



**STAND UP TO CANCER PROVIDES UPDATE ON SELECTION PROCESS  
FOR “DREAM TEAM” GRANT RECIPIENTS**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ISSUED FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS  
TO BE AWARDED TO INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS**

NEW YORK – December 4, 2008 – The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C), the new charitable initiative established to rally public support for accelerating ground-breaking translational research, has narrowed the field to eight finalists for its initial round of “Dream Team” Grants -- due to be awarded in the Spring of 2009 -- from the 237 submissions received from scientists all over the world. The funds for these grants come from the more than \$100 million raised by SU2C since its May launch, most of it in connection with a star-studded September 5th televised event that aired simultaneously on ABC, CBS and NBC and in over 170 countries.

Additionally, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), SU2C’s scientific partner, recently issued a request for letters of intent for “Innovative Research Grants,” which will be awarded to individual investigators.

After all of the “Dream Team” applicants were notified, the leaders of SU2C’s Scientific Advisory Committee, **Chairperson Phillip A. Sharp**, Ph.D., Institute Professor at the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; **Vice Chairpersons Arnold J. Levine**, Ph.D., Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, and Professor at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and **Brian J. Druker**, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Director at Oregon Health & Science University Cancer Institute; and **Committee Member Raymond N. DuBois**, M.D., Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, who is president of AACR, provided an update on the grant recipient selection process via email to the cancer research and advocacy communities. This message was also posted on the Stand Up To Cancer and AACR websites:

*As you know, Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) kicked off on September 5th with a star-studded televised fundraising event that aired simultaneously on all three major U.S. television networks and, indeed, all over the world. The results were amazing: to date, more than \$100 million has been raised for cutting-edge translational cancer research programs that hold great promise to improve the quality of patient care and save lives.*

*We and our colleagues on SU2C’s Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) have been entrusted with the wonderful, albeit weighty, responsibility of selecting “Dream Teams” of investigators—groups of top researchers from institutions in the U.S. and abroad who will combine their multidisciplinary expertise to address critical areas in translational cancer research.*

*The call for ideas for Dream Team projects that was issued by SU2C's scientific partner, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), was quite novel, so none of us had an informed expectation about the response it would elicit. From every vantage point, the submissions were extraordinary:*

- We received 237 ideas. Given that the teams can include a leader and up to eight principal investigators, as well as two patient advocates, that number reflects the input of thousands of scientists with a broad array of expertise. The process clearly inspired applicants to think creatively about how they could reach across natural boundaries, of both institutions and nations, to collaborate more effectively and accelerate progress.*
- The ideas covered many different cancer sites and encompassed a wide spectrum of topics—from prevention, personalized medicine and targeted drugs, angiogenesis, immune therapy, stem cells, epigenetics, and microRNAs, to the use of emerging technologies such as molecular imaging and nanotechnology—that are increasingly important in cancer research.*

*One of Stand Up To Cancer's important goals is to assure that the projects we support have sufficient resources to really make an impact over the course of the grants' three-year duration. Seventy percent of SU2C's funds will go to translational cancer research Dream Teams. Depending on the scope of each project, the total grant for each Team may reach approximately \$15 million over the three-year period, assuming that milestones and objectives are being satisfactorily pursued and achieved.*

*Making these recommendations is a formidable challenge that each of the twenty SAC members (scientists and clinicians who are experts in translational research, as well as two patient advocates) takes very seriously. We held an intensive two-day meeting last month where the discussion and analysis of the submissions was always rigorous and often spirited. Committee members initially ranked each submission. We then focused on the top 25, which was narrowed to a group of 16. Ultimately, we selected eight ideas to pursue further.*

*The three of us who serve as the SAC Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons then met with the prospective leaders of each of these eight highly rated Teams. It was a great privilege, during these conversations, to have an opportunity to share with them the Committee's suggestions to help shape the content of the ideas as well as the constitution of the Teams. We came away from these meetings thrilled with the quality of the science being proposed and impressed by the commitment of these prospective leaders to translate scientific discoveries to the clinic to improve patient care.*

*These eight groups have now been asked to submit comprehensive proposals describing their research plans, which the Committee will review within the next few months to make final recommendations about which of these exciting projects to fund. We anticipate that the final Dream Teams will be selected in the Spring. Clearly, there will be much to do going forward to complete agreements and initiate the work of these multi-institutional teams.*

*Stand Up To Cancer is also offering Innovative Research Grants which will provide significant support for early career investigators whose novel, high risk ideas—while they may have great potential for translational application—are often not funded by conventional sources. The request for letters of intent for these grants has been issued by the American Association for Cancer Research, and is posted on the AACR website, [www.aacr.org](http://www.aacr.org).*

*For those of us who have been involved in science for many years, being a part of Stand Up To Cancer is an exhilarating experience. The opportunity to confront many of the traditional barriers to research progress head-on doesn't come along often, and SU2C is designed to do just that. The scientific review process is rigorous and transparent, and a great deal has been accomplished in a short period of time. We believe that SU2C has the potential to quicken the*

*pace of translational research by combining the talent, skills and experience of the nation's and world's top investigators to tackle some of the most critical issues confronting biomedical researchers today. In addition, it is likely that talented young investigators at these institutions will be involved with these important team science projects.*

*Rapidly moving new research discoveries out of the lab and into the clinic in order to save lives is what Stand Up To Cancer is all about, and it is a goal that honestly seems within reach. We will continue to provide you with periodic updates and progress reports.*

Twenty percent of SU2C's funds will be dedicated to its "Innovative Research Grants" with individual recipients being awarded up to \$750,000 to conduct high-risk, potentially high-reward projects over the grants' three-year term. The program was established in honor of the late Judah Folkman, M.D., a pioneering cancer researcher whose recommendations early in SU2C's development helped shape the funding model.

In addition to thousands of people who have contributed by phone and via the Stand Up To Cancer website, SU2C's significant donors include the country's single largest individual supporter of cancer research, Sidney Kimmel, as well as the initiative's lead donor Major League Baseball. Also among SU2C's major supporters are Amgen, AARP, Bloomberg Philanthropies, GlaxoSmithKline, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Revlon, Wallis Annenberg & The Annenberg Foundation, Alliance for Global Good, Lee Jeans, New York Giants, Milken Family Foundation, Philips Electronics, Saks Fifth Avenue, The Steve Tisch Foundation, Stonyfield Farm, The Island Def Jam Music Group and many others.

Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) -- a program of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization -- brings media and entertainment industry resources to bear in the fight against cancer as never before. In addition to ABC, CBS and NBC, significant SU2C partners include AOL, Conde' Nast Media Group, eBay Inc., Facebook, Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Hearst Corporation, Los Angeles Times, Meredith Corporation, The New York Times Company, Time Inc., and WebMD.

The following serve with Drs. Sharp, Levine, Druker and DuBois on the SU2C Scientific Advisory Committee:

**Julian Adams, Ph.D.**

Chief Scientific Officer  
Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Cambridge, MA

**Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Ph.D.**

Morris Herzstein Professor  
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, CA

**Richard B. Gaynor, M.D.**

Vice President  
Cancer Research and Clinical Investigation  
Eli Lilly and Company  
Indianapolis, IN

**Waun Ki Hong, M.D.**

Head, Division of Cancer Medicine  
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**William G. Kaelin, Jr., M.D.**

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Chairperson and Founder  
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President  
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Washington University School of Medicine  
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**James E. Williams, Jr., M.D.\***  
Professor of Surgery  
Washington University School of Medicine  
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*\*Patient Advocate committee members selected by the SU2C Advocate Advisory Council*

### **About Cancer**

Cancer claims one person every minute of every day in the United States. Every year it takes the lives of more than half a million Americans and seven million people worldwide. In the U.S. alone, one out of three women and one out of two men will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes.

### **About AACR**

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is the oldest and largest scientific organization in the world focusing on every aspect of high-quality, innovative cancer research. Its reputation for scientific breadth and excellence attracts the premier researchers in the field. By accelerating the growth and spread of new knowledge about cancer, the AACR is on the front lines in the quest for the prevention and cure of cancer.

### **About Stand Up To Cancer**

The Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) movement raises funds to hasten the pace of ground-breaking translational research that can get new therapies to patients quickly and save lives. SU2C, established by a group of executives from film, television and philanthropy whose lives have all been affected by cancer in significant ways, draws on media and entertainment industry resources to generate awareness and build broad public support for this effort. The SU2C leadership team includes Laura Ziskin, who was executive producer of the September 5th broadcast and a cancer survivor; Katie Couric; the Entertainment Industry Foundation, represented by Board of Directors Chairperson Sherry Lansing (who is also Founder of the Sherry Lansing Foundation), CEO Lisa Paulsen, and Vice President Kathleen Lobb; the Noreen Fraser Foundation, represented by Founder Noreen Fraser, who is a cancer survivor (Noreen's husband Woody Fraser is also an NFF founder); Rusty Robertson and Sue Schwartz of the Robertson Schwartz Agency; and nonprofit executive Ellen Ziffren (whose husband, noted L.A. attorney Ken Ziffren, played a pivotal role in bringing together the three networks for the fundraising special).

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