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Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release
Press Contact: Kelly Powers
401-847-3286

Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces 2011 Program on Innovative Cancer Treatment and the Presentation of the Robert Tiedemann Award for Courage

NEWPORT, RI -- June 28, 2011 --Hope Funds for Cancer Research, a philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced its 2011 Program Event and Presentation of the Robert Tiedemann Award for Courage will be held in Newport, RI on Sunday, August 7th at the Redwood Library and Athenaeum. Chairs for the event are Charles V. Baltic III, Dr. Patricia Bilden and Philip Bilden, and Dr. Orest Zaklynsky.

Hope Funds for Cancer Research holds programmatic events to increase awareness of cancer research and cutting edge cancer treatment, and to raise funds for cancer research.

"Hope Funds is a unique organization that pursues funding for research into those malignancies that are hardest to treat, and basic research is fundamental in this pursuit," stated Event co-chair Orest Zaklynsky, M.D.

As part of this reception, forum and supper, the Hope Funds will present the Robert Tiedemann Award for Courage to decorated Americas Cup Sailor Gary Jobson, and will hold a forum on improving treatment in underserved cancers.

This Panel Discussion on Innovative Cancer Treatment will include biotech CEO Robert Duggan, venture capitalist and biotech director William P. Egan, Vanderbilt University researcher Stephen Fesik, Ph.D., Nobel Laureate Craig Mello, Ph.D., and nanotechnology venture capitalist Misti Ushio, Ph.D.

About the Panelists

Robert W. Duggan

Bob is Chairman of the Board and CEO of the biotech company Pharmacyclics, Inc. Mr. Duggan is a director of Intuitive Surgical, Inc. He is the founder of the investment firm Robert W. Duggan & Associates.

Mr. Duggan has been a private venture investor for more than 30 years and has participated as a director of, investor in, and advisor to numerous small and large businesses in the medical equipment, computer local and wide area network, PC hardware and software distribution, digital encryption, consumer retail goods and outdoor media communication industries. Mr. Duggan has also assisted in corporate planning, capital formation and management for his various investments.

He received the Congressman's Medal of Merit and in 2000 he was named a Knight of the Legion of Honor by President Jacques Chirac. He is a member of the University of California at Santa Barbara Foundation Board of Trustees.

William P. Egan

Bill is founder and General Partner of Alta Communications and Marion Equity Partners, Massachusetts-based venture capital firms. He founded Alta's predecessor firm, Burr, Egan, Deleage & Co. in 1979, and has identified and backed several of America's leading growth companies in the information technology, life sciences, and communications industries. Prior to founding Burr, Egan, Deleage & Co., Bill was a Partner at TA Associates. He began his career as a Manager of Venture Capital for New England Enterprise Capital Corporation.

He is past President and Chairman of the National Venture Capital Association, a former Trustee of Fairfield University, a member of the Board of Overseers of The Wharton School and a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Cephalon, Inc., CRH plc, and a number of privately held companies. Bill is also a trustee of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Duniry Foundation.

Bill received a degree in Economics from Fairfield University and an MBA from The Wharton School.

Stephen W. Fesik, Ph.D.

Dr. Fesik is the Orrin H. Ingram, II Chair in Cancer Research and a Professor of Biochemistry, Pharmacology, and Chemistry in Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. The focus of his research is on cancer drug discovery using fragment-based approaches and structure-based drug design.

Prior to joining Vanderbilt in May 2009, Dr. Fesik was the Divisional Vice President of Cancer Research at Abbott (2000-2009) where he built a pipeline of compounds that are showing promising anti-cancer activities in early stage clinical trials. His research has also involved the use of siRNA for target identification and target validation. Dr. Fesik has published more than 240 papers, trained 36 postdoctoral fellows, has been a reviewer for the NIH Biophysical Chemistry Study Section, and has served as a member of the numerous editorial boards.

He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the UPenn Abramson Cancer Center, Aileron Therapeutics, and the Bruker Board of Directors. Recently he has been elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Craig Mello, Ph.D.

Dr. Mello is a Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. He was awarded the 2006 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, along with Andrew Z. Fire, for the discovery of RNA interference. Dr. Mello received his B.S. from Brown University in 1982 and his Ph.D. 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 member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Science.

Dr. Mello was born in New Haven, Connecticut to James and Sally Mello. His father, James Mello, was a paleontologist and his mother, Sally Mello, was an artist. His parents met while attending Brown University.

Dr. Mello was the 2008 recipient of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research's Award for Excellence in Basic Science. To view his acceptance, [Click here](#)

Misti Ushio

Misti is a Principal and Vice President at Harris & Harris Group, Inc. Ms. Ushio has served as a Principal since January 2010, as a Vice President since May 2007. Prior to joining Harris & Harris in May 2007, she was a Technology Licensing Officer at Columbia University.

She is a Director of Ancora Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Treasurer and a Director of Enumeral Biomedical Corp. as well as a board observer of Crystal IS, Inc., Ensemble Therapeutics, Inc., Mersana Therapeutics, Inc., Siluria Technologies and Tetravitae Bioscience, Inc., all privately

held nanotechnology-enabled companies. Prior to its sale to Amgen, Inc., she was a board observer of BioVex Group, Inc., a biotechnology company pursuing novel research in oncology using oncolytic vaccines.

She was graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, Lehigh University with an M.S. in Chemical Engineering, and University College London with a Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering.

About the Robert Tiedemann Award for Courage

Robert Tiedemann was a lifelong sailor with a passion for vintage yachts. He passed away at age 56 in May 2006 following a courageous struggle with pancreatic cancer. During his career, he rescued a substantial number of antique sail and powerboats, including two 12-Metres, Gleam and Northern Light. In 2007, Hope Funds for Cancer Research named its award for courage in Bob's memory. This year's recipient, decorated Americas Cup sailor Gary Jobson, has demonstrated courage as both a patient and an advocate. For more information: [Gary Jobson to Receive Tiedemann Award](#)

Recipients of this award are selected based on the courage they have demonstrated as patients, advocates, or physicians battling this daunting disease. Previous recipients of the award are Stephen Tebes, MD post humus in 2007; Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez, MD, John K. Naughton and David Straus, MD collectively in 2008; and Nathan Robison, MD. in 2010.

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, as well as rare leukemias, lymphomas and MDS. 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 young, innovative researchers will lead to breakthroughs in these areas and increase life expectancy for those with these types of cancers. 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 www.hope-funds.org or call 401-847-3286.

Advancing innovative research in understudied cancers

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