

MEET OUR 2021 HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Anne Moore, MD



Ruth Fein Revell

We are delighted to announce that we will hold our annual Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner as a live event at New York City’s elegant Essex House on November 17, 2021. After this very challenging year, we look forward to celebrating our achievements in person with our CR&T family. This year, we will honor two remarkable women: Dr. Anne Moore, an accomplished and beloved breast cancer expert, and health/science writer Ruth Fein Revell, a passionate advocate for people with myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs). We are proud to introduce you to our 2021 honorees.

ANNE MOORE, MD

Professor of Clinical Medicine

Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY

Outstanding Achievement in Cancer Care Award

An internationally respected expert in the field of breast cancer, Dr. Anne Moore is a longtime member of CR&T’s Medical Advisory Board and the recipient of our 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award for her many contributions to breast cancer research and treatment. This year, we will honor Dr. Moore for her pioneering work as Director of the Breast Cancer Survivorship program at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Survivorship is a new and exciting field that provides medical care and emotional support for years after patients’ initial diagnosis. Its goal is to enable patients not only to survive, but to thrive. The concept was introduced in 1985, when Dr. Fitzhugh Mullan, a young physician and cancer survivor, published a groundbreaking article in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Mullan identified three “seasons of survival”: acute (initial diagnosis and treatment); extended

time (a period of watchful waiting after the patient’s condition is stabilized); and permanent (remission/cure). Survivorship programs address the permanent season, when a person has completed most of the treatment but may experience the fear of recurrence, complications resulting from treatment, and issues that have an impact on quality of life.

“Breast cancer has the largest population of survivors across the world,” Dr. Moore notes. “Because it is such a common cancer, and because advances in diagnosis and treatment have led to such excellent survival rates, it is the ‘poster child’ for survivorship.”

Under Dr. Moore’s leadership, the Weill Cornell program opened 2 ½ years ago as the Iris Cantor Breast Cancer Survivorship Program

at NewYork Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medicine. Today, there are over 1,000 participants whose average age is 50-59. Thanks to mammograms and the high quality of treatment, most patients were diagnosed early and are now 10-20 years out from their initial diagnosis.

After this very challenging year,
we look forward to celebrating
our achievements in person
with our CR&T family.

Continued on page 2

Breast cancer survivors may experience cardiovascular effects, chronic fatigue, osteoporosis, and joint symptoms, in addition to coping with the emotional impact of their cancer diagnosis. The Weill Cornell program's Survivorship Care Plan provides access to an annual visit that includes a history and physical exam as well as access to education sessions, nutritionist consultations, yoga classes, and a contemplative self-healing meditation program. Importantly, the program has generated significant research data, which has been presented at medical conferences. For example, research into the meditation program showed that it has helped participants cope with their fear of recurrence and "brain fog," a common complaint after treatment. A study of dietary supplements that breast cancer survivors take and why they take them is being submitted for publication and a new trial focusing on quality-of-life issues is planned.

A popular feature of the program is the annual Survivorship Symposium, which enables patients to learn about the latest developments in research and treatment and to share their experiences with one another. "Some of the women in the program have had breast cancer 35 and even 40 years ago," says Dr. Moore. "Our patients are very special and it's very gratifying for us to see them come back year after year."



Meet our honorees during this inspiring evening
at New York City's elegant Essex House
on November 17.

Over the course of her distinguished career, Dr. Moore has received many honors, but none more important than the glowing testimonies of her patients. "I am a third-generation patient of Dr. Moore. She was also my mother and grandmother's doctor," one woman posted on the web. "Dr. Moore is my angel. They broke the mold with her." Our special award recognizes Dr. Moore for her enduring impact on advances in the field and on the lives of breast cancer patients.

RUTH FEIN REVELL
Health/Science Writer & MPN Patient Advocate
Cancer Survivor Honoree

"Like most of us, I am many things – a parent, a daughter, a wife. And always a writer," says Ruth Fein Revell. She is also a patient advocate who uses her exceptional communications skills to educate patients and the public about myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs), the blood cancers that are the primary focus of CR&T's research program.

A stringer for *The New York Times* in the 1990s, Ruth managed communications for national not-for-profit organizations before transitioning to a successful freelance writing career in health, science and the environment. She continues to contribute to *The Times* and other media outlets, and regularly works as a ghostwriter.

In 1996, in the midst of a full and busy life that included raising two young sons, she learned that she had essential thrombocythemia, a type of MPN that causes the bone marrow to produce too many platelets. With treatment, Ruth continued to lead an active life, even as she developed serious clotting complications, early colon cancer, and a diagnosis change to polycythemia vera, a second MPN that results in an overproduction of red blood cells.

By 2019, she began to experience severe, life-altering fatigue. Her disease had progressed to myelofibrosis, which causes scar tissue to build up in the bone marrow. Her hematologist, Dr. Ellen Ritchie of the Richard T. Silver, MD MPN Center at Weill Cornell Medicine, recommended that she enroll in a phase 2 clinical trial for a new combination drug therapy. As a result, Ruth's disease and symptoms are currently under control and she is busier than ever, working and enjoying time with her family in Manhattan and Saratoga Springs, NY.

"For years, I chose not to let my condition define me," Ruth wrote in a recent *New York Times* article that details her blood cancer journey. "I would work hard and play hard, enjoy raising my two boys, deal with whatever challenged my health, and keep on moving. That approach continues to serve me well." She now adds the pleasure of two identical twin grandbaby boys.

Ruth brings her knowledge, experience and upbeat attitude to her role on a patient advisory board of the MPN Research Foundation and to the series of webcasts that she leads on Patient Power, a website that provides information and support to patients and care partners dealing with a variety of cancers, including MPNs. She is also proud of the publication of her first children's book in April 2020, *A Crazy Year: It Isn't Easy*, a 9-year-old's hopeful story, lauded for helping children cope with life's unexpected challenges in the setting of a new global pandemic.

CR&T is proud to present our 2021 Cancer Survivor award to Ruth Fein Revell for her courage and commitment to patient advocacy.

To learn more about Ruth, visit her website at <https://www.rfrwrites.com>. You can also view her Patient Power webcasts at <https://patientpower.info/bio/ruth-fein>.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This summer has been a season of renewal; a time to come together with the friends and family members we've missed so much. For CR&T, advanced technology—and most importantly, the loyal support of our friends and donors—enabled us to launch successful virtual events in 2020. But a Zoom event can't match the excitement

of a live gala. That's why we're looking forward to welcoming you in person to our 2021 Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner, which will be held at the Essex House in New York City on November 17.

In this issue of *CR&T News*, we feature profiles of three people who will play a key role in our events. At the dinner, we'll honor two remarkable women: Dr. Anne Moore, director of the Breast Cancer Survivorship Program at Weill Cornell Medicine, who will receive a special award for Outstanding Patient Care, and our Cancer Survivor honoree, Ruth Fein Revell, a science and health writer and advocate for people with myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs). We also know you'll enjoy reading about Dr. Jerry Spivak, who co-chairs the International Congress on MPNs alongside our VP & Medical Director, Dr. Richard Silver (see page 5).

Progress in Research

Despite the demands of the pandemic, CR&T-funded physician-scientists at the Silver MPN Center have been actively pursuing their research goals. In our Winter/Spring 2021 issue, we reported on the latest data from their comprehensive study on the role of interferon in polycythemia vera (PV), which showed that PV patients who receive interferon have a significantly lower risk of developing myelofibrosis, the most severe form of MPN, and that the drug enables these patients to live much longer. A paper on these findings was published in March by the internationally renowned journal, *Leukemia*.

This study was based on an analysis of 470 patients whose detailed records, which were de-identified according to HIPAA regulations, are housed in the Silver Center's extensive database. During the coming year, the Silver Center team will continue use this invaluable scientific resource to answer crucial questions about PV treatment, including:

- **Exploring the significance of an enlarged spleen in PV patients.** The spleen controls the level of red and white blood cells and platelets in your body, filters out old or damaged cells, and helps to fight infection. People with PV

produce too many blood cells, which may cause the spleen to work overtime and become enlarged. Since an enlarged spleen may be a sign that a patient's disease is progressing, the FDA uses spleen size as a measure of response to therapy.

- **Expanding the risk factors for thrombosis (clotting).** People with PV are at increased risk of developing blood clots, which can lead to life-threatening complications, such as heart attack and stroke. It is critically important to identify these risk factors and treat patients before complications occur.

Recent publications include a paper that showed that some COVID-19 patients may benefit from a combination of interferon and another MPN therapy, ruxolitinib. Co-authored by Dr. Richard Silver, this analysis was published in the April issue of *Clinical Case Reports*. Dr. Silver and Dr. Hans Hasselbalch of Denmark's Roskilde Hospital have written a review of the importance of inflammation in the cause and treatment of PV, which was accepted for publication in *HemaSphere*, the journal of the European Hematology Association. The Silver Center's Director, Dr. Andrew Schafer, was the co-author of two papers on thrombotic and microvascular complications in the MPNs that were published in April, one in the journal *Blood* and the other in *Hematology Clinics of North America*.

In addition to these clinical research activities, important work is being accomplished in the laboratory, under the leadership of Joseph M. Scandura, MD, the Silver Center's Scientific Director. Importantly, the work of the laboratory is integrated into the Center's clinical work. For example, Dr. Scandura's team seeks to identify specific genetic mutations that could predict whether an MPN patient is at risk for blood clots or disease progression. If modified for routine clinical use, these biomarkers could help physicians monitor a patient's condition and select appropriate diagnostic and treatment options. They also can be used to select and monitor clinical trial participants.

We are grateful for your commitment to CR&T's mission, and hope you agree that our support of these research initiatives is a productive use of your generous contributions. We look forward to sharing more news of our achievements with you this fall. Until then, we wish you and yours a very happy and healthy summer.

Thomas M. Silver
President

OPEN CLINICAL TRIALS AT THE SILVER MPN CENTER



By participating in a clinical trial, you become part of the effort to advance research and improve treatment for people with myeloproliferative neoplasms. The studies listed below are underway at the Richard T. Silver, MD MPN Center at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. If you have an MPN and would like to learn if one of the studies below is right for you, please visit <https://silvermpncenter.weill.cornell.edu/research-and-clinical-trials/myeloproliferative-clinical-trials>. For more information about clinical trials across the U.S., please visit the National Institutes of Health's database at www.clinicaltrials.gov.

Protagonist 300 - A Phase 2 Study of the Hecpidin Mimetic PTG-300 in Patients with Phlebotomy-Requiring Polycythemia Vera

Disease: Polycythemia Vera

Primary Investigator: Ellen K. Ritchie, MD

An Open-Label, Phase 2a/2b Study of KRT-232 in Subjects with Primary Myelofibrosis (PMF), Post-Polycythemia Vera MF (Post-PV-MF), Or Post-Essential Thrombocythemia MF (Post-ET-MF) Who Have Failed Ruxolitinib

Diseases: Essential Thrombocythemia, Myelofibrosis, Polycythemia Vera

Primary Investigator: Ellen K. Ritchie, MD

A Two-Tiered, Phase II, Rule-Based, Intra-Patient Dose Escalation Study to Investigate Safety and Feasibility of Vactosertib (TEW-7197) for Treatment of Anemic Patients with Philadelphia Chromosome-Negative Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

Diseases: Myelodysplastic Syndrome, Myeloproliferative Neoplasms, Essential Thrombocythemia, Myelofibrosis, Polycythemia Vera

Primary Investigator: Joseph Scandura, MD, PhD

A Phase 3, Open-Label, Multicenter, Randomized, Active-controlled Study to Assess Pharmacokinetics and Compare the Efficacy, Safety, and Tolerability of P1101 vs Anagrelide as Second Line Therapy for Essential Thrombocythemia

Disease: Essential Thrombocythemia

Primary Investigator: Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD

SL-401 in Patients with Advanced, High-Risk Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN)

Diseases: Myeloproliferative Neoplasms, Myelofibrosis

Primary Investigator: Sangmin Lee, MD

A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Active-Control Study of CPI-0610 and Ruxolitinib vs. Placebo and Ruxolitinib in JAKi Treatment Naive MF Patients

Disease: Myelofibrosis

Primary Investigator: Joseph Scandura, MD, PhD

A Phase 3 Study of Pacritinib in Patients with Primary Myelofibrosis, Post Polycythemia Vera Myelofibrosis, or Post-Essential Thrombocythemia Myelofibrosis (PACIFICA)

Disease: Myelofibrosis

Primary Investigator: Ellen K. Ritchie, MD

A Phase 2 Study of SGI-110 in Philadelphia-Negative Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

Diseases: Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia, Myelodysplastic Syndrome, Myeloproliferative Neoplasms, Myelofibrosis

Primary Investigator: Pinkal Desai, MD

A Phase 2 Single-Arm, Open-Label Study Evaluating Tolerability and Efficacy of Navitoclax in Combination with Ruxolitinib in Subjects with Myelofibrosis

Diseases: Myelofibrosis

Primary Investigator: Ellen K. Ritchie, MD

A Phase 1/2 Study of CPI-0610, a Small Molecule Inhibitor of BET

Diseases: Cancer, Myeloproliferative Neoplasms, Myelofibrosis

Primary Investigator: Joseph Scandura, MD, PhD

JERRY SPIVAK, MD: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MEDICINE

“I was a classics major in college, then concentrated on how to be a good clinician,” says Jerry L. Spivak, MD, a valued member of CR&T’s Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Spivak’s career path reflects his commitment to medicine and to a well-rounded life, which includes his love of family and his many interests, including art.

This October, Dr. Spivak will again join Dr. Richard Silver as co-chair of the annual International Congress on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs), which will be held at the Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. Both men are graduates of Weill Cornell Medicine and have been friends and colleagues for decades. Of the Congress, Dr. Spivak says, “It’s just a wonderful conference. Physicians come back year after year, and patients join us as well. I always look forward to it.”

A fellowship in hematology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine launched Dr. Spivak’s career. He went on to serve as the director of the Hematology Division from 1980 to 1992 and is currently the Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for the Chronic Myeloproliferative Disorders. Looking back on a lifetime filled with scientific accomplishments and professional honors, Dr. Spivak asserts that his greatest source of pride is his commitment to his family. “When I was young – this is during World War II – my father was drafted and we moved often. Every two years I was in a new school,” he recalls. He wanted his children to grow up in one place, with the opportunity to forge lifelong friendships. “In academic medicine, that’s not so easy to do, but I managed to do it,” he says. “It’s not something that you get a Pulitzer or an Oscar for, but I’m most proud that I was able to accomplish that.”

Contributions to MPN Research

Dr. Spivak’s early research focused on red blood cell production. “I said, I know how a red blood cell makes its proteins, but how does a red cell make itself? That’s how I began research into erythropoietin,” a hormone produced by the kidneys that increases red blood cell production. This was the beginning of 22 years of research, funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which led ultimately to the identification of recombinant erythropoietin as a therapy for anemia in inflammatory disorders, in surgery, cancer, and AIDS, in addition to its use in the anemia of renal disease.

His MPN research has been directed toward understanding the underlying causes of these blood cancers and developing

effective diagnostic techniques, including the identification of disease markers for polycythemia vera, the most common MPN. In 1998, Dr. Spivak and Dr. Alison Moliterno developed the first assay that could distinguish polycythemia vera (PV) patients from those with other causes of erythrocytosis, a condition that causes patients to produce too many red blood cells. Through genetic analysis, Dr. Spivak was also able to prove that PV is a different disease than its companion disorders, essential thrombocythosis and primary myelofibrosis, contrary to conventional thinking.

In his administrative role, Dr. Spivak is proud of the many talented physician-researchers that he recruited to Johns Hopkins. These include a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and Dr. Moliterno, who came to Johns Hopkins as a fellow and is now a prominent MPN expert. Dr. Spivak himself received the prestigious NIH Merit Award, which provides ongoing support to outstanding researchers.



At Dr. Silver’s invitation, Dr. Spivak joined CR&T’s Medical Advisory Board, which guides the organization’s research strategy. Dr. Spivak points to the organization’s support of the Silver MPN Center as a “fabulous return on its investment.” He believes that there should be a major MPN center like the Silver Center in every large city, noting that “MPN patients need both precision and individual therapy because every MPN patient is different, even though they have the same disease.”

In addition to his demanding career and busy family life, Dr. Spivak takes the time to pursue his interest in art. “I love to go to museums and an art history course in college was one of the most valuable courses I ever took,” he says. About 10 years ago, he began taking art courses at night, and today, he enjoys working in pastels. “It’s very relaxing,” he says. “The problem is finding the time to do it, but when you do, you’re in your own world.” He also enjoys collecting ethnographic art and, until the pandemic, played ice hockey regularly.

CR&T is deeply grateful for Dr. Spivak’s service to our organization and to the MPN community. Patients are invited to join him and other internationally respected presenters for the 2021 International Congress on MPNs on October 28-29. For more information, please see the ad on our back cover.



Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc.
Established 1968

INVITES YOU TO OUR FALL 2021 EVENTS

CANCER SURVIVORS HALL OF FAME DINNER

Wednesday, November 17

The Essex House • 160 Central Park South • New York, NY

This inspiring live event will honor a dedicated physician-researcher and a courageous cancer survivor for their efforts to raise awareness and accelerate life-saving research. All proceeds benefit CR&T.

Outstanding Achievement in Cancer Care Award

Anne Moore, MD

Professor of Clinical Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY

Cancer Survivor Honoree

Ruth Fein Revell

Health/Science Writer and
MPN Patient Advocate

Master of Ceremonies: Raphael Miranda, Meteorologist, NBC 4 New York

Learn more and RSVP at www.crt.org/Hall-of-Fame-Event or contact Barbara Rosenstein at 212-288-6604 or brosenstein@crt.org

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS

October 28-29

The New York Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge • Brooklyn, NY

Patients and caregivers are welcome to attend this professional education conference either virtually or in person.

Please use code MPNPT at checkout to receive a special patient discount of \$50 off the registration fee.

For program and hotel information or to register, visit www.MPNcongress.com.



Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc.

Established 1968

CR&T NEWS

Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc. (CR&T)

500 E. 77th Street, Suite 1001
New York, NY 10162

Phone: 212-288-6604

Fax: 212-288-7704

Email: brosenstein@crt.org

www.crt.org

ABOUT CR&T

Since 1968, CR&T has funded the world's most promising physician-scientists, equipping them with the resources to advance the treatment of various types of blood cancers, including myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs), leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and multiple myeloma, as well as other common cancers, such as breast and lung cancer.

Board of Directors

Thomas M. Silver, President
Executive Chairman, Bright Funds, Inc.

Richard T. Silver, MD, Vice President, Medical Director
Weill Cornell Medicine

Joseph N. Aimi
President, Kenneth Bieber, Inc.

David T. Boule, Treasurer
Retired Partner, Ernst & Young

Maria Brisbane, CFA
Managing Director, Merrill Lynch

Keith Civil
Auburn Enlarged City School System (retired)

Terry Hermanson
President, Mr. Christmas, Inc.

Michael C. Kempner
Managing General Partner, KS Capital Partners, L.P.

Kasia McCormick

Amanda Johns Perez

Jeffrey Puglisi, MD
Glenville Medical Concierge Care

Richard J. Rose
Senior Managing Director (retired), Shufro, Rose & Co., LLC

Bharat Shah, PhD
Noble Investment Group (retired)

Todd J. Shaw
First Vice President, Morgan Stanley

AJ Shiekman
Strategy/Business Development Manager, Pure Storage

Adam Silver
Sr. Managing Member, Bennett Management

Tim Silver
Portfolio Manager, Empery Asset Management, LP

Anne Templeton
Nelson Boxer, Counsel
Petrillo Klein & Boxer LLP

Medical Advisory Board

Richard T. Silver, MD
Vice President & Medical Director

Morton Coleman, MD
Associate Scientific Director

Mark W. Pasmantier, MD
Associate Medical Director

Ghaith Abu Zeinah, MD

Edward Ambinder, MD

John P. Leonard, MD

Anne Moore, MD

Malcolm Moore, DPhil

Shahin Rafii, MD

Joseph M. Scandura, MD, PhD

Andrew I. Schafer, MD

David A. Scheinberg, MD, PhD

Jerry L. Spivak, MD

Alexander J. Swistel, MD

Barbara Rosenstein
Director of Administration and Development