

## Patient Advocate Corner

### The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation: Educating the Myeloma Community on Recent Treatment Innovations



*Kathy Giusti*

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In 1998, we founded the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) with the belief that increased research funding would lead to new treatment options and more rapid cure of the disease. Today, we are the world's No. 1 funder of myeloma research. The MMRF has played a vital role in accelerating the development of new myeloma therapies. We are

currently funding nearly 30 new compounds and combination therapies in pre-clinical testing and phase I, II, and III clinical trials.

At MMRF, we are proud of the role we have played in driving innovative therapies from the laboratory to the clinic and to the patients who need them. However, we know that if neither health care providers nor patients are aware of these innovations, the progress we are making will benefit only patients treated by myeloma specialists or those who are well educated about myeloma. We also know that many patients have never heard of myeloma prior to their diagnosis and that oncologists working at the community level may see only a handful of myeloma patients throughout their careers. That is why we remain committed to keeping the oncology community up to date with information on the latest therapeutic advances in treating myeloma, including life-saving clinical trials.

The importance of timely and up-to-date information, particularly when considering treatment options, cannot be underestimated. For this reason, MMRF offers a broad array of programs that are specifically tailored to meet the

educational needs and interests of myeloma patients, families, and health care professionals. These programs include accredited continuing medical education (CME) programs for clinicians and nurses, educational seminars for patients and health care professionals, live teleconferences with world-renowned myeloma experts, a quarterly print newsletter, a weekly e-mail newsletter, and a comprehensive Web site. MMRF also recently launched a myeloma resource line, in partnership with the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, that allows community oncologists to ask questions about myeloma treatment options via e-mail or voicemail and receive answers within 24 to 48 hours. Additionally, MMRF is a leading provider of educational materials to National Cancer Institute designated cancer centers and Community Clinical Oncology Programs.

Committed to reaching a diverse constituency of more than 105,000 people from 100 countries, MMRF relies heavily on the innovation of the Internet to reach diverse audiences quickly and efficiently. In fact, MMRF offers the world's most comprehensive, up-to-date Web-based database of myeloma-specific clinical trials. This one-of-a-kind resource allows visitors to search for open clinical trials based on a number of factors, including disease stage, the type of therapy under investigation, and geographic location. Each month, more than 3,000 people access the MMRF Clinical Trials Monitor. In addition to helping patients gain access to the most promising new treatments, this unique resource continues to play an important role in the rapid accrual of clinical trials and is helping research make the formidable leap from bench to bedside.

For more information about MMRF, please visit [www.multiplemyeloma.org](http://www.multiplemyeloma.org) or call 203-972-1250.

*Kathy Giusti is CEO and Founder of the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.*