

THE G&P FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE 8 RECIPIENTS OF THE "G&P MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS" FOR 2001

New York, NY, May 1, 2001 – The G&P Foundation for Cancer Research's Medical Advisory Board announced today the eight recipients of the "G&P Medical Research Awards." The G&P Medical Research Awards are three-year grants of \$75,000 per year, totaling \$1.4 million, funding basic and clinical medical research in both conventional and complementary disciplines. Researchers at the following institutions were approved for funding:

Hilda B. Ye, Ph.D. at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University –

The Role of BCL-6 Regulated Chemokine Expression in the Pathogenesis of B Cell Lymphomas

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) is the most common form of lymphoid malignancy in the adult population in the United States. It is the sixth most common cancer type and the sixth leading cause in cancer-related deaths. Despite the advent of new drugs and treatment regimens, only 50% of NHL patients are cured. Therefore, it is critically important to conduct research to better understand the pathogenesis of these cancers and to develop therapeutic agents with new mechanisms of action.

Nigel Killeen, Ph.D. at The University of California, San Francisco

The Development of Murine Models of Recurring Myeloid Leukemia-Associated Chromosomal Deficiencies

Tumor cells in patients with leukemia or lymphoma frequently have abnormal chromosomes. There are recurring abnormalities that typify certain kinds of malignancies. Dr. Killeen is interested both in understanding how these deletions contribute to leukemia and would also like to use the insights to devise better therapies for leukemia.

William S. Blaner Ph.D. at Columbia University Department of Medicine

Complementary Approaches for Treating Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL): A Mouse ALL

The aim of this project is to develop and employ complimentary and alternative approaches for treating pediatric ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia patients). However, prior to testing such approaches in pediatric patients, potential therapies should be tested in animal models. Dr. Blaner proposes to establish one of the mouse strains as a useful animal model for present and future studies of holistic therapies for potential use in pediatric patients with ALL.

David Frank, M.D., Ph.D. at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

The Development of STAT Inhibitors as Novel Anti-Leukemic Agents: Use of Semi-Random Synthesis Technology

In recent years, tremendous advances have been made toward understanding the molecular abnormalities occurring in tumor cells. During this time, however, relatively little progress has been made in the treatment of leukemias and other forms of cancer. The challenge, therefore, is to translate advances in

understanding the biology of the cancer cell into a new generation of more effective and less toxic anti-cancer agents.

George Georges, M.D. at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

T-Cells to Control the Graft-Versus-Host Effect of Nonmyeloablative Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation

The aim of this project is to develop T cells to help further reduce the toxicity of bone marrow transplantation. Bone marrow transplantation, also known as hematopoietic cell transplantation, is the only curative treatment available for many patients with leukemia and lymphoma. Using the dog model of bone marrow transplantation, Dr. Georges's laboratory has recently pioneered the development of a clinically successful type of hematopoietic cell transplantation that uses substantially lower and less toxic doses of chemotherapy and radiation to treat patients with leukemia and lymphoma.

Wei Chen, M.D., Ph.D. at The University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Immunotherapy of Leukemia with Dendritic Cell-Tumor Hybrid Vaccines

This research project will develop a new type of human leukemia vaccine using a novel electrofusion technology. Leukemia cells will be fused with the cells that regulate body immune system function to form a hybrid cell. The hybrid cells will carry tumor-derived information (proteins) to activate the immune white blood cells and direct these immune cells to kill leukemias. In this research proposal, Dr. Chen and his team will study how to use such hybrid cells as a vaccine for potential use in the treatment of human chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Yongkui Jing Ph.D. at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Department of Medicine

Therapeutic Effect Of Boswellia Carterri Birdw In Acute Myelocytic Leukemia

Traditional Chinese Medicine is a potential source for modern cancer therapies but western technology and clinical trials are required properly to identify, understand, and evaluate the active components. This is best exemplified by the dramatic clinical responses to all trans retinoic acid and arsenic trioxide in the treatment of acute promyelocytic leukemia, now standard worldwide treatments. Arsenic trioxide was an important component of Traditional Chinese Medicine and became clinically effective, proven, and mechanistically understood when "traditional" clinical data was confirmed in clinical trials and experimentation.

Jeffrey J. Molldrem, M.D., University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

To Collect Peripheral Blood and Bone Marrow Samples from Donors and Recipients of Blood and Marrow Transplants for Laboratory Research

In his ongoing studies of anti-leukemia immunity and CTL antigens, Dr. Molldrem has studied myeloid-restricted normal proteins that are highly expressed leukemia. Myeloid leukemias express a number of differentiation antigens associated with granule formation. He chose to study Pr3, a 26,000 dalton neutral serine protease that is stored in primary azurophil granules and is maximally expressed at the promyelocyte stage of myeloid differentiation.

The G & P Foundation for Cancer Research raised almost \$4 million at last year's *ANGEL BALL* on November 30, 2000 at the New York Marriott Marquis, where President William J. Clinton was the Honorary Chairman and Larry King was the Master of Ceremonies. Gabriel Byrne presented *The Angel of Light Award* to her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan and Mikhail Gorbachev was honored with *The Angel of Peace Award*. Dr. Daniel Vasella, Chairman & CEO for Novartis, the world's fourth largest pharmaceutical company, was honored with The G & P Foundation's *Distinguished Industry Leadership Award* presented by Jane Seymour. Michael Jackson was a surprise honoree, accepting *The Angel of Hope Award* from Lance Bass and JC Chasez of *NSYNC.