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# eNews ACGT

National grants for cell and gene therapy cancer research

ALLIANCE FOR CANCER GENE THERAPY

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NEW *Frontiers* IN CANCER CELL AND GENE THERAPY

SAVE THE DATE 04.19.2012

*A Celebration of Innovation & Dedication*

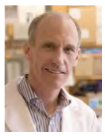
HONORING EDWARD NETTER

## April 19th, 2012 ACGT *NEW FRONTIERS* Tenth Anniversary Gala

***Honoring co-founder Edward Netter***

At this highly anticipated event, speakers Robert Bazell, NBC News Chief Science and Health Correspondent, and Dr. Dennis O. Clegg, PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara, will enlighten us on the most promising news in molecular medicine. Guests will also have the opportunity to meet Dr. Carl June, of the University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center, who recently announced a life-saving gene therapy breakthrough for the treatment of leukemia, as well as many of the best research scientists in the field. Contact Gordon Hastings for sponsorships, tables and tribute journal ads. 203.358.8000 X 705. Purchase tickets at http://www.acgtfoundation.org/

## Breakthrough Leukemia Treatment Featured in *Discover* Magazine



"Immune Supercells Purge Leukemia" *Discover* Magazine's Top Stories of 2011 includes ACGT Research Fellow Dr. Carl June's breakthrough therapy for CLL using the patient's own cells to attack cancer. This remarkable gene therapy approach may help fight other cancers as well. Read more....

## In his own Words: Patient Lives Because of Gene Therapy



Five years after gene therapy for Stage IV lung cancer, one trial participant sings the praises of his treatment. " While on the vaccine, I, along with every other patient enrolled in the trial, experienced no negative side effects whatsoever. Chemotherapies may have hit the proverbial ceiling, but the ability of the human body to heal itself, with a little help, has only begun to be tapped." Early funding for the research that made this treatment possible was awarded by ACGT to Dr. Eckhard Podack at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Read more from this cancer survivor.

## Immunotherapy Highlighted in Scientific Journal

"Cancer Immunotherapy Comes of Age" in the December 2011 issue of *Nature* featured ACGT Research Fellows Dr. Glenn Dranoff at Dana Farber/ Harvard, and Dr. George Coukos, University of Pennsylvania, both making great strides toward long-lasting survival for patients treated with immunotherapy, which turns the body's immune system against cancer cells.

## Research Fellow Celebrated for Progress



Dr. Andrew Davidoff of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital was the senior author of a paper published in the December 22nd *New England Journal of Medicine* featuring the successful treatment of British patients suffering from Hemophilia B. Gene therapies are being studied for many diseases and each success contributes new learning to molecular medicine. Dr. Davidoff thanked ACGT for the support he received in 2002, our first grant cycle, which "helped to further our general understanding of AAV-mediated gene transfer that ultimately culminated in our successful clinical trial for hemophilia B."

## Research Fellow Receives Awards for Innovation



Dr. George Coukos of the University of Pennsylvania Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute is the recipient of two major awards for his innovative research for ovarian and peritoneal cancers: the Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation Research Award and the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance Research Award. In addition, Dr. Coukos won a highly competitive $3.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's Office of the Director to develop novel lymphocyte therapies that attack tumor blood vessels.

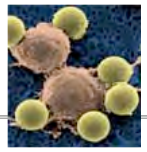
## Research into Canine Cancer Makes Miracles



Gene therapy has also had great results at the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital. Using immunotherapy as a treatment for canines with Stage IV Lymphoma, Dr. Robert H. Vonderheide, whose initial research was funded by ACGT, reports long-lasting positive outcomes. One special dog, Barney, is telling his story in *Venu* Magazine's Jan-Feb issue - a tale beautifully told and with a happy ending.



### Double-Fellow Issues Winning Progress Report



Two-time grant recipient Dr. Thomas Kipps , Moore's Cancer Center at the University of California, San Diego, reports that the combination of gene immunotherapy with chemotherapy is proving to be a safe and more effective treatment for the high-risk CLL patients in his trial, with remission rates nine times greater than those in a similar study using chemotherapy alone.

### 24/7 Gene Therapy News

More than 100 research institutions throughout the country and thousands of scientists have active cell and gene-based therapy research studies and trials – learn more about the science of molecular medicine and the progress of potentially breakthrough research at ACGT, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

### Follow us via Facebook and Twitter for Fast-Breaking News on Cancer Research

We re-post many mainstream publications such as *ABC News*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Bloomberg Business Week*, and the *Wall Street Journal* feature articles on cell and gene therapies.

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**Betty Condon, Development Associate, 203.358.8000**
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