



For Immediate Release

The T.J. Martell Foundation Announces Honorees for 41st Annual New York Honors Gala

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Mitchell C. Benson, M.D., Russell Wallach and Brett Yormark Named Honorees

New York, New York – (August 12, 2016) – The T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research has announced the honorees for its **41st Annual Honors Gala** to be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at Guastavino's located at 409 East 59th Street in New York. The honorees include **Mitchell C. Benson, M.D.**, Herbert and Florence Irving Professor of Urology at Columbia University Medical Center, **Russell Wallach**, Live Nation President, Media and Sponsorships and **Brett Yormark**, CEO, Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment. Celebrity performers and presenters will be announced soon. The 41st Honors Gala will begin with a 6 p.m. cocktail reception and silent auction followed by a seated dinner, awards celebration and live entertainment. Dr. Mitchell C. Benson will receive the Lifetime Medical Achievement Award, Russell Wallach will receive the Spirit of Music Award and Brett Yormark will receive the Visionary Leadership Award.



Mitchell C. Benson, M.D., began his affiliation with Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1973 as a student. He later followed an internship and residency in general surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and then became a resident in Urology at The Presbyterian Hospital in New York in 1979. Following his chief residency at The Presbyterian Hospital he went on to John Hopkins Hospital and University where he was a Research Fellow in Urologic Oncology from 1982-1984. After his fellowship he returned to Columbia University P & S and joined the Urology faculty. He is one of the first recipients of the Herbert Irving Assistant Professor awards.

During his career, Dr. Benson has been the recipient of numerous honors. After having been elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Union College, he was awarded the Urology Prize from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. During his residency, he was awarded 1st Prize at the New York Academy of Medicine in the Ferdinand C. Valentine Residents' Essay Contest. He has won prizes for his clinical research from the American Urological Association in 1987 and 1991.



Russell Wallach is the President, Media & Sponsorships for Live Nation Entertainment. He has served in this position since 2006. Wallach oversees all media, digital and marketing partnerships for Live Nation Entertainment, the world’s largest live entertainment company. Prior to this position he held senior sponsorship sales positions for Live Nation predecessor companies and divisions – Clear Channel Entertainment, SFX Entertainment and ProServ. He has over 20 years of strategic marketing and sponsorship experience.

Wallach has been recognized as one of *Fast Company*’s Most Creative People in Business (2014), *Billboard*’s Power 100 (2014, 2015), and a member of *Billboard*’s Branding Power Players (2016). He has also been featured in publications including *Advertising Age*, *Adweek*, *CNBC*, *Forbes* and has spoken at blue chip business and marketing conferences including Fast Company Uncensored, Advertising Week New York, ad:tech, SXSW and IAB Mobile Marketplace.

Brett Yormark, Chief Executive Officer of Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment, oversees the business enterprise that manages and controls Barclays Center, the Brooklyn Nets and the New York Islanders business operations, as well as the re-development and future operations for the new Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. His oversight includes all facets of Barclays Center including operations, event programming, sales and marketing. Yormark oversaw all aspects of the Nets’ move to Barclays Center in Brooklyn in 2012, including the rebranding, marketing, and sponsorship sales. Since he joined the Nets in 2005, Yormark’s mission has been to make it the most accessible, inventive, fan-friendly and community-active team in sports.



Yormark has been named the maximum three times to the "Forty Under 40" list by Sports Business Journal and was selected twice to the "40 Under 40" list by Crain's New York Business. In 2013, Yormark was honored by March of Dimes with the “Sports Leadership Award.” He has been profiled in *Fortune*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Gotham*, *Hamptons*, *Success*, *The New York Times*, and *USA Today*, and on *CBS Sunday Morning*, *CNN*, and *CNBC*.

“Our annual New York Honors Gala is one of the largest fundraising events that we produce on a national basis,” said Tony Martell, Founder and Chairman of the T.J. Martell Foundation. “We are dedicated to providing funding for the most promising leukemia, cancer and AIDS research at leading hospitals that money can buy. We look for proven results that will turn into clinical trials and new drug discoveries that will save lives.”

Past honorees of the Foundation’s biggest night have included former President George H.W. Bush and former President William J. Clinton, Clive Davis, the late Frances Williams Preston, Arnold Palmer, John Paul DeJoria, John Sykes, Marsha Vlastic, Scott Borchetta, Berry Gordy, Quincy Jones, John Amato, Janice Min, Irving Azoff, John Varvatos, Russell Simmons, Dinesh Paliwal, Afo Verde, Jennifer Breithaupt, Will Botwin, Monte & Avery Lipman, the late Bruce Lundvall, John Esposito, Joel Katz and the late Ahmet Ertegun.

ABOUT THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION:

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 loving memory of his son T.J., who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$270 million dollars for research that supports eight flagship hospitals in the United States. This year marks the 41st New York Honors Gala. For more information on the T.J. Martell Foundation go to www.tjmartell.org.

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