



“Providing an opportunity for multiple myeloma patients and their loved ones to come together to exchange information for mutual support, comfort, and friendship”

Meeting: **Tuesday April 15, 2014 3:30 – 5:30 PM**
451 Junction Road
UW West Clinic Room 1287
Enter the clinic... proceed left past the vending area... turn left again and conf. room 1287 is the last one on the left.

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More Information:

International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)	Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF)
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Email: TheIMF@myeloma.org	info@themmrf.org
Website: www.myeloma.org	www.multiplemyeloma.org

Upcoming Speakers...save the dates!

Sue Enright will be joining us at our May meeting. Sue is the IMF Midwest Regional Director for support groups. She works as a liaison to many support groups. More info to follow.

For the June meeting, a speaker from **SHIP (State Health Insurance Program)** will be joining us. The program is entitled “Fitting the Pieces around Medicare”. Our group member, Mary Polancih was very impressed with what she learned and asked if they could present to our group.

With minimal “arm twisting”, Darlene and Tony Nowak agreed to lead the April meeting! There is no speaker or program scheduled, so it will be an informal sharing meeting.

Dr Natalie Callandar’s recap of the March meeting.

Dr Callandar spoke of many new drugs coming for the treatment of Myeloma. One of the drugs most interesting to her was Daratumumab. Here is some information I found about this drug.

Daratumumab is a human CD38 monoclonal antibody with broad-spectrum killing activity. Daratumumab is in clinical development for multiple myeloma (MM). Daratumumab targets the CD38 molecule which is highly expressed on the surface of multiple myeloma cells. Daratumumab could also have potential in other hematological tumors on which CD38 is expressed, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, follicular lymphoma and mantle cell lymphoma.

Daratumumab has received Fast Track Designation and Breakthrough Therapy Designation from the US FDA for the treatment of patients with multiple myeloma who have received at least three prior lines of therapy including a proteasome

inhibitor (PI) and an immunomodulatory agent (IMiD) or who are double refractory to a PI and IMiD. Breakthrough Therapy Designation is a program intended to expedite the development and review of drugs to treat serious or life-threatening diseases in cases where preliminary clinical evidence shows that the drug may provide substantial improvements over available therapy. Daratumumab has also received Orphan Drug Designation from the US FDA and the EMA for the treatment of multiple myeloma. In pre-clinical studies, daratumumab has been shown to effectively kill multiple myeloma cells and to enhance the potency of other multiple myeloma treatments.

Dr Callandar mentioned that the Trillium group (Wisconsin Institute of Medical Research) is planning a presentation soon. I will make sure to forward any information to all of you as I receive it.

Oral Chemo bill SB 300 was signed into law and witnessed by our own group member, Mary Polancih. Thank you Mary for all you have done to move this bill to completion. Mary was pictured with Governor Scott Walker after the signing and learned more about his close personal experience with oral cancer drugs.

The bill requires health plans regulated by the state that provide coverage for IV and oral anticancer treatments to charge patients no more than \$100 out-of-pocket for a 30-day supply of orally administered anticancer treatment. The IMF and many others advocated for equal coverage between IV and oral anticancer medications in Wisconsin and believes that a \$100 maximum will allow many more cancer patients in Wisconsin to have affordable access to treatment.



1,000 Cranes of Hope Campaign ended March 31st

There were 62 wishes made during this campaign. Not all of them were ours but we did contribute and make possible a nice donation to the IMF. **Thank you Amy Modean for helping us make that happen!**

IMF Hotline – If you or someone you care for has myeloma, you have questions. Probably, lots of them. You can search the Internet all you want, but other than asking your doctor, there is no better way to get your questions answered than to call the IMF Hotline. Nancy, Missy, Judy and Paul know their stuff and they want to share what they know with you. Just ask anyone who has called the IMF Hotline. Patients or caregivers are welcome to contact the hotline staffed by trained specialists at 800-452-CURE (800-452-2873). The hotline is staffed between 9am and 4pm Pacific time, 11am to 6pm Central time.

The Trillium Fund was established by our founding support group members to facilitate Multiple Myeloma research here in Madison at the Wisconsin Institute of Medical Research. If you or your family wish to donate or send a memorial to this program, checks can be made payable to the “UW Foundation – Trillium Fund”.

Send to: Maureen Dembski, Director of Development

UW Carbone Cancer Center

University of Wisconsin Foundation

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