



BREAKING NEWS:

THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION AND GLOBAL ACTION PLATFORM TO PRESENT YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD AT THE GLOBAL ACTION SUMMIT LED BY THE NATION'S TOP LEADERS IN CORPORATE, UNIVERSITY, FINANCE, GOVERNMENT, NGO AND MEDIA

NASHVILLE - NOVEMBER 18, 2014

THE DYNAMIC FORUM WILL HIGHLIGHT EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT NEW ADVANCEMENTS IN THE SCIENCE OF CURING CANCER

RESEARCH FELLOW AWARD RECIPIENT ALSO NAMED

Nashville, Tennessee – (November 10, 2014) – The T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer & AIDS research and Global Action Platform announced the Young Investigator Award for Sarcoma Research to be presented at this year's Global Action Summit to take place in Nashville, Tennessee on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at the Music City Center. The award will be presented to Chunlei Jin from the Department of Pediatrics Research at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Jin's focus is on the mechanism of tumor metastasis in osteosarcoma, a form of cancer that claimed the life of Lindsay Walleman, the Northeast and Midwest Regional Promotion Manager for Warner Music Nashville who lost her battle with Sarcoma in 2013. The Young Investigator Award for Sarcoma Research was created in her memory.

Walleman was a young, vibrant 28 year old when diagnosed with the aggressive form of cancer and given only a few months to live. During that time Lindsay was fighting for her life, the Warner Music team rallied around her creating a promotion called "For the Linds" (FTL). Lindsay gathered her family, friends and colleagues as she was dying and asked them to raise money for Sarcoma Research. Her hope was to give others with the disease a chance at living longer lives. Len Blavatnik, owner of Warner Music Group and founder of the Blavatnik Family Foundation generously agreed to make a matching \$50,000 gift to the Young Investigators Award for Sarcoma Research in memory of Lindsay Walleman. Additionally, Warner Music Group employees across the country have contributed more than \$100,000 to help in this important effort.

In October of this year, The T.J. Martell Foundation also awarded Jian An, Ph.D the foundation's first annual Research Fellow Award. He is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Urology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. His current research focuses on the role of SPOP Mutations in Prostate Cancer Pathogenesis under the mentorship of Haojie Huang, Ph.D., an Associate Professor at Mayo Clinic Dr. Donald J. Tindall.

Both the Research Fellowship Award and the Young Investigator Award celebrates the scientific research and future of the role of young scientists and medical specialists in finding cures for leukemia, cancer and AIDS. Each grant presented to the recipients is based on scientific quality and the establishment of strengthening of research collaboration with T.J. Martell Foundation's funded institutions, an awarded Post-doctoral Fellow, the actual research and being a foreign national.

"The T.J. Martell Foundation is focused on funding of post-doctoral fellows in cancer and AIDS research who will be the leaders in scientific research of tomorrow." said Laura Heatherly, CEO of the T.J. Martell Foundation. "We are proud to be supporting the younger generation."

The Global Action Summit takes place November 17-18, 2014 at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tennessee. The summit is the most dynamic, agile, innovative and fastest growing forum for today's global leaders in food, health and prosperity. Approximately 400-500 top senior level decision makers from the corporate, government, academic, media, investments and NGO communities will attend the invitation only summit.

Dr. Fareed Zakaria, internationally renowned CNN Host and New York Times best-selling author, as well as a columnist for the Washington Post will moderate and be the opening keynote speaker at this year's Summit. He has assumed an on-going leadership role with the Global Action Platform for multiple years

"The Global Action Platform is focused on investments, ideas, and initiatives that use innovation to create scalable, sustainable solutions in health, food, and economic development. Helping the next generation of scientists launch their research is critical to future innovation. We are delighted to work with the T. J. Martell Foundation in creating this new award for young investigators and hope to see it grow into a major national force," notes Dr. Scott T. Massey, Chairman and CEO, Global Action Platform.

The T.J. Martell Foundation has been a leader in establishing and funding some of the nation's most prominent and innovative research and medical advancements in the fight against Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS. Dr. Gregory Curt, Chair of the T.J. Martell Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee, describes the T.J. Martell Foundation's worldwide efforts under the leadership of the foundation's founder, Tony Martell, to that of George Bailey in the now famous film starring Jimmy Stewart. When asked about the tremendous opportunities and medical advancements the foundation has made Dr. Curt best describes it as "It's a Wonderful (*Scientific*) Life." "Over the years, the Foundation has funded more than \$260 million of truly impactful science".

The scope of what the T.J. Martell Foundation does in science gets deeper and broader each year. The scientific personnel involved with the T.J. Martell Foundation include some of the most important names in research and medicine today.

The foundation recognizes that what a young researcher needs today is the "protection of time." The support the T.J. Martell Foundation gives young researchers three over-arching priorities. Those include science, collaboration between existing T.J. Martell funded institutions and young partners. This year's two awardees are foreign nationals. As the foundation will recognize, science has to take place globally while bringing education and research to other countries is very important.

Outstanding statistics of what the T.J. Martell Foundation has been able to accomplish include:

- Funding success at the Los Angeles Children's Hospital has resulted in a 35x return on investment. Neuroblastoma, a deadly form of cancer attacking young children, had a survival rate of less than 15% for those with the high-risk form of the disease. For 30 years, the T.J. Martell Foundation has supported Dr. Robert Seeger's outstanding research in this area and now the cure rate is 45%. Drs Seeger, Yves DeClerck, and Shahab Asgharzadeh are improving our understanding of tumor growth and developing new treatments for targeting the microenvironment (soil) and tumor cells (seed) that may improve survival of children with neuroblastoma. The T.J. Martell Foundation has helped these investigators obtain numerous peer-reviewed research grants from the National Cancer Institute, the Department of Defense, and several other foundations so that they are a leading group in neuroblastoma research.
- The T.J. Martell Foundation funded internationally known researcher Dr. Brian Druker at the Oregon Health & Science University who developed the drug Gleevec, a powerful weapon against myeloid leukemia. Because of the T.J. Martell Foundation funding Gleevec revolutionized the way cancer is now treated. Before Gleevec, 50% of patients with CML survived the disease, now nearly 90% survive.
- The foundation has raised over \$260 million through its efforts to research cures for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS
- The creation of the Frances Williams Preston Laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center has exceeded and projected results in programming, research and its efforts to give back to the community. The Vanderbilt-Ingram Center also houses a web based program where patients and students can get high quality information and a network of investigators can communicate for further research. Frances Williams Preston laboratories were created as the cornerstone of the facility and to create a "laboratories without walls."
- The creation of the field of psycho-oncology by Dr. Jimmie Holland is due solely as a result of the work of the T.J. Martell Foundation. This collaboration at Memorial Sloan Kettering essentially established an entire field of study and research. There the department runs communication modules which are mandatory for every physician on staff.
- *TJ's Friends* has funded high school students in the lab of Dr. Larry H. Boise, Ph.D at Emory University School of Medicine.
- The T.J. Martell Foundation is proud of the risks it continues to take which has resulted life-changing opportunities for patients.

The T.J. Martell Foundation also recently held the 20th Annual Scientific Consortium that brings together Martell funded researchers from around the country who are focused on finding new scientific discoveries for leukemia, cancer and AIDs. The Foundation's scientific research programs are overseen by the Scientific Advisory Committee which is dedicated to scientific excellence that is enabled by peer review and the prioritization of like-minded colleagues.

"We really care about the research we fund", said Dr. Gregory Curt. "Our Scientific Advisory Board takes its responsibilities seriously. Indeed, at our last retreat, we learned that for every Martell dollar invested in an Institution, the return on investment from the National Institutes of Health was more than thirty dollars of peer-reviewed funding. We are willing to take risks that reap reward."

The current T.J. Martell Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee consists of two outstanding basic scientists: Carlo Croce (Director of the Ohio State Cancer Center) and Hal Moses (Director Emeritus of the Ingram-Vanderbilt Cancer Center) and world-renowned translational scientist Robert Bast (Vice President of Translational Medicine at the MD Anderson Cancer Center). The Committee is chaired by clinician, Gregory Curt, the former Clinical Director of the U.S. National Cancer Institute.

The Committee projects four core principals which will continue to be discussed at the Global Action Summit. Those include first and foremost, great science improving and progressing year on year for the benefit of research of Leukemia, cancer and AIDs. Others include nurturing the next generation of basic, translational and clinical scientists, supporting high-risk, high-gain research wherein seed funding can establish proof-of-concept for larger NIH grants and encouraging collaborative efforts between funded centers.

In the past the array of funded research at the summit included a study of molecular epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in remote villages of Botswana where 20% of the adult population is infected with the virus. This research enabled the concept of “treatment as prevention,” an idea that gained Science Magazine’s *Breakthrough of the Year Award* – a high scientific honor.

The committee also explored how breast and prostate cancer become resistant to treatment through shared pathways. The T.J. Martell Foundation prostate cancer research portfolio is particularly robust, spanning work which runs from the identification of a 3-gene panel which may predict which patient needs aggressive local therapy and which patients can be safely monitored over many years, to the identification of drug-resistant prostate cancer stem cell whose elimination could cure advanced disease.

Other examples of seed funding by T.J. Martell of high-risk, high value science led to full scale NIH grants. These included studies to prevent pneumonia in patients with Leukemia, measuring levels of stress in patients with breast cancer, understanding the importance of the tumor environment to the behavior of malignant cells and learning how breast and prostate cancer become resistant to hormone treatments.

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry’s largest foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding cures for Leukemia, cancer and AIDS. The foundation was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues in memory of his loving son T.J. who died of Leukemia. The foundation is headquartered in New York and supports top hospitals and researchers in the United States and around the globe. Next year the foundation will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Media is invited to cover and attend the Global Action Summit and the T.J. Martell Foundations presentation by reserving one of the very limited spaces by contacting the Press Contact listed below directly.

For more information log on to www.tjmartell.org, www.facebook.com/tjmartellfoundation, www.twitter.com/tjmartell, www.pinterest.com/tjmartellfndn

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