

Insider's Point of View Edition



AJ Shiekman, left, with Dr. Silver at the 2022 Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner.



Mary Cotter, right, speaking with Dr Silver at CR&T's 10th Patient Symposium.

Each year, Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T) has a busy fall with our two key events: **Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner** and **International Patient Symposium on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs)**. While each serves a different role, both are essential to CR&T's mission to fund research emphasizing the cause, prevention, treatment, and cure of myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) and to fund other blood and solid tumor cancer research.

The Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner is an annual dinner which honors survivors, humanitarians, and medical professionals for their commitment to raising awareness and supporting life-saving research.

CR&T's International Patient Symposium on myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) is our signature educational event. November 1 is our 12th Symposium, and we are excited because it's our first time in-person after a 3-year pandemic hiatus and we have an amazing lineup of speakers and topics.

You haven't been to one or both events? Here's a special insider's point of view for each event. Check out what A.J. Shiekman, a CR&T Board Member, has to say about our Hall of Fame Dinner, and what Mary Cotter, a CR&T Patient Committee member, has to say about the MPN Symposium. And then head over to the CR&T website (www.crt.org) and find out more about how you can participate.

Honoring a Life: Moving On and Moving Forward



AJ Shiekman,
CR&T Board
Member & Young
Professional
Co-Leader

My father passed away in January of 2016 from stage 4 metastatic lung cancer. During my father's fight with cancer, I felt I had a purpose: to support him through his treatment (chemo, surgeries, radiation, and recovery). The two years while he was undergoing treatment felt like I was working two jobs: one during the day at an office and the second at the hospital at night with my father.

The evening after he passed away, I locked myself in a room and wrote his obituary. I wanted to honor him, his life, and his fight with cancer. The final line of my father's obituary read, "In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CRT.org)." CR&T continues to give me a way to honor my father's memory by providing funding and support to the doctors and researchers

working to find a cure. I joined the CR&T's Young Professionals group and was honored to accept Dr. Silver and Tom Silver's invitation to join the Board of Directors, and I view it as a lifelong commitment.

Cancer Research & Treatment Fund's Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner isn't just another date on the calendar. The Hall of Fame Dinner sticks with you because it's about real people, real battles, and real struggles against cancer. It's about the grit, love, and spirit shown by everyone affected by the disease. We gather not just to clap for survivors but to remember and honor those who didn't make it. It's a night of true emotion and connection. And for me, it has a particularly special meaning.

I attended my first Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner shortly after my father passed away. The Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner represents the culmination of a year's

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Turning Adversity to Self-Advocacy



Mary Cotter, CR&T Patient Committee Member

The 12th International Patient Symposium on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs) is a conference presented by the Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T) and is designed for MPN patients and families to help them learn about these diseases. Myeloproliferative neoplasms [MY-ah-lo-pro-LIF-er-uh-tiv NEE-o-plaz-uhms] are a group of chronic blood cancers and at this conference, patients have direct access to leading MPN researchers and physicians from around the globe providing a truly unique experience, connecting patients with doctors leading the forefront of treatment and research for their disease.

CR&T's MPN Patient Symposium, first organized by Dr. Richard Silver, is hosted in Manhattan, and I first attended the Symposium in November of 2011 at the urging of my fellow MPN patients. I was newly diagnosed and discovered a lack of knowledge and resources in my community. New York City is not far from my home in Connecticut, although people travel from all over the country, and even internationally, to attend this conference. I have not missed a Symposium ever since. In fact, in 2018 Dr. Silver asked me to join the CR&T Patient Committee which advises and assists with planning the Symposium agenda to reflect the issues that patients want to know.

At my first MPN Symposium, I initially felt overwhelmed by the science and research presented, but I wanted to know as much as I could about my disease, so I listened. I learned that the presenters were accessible and wanted patients just like me to know there were treatments and importantly - hope. Having a diagnosis of cancer is a frightening experience, and even more so when it is a cancer most people have never heard of. By attending the Symposium, I quickly learned that I need not be frightened. I became a knowledgeable self-advocate, because the expert MPN doctors at the Symposium trusted me, the patient, with the same information they were sharing with their colleagues. This empowered me to find a local team of hematologists who would trust me and work with me to create a treatment plan that is right for me.

I encourage my fellow MPN patients to come to the MPN Symposium and bring a family member or friend with you. When I received my MPN diagnosis in March of 2011, I felt so alone. I did not know anyone with this disease. By attending the MPN Symposium, you will meet other MPN patients and develop lasting relationships. When you return home, you will know you are not alone on this journey.

All of the information about CR&T's 12th International Patient Symposium on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs) is available on the Cancer Research & Treatment Fund website (www.crt.org) and you can always give Chad a call at the CR&T office (212-288-6604), send him an email (cfeay@crt.org), or use the registration form on page 6 of this issue.

It has been a few years since the MPN Patient Symposium was held, so I am looking forward to seeing Dr. Silver again, and having live, not Zoom or Facebook, conversations with my fellow patients, many of whom have become real friends. I hope to meet you too at the 12th International Patient Symposium on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms.

Mary Cotter is a Certified Career Counselor and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor/Vocational Evaluator and has been in practice for 33 years. She has attended CR&T events since her MPN diagnosis in 2011. Mary resides in Mystic, CT with her husband Brian. Mary competes in canine agility competitions with her golden retrievers, Jag and Trig.



Mary Cotter, far right, and others listening to Dr. Hans Hasselbalch at CR&T's 10th International Patient Symposium on MPNs

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AJ Shiekman, center, with his Young Professionals dinner guests at 2022 Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner

research and progress achieved in the lab and by patients undergoing personal battles with cancer. Having witnessed the incredible strides made by CR&T over the years and the tangible impact on patients' lives, the dinner serves as a reminder of why we persist in this fight against cancer.

Each dinner takes on some of the characteristics and personality of the honorees. Previous cancer survivor honorees include Peter Criss (co-founder and original drummer from KISS), Harry Belafonte, John McCain, Michael Milken, and Fran Drescher ("The Nanny"). Among the distinguished physicians who have been honored are Dr. Malcolm Moore, the biologist who discovered the granulocyte growth factor filgrastim, and Dr. Alexander Swistel, a distinguished surgeon at the Weill Cornell Breast Center. CR&T's 50th Anniversary was unique as we honored our founder Dr. Richard Silver. Seeing how many people he's helped was truly inspiring. It reminded me why I first joined CR&T. At this year's dinner, we honor the National Emmy® and Edward R. Murrow award winning WNBC journalist Pat Battle, and distinguished physician, Dr. John Leonard, Chair (Interim) of the Weill Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and Physician-in-Chief (Interim) at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, an outstanding researcher in the lymphomas and a member of CR&T's Medical Advisory Board for many years.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Dinner! If you've been touched by cancer, want to support the cause, or simply wish to learn more. Attending the Dinner provides an opportunity to contribute to CR&T's mission across two key areas:

1. Support a community of people that are impacted by cancer (family, friends, and loved ones), share stories, and learn from others.
2. Provide resources to physician researchers in their work to find new treatments and ultimately a cure for this disease which has impacted so many.

I'd like to personally invite you to come to this year's CR&T Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner. When you come, you'll join a group of people unified by a common cause. You'll hear powerful stories from those who've faced cancer and learn about new research being driven through CR&T Silver MPN Center, Weill Cornell, the medical advisory board. You can connect with others, hear inspiring stories and leave proud you contributed to such a worthy organization.

AJ Shiekman is a Director of Product Management for Pure Storage, a global data storage infrastructure company. He lives on the Upper West Side with his wife. In his downtime he enjoys golf, skiing and travel.

RSVP TODAY



CANCER SURVIVORS HALL OF FAME DINNER

Thursday, November 16, 2023

www.crt.org/hall-of-fame-event

212-288-6604 or cfeay@crt.org

Celebrating One Year of Progress and Dedication: A Director's Point of View



Dear CR&T Community,

It is with immense gratitude and a sense of accomplishment that I reflect upon my first year as Director of Administration & Development at Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T). This fourteen-month journey has been one of growth, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to our shared mission of funding research emphasizing the cause, prevention, treatment, and cure of myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) and other blood and solid tumor cancer research.

A Year of Meaningful Collaborations: From day one, I was welcomed into a dynamic team that shares an unyielding passion for eradicating cancer and improving patient quality of life. To be able to work alongside Dr. Richard T. Silver daily is a genuine gift, and CR&T's esteemed Medical Advisory Board is unmatched. The engagement and passion of CR&T's Board of Directors is unlike any other I have worked with in my nearly 25-year non-profit career path. Together, we continued a journey that emphasizes the significance of partnerships and collaborations. Through synergistic relationships with researchers, medical professionals, and donors, we continued to fortify CR&T's position as a pivotal force in the fight against cancer.

Advancing Research for a Brighter Future: Our commitment to advancing cancer research remains resolute. In the past year, CR&T has continued to support groundbreaking studies that explore innovative treatment methods, novel therapies, and approaches to cancer care. The dedication of the researchers we support has continued to lead to promising breakthroughs that have the potential to revolutionize how we understand and treat these complex diseases.

Empowering Patients and Families: CR&T's mission extends beyond laboratories and research facilities. We understand that cancer's impact reaches beyond the patient; it affects families, friends, and entire communities. After a three-year hiatus, CR&T is excited to host our 12th International Patient Symposium on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs) once again. This intensive, full-day Symposium educates patients, their families, and friends about the latest developments in MPN research and treatment and will take place on November 1, 2023, at the Belfer Research Center on the Weill Cornell campus.

Fundraising Campaigns: Our fundraising efforts reached new heights, enabling us to secure vital resources for cutting-edge research and treatment protocol. From the generosity of so many of our individual donors to strategic partnerships with corporate sponsors and foundations, you all have been instrumental in driving our mission forward.

Looking Ahead: As I celebrate this one-year milestone, it's important to acknowledge that the work is far from done. The journey to conquer cancer is a marathon, not a sprint. The challenges that lie ahead are significant, but so is our resolve. With continued determination and a deepened sense of purpose, CR&T is poised to make even greater strides in the coming years.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each member of the CR&T community who has allowed me to learn and helped me grow along this first year of my journey. It is your unwavering commitment that fuels our mission and keeps us moving forward, and I am honored to be a part of it. Together, we are not just fighting cancer – we are forging a future where it no longer holds power over our lives.

With immense gratitude,

Chad Feay,

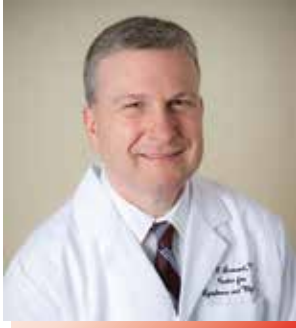
*Director of Administration & Development
Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T)*

Our commitment to advancing cancer research remains resolute. In the past year, CR&T has continued to support groundbreaking studies that explore innovative treatment methods, novel therapies, and approaches to cancer care.

CANCER SURVIVORS HALL OF FAME DINNER

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Join us as we honor:



Lifetime Achievement Award

John P. Leonard, MD

John P. Leonard, M.D., is the Richard T. Silver Distinguished Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology and Senior Associate Dean for Innovation and Initiatives at Weill Cornell Medicine. He serves as Chair (Interim), of the Weill Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and Physician-in-Chief (Interim) at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

An expert in hematology and oncology, Dr. Leonard's research has been published in numerous medical journals, and he has served as a member of the editorial boards of Blood and the Journal of Clinical Oncology, leading international journals in these fields. He is Chair of the Lymphoma Committee of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology (formerly CALGB, ACOSOG and NCCTG), a multicenter cooperative group and key component of the National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network. Dr. Leonard has been an elected member of the American Board of Internal Medicine subspecialty board for Hematology, and he has also been elected to membership in the American Society of Clinical Investigation. He has served as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board and Board Member of the Lymphoma Research Foundation and Board Member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society/New York City Chapter. In 2017 he received the Miriam G. Wallach Award for Excellence in Humanistic Medical Care from NewYork-Presbyterian.



Cancer Survivor Honoree

Pat Battle

Pat Battle is the co-anchor for NBC 4 New York's "Weekend Today in New York" which airs Saturday and Sunday mornings. Battle also serves as the station's senior New Jersey correspondent. As part of NBC 4's team-coverage of Hurricane Sandy, she won a National Emmy® and Edward R. Murrow award.

Battle's reporting and anchoring was also a key component of NBC 4 New York's award-winning COVID-19 coverage, honored in January 2021 with the prestigious Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for "creat(ing) a 360 view in real time of the coronavirus pandemic, with courageous and thorough reporting on the virus's explosion in New York City." The duPont has long been recognized as the broadcast, documentary and on-line equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, also awarded by Columbia University.

In the fall of 2010, Pat was diagnosed with breast cancer -- ductal carcinoma in situ -- and underwent surgery to remove the malignant cells from her right breast. She documented her personal journey, and in yet another public service, broadcast her story on "News 4 New York" at the close of Breast Cancer Awareness Month that October. Her story, and an hour-long special "Talk for a Cure" that aired the following day on "Weekend Today in New York," earned two New York Emmy nominations.



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12TH INTERNATIONAL PATIENT SYMPOSIUM ON MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Belfer Research Building · Weill Cornell Medicine
 413 East 69th Street · New York, NY 10021

CR&T is proud to host this all-day event for patients, their families, and friends. Learn about the latest developments in MPN research and treatment from internationally respected physician-scientists, and participate in disease-specific Q&A sessions that allow you to speak one-on-one with these experts.

Sign up for the Symposium and receive a discount on registration for the 15th International Congress on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms.

Giving consideration to COVID, attendance will be limited to avoid overcrowding. Masks are welcome, but not required. All sessions will be recorded and posted on the CR&T website to accommodate those who cannot attend in person.

To learn more and register for the Patient Symposium on MPNs fill out the form below, scan the QR code, or call CR&T at 212-288-6604. If the fee is a financial hardship for you, please contact cfeay@CRT.org for scholarship information.



MPN Patient Symposium Registration Form

Registration is \$175 for patients, or for the first person; \$100 for your guest. Please return to: CR&T, 500 East 77th St., Suite 1001, New York, NY 10162.

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CR&T BOARD ELECTIONS

CR&T is proud to announce the successful reelection of some of our Directors in September 2023 (each year CR&T elects a portion of its Board members to a three-year term). All of these members willingly stood for reelection, and we are pleased to report that they were unanimously elected to continue their service on the Board for another three-year term. This resounding vote of confidence underscores the quality and stability of our Board, reinforcing our unique ability to fulfill CR&T's mission effectively.:

- David Boule, Treasurer; Retired Partner, Ernst & Young
- Nelson A. Boxer, Counsel; Partner, Petrillo Klein & Boxer LLP
- Maria Brisbane, CFA, Managing Director, Merrill Lynch
- Jeffrey Puglisi, MD, Founding Partner, Glenville Medical Concierge Care
- Adam Silver, Sr. Managing Member, Bennett Management
- Todd J. Shaw, Senior Vice President, Morgan Stanley
- Richard T. Silver, MD, Vice President & Medical Director; Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine



The American Society of Hematology (ASH) is the world's largest professional society serving both clinicians and scientists around the world who are working to conquer blood diseases. ASH's Annual Meeting and Exposition will take place December 9-12, 2023, in San Diego, California.

As CR&T's flagship initiative, The Richard T. Silver, MD Myeloproliferative Neoplasm (MPN) Center at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City was created in 2011 with a multi-million-dollar pledge from CR&T. Each year, papers are published in leading scientific journals and multiple abstracts are presented at ASH's annual meeting, and this year is no different. As you read in CR&T's Spring 2023 Newsletter (available on our website www.crt.org/latest-news), the Silver MPN Center and CR&T are pleased to be mentoring young minds by working with and funding research assistants. This year, CR&T is proud of those research assistants who were first author of three of those submissions to ASH.



Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc.
Established 1968

CR&T NEWS

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

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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.

CR&T NEWS

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Designer: Zenaida Mendoza
Printer: WW Printing Corp

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Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc.
Established 1968

Cancer Research & Treatment Fund
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Lymphoma, Leukemia & Myeloma Congress (LLM Congress)

October 18-21, 2023, New York City, New York

Attend 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.

12TH INTERNATIONAL PATIENT SYMPOSIUM ON MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

CR&T is proud to host this all-day event for patients, their families, and friends. Learn about the latest developments in MPN research and treatment from internationally respected physician-scientists, and participate in disease-specific Q&A sessions that allow you to speak one-on-one with these experts.



15th International Congress
Myeloproliferative Neoplasms
November 2-3, 2023 ▪ Brooklyn, New York

Patients and caregivers are invited to attend this 2-day professional education conference to learn about the latest scientific, clinical and therapeutic developments in myeloproliferative neoplasms.

CANCER SURVIVORS HALL OF FAME DINNER

Thursday, November 16, 2023

The Essex House | 1600 Central Park South | New York, New York

Please join us for a very special evening to benefit Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc. This annual gala honors cancer survivors, humanitarians, and medical professionals for their courage and commitment to life-saving research.