

Spring 2006
Impact

www.dana-farber.org and www.jimmyfund.org

Thanking those who make a difference.



GlaxoSmithKline honors, extends a renowned scientist's work

In much the same way that the late Stanley J. Korsmeyer, MD, inspired his Dana-Farber colleagues and the entire cancer community—first through his research accomplishments, then through his own courageous battle with lung cancer—GlaxoSmithKline, Inc., has given DFCI \$100,000 to support the new Stanley J. Korsmeyer Professorship in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Institute.

This professorship honors an individual who has demonstrated

exemplary capability in academic achievement

throughout his or her career. The

incumbent will engage in basic cancer research at DFCI. Korsmeyer remained active in his laboratory until his death in March 2005. He was the direc-



tor of DFCI's Molecular Oncology Department, and his work illuminated an entirely new way of perceiving the habits of cancer cells.

In 1985, he helped revolutionize the study of apoptosis, or programmed cell death, by identifying a gene that contributes to the unnatural survival of cancerous cells. This discovery sent shockwaves throughout the cancer research community, solidifying Korsmeyer's legacy and enriching his field with a new avenue of basic and clinical research to pursue.

Through its gift, GlaxoSmithKline is honoring Korsmeyer's life's work. "Stan was one of the world's leading scientists in oncology," said Tachi Yamada, MD, chairman of Research and Development at GlaxoSmithKline. "This professorship will help to perpetuate his inquiring spirit and dedication to patients in need." ■

Fall 2006

Impact

www.dana-farber.org and www.jimmyfund.org

Thanking those who make a difference.



Novartis gift helps establish Korsmeyer Professorship

The late Stanley J. Korsmeyer, MD, former director of DFCI's Molecular Oncology Program and chair of the Executive Committee on Research, was a scientific trailblazer whose study of apoptosis, or programmed cell death, made him one of the architects of a major paradigm shift in cancer research. Upon his untimely death from lung cancer in 2005 at age 54, Institute President Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, asked friends and colleagues to help create a permanent legacy for Korsmeyer by establishing a professorship at Harvard Medical School and the Institute in his honor. Novartis has heeded this call with a gift of \$100,000 to establish this endowed chair in his memory. To date, more than \$1 million has been raised for the professorship toward its \$3.3 million goal.



NOVARTIS
INSTITUTES FOR
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

"Stan Korsmeyer lightened his environment locally while he enlightened clinical science globally," said Mark Fishman, MD, president of the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research. "Our memories of him motivate us all to explore cancer more fervently and translate research to cures more aggressively. Novartis and Dana-Farber work in partnership toward this goal, in a mode of open inquiry so beloved by

Stan. Patients will benefit from his discoveries and his inspiration."

The first incumbent of the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Professorship at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute will honor an individual whose focus is basic cancer research and who has demonstrated exemplary academic achievement throughout his or her career. ■

Spring 2007

Impact

www.dana-farber.org and www.jimmyfund.org

Thanking those who make a difference.



Herzsteins' generosity honors scientist's legacy

With their recent gift of \$1 million to Dana-Farber, Barbara and Sigmund Herzstein are continuing the groundbreaking work of a man they never met. Their generosity will help establish the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Professorship at Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber, a \$3.3 million endeavor to honor the late DFCI scientist whose research changed the cancer landscape. This gift not only brings this professorship substantially closer to fruition, it also provides momentum for *Mission Possible: The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer*.

The Herzsteins have been personally connected to the Institute since Sigmund Herzstein began treatment to combat lung cancer, and the couple sought a way to offer their support for its cancer-fighting mission. When their neighbor and friend David G. Nathan, MD, president emeritus of Dana-Farber, spoke about the work of his former colleague and the professorship being created in his memory, the Herzsteins were inspired to support this mission.

"I was impressed that David, who has long experience with first-class scientists, was so impressed with Stan Korsmeyer," said Sigmund Herzstein. "By David's account, Korsmeyer was more than a fine scientist. He was also a motivating leader. By helping to fund this professorship, we hope that Dana-Farber can attract someone with these same qualities."

Carrying the torch

The Korsmeyer Professorship is an appointment that will provide its incumbent physician-scientist with the financial support to engage in the kind of basic cancer research that translates into better understanding of the disease and more effective therapeutics. The Korsmeyer Professor, to be selected at a later date, will follow a trail blazed by one of the world's greatest scientific minds.

The late director of Molecular Oncology at DFCI and the Sidney Farber Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, Korsmeyer was renowned for his research into apoptosis, or programmed cell death, revealing a gene that contributes to the unnatural survival of cancerous cells. Today, a number of effective, cancer-fighting therapies for patients are rooted in Korsmeyer's work, and more than 40 companies are currently exploring new cancer treatments based on his research.

After his death from lung cancer in March 2005, Korsmeyer's friends and colleagues united to raise the funds for the professorship. Now, the generosity of donors like the Herzsteins is propelling his legacy.

"Stan was one of our greatest scientists," said Institute President Edward J. Benz Jr., MD. "He was nominated for a Nobel Prize in 2005, and, with adequate time, I believe that he surely would have received that distinguished honor. People like the Herzsteins are ensuring that his memory lives on, and that his important work will lead to the dream he wanted for us all—an end to cancer." ■



Barbara and Sigmund Herzstein are advancing basic cancer research with their \$1 million gift to help establish the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Professorship at Dana-Farber and Harvard Medical School.

FALL 2007

Impact

dana-farber.org and jimmyfund.org

THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

 DANA-FARBER
CANCER INSTITUTE

 The
Jimmy Fund®

Volume 10 • Issue 4

Swensrud furthers legacy of Stanley J. Korsmeyer, MD

Since 1984, Stephen Swensrud has served as a Dana-Farber trustee, maintaining a deep commitment to the Institute and its fight against cancer. In 2006, he was diagnosed with lung cancer, and, thanks to early detection and successful treatment at DFCI, he is now a survivor.

During his recuperation, Swensrud's close friend, Dana-Farber President Emeritus David G. Nathan, MD, told him the story of DFCI's Stanley J. Korsmeyer, MD, who had passed away in March 2005 from lung cancer. Inspired by Korsmeyer's life and work, Swensrud recently gave \$500,000 to support the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Professorship at Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber, a \$3.3 million endeavor to honor the late physician-scientist. Swensrud's generosity not only brings this professorship closer to fruition, but also provides momentum for *Mission Possible: The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer*.

"David Nathan noticed my interest and gave me some materials that detailed Stan's activities as a researcher," Swensrud explained. "They were impressive indeed, and when I mentioned Stan's name to others in the profession, they universally pointed to his research as being among the most important to have come along at any time. Even beyond his scientific brilliance, he had truly led an exemplary life."

FUELING LEADERSHIP AND DISCOVERY

The Korsmeyer Professorship is an appointment that will provide its incumbent physician-scientist with the financial support to engage in the kind of basic cancer research that translates into a better understanding of the disease and more effective therapeutics.

Korsmeyer served as the director of Molecular Oncology at DFCI and the Sidney Farber Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School. He was renowned for his research into apoptosis, or cell death. His initial discoveries showed that tumors are caused and maintained not just by overproduction of abnormal cells, but also by a failure of cells to die a "programmed" death, and he discovered a gene that contributes to the survival of cancerous cells.



Inspired by the life and work of the late Stanley J. Korsmeyer, MD (pictured), Institute Trustee Stephen Swensrud gave \$500,000 to benefit the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Professorship at Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber.

These findings formed a new avenue of basic and clinical research, from which many effective cancer treatments have been developed.

Korsmeyer's friends and colleagues united to raise funds for the professorship, and \$2.9 million of the necessary \$3.3 million has been received to date in gifts and pledges.

"Stan was one of our greatest scientists," said Institute President Edward J. Benz Jr., MD. "This professorship, through the generosity of Steve Swensrud and others, ensures that his memory lives on and that his important work will lead to the dream he wanted for us all—an end to cancer."

Swensrud's gift reflects his admiration for both Korsmeyer and Dana-Farber, and his active role in the future of cancer research. "I am proud to be part of Dana-Farber, proud to have given it my time, lucky to be served by it in return," said Swensrud, a member of the Institute's Aesclepien Society. "If in some small way I can express my feelings through sponsoring a professorship in the name of one of the Institute's truly extraordinary contributors, I am more than happy to do so." ■