



SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA APPOINTS MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD CO-CHAIRMEN

Deadline for Research Grant Applications Extended

WASHINGTON (Dec. 10, 2002) - The Sarcoma Foundation of America has appointed physicians Murray Brennan, of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and George Demetri, from Harvard Medical School, as co-chairmen of its medical advisory board. Dr. Brennan and Dr. Demetri are leading medical professionals in the field of sarcoma research and treatment. Sarcoma affects more than 50,000 Americans, with more than 10,000 new cases diagnosed every year. Approximately 20 percent of all cancers in children are sarcomas. Sarcoma is a rare type of cancer that occurs in connective tissues throughout the body, and most frequently found hidden deep in the body's limbs. Sarcoma is curable approximately 50% of the time, but too often the tumor is advanced at presentation, thus preventing a cure. The medical advisory board provides its knowledge and expertise in advancing scientific research and studies to help find a cure for what many consider the "forgotten cancer." The board also assists with the foundation's research grant review process, ensuring that grant awards are used for research that is in line with the mission of the foundation. "Having both Drs. Brennan and Demetri on our team is an exciting opportunity to work with the foremost leaders in the sarcoma treatment field," said Dr. Mark Thornton, president of the foundation. "They are incredible assets to the foundation, and I'm confident that their leadership will result in new research that will help both adults and children afflicted with sarcoma." Dr. Brennan is chairman of the

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Department of Surgery and serves as president of the American Surgical Association. Internationally renowned as a surgeon and for his research on metabolism in cancer patients, he has also led management approaches for treatment of soft-tissue sarcomas, endocrine cancers and gastrointestinal cancers. Dr. Demetri is Director of the Center for Sarcoma and Bone Oncology in the Department of Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He is also an associate professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School. The research from his team helped lead to the recent FDA registration of the new oral medication called Gleevec (previously known as STI-571) as the first effective therapy for the sarcoma known as Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST). Dr. Demetri oversees the sarcoma section of the American Society of Clinical Oncology's new web-based resource for patients and families, "People Living with Cancer," and he was a founding member of the medical advisory board for CancerSource.com, plus several professional societies and editorial boards. Dr. Demetri has focused on discovering and developing new treatments for sarcomas. The other physicians serving on the foundation's medical advisory board include Karen Antman, Columbia University; Lee Helman, National Cancer Institute; Mark Ladanyi, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Jonathan Lewis, Antigenics, Inc.; Robert Maki, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Albert Pappo, Toronto Hospital for Sick Children; Peter Pisters, MD Anderson Cancer Center; and Vernon Sondak, University of Michigan Cancer Center. The foundation also announced that it is extending the deadline for research grant proposals to Jan. 31, 2003. Submissions from physicians and scientists should involve research that could lead to the development of novel agents against sarcoma. Funding grants of up to \$25,000 are available. More information about the grant application and evaluation process can be found on the "Research Program" page of the foundation's Web site, www.curesarcoma.org.

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Quick Facts About Sarcoma

Sarcoma is a rare cancer in adults (1 percent of all adult cancers) but rather prevalent in children (about 20 percent of all childhood cancers). At any one time, 50,000 patients and their families are struggling with sarcoma. Every year, about 10,000 new cases are diagnosed, and about 5,000 people die from sarcoma.

About the Sarcoma Foundation of America

The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit charitable organization, is an advocate for increased research to find new and better therapies with which to treat patients with sarcoma. SFA raises its own funds to provide research grants to sarcoma researchers. SFA also interacts with public, private for-profit, and private non-profit organizations to raise awareness of the treatment needs of sarcoma patients. For more information, please visit www.curesarcoma.org.