

## **G&P Charitable Foundation For Cancer Research Announces \$1.4 Million In Grants** **Craig Okada, M.D. of Ann Arbor, MI is Among the Investigators Funded**

*New York, NY* – Hillary Clinton, actresses Jane Seymour, Joan Collins, Diahann Carroll and Arlene Dahl joined G&P Founder, songwriter Denise Rich, at the G&P Medical Research Awards luncheon Thursday, December 9, 1999 at 12 noon at the Plaza Hotel.

The luncheon will serve to announce \$1.4 million in G&P Medical Research Awards, which have been given to eight promising young investigators involved in both conventional and integrative medical research into the prevention and treatment of cancers of the blood, including leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. **Among the recipients is Craig Okada, M.D. from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI, who is being funded for his work aimed at developing new strategies to stimulate the immune system to recognize and eliminate T cell lymphomas and leukemias.**

The luncheon also served as an introduction of members of the Foundation's newly expanded Medical Advisory Board, including **Stephen D. Nimer**, Chair of the G&P Foundation and Head of the Division of Hematologic Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; and **Sidney J. Winawer, M.D.**, a tenured physician and member of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; the Foundation's newly expanded **Medical Advisory Board**.

Jane Seymour (*Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*), an active supporter of both integrative and complementary medicine, credits these treatments for extending the life of her late father, who died of cancer several years ago. The daughter of a physician and a nurse, Ms. Seymour testified before a congressional committee on alternative treatments in February of 1999.

The G&P Foundation initiated its first major fund-raising event in October 1998, with a star-studded gala benefit that raised nearly \$3 million and featured President Clinton as Honorary Chairman. Co-Chairs included David Geffen, Cindy Crawford, Carly Simon, Marty Richards, and Harvey Weinstein. The event included from a wide range of celebrities, including Bill Cosby, The Duchess of York, Natalie Cole, Stevie Wonder and Placido Domingo. Honorees included Les Moonves, President and CEO of CBS Television and Milton Berle, who was honored for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The G&P Foundation was established in 1996 by songwriter Denise Rich and her son-in-law Phillip Aouad, in memory of Denise's daughter Gabrielle Rich Aouad, who died in 1996 at age 27 from AML Leukemia. The G&P supports both conventional and complimentary medical research into the prevention and treatment of cancers of the blood, which affect an estimated 100,000 Americans each year.

The Foundation is primarily focused on: expediting the development and testing of promising cancer treatments; slowing or stopping the formation of malignant cell transformations and genetic abnormalities; and researching efforts to reduce and eliminate the toxic side effects and damage caused by chemotherapy and radiation. Moreover, The G&P Foundation encourages collaboration between leaders in different areas of bio and integrative medical research which will lead to unique and effective solutions for both prevention and treatment.