



Seize The Ribbon Foundation for Bladder Cancer Research

To our dear Contributors,

We are so proud to bring you this Newsletter for the end of 2019 and share the positive results of the work you have made possible with your contributions. Thanks to each of you we are completing our 10th year. The time has been well spent and we are seeing many positive signs that we will find the answers to stop Bladder Cancer, a disease which has taken too many of our loved away from us.

As you are aware Seize the Ribbon Foundation for Bladder Cancer Research was founded in 2010 by the Mingingham Family and supports the work of Dr John Phillips and Dr Senuki Konno at New York Medical College on the Campus of Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, New York.

Our contributions provide for research into innovative and progressive treatment of Bladder Cancer with research work in both molecular and herbal approaches to bladder cancer treatment.

Here are our updates on the research:

This is from Dr Phillips: "Our laboratory continues to make progress with nanoparticle therapies for bladder cancer thanks to Seize the Ribbon support. Nanoparticles are mere, microscopic packages of proteins or fat globules that 'hold in' other compounds like chemotherapies. Nanoparticles are very temperamental and require sophisticated preparations and 'quality testing' to ensure that they are of the correct size, shape, integrity, and stability, and carry the correct dose of chemotherapy, before their use in any cancer trial. Part of the Seize the Ribbon funds we receive are going towards demonstrating the correct dosing and the effect of nanoparticle chemotherapy combination on bladder cancers as well as the quality steps required for safe administration in a clinical trial setting.

We have had challenges in timing the preparation of the nanoparticles with the age and disease burden of the experimental transgenic mouse population, which are rather fragile because of their cancers. We're still making progress!"

Dr Sensuke Konno wrote: "We're always searching for some "natural products" such as plants, herbs, vegetables, flowers etc., which may have potent "anticancer" activity against bladder cancer and other types of cancers.

We believe those natural products usually have little "side effects" unlike typical drugs, so that they are very safe to be used for therapeutic purpose. Recently, we came across the bioactive extract from "Monk-fruit", which originally used by the monks (in China) as a sweetener. However, accumulating research data suggest that this Monk-fruit extract is not just a sweetener but may have anticancer activity as well. Hence, it prompts us to run the study of this extract to see if it would work on bladder cancer cells. It's indeed interesting to find out if a natural sweetener were capable of fighting against bladder cancer. So, stay tuned."

This is our most recent, October, update from Dr Phillips:

"We do have some rather exciting additions. I'm in Chicago and thanks to support from Seize the Ribbon, we were able to move forward with preliminary data on our nanoparticle based therapy for bladder cancer. We recently received direct support from the State of New York Department of Health to hire two full time medical researchers, both trained clinicians, who will be dedicated to bringing the nascent therapies to clinical trial. Seize the Ribbon's support has been critical in allowing our project to get to the point where we have received state wide recognition through the Empire State Clinical Research Program. We are looking forward to continued growth as we move into pre-clinical testing."

Our family to family approach has been successful in inspiring support. Now is the time to redouble our efforts. Our research dollars provide more than hope. We have made a difference.

As the end of year holidays approach we plan to make this December's contribution to the research of Dr Phillips and Dr Konno. I hope once again, you'll join us in supporting research to fight Bladder Cancer.

We wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2020!

Thank you so very much for remembering us,

Elisabeth, Victoria, and Barbara

To make your contribution send a check to:

Seize the Ribbon
P.O. Box 104
Mendon, MA to 01756
or use
PayPal at
www.seizetheribbon.com
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