

Funding Research

MMRF Announces 2006 Compound Validation Award Winners

The MMRF is pleased to announce five Compound Validation Awards, each valued at \$100,000, to researchers at five outstanding institutions.

The MMRF Compound Validation Awards were developed to identify compounds now under investigation for myeloma that show the most potential in treating the disease. One of the most effective and efficient ways to do this is through pre-clinical validation, the process of testing a potential treatment's activity in various biological models of the disease -- such as fresh myeloma tissue, myeloma cell lines, and animal models.

"I supported the MMRF's Compound Validation Awards because I knew that strong pre-clinical validation is an important step in advancing a new therapy into clinical trials where patients can benefit," said William Schuett, whose generous support in part made these awards possible.

"The MMRF's Compound Validation Award will help determine whether a new therapeutic antibody may show promise in treating multiple myeloma," said James Berenson, MD, the Institute for Myeloma & Bone Cancer Research. "Testing this antibody in robust pre-clinical validation studies will provide critical data for the potential clinical development of this new therapy."

The 2006 Compound Validation Award Winners are:



James Berenson, MD
The Institute for Myeloma & Bone Cancer Research



Jing Chen, PhD
Emory University



Hearn Cho, MD, PhD
NYU School of Medicine



Shaji Kumar, MD
Mayo Clinic, Rochester



Xiao-Yan Wen, MD, PhD
University Health Network

MMRF Announces 2006 Cell Line Development Award Winners

The MMRF is pleased to announce that it has awarded **Diane Jelinek, PhD**, of the Mayo Clinic, and **Michael Kuehl, PhD**, of the National Cancer Institute, with its 2006 Cell Line Development Awards. Each valued at \$100,000, the Cell Line Development Awards were developed to create new cell lines or improve existing cell lines to advance critical pre-clinical validation studies.

Multiple myeloma cell lines are biological models of the disease that can be grown and maintained in a laboratory for use in pre-clinical validation studies. Cell lines are an important tool in pre-clinical validation studies that can help researchers identify and prioritize compounds that show the

most significance in treating myeloma. This not only ensures that only the most promising drug leads are followed, but will reduce the time spent on drugs that are destined to fail.

"Available cell lines do not adequately represent the various subtypes of multiple myeloma; this is demonstrated most strikingly by the fact that there are no documented cell lines derived from the one third of tumors that are hyperdiploid and bi-allelically express cyclin D1," said Michael Kuehl, MD, National Cancer Institute. "With this grant, we aim to develop cell lines that represent patients with all types of myeloma as a critical step in beginning to validate compounds that are effective in treating the disease."