

Institute for Myeloma & Bone Cancer Research

Winter 2005



About IMBCR

The Institute for Myeloma & Bone Cancer Research (a 501 (c)-(3) non-profit organization) was founded in 2002 on the principle that, as a dedicated, stand-alone institution, it could speed up the advancement of scientific research, devise revolutionary treatments and eventually find a cure for myeloma and metastatic bone cancers. Now, more than ever, the Institute for Myeloma & Bone Cancer Research sees a vital need to focus an independent research effort to develop more effective therapies and improve the quality of life and longevity of patients with these catastrophic diseases.

Recent News from the Institute:

Conferences:

IMBCR presented research and clinical data at the American Society of Hematology's 47th Annual Meeting and Exposition in Atlanta, Ga., and at the 10th International Myeloma Workshop in Sydney, Australia. Please visit www.hematology.org/meetings/2005 and www.myeloma2005.org to view scientific abstracts.

New Research:

IMBCR is currently working toward deciphering a common cancer "language." The Institute's scientists have identified a new factor in myeloma. This factor is also made by other cancers, including melanoma and breast cancer. In pre-clinical trials, the Institute has found that an antibody that interferes with the new factor's activity markedly reduces tumor growth. The Institute is now developing an improved version of this antibody, which would be suitable for anti-myeloma therapy. Researchers are also investigating the potential anti-tumor effects of this antibody on other cancers, including melanoma and pancreatic and breast cancers.

The Institute is also creating animal models of human myeloma. These models have expedited the development of better therapies for patients. Using this model, researchers have been able to uncover potential new drugs that are active against myeloma and optimized the dose and administration of many treatment regimens resulting in improved efficacy and safety with smaller drug doses. The Institute continues to use novel techniques to provide better delivery of specific therapies.

James Berenson M.D.,
Chief Executive
Officer & President



Dr. Berenson graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University in 1973 and finished his Hematology & Oncology fellowship at UCLA in 1983. During the past two decades, he has built a reputation as a leader in the research and treatment of multiple myeloma and bone cancer.

Named as one of the "Outstanding Scientists of the 20th Century" in 1999, Dr. Berenson serves on three high-profile Scientific Boards related to multiple myeloma & bone metastasis. He has also served as the Director of the Multiple Myeloma and Bone Metastasis Programs at the renowned Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. And was also a Professor of Medicine in Hematology & Oncology at the respected UCLA School of Medicine.



2005 Charitable Donation Tax Update

The tax relief package to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina allows donors who make cash gifts to a charity by the end of this year to deduct an amount equal to virtually 100 percent of their adjusted gross incomes--double the previous.

Patient Success Story - Alma Barnett

Diagnosed with multiple myeloma in the summer of 1996, Alma Barnett is one of Dr. Berenson's patients and is a prime example of all that the Institute for Myeloma & Bone Cancer Research, through its research, can offer.

She participated in two clinical trials prior to beginning Dr. Berenson's experimental, highly successful low-dose combination therapy of Doxil, Dexamethasone, Arsenic Trioxide and Vitamin C. "Every drug kept the disease at bay for a while. When each therapy's effectiveness fades, there's another treatment to try," Alma told reporters at Cure Magazine. Alma's choice to seek treatment that took advantage of IMBCR's research findings, which have made all the difference for her.



About Multiple Myeloma and Bone Cancer



Multiple myeloma is a unique cancer of plasma cells that attacks and destroys bone. Due to its complexity, the disease can be difficult to diagnose and often results in varying treatment recommendations from doctors. The term "multiple myeloma" is derived from the multiple areas of bone marrow that are usually affected by the disease (which itself is the result of increased numbers of malignant plasma cells in the bone marrow). These patients often have reduced blood cell counts and decreased amounts of normal antibodies, which often compromise the body's immune system.



Myeloma most commonly affects the spine, ribs, pelvis and long bones with the main symptoms being pain or fractures. The debilitating effects of the bone weakness can occur from the inner bone marrow to the outer bone surface. Soft spots, or osteolytic lesions, are like "holes" in the bone, and appear as such when x-rayed. These lesions are painful and can often lead to fractures and the collapse of bones. Bone destruction in myeloma is caused by the presence of these osteolytic lesions, which form when the rapid growth of myeloma cells produce substances that activate bone-resorbing, or bone-eating cells called osteoclasts. Normally these cells break down old or worn out bone and work with bone-forming cells to repair bone. Unfortunately, the increased activity of osteoclasts causes bone loss at a rate greater than the rate at which new bone is formed.

SUPPORT US

WE ARE SO CLOSE...

to finding a cure for multiple myeloma. We are making significant inroads to extending and improving the lives of myeloma and bone cancer patients. By using innovative research techniques, our scientists are working to improve current and develop new treatment options for patients with these diseases. Promising clinical trials that are currently underway are a testament to our dedication and success.

Through your generous support we invite you to become an integral part of this important mission. Your donation to the Institute for Myeloma & Bone Cancer Research will make a difference in the lives of myeloma and bone cancer patients. This is not a fight we can win alone.

The Institute for Myeloma and Bone Cancer Research provides a variety of donation options to support our important work. For more information, please visit www.imbcr.org or contact :

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