AACR MINORITY SCHOLAR AWARDS IN CANCER RESEARCH

Supported by a generous grant from the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)

AACR Minority Scholar Awards in Cancer Research are offered to eligible minority scientists wishing to attend the Annual Meeting and Special Conferences of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). The awards are supported by a generous grant from the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Those eligible for these awards are graduate and medical students, physicians-in-training, and postdoctoral students from minority groups considered underrepresented in cancer research by the NCI, i.e., African Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Native Pacific Islanders.

The 89th AACR Annual Meeting will take place March 28 - April 1, 1998, in New Orleans, LA. This year's annual meeting will attract approximately 7,500 scientists from around the world, will provide the latest findings in the most rapidly developing areas of basic, clinical, and translational cancer research, and will feature major presentations from prominent scientists who are making important advances in the field. The deadline for receipt of applications for Minority Scholar Awards for the 89th AACR Annual Meeting is December 1, 1997.

Applications for Special Conference awards are due approximately two months before the date of the meeting. The AACR special conferences on focused topics in cancer research have gained wide recognition as unique opportunities for in-depth discussion of important scientific issues in attractive, informal resort environments. For Special Conferences only, minority faculty at the level of Instructor, Lecturer, or Assistant Professor are also eligible for these awards.

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The Lombardi Cancer Center (pictured on the cover) is one of the hallmark programs of Georgetown University Medical Center. Established in 1970 and named in honor of Vincent T. Lombardi, the former coach of the Green Bay Packers and the Washington Redskins who died of colon cancer, the Lombardi Center is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Rigorous and imaginative research, an aggressive attitude towards cancer treatment, sensitivity to the emotional needs of cancer patients and their families, teaching excellence, and a sophisticated approach to cancer prevention propel the Lombardi Center into the front ranks of cancer institutions. Its nine major translational research programs, augmented by other clinical care programs, include Breast Cancer, Radiation Biology, Neuro-oncology, Growth Regulation of Cancer, Invasion and Metastasis, Developmental Therapeutics, Experimental Hematology and Lymphoma, Cancer Prevention and Control, and Genetics. Cancer-related annual direct extramural funding grew from $11.6 million in 1990 to more than $53 million in 1995. Outpatient volume grew from 17,221 visits in 1989 to over 123,000 visits in 1996. Hospital patient days in 1996 reached 18,659 with an average length of stay of 7.4 days. During 1995 alone, the Lombardi Center had 173 active protocols, with 257 articles authored by 160 faculty.

In addition to new patients seen at its multidisciplinary clinics for breast, brain, lung, and head and neck cancer, Lombardi specialists treat patients with scores of other malignancies, including gynecological, renal, and esophageal cancer, as well as cancer of the stomach, colon, rectum, pancreas, and prostate, melanoma, and hematologic cancers, including lymphoma, leukemia, and multiple myeloma. Many Lombardi patients with advanced cancers who have exhausted the standard forms of treatment participate in experimental drug trials of advanced biologic and chemotherapeutic agents under the aegis of the Developmental Therapeutics Program.

A major focus of the Lombardi Center is its advanced breast cancer research and clinical program. Learning more about breast cancer and speedily translating what they have learned into improved treatments are the Lombardi researchers’ goals. The Lombardi Breast Cancer Program focuses on five overlapping areas that encompass what is known today and what will be learned about breast cancer, diagnosis, treatment and prevention in the early decades of the 21st century. These areas include understanding the genetic origins of breast cancer, improving diagnosis, developing new therapies, increasing immune responses, and preventing breast cancer. Recognizing the Lombardi Center’s leadership, the federal government, corporations, foundations, and individuals provided Lombardi investigators with some $8 million for breast cancer research in 1996. Approximately half of this money came from federal grants. In 1996, the Lombardi Center was awarded the government’s two most prestigious multyear, multimillion dollar, peer-reviewed breast cancer research grants (Breast Cancer SPORE and the DOD Breast Cancer Center Grant).

Marc E. Lippman (cover) is the Director of the Lombardi Cancer Center and Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at Georgetown University Medical School. He was previously Head of the Medical Breast Cancer Section of the Medicine Branch of the National Cancer Institute. He received his B.A. from Cornell University (1964) and his M.D. from Yale Medical School (1968), where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital on the Osler Service and further fellowship training at the National Cancer Institute where he remained until 1988 when he came to Georgetown University.

Dr. Lippman has attempted to bridge the gap between basic tumor biology and clinical application in the field of breast cancer. His investigations focus on understanding the molecules produced by human breast cancer responsible for the malignant phenotype. Specifically, he initially characterized the first in vitro cell culture systems for studying estrogen dependence in human breast cancer cells. These studies led to the characterization of a series of growth factors produced by these cells including transforming growth factors, ligands for the erb-B superfamily of tyrosine kinase receptors, and a variety of heparin binding growth factors involved in angiogenesis. The concept that steroid hormones are part of the important regulatory system that controls the paracrine and autocrine factors driving malignant and normal breast epithelial growth has been an important advance in understanding this and other types of hormone-dependent tumors and those arising from hormone-dependent tissues. Dr. Lippman’s laboratory has explored a variety of strategies aimed at blocking the production or activity of these growth factors and their cognate receptors with a view towards developing novel biological therapies for cancer. He has successfully pursued clinical trials for every stage of breast cancer patient with most of these studies reflecting his special joining of clinical with basic science.

Dr. Lippman has co-authored over 380 peer-reviewed articles, 170 chapters, and 25 books or special volumes, including one of the standard texts on breast cancer, Diseases of the Breast [J. R. Harris, M. E. Lippman, M. Morrow, and S. Hellman (eds.), Phila., PA: Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1996]. He is Editor-in-Chief of Breast Cancer Research and Treatment and serves on the Editorial Board of many leading publications in the field, including Cancer Research and Clinical Cancer Research. He has been an Associate Editor for Cancer Research since 1989 and for Clinical Cancer Research since its inception in 1995. Dr. Lippman is also involved in many national committees, including serving as the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Representative to the National Cancer Advisory Board since 1994. In addition, he has been active on many AACR committees since becoming a member in 1976. He has sat on several Awards Committees (Clowes Award in 1996; Rosenthal Award in 1992 and 1993), served on the Public Education Committee from 1994–97, and chaired the Endocrinology Section of the Program Committee for two annual meetings (1986; 1995). Finally, Dr. Lippman has been recognized worldwide for his achievements in the field, having received, among other honors, the Rosenthal Award of the AACR (1994), the Brinker International Prize for Basic Research in Breast Cancer (1994), the American Cancer Society Lectureship awarded by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (1993), the Astwood Prize of the Endocrine Society (1991), and the Clinical Investigator Prize of the American Federation for Clinical Research (1985).

Sidney Weinhouse