

CR&T Supports Prostate Cancer Screening Day



Since 2011, CR&T has been proud to co-sponsor the Annual Prostate Screening and Health Fair, held at First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, Queens. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in America. If detected early, the disease has over a 90 percent survival rate. The 2024 event was held on April 13, where over 100 men were able to receive free prostate cancer screenings.

The event is conducted by the church in collaboration with Douglas Scherr, MD, Professor of Urology and Clinical Director of Urologic Oncology. The health fair offers many other free tests for men and women, including HIV, blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol exams, as well as dental screening and nutritional counseling. Events like this one play a crucial role by providing preventive services to under-served communities.

More information on the First Presbyterian Church, the health fair, and its other community initiatives can be found by visiting www.crt.org/other-events.

2024 Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Honoree: Ruth Fein Revell



RUTH FEIN REVELL
Health/Science Writer
Rare Cancer Patient Advocate

“Like most of us, I am many things – a parent, a grandmother, a wife. And always a writer,” Ruth Fein Revell told CR&T in 2021. 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. While she was announced as our Cancer Survivor honoree in 2021, the pandemic was still upon us. It kept us from holding our Hall of Fame Dinner and the opportunity to celebrate Ruth’s contributions to the national and international MPN community.

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 and science. She still contributes to *The Times* occasionally, as well as other media outlets, and regularly works as a ghostwriter.

In 1995, amid a full life that included raising two young sons, she learned that she had essential thrombocythemia, an MPN in which the bone marrow produces too many platelets. With only an aspirin a day as treatment, Ruth continued her active lifestyle, even running the Dublin Marathon. But by 2008, she was challenged by serious blood clots, and later early colon cancer that resulted in a major intestinal bleed that put her in the ICU for several days, followed by months of healing. Along the way, her diagnosis was updated to include polycythemia vera, a second MPN defined by an overproduction of red blood cells. She was now on an oral chemotherapy drug and received periodic phlebotomies – removal of excessive red blood cells.

The severe migraines, bone pain, and other symptoms she suffered for years improved. By 2019, however, she began to experience life-altering fatigue. Her disease had progressed to myelofibrosis, which causes fibrosis (scarring) to build up in the bone marrow. Her hematologist, Dr. Ellen Ritchie of the CR&T-Funded 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. More than four years later, Ruth's blood counts and symptoms are under control and the dangerous fibrosis has become nearly immeasurable.

She is busier than ever, having carved out a niche as a writer/reporter with expertise in blood cancers, especially MPNs, in addition to enjoying time with family and friends in the NYC area and Saratoga Springs, NY. "For years, I chose not to let my condition define me," Ruth wrote in a 2021 *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."

Ruth brings her knowledge, experience, and upbeat attitude to her role as a consultant writer for the MPN Research Foundation and to the series of webcasts that she leads on Patient Power and The Patient Story, conducting interviews with prominent MPN and other cancer specialists. She also serves as the patient representative on the review panel for NCCN's Practice Guidelines for Myeloproliferative Neoplasms.

CR&T is proud to present our 2024 Cancer Survivor award to Ruth Fein Revell for the courage it takes to publicly share her health story and the personal and professional commitment to providing reliable, current patient information.

To learn more about Ruth, visit her website at <https://www.rfrwrites.com>. You can view her award-winning webcasts, listen to podcasts she has hosted, and read her reporting at <https://patientpower.info/bio/ruth-fein> and <https://thepatientstory.com>



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Dr. Rüdiger Hehlmann Named the Richard T. Silver Visiting Professor



Established in 1998 with a major gift from Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T), the Richard T. Silver, MD Visiting Professorship is named in honor of CR&T's founder. The lecture is given by a distinguished speaker from another institution, with the aim of broadening the horizons and perspective of practitioners in the field of hematology oncology. Attendance is open to the entire faculty, fellows, and house staff of the WCM Department of Medicine, including the Division of Medical Oncology. Physicians from Lower Manhattan, New York-Presbyterian Queens, Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, The Hospital for Special Surgery, and private practitioners are also invited to attend.

The 2024 Richard T. Silver Visiting Professorship was held at Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) on January 24, 2024. This year's speaker was Rüdiger Hehlmann, MD, PhD, Founder and Chair, European LeukemiaNet (ELN), Former Secretary General, International Association of Comparative Research on Leukemia & Related Diseases (IACRLRD), Former Chief of Medicine, Dean of his Faculty and President, German Society of Hematology and Oncology, Medical Faculty Mannheim of Heidelberg University, Mannheim, Germany. Dr. Hehlmann presented on "Chronic Myeloid Leukemia as a Paradigm for the Cure of Cancer."

Dr. Hehlmann studied medicine at Marburg, Freiburg, Edinburgh, and Munich, completing his internship in gynecology, surgery, and medicine, and MD-PhD scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Munich. Dr. Hehlmann worked as a Research Fellow at the University of Rochester, Research Associate at Columbia University in New York City, and Intern/Resident at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Hehlmann's research interests focus on leukemia, in particular, chronic myeloid leukemia, and mechanisms of leukemogenesis and progression to blast crisis. He has received numerous awards for leukemia research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

CR&T and WCM were proud to have welcomed Dr. Hehlmann as this year's visiting professor.



Hi, I'm Chad Feay and if we haven't met before, please feel free to reach out, I'd love to hear from you. July is a special month for me because it marks the anniversary of when I began working at Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T).

If you're reading this, you likely know about CR&T and our mission. If not, you might consider poking around our website (www.crt.org) and let me know if you have any questions. Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc. (CR&T) funds research emphasizing the cause, prevention, treatment, and cure of myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) and also funds other blood and solid tumor cancer research.

As I reflect on the past year at CR&T, I am filled with gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to our mission. Last year, 83 cents of every dollar we spent went to research and educational programs — which means more money invested in improving patients' health and quality of life ... and ultimately, finding cures. Together, we are achieving remarkable advancements in the fight against cancer, as our CR&T-funded researchers continue to make significant strides in understanding cancer, developing innovative treatments, and improving patient outcomes.

I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to work on a daily basis with Dr. Silver, whose expertise and dedication have been instrumental in guiding CR&T as an organization and its research efforts. Dr. Silver's unwavering commitment to advancing cancer research continues to inspire and to be the key to our success.

We recognize that our work is far from over. Cancer remains a great challenge of our time, and there is still much more to be done. With your continued support, we are confident that we can build on this progress and move closer to our ultimate goal of a world without cancer.

Thank you for standing with us in the fight against cancer. Together, we are making a difference.

Warm regards,

Chad Feay, MA, CHES

Director of Administration & Development

Your Support Makes A Difference

In 2023, CR&T used 83 cents of every dollar received on research and educational programs — which means more money invested in improving patients' health and quality of life ... and ultimately, finding cures. We are proud that 100% of CR&T Board of Directors contributes financially to CR&T's mission. Below are ways you can consider supporting CR&T's mission. For more information, visit www.crt.org/ways-to-give

Donate online, by mail, or by phone

- Consider making this a recurring monthly gift
- Make this a tribute gift in honor or in memory of a loved one
- Check with your employer to see if they will match your contribution

Donor Advised Funds (DAF)

- Contact your fund manager or financial institution to recommend a gift to CR&T.

Workplace Giving

- Company programs that allow you to deduct the amount you specify from your paycheck

Gift of Securities

- Your gift of appreciated securities – stocks, bonds, or mutual funds – can provide significant tax savings while helping to support CR&T's search for cures.

Wills, trusts, and annuities

- Including CR&T in your estate plans will create a lasting legacy that helps us build a cancer-free future.

Event Participation

- Attending or donating to CR&T's Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame Dinner (www.crt.org/hall-of-fame-event)
- Sponsoring CR&T's Patient Symposium (www.crt.org/patient-symposium-on-mpns)

Lastly, Spread the Word! Share your donation experiences and the impact of your contributions with friends, family, and colleagues. By raising awareness and inspiring others to join your efforts, you amplify the collective impact of your gift and foster a culture of philanthropy within your community.

2024 Breast Cancer Survivorship Symposium



Breast Cancer Symposium Speakers



Dr. Moore

Each year, CR&T Medical Advisory Board Member Anne Moore, MD hosts the Annual Weill Cornell Medicine Breast Cancer Survivorship Symposium. This annual event provides information and networking opportunities for breast cancer patients, survivors and loved ones. This year, 300 breast cancer survivors attended the 13th Annual Weill Cornell Medicine Breast Cancer Survivorship on Saturday, April 13th.

This year's program, held on the Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) campus, featured WCM faculty Drs. Melissa Frey, Joseph Loizzo, and Louis Aronne for presentations on genetics, meditation, and weight loss. Former WCM colleague Dr. Leticia Varela also joined from Boston to present on recent advances in breast cancer, and Fran Conway, RN unified the audience with an upbeat and uplifting movement/stretching session. The presentations were followed by a luncheon where attendees had the opportunity to network and meet fellow survivors.

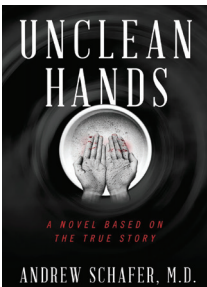


Memory nourishes the heart, and grief abates.
— Marcel Proust

The Board of Directors, Medical Advisory Board, and staff of Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T) are deeply saddened by the loss of our longtime board member, **Joseph N. Aimi**. Joe, and his wife, Terry, played a crucial role in building our organization and advancing our efforts to discover new treatments and cures for myeloproliferative neoplasms and other cancers. Joe arranged many charitable events benefiting CR&T, including golf outings, receiving CR&T's Humanitarian Honoree Award in 2012 for his contributions. Joe's commitment to our mission leaves a legacy that will benefit generations of cancer patients and their families. Our heartfelt condolences go to Terry and their family.

Dr. Silver recently presented at the 17th International Hematology Expert Meeting (IHEM), which took place April 18-20, 2024 in Prague, Czech Republic. IHEM is an educational event, bringing together leading MPN experts from across Europe and the US to present and discuss recent scientific advancements and their impact on clinical practice and management of myeloproliferative neoplasms. Dr. Silver spoke on the topic of comorbidities and how they affect therapy choices in polycythemia vera, and also took part in a panel discussion on strategies for handling comorbidities and drug toxicities.

Videos of IHEM presentations from the last 3 meetings (2022-2024) can be found on the IHEM website (ihem.org) for healthcare professionals. Registration is required.



CR&T Medical Advisory Board Member Andrew Schafer, MD self-published his book *Unclean Hands* on October 12, 2020. *Unclean Hands* is a historical fictional account of Ignác Semmelweis, a young Hungarian obstetrician in training who discovered that the incidence of puerperal fever, and subsequent mortality rates, could be drastically cut by the use of hand disinfection in obstetrical clinics in the mid-1800s.

On March 22, 2024, Dr. Schafer was in Budapest for the official book launch for the Hungarian translation of his book *Unclean Hands*. The ceremony took place in the house where Semmelweis was born and raised, on the historic Buda side of the Danube in Budapest, which has now become a medical museum. The publisher and Dr. Schafer each gave brief presentations to an audience and then answered questions in Hungarian. Three weeks later, the book became the #7 best-seller in Hungary, while the English version continues to get exceptional reviews from various on-line booksellers. For a review from the Alpha Omega Alpha, national medical honor society magazine, visit <https://bit.ly/SchaferBook>

Fact: The title of the book in Hungarian had to be changed to *Tiszta Kezek*, meaning "Clean Hands," because the Hungarian word for "Unclean" is an obscene word which the publisher refused to use. *Unclean Hands/ Tiszta Kezek* by Andrew Schafer, MD is available for purchase at your favorite bookseller.

Dr. Abu-Zeinah leads collaboration with Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar



Ghaith at Weill Cornell Medicine in Qatar (WCM-Q)



Ghaith with faculty members

CR&T Medical Advisory Board Member, Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, M.D. is a graduate of Weill Cornell Medicine in Qatar (WCM-Q) class of 2013, an Assistant Professor of Hematology & Medical Oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) and is part of the leadership team at the CR&T-funded Richard T. Silver M.D. MPN Center at WCM.

In April, Dr. Ghaith Abu-Zeinah participated as a visiting faculty lecturer for the hematology section of the medical school course (Health Illness & Disease). Dr. Abu-Zeinah lectured students at both WCM-NY and WCM-Q on MPNs. He also moderated an interactive “Patient Presentation” with CR&T’s Treasurer & Board Member, Dave Boule.

As part of the curriculum, Dr. Abu-Zeinah, along with WCM-Q course director Dr. Liam Fernyhough and 4 local faculty members, led case-based small group interactive learning sessions to teach students critical thinking in diagnosis and management of hematologic diseases and cancers. Dr. Abu-Zeinah also participated in student advising and research mentoring sessions.

This collaboration and partnership are mutually beneficial for those involved and ultimately beneficial for education and research in the field of Myeloproliferative Neoplasms as

evidence in recent CR&T-funded abstracts and publications in which WCM-Q led or participated:

1. *Blood Advances*

Title: Cytoreductive therapy in younger adults with polycythemia vera: a meta-analysis of safety and outcomes

Authors*: Reem S. Chamseddine¹, Oleksandr Savenkov², Shehroz Rana¹, Mohammed Khalid¹, Richard T. Silver², Nicole Kucine³, Joseph M. Scandura², and Ghaith Abu-Zeinah²

2. *Blood Cancer Journal*

Title: Are thrombosis, progression, and survival in ET predictable?

Authors*: Ghaith Abu-Zeinah², Katie Erdos², Neville Lee², Ahamed Lebbe¹, Imane Bouhali¹, Mohammed Khalid¹, Richard Silver², and Joseph Scandura²

Read more about the impact of CR&T funded research on the CR&T website: <https://www.crt.org/research-updates>

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³Division of Hematology and Oncology, Department of Pediatrics, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY





16th International Congress
Myeloproliferative Neoplasms
October 24-25, 2024 ■ 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.

Richard T Silver, MD
Weill Cornell Medicine
Chairman, MPN Congress

Jerry L Spivak, MD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Co-Chairman, MPN Congress



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MYELOPROLIFERATIVE
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2024 CANCER SURVIVORS HALL OF FAME DINNER

Thursday November 21, 2024

THE ESSEX HOUSE • 160 Central Park South • New York, NY

<https://www.crt.org/hall-of-fame-event>





"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

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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.

On October 16-19, the LLM Congress will feature 4 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 his esteemed colleagues including CR&T Medical Advisory Board Member John P. Leonard, MD (left).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Lymphoma, Leukemia & Myeloma Congress

October 16-19, 2024 • New York City, NY

www.hmpglobevents.com/llmcongress



Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, Inc.
Established 1968

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.

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Summer 2024

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