ACGT ALLIANCE FOR CANCER GENE THERAPY

Advancing molecular therapies for cancer

June 10, 2014

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SWIM ACROSS AMERICA JUNE 21

The 8th annual Greenwich-Stamford *Swim Across America* will be held Saturday, June 21 and this year, we are delighted that SAA has pledged to support three ACGT grants over the next 2-3 years. Join the fun as hundreds of swimmers and boaters glide across Long Island Sound - choose your distance from .5 mile to 1.5 mile to 3 mile - or take the plunge in a local pool. Besides the fun and the fundraising, this is a great way to honor survivors and loved ones. All net proceeds support the most promising research for all types of cancer. Swim, gather a team of swimmers, boat, sponsor, host a pool swim, volunteer, or cheer on your friends! Learn more about Swim Across America for ACGT.

ACGT AT THE ASGCT ANNUAL MEETING



Pictured L to R: Steve Lapin and Barbara Netter with Scientific Advisory Council members, Dr. Savio Woo and Dr. Stephen Eck

1,700 scientists and physicians attended the American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy annual meeting in Washington, DC in May, where ACGT founders Barbara and Edward Netter [posthumously] received the Distinguished Service Award, followed by a dinner in their honor with 16 of our Research Fellows and Scientific Advisory Council members, who also held key roles on panels and lectures. The tables were humming with talk of progress on molecular medicine to treat cancers of all types and the critical importance of ACGT's Young Investigator grants to fund innovation. Mrs. Netter also sponsored a New Members reception with subsidies to ten young scientists who might otherwise not have been able to attend. The Conference also included a presentation of the Outstanding Achievement Award to Dr. Luigi Naldini for his groundbreaking work on lentiviral vectors for HIV, a foundation upon which many gene therapies were built.

RESEARCH FELLOW KHALID SHAH AT THE FOREFRONT



The Journal of the National Cancer Institute reported in May that scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital, led by ACGT Swim Across America grant recipient Khalid Shah, MS, PhD, are testing an innovative solution to the destruction of tumor cells using cancer-killing viruses applied directly to the tumor in a gel. The treatment significantly improved survival rates for glioblastoma multiforme, a deadly brain cancer, in laboratory testing. Read more about Dr. Shah's research.

FOUNDER ESTABLISHES UPENN CHAIR

University of Pennsylvania Associate Professor Bruce Levine, PhD, of the Perelman School of Medicine has been awarded the appointment of the Barbara & Edward Netter Associate Professorship in Cancer Gene Therapy at the Abramson Cancer Center. At a ceremony at the University in May, Mrs. Netter reconfirmed her commitment to cell and gene therapies as the most promising science to combat cancer and her belief in the importance of innovative institutional research. Mrs. Netter was especially touched by the response. *"Several cancer patients came forward to thank me and ACGT for the opportunity to participate in gene therapy trials. I was touched and reminded, once again, that philanthropic dollars do make the difference between life and death."*



Daniel Burke Photography for Penn Medicine

BREAKTHROUGH FOR MULTIPLE MYELOMA

The Clinical Cancer Research journal reports that researchers at Ohio State University's Comprehensive Cancer Center confirmed new evidence that genetically modified T-cells may effectively treat multiple myeloma, a currently incurable form of blood cancer. This procedure extracts a patient's cells which, once reconfigured and inserted into the tumor, suppress cancer growth and prevent relapse for longer time periods compared to current treatments. This form of treatment has proven effective for many types of cancer and is a primary focus of cell and gene therapy studies and trials. Read more.

IMMUNOTHERAPY: ONE CONCEPT MANY POSSIBILITIES

Cancer Research Institute [CRI] posted an informative blog explaining the various types of immunotherapy, one of the most promising forms of molecular medicine for cancer and the basis for many research studies funded by ACGT. The post also features two ACGT Research Fellows and Scientific Advisory Council members who are leaders in the field: Dr. Carl June at University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Michel Sadelain at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

GENETIC MAPPING HITS THE TARGET

The journal Science reported in May that gene therapy successfully shrunk multiple deadly cancers in a patient who no longer responded to chemotherapy. Researchers at the National Cancer Institute sequenced the cancer genome and were able to modify cells to reset the immune system to fight back. According to Dr. Stephen Rosenberg at NCI, when the treatment was given in 2012 the patient had perhaps months to live, with cancer in the bile duct, liver and lungs. Immunotherapy has been



used successfully with other cancers but not yet with what are called solid tumors, which account for the vast majority of cancer deaths. Read the New York Times coverage.

CLICK: NEWS AND VIEWS ON BREAKTHROUGHS

ACGT's new website contains even more reader-friendly information on the science of molecular medicine, research progress, clinical trials, and what you can do to help the fight against cancer. Sign on for postings on your computer, phone or tablet. More than 150 institutions throughout the United States and Canada, and thousands of scientists, are engaged in cell and gene-based therapies for cancer now, and we are closer every day to better treatments. You can also stay informed via Facebook and Twitter.



Watch the video with ACGT Fellow Dr. Arnob Banerjee, Assistant Professor at University of Maryland, whose immunotherapy research to fight blood cancers was recently featured on ABC-TV News.

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Help us support breakthrough research that is changing the way cancer is treated and defeated. Donate in honor or in memory of a loved one, host an event, tell your friends, and keep posted on progress at www.acgtfoundation.org, on Facebook and Twitter.

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