

MMRF FastFacts

A monthly e-newsletter



Dear Friends,

It's been quite a month! We recently brought together the entire MMRC

Progress Review Committee,

comprised of representatives from the MMRC's 16 Member

Institutions, to discuss strategies to advance our robust pipeline of

new drugs and to focus on personalized medicine. The

excitement in the room left everyone more motivated than ever to

continue our urgent work. On a more personal note, I celebrated a

very special milestone that you can read about in [my blog](#) the

five-year anniversary of my stem cell transplant. Just days later, I

had the honor of representing the MMRF as the Benefiting Charity

of the 34th Annual Empire State Building Run-Up. Powerful

accomplishments like these raise the bar for what is possible and

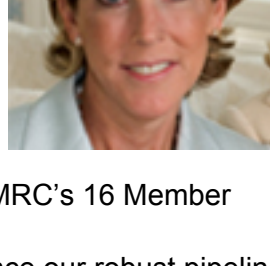
truly inspire our team at the MMRF to work even harder to bring

patients the treatments they so urgently need.

All the best,

Kathy Giusti

P.S. We value your feedback – [please let us know what you think.](#)



Clinical Trials

Study of Vorinostat (MK0683)

an HDAC Inhibitor, or

Placebo in Combination With

Bortezomib in Patients With

Multiple Myeloma.

[More >](#)

Carfilzomib and Lenalidomide

With Dexamethasone

Combination in Newly

Diagnosed, Previously

Untreated Multiple Myeloma.

[More >](#)

Safety and Efficacy Study of

Single Weekly Bortezomib in

Newly Diagnosed Multiple

Myeloma.

[More >](#)

Expert Insights

Partnering For Cures

View videos from the

FasterCures meeting in NYC

where MMRF CEO and

Founder Kathy Giusti

presents the Personalized

Medicine Initiative, and COO

Walter Capone contributes to

a panel on maximizing

research investment.

[Kathy's Presentation >](#)

[Walter's Presentation >](#)

MMRF Clinical Insights

Learn about myeloma

treatment options. Join us at

our upcoming patient

education programs in Los

Angeles on Feb. 26 and Short

Hills, New Jersey, on April 2.

For more information and to

register visit [our Clinical](#)

[Insights page.](#)

[Register Now](#)

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Breaking News

Don't Forget Your Re-Birthday!

Kathy Giusti, Founder & CEO of the MMRF, shares a special

story about a very significant day in her life as a multiple myeloma

patient on the MMRF's blog. [More >](#)

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MMRF Partners with Empire State Building, NY Road Runners to Raise Research Funds

The MMRF was the first-ever Benefiting Charity of the Empire

State Building Run-Up, a race up 1,576 steps and 86 floors to the

Observatory. Held this past Tuesday, this prestigious event drew

440 participants, including 100 MMRF PowerTeam Members. It

not only challenged all involved, including several myeloma

patients, to push themselves to their absolute limits, but it raised

more than \$280,000 for multiple myeloma research. Kathy Giusti,

MMRF Founder and CEO, a myeloma patient, held the finish line

tape. In honor of the MMRF PowerTeam, the Empire State

Building's iconic lights shone orange on Tuesday

evening. [More >](#)

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FDA Grants Fast-Track Status to Carfilzomib

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted fast

track designation for Onyx's carfilzomib, a next-generation

proteasome inhibitor for the treatment of patients with relapsed

and refractory multiple myeloma. This decision was based in part

on positive results from the MMRC-supported Phase II 003-A1

study evaluating single-agent carfilzomib in patients with relapsed

and refractory multiple myeloma that were recently announced at

the American Society of Hematology (ASH) meeting in December

2010. Onyx intends to complete its submission of the new drug

application for potential accelerated approval of carfilzomib in the

U.S. as early as mid-2011. [More >](#)

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MMRF, Synta Team Up to Develop New Myeloma Treatment

The MMRF and Synta Pharmaceuticals are collaborating to

advance the clinical development of ganetespib, an Hsp90

inhibitor. In support of this partnership, the MMRF Clinical Fund

will provide funding of up to \$1 million for a Phase I trial

evaluating ganetespib as a single agent and in combination with

the Velcade® for the treatment of relapsed multiple myeloma. The

trial will be conducted through the MMRC. [More >](#)

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MMRF Models Speed Development of New Treatments

Pharmaceutical Approvals Monthly highlights how the MMRF's

research model is helping to speed clinical trials of new

treatments such as carfilzomib and pomalidomide—likely the next

drugs to be approved for multiple myeloma—and has taken a lead

role in bringing patients more personalized therapy. [More >](#)

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MMRF Among New Financiers of Drug Development

Institutional Investor underscores the important role the MMRF

has played in funding early-stage drug development—the period

in which many drugs languish for lack of resources—so that

treatments can be brought to patients more rapidly. [More >](#)

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MMRF Shares Innovative Approach to Drug Development

Anne Quinn Young, VP of Communications at the MMRF, was a

panelist on CBS' BioCentury TV, alongside Katie Hood, President

of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease

Research, and Robert Beall, PhD, President and CEO of the

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The trio discussed the role of

innovative non-profits, like the MMRF, CFF, and MJFF, in helping

to advance research and bring patients new treatments. [More >](#)

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Research Updates

Targeting the Proteasome With Bortezomib in Multiple Myeloma: Update on Therapeutic Benefit as an Upfront Single Agent, Induction Regimen for Stem-Cell Transplantation and as Maintenance Therapy [More >](#)

Driscoll JJ, Burris J, Annunziata CM

Am J Ther. 2011 Jan 18. [Epub ahead of print]

Second Generation Proteasome Inhibitors: Carfilzomib and Immunoproteasome-Specific Inhibitors (IPSI) [More >](#)

Kuhn DJ, Orlowski RZ, Bjorklund CC

Curr Cancer Drug Targets. 2011 Jan 19. [Epub ahead of print]

Genetic Factors Underlying the Risk of Thalidomide-Related Neuropathy in Patients With Multiple Myeloma [More >](#)

Johnson DC, Corthals SL, Walker BA, Ross FM, Gregory WM,

Dickens NJ, Lokhorst HM, Goldschmidt H, Davies FE, Durie BG,

Van Ness B, Child JA, Sonneveld P, Morgan GJ

J Clin Oncol. 2011 Jan 18. [Epub ahead of print]

Genetic Predisposition for Chemotherapy-Induced Neuropathy in Multiple Myeloma [More >](#)

Becker PS

J Clin Oncol. 2011 Jan 18. [Epub ahead of print]

Melphalan and prednisone versus melphalan, prednisone and thalidomide for elderly and/or transplant ineligible patients with multiple myeloma: a meta-analysis [More >](#)

Kapoor P, Rajkumar SV, Dispenzieri A, Gertz MA, Lacy MQ,

Dingli D, Mikhael JR, Roy V, Kyle RA, Greipp PR, Kumar S,

Mandrekar SJ

Leukemia. 2011 Jan 14. [Epub ahead of print]

Genetic variation associated with bortezomib-induced peripheral neuropathy [More >](#)

Favis R, Sun Y, van de Velde H, Broderick E, Levey L, Meyers M,

Mulligan G, Housseau JL, Richardson PG, Ricci DS

Pharmacogenet Genomics. 2011 Jan 11. [Epub ahead of print]

Complete response correlates with long-term progression-free and overall survivals in elderly myeloma treated with novel agents: analysis of 1175 patients [More >](#)

Gay F, Larocca A, Wijermans P, Cavallo F, Rossi D, Schaafsma

R, Genuardi M, Romano A, Liberati AM, Siniscalchi A, Petrucci

MT, Nozzoli C, Patriarca F, Offidani M, Ria R, Omedè P, Bruno B,

Passera R, Musto P, Boccadoro M, Sonneveld P, Palumbo A

Blood. 2011 Jan 12. [Epub ahead of print]

What did we learn in 2010 from the phase III trials? Is maintenance therapy the new standard for myeloma? [More >](#)

Giralt S, Stadtmauer E, McCarthy P

Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2011 Jan;17(1 Suppl):S30-2.

Get Involved

Chicago Awards Dinner

Mark your calendar for

Wednesday April 13, 2011 at

the Four Seasons Hotel

Chicago for the 10th

anniversary MMRF Chicago

Awards Dinner. Bob Costas,

Broadcaster for NBC Sports

and Major League Baseball

Network, will serve as our

keynote speaker. For more

information, email

events@themmrf.org.

Purchase Tickets

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Laugh for Life: New York

New Date! Join us on

Monday, April 16, 2011 for

MMRF Laugh for Life: New

York, a comedy event

celebrating life through

laughter. Headlining comic is

the hilarious John Pinette.

Seating is limited so please

purchase tables and tickets

as soon as possible. For

more information please

email

laugh@benefitoffice.org.

Purchase Tickets

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MMRF Race for Research Spring Series

Join us for the MMRF Race

for Research Spring Series

taking place in San Francisco

(Apr. 10), St. Louis (May 14)

or Tri-State in New Canaan,

CT (Jun. 12). Register today

& start your fundraising now!

For more information, email

races@themmrf.org.

[Register Now](#)

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Start a Fundraiser

Your favorite activities can

help support the MMRF! Use

a concert, sporting event,

wine tasting, house tour or

letter writing to raise funds to

develop next generation

treatments and a cure. For

more information, please

contact events@themmrf.org.

[Plan An Event](#)

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MMRF Store

Valentine's Day is almost

here! This year, show your

loved ones you care with a

thoughtful and meaningful gift

from the MMRF Online Store.

[Shop Now](#)

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MMRF Endurance Events

Resolve to Make the

Difference in 2011!

Participate in a marathon, half

marathon, triathlon, cycling

event or shorter distance race

to support the MMRF.

Registration is now open! For

more information visit [our](#)

[website](#), or email

[Endurance Events](#).

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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