

going for it

FOCUS ON: THYROID CANCER

This issue of momentum focuses on two risk takers, one a thyroid cancer patient and the other a scientist, both determined to stop advanced thyroid cancer in its tracks.

Greg Stone*, a businessman in Philadelphia, was battling a persistent cough. It was allergy season, so he tried antihistamines and other over-the-counter drugs, but even after the seasons changed, he could not seem to lose the sensation that something was stuck in the back of his throat. Then, Greg noticed a lump on his neck. His doctor delivered the news no one wants to hear, "This is serious; it is most likely cancer." Greg, his wife and children were devastated. It had only been a few years since they had lost Greg's father to lymphoma and they had seen the way chemotherapy wreaked havoc on his body.

After a referral to the University of Pennsylvania, Greg was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Although the causes of thyroid tumors are unknown, front line therapies have a good chance of a cure, as long as the tumor is caught early and the disease has not spread (metastasized) to other organs. So, after an extensive surgery removing his primary tumor and surrounding lymph nodes, Greg was hopeful. "I was still reeling from the diagnosis. When I learned we got a good outcome from the surgery, I was optimistic about my chances of survival." Unfortunately, his follow-up with a team of thyroid cancer specialists was anything but smooth.

Additional tests confirmed that Greg's cancer had metastasized to his lungs. Once again, Greg and his family were devastated. "I felt fine; I had no symptoms. It was so difficult to believe that I had these tumors growing inside me. I went to work every day, just like I did before the diagnosis, but I was scared." Greg's fears were justified.

There are few treatment options for metastatic thyroid cancer. Since thyroid cancer accounts for just 1% of malignancies diagnosed in the United States every year, it is not very well studied. There is little known about the underlying molecular changes in thyroid cancer and only a handful of clinicians and scientists actively investigate the disease in the laboratory.

Greg was left with tough choices. Standard chemotherapy has shown little success for metastatic thyroid cancer patients. Untreated, Greg's disease would continue to grow, slowly, and he could expect to survive only 2-3 years. He was shocked, but did not give up hope. **"The ups and downs of being a cancer patient are unbelievable. But through it all, I just knew that there was something more for me; that somehow I was going to make it."** Greg's hopes were realized when he got a call telling him about a young physician-scientist named Dr. Marcia Brose.

Dr. Brose had just joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania and she had an idea. A new experimental drug, called sorafenib, was showing promise in kidney and skin cancers. Sorafenib launches a two-pronged attack, targeting key proteins inside the tumor cell and the blood vessels outside the tumor that supply nutrients. Dr. Brose thought sorafenib just might work in advanced thyroid cancers as well.

In gathering data for her Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award grant application, Dr. Brose found that thyroid cancers share some of the

use this drug has given me the most precious gift — time."

Although Greg continues to work and raise his family, the treatment is not without side effects. He modified his diet to better control bouts of diarrhea and he requires frequent breaks from his busy days to offset the muscle soreness in his legs and hands. Greg draws great strength from his wonderful wife and kids. "My biggest concern is being able to provide for my family and get my girls through college. If I have to deal with these side effects to allow me to continue to live my life, I will do it, no questions asked."

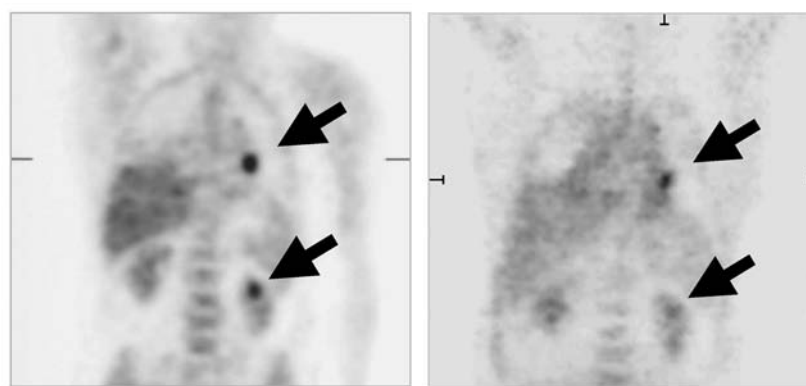
Greg cannot say enough about Dr. Brose. "I have so much confidence in Dr. Brose and the rest of the thyroid cancer specialists. They are a great team and I just knew they would come up with something to give me a chance. I never gave up hope and I still haven't."

Dr. Brose is equally thrilled to have contributed to Greg's care. "Thyroid cancer is fairly rare and does not get the attention that other more common cancers like breast or lung cancer get. But if it is your father, brother, mother, or daughter who is diagnosed with this cancer, then there is a real sense of

urgency because we know so little about the underlying mechanisms and have few treatment options for advanced disease."

Dr. Brose set out to make a difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families. Greg Stone is thankful Dr. Brose made the decision to focus on thyroid cancer and he is proof positive that she is on track to accomplish her mission — changing lives, giving hope, conquering cancer. Greg jokes, **"I told them they are not my doctors anymore, they are my Guardian Angels."**

* The name of the patient has been changed to protect his privacy.



same molecular changes as other cancers where sorafenib is effective. **"Cancer is a complex set of diseases, but so many of the underlying molecular changes are shared that discoveries in one cancer can have a profound impact on our understanding of several other cancers."**

For Greg, the decision to use the investigational drug and enroll in a clinical trial was a no-brainer. "I had nothing to lose, so I said, 'Let's go for it.'"

Now, after more than 27 months of treatment, Greg's scans show remarkable responses for some tumors and stable disease in others (see PET scan image above). Both he and his doctors are ecstatic about the results. **"Dr. Brose's idea to**



DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

"The Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award is the cornerstone of my research program. It came at a critical time in my career and allowed me to take a chance on my ideas about thyroid cancer treatment. Thanks to this award, I am actively investigating the molecular changes in thyroid cancer and have opened my first clinical trial with sorafenib for thyroid cancer patients."

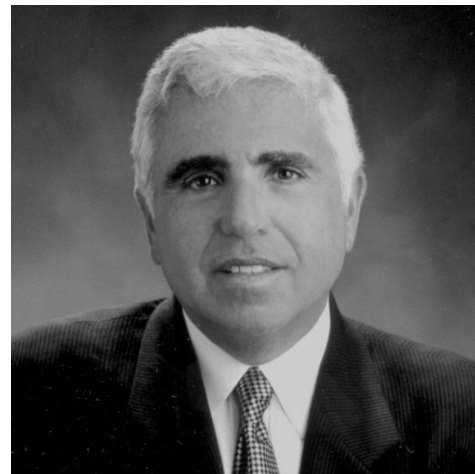
—Marcia Brose, MD, PhD, Siemens Clinical Investigator

CELEBRATING OUR 60th

Our Foundation was started with a call over the radio, with Walter Winchell asking all Americans to join the fight against cancer. Our 60th Anniversary Breakfast Benefit will honor another radio great: Mel Karmazin, Chief Executive Officer of Sirius Satellite Radio. Our keynote scientific speaker will be one of the world's preeminent scientists David Baltimore, PhD, Noble Laureate and President of California Institute of Technology.

Join us on June 13, 2006 for this exciting event!
Cipriani 42nd Street, 110 East 42nd Street
New York City, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

For more information and tickets,
call Michael Stiver at 212.455.0501.



Mel Karmazin, CEO, Sirius Satellite Radio

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Gary E. Erlbaum: President of Greentree Properties Corporation, a real estate investment and development firm in the Philadelphia area.



Richard B. Gaynor, MD: Vice President for Cancer Research & Clinical Investigation at Eli Lilly and Company and former Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.



Margaret A. Gilliam: President of Gilliam & Co., a consulting firm focused on the retailing and consumer products industries, and a former leading Wall Street analyst on retail trade.



Joel E. Smilow: Chairman of Dinex Group, LLC, a restaurant company formed with chef Daniel Boulud; former Chairman and CEO of Playtex Products, Inc.; and leading New York philanthropist.



GO VERTICAL gains momentum

Go Vertical Chicago 2005 and Go Vertical Boston 2006 were great successes. Nearly 1500 people participated in the two races up the Sears Tower and John Hancock Tower, raising over \$225,000. Plan to join us in Chicago on November 12, 2006!



Teaming up at Go Vertical Boston



Abilash Jaikumar climbing to conquer cancer



NEW SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR JOINS FOUNDATION

Jennifer M. McCafferty-Cepero, PhD, has joined our staff as Scientific Director. She earned her PhD at the University of Miami in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology, where her research focused on androgen receptors and prostate cancer. Her postdoctoral work involved defining mechanisms of chemoresistance in multiple myeloma. She has extensive knowledge of the broad range of basic and clinical cancer research, and looks forward to working with our scientific and donor communities.

DONOR spotlight

Taking a Challenge to Honor a Friend

In 2003, Rachel Chen, a young woman in her thirties, was training to run in the New York City Marathon. During her preparation for the event, Rachel learned that she had cancer and began receiving chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Ming Lai, a personal friend of Rachel's, visited her often with his wife, Dianne. During the early months of Rachel's illness, he made a commitment to run a half-marathon with Rachel when she got better. Tragically, he never got the chance. After a courageous year-and-a-half-long battle, Rachel Chen died in February of 2005.

Inspired by his promise to Rachel, and by the spirit and determination of the friend he had lost, Ming made up his mind to run the 2005 New York City Marathon and dedicate his race to Rachel Chen's memory. Determined to help fight the disease that killed his friend, Ming contacted friends from Manhattan to Hong Kong, and asked them to support his run. He found the Damon Runyon



Cancer Research Foundation on the internet, and chose us to receive these pledges because he was impressed with our mission, our low administrative costs, and that 100% of donations go to directly to support cancer research.

On Sunday, November 6, 2005, Ming ran all 26.2 miles of the New York City Marathon in four hours and eleven minutes, finishing 12,031 out of almost 37,000 runners. Cheered on by friends and family in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan, he overcame cramping and dehydration to get to the finish line. Ming achieved another goal by raising over \$10,000 for cancer research. We are truly grateful to Ming and his friends for their generous support in memory of Rachel Chen.

We all can't run marathons, but we can be inspired by Ming's example. We encourage others to take on a personal challenge to help fight cancer and ask your friends to join with you. Be creative! Just like Ming, you will have the satisfaction of making a difference against a disease that touches us all.

Thanks again, Ming!

new awardees

f 10 New Damon Runyon Fellows Selected

The Damon Runyon Fellowship Award supports the training of the brightest young postdoctoral scientists by established investigators in leading laboratories across the country. In November, the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee chose 10 new Fellows for the \$134,000 awards designed to enlist the skills and creativity of the next generation of researchers in the fight against cancer.

Jesse H. Goldberg, MD, PhD

"A bird's eye view of dopamine and reinforcement" with Michale Fee, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Brian Gregory, PhD

"Investigating the role of RNA silencing in hormone signaling" with Joseph R. Ecker, PhD, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, California

Haley Hieronymus, PhD

"Regulation of androgen receptor-mediated signaling signatures in cancer" with Todd R. Golub, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

Sally A. Kim, PhD

"The dynamics of local protein synthesis" with Erin M. Schuman, PhD, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

* *Physician Scientist*

Johanna Lahdenranta, PhD

"Physiological and molecular mechanisms of decreasing interstitial fluid pressure during Gleevec treatment of solid tumors" with Rakesh K. Jain, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Ji-Hye Paik, PhD

"Investigation of the molecular basis of telomere dysfunction-induced checkpoint response" with Ronald DePinho, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

Rajat Rohatgi, MD, PhD*

"Role of Hedgehog signaling in lung epithelial repair and carcinogenesis" with Matthew P. Scott, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California

John Cliff Yoon, MD, PhD*

"Genetic analysis of the tumor suppressor pathway regulated REST" with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Jong W. Yu, PhD

"Structural biology of death receptor signaling" with Yigong Shi, PhD, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

S 4 New Damon Runyon Scholars Selected

The Damon Runyon Scholar Award supports the development of outstanding scientists as they establish their own independent research laboratories. This funding helps foster research productivity during the first critical years of building a new research program. In September, the Damon Runyon Scholar Review Panel selected four exceptional investigators to receive the \$300,000 award.

Howard Y. Chang, MD, PhD*

"Mechanisms of a wound response signature in cancer" at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California

Jayanta Chaudhuri, PhD

"Mechanism and control of class switch recombination and somatic hypermutation" at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

Victoria M. D'Souza, PhD

"Primer placement and initiation of reverse transcription" at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Kathryn M. Ferguson, PhD

"Studies of anti-epidermal growth factor receptor antibodies for improved mechanistic understanding and therapy" at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Congratulations to all!

science news

U.S. CANCER DEATHS DOWN FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1930

For the first time since the government began keeping national death statistics in 1930, the National Center for Health Statistics reports that the number of cancer deaths in the United States dropped in 2003, highlighting the fruits of basic and clinical research - better drugs, earlier diagnoses, and preventive strategies such as declines in smoking.

Back in the 1930s, a cancer diagnosis was tantamount to a death sentence, the only treatments being rudimentary surgery and radiation. The decrease in cancer deaths we see in the 21st century is inextricably linked to the expansion of our basic understanding of genetics, immunology, and cell and molecular biology. Then and now, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation awardees have been critical players in every area of cancer research. Former Damon Runyon scientists have made seminal contributions to cancer research. Our current awardees are building on earlier discoveries to unlock cancer's mysteries and breaking new ground both in the lab and in the clinic to impact patient care and win the war against cancer. The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation is proud to have funded clinicians and scientists over the past 60 years whose hard work and perseverance contributed to the drop in cancer deaths in this country.

BETTER DRUGS

Then: Min Chiu Li (Damon Runyon Fellow '53-'55) — first cure of a solid tumor with chemotherapy

Now: Jedd Wolchok (Damon Runyon-Lilly Clinical Investigator '03-'08) — developing vaccines for melanoma

EARLIER DIAGNOSES

Then: George Papanicolaou (Damon Runyon Grantee '61-'62) — developed the "Pap smear" for cervical cancer screening

Now: Peter Lee (Damon Runyon-Connie and Bob Lurie Scholar '01-'03) — identified a powerful new approach that predicts breast cancer recurrence

PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES

Then: Ernst Wynder (Damon Runyon Grantee '52-'53) — first to connect lung cancer to cigarette smoking

Now: Maura Gillison (Damon Runyon-Lilly Clinical Investigator '00-'05) — established that human papillomavirus is linked to head and neck cancers

Scientists from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation were there, and will be there, every step of the way... .

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

David Baltimore, PhD (*Damon Runyon Board Member*), has been selected to serve as president-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). AAAS, the world's largest general science society, is an international non-profit organization dedicated to advancing science around the globe. Dr. Baltimore was awarded the 1975 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for identifying the reverse transcriptase enzyme, a critical step in understanding the biology of retroviruses like HIV. He is the President and Professor of Biology at the California Institute of Technology.

Samuel Danishefsky, PhD (*Damon Runyon Grantee '66*), Eugene W. Kettering Chair and Director, laboratory for bioorganic chemistry at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, received the National Academy of Science Award in Chemical Sciences for his pioneering chemical synthesis of carbohydrates for the development of anticancer vaccines.

Gregory J. Hannon, PhD (*Damon Runyon Fellow '92-'94*) is featured as one of the "Best & Brightest" of 2005 in the December Genius Issue of *Esquire*. Dr. Hannon's work with a recently discovered class of gene regulators called microRNAs is recognized as the science "Breakthrough of the Decade."

Carol L. Prives, PhD (*Damon Runyon Fellow '68-'70*) was elected to the Institute of Medicine, one of the highest honors that can be earned by a U.S. scientist. Dr. Prives is the DaCosta Professor of Biology at Columbia University, where she studies how mutations in the p53 tumor suppressor gene contribute to cancer.

Pehr A.B. Harbury, PhD (*Damon Runyon Fellow '95-'97*) was selected for a Pioneer Award by the Director of the National Institutes of Health. The award supports exceptionally creative scientists who take innovative approaches to major challenges in biomedical research.

William R. Sellers, MD (*Damon Runyon-Lilly Clinical Investigator '01-'05*) joined the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research as the Global Head of Oncology.

For information about recent discoveries made by Damon Runyon scientists, please visit the "News" section on our website (www.drclf.org).

What are the hottest areas in cancer research? How are scientists from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation making an impact now and shaping the future of cancer research? Be sure to look for the next issue of *momentum*, coming in Fall 2006.

momentum PHOTO GALLERY



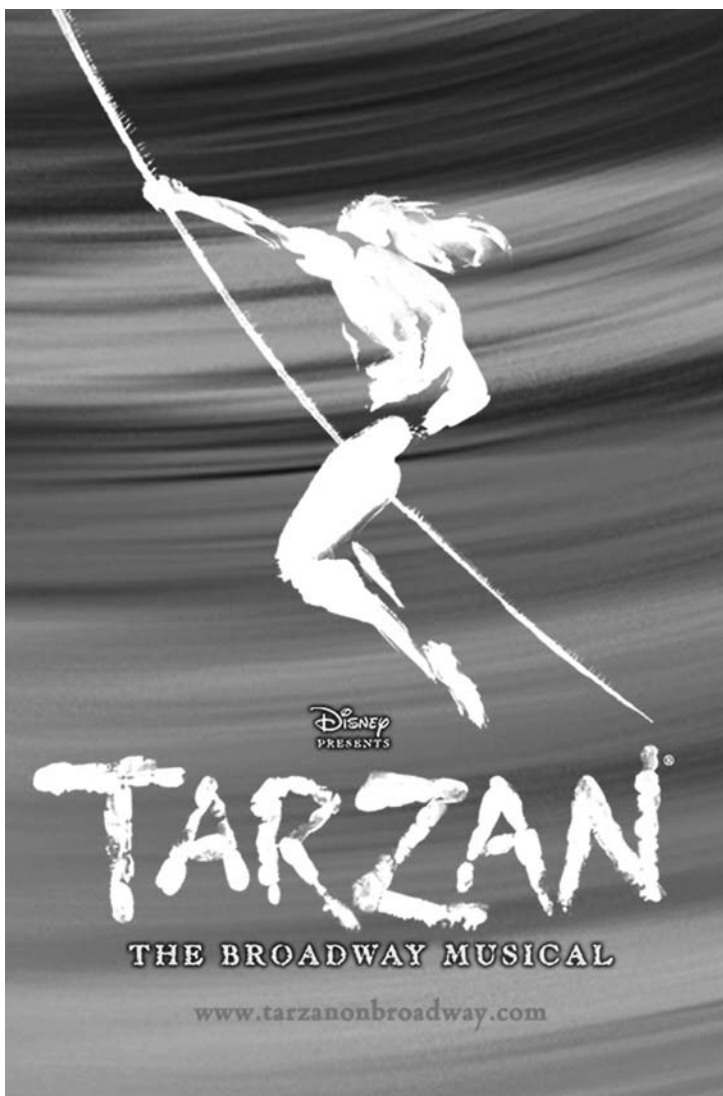
take me out to the ballgame

Damon Runyon got his start as a baseball sportswriter and his style revolutionized how the game was covered. The connection between baseball and Damon Runyon persisted even after his tragic death from laryngeal cancer. Walter Winchell, our founder, is shown here with baseball legend and former Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation Board Member, Joe DiMaggio.

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation

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broadway bound?

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HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Broadway theatres reserve the best house seats for the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. When you use our service, you purchase the tickets at twice the current box office price. Half of this amount is used to pay the box office for the tickets and the other half is a voluntary, fully tax-deductible contribution to support scientists in leading research centers throughout the country.

And it's easy! Simply call our dedicated Broadway Tickets line at 212.455.0550 between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Payment can be made by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover) or by check. Your tickets will be waiting for you at the box office on the night of the show.

Use our service for corporate entertaining and for celebrating special occasions. Our Broadway tickets make a fun and meaningful gift for birthdays, anniversaries or just to say 'thanks.'

BAY AREA BOUND?

Announcing the expansion of our *Broadway Tickets Service* to the Curran Theatre in San Francisco starting with Martin Short's new show *Fame Becomes Me*, opening April 25th.

TO ORDER TICKETS CALL

212.455.0550 or 1.877.7CANCER

(For more information about our Broadway Tickets service, go to www.drcrf.org)

100% for cancer research

THAT'S HOW MUCH OF YOUR DONATION
WILL BE USED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER!

giving opportunities

TRIBUTE GIFTS – Honor someone in your life or give special meaning to condolences with a gift that supports cancer research. The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation will send a beautiful card on your behalf to the person of your choosing.

REMEMBER THE FOUNDATION IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST – Support the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation after providing for your family and loved ones. Bequests and trusts using

property, securities or cash provide long-term financial stability to the Foundation.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES – If you have stock that has grown in value and produces little income, you can make a charitable gift of these securities and enjoy significant tax savings.

MATCHING GIFTS – Double your impact through a corporate matching gift. Check with your employer's human

resources department to find out if this is an option for you.

NAMED AWARDS – Sponsor a brilliant scientist for a three-year period or in perpetuity, and we will name the award for you or your family, or in honor of a loved one.

HOST AN EVENT – Help the Foundation reach out to new friends by hosting an event to raise funds and awareness about our important work.

For more information about these giving opportunities, please call 1.877.7CANCER.

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation

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