



SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

www.curesarcoma.org

Contact: Christopher Vance
301-253-8687
cvance@curesarcoma.org

Sarcoma Foundation of America to Present Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman with the Nobility in Science Award

Eugenie Kleinerman, MD, to be honored at the 19th Annual Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala for her work with pediatric osteosarcoma patients.

DAMASCUS, Md. – July 19, 2021 – The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), the largest funder of research in the sarcoma community and an organization dedicated to raising sarcoma awareness, announced that renowned pediatric cancer specialist Eugenie S. Kleinerman, MD is the 2021 recipient of the organization’s prestigious Nobility in Science Award.

Dr. Kleinerman is being recognized for her contributions to sarcoma cancer research, treatment, and education during a ceremony at SFA’s 19th annual *Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala* to be held Tuesday, September 28, at the Edison Ballroom in Manhattan. The event will include an in-person and virtual component.

The *Nobility in Science Award* is given annually to a deserving visionary, who has been a leading sarcoma researcher and has taken on an integral role in advancing drug development for sarcoma patients. Awardees receiving this honor have contributed in a significant way to the advancement of science, care, and treatment for sarcoma patients. This award is given to an outstanding investigator who is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge of sarcoma and works tirelessly to find new and innovative approaches for treating this rare cancer.

Dr. Kleinerman, Professor of the Division of Pediatrics and Department of Cancer Biology at MD Anderson Cancer Center, is being honored for her decades of work focused on pediatric sarcoma, in particular, osteosarcoma. She was the first woman to lead a clinical department at MD Anderson Cancer Center, serving as Chair of Pediatrics and Head of MD Anderson’s Children’s Cancer Hospital from 2001-2015. Dr. Kleinerman is internationally recognized for her scientific and clinical expertise in sarcoma. Her preclinical and clinical research led to the development of a new immunotherapy for children with bone cancer. Combining this immunotherapy with chemotherapy reduced the death rate by 30% compared to chemotherapy alone, the first improvement seen in osteosarcoma in decades. This research resulted in the drug’s approval by the European Medicine Agency. Her research is centered on the development of novel therapies for children with metastatic sarcomas, particularly osteosarcoma lung metastases.

“The Sarcoma Foundation of America applauds the work of Dr. Kleinerman,” said Brandi Felser, Chief Executive Officer, SFA. “Her contribution to improving patient outcomes is extraordinary and is well-deserved for recognition. Dr. Kleinerman’s research efforts and medical practice have resulted in the first improvement in saved lives and a better quality of life for children suffering from and surviving osteosarcoma in far too long. Dr. Kleinerman’s work is saving children’s lives.”

“I am honored and humbled to be chosen for this recognition by the Sarcoma Foundation of America which has spent decades advocating for patients with this orphan cancer and for more research to uncover new forms of treatment,” said Dr. Kleinerman. “This organization supported me in my quest to translate my preclinical and clinical research to children with metastatic osteosarcoma. Clinical progress and the development of new lifesaving treatments for sarcoma rely on the translation of discoveries made in the laboratory. I pledge that I will continue the quest to identify new therapeutic approaches that will improve the survival and quality of life of children, adolescents and young adults with sarcoma.”

Stand Up to Sarcoma, now in its 19th year, is a night of celebration and community as attendees gather from coast to coast, and internationally, to join together in solidarity to support sarcoma patients and survivors. In addition to the awards program, the evening includes entertainment and a silent auction. This year, the event is scheduled to be held in New York City on Tuesday, September 28 at the Edison Ballroom. *Stand Up to Sarcoma* honors those who have battled sarcoma, as well as those who have dedicated their lives and careers to the treatment of sarcoma patients. The event raises money to fund innovative sarcoma research leading to the development of new and better therapies for sarcoma patients.

In addition to the Nobility in Science Award, the event highlights outstanding sarcoma advocates with the Courage Award, celebrates a nurse (patient) navigator for his or her outstanding contributions to patient care with the Compassionate Care Award, and recognizes an organization or person providing hope to patients with the Vision of Hope Award. These international awards are the highest honor bestowed in the sarcoma community.

Further information about SFA and the 2021 *Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala* can be found at www.curesarcoma.org/nyccelebration/.

###

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. As the leading funder of research in the sarcoma community, the organization raises money to privately fund grants for sarcoma researchers and conducts education and advocacy efforts on behalf of sarcoma patients. Since its inception in 2000, the Sarcoma Foundation of America has invested over \$13 million in research; including over 200 sarcoma research grants, eight American Society of Clinical Oncologists (ASCO) Young Investigator Awards, two Advanced Clinical Research Awards (ASCO) Conquer Cancer Foundation Awards, and two ASCO Conquer Cancer Foundation Career Development Awards. For more information, please visit www.curesarcoma.org.

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, nearly 16,000 new cases are diagnosed and about 7,000 people die from the disease.