

INTRODUCTION

2009 was a year which saw continued advances in the rapidly-expanding scientific understanding of the myeloproliferative disorders (MPDs) and, for the first time in many years, the initiation of clinical trials for newly developed treatments for these relatively rare and often under-diagnosed blood cancers. The year was also a significant one for the MPD Foundation, which since 1999 has funded critical research into the MPDs and has served as an increasingly more vital resource for MPD patients. This report summarizes the achievements made and opportunities identified in 2009 by the MPD Foundation on behalf of all MPD patients.

The MPD Foundation's primary mission is to stimulate original research in pursuit of new treatments and eventually a cure for polycythemia vera, primary myelofibrosis and essential thrombocythemia. In addition, the MPD Foundation promotes collaboration in the scientific community to accelerate MPD research, and serves as a powerful patient advocacy group for MPD patients and their families.

PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009

MPD Research

2009 saw the culmination of a grant award process that began early in 2008, when the Foundation issued a Call for Proposals for two grant programs:

- **The MPD Research Alliance.** The fifth year of a collaborative multi-investigator, multi-year project focused on advancing the understanding of the myeloproliferative disorders (MPDs) and contributing to the rapid discovery and development of effective treatments.
- **The MPD New Investigator Awards.** A new grant program seeking to encourage new and established investigators to focus their work on the myeloproliferative disorders. Awards were made to:

Response to the Call for Proposals exceeded our expectations, with a total of 12 Research Alliance and 32 New Investigator proposals received. In order to provide solid and thoughtful review to each proposal, the Foundation augmented its Scientific Advisory Board with 8 additional scientific reviewers. Each proposal was reviewed by a minimum of 3 reviewers, and in November, 2008 the proposals were ranked by this expanded group.

Following this ranking, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the MPD Board of Directors met in January, 2009 to finalize recommendations for awards, which

were presented to the Board of Directors. On February 1, 2009, the awards were announced.

Two-year MPD Research Alliance awards were made to:

- Dr. Ronald Hoffman (Mt. Sinai Medical Center, New York)
- Dr. Gary Gilliland (Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston)
- Dr. Ayalew Tefferi (The Mayo Clinic, Rochester Minnesota)
- Dr. Josef Prchal (The University of Utah)

Two-year MPD New Investigator awards were made to:

- Dr. Benjamin Braun (University of California, San Francisco)
- Dr. Francois Delhommeau (University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris)
- Dr. Robert Kralovics (Center for Molecular Medicine, Austrian Academy of Sciences)
- Dr. Dorothy Sipkins (The University of Chicago)

Education and Advocacy

In addition to the grant-making process, the Foundation co-sponsored a major patient symposium in New York City with the Cancer Treatment and Research Fund. This bi-annual event draws patients from both the United States and abroad to hear presentations from leading researchers in the MPD field.

The Foundation remains committed to educating patients through the free bi-annual newsletter, MPD Update as well as assisting with coordination of patient support groups. In addition, the Foundation seeks to connect with physicians to provide the support material they need to educate their patients about MPDs.

INVESTING IN GROWTH

With the launching of a two-year grant program in April, 2009, the Foundation took the opportunity to invest significant effort in the remainder of the year in building an infrastructure to allow continued growth of its grantmaking capability. Two new members were added to the Board of Directors (David Boule and JoAnn Mason). Board subcommittees were established to oversee Finance and Fundraising activities. The Board appointed a new Scientific Advisor (Dr. John Crispino, Northwestern University) to provide ongoing guidance to the Foundation in strategic planning and grantmaking activities. The Board also committed to fund a Marketing Planning project to be implemented early in

2010. With these investments in place, the Board looks forward to a productive new year and the beginning of the next grantmaking process in 2010.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROSTER FOR 2009

Chairman - Robert Rosen
President - Barbara Van Husen
Treasurer - David Boule
Vice President - Robert Pritzker
Vice President - Felisse Sigurdson
Secretary - Woody Woodruff
Director - William Dempsey
Director - Robert Horwitz
Director - Sam Klepper
Director - JoAnn Mason
Director - Celia Miltz
Director - David Ricci
Director - Jeff Shier

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The audited financial statement for the MPD Foundation for fiscal 2009 is attached to this Annual Report.