

The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.

100% of contributions are disbursed



Est. 2003

"in the pursuit of education and cure for breast cancer"

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JALBCF # 74-18

October 3, 2018

EVERY MONTH IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Dear Foundation Friends,

MEDICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Colette M. Magnant, M.D.
F.A.C.S.
Breast Surgeon, Director of
the Sullivan Center's Breast
Cancer Program at Sibley
Memorial Hospital

Pouneh Razavi, M.D.
Director of Breast Imaging,
Sibley Memorial Hospital and
Suburban Hospital

Irene Gage, M.D.
Oncology Medical Director,
Associate Professor of
Radiation Oncology and
Molecular Radiation
Sciences, Johns Hopkins
Medicine

Frederick P. Smith, M.D.
Medical Oncologist
Chevy Chase, Maryland

As we welcome October, the nationally recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we are filled with pride and appreciation as we look forward to our Foundation's two very special events. On Saturday, October 20, we have the privilege of partnering with Saks Fifth Avenue on Wisconsin Avenue in Chevy Chase. They have created for us a **Fall 2018 Beauty Symposium starting at 11:00 am**. Refer to the enclosed flyer for details and RSVP specifics. You do not want to miss this opportunity to come and enjoy this elegant presentation designed just for us. Artists will be available to work with guests individually and refreshments will be served. Just RSVP to me by Sunday, October 14. I hope to see you, friends and family for this very exciting special event sponsored by Saks Fifth Avenue.

Our 16th Annual WALK to WIN – the battle against breast cancer event will be held on Sunday, October 28th. As with last year, our Annual Walk to Win event will be held at the Bethesda Crescent Trail for all to enjoy walking/jogging to Bethesda or Georgetown paths or both!. Bring your family and friends for a great morning outdoor walk/jog. John Cho is so wonderfully sponsoring this annual event once again.

Last July, at Foundation's Annual Fundraising Dinner, we had Dr. R. Nunes as our guest speaker. Guests learned about Triple Negative Breast Cancer and advancements in treatment. The following week after our dinner, our Foundation's Executive Board visited Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. This was a specially organized presentation and visit for us with researchers Dr. Leisha Emens, Dr. Evanithia Torres and other team researchers in the laboratory. The educational page included in this mailing is provided by the Sidney Kimmel Center regarding their work and changes in personnel. For the past 15 years, our Foundation has provided support for Dr. Emens' research. As presented in the educational page, she is leaving Hopkins and assuming new roles and positions at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. Dr. Torres will be the lead researcher at the Sidney Kimmel Center and recipient of our continued breast cancer research support.

It gives me great pleasure to share an update about the added role and responsibilities that Dr. Pouneh Razavi has assumed during this year; she has been named Director of Community Breast Imaging. She oversees breast imaging operations at the Sullivan Breast Center at Sibley Memorial Hospital and Johns Hopkins Medical Imaging in Bethesda at Suburban Hospital. She is board certified in diagnostic radiology and practices out of the Sullivan Breast Center in Sibley's Renaissance building.

LEGAL COUNSELORS

Reid Avett, Esq.
Alison M. Hopkins, Esq.
Duane Morris LLP
Washington, D.C.

501(c)(3) Organization
Fed. ID 20-0061083

Dr. Razavi has expertise in body imaging, diagnostic radiology and cancer, as well as a clinical interest in breast MRI. She is so instrumental in guiding our Foundation in ways that we can most effectively support the Sullivan Center for Breast Health.

Donating Appreciated Stock Directly to a Charity Can Offer Tax Benefits: In our continued effort to raise funds to disburse to specific researchers and other recipients, our legal consultant, Reid Avett has prepared the following information for us on an option for philanthropic gifts. Any questions please contact me and I will get you in contact with Reid.

This is the time of year when many people turn their attention to end-of-year financial planning, including making charitable gifts to take advantage of tax benefits before the year ends on December 31. In the process, they might make a common mistake that will cause them to incur an avoidable cost. That mistake is selling appreciated stock and giving the proceeds to philanthropic causes, instead of simply donating the stock directly to the charity. Donating appreciated securities to a nonprofit organization, such as The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation, can have multiple benefits, including that the donor generally avoids paying long-term gains tax and still earns an income tax deduction. To realize the benefits of such a transaction, the stock must have been held for more than a year. By making such a donation, a donor avoids the federal income tax on any gain and avoids the state income tax on any gain. Consult your tax professional or attorney about end-of-year charitable giving that makes the most sense for your financial situation.

Laurence S. Lese, Vice President's Update: Our Foundation's pro bono legal counsel, Duane Morris, continues to shepherd our application through the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with respect to the Foundation's "tears and hugs" logo. The specified period for objections has passed. We are currently awaiting the PTO's final processing of the application and its issuance of registration of our trademark protected logo.

Jay Hagler, Treasurer's Update: Once again we thank our many supporters for their generous contributions to our Foundation. As the 2018 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of the National Capital Area begins, please consider us in your pledge. We also have two great ways that you can contribute to our Foundation online. These are via **PayPal** and **AmazonSmile**. For details and links to these donation sites, please go to the Contributions page of our Foundation's website (<http://www.judithalese.org/Donate.htm>)

Jay Hagler, Secretary's Update: Recently our Foundation joined **The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce** as another way to support our community. We are listed in their Business Directory under the Health and Wellness category. For a link, go to the Main page of our website (<http://www.judithalese.org>). The Annual Executive Board Meeting was held in August. This year, we plan to design a brochure.

I am looking forward to celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness Month with each of you and your guests at our two fabulous events this month. The Beauty Symposium at Saks Fifth Avenue is certain to be an elegant and enjoyable shared time for all. Our WALK to WIN – the battle against breast cancer will provide supporters a great time to talk and walk with wonderful others on a Sunday morning. Come and be part of these two very special upcoming activities.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 10, 2019 our 17th Annual Fundraiser Dinner!

With my deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for your continued generosity and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith A. Lese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judith" being the most prominent.

Judith A. Lese
Founder / CEO

Leisha Emens, M.D. / Ph.D.



For the past 15 years, The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation has supported the work of Leisha Emens, M.D., Ph.D. at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Emens will be joining the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her new role will be Professor of Medicine, Co-Leader Hillman Cancer Immunology & Immunotherapy Program; Director of Immunotherapy in the Women's Cancer Research Center; UPMC/Hillman Cancer Center and Magee Women's Research Institute.

Dr. Emens's research, which was supported by the Judith A. Lese Foundation, pertains to the development of treatment strategies that can increase the numbers of breast cancer patients who can respond and benefit from the transformative potential of immunotherapy.

The treatment approach utilizes immune checkpoint blockade together with a new vaccine approach to increase the numbers of T cells – a major contributing factor to immunotherapy. Dr. Emens and her lab have been testing a drug injected directly into a patient's tumor, which acts as a personalized vaccine by activating the STING pathway in the tumor. This vaccine method of STINGing the tumor creates swelling and inflammation much like a bee sting, creating an immune response highly specific for unique features of the patient's tumor. Preclinical data shows that creating T cells by STINGing the tumor, taking the parking brake off with PD-1/PD-L1 blockade, and giving some gas with an OX-40 drug increases responses from 20% to about 60%.

Evanthia Roussos Torres, M.D. / Ph.D.

Instructor, Cancer Immunology & Breast & Ovarian Cancer Program



Evanthia Roussos Torres, M.D./PhD. currently serves as an Instructor of Oncology within the Cancer Immunology and Breast and Ovarian Cancer Program at the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. Prior to her time at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Roussos Torres received her MD/PhD from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in New York, before going on to complete her residency in internal medicine at the Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her fellowship training in Oncology here at Johns Hopkins where she now serves as a member of the faculty.

As a physician scientist, Dr. Roussos Torres' work is done in collaboration with Elizabeth Jaffee, M.D., and focuses on development of animal models for use in investigation of immune based therapies in both HER2 positive, triple negative and lobular mouse models of breast cancer. Her work investigates rational combinations of checkpoint inhibitors with epigenetic and other targeted therapies to determine how to improve efficacy of immunotherapies and their mechanisms of action. Dr. Roussos Torres' translational research is focused on immuno-oncology in high risk breast cancers. Overall, Dr. Roussos Torres is interested in dissection of the specific mechanisms involved in response to checkpoint inhibitors with the goal of understanding how to transform the breast tumor microenvironment into an immune responsive microenvironment and bring immunotherapy into the clinic for patients with breast cancer.

Imagine if your own body could seek out and destroy breast cancer!

Cancer immunotherapy is a new treatment approach that can make this happen.

Cancer immunotherapy has now become part of the standard of care for cancers like melanoma, lung cancer, and bladder cancer. These tumors frequently harbor T cells, which act like smart bombs to seek out and destroy cancer. However, inside tumors these T cells are often restrained by specific checkpoints that put the brakes on them. The main checkpoint responsible for this is the PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoint. We now have multiple drugs that disable the PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoint, releasing the brakes on T cells so they can kill cancer. These drugs have been approved for use by themselves or with chemotherapy in several tumor types, and benefit about 20-30% of treated patients. The reason cancer immunotherapy is changing the game is that responses can last a long time due to the ability of the immune system to “remember”.

Despite the promise of immunotherapy, progress in breast cancer is lagging behind other cancers. Three reasons are that breast cancers tend to harbor fewer T cells, and unlike other cancers, breast cancer is less likely to contain a lot of mutations that can be easily recognized by T cells, and finally breast cancers tend to have a lot of immune cells that block T cells from working. Even so, we are now seeing signs that targeting the PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoint can work in breast cancer patients:

- About 5% of patients with metastatic triple negative breast cancer (mTNBC) can respond.
- If the mTNBC is PD-L1+, about 10-13% of patients can respond.
- If PD-L1+ mTNBC is treated with immunotherapy first, about 23-25% of patients can respond.
- If patients are lucky enough to respond, they have much longer survival than expected.
- Adding chemotherapy to PD-1/PD-L1 blockade increases the responses from ~10% to ~40%.

Our goal is to develop treatment strategies that can increase the numbers of breast cancer patients who can respond and benefit from the transformative potential of immunotherapy.

An approach we are taking is to use immune checkpoint blockade with a new drug that lifts the influence of suppressive immune cells within the tumor. We have been testing a drug, called entinostat, which is given by mouth and decreases the potency of the suppressive cells within the tumor. When this drug is paired with the drugs that target the checkpoints PD-1 and CTLA-4, we see that the tumor is more responsive to the PD-1 and CTLA-4 blockade. The suppressive cells in the surrounding tumor environment are less potent and thus, the immune cells that are capable of getting rid of tumor cells can infiltrate the tumor more readily. This drug combination is being studied in mouse models of breast cancer as well as in patients. Our preclinical data show that entinostat affects the gene expression of pathways that control the function of these suppressor cells and we are working to better understand this intervention so it can be honed to optimize treatment for patients.

Future Directions

A novel finding from our preliminary data is the discovery that following treatment with entinostat and checkpoint inhibitors that target PD-1 and CTLA-4, suppressor cells within tumors have a dampened effect. We discovered that one potential way in which this combination therapy leads to changes in the function of these suppressor cells is through the regulation of a gene called *STAT3*. *STAT3* is a gene that is known to affect immunity and thus targeting this gene more specifically has the potential to improve response in patients. We also know that entinostat affects many other genes and therefore possibly causes unnecessary side effects. Therefore, if we can find ways to more specifically control *STAT3* we may be able to achieve the same altered function of the suppressor cells with fewer side effects for patients.



Saks Fifth Avenue

**Saks Fifth Avenue and The Judith A. Lese Breast
Cancer Foundation** invite you for a

FALL 2018 BEAUTY SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, October 20 at 11 am

Join us to support The Judith A Lese Breast Cancer Foundation.* Enjoy music, refreshments and light bites as you view a presentation of the most coveted products and beauty trends from your favorite brands such as Armani, Dior, La Prairie, Sisley and Trish McEvoy! Plus, learn about the latest in skincare and makeup.

**Beauty on the Main Level
Saks Fifth Avenue
Chevy Chase**

Please **RSVP** to Judith A. Lese at

judithalese@comcast.net or **301-774-6719**

by October 14

*Saks Fifth Avenue is proud to donate 10% of event sales to benefit The Judith A Lese Breast Cancer Foundation.

*The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer
Foundation, Inc.*

Pledge/Sponsor Form

Name/Address

Amount

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

WALK TO WIN the battle
against breast cancer
Sponsored By

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866-569-0727 (fax)
info@brport.com (email)

www.brport.com

Please Send Us Your E-Mail Addresses

In an effort to improve communications, The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. is establishing an e-mail ListServ to provide you with the latest information on Foundation events and breast cancer education. To become part of our ListServ, please send your e-mail addresses to the Foundation at: LeseCancerFdn@aol.com

Note: Your e-mail addresses will not be used for solicitations, advertising, mass mailings, or any other purposes unrelated to the activities of The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.

- All contributions are tax-deductible
- Checks payable to The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.

The Judith A. Lese
Breast Cancer
Foundation, Inc.

WALK

TO

WIN



the battle against breast cancer

**Sixteenth Annual 1.5K / 3K
Walk/Run**

Sunday, October 28, 2018

RAIN OR SHINE

Capital Crescent Trail
Meet/park at the Bethesda Pool,
Little Falls Pkwy & Hillandale Rd,
Bethesda, Maryland

WALK TO WIN the battle against breast cancer is a 1.5K / 3K event sponsored by The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation.

The mission of the Foundation is to promote awareness of this disease with accurate information and work to eradicate breast cancer by sponsoring fundraising events that support us in "*the pursuit of education and cure for breast cancer*." Over the years, monies raised have benefited the Sullivan Breast Health Center at Sibley Memorial Hospital-Johns Hopkins Medicine; breast cancer research at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle; The Jackson Laboratory's research on Mammary Tumors in Bar Harbor; and have provided funds for Sibley Hospital's breast cancer prevention and treatment clinical trial program which enables uninsured and underserved women opportunities to participate in clinical trials.

Judith A. Lese, Founder/CEO

Contribution Tiers (Tax Deductible)	
\$5,000	Trustee Tier
\$2,000	Guardian Tier
\$1,000	Sustainer Tier
\$500	Shielder Tier
\$200	Protector Tier

Please make checks payable to:

**The Judith A. Lese
Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.**

16012 Chester Mill Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Phone & Fax: 301-774-6719

501(c)(3) organization; Fed. I.D. 20-0061083

Website: www.judithalese.org

WALK TO WIN Fundraiser Event

WALK TO WIN the battle against breast cancer is an annual Foundation fundraiser event. WALK TO WIN is held each fall commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Capital Crescent Trail provides an invigorating and enjoyable environment to walk, talk, and observe the beauty with others.

- Grass-roots, Washington Metropolitan Area, non-endowed organization; founded 2003
- Monies raised support Sullivan Breast Health Center, facility providing full service breast care, detection and diagnosis of breast cancer
- Monies raised support specific researchers working to eradicate breast cancer
- Monies raised support clinical trial participation for underserved/uninsured
- Promotes awareness of this disease through speakers and literature

Entry Fee:

\$50 (tax-deductible) for the 1.5K / 3K event sponsored by
Bridgeport Benefit Advisors, Bethesda, MD

Schedule:

9:30 am: Registration* begins at Bethesda Pool
location adjacent to the Capital Crescent Trail

10:00 am: Welcome and Walk

10:00-11:00 am: 1.5K / 3K WALK TO WIN

*SPONSOR-PROVIDED T-Shirt/Snack at Registration Table

Please RSVP by Saturday, October 27 to:

LeseCancerFdn@aol.com

Judith Lese – 301-774-6719

(WALK-UPS WELCOMED ON 10/28)

Registration Information

Please photocopy for additional participants.

Name

Address & Apt. #

City, State, Zip

Daytime Phone

Evening Phone

E-mail

Registration Fee: \$ 50.00

(tax-deductible)

**Please make checks payable to The Judith A. Lese
Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.**

I hereby release and hold harmless The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. and Capital Crescent Trail from any loss, liability, or claims I may have arising out of my participation in this event.

Photographs taken may be used on Foundation's website or brochure. By signing below agreement is made with this. If you do not want your photo used please contact: Judith A. Lese. Contact information is on Walk to Win flyer.

Signature of Participant (Over 18 yrs.)

Signature of Parent/Guardian if Participant is under 18 yrs.