eSequence ACGT National grants for cell and gene therapy cancer research
ALLIANCE FOR CANCER GENE THERAPY

March 22, 2013

Another Major Breakthrough for ACGT funded research



Genetically altering a patient's immune cells has, for the first time, produced remissions in adults with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). In one patient, the disease vanished in eight days. The clinical trial, using engineered T-cells to treat five adults with ALL, was based in part on early funded research by ACGT. According to **Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD**, ACGT Scientific Advisory Council member and Research Fellow, and senior author of the new study,"This is a very exciting finding for patients with B-cell ALL and a major achievement in the field of targeted immunotherapy. In adults this type of leukemia is a devastating, galloping disease." The study was published Wednesday in the journal, *Science Translational Medicin*e.

Dr. Sadelain of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) was the recipient of one of two ACGT Clinical Investigator Awards given in 2004, for research on immune-mediated gene therapy for lymphoma/leukemia. Dr. Carl June at the University of Pennsylvania received the second of the $1 million grants.

"It wasn't easy to get funding to support such innovative, unproven therapies. The grant from ACGT was our first major grant to launch our T-cell program," said **Dr. Sadelain**, Director of the Center for Cell Engineering and Gene Transfer and the Gene Expression Laboratory at MSKCC, in an interview in April 2012.

Dr. Carl June, leader of the team that successfully treated 2 young leukemia patients, **Emma Whitehead and Maddie Major**, and 8 other adult leukemia patients at the University of Pennsylvania with a similar treatment, also commented on the cutting-edge research ACGT supported in 2004. "Funding was not available from the NIH for gene therapy (in 2004). ACGT was the first to be there, to say that cell and gene therapies can be a new platform therapy, and giving literally lifesaving grants to scientists who cannot get them from the federal system." The early clinical trial at Penn "exceeded" the expectations of the researchers and is being hailed as one of the most significant advances in cancer research in decades.

To see some of the national coverage of both trials, please go to www.acgtfoundation.org.

ACGT is currently requesting proposals for its 2013 Investigator's Award in Clinical Translation of Cell and Gene Therapy for Cancer Research. For more information on the RFA go to www.acgtfoundation.org.

Greenwich Citizen Features ACGT President

Barbara Netter, President of ACGT, is committed more than ever to continue the work that she and her late husband Edward started in 2001.



She is featured in a recent article in the Greenwich Citizen discussing some of the exciting breakthroughs in gene therapy funded by ACGT.

ACGT Symposium at the ASGCT Annual Meeting

May 16, 2013

Read more about the meeting...



Save the Date

Swim Across America set for June 22, 2013

Learn more about sponsorship and participation in the Greenwich/Stamford Swim at www.swimacrossamerica.org



KEEP THE MOMENTUM!

For more information on how to contribute to ACGT, 100% of which goes directly to research go to www.acgtfoundation.org. *Thank you!*

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