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

Mark your calendar now for April 19, 2012 to attend the NEW FRONTIERS gala celebrating ten years of progress and honoring ACGT co-founder Edward Netter. We are proud to feature speakers Robert Bazell, Chief Science and Health Correspondent for *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams* and Dennis O. Clegg, PhD, Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Both experts will enlighten us on the most promising news in molecular medicine. Sponsorships and tables are available now, as well as opportunities to attend a private cocktail reception with ACGT scientists who are making great strides every day towards establishing a new paradigm for cancer treatment and care – contact Gordon Hastings at 203-358-8000 x705, ghastings@acgtfoundation.org or sign up on our website.

Nobel Winners Pave the Way for Cell and Gene Therapy



The Nobel Prize for Medicine was awarded this year to three scientists furthering the science of immunotherapy, an approach that galvanizes the immune system to attack tumor cells. Our esteemed ACGT scientists are conducting research into immune-mediated therapies with fantastic results. We are in awe of physicians like Dr. Ralph Steinman of Rockefeller Institute, who was awarded the prize posthumously, and was able to extend his lifespan using his own dendritic cells to treat pancreatic cancer.

2011 Young Investigator Announced

The winner of our 10th Young Investigator grant cycle is Hui Hu, PhD, Assistant Professor at The Wistar Institute, Pennsylvania [pending a confirmed institutional agreement.] An award of $300,000 will fund a 3-year study into immune-mediated treatment for ovarian cancer. This disease is among the most deadly and 5-year survival rates have hardly changed. "In this difficult funding time, the award will give us the great support to pursue this important research." Since the Fund for Discovery was established, scientists at 200 research institutions have submitted requests for funding and this year, our Scientific Advisory Council selected Dr. Hu from a pool of 87 letters of intent and 16 full applications.

Swim Across America Makes Waves for ACGT



SAA co-chair Kerry Anderson presented ACGT Board President Barbara Netter with the $400,000 earned at the June event. This brings their total contribution over five years of swims to $1.2 million! We are also thrilled to announce that Anderson and Jacque Lang have agreed to co-chair the 6th annual swim in June 2012. This makes Swim Across America one of our most significant donors and a wonderful partner. We are extremely grateful.

NIH Faces Budget Pressure



National Institutes of Health [NIH] is the government's driving force behind medical research, but with recent budget cuts, and possibly more to come, cancer research is at a crossroads. The ability to secure an NIH grant is at a historic low – just 17.4% of applicants in 2011 won awards, down from 32% less than a decade ago – a reflection of the 1% budget cut this year. The future of cancer research may become a casualty of Congressional politics, making private research all the more crucial. Support ACGT Research Funding.

Welcome to the ACGT Board: Tracy Bishop Holton

Tracy Bishop Holton is a lawyer and author with expertise in product liability, energy and natural resources, and construction law. She has extensive experience in litigation and an interest in molecular medicine. “I believe that cancer gene therapy is the most promising weapon in the war on cancer. ACGT is in the vanguard in this field. I want to contribute to its success and serve this cause." A resident of Old Greenwich, Holton is another inspiring addition to our ACGT Board of Directors.



Venü Magazine Features ACGT Scientists

Venü, an arts and culture magazine, has taken the bold editorial step of featuring ACGT scientists with a focus on what drives them and what sustains them. In the first of six profiles, the September issue highlights rock-climber Clodagh O'Shea, PhD, at the UCSD Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. Clodagh compares the same laser-like focus against cancer to her avocation of rock climbing. "Even in the slow going, you understand that every step forward counts because it increases your knowledge and confidence." The November issue features Dr. Michael Lotze at the University of Pittsburgh who says both cancer research and long-distance running stimulate mind and body. "…it creates a deep understanding of focus, it motivates the attainment of goals, and allows one to establish objectives that are beyond immediate reach."

Did you know...?

All donations to ACGT go directly to research – a separate fund covers all administrative expenses. In this season of giving, please keep cancer research in your heart and make a donation to support cell and gene therapies – the future will be brighter with your support.

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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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