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| NEW GRANTS, NEW INTEREST IN MPD RESEARCH

Good News for the MPD Community: More and Better Proposals Received in 2003

As most members of the MPD community know, researchers have traditionally shown a singular lack of interest in studying our diseases. The MPD Foundation is out to change that - and we've made a good start.

Last year, we took a major step forward by persuading the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to join us in jointly funding MPD research projects.

We're now in the second year of our first joint three-year grant with LLS, and we also have three exciting new grants to announce.

We are independently funding a study by Dr. Ruben Mesa, of the Mayo Clinic and Foundation, into the evaluation of novel therapies for myelofibrosis with myeloid metaplasia. This is a three-year grant for \$90,000 a year.

We are cofunding, with LLS, a project by Dr. Xiao-Feng Yang of Baylor College of Medicine to study novel antigen targets for immunotherapy in the myeloproliferative diseases. This is a three-year grant for \$130,000 a year; we will contribute half.

Finally, the LLS is independently funding Dr. Richard D'Andrea, of the Child Health Research Institute, North Adelaide, Australia, in a study of the identification of growth factor receptor mutations in polycythemia vera.

By working closely with LLS, we have been instrumental in supporting four important projects that we could never have managed on our own - and that might not have happened at all without your support. Thank you all. We've made a good start and maybe one day - together - we'll be able to announce a cure.

MPD FOUNDATION HELPS JUMP START NEW INTERNATIONAL MPD RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

Late news: Thanks to a \$25,000 seed grant and testimony by MPD Foundation President Robert Rosen, a new global MPD research consortium may soon become a reality. Mr. Rosen joined some of the world's leading MPD specialists in supporting their application for a multimillion-dollar NIH grant to create the consortium. Details will follow in the Fall/Winter newsletter.

FRIENDS OF ET RESEARCH JOINS FORCES WITH MPD FOUNDATION

Alliance Reduces Duplicated Efforts, Focuses More Funds on Outstanding Research Projects

Formed by Celia and Don Miltz in 1999, Friends of ET Research conducts a golf tournament in Connecticut each year to raise funds for medical research into Essential Thrombocythemia (ET). The Miltz family became aware of ET when their daughter, Stephanie, was diagnosed following a mini-stroke (TIA) at the age of 16. Last year, the golf event raised more than \$77,000!

One challenge remained: Finding the best research to fund.

From conversations with Robert Rosen, President of the MPD Foundation, Celia Miltz knew of our efforts to attract top quality proposals. She also knew of our Board of Medical Advisors, who are among the top MPD specialists in the world and are outstandingly qualified to evaluate research proposals from a medical and scientific standpoint.

Rather than try to create another group with their degree of knowledge and insight, Ms. Miltz joined us in reviewing the research proposals we received this year, and decided that they are of such high quality that she would join us in supporting them.

As Ms. Miltz reported in the Friends of ET Research Newsletter, "It is our intention to link funds and work together to gain the most leverage for our money. There are simply too few people fighting a battle much bigger than any one of us individually, so connecting with others who share the same goals and interests as we do makes perfect sense."

We welcome the support of Friends of ET Research, and we welcome Ms. Miltz as our newest Board member.

For more information on Friends of ET Research, please visit their Web site at www.friendsofetresearch.org

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