

Foundation Highlights 2010...

Inaugural Medical Symposium a Success

One week after the *Angel Ball* on Wall Street, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation headed uptown to hold its first-ever Medical Symposium and Luncheon at the famed Loeb Central Park Boathouse. On a sunny autumn afternoon, a group of fifty of the Foundation's grantees, past and present, Medical Advisory Board members, and supporters converged to share ideas about the important work funded by the Foundation. Sponsored by Millennium: The Takeda Oncology Company and Continental Airlines, Co-Founder Denise Rich welcomed the assembled guests and announced the Foundation's next round of Medical Research Awards in the amount of \$2.6 million. She then introduced Medical Advisory Board Chairman, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's Dr. Stephen D. Nimer who hosted the afternoon's proceedings.

Entitled "Advancements in Blood Cancer Research Supported by the Foundation," the luncheon featured speeches by Board Member and CEO of Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Deborah Dunsire who stressed the importance of funding young investigative researchers. Highlights included talks from esteemed members of the Foundation's Medical Advisory Board, Dr. Curt I. Civin of the University of Maryland and Dr. Janet D. Rowley, of The University of Chicago, followed by five grantees of diverse scientific backgrounds who conveyed their gratitude to Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for taking a chance on their work at a time when they were first starting their labs.

2007 Grantee Scott Armstrong of Children's Hospital Boston has gathered enough data with his grant money that he will now be able to obtain government grants to continue his work toward new therapeutic targets in acute myelogenous leukemia. "The pace of discovery is accelerating," claimed 1999 Grantee Martin Carroll of the University of Pennsylvania, who also emphasized the importance of such scientific gatherings. Jeffrey Mollidrem of MD Anderson Cancer Center, whose work is descendant of Curt Civin's, had the audience laughing with his musings on the ways in which his research had blossomed in three different directions. 2009 Grantee Kiri Ness of St. Jude's in Memphis explained how she had been a physical therapist for 27 years before getting her Ph.D. to work with children whose bone density has been affected by their cancer treatments. To drive her point home on the importance of such work, she had the crowd on its feet to demonstrate the sobering fact that children with leukemia can neither raise up on their toes nor can they jump. When she obtained funding from the Foundation, Dr. Ness had 39 kids on her trial. Because of her findings, the NIH gave her additional funding and next year nearly 200-300 children will benefit from her research. James Rubenstein of the University of San Francisco gave the audience a preview of his key findings to be presented in December at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) conference pertaining to the rare disease Central Nervous System lymphoma (or CNS,) a manifestation of common lymphoma that involves the brain and affects neurologic dysfunction.

The entire afternoon was nothing less than inspirational. Board Member, author and CML survivor Erin Zammett Ruddy, was singled out as living proof of the benefits of cancer research. Erin, diagnosed with cancer at the age of 23, has led a normal and healthy life thanks to the discovery of the drug Gleevec. As Dr. Rubenstein stated, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation's crucial support of these scientists' work is "...impacting science at multiple levels." In his closing remarks, Dr. Nimer opened the room to discussion for ideas that might further spur the development of advances. Due to the overwhelming success of this gathering, the Foundation plans on making this a yearly event.

Special Thanks: Muscari Fine Flowers, Louie Torrellas and Achille Tako.
For more information on the work of our grantees, please visit our website:
www.gabriellesangels.org



1. Grantees James Mulloy & Bill Slayton with Board Member, Dr. Curt Civin
2. Grantees Scott Armstrong, David Frank & Anthony Letai
3. Supporter Bonnie Pfeiffer Evans with Board Member, Dr. Cheryl Willman
4. Drs. Stephen D. Nimer & Deborah Dunsire
5. Brooke Milstein, Louie Torrellas, Michele Rella & Eric Lerner
6. Denise & Daniella Rich with Board Members Drs. Curt Civin, Janet Rowley & Stephen Nimer