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**GABRIELLE’S ANGEL FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH WELCOMES NEW MEDICAL  
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER: JAMES R. DOWNING M.D.**

**New York, NY** (September 23, 2009) – Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for Cancer Research is proud to welcome St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital faculty member, **James R. Downing M.D.**, to their medical advisory board. Downing, an alumnus of the University of Michigan, specializes in research on the the molecular pathology of leukemia using a variety of approaches including genome wide analyses of human leukemias, and the development of murine models of the human disease. He currently serves as Executive Vice President and Scientific Director of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. One of Dr. Downing’s career highlights includes being a member of a scientific interdisciplinary team at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital that is focused on advancing the cure rates of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common malignancy seen in the pediatric population. These extraordinary scientists were recognized in 2009 by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) with the society’s Team Science Award.

Dr. Downing joins an esteemed group of some of the nation’s foremost experts in the field of blood cancer research. Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation Medical Advisory Board, helmed by Dr. Stephen D. Nimer, Chief of Hematology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, boasts the following doctors who are leaders in their respective fields: Barrie R. Cassileth, PhD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Curt I. Civin, MD, University of Maryland; Jerome E. Groopman, MD, Harvard Institute of Medicine; Janet D. Rowley, MD, D.Sc., The University of Chicago; Rainer Storb, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Jeffrey D. White, MD, Bethesda, Maryland; Cheryl L. Willman, MD, University of New Mexico Cancer Research & Treatment Center.

On October 20, 2009, Foundation President and Co-Founder, Denise Rich will host the signature gala of Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation, *The Angel Ball 2009* at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City. Proceeds from this event will benefit the blood cancer research initiatives for which the Foundation is known. For more information on *The Angel Ball* and on Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation Medical Advisory Board, please visit [www.gabriellesangels.org](http://www.gabriellesangels.org).

**About Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for Cancer Research**

Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for Cancer Research was created in 1996 by Denise Rich and her daughters and son in-law, Daniella Rich Kilstock, Ilona Rich Schachter and Philip Aouad in memory of Rich’s daughter, Gabrielle Rich Aouad. Gabrielle lost her long and valiant struggle with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) at the young age of 27. It was Gabrielle’s wish that a foundation be created to help spare others the suffering she endured. Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for Cancer Research funds basic and clinical medical research in both conventional and integrative disciplines which focus on prevention, treatment and quality of life issues of leukemia, lymphoma and related cancers. To date, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$11 million in Medical Research Awards making Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation one of the largest non-governmental sources of grant support to blood cancer researchers at the nation’s leading institutions.