



Shining the Light on Esophageal Cancer

Esophageal Cancer Education Foundation
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NEWSLETTER

www.fightec.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first six months of 2012 have been very active for ECEF. Not only did we have both FOX News and CBS conduct awareness interviews, we also had several people who decided to host events. The proceeds from these came to ECEF to support the research projects that it has made a financial commitment to in 2012.

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS

One aspect of our Mission Statement is to bring awareness and educate the public about esophageal cancer. We are accomplishing this aspect of our goals as follows:

- **TV INTERVIEWS**

We want to thank Kimberly Guilfoyle of Fox News for interviewing Bart and Dr. Flores, for a piece that appeared on the FOX New Health Section of their web site. Kimberly, a member of the ECEF Board, has also found other ways to reference ECEF and its mission on THE FIVE a daily hour on Fox News Station that is dealing with the pertinent topics of the day. The link to see Kimberly's interview with Dr. Flores and Bart is: http://video.foxnews.com/v/1585981886001/battling-esophageal-cancer/?playlist_id=86892

We also would like to thank Joanne Nicholas who helped orchestrate an interview for Bart and Dr. Bains with Dr. Max Gomez of CBS News that aired on Friday July 6th. The link to this interview is <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/video/7476367-esophageal-cancer-is-the-fastest-growing-cancer-in-the-u-s/>

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• EVENTS

During April's Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month we want to thank Michelle Urban, Bill Reddig, and Gina Warren for hosting events that made considerable donations to ECEF Grant Account. ECEF has committed to paying \$80,000 in 2012 to the Research Projects from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Mount Sinai School of Medicine and these projects will help us reach these goals and are updated below.

GRANTS

Part of the ECEF Mission Statement is to support research projects that will lead to an early detection of this disease and we are fulfilling that goal by the following research projects that ECEF financially supports:

• MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER

Esophageal Cancer Education Foundation (ECEF) funded its first research project to Dr. Prasad Adusumilli and the esophageal cancer research team at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York in 2011. The results of this project were published in the *American Association for Cancer Research, AACR* official journal '*Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*' Jan. 2012 issue. This manuscript acknowledging ECEF support, details a biomarker to detect esophageal cancer. With the support of the ECEF grant, Dr. Adusumilli & colleagues are now conducting a prospective clinical trial testing this biomarker as a blood test and already recruited more than 50 patients.

This project is now peer-reviewed by the National Cancer Institute, NCI scientific committee and we are excited to report that at a recently completed council meeting, NCI scientific program leaders awarded funding for the project. Dr. Adusumilli expressed his gratitude to ECEF for initial funding support, "In addition to the satisfaction from scientific point of view, this award attests the need for esophageal cancer research which is even crucial in this tight economic and research environment."

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ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS Continued...

- **MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

In a multi-disciplinary proposal involving Mount Sinai (S. Anandasapathy, R. Agarwal, R. Flores, N.Harpaz) and Rice University (R. Richards-Kortum, A.Hellebust) , we proposed to develop and test novel, molecular-specific contrast agents to EGFR and HER2 for use with confocal microendoscopes. We believe that such contrast agents can be used to highlight areas of pre-cancerous or cancer ("molecular beacon") during real-time endoscopic surveillance thus enhancing early detection efforts and facilitating minimally invasive therapy.

Over the last five months, we have moved from our work in cell lines to doing confocal imaging of tissue biopsies labeled with fluorescently-labeled EGF peptides in patients with varying grades of Barrett's esophagus, dysplasia and cancer. Since we are most interested in the levels of membrane-bound EGF, we are staining tissue with both EGF-labeled peptides and proflavine, using the proflavine to delineate the areas of non-specific (eq. nuclear) staining. In addition, we have started to correlate the EFD-fluorescent intensity with our reference standard of immunohistochemistry using antibodies to EGF. Over the next year, we hope to examine a larger cross section of samples and obtain a firmer grasp of how our fluorescent images correlate with the patient's pathologic grade.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Another aspect of our Mission Statement is: to walk the journey with patients who have this disease.

We have successfully developed two conference call support groups that meet on a given night, once a month. The cost sustained by these calls is paid for by ECEF so all those who participate do so at no cost to them.

- **PATIENT & CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

At our meeting in June, we had Dr. Hans Gerdes, a Gastroenterologist at MSKCC, do a presentation on the use of stents in dealing with esophageal cancer. You can hear Dr. Gerdes presentation on our web site www.fightec.org If you go to our Home page and click on the support group in the lower right hand corner you will see his power-point exhibit and you can listen to his presentation.

- **SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE**

This group is led by a social worker who has had a great deal of experience in grief counseling, and those who are attending these group meetings have indicated that the meetings are a benefit to them as they journey through this most difficult part of their lives.

If you are interested in either of these groups please send an email to bart@fightec.org and we will assist in getting you the information about when the meetings take place and how to get involved in the conference call.

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS Continued...

- **EC ARTICLES**

ECEF has captured through a Google Alert, articles that use the term esophageal cancer in the article. We look over the articles we receive and select those articles that are from a patient perspective that would be of interest to someone wanting to know more about esophageal cancer. You can see these articles by going to our web site www.fightec.org and clicking on **EC Articles**. You will then find various categories to select articles of interest to you. When you click on the article itself you will see the original presentation of that article in whatever publication it was shown so you will be reading the article in its original text.

DAY AT THE RACES

On June 3, 2012 ECEF had its Annual Day at the Races at Monmouth Park New Jersey. We had over 125 people attend this event. They represented patients, caregivers, doctors, nurses, friends and family and a great time was had by all. PNC Bank sponsored a race which was called Esophageal Cancer Awareness and we had 5 patients who have been through EC make the presentation to the winning Jockey. You can see photos below of this event.

