

# MMRF FastFacts

A monthly e-newsletter



Dear Friends:

It is an exciting time at the MMRF and a hopeful time for patients with multiple myeloma. With your support and by working closely with our partners, we are quickly moving our pipeline's most promising compounds into clinical trials where patients can access them when they need them.



As you'll read below, we just funded two Biotech Investment Awards (BIA) to support the early development of two potential new treatments, both of which are from emerging drug classes. BIA has already reached meaningful results, the most recent example being 2007 recipient MannKind advancing its compound into the next stage of the development.

These efforts represent our all-fronts approach to discovering and

## Clinical Trials

A Study of the Safety and Effectiveness of CNTO 328 When Added to Velcade-Melphalan-Prednisone in Patients With Multiple Myeloma

[More >](#)

Study of Vorinostat (MK0683), an HDAC Inhibitor, in Combination With Bortezomib in Patients With Relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma

[More >](#)

MTD, Safety, and Efficacy of CC-4047 Alone With

developing next generation treatments that, when given in the right combination and at the right stage of the disease, will help to extend lives and lead to a cure.

All the best,

Louise M. Perkins, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer

P.S. We value your feedback – **please let us know what you think.**

Dexamethasone in Patients  
With Relapsed and Refractory  
Multiple Myeloma

**More >**

## Stay Informed

If you or someone you love is a myeloma patient, you do not want to miss MMRF Clinical Insights. Join us at our next program on Fri., April 9, in New York City. For more information, email

**tyghters@themmrf.org** or call 203.652.0219.

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## Breaking News

### Parade Highlights MMRF Founder

Parade.com features Kathy Giusti, Founder and CEO of the MMRF and a multiple myeloma patient, in “Cancer Can’t Stop Me.” The article discusses, in Kathy’s own words, her experience living with multiple myeloma and her advice for patients and families confronting a myeloma diagnosis. **More >**

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### MMRF Tops Nation’s Charities in Fiscal Responsibility

Charity Navigator, the nation’s leading independent charity evaluator, awarded the MMRF with a 4-star rating for outstanding fiscal responsibility. By consistently keeping a watchful eye on all expenses, this is the seventh consecutive year we received this designation an honor only two percent of charities nationwide have achieved. **More >**

## Get Involved

### MMRF Laugh for Life

Join us on Tues., May 25, at MMRF Laugh for Life, a comedy event to raise research funds and celebrate life. Seating is limited—purchase tables and tickets early. For more information,

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## MMRF Grants \$2 Million Biotech Investment Awards

The MMRF awarded Intellikine, Inc. and Tragara Pharmaceuticals with its Biotech Investment Awards to support the early development of two potential new treatments. These grants represent our obligation to fund critical early-stage research that may otherwise go unfunded so that better, more effective treatments can be brought to patients - faster. [More >](#)

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## BIA Recipient MannKind Takes Novel Compounds to Next Development Stage

MannKind, a recipient of a \$1 million 2008 Biotech Investment Award, has reached all milestones set forth in a research agreement with MMRF to develop a new treatment for multiple myeloma. With MMRF-supported data providing a foundation, the company will now move the compound into pre-clinical testing that is needed before starting clinical trials. [More >](#)

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## MMRF Welcomes New Board Members, Honorary Board Members

We are proud to welcome Chris McWilton, President of U.S. Markets for MasterCard Worldwide, to the MMRF Board of Directors. Emmy-Award winners Hoda Kotb and Carl Quintanilla have joined the MMRF Honorary Board of Directors. [More >](#)

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email [mmrf@benefitoffice.org](mailto:mmrf@benefitoffice.org).

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## MMRF Chicago Awards Dinner

Mark your calendars for **Wed., April 28, at the Four Seasons Hotel - Chicago for the 9th annual MMRF Chicago Awards Dinner**. James Brown, CBS Sports broadcaster James Brown, CBS Sports broadcaster and author of "Role of a Lifetime," will serve as keynote speaker. Bonnie Hunt, actor, director, producer, and writer, will act as mistress of ceremonies. For more information, email [ismith@pjhchicago.com](mailto:ismith@pjhchicago.com).

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## Research Updates

### **Consensus guidelines for the optimal management of adverse events in newly diagnosed, transplant-ineligible patients receiving melphalan and prednisone in combination with thalidomide (MPT) for the treatment of multiple myeloma** [More >](#)

Palumbo A, Davies F, Kropff M, Bladé J, Delforge M, Leal da Costa F, Garcia Sanz R, Schey S, Facon T, Morgan G, Moreau P.  
*Ann Hematol.* 2010 Mar 16. [Epub ahead of print]

### **Advances in the understanding of myeloma bone disease and tumour growth** [More >](#)

Yaccoby S.

*Br J Haematol.* 2010 Mar 11. [Epub ahead of print]

### **Weekly bortezomib, pegylated liposomal Doxorubicin, and dexamethasone is a safe and effective therapy for elderly patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma** [More >](#)

Gozzetti A, Fabbri A, Oliva S, Marchini E, Bocchia M, Defina M, Lauria F.

*Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk.* 2010 Feb;10(1):68-72.

### **The current status and future of multiple myeloma in the clinic** [More >](#)

Jagannath S, Kyle RA, Palumbo A, Siegel DS, Cunningham S, Berenson J.

*Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk.* 2010 Feb;10(1):28-43.

## **MMRF Race for Research—San Francisco**

Join us on Sunday, April 25, at beautiful Marina Green for the annual MMRF Race for Research—San Francisco. Katie Uhlaender, US Olympian, will serve as the emcee for this 5k walk and run. For more information, email [wescherj@themmrf.org](mailto:wescherj@themmrf.org).

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## **Premier Athletics**

The MMRF Premier Athletics Program has a limited number of guaranteed entries to these sold out events: **Five Boro Bike Tour, Chicago Marathon** and the **ING New York City Marathon**. Join our team today—we provide training, fund-raising support, and unlimited inspiration. To learn more, email [premierathletics@themmrf.org](mailto:premierathletics@themmrf.org)

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## **Advances in treatment for relapses and refractory multiple myeloma** [More >](#)

Richards T, Weber D.

*Med Oncol.* 2010 Mar 6. [Epub ahead of print]

## **Lenalidomide in multiple myeloma: current role and future directions** [More >](#)

Zeldis JB, Knight RD, Jacques C, Tozer A, Bizzari JP.

*Expert Opin Pharmacother.* 2010 Apr;11(5):829-42.

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