

# A New Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine in Lymphoblastic Leukemia



The SASS Foundation is honored to support a New Post-Doctoral Fellow at the NYU

Grossman School of Medicine, an administrative unit of New York University (NYU) in the form of a new grant for the project entitled: "Identification of Ion Channels and Transporters in T cell acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (T-All). The researcher, who is acting as the grant's Principal Investigator, is NYU student Dr. Lucile Cloe Emilie Noyer.

The project is highly significant since T-ALL remains difficult to treat in adults, and the identification of novel ion channels and transporters as targets will likely lead to therapeutic strategies for targeting other leukemias and possibly other autoimmune disorders.

The post-doctoral researcher, Dr. Noyer, has worked on STIM1-mediated Oral1 and other calcium-permeable channels and prostate cancer in a top laboratory in France. She is an experienced and top-rated researcher in the field.

Kudos to Dr. Sudhir Gupta, Chairman, Scientific and Medical Boards of The SASS Foundation for his continued efforts in discovering new researchers and projects that will hopefully bring us closer to a cure.

At a time in our lives when many other not for profits have put a hold on their financial commitments, The SASS Foundation has not only continued to support on-going vital research, but we are supporting new significant endeavors that will, hopefully, make a difference!

# SFMR Partnership with NYU-Langone Supporting Cancer Patients During The Pandemic

These are certainly difficult times for everyone. Covid-19 has especially negatively impacted those cancer patients undergoing outpatient treatment for chemotherapy or radiation. The recommendation not to take public transportation places at undue financial burden and risk.

To remedy this significant financial burden, The SASS Foundation has stepped up to the challenge and is supporting the neediest cancer patients to help alleviate the costs of Uber, car service or taxis, and the stress and anxiety associated with transportation to their vital treatment.

Martin Sass, Chairman & co-founder; Barbara R. Sass, co-founder; and Dr. Francis P. Arena, President and cofounder; are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, as well as patient education and community outreach. To that end, and this time of crisis, The SASS Foundation is proud to partner with NYU Langone Health to support this vital endeavor and fill this unprecedented need to assist financially with these transportation costs.

In keeping with The SASS Foundation motto of making a difference, our co-founders want to assure you that "Together We Can Make A Difference!"

If you would like to donate please contact Lois Lerner, llernersassfdn@gmail.com or call 516.668.2619. Checks can be mailed to The SASS Foundation for Medical Research, Inc., 1025 Northern Blvd, Suite 302, Roslyn, NY 11576.

We greatly appreciate your support.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN Martin D. Sass

# SFMR Activities During CoVID-19

### Dear Friends and Supporters:

This year is truly one to remember! 2020 is an unprecedented time with a global health crisis with surging cases of COVID-19, rising hospitalizations and tragically increasing deaths as a result of the pandemic. At this writing the virus continues to spread rapidly in the U.S. and internationally. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. On a highly positive note, three new game changing vaccines have now been reported by: 1) AstraZeneca and Oxford University, 2) Pfizer/BioNTech and 3( Moderna, Each have powerful efficacy rates of more than 90% for their vaccines which prevent Covid-19 infections without serious side effects. These potent new vaccines in combination with increased exposures to COVID-19 suggest this pandemic will peak around next summer and likely reverse the current worsening health crisis. These vaccines provide the promise that the end of the pandemic is now on the horizon.

During this extraordinary time health-focused the SASS Foundation for Medical Research ("SFMR") has leaned in to help individuals who may be deeply impacted by the pandemic and need help. Even during this crisis when we must keep our

COVID ! COVID ! COVID! If I live to 170, I never want to

entire world, have been held captive, have been confined, have

have been isolated, have been made virtual, have been made

to rethink the way we live and have been taken away from us.

But the things that COVID has not done is to take away our

resilience, our creativity, our science and our hope. From THE

that The SASS Foundation has joined with NYU to help fund

transportation for patients receiving therapy at the Manhattan

to the hospital or infusion center a major problem. The SASS

Foundation has helped this problem by providing support for

patients to get their treatment without the hassle and fear of

using mass transit. Something as simple as transportation has

become a major obstacle during the COVID pandemic. Thanks

to the SASS Foundation, we made an inroad in addressing this

problem. But there is still much more ahead of us. COVID has

campus of NYU. COVID has made the mere ability to get

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Marty Sass has talked of the initiative

hear that phrase again. For over eight months, Americans, no the

been quarantined, have been hospitalized, have been furloughed,

FROM THE PRESIDENT Francis P. Arena, MD, FACP

physical distance from others, we can help one another through charitable giving. In order to keep each other safe, we have canceled some of our usual education programs and major fundraising events.

Despite the pandemic, the SFMR found a way to present our most important Education Day event to support those in need with a virtual program. The SFMR's first virtual program took place on November 14th, 2020 with our 26th Annual Breast/ Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day. An outstanding panel was moderated by our President, Dr. Frank Arena, and hundreds of people virtually attended (without charge, as always) in multiple states. Dr. Sudhir Gupta made an outstanding insightful presentation on the dynamics behind COVID-19. We are already making preliminary plans to do this Awareness Day again next year as a hybrid with live venues here on Long Island and virtual participation remotely in other areas in the U.S.

At the outset of the pandemic the SFMR reached out to the NYU Langone Health System to ask how we can best help. This was at a time when their hospital facilities were strained with the flood

Chairman continued on page 7

## not taken cancer away. Cancer in all its treacherous headings has lurked in the underbrush, has stalked its victims,

and tried to eliminate its prey. This is something that we will not allow to happen. Cancer is an essential illness. It's research, its prevention, its needed patient support, and its education are as vital as the air that we breathe.

We did learn something from the COVID pandemic. We have learned that when the world comes together and prioritizes its goals, that even the creation of a vaccine can happen within 8 months. Never in the history of man has a vaccine been made in that period of time. Prior to the COVID vaccine, it was the mumps vaccine that was the quickest to be made. It took 4 YEARS in 1963. Dr. Oz has a great phrase about this feat of making a vaccine in eight months. Let me paraphrase Dr. Oz, the vaccine was made not by cutting corners but by cutting red tape. I would like to make an open plea to our President-Elect, Joe Biden:

President continued on page 7







# 26th Annual Breast/Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day

# Saturday, November 14, 2020 10:00am – 11:30am Eastern LIVE ONLINE EVENT

**Meet the Experts!** This Town Hall Forum will be moderated by Dr. Francis P. Arena including a Keynote Discussion by Dr. Sudhir Gupta and a lively discussion amongst an extensive group of panelists.

# **PANELISTS**

Linda Bonanno

Vice President and Creative Designer First Company Pink, "got checked?" Hicksville, NY

#### Marc Citron, MD

Clinical Professor of Medicine Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell Chief, Breast Cancer Chair Emeritus, Department of Oncological Services ProHEALTH Care Lake Success, NY

Donna Cioffi

President First Company Pink, "got checked?" Hicksville, NY Eileen Krim, MD, FACOG Clinical Assistant Professor Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology NYU Langone Grossman School of Medicine Gynecologist Great Neck, NY

John Lovecchio MD Gynecologic Oncology Specialist Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra Northwell Investigator, Center for Oncology and Cell Biology, Feinstein Institute for Medical Research Chief Emeritus, Division of Gynecologic Oncology Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology North Shore University Hospital Northwell Health Manhasset, NY



## MODERATOR

Francis P. Arena, MD Director, NYU Langone Arena Oncology Clinical Professor, NYU Health Medical College President and Director of Research Sass Foundation for Medical Research Lake Success, NY

## CO-MODERATOR

Dwight De Risi MD, FACS Surgical Oncologist Specializing in Diseases of The Breast Great Neck, NY

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Sudhir Gupta, MD, PhD, DSc (hc), MACP, FRCP (Lond), FRCP (C), FACR, FAAAAI, FACAAI Professor of Medicine, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Chief, Basic and Clinical Immunology Director, Program in Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases & Aging Director, Jeffery Modell Center for Primary Immunodeficiencies Member, Cancer Research Institute; Member, Institute for Immunology University of California at Irvine

Sandy McDonough, MS, GCG Genetic Counselor

Barbara Kammerer, RN Oncological Nurse Lymphedema Specialist Douglaston, NY

Karen Mourtzikos, MD Nuclear Medicine Physician Executive Vice Dean Wayne State University Medical School Detroit, Michigan

Franco Muggia, MD Professor of Medicine NYU Grossman Medical School Hicksville, NY Robin Scarlata, MD Radiologist Zwanger-Pesiri Radiology Farmingdale, NY

Maria Theodoulou, MD Medical Oncologist Breast Cancer Medicine New York Oncology Hematology Albany, NY

Shawn Zimberg MD Radiation Oncologist Medical Director of Advanced Radiation Centers of New York Lake Success, NY

# **REGISTER NOW FOR THIS FREE EDUCATION DAY! Sassrsvp.org**

## Where Your Money Goes

## Update on The SASS Foundation Carol Litwin Memorial Research Grant in Breast Cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Since 2011, when we established The SASS Carol Litwin Memorial Fellowship, many strides have been made in the science behind understanding of how immune cells function within a breast cancer. Presently, Dr. Elizabeth Comen and her colleagues at MSKCC,

have done extensive research with great results targeting breast cancer cells. Since the exponential rise in the use of immunology, it is critical that the researchers continue on this path, evaluating the influence and response, continuing to unlock the mysteries of this dreaded disease and save lives.

A net portion of the proceeds from our Outing goes to this crucial funding, which would not be possible without your philanthropic efforts. Unfortunately, due to Covid, this year we had to cancel the Outing. We are looking to 2021–as soon as a new date is on the calendar at The Creek – we will be sure to get to word out to all of our loyal participants.

Carol Litwin is the deceased wife of Bob Litwin, champion Tennis Professional, who has contributed his time to coordinate Tennis Tournaments on behalf of The SFMR.

## Hairy Cell Leukemia/LLC Foundation Grants – Five Year Commitment

The SASS Foundation for Medical Research (SFMR) has partnered with the Hairy Cell Leukemia Foundation (HCLF) to fund effective research into the causes and treatment of hairy cell leukemia and to encourage investigators to pursue careers in the field of hairy cell leukemia research. Over 5 years (2016-2021), we have jointly support Research Grants and Fellowships.

HCL is a rare, chronic form of leukemia found in approximately 2 percent of all adult patients with leukemia. HCL is treatable, but not yet curable. There are an estimated 1,500-2,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the United States.

These grants support promising

research projects by investigators with proven experience in this field of research. By funding these projects, we will continue to strengthen understanding of the causes and most effective treatment of HCL. In the long term, this research will help improve health outcomes for patients and, hopefully, closer to a cure.

## The Annual Lymphoma and Myeloma Congress

For more than 10 years, The SASS Foundation has supported this 3 day congress that brings together great minds and researchers in the field of Lymphoma, Leukemia and Myeloma. In the time of Covid, we continue to support this most worthwhile events as the congress moved to a Virtual event.

The SASS Foundation John Ultmann Award and Prize is granted at the Lymphoma, Leukemia & Myeloma Congress to the individual who has made outstanding contributions to the understanding, research, patient care, advocacy, or education in lymphoma. Dr. John Ultmann was an exemplar of the dedicated, compassionate, clinicianresearcher who was a tireless soldier in the battle against lymphoma. The prize is sponsored by the SASS Foundation. This year's worthy recipient is Morton Coleman, MD.

The SASS Foundation Joseph Michaeli Memorial Award is granted annually to those individuals who have made a major contribution to advancing research, advocacy, and /or patient care for myeloma. This award is granted annually through the SASS Foundation. This year's worthy recipient is Nikhil Munshi, MD.

# Kudos to Our Own Dr. Francis P. Arena on This Honor



Dr. Frances P. Arena was awarded the humanitarian survivorship award last year at the Inaugural Breast Cancer and Survivorship Symposium hosted by New York Oncology Hematology in Albany New York. Dr. Arena has been for the last 3 decades at the forefront of cancer

research with patient survivorship, survival and quality of life always at the forefront of his efforts. He has tirelessly hosted community educational seminars throughout the New York City/Long Island regional area, attracting patients and their families by the hundreds, as well as a panel of national thought leaders in the various subspecialties of cancer care to share their knowledge with these patients and families. His grace and compassion, his intelligence and determination has helped reroute many deadly cancers to treatable cancers. He has benefitted patients with education and empowerment, addressing the health, emotional, and physical well-being of patients after breast cancer treatment. The Arena Award will be awarded annually at the New York Oncology Hematology Symposium to a medical professional, community advocate or patient in keeping with Dr. Arena's generous heart and spirit. We are proud to honor Dr. Arena.

Dr. Maria Theodoulou

2021 GGGLGGG GGGLGGG AT THE CREEK, LATTINGTOWN, NY DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED



## The SASS Foundation for Medical Research, Inc.

Giving Tuesday–December 1, 2020 -Contribute to the SFMR's Fight Against Cancer

Giving Tuesday, a global day for giving, has taken on a whole new meaning in 2020 due the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. In order to keep everyone safe, we have postponed or rescheduled our events which helped us to continue to fund vital cancer research, education and patient care.

The global pandemic makes your contribution more important than ever. Please consider a yearend tax-deductible donation to help us continue our fight to improve the quality of life of cancer patients and eventually to eradicate this disease.

Please mail checks to: The SASS Foundation for Medical Research, Inc., 1025 Northern Blvd., Suite 302, Roslyn, NY 11576.

Credit Card payments may be made through Paypal on www.sassfoundation.org–click on the DONATE button.

Or, contact Lois Lerner at llernersassfdn@gmail. com or call 516.668.2619 with your credit card information.

We hope you and your families are well. We greatly appreciate your continued friendship and support.

Dr. Francis P. Arena Martin D. Sass

Barbara R. Sass

### TOGETHER WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

### Sincerely,

The SASS Foundation for Medical Research, Inc. Website: www.sassfoundation.org Phone: 516-365-7277(office); 516-869-9730 (fax)



for Medical Research, Inc.

AND CASINO

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021

7:00PM • GUASTAVINO'S NYC

Stacy Fischer-Rosenthal COURAGE AWARD

Dr. Robert Grossman MEDICAL AWARD

**John Feal** humanitarian award

# Ovarian/Breast Cancer Awareness Day

- New Date -

# Saturday, May 22, 2021

East Wind Conference Center, Wading River 8:30 AM-12:00 PM



# Save the Date Breast/Ovarian Day

Saturday, October 23, 2021 • Long Island Marriott, Uniondale, NY

### Chairman continued from page 2

of coronavirus patients in our community. They replied that there was a need for funds to pay for outpatient transportation for cancer patients, so we contributed funds to pay for that transportation.

We will continue our fight to improve the quality of life of cancer survivors and contribute to research to eventually eradicate this dreaded disease. During times of crises, like the present, we will continue to seek to achieve our Mission and work with friend and supporters to help make a difference. You can help, if you are fortunate to be in a financial position to do so, by considering making a donation to the SFMR through our website www.sassfoundation.org or by Lois Lerner, Executive Director @ (516) 668-2619.

Hoping you all stay safe and healthy.

Tharty Sass

## President continued from page 7

Dear President Elect Biden:

You have inherited a pandemic that has afflicted millions of people and which has killed hundreds of thousands. You also have inherited a vaccine that may soon eliminate this tragedy. You have made a pledge when you were Vice President under President Obama to initiate a MOONSHOT Against Cancer. I am asking you to harness the same coalition, the same momentum, the same perseverance, and the same priority to unite not just the science of the United States but the brilliance of the entire world against cancer. If we can make a vaccine against as foe that we had never heard of, that we could never see, and can barely trace, surely, we can beat a disease which attacks in broad daylight and leaves its tracks right in front of us in every corner of the globe. My belief is not just about the power of science but about the power of the human spirit. If we all unite, if we can all come together then together we will make a difference. This is not just the prayer of the Sass Foundation but the belief that we have in our country and the future of mankind.

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Francis P. Arena, MD
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## Mourning the Passing of Longtime Executive Advisory Board Member and Friend



Walter F. Cameron, Sr., of North Shore Towers and BocaRaton, Fl., died Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. He was 93 years old.Cameron enlisted in the Navy Air Corps in 1944 at the age of 17. After serving, he worked as an advertising executive onMadison Avenue for 9 years, before starting his own advertising agency in 1977, Walter F. Cameron Advertising, Inc.

The agency specialized in consumer retail and then branched out into other industries. The agency grew to become one of the largest automotive agencies in the country.

Over the years, Walter worked tirelessly to provide The SASS Foundation with pro bono advertising for the SASS Breast Cancer Awareness Days and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Days through his Advertising Agency. Even after his retirement, he made certain that The SASS Foundation would continue to be afforded this free advertising for weeks at a time prior to each event, providing great outreach to all, thus making a difference.

Walter was also thinking of The Foundation and looking for way to promote The SASS Foundation – whether through his many campaigns when a colleague passed away or through his multitude of ideas for events.

As Dr. Francis P. Arena, President & Co-Founder of The SASS Foundation stated, " it's a sad day... he was a good man and a good friend."

He will be sorely missed.

## SASS Foundation Funds Fellows at Stony Brook University

In keeping with The SASS Foundation's mission since 1986, this year SFMR has taken on a new and most important commitment to support cancer research projects of some of Stony Brook University's Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URECA) students. The SASS Foundation has provided the necessary resources in the College of Arts & Sciences , as well las those in those disciplines across the University the chance to develop their talents by engaging in original and creative research projects.

The students involved in this program include many of the highest-achieving students at Stony Brook who has published in scientific journals and/or won prestigious scholarships and awards.

Cancer research is one the vital areas of the URECA program that the students focus on. Under the direction of exemplary faculty and staff – these phenomenal students work diligently to find answers for the disease that has impacted countless people around the world.

The SASS Foundation is proud to support the invaluable efforts to help these young researchers as they work tirelessly to find answers – and cures – for cancer.

Your donations make a difference – together we continue to make a difference!



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