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MPN Matters Issue 6 - May 2018 Research partnership
Announced ; EOFY Donations to support Interferon Project

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MPN Matters

Issue 6 - April 2018



EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP





The MPN (Myeloproliferative Neoplasms) Research Foundation (MPNRF) and MPN Alliance Australia (MPN AA) are proud to announce a research partnership focused on the MPN Interferon Initiative. MPNRF and MPN AA are both patient advocacy organizations who work on behalf of patients with myeloproliferative neoplasms, a group of rare, chronic blood cancers.

The MPNRF Interferon (IFN) Initiative is a multi-center project which will bring together internationally recognized experts in both blood and solid tumors to determine how cytokine-driven pathways affect the trajectory of the MPNs, a closely-related group of progressive blood cancers. The collaboration among this group of scientists is unprecedented and speaks to their drive to answer this question, which could have wide-ranging impact on the lives of people living with cancer.

The funds donated by MPN AA will directly support Dr. Steven Lane, (QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia) who is working with Principal Investigator, Ann Mullally, MD (Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston MA) and Michael Milsom, PhD (German Cancer Res. Ctr., Heidelberg, Germany) on the project - Overcoming resistance to interferon in MPN stem cells.



**Every dollar makes
a difference**

**All funds donated to MPN AA up
until the end of June 2018 will be
used to support this initiative.**

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FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Chicago, Illinois and Australia - 11 April 2018

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scientists is unprecedented and speaks to their drive to answer this question, which could have wide-ranging impact on the lives of people living with cancer.

About this partnership, Barbara Van Husen, President of MPNRF says “We are thrilled to have joined forces with a group outside of the United States in order to bring clarity to how Interferon works, why it works for some MPN patients but not others, and how to expand its capabilities and extend its use if possible. We have long operated under the model that collaboration among patient advocates is the only way forward to help all patients.”

MPN AA says “We are pleased to have partnered with MPNRF for the benefit of the global MPN Community. We are honored to contribute towards Australian based MPN Research and see the Interferon Initiative as a worthy cause. We know that some patients are unable to take advantage of this treatment due to side effects and others have a poor response. We are hopeful that this research initiative will help overcome these limitations to provide better treatment options. The MPN Alliance Australia is a small volunteer advocacy team of MPN patients. It is our aim to make a difference to the lives of all MPN patients around Australia. We are grateful for the donations from supporters of the MPN cause and we are delighted to be able to contribute towards this unique project. We are excited to see what the outcomes of the study may reveal.”

The funds will directly support Dr. Steven Lane, of the Royal Brisbane Hospital in Queensland, Australia. He is a collaborator of Dr. Ann Mullally of Harvard.

About The Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Research Foundation:

The MPN Research Foundation is fully dedicated to funding research into the myeloproliferative neoplasms, a rare group of blood cancers which include polycythemia vera, essential thrombocythemia and myelofibrosis. Founded in 2000 by a group of patients, the focus is to fund high innovation research that can expand our understanding of the MPNs and get us closer to a cure.

The Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board works with the patient-led board of directors to utilize a rigorous selection process to ensure donations are allocated to the most innovative research projects. To date, the Foundation has awarded twelve million dollars for MPN research and has initiated a patient registry – myMPN – which is a platform that allows for people with ET, PV and MF to self-report their experience of living with an MPN.

To find out more go to www.mpnrf.org

Email: mwoehrle@mpnrf.org

Phone: 773-453-9917

For the patient registry: www.mympn.org

Twitter: MPN_RF

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MPNResearch/>

About MPN AA:

The Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Alliance Australia (MPN AA) was formed in 2015 by a small group of motivated MPN patients. The patient-led advocacy group collaborates with the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia with the common goal of achieving better outcomes for Australian MPN patients. MPN AA aims to make a difference for all Australian patients through advocacy, sharing of educational resources and supporting research.

Contact Information:

To find out more go to www.mpnallianceaustralia.org.au

To donate directly to MPN go to <http://bit.ly/donatempn>

To connect on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MPNAllianceAustralia

Email: mpnaa@mpnallianceaustralia.org.au

Instagram: @mpnallianceaustralia Twitter: @MPN_AA

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MPN INTERFERON INITIATIVE

The MPN Interferon (IFN) Initiative was launched at the American Society for Hematology (ASH) meeting in Atlanta in December 2017. Given that IFN can achieve molecular remissions in some MPN patients, the MPNRF and its advisors felt the time was right to double down on research efforts to better understand why some patients respond and others do not. The Initiative will also focus on defining the molecular mechanism of action of IFN in this disease, to identify other rationale drug targets that might lead to improved therapies that work in a similar manner.

The IFN Initiative is a multi-institutional and multi-year project currently centered around four research projects, along with support from MPNRF staff and a group of experienced IFN and MPN research advisors. The goal of this collective team is to track progress, develop opportunities for collaboration and exchange expert advice on a regular basis, including annual meetings of the group at ASH. The external advisors for this Initiative include Andrew Schafer, MD (Weill Cornell), John Crispino, PhD (Northwestern), Robert Cohen, MD (Calico) Ron Hoffman, MD (Mt. Sinai), Richard Silver, MD (Weill Cornell), Jean-Jacques Kiladjian, MD (INSERM), Radek Skoda, PhD (U. Basel), William Vainchenker, MD, PhD (Gustave Roussy), Hans Hasselbalch (U. Copenhagen) and Josef Prchal, MD (U. Utah).

THE 4 PROJECTS AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Overcoming resistance to interferon in MPN stem cells –
Ann Mullally, MD (Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Boston MA), Steven Lane, MD, PhD
(QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia) and Michael
Milsom, PhD (German Cancer Res. Ctr., Heidelberg, Germany).

2. Mechanism of action of interferon alpha in MPN therapy – Jean-Luc Villeval, PhD
and Isabelle Plo, PhD (INSERM/ Gustave Roussy/University Paris-Saclay, France).

3. Novel Agents for the Treatment of Malignancies – Leon Platanius, MD
(Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago IL)

4. Using a vascular niche platform to develop interferon-based strategies to eradicate
MPN stem cells and phenotypes – Joseph Scandura, MD, PhD (Weill Cornell
Medicine, New York, NY)

The MPN AA is grateful for the donations of supporters of the MPN cause. MPN AA has already contributed a proportion of previously donated funds to this project, and has pledged to further support the IFN Project by contributing all donations made up until the 2018 End of Financial Year.

MPN AA hopes that the research will improve scientific knowledge and understanding of MPN biology, and lead to improved targets for effective treatments.

Disclaimer: MPN AA does not promote any particular treatment for MPN patients over any others, and we suggest that patients make an informed decision about their treatment based on their personal circumstances in conjunction with their haematologist.



All funds donated to MPN AA up until the end of June 2018 will be used to support this initiative

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