

CR&T news

Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc.
Established 1968

Winter 2023
Funding Cancer Research: Innovative. Agile. Experienced.



Richard T. Silver, MD



Anne Moore, MD



L-R: Lia Perez, MD, Nick Vojnovic and Caroline Gomez

Cancer Survivor Hall of Fame Dinner



Bob Stromberg



L-R: Tom Silver, Richard T. Silver MD, and Nick Vojnovic 1



More photos at www.crt.org/honorees

Cancer Survivor Hall of Fame Dinner

After a lively cocktail hour, CR&T's President, Tom Silver, opened the evening by reflecting on CR&T's accomplishments, including published data by the team at the Richard T Silver MD MPN Center regarding the use of interferon in treating polycythemia vera (PV). Funded by CR&T, this research has shown that PV patients who are treated with interferon live longer and are less likely to progress to myelofibrosis than those who receive standard treatments. Of particular note, the doctors believe that this approach is why the average survival of PV patients treated at the Silver Center is 28 years, compared to 15 years at other institutions.

After dinner, CR&T Founder, Vice-President, and Medical Director, Richard T. Silver, MD, kicked off the program by helping our Master of Ceremony, NBC's Meteorologist, Raphael Miranda, with a couple of weather-related anecdotes and acknowledged the distinctiveness of CR&T with the length of service of each of our Board of Director Members and Medical Advisory Board Members.

Mark Pasmantier, MD gave a heartfelt introduction for the recipient of our Outstanding Achievement in Cancer Care Award, Anne Moore, MD, a CR&T Medical Advisory Board Member, Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Founder and Director of the Iris Cantor Breast Cancer Survivorship Program at Weill Cornell Medicine/New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Moore's acceptance speech was optimistic and illuminating, recognizing how far we have come in cancer care. Dr. Moore graciously acknowledged that due to the research done by the scientists and clinicians supported by CR&T, patients are living longer and better. Dr. Moore relayed that the field of survivorship practice and research will continue to grow as an important part of the care of all patients with cancer and blood disorders.

Tom Silver held a conversational moment on stage with our Cancer Survivor Honoree, Nick Vojnovic. Nick was diagnosed with myelofibrosis five years ago. Myelofibrosis is also known as "scarring of the bone marrow", which causes severe anemia and other complications. Nick underwent the only known cure for myelofibrosis, which is bone marrow transplantation. His physician and her team searched the database of 30 million donors and came up with one single match for Nick.

Nick emphasized the importance of being your own health advocate and encouraged everyone to join the donor database

Joining Nick on stage in a touching reunion moment and sharing their participation in Nick's health journey, were his transplant doctor, Lia Perez, MD, and his bone marrow donor, Caroline Gomez. Dr. Perez shared her appreciation of Nick's optimistic attitude and the importance of positivity in the healing process, and Caroline relayed the importance and ease of being a donor.

Nick emphasized the importance of being your own health advocate and encouraged everyone to join the donor database. Nick is a cancer survivor due to a bone marrow transplant and was all smiles as he shared the goals he has achieved over the last 5 years.

Bob Stromberg closed out the event by letting us know that he's a "pretty big deal" as he continued with his humorous storytelling about his past comedic engagements, becoming a grandfather, his own health journey, and his father's photography skills.

This year's Cancer Survivor Hall of Fame Dinner was a tremendous success because of you. Thank you to all of you who donated, to those of you who attended, and to those of you who were with us in spirit.

Be on the lookout for more information for the next Cancer Survivor Hall of Fame to be held in November 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Whether you are a long-standing supporter or a first-time participant, we are grateful to you, our donors, and our friends, for enabling CR&T to continue our support of life-saving cancer research.

Since 1968, when Richard T. Silver, MD, a renowned hematologist-oncologist, founded CR&T, we have been committed to advancing research that promises to conquer cancer. Over the past five decades, we have invested nearly \$16 million in research that has contributed to major advances in the fight against cancer. Thanks to your generous support, CR&T-funded investigators have:



- Collaborated in the initial clinical studies leading to the FDA's approval of imatinib (Gleevec®), a revolutionary drug used to treat chronic myeloid leukemia, leading to long-term remission in most patients
- Participated in the development of new therapies for Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Contributed to the understanding of how and why breast cancers spread, and to the development of new breast cancer treatments
- Identified the processes of blood cell formation, which led to new anti-angiogenic treatments for blood diseases and solid tumor cancers
- Helped to discover the molecular mechanism causing some patients to be resistant to ibrutinib, an important drug used to treat mantle cell lymphoma
- Contributed to the use of interferon alpha and other biologics in treating MPNs
- Developed machine learning tools and used techniques of artificial intelligence to extract and analyze large quantities of patient data

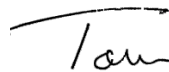
Our Flagship Initiative: The Silver MPN Center

In 2011, CR&T made a multi-million-dollar pledge to expand the Richard T. Silver, MD Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN) Center at Weill Cornell Medicine. Led by Andrew Schafer, MD, the Director; Joseph Scandura, MD; Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD; and Richard T. Silver, MD, the Director Emeritus, the Center has become a hub for innovative research collaborations. Despite the impact of the pandemic, CR&T-funded physician-scientists continue to conduct basic research and clinical studies, including trials of promising new cancer

therapies. They published their findings in major scientific journals and presented abstracts and lectures at national and international conferences and congresses, including seven (7) abstracts on these and related subjects at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), which took place in December in New Orleans.

ASH is the world's most comprehensive hematology event of the year, serving the largest audience of clinicians and scientists in the world who are dedicated to conquering blood cancers. The selection of these investigators' research is a tribute to the quality of work accomplished at the Richard T. Silver, MD MPN Center.

I want to thank you for being a member of the CR&T family. During this time, when so many worthy nonprofits are struggling, CR&T has been able not only to survive but to thrive – as we have for more than 50 years. We look forward to the day when, together, we will celebrate our victory over cancer.



Thomas M. Silver, President

MPN NEWS & EVENTS

14th International Congress on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN Congress)

This past November, MPN Congress Co-Chairmen Richard T. Silver, MD, and Jerry L. Spivak, MD held the International Congress on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms. The congress offered two full days of sessions and presentations and had a record number of participants. A new session this year was "Challenging MPN Case Presentations with Interactive Audience Participation", which offered participants and panelists to have a discussion about specific MPN cases which was well received.

SAVE THE DATE

15th International Congress on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms November 2-3, 2022

SAVE THE DATE 12th International Patient Symposium on MPNs

Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Weill Cornell Medicine
Belfer Research Building

Keep up-to-date: visit www.crt.org
and click on the
MPN Symposium tab



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CR&T's work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and grantors. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission.

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An Unforgettable Evening Recognizing 2022 MPN Heroes in New Orleans

by Jeffrey Puglisi, MD



MPN Hero Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD and Jeffrey Puglisi, MD



Thank you,
Dr. Ghaith Abu-Zeinah,
my friend, for all you have
done for me over the past
few years. I hope you
realize now how much you
mean to me.

Jeffrey Puglisi, MD

As a patient living with polycythemia vera (PV), when I learned about the 10th Annual CURE Media Group's MPN Heroes Recognition Program, I immediately knew that I wanted to nominate Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD to be part of this prestigious event. He is an exceptional oncologist who not only takes care of me but serves next to me on the Board of Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T) and spearheads research protocols that will undoubtedly lead to a better quality of life for all those living with myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs).

Several months after my submission, I was ecstatic to receive confirmation that he was one of eight deserving recipients that would be recognized at the December 9th event in New Orleans. This meant that not only would Ghaith be formally recognized nationally for his work among the MPN community, but I also knew that I could, finally, formally thank him for his care, dedication, inspiration, and commitment for what his work has personally meant to me. This award not only signifies his achievements but highlights that he is destined to be a leader in this field for years to come.

The celebration was hosted at the National World War II Museum, prior to the 64th American Society of Hematology's Annual Meeting. The venue and evening exceeded my expectations. I was struck by the backdrop of those courageous stories of soldiers that fought to protect our freedom and liberty for our country and being in the room with incredible award recipients, including Ghaith, who are doing all they can to fight for my life and future and everyone living with MPNs. The host Kerry Fraser, retired NHL referee, spoke about his journey with an MPN and Vanessa Bayer, the keynote speaker and Saturday Night Live alum, discussed her teenage years which were disrupted by treatment for Leukemia.



Kerry Fraser, emcee, Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD, Jeffrey Puglisi, MD, and keynote Vanessa Bayer



MPN Hero Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD and Jeffrey Puglisi, MD

Before Ghaith was called to receive his award, he, Dr. Silver, a trailblazer in the MPN community, and I watched a short video highlighting Ghaith’s incredible passion for patient care and research (<https://youtu.be/f0516l9Uy8Y>). I will never forget Ghaith’s recognition during the event as he and I were asked up on stage to accept his award and I could not have been happier to be by his side. I was awestruck and emotional by the backdrop of the museum while looking at a room full of inspired attendees that made me feel so fortunate, privileged, and hopeful for the future.

Thank you, Dr. Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, my friend, for all you have done for me over the past few years. I hope you realize now how much you mean to me.

Finally, with special thanks to CURE Magazine for the opportunity to honor Ghaith and be part of an unforgettable evening.

Previous CR&T MPN Heroes

Richard T. Silver, MD (2014)

David T. Boule (2015)

Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD (2022)

Jeffrey Puglisi, MD is a Founding Partner of Glenville Medical Concierge Care in Greenwich, CT, and is a member of the Board of Directors of CR&T.



Jeffrey Puglisi, MD, Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD, Neveen Alnajjar, and Richard T. Silver, MD



Individuals honored at the 2022 MPN Heroes



Lymphoma, Leukemia & Myeloma Congress (LLM Congress)

22 Years of Innovation, 60+ Expert Faculty
1,000+ Attendees, 40+ countries, 25+ Credit Hours

Recognized as the most respected forum for hematologic research in malignancies of the lymph glands and clinical data, the Lymphoma, Leukemia & Myeloma Congress is the international meeting where interdisciplinary specialists convene to explore the controversial and complex world of non-malignant and malignant hematologic conditions through debate, discussion, and networking.

This past October, the dynamic program featured 5 days of comprehensive learning, analysis of emerging data, and the discovery of innovative treatment methods, all providing a glimpse into the future of lymphoma, myeloma, and leukemia disorders.



LLM Congress is chaired by CR&T Medical Advisory Board Member Morton Coleman, MD, and Co-chaired by 6 of his esteemed colleagues including CR&T Medical Advisory Board Member John P. Leonard, MD (left).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Lymphoma, Leukemia & Myeloma Congress
October 18-21, 2023 • New York City, NY

“We started the Lymphoma, Leukemia & Myeloma Congress in 2000, and it has grown to be the most comprehensive conference on non-malignant and malignant lymphoid and related cellular disease conditions including lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease, myeloma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, and acute leukemia.”

Morton Coleman, MD
LLM Congress Chair



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: cfeay@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.

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