



## Summary Report

### **Coping with Cancer** **Fairleigh Dickinson University** **Hackensack, NJ** **Saturday, November 18, 2006**

The primary purpose of the **Coping with Cancer** program, jointly hosted by the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the SynCure Cancer Research Foundation, was to provide a substantive FREE educational program for cancer patients and survivors, their friends and family, the health care support community, and the general public. This was the first year for this program in Hackensack, NJ, and the symposium was a great success. There were 272 registrants and an audience of approximately 210.

The Agenda for the symposium was:

<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	-	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakfast and Exhibits</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	-	<b>9:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Deborah Halpern, MSW, ACSW, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Michael D. Devine, Ph.D., SynCure Cancer Research Foundation
<b>9:40 a.m.</b>	-	<b>10:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Living With Cancer As A 'Chronic Disease'</b> Scott D. Rowley, M.D., FACP, Director, Adult Blood & Marrow Transplantation Program The Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center, NJ
<b>10:05 a.m.</b>	-	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Effects Upon The Family</b> David W. Kissane, M.D., Chairman, Dept. of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NY
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	-	<b>10:50 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:50 a.m.</b>	-	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Stress Management</b> Jon Levenson, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry Columbia University Medical Center, NY
<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	-	<b>11:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakthroughs In Research &amp; Treatment</b> Margaret (Meg) Mooney, M.D., Head, GI Cancer Therapeutics National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD
<b>11:40 a.m.</b>	-	<b>12:35 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12:35p.m.</b>	-	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>The Patient-Oncologist Relationship</b> Teresa A. Gilewski, M.D., Attending Physician Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NY
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	-	<b>2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Q&amp;A Panel Discussion</b>

The agenda encompassed five speakers representing Hackensack University Medical Center, the National Cancer Institute, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Columbia University Medical Center. The morning session consisted of four 30-minute PowerPoint-assisted talks by each of the speakers. Following a break for lunch, there was one additional talk and a Q&A session during which the panel of speakers addressed written questions from the audience.



Dr. Rowley discusses Living with Cancer as a Chronic Disease.



Dr. Kissane addresses Effects Upon the Family.

SynCure and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society secured a number of sponsors for the program from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry as well as from the media and local business community:

**Pharmaceutical Research Sponsors:**

- ◆ Taxolog
- ◆ Bristol-Myers Squibb
- ◆ Berlex
- ◆ Wyeth
- ◆ Genentech
- ◆ sanofi aventis
- ◆ Pharmion
- ◆ Amgen

**Media Sponsor:**

Star Ledger of New Jersey

**Business Community Sponsors:**

- ◆ Applebee's
- ◆ Club ABC Tours
- ◆ Citizens Community Bank

Included in the audience were staff members of several cancer patient support groups and sponsors, some of whom displayed materials at the symposium. These organizations were:

- CancerCare
- Hackensack University Medical Center
- Sharsheret
- Gilda's Club
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Based on both verbal and written comments from the audience, the program was very well received. (A Comment/Suggestion form was provided for attendees to complete at the end of the program.) The following is a sampling of the comments received:

1)	The comprehensive approach to the entire road from diagnosis to End of Life gave me (a parent of a cancer patient) a lot of help.
2)	The presenters were extremely competent and brought a human element to the program. Each aspect of physician-patient relationship was touched upon.
3)	I appreciate the doctors, SynCure and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for putting this program together. Thank you!
4)	I found this entire program vastly educational.

5)	What was most helpful about the program is that each speaker had a significant amount of information that was beneficial. I picked up important information from each. The Q&A session was wonderful. The panel of speakers was relaxed and informed – Great!
6)	The speakers were brilliant in empathy toward the audience.
7)	What was most helpful for me was learning about the emotional aspect of the disease and that it is finally being recognized what a patient goes through.
8)	All good presenters and nice variety of presentations. The concept that the cancer community is finally looking at treating the whole person was most helpful to me.
9)	Overall, I feel this was very helpful and answered all my questions that my doctor didn't answer. Very informative!
10)	The most helpful part of the program was Stress Management. You were forthcoming about the mental and physical aspect of cancer and spoke about the different types of psychosocial treatment you should be receiving.....great job!
11)	It was very helpful to hear that the doctors are becoming aware of the patient's feelings and patients have the right to be up front and ask questions freely about their status.
12)	Excellent! The Q&A session for the last hour with the audience was a very nice touch.
13)	I would rate the overall program a 5++ Excellent! Thank you to SynCure and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and panel doctors.
14)	What more can we ask....it was great! Great selection of experts in these particular fields. I hope to make all future gatherings of this kind.
15)	Very informative with caliber of speakers and scope of information they communicated.
16)	What was most helpful to me was the personal stories portrayed in the film about women and breast cancer. Hearing their stories and concerns from a personal perspective was important.

In the evaluation forms, participants were also asked to numerically rate the program from 1 to 5 (with 5 being “excellent”). The average score from the 72 participants who provided a rating was 4.5.



Dr. Gilewski talks about the Patient-Oncologist Relationship.



Q&A Panel Session

**In conclusion, the Coping with Cancer program in Hackensack, NJ provided a highly valued program and serves as an excellent model for conducting similar programs at least annually.**