

BREAKTHROUGHS

Partnership for Cures 70 West Madison Street, Ste.1500, Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 696-1366

PFC Gets \$1 Million for Myelodysplastic Syndrome Research

In September, Partnership for Cures teamed with a Chicago and San Francisco-based donor family interested in quickly finding an effective treatment for people suffering from life-altering myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). This generous gift will fund up to \$1 million of direct patient impact research over a multi-year period. Myelodysplastic (**myelo**–bone marrow **dysplastic** –abnormal growth) syndromes are caused by abnormal blood-forming cells of the bone marrow. In MDS the bone marrow cannot produce enough healthy red blood cells, white blood cells or platelets. These abnormal blood cells are often destroyed before they leave the bone marrow or shortly after entering the bloodstream. As a result, patients have shortages certain blood cells, causing increased infections (low white blood cells) fatigue and anemia (low red blood cells) or clotting problems (low platelets.)

Although MDS has not been considered cancer in the past, most hematologists now consider it a form of cancer. MDS is a **clonal** disease, which means that a large population of abnormal cells all came from a single, abnormal cell. These abnormal cells are exactly alike – just like identical twins. Clonal growth is typically seen in cancer where all the cells appear to have started from an original abnormal cell.

PFC is reviewing five MDS research projects for this partnership. For information about proposing a funding-research partnership for your disease interest, visit our website at www.4cures.org or contact our Chief Science Officer Dr. Bruce Bloom by email at Bruce@4cures.org or by phone at (312) 696-1366.



Inside This Issue

MDS Funding-Research Partnership	1
World leading MDS Researcher	2
A Need for Funding	2
Donor Profile-Steve Goldsher	3
House Events in Rockford	4
\$400K LUNgevity Partnership	4
Going Green	4
Support PFC	5
Welcome Board Members	5

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

Partnership for Cures has recently launched a new website. Take a peek at www.4cures.org.



A Dedicated Myelodysplastic Syndrome Researcher

Dr. Azra Raza, the Director of the Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) Center at St. Vincent's Comprehensive Cancer Center in New York City, is a world-renowned authority on myelodysplastic syndrome and PFC is working with her to find new, innovative research that can be quickly moved to patients with MDS. Dr. Raza started her research in MDS in 1982, and in 1992 she established a highly productive translational research program along with a Tissue Repository containing more than 40,000 samples. This repository can now be found at St. Vincent's.

Dr. Raza strives to move the advances in the laboratory to the bedside to improve the treatment outcome of MDS patients. She is credited with several landmark observations related to the biology and treatment of MDS and serves on numerous National and International panels as a reviewer, consultant and advisor. Both a cancer researcher and a cancer clinician, Dr. Raza learned firsthand about the gulf between the laboratory and the patient when she felt "the infinite helplessness of being on the other side of the bed" after her husband, Dr. Harvey D. Preisler was diagnosed and eventually died of cancer, the disease he had dedicated his life to curing. His life and death inspired her to narrow that chasm between the promise of basic research and the reality of current cancer treatments. Dr. Raza believes the current convergence of basic research, scientific technology and clinical practice will lead to unparalleled progress in preventing, detecting and treating cancer. "This is the time when things are coming together for us," she said.

Dr. Raza is currently researching a new technique called "retrodifferentiation" that turns mature blood cells into stem cells, and then those stem cells into different blood cells, perfect for MDS patients.



Dr. Azra Raza in the Tissue Repository.

"Some of what we have been striving for 20 years is finally materializing in terms of improved outcomes for patients."

An Obvious Need for PFC Funding

In August Partnership for Cures was invited to apply for a last minute grant from Lake Forest-based Grant Health Care Foundation. PFC issued an "emergency" Request for Proposal (RFP) to all Chicago-area medical institutions for ideas. The turn-around time for the scientists to submit their RFP's was very fast.....just 10 days, and even in that short time we received 23 powerful research proposals!

The fact that Partnership for Cures received so many requests so quickly validates the great need for medical research funding. In most cases the type of research that PFC funds won't make a pharmaceutical company any profit, or earn a scientist academic tenure. What it will do is get results that will quickly impact the lives of those suffering from disease. Please support our efforts and become a funding partner **TODAY!** Together we can change lives! Visit the new www.4cures.org.

Donor Profile



Steve Goldsher

Board member Steve Goldsher recently sat down for an interview about his involvement with Partnership for Cures.

Steve began his career working for a local accounting firm, and in 1986 was hired by one of his consulting clients, a graphics company. He became part-owner and CFO of that company and grew it to a group of 12 companies. In 1996 Steve was named CEO of the \$60 million company, called The Enteron Group. In 1998, The Enteron Group was sold to a publicly traded printing consortium, and Steve stayed on with them until 2002. Shortly thereafter, Steve started Graphic Purchasing Solutions, a graphics consulting company that he still runs.

How did you first become aware of PFC?

“Bruce Bloom and I are friends, and in 2003 he introduced me to PFC. When PFC became a public charity in 2005, I began making donations, at Bruce’s request, to what seemed like a pretty good charity.”

Why did you make the leap from donor to donor/volunteer leader?

“By the time Bruce asked me to join the board in January 2008 I was convinced that PFC was worthwhile and that I could add value to what the organization is trying to accomplish.”

Are you involved in any other philanthropic organizations?

“PFC takes up all of my time as a volunteer, but I

give to other charities upon the request of friends.”

What is your motivation as a donor/volunteer?

“I am most motivated by PFC’s ability to get tangible results and by its research reporting/feedback mechanism (Research Roadmap™) which is made available to donors to keep track of the research progress.”

Do you find PFC to be an easy “sell” to a potential donor?

“I grew tired of writing checks to the larger, disease specific non-profits that have lots of regulations and bureaucracy around funding research. And I was never clear about exactly where my money was going. The things that I like so much about PFC are its ability to have a short-term impact on the lives of patients, its focus on orphan disease, and the fact that it is small and nimble and can make decisions about research quickly. These are all clear benefits that I am able to convey to potential donors.”

How do you think the current economic situation will impact giving at PFC?

“The economic situation affects most people, so the down turn does not help philanthropic efforts. Perhaps there will be cutbacks on giving, but ultimately, I believe that givers will continue to give.”

Thanks Steve!

FYI:

You can listen to PFC Chief Science Officer Dr. Bruce Bloom interview many of the PFC funded researchers and clinicians at www.ReachMD.com. When you get to the ReachMD home page, simply enter the promotion code 4Cures in the box near the top and click on “Redeem”. You will get 6 months of free listening!



PFC/LUNgevity Partnership Keeps Growing!

The LUNgevity Science and Executive Boards recently approved \$400,000 in funding through the LUNgevity-PFC Partnership for three lung cancer projects to begin immediately. Two of these projects are at Rush University in Chicago, and the third will be at Massachusetts General in Boston. Funding for The Mass General project will build on a 2006 grant funded through a LUNgevity-PFC partnership. All three of these grants are two years in duration and all could lead directly to clinical trials on patients at or before the end of the two years research cycle.

4Bucks4Cures

Even an amount as small as \$4 can be meaningful to the efforts of funding promising medical research. Partnership for Cures is dedicated to raising money for this purpose and has created the *4Bucks4Cures Program* which gives donors the opportunity to make a gift at several different levels. The options of \$4, \$40, \$400 or "other" provide donors with a choice of an amount that is most comfortable for them. The program also allows donors to automatically send emails to their friends and family asking them to give to the 4Bucks4Cures Program as well. For more information, please visit our NEW website at www.4cures.org/home/4Bucks4Cures.

Partnership for Cures Goes Green

PFC is going green by sending out quarterly newsletters via email whenever possible. Please help us cut down on paper consumption by sending in your email address information so we can add you to our list. Contact Deirdra Lucas by email at DLucas@4cures.org or by phone at (312) 696-1368.

FYI:

Drugs that might have an impact on smaller patient populations (including "orphan diseases") are generally not taken through the drug development pipeline. The cost to patients would well exceed what the marketplace would or could accept! Funding medical research through PFC takes the need to make money out of the equation.

House Events

In an effort to acquaint friends, family, and colleagues with Partnership for Cures, several of our Rockford Illinois donors have generously opened up their homes and hosted informational gatherings. These events are a great way for Partnership for Cures to reach new people, share our mission, and get others involved in funding this promising research. If you are interested in hosting a PFC house event, please contact Bruce Bloom at (312) 696-1366 or Bruce@4cures.org.

Welcome Board Members!

Partnership for Cures is excited to welcome four new members to its Executive Board of Directors.

Mark L. Kosiek

Mark Kosiek is a Managing Director and Chicago Office Head for the Private Bank and Trust Company. Mr. Kosiek has more than 27 years experience in the Chicago banking industry with a focus on private banking and wealth management. He also has an extensive background in all aspects of commercial banking, commercial and residential real estate, lending, and client relationship management.

Kevin R. Krantz

Kevin Krantz has been in private law practice since 1991 and concentrates his practice in advising businesses and their shareholders, directors and officers in a broad range of legal issues. Mr. Krantz serves as general corporate counsel to numerous businesses in the printing, real estate, distribution, manufacturing, and medical equipment industries. Additionally, Kevin represents lenders in secured financing transactions.

Peter B. Kupferberg

Peter Kupferberg is a principal of Gofen and Glossberg a Chicago-based investment counseling firm. Mr. Kupferberg has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations including the Council for Jewish Elderly, Hillel/CAYS, the Mary Meyer School and Standard Club. In addition to serving on PFC's board, Peter also serves on the board of the Jewish Council of Urban Affairs and is chairman of the financial division of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Dr. Susan Sherman

Susan Sherman graduated from Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine in 1995 and is currently a practicing veterinarian that specializes in the care of dogs and cats. In addition to serving on the Partnership for Cures board, Dr. Sherman serves on the boards of the Lincoln Park Zoo, the National Council Board of World Wildlife Fund, and Am Shalom Synagogue.

Research projects waiting to be funded could treat patients with autism, lupus, Parkinson's disease and stroke.

PFC Needs Your Support

Partnership for Cures relies on the generosity of donors like you to raise funds for medical research that will create fast, inexpensive, and safe treatments for those suffering from disease. Please mail your donation to our offices or go to our website at www.4cures.org to give. With your help we can continue to make an impact on the quality of life for those who are suffering from disease while they are still alive to benefit. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Don't forget- you can double or triple your gift to Partnership for Cures if your employer matches charitable giving. Be sure to check.

Donate Now!



Getting New Treatments to Patients Faster

Inside This Issue

MDS Funding-Research Partnership	1
World leading MDS Researcher A Need for Funding	2
Donor Profile-Steve Goldsher	3
House Events in Rockford \$400K LUNgevity Partnership	4
Going Green	4
Support PFC	5
Welcome Board Members	5

We're on the web!
Visit us at: www.4Cures.org

Printing generously donated by Pride in Graphics
Chicago, IL

Executive Board

Jerry Paris-Chair
MW Automotive Enterprises, Inc

Margaret Christie
Golan and Christie, LLC

Steve Goldsher
Graphic Purchasing Solutions, LLC

Thomas Furst
FSG Associates

Mark Kosiek
The PrivateBank and Trust

Kevin R. Krantz
Stahl, Cowen, Crowley, LLC

Peter B. Kupferberg
Gofen and Glossberg

Robert Miller
Millco Investments

Dr. Susan Sherman
Mont Clare Animal Hospital

Emeritus Directors

George N. Goldman
Asset Partners, Inc.

Judith A. Goldman
Goldman Philanthropic Partnerships

Staff

Dr. Bruce E. Bloom
President and Chief Science Officer

Deirdra Lucas
Dir., Partnership Development

Shari White
Partner Manager

Partnership for Cures

70 W. Madison Street, Ste. 1500
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 696-1366

