



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

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Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces 2010 Award of Excellence Recipients

NEWPORT, RI -- March 22, 2010 -- The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, an organization dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced its 2010 Award of Excellence Honorees, to be presented at the organization's annual awards gala on August 7th in Newport.

The Hope Funds Awards honor outstanding contributions to basic, clinical, and medical cancer research, as well as prominent advocacy and philanthropy on behalf of cancer research. This year's Honorees are James E. Darnell, Jr., M.D. for Basic Science, George D. Demetri, M.D. for Clinical Development, Murray F. Brennan, M.D. for Medicine, and Harold P. Freeman, M.D. for Advocacy.

"These honorees were nominated and selected based on their extraordinary contributions to the field of cancer research and treatment, which has extended and improved patients' lives," stated Leah Rush Cann, chairman of the Hope Funds board.

About the Honorees

James E. Darnell, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Darnell is the Vincent Astor Professor Emeritus at The Rockefeller University. An internationally renowned molecular biologist, James Darnell uses biochemistry and genetic analysis to reveal the fundamental mechanisms of intracellular signaling and gene regulation in animal cells.

Dr. Darnell received his M.D. in 1955 from the Washington University School of Medicine. His career has included poliovirus research with Harry Eagle at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, research with François Jacob at the Institut Pasteur in Paris and academic appointments at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Columbia University. In 1974, Dr. Darnell joined Rockefeller University as Vincent Astor Professor, and from 1990 to 1991 was vice president for academic affairs.

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, received the 2003 National Medal of Science, and the 2002 Albert Lasker Award for Special Achievement in Medical Science. Dr. Darnell is the originating author of *Molecular Cell Biology*, a seminal textbook that he co-wrote with David Baltimore and Harvey Lodish. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a foreign member of the Royal Society and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

George D. Demetri, M.D.

Dr. Demetri is a medical oncologist at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where he is director of the Center for Sarcoma and Bone Oncology at Dana-Farber, director of the Ludwig Center at Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, and executive director for Clinical and Translational Research at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. Dr. Demetri has dedicated his career to translational therapeutics research aimed at using novel drugs to improve the efficacy of existing treatments for solid tumors, including sarcoma and breast cancer. Two examples are the use of Gleevec and Sutent in gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). He serves as principal investigator on more than ten active clinical trials in drug development.

Dr. Demetri received his MD from Stanford University in 1983, followed by an internal medicine residency and chief residency at the University of Washington Hospital, Seattle, and a fellowship in medical oncology at Dana-Farber in 1989. Dr. Demetri is the founder and editor of Sarcoma.net and received the 2002 Emil J Freirich Award in Clinical Cancer Research from the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Murray F. Brennan, M.D.

Dr. Brennan is the Vice President of International Programs and Director of the International Center and holds the Benno C. Schmidt Chair in Clinical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He has designed and conducted prospective clinical trials that have produced significant findings for the management of soft tissue sarcoma and peripancreatic cancer.

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, Dr. Murray Brennan received a degree in mathematics from the University of New Zealand and a medical degree from the University of Otago in 1964. After residency at the Brigham, Dr. Brennan joined Steven Rosenberg, MD at the National Cancer Institute where he was head of the surgical metabolism section. In 1981, Dr. Brennan joined Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as Chief of Gastric and Mixed Tumor Service, and from 1985 to 2006 he held the position of Chairman of the Department of Surgery.

In 1995 he was honored with membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and in 2000 with the American College of Surgeons' highest award, The Distinguished Service Award.

Harold P. Freeman, M.D.

Dr. Freeman is the President and Founder of the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention in New York City. He is Senior Advisor to the Director of the National Cancer Institute. He is a Professor of Clinical Surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Freeman is the chief architect of the American Cancer Society's initiative on cancer in the poor and is a leading authority on the interrelationships between race, poverty and cancer. Dr. Freeman is past Chairman of the United States President's Cancer Panel. He has been appointed to this position for four three-year terms, first by President Bush in 1991 and subsequently by President Clinton in 1994, 1997 and 2000. He is also the pioneer of Patient Navigation, the purpose of which is to eliminate barriers to timely cancer care for poor and uninsured patients. President George W. Bush signed the Patient Navigation and Chronic Disease Prevention Act in 2005 based on this model.

Dr. Freeman was born in Washington, D.C. and graduated from the Catholic University of America. He graduated from Howard University Medical School, Washington, D.C. and completed internship and residency in General Surgery at Howard University Hospital where he received the Daniel Hale Williams Award for Outstanding Achievements as Chief Resident. Subsequently he was Senior Resident in Cancer Surgery for three years at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York City.

Dr. Freeman is a Diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He served as National President of the American Cancer Society, 1988-1989. Dr. Freeman received the Mary Lasker Award for Public Service in 2000.

Award of Excellence

The Honorees who receive this award are suggested through a formal nomination process and selected based on their contributions to the field of cancer research and treatment, their integrity and character, and how they are regarded by their peers. Previous recipients of the award are Sir Paul Nurse, Craig Mello, Ph.D., and Robert A. Weinberg, Ph.D., for Basic Science; Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez, M.D., Malcolm A.S. Moore, D.Phil, and Brian Druker, M.D., for Clinical Development; M. Judah Folkman, M.D., and John Cameron, M.D., for Medicine; Paula Kim, Robert Bazell, and Amy Dockser Marcus for Advocacy; and Corporate Angel Network, Gilda's Club Worldwide, and the Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Fund for Cancer Research, for Philanthropy.

The awards will be presented during a white tie dinner and dance held at Newport's historic Marble House on August 7, 2010. This event, held each summer, is a focal point for the Hope Funds charitable mission and brings together the organization's supporters and constituencies to recognize and honor distinguished luminaries in the oncology field. Proceeds from the Gala go to fund post doctoral fellowships in cancer research. For more information, visit: www.hope-funds.org/events/

About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical, and investment approach to making grants for 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 call 401-847-3286.

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