



## Summary Report

# The Informed Cancer Patient

Englewood, NJ

Saturday, November 3, 2007

**The Informed Cancer Patient Program**, jointly hosted by the New York Metro Division of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) and the SynCure Cancer Research Foundation, provided 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 second year for this joint SynCure and LLS program and the symposium was a great success. There were 226 registrants and an audience of approximately 160.

The Agenda for the symposium was:

9:00 a.m.	-	9:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast Snacks and Exhibits</b>
9:30 a.m.	-	9:40 a.m.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Michael Devine, Ph.D. & Stephen Roman, SynCure Cancer Research Foundation; Deborah Halpern, MSW, ACSW, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
9:40 a.m.	-	9:55 a.m.	<b>New Jersey's Role in Cancer Education and Research</b> The Honorable Joan Voss, Assemblywoman, State of New Jersey
9:55 a.m.	-	10:25 a.m.	<b>Advances in Research</b> John Janik, M.D., Co-Director of Clinical Trials Team National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD
10:25 a.m.	-	10:55 a.m.	<b>Breakthroughs in Treatment</b> Michael Schuster, M.D., Director, Bone Marrow & Blood Stem Cell Transplantation Program; Director, Clinical Research; Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY
10:55 a.m.	-	11:10 a.m.	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:10 a.m.	-	11:40 a.m.	<b>Living with Cancer as a Chronic Disease</b> Scott Rowley, M.D., Director, Adult Blood & Marrow Transplantation Program, Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ
11:40 a.m.	-	12:10 p.m.	<b>The Patient-Medical Team Relationship</b> Richard Glassman, LCSW, Clinician - Family Therapy Clinic Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
12:10 p.m.	-	1:00 p.m.	<b>Q&amp;A Panel, Evaluations</b>

The morning was kicked off by a brief update of New Jersey's role in cancer education and research by the Honorable Joan Voss, Assemblywoman, State of NJ and followed by four 30-minute PowerPoint-assisted talks by each of the speakers representing Hackensack University Medical Center, the National Cancer Institute, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College. Following was 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**.



Mr. Glassman addresses the **Patient – Medical Team Relationship**.

Many companies from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry generously provided financial support for the program. Without their support, the program would not have been possible. The sponsors were:

- ◆ Taxolog, Inc.
- ◆ Novartis
- ◆ Genentech
- ◆ Eli Lilly
- ◆ MedImmune
- ◆ Amgen
- ◆ Wyeth Pharmaceuticals
- ◆ Millenium
- ◆ Pharmion

In addition, **The Bergen Record** newspaper supported the program by providing a large donation to help cover advertising expenses to inform the public about the program.

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

- CancerCare of NJ
- The Wellness Community of Central NJ
- Gilda’s Club
- The American Cancer Society

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)	I liked learning about progress in genetic research and the new treatments they generate. The Q & A was excellent!
2)	I really got a lot out of the practical, hands-on advice about being informed and proactive. I especially liked the information about living as a cancer “survivor.”
3)	I appreciated hearing the hopeful outlook, the latest treatments and future options. I also appreciated having a social worker present and acknowledging the chronic nature of cancer.
4)	The entire program was educational and most helpful. Excellent Program!
5)	Overall this program turns out to be a rating of 10 (out of 10). I really enjoyed the seminar – change nothing!

6)	All speakers were excellent and informative.
7)	My overall rating is a 5 (out of 5) – excellent, high quality program – Many thanks!!
8)	Speakers were all very knowledgeable. Speakers spoke in everyday language. We could understand them. All speakers gave us hope; they were optimistic!
9)	Thanks for doing this – Given the size of the audience, there is both need and interest.
10)	What was most helpful was the degree of optimism expressed by the speakers.
11)	The knowledge and expertise that the doctors provided was helpful and encouraging.
12)	Continue with this type of forum which helps to enhance educational awareness of patients, caretakers and others.
13)	The many insightful presentations of cause, effect, treatments and current and future options were wonderful; optimistic and positive outlook!

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 57 participants who provided a rating was 4.4.



The program was well attended.



Question & Answer Session

In conclusion, The Informed Cancer Patient program in Englewood, NJ provided a highly valued program. SynCure and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society hope to be able to conduct similar programs in the future.