



PRESS RELEASE  
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For Immediate Release  
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## HOPE FUNDS FOR CANCER RESEARCH ANNOUNCES 2008 GALA AWARDS PRESENTATION

**NEWPORT, RI -- July 29, 2008 --** The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, a new organization dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced its 2008 Award of Excellence. Presentation will take place on August 9, 2008, in Newport, RI. The Hope Funds Awards honor outstanding contributions to basic and clinical cancer research, as well as prominent advocacy and philanthropy on behalf of cancer research.

The awards will be presented at a White Tie Gala, a dinner dance hosted in the legendary Newport mansion, Marble House. This event, held each summer in Newport, is the focal point for Hope Funds' charitable mission and brings together supporters and constituencies of the organization to honor distinguished luminaries in the oncology field. Proceeds from the Gala go to fund post-doctoral fellowships in cancer research.

The Hope Funds Award for Basic Research honors **Craig Mello**, 2006 Nobel Laureate in Medicine, for his seminal discoveries in RNA interference as it relates to cancer. The Hope Funds Award for Clinical Development honors **Malcolm A. S. Moore**, from Sloan-Kettering Institute, for his contribution to the development of blood cell growth stimulatory factors. The Hope Funds Award for Advocacy honors **Robert Bazell**, of NBC, for his influential reporting of science and health issues. The Hope Funds Award for Philanthropy honors **Gilda's Club** for the compassion it has shown to cancer patients and their families.

"These honorees were selected based on their service in the field of cancer research and treatment, the significant contributions they have made in advancing cancer care, as well as their integrity, character, and high regard from their peers," reported Leah Rush Cann, the Hope Funds' Chairman of the Board.

### About the Honorees

#### **Craig Mello, PhD**

Dr. Mello is a professor of molecular medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School as well as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. He is being honored for his seminal discoveries relating to "gene silencing," or RNA interference. Dr. Mello attended Fairfax (Virginia) High School and later received his BS from Brown University in 1982 and his PhD from Harvard University in 1990. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in the laboratory of Dr. James Priess. Dr. Mello is a 2006 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology, as well as a recipient of the National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology, the Wiley Prize in the Biomedical Sciences from Rockefeller University, Brandeis University's Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Medical Research, the Gairdner Foundation International Award, the Massry Prize, the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize, and the Dr. Paul Janssen Award for Biomedical Research by Johnson & Johnson. Dr. Mello is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

#### **Malcolm Moore, DPhil**

Dr. Moore received his Bachelor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Oxford. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed a Prize Fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford. He was a Queen Elizabeth II Visiting Fellow and Senior Research Scientist and Head of the Laboratory of Developmental Biology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, Australia. Since 1974 he has been a Member at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research and heads the James Ewing Laboratory of Developmental Hematopoiesis along with appointments on the Hematology-Lymphoma Service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital, and at Cornell University Graduate School of Medical Sciences. Dr. Moore is the incumbent of the Enid A. Haupt Chair of Cell Biology. He is perhaps best-known for identifying and purifying a human growth factor, G-CSF, that stimulates white blood cell production (neutrophils). In collaboration with Amgen, recombinant G-CSF (Neupogen) was developed. This therapy has significantly improved survival in cancer patients. Over three million patients world-wide, mostly with cancer, have been treated with Neupogen. Dr. Moore is a member of various national and international societies and is on the editorial boards of a number of Journals. He has served or chaired committees of governmental and professional organizations. He has received numerous awards including the Boyer Award for Meritorious Achievement in Basic Cancer Research, the Stratton Medal of the American Society of Hematology, the Rhodes Memorial Award of the American Society for Cancer Research, the Dr. Kenny Award and the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Award of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Hammer Prize for Cancer Research, the Coley Award of the Cancer Research Institute, The Metcalf Memorial Award of the International Society of Experimental Hematology, and the Gottlieb Memorial Award of the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

### **Robert Bazell**

Robert Bazell, NBC's Chief Science and Health Correspondent, is being honored for patient advocacy by increasing awareness of science and medicine through the media. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1967 with a BA in biochemistry and Phi Beta Kappa honors, he studied biology at the University of Sussex as part of his graduate work before returning to Berkeley to complete his doctoral candidate degree in immunology. Dr. Bazell pursued a dual interest in journalism and science by joining Science magazine in 1971 and writing for its News and Comment section. In 1976, he began a career in broadcast journalism by joining WNBC in New York as a reporter before moving to NBC News, where he was one of the first network news correspondents to report on the emerging AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s. He continues to cover health and science issues for the network. His reports appear on NBC Nightly News, Today, and Dateline NBC. Dr. Bazell is a recipient of two Emmy Awards for his reports on the human brain, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, the Maggie Award from Planned Parenthood, and the George Foster Peabody Award for his service to broadcast journalism. In addition to his television accomplishments, he is the author of HER-2, the acclaimed account of the making of the first targeted cancer drug.

### **Gilda's Club**

Gilda's Club was founded in memory of former Saturday Night Live comedian Gilda Radner, who was lost to ovarian cancer at the age of 43. Gilda's Club Worldwide works with local communities to create free, non-residential, homelike meeting places where men, women, and children with cancer, and their families and friends, can come together for emotional and social support. The organization is being honored for providing, free of charge, a non-residential, homelike environment that enables people living with cancer to create an affirming and vibrant, community. Through support groups, social activities, and educational seminars, Gilda's Club helps people learn how to live with cancer in the company of a community of peers. As cancer becomes a chronic rather than fatal illness, the need for ongoing support to live with this disease continues to increase. Gilda's Club fulfills this need not only for the person with the disease, but also for friends and family

who find they are living with cancer.

### **About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research**

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by a group of concerned individuals who have experience in oncology, intellectual property law, investment banking, philanthropy, sociology, and the arts to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical, and investment approach to granting money to the most interesting and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, and ovarian cancers. These cancers are insidiously aggressive illnesses that kill most of their victims within months, even with aggressive chemotherapy. The Trustees of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research believe that funding research that could lead to breakthroughs in these areas and increase life expectancy in these types of cancers is at the core of our mission. The Hope Funds for Cancer Research is a 509 (a)(1) charity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service's code.

For additional information about the organization, please visit <http://www.hope-funds.org> or contact Leah Cann at 401-847-3286.

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