

Inspirations 2008

SPRING/SUMMER 2008 | VOLUME 13

A Newsletter from Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research (formerly The G&P Foundation)

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New Decade New Name

After ten years and ten million dollars awarded to cancer research, The G&P Foundation has chosen a new name! Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research will continue its stated mission of funding leading junior investigators who represent cutting-edge thinking in both conventional and integrative disciplines which focus on prevention, treatment and quality of life issues of leukemia, lymphoma and other related cancers.



"I have always felt very strongly that Gabrielle has guided us every step of the way with this Foundation," said Gabrielle's mother and Foundation President, Denise Rich. "In changing the name, we reaffirm our mission and honor the memory of my daughter at the same time." Formerly The G&P Foundation, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation was inspired by Gabrielle's vision to act as an angel in the lives of others by helping to minimize the suffering cancer patients endure while undergoing treatments.

Since its inception, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research has awarded \$10 million in Medical Research Awards making it one of the largest non-governmental sources of grant support to blood cancer researchers at the nation's leading institutions.

With this renaming comes a renewed commitment to fulfill the original mission of the Foundation as envisioned by Gabrielle Rich Aouad - to fund blood cancer research until a cure is found.

Please visit our new home on the web at www.gabriellesangels.org

Save The Date! "Gabrielle's Gala"

Mark your fall calendars now! Gabrielle's Angel Foundation will host the first-ever "Gabrielle's Gala" on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at Cipriani Wall Street. Longtime supporter and friend of the Foundation, Howard W. Lutnick, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Cantor Fitzgerald will serve as our honoree with a surprise musical guest to be announced in the coming weeks. This very special evening will raise much needed funds for cancer research and will include dinner, dancing, and both live and silent auctions. Continental Airlines is the Official Airline of "Gabrielle's Gala". To reserve your tickets or table please contact Tracey Doolin at Inez Weinstein Special Events at (212) 254-6677 or E-mail at tdoolin@inezevents.com

136 East 57th Street
Suite 1704
New York, NY 10022
tel (646) 861-2033
fax (646) 781-9355
web www.gabriellesangels.org



Gabrielle's Angel Foundation Awards \$2,250,000.00 in New Research Grants

Due to the overwhelming success of the Angel Ball 2007 and after rigorous peer review by the esteemed Medical Advisory Board, the Board of Directors of Gabrielle's Angel Foundation has approved ten new Medical Research Awards totaling \$2,250,000.00 to ten top research scientists. These awards represent a three-year commitment of \$75,000.00 per year for a total of \$225,000.00 to each investigator. Gabrielle's Angel Foundation has disbursed \$10 million in grants since its inception making the Foundation one of largest non-governmental sources of grant support to blood cancer researchers in the nation. With federal funding increasingly difficult to come by, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation proudly fills the need for financial backing for junior investigators just starting their labs.

For more on this year's grantees and their research, please see pages 4 - 5.

Foundation-funded Researcher Has Breakthrough

In January of this year, 2003 Gabrielle's Angel Foundation grant recipient, Dr. Andreas Beutler of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine made national news with his discovery on chronic pain treatment. The principal investigator on the study, Dr. Beutler partnered with researchers in Mount Sinai's Department of Neurosciences to discover that chronic pain can be successfully treated with novel targeted gene therapy.



In order to find ever more effective treatments for chronic pain, the researchers developed a new gene therapy technique which simulates the pain-killing effect of opiate drugs by delivering the developed gene directly into the spinal fluid of rats via lumbar puncture. This experiment resulted in a successful symptom-free period for the rats thereafter.

"Fifty million Americans suffer from chronic pain. Chronic pain patients often do not experience satisfactory pain relief from available treatments due to poor efficacy or intolerable side effects like extreme sleepiness, mental clouding, and hallucinations," Dr. Beutler announced in the Mount Sinai news release.

The study, published in the January 22nd issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) and entitled "Sensory neuron targeting by self-complementary AAV8 via Lumbar Puncture for Chronic Pain," suggests that gene therapy for pain treatments could also become a treatment alternative for patients with severe chronic pain. An Assistant Professor of Medicine in Hematology and Medical Oncology, Dr. Beutler revealed "Targeted gene therapy will likely avoid the unwanted side effects associated with opioid painkillers such as morphine."

Dr. Beutler's research was supported by Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research (formerly The G&P Foundation) as part of the core mission of the Foundation to support research that could translate within a short period of time. "Based on our findings, this targeted gene therapy via lumbar puncture appears to be a promising candidate for bench-to-bedside research that might ultimately be tested in patients with intractable chronic pain, e.g., to help patients suffering from severe pain due to advanced cancer," said Dr. Beutler.

He emphasized the significance of organizations like Gabrielle's Angel Foundation stating, "I think it is very important for those who generously support research with private donations to see that we researchers are doing something potentially useful with the funds."

2008 Highlights ...

Audi Unveils Slonem Designs On A5 To Benefit Foundation

On March 19th, Audi of America Inc. hosted a chic cocktail reception at the Audi Forum in New York City to kick off the 2008 New York International Auto Show. Gabrielle's Angel Foundation President and Co-Founder Denise Rich was on hand to greet Johan de Nysschen, Audi of America's Executive Vice President and Senior Vice President, Matthias Braun to unveil the artwork of Hunt Slonem, custom-painted on their A5 sports coupe. Celebrity attendees included supermodel Tyson Beckford and NFL quarterback, Tom Brady with catering provided by famed chef, David Bouley and a jazz performance by the Loston Harris Trio.

"Audi is committed to providing support to well deserving organizations making a difference in people's lives everyday," said Mr. de Nysschen. After completing a tour of Audi showrooms across the country, this one-of-a-kind auto will be auctioned off to benefit Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research, formerly The G&P Foundation.

"We are honored to work with Denise Rich and [her] Foundation and know that our support will help with their mission to develop new therapies for treating cancer. We thank Hunt Slonem for contributing his artistic talents to create a distinctive version of the A5 that will be sold for a very worthwhile cause."

1. Denise Rich with the Hunt-Slonem-designed Audi A5
2. Johan de Nysschen, Denise Rich, Matthias Braun
3. Loston Harris entertains the crowd
4. Foundation Board Member, Daniella Rich Kilstock and her husband, Richard Kilstock
5. Supermodel Tyson Beckford

Photos: Jimi Celeste for Patrick McMullan



Teens Making A Difference!

On Saturday, May 10th one New York City teenager truly made a difference in the ongoing mission to fund cancer research. York Preparatory student, Andrew Warren, son of Foundation supporters Marcy and Michael Warren, decided to complete his school's community service requirement by throwing an exclusive party for his friends with all of the proceeds benefiting Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research.

Several hundred teenagers were in attendance to hear UK singing sensation Natasha Bedingfield perform with an opening act by up-and-coming teen pop singer Tiffany Giardina. Presented by Caribou Iced Coffee at the trendy nightclub Marquee, this enterprising young man also enlisted Pop Burger to sponsor the event. Fun items from O Icelandic Glacial, Dale & Thomas Popcorn, and Evian filled the gift bags which were provided by "The Event Group". Invitations were donated by "Fancy That Invitations" and the long list of supporters included Tela Salon, Chris Bolos and many others.

The kids munched on Pop Burger mini burgers, delicious Crumbs cupcakes and drank non-alcoholic Caribou Iced Coffee Faux-Tinis while DJ Nick Cohen kept them on the dance floor till closing time. Foundation Board Member Daniella Rich Kilstock was on hand to personally thank Andrew for his efforts. Alison Brod and her PR team worked the red carpet with celebrity attendees including "Gossip Girls" heartthrob Ed Westwick, Jamie-Lynn Sigler, heiress Casey Johnson, and Oscar - winning producer Marty Richards.

An amazing \$43,000.00 was raised for Gabrielle's Angel Foundation and judging by the enthusiasm and philanthropy of this teen crowd, Andrew and his friends are already excited about next year's benefit. Thank you, Andrew, for your support of our cause!

1. Event host, Andrew Warren with his parents, Marcy and Michael
2. Tiffany Giardina and Ed Westwick
3. Natasha Bedingfield
4. Foundation Board Member, Daniella Rich Kilstock
5. Andrew and friends



MEET OUR NEW GRANTEES!



Principal Investigator: Anthony G. Brickner, Ph.D.
Institution: University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Title of Project: Identifying stop codon-generated minor histocompatibility antigens capable of eliciting potent GVL or GVHD alloresponses

Minor histocompatibility antigens (mHAg)s are molecules on the surface of cells that differ between donor and recipient during allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT), and can elicit either a potentially curative graft-versus-leukemia (GVL) effect or life-threatening graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). Effectively separating GVL from GVHD is a major goal in curing hematologic malignancies with HCT. With the financial support of a grant from Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research, the goal of Dr. Brickner's team is to identify and characterize mHAg)s which differ dramatically between donor and recipient due to normal genetic variations in the length of proteins, and to assess the impact of these so-called "stop codon-generated" mHAg)s on GVL and GVHD. These studies will help lead to a better understanding of mHAg)s, and will hopefully identify a number of new clinically relevant mHAg)s that can be therapeutically targeted to enhance GVL effects while reducing GVHD in HCT patients.



Principal Investigator: Scott A. Armstrong, M.D., Ph.D.
Institution: Children's Hospital Boston
Title of Project: Epigenetic Programs in MLL-rearranged leukemias

The Armstrong lab is using high throughput approaches that assess gene activity and chromosome structure in leukemias. Recent data suggest that certain mutations induce acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) by altering chromosome structure. The proteins that control the abnormal chromatin structure in these leukemias are enzymes (called histone methyltransferases) that present a tremendous opportunity for new drug development. The studies supported by Gabrielle's Angel Foundation will assess histone methylation as a new therapeutic target in AML.



Principal Investigator: James C. Mulloy, Ph.D.
Institution: Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Title of Project: Microenvironment and Flt3 Signaling in MLL Leukemia

Dr. Mulloy's research has recently shown that human blood stem cells can be induced to make leukemia upon introduction of a leukemia oncogene into these cells. This is one of the first models that use human cells rather than mouse cells to produce leukemia. This is a significant advance for the field of leukemia biology, since the signals that are important in mouse cancer can be different from the signals needed for human cancer. The Mulloy Lab will use this model system to study the signaling pathways that are initiated by the leukemia oncogene, and to test novel therapeutic approaches targeted to the key events that occur during the development of leukemia.



Principal Investigator: Aimee Edinger, Ph.D.
Institution: University of California, Irvine
Title of Project: Role of regulated nutrient transporter expression in suppressing leukemia and lymphoma development

Because cancer cells grow very rapidly, they are very dependent on a high rate of nutrient flux into the cell. The Edinger Lab hopes to identify the molecular tricks that leukemia cells use to import nutrients more efficiently than normal cells. By understanding how this is accomplished, they hope to identify new drugs that will prevent cancer cells from accessing their food supply, starving them to death.



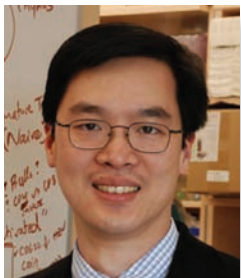
Principal Investigator: Anthony Letai, M.D., Ph.D.
Institution: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Title of Project: Detecting blocks in Apoptosis in Leukemia Stem Cells

Cancer biologists are beginning to appreciate that at least in some cancers, including acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), there are certain special cells, called "cancer stem cells." These cancer stem cells can repopulate the entire cancer, and cure will likely require the eradication of these cells. Dr. Letai will study whether these AML cancer stem cells are somehow conditioned to die less readily than the rest of the AML cells, and whether this is a possible explanation for the fact that many people with AML have great initial responses to chemotherapy, but experience a relapse later on.



Principal Investigator: William H. Matsui, M.D.
Institution: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Title of Project: Hedgehog signaling as a stem cell based therapeutic target in myelodysplastic syndrome and acute myeloid leukemia

In many ways the growth of cancer mirrors the formation of normal organs during embryonic development. Dr. Matsui has found that a specific pathway required during development called the Hedgehog signaling pathway is abnormally turned on in acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndrome. His lab will study the Hedgehog pathway in these diseases and test whether inhibitors of this pathway have anti-leukemic activity.



Principal Investigator: Alex Y. C. Huang, M.D., Ph.D.
Institution: Case Western Reserve University
Title of Project: Modulation of Immune Cell Homing and Interaction by Mesenchymal Stem Cell within CNS Tumor Microenvironment

Cancer cells manage to evade detection and elimination by the immune system whose job is to recognize and eliminate the threat of foreign invaders and cancer cells in the body. Dr. Huang's laboratory proposes to take advantage of a unique imaging tool, the intravital 2-photon laser scanning microscopy, to directly observe in real time how brain tumor cells hijack various immune-suppressive components of the immune system and stem cell pool to evade immune detection. Success in this effort to understand how cancer cells and immune system communicate with one another in the tumor-bearing host will promise to accelerate development of novel therapeutic approaches to anti-tumor immunotherapy.



Principal Investigator: Amit K. Verma, M.D.
Institution: Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Title of Project: TGF beta receptor inhibition as a therapeutic strategy in Myelodysplasia

Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) are pre-leukemic conditions that lead to decreases in blood counts in the elderly and do not have many treatment options. Dr. Verma has determined that a protein, Transforming Growth Factor-beta (TGF), is partly responsible for suppressing the growth of stem cells in MDS and that the blockade of its receptor can stimulate growth of red and white cell colonies. Thus, he proposes to study the factors regulating the suppressive effects of TGF in MDS and evaluate the effectiveness of a novel drug inhibitor of the TGF receptor, LY 2157299, in MDS.



Principal Investigator: William B. Slayton, M.D.
Institution: University of Florida
Title of Project: Targeting leukemic stem cells in infant leukemia by blocking interactions with the microenvironment

While childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia is very curable, leukemia in infants less than six months of age is very difficult to cure. Better approaches to treatment targeting leukemia cells and leaving normal cells alone are highly desirable for these tiny patients. Dr. Slayton's work uses medicines designed to block the interaction between infant leukemia stem cells and their microenvironment (normal cells around them) to make the cancerous cells more sensitive to the effects of chemotherapy. By blocking these interactions, Dr. Slayton hopes to set these leukemia cells "up for the kill" while not harming normal cells.



Principal Investigator: Tait D. Shanafelt, M.D.
Institution: Mayo Clinic
Title of Project: Interrupting Survival Signals in Early Stage CLL: A Maneuver to Prevent Progression

Chronic Lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) is the most common sub-type of leukemia in the U.S. and is presently an incurable disease. Building on his preclinical and clinical observations, Dr. Shanafelt has opened a clinical trial of green tea extract in capsule form for patients with early stage CLL and has observed signs of clinical activity. Despite this activity, evidence suggests that the bone marrow nurtures leukemia cells and makes them less vulnerable to this treatment. With this grant, Dr. Shanafelt will determine the mechanism by which bone marrow nurtures CLL leukemia cells and identify how to combine green tea extracts with other treatments to overcome stromal mediated protection to enhance the efficacy of this therapy for patients with CLL.

“We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give.”

Sir Winston Churchill

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation Medical Research Awards

To date, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research (formerly The G&P Foundation) has disbursed \$10 million in Medical Research Awards making the Foundation one of the largest non-governmental sources of grant support to blood cancer researchers at the nation's leading institutions. We proudly support researchers at the following institutions:

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Children's Hospital Boston
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Columbia University
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Harvard University Children's Hospital
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University,
Bloomberg School of Public Health
Mayo Clinic
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Stanford University
The University of Chicago
University of Arizona
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Francisco
University of Colorado
Health Sciences Center
University of Florida
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota Cancer Center
University of Pennsylvania Medical Center
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
University of Rochester Medical Center
University of Texas,
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Washington University of St. Louis

GABRIELLE'S ANGEL FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH



Memorial Gifts

Gabrielle Rich Auoud believed that life is a celebration. Gabrielle's Angel Foundation Gift Giving program provides a thoughtful and meaningful way to honor or remember your loved ones or to celebrate life's milestone occasions. Each gift is tax-deductible and a memorial card or honorary gift card will be sent to the person you designate.

Whether honoring the life of a loved one or commemorating a birthday, holiday or wedding, consider making a donation to cancer research in lieu of a gift. Contact the Foundation office to make your donation today: (646) 861-2033.

Goodsearch, Goodshop, Good Deal!

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation encourages you to fund cancer research and it's as easy as logging on to Goodsearch.com! When you choose Gabrielle's Angel Foundation as the beneficiary, every online search represents a one cent donation to our Foundation.



By accessing your favorite online stores through the Goodshop feature, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation can earn up to 4% on all purchases. Simply choose Gabrielle's Angel Foundation in "Who Do You Goodshop For?" then click on your favorite store's website and shop! Some local offices are even purchasing their office supplies through Goodshop to benefit our cause!

So far this year, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation has earned \$156.75 and counting! With over 600 participating stores including Amazon, Staples, Macy's and more, making a difference in the lives of others has never been easier.

CALLING ALL ANGELS!

"Gabrielle's Gala" will feature Live as well as Silent and On-line auctions. Would you like to donate an item for an amazing cause? Our Event Gift Bags are also a great marketing tool for your latest product! Please call Jen or Christa at the Foundation office for more information: 646-861-2033.

Our Inspiration

GABRIELLE RICH AOUAD grew up in Switzerland where she graduated from Aiglon School. She went on to graduate with honors from Oxford University in England, earning her B.A. in philosophy and modern languages. Fluent in five languages, Gabrielle was also a champion skier, an expert in horseback riding and a skilled rock mountain climber.

In the summer of 1991, she moved to New York and joined the NYU intensive film program where she met her future husband, Philip Aouad. At the tender age of 23, she was diagnosed with advanced stage Hodgkin's disease. Her strength and feistiness never failed through months of painful treatment.

By 1993, Gabrielle was at last in remission. This period of renewal brought great vibrancy and activity to her life. She and Philip got married. She became one of the finalists in the worldwide search to find a replacement for Isabella Rossellini as the face of Lancôme. She studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute. Her drive brought great success and many acting roles. In no time, Gabrielle had eight plays and seven movies to her credit. Her many film roles included playing a newscaster in "The Chase" starring Charlie Sheen and a seductress in "Savage Hearts" starring Richard Harris. In addition to her acting skills, Gabrielle was a gifted writer. She wrote a screenplay, "Surprise" that she dreamed would one day be produced.

In May of 1996, she was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). Once more, she was treated with chemotherapy. She lost her beautiful long hair, but fought with fearless determination throughout her difficult and painful treatment. After going into remission for the second time, she was due for a bone marrow transplant. Her mother, Denise valiantly donated her own bone marrow to save her daughter's life. Upon receiving this gift Gabrielle said, "Mummy is giving me birth again."

Gabrielle's last wish was to create a leukemia foundation (which she named **The G&P Foundation** for Gabrielle and Philip) that would help spare others the suffering that she endured. One of its goals would be to invest in research for a better cure for leukemia, so people would not have to suffer from the side effects and damage of chemotherapy and radiation. Gabrielle Rich Aouad passed away in 1996 at the age of 27 after a long and valiant struggle against acute myelogenous leukemia.

The work of the newly renamed **Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research** continues in her honor and memory. Gabrielle's strength and wisdom live on in her own words, "Love defies all pain, even death."

The Life of Gabrielle Rich Aouad (1969 – 1996)



News in Brief



IN THE PRESS

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation has garnered much press in recent months in publications as varied as Lifestyles Magazine, OK! Weekly, Self, and Page Six Magazine. The Foundation is also proud to be included in Town & Country's yearly Philanthropy Issue which hit newsstands in June.

ANGELS IN OUR MIDST

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation has the good fortune of being surrounded by angels. From individual donors and sponsors to companies who step in to help when we need it most, the Foundation has always been fortunate in that regard.

We recently moved our Foundation offices and this is where BoConcept, a leader in the global retail furniture business, stepped in to help. Started in 1993 with a studio in Paris, Dutch furniture giant BoConcept donated all of our new office furniture including desks, chairs, an area rug and loveseat for the reception area and also some lovely accessories to accentuate the modern designs.

We are especially grateful to Shaokao & Niki Cheng, owners of the New York City area BoConcept stores for making this very generous contribution. BoConcept's mission is to make modern design furniture available to the urban-minded shopper. Gabrielle's Angel Foundation salutes BoConcept in its support of cancer research and for making our new office feel a little more like home.

For more information on BoConcept, please visit their home on the web: www.boconcept.us

Our Mission Statement

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research (formerly The G&P Foundation) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, proudly funds leading junior investigators who represent cutting-edge thinking in both conventional and integrative disciplines which focus on prevention, treatment and quality of life issues of leukemia, lymphoma and other related cancers. To date, the Foundation has awarded \$10 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.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

In our last edition of "Inspirations" we neglected to mention the amazing photographers whose photos graced the pages of our *Angel Ball 2007* coverage. Our apologies and great thanks go to: Karen Dolan, Wire Image, and Patrick McMullan.

Same Mission – New Name!
Gabrielle's Angel Foundation
for Cancer Research
www.gabriellesangels.org

Voices of Support

"I am writing to thank you for your helping to support my pediatric oncology research...[This] money enabled me to acquire exciting preliminary results in understanding the biology of Mer signaling and cooperativity with other oncogenes. In addition, this research has helped my lab evaluate the potential for inhibition of the Mer tyrosine kinase in the treatment of childhood leukemia. I look forward to continuing this project. ... Thank you again for your support."

Douglas K. Graham, M.D., Ph.D. *The Children's Hospital, Denver*

"...I am writing to thank the Foundation for the valuable financial support this will give my research. Without the generosity of foundations like yours, it is hard to think of how such research would get done. I greatly appreciate your support, and look forward to keeping you in touch with our work."

Anthony Letai, M.D., Ph.D. *Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

"We are deeply grateful for your organization's commitment to inspire young scientists to attain their full creative potential, and for providing the type of flexible support that fuels groundbreaking approaches to leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers.... We are well aware and deeply appreciative of the Foundation's role in shaping the field of cancer research, and look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come."

Don M. Randel *President, The University of Chicago*