



The T.J. Martell Foundation Announces the Future of Cancer Research Forum

A Panel and Audience Discussion on Cancer Technology and Treatments

Dr. Robert C. Bast, Jr., MD. Named Chairman of Scientific Advisory Committee
Mitchell C. Benson, MD Appointed to Scientific Advisory Committee

Nashville, Tennessee – (January 14, 2020) – The T.J. Martell Foundation for Cancer Research has announced its Future of Cancer Research Forum to take place Friday, January 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. CST at the Omni Nashville Hotel. The event features a panel discussion and audience participatory opportunity on cancer research of the future to propel the life expectancy of patients.

The panelists include Donald J. Tindall, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine; Carlos M. Croce, MD, Chairman of the Department of Cancer Biology and Genetics at Ohio State University; Harold L. Moses, MD, Research Professor of Pharmacology, Professor Emeritus of Cancer Biology; Director-Emeritus, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center; Mitchell C. Benson, MD, Herbert and Florence Irving Professor of Urology of the Columbia University Medical Center and Robert C. Bast, Jr., MD, Vice President Translations Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center. The panel moderator is Jennifer A. Pietenpol, Ph.D., Director Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, and Executive Vice President for Research VUMC.

The Future of Cancer Research Forum commemorates the 25th Anniversary of its National Cancer Research Summit, an annual retreat of Martell funded researchers from NCI-designated flagship hospitals from across the country. Each year, researchers gather to share progress reports and discuss new therapies and developments for cancer. The National Cancer Research Summit is overseen by the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee which includes global leaders in oncology and cardiology.

Dr. Robert C. Bast, Jr., Vice President Translational Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center has been named Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee succeeding Dr. Donald J. Tindall, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. The Foundation has also appointed Dr. Mitchell C. Benson, Herbert and Florence Irving Professor of Urology of the Columbia University Medical Center to the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The Scientific Advisory Committee was created by the T.J. Martell Foundation to vet research grant requests, but function much more than a clearinghouse for promising research proposals. They are engaged in the process and operate like a think tank providing valuable insight and direction to researchers from the finest medical facilities in the nation. The diverse cancer research topics funded by the Foundation include lung, breast, prostate, ovarian, Sarcoma, colon, bladder, and brain cancer to name a few. The Foundation also discusses psycho-oncology which deals with the impact of cancer on the patient and the caregiver.

Dr. Robert C. Bast, Jr. MD is currently Vice President for Translational Research at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is best known for the discovery of CA125, a serum biomarker for ovarian cancer that has contributed to the care of ovarian cancer patients worldwide. His research spans early detection, enhancing chemotherapy and understanding regulation of dormancy and the role of autophagy in breast and ovarian cancer. He has also served as an Internist and Professor of Medicine, Department of Experimental Therapeutics, Division of Cancer Medicine, and Internist and Professor of Medicine, Department of Gynecologic Medical Oncology, Division of Cancer Medicine, at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and was named the Harry Carothers Wiess Distinguished University Chair for Cancer Research at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is a graduate of Harvard Medical School.



Dr. Mitchell C. Benson began his affiliation with Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1973 when he enrolled in Columbia P&S as a first year medical student. Following an internship and residency in general surgery at Mount Sinai



Hospital in New York, he became a resident in Urology at The Presbyterian Hospital in New York. Afterwards he was a Research Fellow in Urologic Oncology at John Hopkins Hospital and University.

After completion of his fellowship, he returned to Columbia University P&S where he joined the Urology faculty. Dr. Benson was one of the first recipients of the Herbert Irving Assistant Professor awards. He was the Herbert Irving Assistant Professor of Urology from 1988-1991. He was then promoted to Associate Professor of Urology and then to Professor of Urology. In 2003, he was named Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center of Columbia University and in 2005 was appointed The George F. Cahill Professor and Chairman of the Department of Urology and Urologist-in-Chief at Columbia University Medical Center.

Dr. Mitchell C. Benson's research has been submitted and published in over 195 scientific articles and has presented more than 200 papers at national meetings. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. He joins the T.J. Martell Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee after years of support for research and patient treatments funded by the Foundation.

"The T.J. Martell Foundation is committed to funding high-risk, high-gain cancer research that will create "proof of concept" results," said Laura Heatherly, CEO of The T.J. Martell Foundation. "The dedication of our National Scientific Advisory Committee and the many investigators who are diligently working on a cure are some of the most passionate, driven people that are helping others live longer, healthier lives."

ABOUT THE T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION

The T.J. Martell Foundation is the music industry's leading foundation that funds innovative medical research focused on finding treatments and cures for cancer. The Foundation was founded in 1975 by music industry executive Tony Martell and his colleagues in loving memory of his son T.J. who died of leukemia. The Foundation has provided more than \$280 million for research at nine flagship hospitals in the United States. For more information on the T.J. Martell Foundation visit www.tjmartell.org
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