo by Stephanie Tracy

Continued from page 1

honoring Sir Elton John, the Nominee Reception, and two Gold Tickets to attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grammy Awards. The Silversea's Iberian Influences Cruise also created a bidding frenzy. Starting in Monte Carlo, the lucky winner will spend ten days aboard the six-star Silver Cloud, cruising the Mediterranean and visiting some of the most beautiful and historic destinations. Another lucky winner and three guests will dine at the luxurious Della Femina, stay at the Grand Hyatt in New York City, and attend NBC's *The Today Show*. These were but a few of the incredible items auctioned off during the evening.

The MMRF is grateful to all those individuals and organizations that donated items to this important fundraiser.

So many people worked hard to make the "Friends for Life" Fall Gala a resounding success. It is only through their dedication and hard work that this event continues to be the MMRF's largest and most important fundraiser. MMRF staff would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all those who participated, and extend a special thanks to Bonnie Arrix, Barbara Blasso, Lauren Kaiser, Karen McCaffrey, Kelly Menna, Pat Morgan, Christine Rosa, Nancy Scranton and Lori Ward. Highlights of the event, including General Schwarzkopf's speech, are available over the Internet at: [www.multiplemyeloma.org](http://www.multiplemyeloma.org)

MMRF's Scientific Advisors and Leading Myeloma Supporters: (Top L-R) Nikhil Munshi, Keith Stewart, Deborah Norville, General Schwarzkopf, Kathy Giusti, Dan Jansen, Raymond Alexanian. (Bottom L-R) Phil Greipp, Sundar Jagannath, Bill Dalton, Ken Anderson, Bob Kyle, Marty Oken.

# MMRF PROGRAMS

## ANOTHER \$240,000 IN RESEARCH GRANTS DISTRIBUTED BY THE MMRF

The MMRF is proud to announce six 1999 Fellows Award winners. Valued at \$40,000 each, Fellows Awards are given to researchers who are relatively new to the field of multiple myeloma, allowing them to conduct promising, cutting-edge research that would otherwise not be possible. The MMRF and the International Myeloma Foundation jointly review all Fellows Award applications, and each funded six researchers. We are proud to announce the 1999 MMRF Fellows Award winners, and their respective areas of research.

1999 Fellows Awards		
Name	Institution	Title
Dr. Dharminder Chauhan	Dana Farber Cancer Institute	(IL-6) Induced SHP2 Activation Mediates Resistance to Dexamethasone (Dex)
Dr. Lori Hazelhurst	II. Lee Moffitt Cancer Research Center	The Role of CDK2 in Fibronectin Induced Regulation of p27 Levels.
Dr. Babatunde Oyajobi	University of Texas Health Science Center	The Role of Macrophage Inflammatory Protein-1 Alpha in the Development of Osteolytic Bone Lesions.
Dr. Nelida Sjak-Shie	UCLA School of Medicine	The Role of VEGF-Mediated Angiogenesis in MM.
Dr. Steven Treon	Dana Farber Cancer Institute	Treatment of MM by Antibody Mediated Immunotherapy.
Dr. Yaccoby	University of Arkansas	Role of the Non-Hematopoietic Bone Marrow Stroma in MM.

## NEW YORK CITY SYMPOSIA SUCCESS!

The MMRF and St. Vincent's Comprehensive Cancer Center (SVCCC) recently co-hosted an exciting presentation reporting on the latest findings from the VII<sup>th</sup> Annual Multiple



(L-R) Dr. Larry Kwak, Dr. Hakan Mellstedt, Dr. Phil Greipp, Dr. Robert Vescio and Dr. Sundar Jagannath.



Phil Greipp takes questions from patients and family members over lunch.

Myeloma World Congress, held in Sweden. The event was a tremendous success, with attendance at full capacity for both the physician and patient symposia. Both sessions featured world-renowned researchers reporting on the most promising new myeloma therapies. The entire event is available for viewing over the Internet. We invite you to view the broadcast at any time by visiting the MMRF website at:

[www.multiplemyeloma.org](http://www.multiplemyeloma.org)



# Ask the Expert

**T**he MMRF receives many questions from patients and family members about multiple myeloma and its treatment. To help answer your questions, we have added **Ask The Expert**. In this new feature, one of the MMRF's Scientific Advisors will answer questions. We are pleased to feature Martin M. Oken, MD, Dir. of the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute and Clinical Professor of Medicine, Univ. of Minnesota Medical School.



Martin M. Oken, MD

## **1. Dr. Oken, please explain the difference between MGUS, smoldering, and active multiple myeloma. How will I know when I need treatment?**

In about 5% of patients at diagnosis, myeloma is static and may not progress for months or years. These patients usually have lower tumor burden (Stage I disease) and are not troubled by the anemia, bone disease, renal failure, and frequent infections that characterize active multiple myeloma. This is smoldering myeloma, currently it is left untreated.

MGUS or **monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance** is a common condition where a monoclonal protein is present, other criteria for myeloma diagnosis are absent, and no cause can be identified. MGUS is harmless, but over many years a percentage will progress to a malignant plasma cell disorder.

Controversy exists over when treatment should begin. Most clinicians agree patients with active multiple myeloma should receive chemotherapy. Treatment to prevent or delay disease progression currently is an important research area.

## **2. How does dexamethasone work? What is its typical dosing, and what side effects might be expected?**

Dexamethasone, like cortisone, but much stronger, is a corticosteroid. In some patients, it is capable of causing myeloma cell death and objective clinical responses. How dexamethasone works is not entirely known, but apoptosis (programmed cell death) appears to be important. Dexamethasone may be used alone or as part of regimens. A typical dose schedule is 40 mg of dexamethasone daily for 4 days, sometimes repeated 1 or 2 times in a 3 to 5 week cycle.

Common side effects with dexamethasone include: upset stomach, upper GI bleeding or ulcer, metabolic problems, low potassium levels, fluid gain, or hypertension. Patients may develop insomnia or agitation or, in extreme cases, disorientation or psychosis. Patients receiving dexamethasone are susceptible to infections.

## **3. Is thalidomide a successful agent? Can my oncologist prescribe thalidomide?**

Thalidomide is an angiogenesis inhibitor, which means it inhibits new blood vessel formation. Angiogenesis is important in multiple myeloma development and expansion. Early reports of thalidomide in patients with multiple myeloma refractory to standard chemotherapy show up to 30% objective responses. Numerous clinical trials are exploring thalidomide treatment.

Thalidomide is available through cooperative group protocols supported by NCI. Also, it may be obtained by qualified physicians on an individual patient compassionate release protocol through Celgene, its manufacturer. Thalidomide causes birth defects, and meticulous care

must be taken to assure that it is not ingested by pregnant women.

## **4. A family member has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma and may need a stem cell transplant. What is the process? What is tandem transplant? What are advantages and disadvantages to late vs. early transplant? When will support from a family member be most needed?**

The process of autologous peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) transplantation is described below. In tandem PBSC transplantation, the process is repeated, usually after a few months.

Early high-dose therapy with PBSC transplant is done during first remission. Its proponents feel that is the best time to achieve complete remission and prolonged disease control. The disadvantage is that it exposes the largest number of patients to the risks and expense of this potentially dangerous procedure. Some patients will achieve years of disease control without high dose therapy. Some data suggest a survival advantage to early high dose therapy, but many do not consider this proven.

In the U.S., a large NCI sponsored study is underway to compare early vs late high-dose therapy. High-dose therapy with PBSC transplant is useful in many patients, but is not yet a curative treatment. Its role will likely evolve to a relatively safe way to induce tumor reduction to a state of minimal residual disease that is more susceptible to biologic therapies such as vaccines, or angiogenesis inhibition.

High-dose therapy with PBSC transplant can be emotionally isolating to the patient and support is extremely important. The time at which support is most needed will vary. Coordinate this with the transplant physician and coordinator and maintain close contact with the patient to be aware of his/her needs and preferences.



# Medical Corner

## Peripheral Blood Stem Cell (PBSC) Transplantation

### How Does PBSC Transplantation Help Patients with Multiple Myeloma?

PBSC transplantation makes it possible for patients with multiple myeloma to receive high-dose therapy. High-dose chemotherapy and radiotherapy are most effective in destroying cancer cells. However, high-dose therapy also destroys normal cells, including the patient's stem cells. Without stem cells, production of the body's white cells, red cells, and platelets comes to a stop. Stem cells transplanted after high-dose therapy replace the stem cells destroyed by high-dose therapy and make it possible for normal production of blood cells to begin again.

### What Is a Stem Cell?

The stem cell is a truly remarkable type of human cell. Like an amazing flower seed that can develop into any kind of flower - a daisy, a rose, or a sunflower - the stem cell can develop into any one of the many different types of blood cells, including a white cell, a red cell, or a platelet. These blood cells are extremely important: white cells fight infection; red cells carry oxygen throughout the body; and platelets help stop bleeding.

### Where Do Stem Cells Come from?

All stem cells come from the bone marrow, the spongy center of the bone, but some stem cells are found in peripheral blood (the blood circulating

throughout the body). However, there are not as many stem cells in peripheral blood as in bone marrow.

### How Is the Number of Stem Cells in Peripheral Blood Increased?

Growth factors (cytokines) G-CSF or GM-CSF, are given to the stem cell donor to stimulate the bone marrow to increase production and release of stem cells into the peripheral blood, this is called *mobilization*. In autologous transplantation, chemotherapy may also be used to help mobilize stem cells.

### How Are Stem Cells Collected from Peripheral Blood?

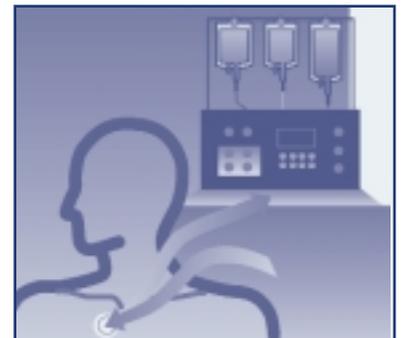
Stem cells are collected in a painless process called *apheresis*. During apheresis, the donor's blood is circulated through a cell separation machine, which removes stem cells and returns the blood to the donor. Usually, removal and return of the blood is through a catheter. This catheter is a small, flexible plastic tube that has two branches for removal and return of blood.

### How Long Does Apheresis Take?

Stem cells are collected for 2 to 4 hours for 2 to 3 days in a row until enough stem cells have been accumulated for transplantation. After each collection, the stem cells are frozen and stored.



Mobilization of donor stem cells Administration of growth factors (7 days) and/or chemotherapy for mobilization (varies).

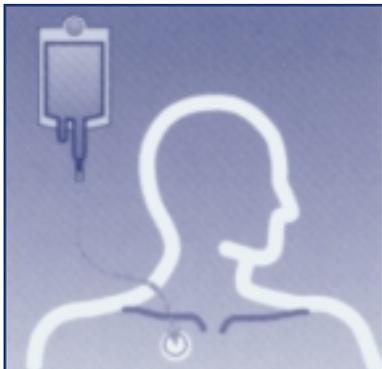


Apheresis

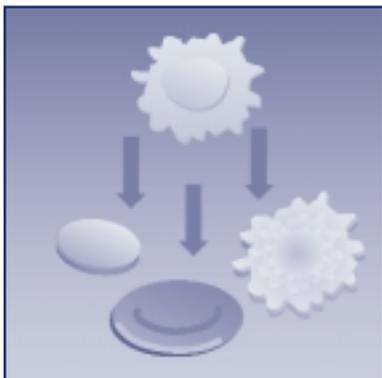


High-dose chemotherapy (and/or radiation) (4 to 8 days depending on protocol)

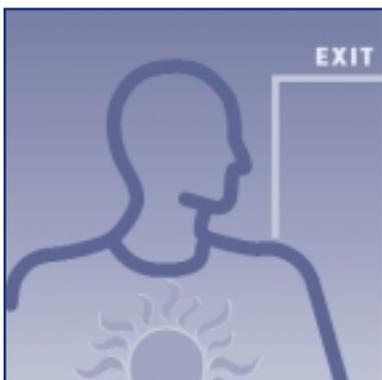
# Medical Corner



Infusion of stem cells (1 day)



Engraftment of new blood cells (2 to 4 weeks) Administration of antibiotics, and other supportive care if needed.



Discharge from medical center. WBC greater than 1000. No fever for 24 hours. Absence of infection. Able to take soft solid food.

## Does Apheresis Have Any Side Effects?

Occasionally, a donor may experience lightheadedness, coldness, numbness around the lips, or cramping of the hands. Treatment with G-CSF or GM-CSF may cause bone pain, which disappears when the cytokine is stopped.

## What Happens After the Stem Cells Are Collected?

When enough stem cells have been collected and stored, high-dose chemotherapy is administered. This high-dose chemotherapy destroys cancer cells more effectively than is possible with standard-dose chemotherapy.

## How Long After High-Dose Chemotherapy Are the Stem Cells Transplanted?

Within 1 to 2 days after the high-dose chemotherapy, the stem cells are thawed and quickly infused. To prevent damage during freezing, stem cells are treated with a preservative called dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). DMSO may cause a garlic-like odor and taste.

## What Is Engraftment?

During the engraftment process the infused stem cells find their way to the bone marrow where they begin to develop into new blood cells, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Engraftment usually takes

## TYPES OF TRANSPLANTATION

Transplants are categorized according to the relation between the donor and the recipient.

### Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation:

- when the transplant recipient serves as his or her own donor.

### Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation:

- when a donor, such as a brother or sister, provides the stem cells for transplantation to a recipient. Allogeneic transplants are more complex than autologous transplants, because a donor must be found who genetically matches the recipient. This is to avoid graft vs. host disease. Usually, the search for a donor begins with the patient's brothers and sisters.

### Syngeneic Stem Cell Transplantation:

- when the donor is an identical twin of the recipient.

# YOU NEED TO KNOW

## MEDICARE CUTS MAY THREATEN QUALITY OF CANCER CARE

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the federal agency that oversees Medicare, has proposed two significant changes that could negatively impact the quality of care provided to cancer patients.

First, the Balanced Budget Amendment has required HCFA to develop a new prospective payment system for hospital outpatient services called Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC). Under the APC, a much lower Medicare reimbursement rate will be paid to hospitals for treatments introduced after 1996. This will actually create a disincentive for physicians to prescribe the newest and potentially most effective treatments. Also, pamidronate, erythropoietin, and other drugs that help chemotherapy patients who have bone metastases, nausea, and who need white cell recovery support, may not be covered under the new system, resulting in the need for many more patients to be hospitalized to deal with the debilitating effects of therapies.

The second issue of great concern is that HCFA will publish a proposed rule that would eliminate Medicare support for any drug that can be self-administered. Under the new rule, any drug that can be self-administered will not be reimbursable under Medicare. The net result will be that patients will now have to pay for these life-saving medications currently covered under Medicare. Additionally, patients would be forced to inject themselves at home, regardless of their ability to do so safely and correctly, and without the benefit of a physician in attendance to deal with potentially adverse reactions that could seriously harm or kill the patients. We urge you to contact your congressional representative today! If you have any questions about how to do this, or would like additional information, please contact the MMRF or the Center for Patient Advocacy, at (703) 748-0400 ext. 28 or [www.pwpatientadv@erols.com](mailto:www.pwpatientadv@erols.com).

## MEDICARE COVERAGE OF AUTOLOGOUS TRANSPLANTS

Last spring we reported that Kathy Giusti, Kathy Hill, Kathy Callahan and Dr. Traynor met with HCFA to ask them to approve autologous stem cell transplants and high-dose chemotherapy for Medicare-covered myeloma patients meeting protocol criteria.

In September, the first meeting of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC) Panel was held to address this issue. A strong team of patient advocates and clinicians, including Dr. Barlogie, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Kyle and Dr. Traynor, made formal presentations. Dr. Grant Bagley, Director, HCFA's Coverage and Analysis Group, informed us that "the Committee felt that the available evidence was sufficient for the panel to recommend that Medicare develop a policy to pay for autologous stem cell transplants and high-dose chemotherapy for myeloma patients...that an arbitrary cut-off based on age for eligibility for that coverage was inappropriate."

Dr. Bagley indicated that "the next step in the process is the presentation of the Panel's recommendation to the overall committee's Executive Committee for them to review and ratify." According to Dr. Bagley, that presentation will take place in December, with a final recommendation being made available for HCFA to consider and develop into a final policy. The Executive Committee review of the recommendation will take place in early December, and a final policy decision will likely be made within 60 days of that time - roughly by the end of January. Dr. Bagley indicated that the final step in the process involves making changes to the claims processing system, which usually takes "several months." Therefore, complete implementation of the policy should occur in April of 2000.

For full details on this meeting, and information on future meetings addressing this issue, visit HCFA's website: <http://www.hcfa.gov/quality/8b1-c.htm>



Grant P. Bagley, MD, JD



THE MMRF  
**CONGRATULATES**  
**DR. BART BARLOGIE**, UNIV. OF  
ARKANSAS CANCER RESEARCH CENTER,  
FOR HAVING WON THE '99  
WALDENSTROM'S AWARD,  
AND FOR HIS DEDICATION TO MYELOMA  
PATIENTS.



# FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

## WORKING FOR A CURE



Narendra Ahya organizes Myelothon

## MYELOTHON

The New England Area Multiple Myeloma Support Group sponsored a "Myelothon" to raise funds for myeloma research. Over \$8,000 was raised for the MMRF, which will go directly toward myeloma research. The Myelothon included Multiple Myeloma patients and caregivers who walked or ran one or more miles, thus constituting a total of 26 miles for a marathon. We would like to extend our gratitude to Narendra Ahya for organizing this important event.

## GAME DINNER

Over \$10,000 was raised for myeloma research at the second annual Game Dinner held once again at the Roger Sherman Inn in New Canaan, CT. Over 50 men attended the dinner, which offered a variety of wild game including quail and pheasant. We would like to thank Charlie Hinnant, Mike Moore and John Andrews for organizing this terrific event.



(L-R) Richard Miano, Dave Lindsay, John Andrews and Charlie Hinnant



(L-R) Bruce Figurido and Lou Malaquias

## GOLF FUNDRAISER

The "Bruce Figurido / Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation Golf Fundraiser" raised over \$7,000 for myeloma research. The fundraiser attracted 88 golfers and 50 sponsors, and took place on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club in Beverly, MA. Special thanks to Lou Malaquias for sponsoring this event in the name of his brother-in-law, a myeloma patient in remission, and for selecting the MMRF as its beneficiary.



# MEET OUR BOARD



Lynn O'Connor Vos

There are so many outstanding people who contribute to the efforts of the MMRF. Over the next several issues of **MYLOMA FOCUS** we will introduce some of our dedicated Board members who donate their time and knowledge to ensure the Foundation's success.

## Lynn O'Connor Vos,

CEO of Grey Healthcare Group, was one of the first members of the MMRF's Board of Directors. Having lost her mother to ovarian cancer, Ms. Vos already had a personal interest in cancer, but became involved in the MMRF through a long-term business relationship with Kathy Giusti. Ms. Vos

saw her position at Grey Healthcare, a healthcare communications company, as an opportunity to contribute the company's vast resources and expertise to a very good cause.

Grey Healthcare assists the MMRF because "100% of our business is healthcare, and we have a passion for Oncology," stated Ms. Vos. Grey Healthcare invented National Cancer Survivors Day and many other great initiatives to heighten cancer awareness, and working with the MMRF is very much in keeping with Grey's mission. Grey Healthcare has been a critical asset to the MMRF over the past three years. They have brought the resources of Phase V Communications, their medical education company, as well as their sister-company International Meetings and Science (IMSCI), to help plan and implement MMRF symposia.

Of her involvement on the Board of Directors, Ms. Vos said, "I enjoy working with a team of high-level executives...Kathy and her sister have reached tremendous heights raising funds for this important cancer." Ms. Vos said of the Board itself, "essentially, the Board gives Kathy an opportunity to sit down with a very seasoned group of people and really look at whether we are using every medium to our best advantage - to drive as much research money to the organization as possible."

Ms. Vos is but one of a team of committed individuals at Grey Healthcare Group who selflessly give of their time to the MMRF. We would also like to thank Barbara Blasso, President, IMSCI; Peter Neimi, Manager of Internet Services; Bob Pearson, Managing Director, GCI Healthcare; Martin Irvine, PhD, Director of Scientific Services; and Margy Meislin, Senior Account Executive, GCI Healthcare.



# DATES TO REMEMBER

**March 1, 2000**

## MMRF CHICAGO SPRING GALA.

To get involved, contact Jenny McMahon 203-801-5212.

**March 7, 2000**

**TELECONFERENCE:** *Novel Therapies in MM.* From 1-2 pm Presented by the MMRF & Cancer Care and hosted by Dr. Ken Anderson of Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Call 800-813-4673, 212-302-2400 two weeks prior to register for event. Or register over the Internet at [www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org)

**April 12, 2000**

**PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN SYMPOSIA:** *Novel Therapeutic Approaches in Treating MM.* Cleveland, OH. Presented by the MMRF & Cleveland Clinic. Speakers: Dr. Mohamed Hussein, Dr. Phil Greipp, Dr. Nikhil Munshi, and Kathy Giusti. For more info, contact Ellen Kaplan at the MMRF 203-972-1250.

**May 3, 2000**

**PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN SYMPOSIA:** *Novel Therapeutic Approaches in Treating MM* Philadelphia, PA. Presented by the MMRF, University of Pennsylvania & The Wellness Community. Speakers: Dr. Phil Greipp, Dr. Edward Stadtmauer, and Kathy Giusti. For more info, contact Ellen Kaplan at the MMRF 203-972-1250.

## On-Going

**WEBCAST:** *Findings from the VII<sup>th</sup> Annual Multiple Myeloma World Congress* presented by the MMRF & St. Vincents Comprehensive Care Center. Speakers: World-renowned researchers reporting on most promising new myeloma therapies. Visit the MMRF website at:

[www.multiplemyeloma.org](http://www.multiplemyeloma.org).

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Kathy Giusti  
Karen South  
Ellen Kaplan

## MEDICAL WRITER

Karen South

## PRODUCTION

MS Enterprises

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The Multiple Myeloma  
Research Foundation

11 Forest Street

New Canaan, CT 06840

Telephone (203) 972-1250

Fax (203)972-1259

E-mail mailto: MMRF@netaxis.com

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.

# The MMRF Spring Gala 2000!

The MMRF is pleased to announce its Spring Gala 2000 to be held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago, IL. Scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>, this event pays special homage to individuals and organizations with a deep commitment to the MMRF and to myeloma patients worldwide.



Harry Kraemer

Mr. Harry Kraemer, President and CEO of Baxter International, will be presented with the MMRF **Corporate Leadership Award**. Baxter International has pioneered medical technologies that have improved and saved the lives of countless people around the world who have cancer and other life-threatening conditions. The company develops and distributes products critical to the well-being of myeloma patients, including blood and blood-component collection systems (used in stem cell transplants), dialysis systems and therapeutic proteins to treat immune deficiencies. Today, Baxter International is a leader in the market it serves and continues to advance other medical technologies to improve health care for patients worldwide.

Mr. Al Heller, President and COO of Searle Pharmaceuticals, will receive the MMRF **Humanitarian Award**. Mr. Heller is being honored for his outstanding dedication to, and tremendous impact on, the growth of the Foundation. Mr. Heller first became involved in the fight when Kathy Giusti, then his employee at Searle, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Since then, he has never wavered in his commitment to the Foundation and to its cause. One of the first members of the MMRF's Board of Directors, Mr. Heller has brought to bear against the disease his valuable industry expertise as well as Searle's corporate commitment to oncology. Mr. Heller continues to be a great asset to the MMRF.



Al Heller

*A Special Thank You*  
to the following  
corporations for helping support

Myeloma Focus:

G.D. Searle  
Novartis  
Ortho Biotech  
Grey Healthcare Group  
Nexell Therapeutics  
NEORX

The MMRF looks forward to the opportunity to honor those who make a real difference in the fight against multiple myeloma. **Join the gala committee today! Call Jenny McMahon at 203-801-5212 to learn how you can get involved.**

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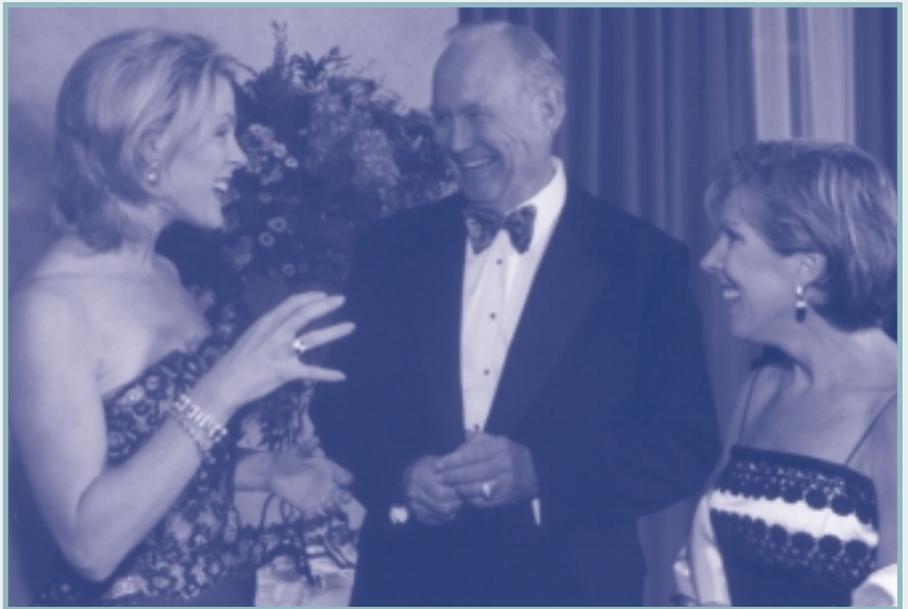


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