

## Life Raft Group 2010 Annual Report

*This year was about celebration for the LRG, which we showcased as our Life Fest symbol — the famous DNA double helix bursting like fireworks in the night sky.*



## Contents

<p><b>A note about the cover:</b> For Life Fest 2010, the LRG wanted to focus not on the negatives of cancer, but highlight all the good things that have come into the lives of GIST survivors since diagnosis. Members were asked to use these moments to create a “Tree of Life,” and tell the world just what this time has meant to them. We used these Trees as place cards at our GIST 2010 Gala so that all in attendance could share in the life of a GISTer. Long-time member, Paula Vettel, agreed to let us use her Tree on our cover as a message of hope to survivors everywhere.</p>	<p><b>2 Patient Education &amp; Support</b> Life Fest Outreach</p> <p><b>4 Research</b> The LRG Research Team The LRG Patient Registry</p> <p><b>7 Advocacy</b> Alianza GIST Struggling for better treatment</p> <p><b>10 Board of Directors</b> Meet our new board member, David Safford</p> <p><b>11 Donors</b></p>
---	---

---

*Throughout this report you will notice photos labeled “A Year in Pictures.” These photos have been pulled directly from the LRG Newsletter to illustrate the important moments we covered in 2010.*

## The Life Raft Group



Dear Friends,

Looking back, it's clear that 2010 was a year of milestones — milestones grounded in the hope of defeating this disease and heralded by the ten year anniversary of GIST treatment. As we look at our achievements this year, we need to consider them milestones of hope — important steps in bringing us to that ultimate step of curing GIST. And this year we had reason to celebrate. Eleven years ago, GIST was a concept known only to a handful of researchers, but everything changed in 2000. GIST was identified and groundbreaking treatment that saved thousands of lives was introduced. In the last ten years, the GIST community has been on a roller coaster ride of new treatments, experts, innovative research, conferences and seminars — an explosion of information that has not yet subsided. Life Fest 2010, held in Jersey City, New Jersey, celebrated this last decade with award ceremonies highlighting those from the GIST patient, medical, scientific and pharmaceutical communities who have contributed not only to the understanding and treatment of GIST, but also whose accomplishments have made a difference to the survival of GIST patients.

Perhaps it's appropriate that ten years later, we mark an important next step in defeating this disease — the initiation of “Project D-Day” — driven by a team-focused, four-pronged strategy to cure GIST. Launched in July as part of our Pathway to a Cure initiative, Project D-Day is focused on gene sequencing & screening, the examination of thousands of drug compounds and strict validation studies. Like that extraordinary day in 1944, which marked the beginning of the end of World War II, our attack on GIST treatment resistance has reached an historic opportunity for success and we truly believe it is our best hope for a cure.

On the global front, we formally launched our Alianza GIST initiative with a meeting in Monterrey, Mexico that brought together representatives from ten different Latin American countries. This alliance is an effort focused on regional support and advocacy. Our goal is to improve the knowledge of patients & physicians, increase access to adequate treatment and to support collaboration within the patient and physician communities.

Certainly we didn't accomplish everything we set out to do — like establishing plasma and mutational testing as routine measures in GIST management — but we aren't giving up and we hope to mark them as achievements in 2011. We have accomplished a lot — all of us — and that drives us to accomplish more. The Life Raft Group wants 2011 to be a better year than 2010 — we want a year marked by many more milestones in the hope of curing GIST. That will take all of us — but given the great support already of the GIST community to the Life Raft Group — there will be much more to celebrate. Thank you for your considerable support to cure GIST and let's make 2011 the best year of milestones yet.

Sincerely,

Norman J. Scherzer  
Executive Director

Jerry Cudzil  
President of the Board

**Life Fest 2010**

On June 25, the Life Raft Group kicked off its fourth biennial Life Fest — an event that occurs only once every two years and brings together patients, loved ones, doctors and representatives from the pharmaceutical industry in a setting that fosters learning and encourages the kind of camaraderie that you can only find amongst people who have been in your shoes.

Life Fest has always been a celebration of survival and hope. We recognize the enormous courage of every patient and family member who has battled and continues to battle GIST.

What made this Life Fest special was the Friday night gala event commemorating ten years of GIST treatment. Doctors, researchers, patient advocates and other key figures in the GIST community were inducted into the newly-formed GIST Hall of Fame. Moreover, Life Fest 2010 offered an opportunity to honor the entire GIST community — patients, friends and family members, GIST medical professionals, researchers and scientists — in a unique opportunity to come together to remember the past and to forge a path forward to find a cure.

The weekend continued with awards for Humanitarian of the Decade, Clinician of the Year and Volunteer of the Year, a star-filled dinner cruise on the Hudson, and numerous presentations and workshops, on topics like complimentary medicine, plasma testing, coping and survival strategies.

**GIST Hall of Fame Inaugural Inductees**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Dr. J. Aidan Carney             | <i>Dr. Charles Blanke</i>                |
| Dr. Christopher Corless         | <i>Dr. Heikki Joensuu</i>                |
| Dr. George Demetri              | Dr. Michael Heinrich                     |
| Dr. Brian Druker                | Dr. Seiichi Hirota                       |
| Dr. Jonathan Fletcher           | Mr. Jeffrey Kindler & Pfizer             |
| Mr. Gilles Frydman & ACOR       | The National Institutes of Health Clinic |
| The GIST Patient:               | For Sutent:                              |
| <i>Patient Advocacy Groups</i>  | <i>Dr. Zuleima Aguilar</i>               |
| For Gleevec:                    | <i>Ms. Elizabeth Barrett</i>             |
| <i>Dr. Elisabeth Buchdunger</i> | <i>Mr. Carlo Bello</i>                   |
| <i>Dr. Renaud Capdeville</i>    | <i>Dr. James Christensen</i>             |
| <i>Dr. Laurie Letvak</i>        | <i>Dr. Darrel Cohen</i>                  |
| <i>Dr. Nicholas Lydon</i>       | <i>Mr. Stephen Evans-Freke</i>           |
| <i>Dr. Alex Matter</i>          | <i>Dr. Joseph Schlessinger</i>           |
| <i>Dr. Jürg Zimmermann</i>      | Dr. Axel Ullrich                         |
| The Gleevec Trial Doctors:      | Dr. Daniel Vasella & Novartis            |
| <i>Dr. George Demetri</i>       | Dr. James Watson                         |
| <i>Dr. Margaret von Mehren</i>  |  |

**Humanitarian of the Decade**

Dr. George Demetri & Dr. Dan Vasella

**Clinician of the Year**

Dr. Jonathan Trent

**Volunteer of the Year**

Vicky Ossio

A Year in Pictures

June 2010 issue



With immense pride, the LRG was able to honor **10-year GIST survivors** at Life Fest 2010. Pictured from left to right: (Standing) Chris Carley, Theresa Hausbeck, Elsie Hernandez, Estelle Lecointe, Jerry Call (on behalf of wife, Stephanie Call), Jas Kiran Kaur, David Epstein from Novartis, Paula Vettel, Alice Sulkowski, Anita Scherzer, LRG Executive Director, Norman Scherzer, Norma Siegel, Dan Cunningham; (Seated) Dr. Joel William Sherr, John Poss, Garnette Draper, Tom Overley.

## Invitation to Life Fest 2010



## Outreach

Outreach can be defined as a systematic attempt to provide services beyond conventional limits. Nowhere is this more needed than in the global community where patient concerns vary greatly, not only by country but also by region.

The LRG greatly strengthened its outreach efforts by facilitating and supporting the formation of several new international GIST groups and helping existing groups expand their influence.

In Iran, where access issues are at the forefront of patient concerns, the LRG is assisting in the formation of a group to target these very problems.

Additionally, representatives from Colombia reached out beyond their borders by presenting at GIST Tour (Global Interdisciplinary Specialists Training around the World) an international gathering of medical professionals sponsored by Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

In some countries, formal organizations have not yet been created but the patient need is still great. The LRG continues to meet their needs by establishing patient liaisons within the country or region. This year we were able to tap patients in South Africa, Samoa, Nicaragua and Finland as liaisons and will continue to add much-needed support in 2011.

## December 2010 issue



**Kim Trout**, a member of the Life Raft Group and Pennsylvania Local Group Coordinator, got married on May 8, 2010 surrounded by her beloved family and friends. “Don’t

let GIST stop you from doing what’s important in your life,” says Kim, who despite the hurdles she faces with GIST, lives a life that is overflowing with joy.



## Cruisin’ at Life Fest

Saturday night at Life Fest 2010 was the favorite part of the down time for all the people who attended. After a day of learning, absorbing as much information as possible at the many classes that were offered, many of the group gathered together for a dinner cruise on the Hudson. We were treated to the indoor pavilion where we could gaze out at the glittering lights of the skyline of New York and Jersey City. The weather was perfect for our cruise as the rain held off seemingly just for us. We were greeted at the top of the plank by the cruise boat captain and welcomed inside for what turned out to be a wonderful evening of entertainment, food and revelries. Before long we were dancing in our seats to the beat of the ’80s hits and not long after it just spilled out onto the dance floor. About the time dessert was being served we were informed by the crew that we should hurry outside to the upper decks to enjoy a fireworks display like no other.

There’s nothing like watching fireworks over the water, with the double joy of seeing the night sky lit up in multicolored patriotism and the same reflection on the water. Soon after the fireworks we began to circle the Statue of Liberty. Having the opportunity to see her that close is a memory I will not soon forget. We were enjoying a full moon on the 26th and that added an amazing ambiance as well as a spectral beauty to our cruise. There’s something about a full moon and a dance floor that just gets a party rocking, cheek to cheek or hip to hip we danced that boat right back to the dock. It’s a memory that so many will cherish for years to come. I know I will.

— Janeen Ryan, LRG Member

## The LRG Research Team

In 2006, the Life Raft Group initiated a strategic research plan — Pathway to a Cure — that emphasized cooperation, coordination and accountability and brought together 10 of the finest GIST researchers in the world. Its focus was on identifying projects with the greatest chance of successful outcomes.

For the first four years, Pathway to a Cure laid the groundwork in the search for a cure for GIST and made progress on a broad number of fronts. This progress, reported at a three day event in Monterrey, Mexico, includes the creation of a comprehensive blueprint for understanding the mechanisms of treatment resistance, developing mechanisms to test new drugs in the laboratory, the creation of a comprehensive GIST tissue bank housed at Stan-



Jeroen Pit and his wife, Emelie

ford University which allows researchers to access and test this rare tissue and simultaneously access the clinical histories of the patients, and the critical investigation into understanding why a small number of GIST cells may

survive an otherwise successful drug treatment. Our team has authored over 150 research publications.

In 2010, a Dutch GIST patient named Jeroen Pit, confronting his own struggle to overcome

treatment resistance, was investigating the best way to donate to GIST research and perhaps help save his own life. After consulting several leading GIST researchers, the patient decided that the Life Raft Group Research Team gave him the best chance for finding a cure. He raised 2 million dollars and challenged us to accelerate our efforts to keep him and other GIST

*(continued on page 6)*

## D-DAY EXPEDITES GIST RESEARCH:

### The Story of One Dutch GISTer

BY ERIN KRISTOFF  
LRG NEWSLETTER EDITOR

“Why are we so passive?” Jeroen Pit asks, “If everyone sits still, not much is going to happen.”

A successful Dutch businessman, Jeroen has never been a passive man. When he was diagnosed with GIST in May 2006, he made his GIST decisions much like he would make business decisions — methodically and with clear purpose.

In June, Jeroen had surgery in Holland to remove a primary GIST tumor. When his GIST metastasized to the liver, he and his wife, Emelie, made the decision to travel to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. He began 400 mg of Gleevec and eventually, in late 2007, underwent another surgery on his remaining liver metastases.

Unfortunately, in late 2009, progression forced Jeroen to discontinue Gleevec and he was placed on Sutent. Initial scans showed a positive response.

After numerous surgeries,

## October 2010 issue

In a short amount of time, Dutch GISTer, **Jeroen Pit** was able to raise an astonishing \$2M to support the LRG’s Research Team with the help of trusted family and friends pictured here.



procedures and drug changes, Jeroen asked himself what was next on his list? It was time to fundraise.

"We wanted to be able to say to ourselves, 'At least we did everything we could. At least we don't blame ourselves.'"

Jeroen got on the internet and started his investigation into the GIST research landscape.

"I wanted to know if my fundraising efforts would make a difference. What are the amounts researchers are working with and who are the key researchers in the field?" said Pit.

Once satisfied that he could indeed make a difference, Jeroen got in touch with Dr. Maria Debiec-Rychter of the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium, who told him about the LRG Research Team.

In November 2009, Jeroen & Emilie met with LRG Executive Director, Norman Scherzer to discuss research and fundraising opportunities.

"Norman is inspiring," Jeroen recalls, "I went home and thought, 'We can make a difference and this research team is the right choice.'"

"Other [research] alternatives were good," he adds, "But the impact of your dollar is better at the LRG."

This impact stems from a number of areas in which the LRG research team differs from traditional cancer research. The LRG eliminates the overhead costs institutions usually take, which can range from 50 to 75 percent of the donation. In addition, the LRG research team stresses collaboration and sharing amongst its researchers, who are required to meet in person, as well as submit routine progress reports.

While Jeroen worked on a way to enhance GIST research, his GIST tumors had an entirely different plan. Jeroen was beginning to fail Sutent.

Over the next few months, Jeroen would undergo radiation, RFA and embolization treatments to control his metastases. In March, his doctors at MSK decided to start him on Nexavar.

With another hurdle overcome, Jeroen began to think about a fundraising plan again.

"In April, my CT scan showed that Nexavar was working, so we decided to go for it."

Choosing a quality over quantity approach, Jeroen asked a small group of people to donate larger amounts than he normally might. His plan worked.

Within a matter of weeks, Jeroen had raised over 1.7 million euros for GIST research, roughly two million dollars.

"[That approach] was easier for me because of my network of colleagues."

But Jeroen wasn't satisfied with handing a check over without assurances that there was a firm plan in mind for his hard work.

Using the combined ingenuity of the LRG research team, a new plan was formed: Project D-Day.

Taking the knowledge, understanding and achievements the researchers have acquired in the last four years, the team would launch a four-pronged strategic attack on GIST treatment resistance.

The four distinct project areas are sequencing, gene knockdown, drug screening and validation. Each of these complex areas would have a unique team leader to ensure maximum coordination, communication and assess progress at all times.

"The sequencing and knockdown project areas will enable researchers to understand what is going on in GIST tumors," says Pit.

Ever mindful of his personal struggles with GIST, Jeroen made sure drug screening would be a part of the research plan. This research, which involves testing GIST cells against thousands of drugs and compounds, is



**This frog means a great deal to Jeroen. After his first surgery, he got a pet frog as a gift from a friend, and after his second surgery, a bigger frog. Later, Jeroen donated a small silver frog to each member of the LRG team in appreciation of the patients they are trying to save.**

specifically targeted at those patients who have failed first-line treatment.

"Every patient thinks to themselves, what if Gleevec doesn't work anymore?"

Why are we so passive? With Project D-Day underway, Jeroen is proud of what he and his family have accomplished. But he still wonders why this type of effort is not more common in the GIST community.

Because GIST is such a rare disease, funding by government and most

pharmaceutical companies is very difficult. This makes GIST research largely dependent on private donations.

"If GIST cases in the US range from 5,000 to 10,000 diagnosed a year, and 10,000 people donated just ten dollars a month, we would have 1.2 million dollars a year for GIST research."

Jeroen encourages others to follow his lead and spearhead their own fundraising efforts by reaching out to friends and colleagues.

"You can only create when you do things together."

While Jeroen's situation may seem different, the principles are still the same. "Put it on paper," he says, "By writing, you further develop your proposition."

Using information from LRG researchers about past achievements and future plans, Jeroen created and circulated a brochure addressing why donating is important and the impact of private donations.

As for Jeroen, he has recently taken up the mantle of spreading awareness of GIST treatments in the Netherlands (probably the next item on his To Do list).

But with Project D-Day finally a reality, he can't help looking forward just a little, "I really think they are going to find something that will help us all."

*This is an excerpt from an article that appeared in the LRG Newsletter, October 2010 issue.*

(continued from page 4)  
 patients resistant to Gleevec and Sutent (the only two FDA approved drugs for this cancer) alive. We added one million dollars and the result is the aptly named D-Day Project. Like that extraordinary day in 1944, when the Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, our attack on GIST treatment resistance has reached an historic opportunity for success.

Launched in July, Project D-Day focuses on four areas:

- (1) **sequencing** the GIST genome;
  - (2) **gene knockdown** studies or screens that will examine pathways essential for GIST cell survival;
  - (3) **drug screening** of GIST cells against large libraries of drug compounds, including drugs in late stage development and approved drugs; and
  - (4) **validation** studies where discoveries in previous research will be repeated for confirmation
- This targeted approach has already made significant advances and we are confident that there will be much more achievements to report in 2011.

**Life Raft Group registry: An observational registry of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST) patients**  
 J. Calif, P. David Josephy, J. Eickhoff, R. Pazmino, M. Sarnas, N. Scherzer  
 The Life Raft Group

**Abstract**  
 The Life Raft Group (LRG) registry contains information provided by its members since July 2009. An objective is primarily to use the internet to make available data that may occur. Age at diagnosis by gender patients may be higher. The registry includes 1100 GIST patients, 528 females and 572 males. Median overall survival was 20.9 months. All patients had a KIT mutation. 81% (515) had a PDGFRA mutation. 19% (121) were wildtype and 1.5% (93) had EGFR mutations. The age at diagnosis distribution was different between males and females with a higher rate of females to males diagnosed prior to age 35 (2.52 to 1, a hazard ratio between ages 35 to 70 of 0.81 to 1 to indicate the same rate in older patients, 70 and older (1.06 to 1). Overall, the rate of females to males was 0.84 to 1. The median overall survival for all patients was 14.5 years for females and 18.9 years for males. A multivariate Cox proportional hazard model was used to evaluate the association between gender and overall survival. Age was included as a variable. For age at diagnosis, the hazard ratio was 1.025 (P = 0.015) for females. The hazard ratio was 0.842 (P = 0.021). In this observational registry, significant differences were noted between females and males. The rate of females to males varied with age at diagnosis (gender ratio) and a significant impact on overall survival was noted.

**Background**  
 The survival of GIST patients changed significantly with the introduction of effective chemotherapy treatment with imatinib in 2001. The LRG PDGFRA mutation analysis is approved for both diagnosis and treatment response. GIST mutation analysis is available in 4-5 years. This 2 year period is not yet available for patients who are not on imatinib. GIST has been described as a solid tumor, characterized by KIT and PDGFRA mutations and a potential for metastasis. The epidemiology of GIST is not well understood and a potential cause of GIST is not clear. The age at diagnosis of GIST appears to be different between males and females. The rate of females to males varied with age at diagnosis (gender ratio) and a significant impact on overall survival was noted.

**Results**  
 Overall Survival - All patients  
 Overall Survival <math>\geq 35</math>  
 Overall Survival <math>\leq 34</math>  
 Age at diagnosis  
 Mutation testing by Age at Diagnosis Category

**Summary**  
 We report an overall survival for GIST patients in the imatinib era. This report combines all patients including those not taking imatinib after primary surgery, those taking adjuvant imatinib after primary surgery and those with metastatic disease. In this large series of GIST patients, the median overall survival was 11 years and the 5 year overall survival was 77%. Females diagnosed after age 35 had significantly longer overall survival than males. This data suggests that the upper age at diagnosis limit for pediatric-type GIST is typically about 35 years of age, although a few cases are diagnosed after the age of 35. This data supports other reports of very long survival for pediatric-type GIST in spite of limited efficacy of current therapies. The higher ratio of females in the pediatric-type GIST population increases the median overall survival times for females in the entire population.

**References**

## The LRG Patient Registry

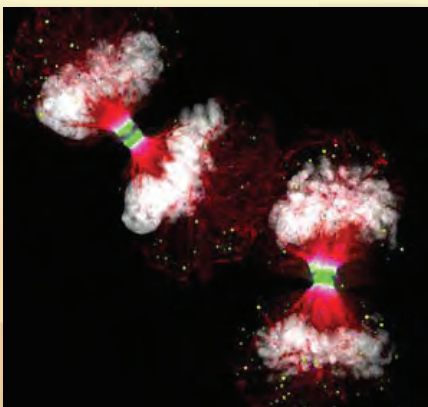
In 2009, the LRG strengthened its Patient Registry, creating a much more sophisticated and comprehensive system for entering, tracking and disseminating the medical data of nearly 1,300 patients.

In 2010, this system provided us the means to publish our findings on a poster at the prestigious American Association for Cancer Research conference in April. Titled "Life Raft Group

registry: An observational registry of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST) patients", the study focused on the overall survival for GIST patients in the imatinib era.

The LRG plans to continue utilizing the vital information in our patient registry not just for reporting to the scientific community, but also to keep GIST patients up-to-date on the trends in treatment, evaluation and other criteria we are discovering.

June 2010 issue



Two human cancer cells seen just before they divide into four cells, viewed at 100x magnification.

Quote from Life Fest 2010



"In Dallas [at Life Fest 2006], we [the LRG Research Team] were asked by Norman to get up on the platform in front of this incredible group and say we were going to cure GIST and I was concerned with saying this because we can't cure it...but, I am delighted to say and in a clean conscience, four years later, that our understanding of GIST has grown such in the last four years that now we can stand up on this stage and say with determination and conviction that we are going to cure GIST."

—Jonathan Fletcher, LRG Research Team Leader



## Alianza GIST



Our three day meeting in Monterrey, Mexico, brought together some of the best GIST researchers in the world. But a large part of that event focused on a coalition of patient representatives from all over Latin America, who met for the first time to outline their mission and commitment to promoting the survival of GIST patients in Latin America.

The Coalition, which would eventually become known as Alianza GIST, gathered in a room lined with flags representing ten countries across Latin America and the United States. The circle of flags symbolized the unity among the patient community and its

belief that change can only be achieved through solidarity.

Important alliances were achieved, including one with the

Tecnológico de Monterrey, an institution committed to the development of the first center for cancer research in Mexico, and another with The Max Foundation and the Life Raft Group, organizations dedicated to improving the lives and survival rates of patients with rare cancers worldwide.

These alliances provided a number of resources to help Alianza GIST identify and reach GIST patients and disseminate information and education into Latin America. Rodrigo Salas, the Mexican representative of the Coalition, summed up the purpose of the meeting and resulting alliances as “an extraordinary historic event paired with expertise from our partnership organi-

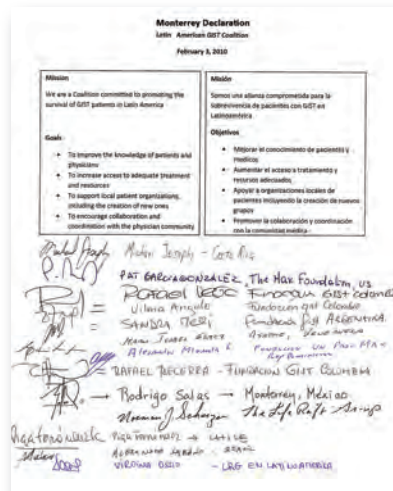
zations to strengthen our efforts at promoting survival of GIST patients.” The meeting reached its climax when the Coalition proudly announced their plan to promote survival of GIST

patients, which they called the Monterrey Declaration, focused on four key principles:

- To improve the knowledge of patients and physicians.
- To increase patient access to adequate treatment and resources.
- To support local patient support organizations, including the creation of new ones.

• To encourage collaboration and coordination with the physician community.

Alianza GIST is a partnership of patient advocates from 10 Latin American countries. The following Coalition members were present at the Monterrey meeting: Sandra Mesri of Argentina, *(continued on page 8)*



Norman Scherzer (center), pictured with Rafael Becerra and Rafael Vega of GIST Colombia in Monterrey

## April 2010 issue

Representatives from ten Latin American countries gathered in Monterrey, Mexico to discuss regional patient issues and how best to combat them.



# Hope

(continued from page 7)

Vicky Ossio of Bolivia, Dr. Alexandre Sakano of Brazil, Piga Fernandez Kaempffer of Chile, Dr. Rafael Vega of Colombia, Rafael Becerra of Colombia, Michael Josephy of Costa Rica, Alejandro Miranda of the Dominican Republic, Rodrigo Salas of Mexico, Maria Isabel Gomez de Soriano of Venezuela, Norman Scherzer of the Life Raft Group and Pat Garcia-Gonzalez of The Max Foundation.

## Struggling for Better Treatment

### Mutational Testing

In 2010, the LRG continued its strong support of mutational testing, urging clinicians to make mutational testing a routine part of GIST treatment and to use this knowledge to their advantage in choosing a clinical trial for Gleevec resistant GIST patients.

In the not too distant future, we may have newer KIT inhibitors that overcome most types of GIST resistance. But for the present, it is becoming increasingly clear that GIST can be divided into four main types based on



**Researcher Maria Debiec-Rychter presenting at the research meeting in Monterrey, Mexico.**

mutational status: KIT exon 11, KIT exon 9, PDGFRA D842V and wild-type GIST. In addition, there is another group comprising the “rare” mutations (KIT exons 13 & 17, etc). The different types have different initial responses to Gleevec and resistance occurs via somewhat different mechanisms. GIST patients and doctors can use this not only for clinical trials but, in some cases, to consider off-label treatment options.

The GIST clinical trial era began in earnest in 2000 with the first Gleevec trials. For almost ten years now, almost all GIST trials have been inclusive trials allowing most or all of the various sub-types of GIST. Today, some clinical

trials have broad inclusion criteria designed to “cast a wide patient net.” While this approach has the potential to find unexpected benefit, it also has a downside, especially in registration trials. The downside is that the trial may not show enough overall benefit to be considered successful.

Conversely, a trial can be designed with more rigid criteria in an attempt to “enrich” the patient population. The goal would be to enroll only patients that are predicted to respond.

### Plasma Testing

In 2009, we made the case that... “At this time, plasma level testing may be the biggest potential opportunity to significantly improve GIST patient survival in the near future. The question remains: Will plasma testing go the way of mutational testing, with only a lucky few being offered the test?”

In 2009, plasma testing gained ground and acceptance as a possible treatment tool culminating in the launch of a Novartis oncology program, GIST Alliance, which encouraged patients to learn about plasma (blood level) testing and financially supported this testing.

On April 21, 2010, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning letter to Novartis criticizing its promotion of blood level testing on its CML and GIST Alliance websites which led to the eventual termination of these programs and its financial support of these tests.

Since the FDA’s warning and the subsequent cancelation, the Life Raft Group has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to try and resume this critical testing procedure. At the close of 2010, we were happy to report that plasma testing would be renewed in 2011 and we will remain committed to promoting this practice in the GIST medical and research communities.

February 2010 issue

● A Year in Pictures



**Josalin Dunn**, the little girl who stole hearts at Life Fest 2006, is now 12 years old and celebrated her five-year cancer anniversary in 2010.

## FIGHT OR FLIGHT:

# A Chance Encounter in the Sky Compels One GISTer to Do Her Part

BY PIGA FERNANDEZ

My journey as a cancer fighter began fourteen years ago during a routine gynecological checkup in December 1995, when a tumor was detected.

After a large resection, a round of radiation therapy followed. Four years later, in 1999, I had a local recurrence that was again resected and due to complications, a temporal colostomy was required, followed by brachytherapy treatment.

Until that time, I trusted my attending physician, but the following year (2000), when a new cancer recurrence surfaced, he failed to give it any significance, which led me to seek a second opinion as I lost faith in him. Maybe he thought the battle was lost, something that I could not let enter my mind.

The oncologist I consulted later approached my case with commitment and empathy. He asked for a few days to study my medical chart and requested more specific tests, which confirmed how far off base my previous physician had been. The new diagnosis was “local recurrence with hepatic metastasis.” This again required surgery to resect the tumor and a permanent colostomy. A month later, I underwent a hepatectomy to resect three metastatic nodules.

In 2002, two more nodules were detected in the liver, but this time a resection was impossible due to location. Again, my oncologist took his time and consulted with other specialists in the United States. He then discussed with me what he felt was my only chance; pending test results, a new drug treatment was being used in CML which could help me. Waiting for the results of the tests was extremely difficult. I was facing the temporality of life, although filled with great hope and faith, I saw before me a light, a chance

to keep on living.

The results were as expected; it was GIST and reacted to this new drug whose name was unknown to us at the time. The race to learn more about what a GIST was began in earnest and to try to get a hold of this new miracle drug.

We learned about The Max Foundation and the Novartis Glivec International Patient Assistance Program (GIPAP) program and I applied immediately. I started my treatment with Glivec, followed by periodic checkups every three months in Guatemala.

The power and magic of the solidarity around me does not cease to amaze me! I remember having received the gift of airplane tickets to travel to my checkups from good people that I didn't even know, and I remember with immense gratitude the support of my family and friends who looked after my children while I was away.

Once again and every day, I give thanks to the Lord for the gift of life, for the generosity of Novartis, for the effective and close way The Max Foundation monitors my treatment, for the solidarity of my friends near and far, and for the strength shown by my children and their support throughout this journey, as they are the main reason behind my drive to fight this battle. Thanks to all of them, I have been able to look at the future with new and hopeful eyes.

Today, I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Life Raft Group for their invitation to participate in their Alianza GIST initiative. At this point, I want to share with you something that happened during my return trip home after participating in the Alianza GIST planning meeting in Monterrey, Mexico.

A Uruguayan lady who lives in New York sat beside me on the plane, and just after we had exchanged but a few words, one of those magical moments when two souls connect occurred. She began telling me part of her personal story.

Her husband had passed away two years prior after a battle with cancer. When she was describing to me the de-



Piga (center) with Dr. Alexander Sakano (left) and Vicky Ossio (right) at the first meeting of Alianza GIST.

velopment of his illness, it was as if she was narrating my own story... an initial diagnosis, surgeries, radiations, metastasis and, in his case, also chemotherapy. The similarities were uncanny, the big difference was that her husband was dead and I was alive.

So many questions filled my mind! Was he diagnosed properly and given appropriate treatment? Did he have access to enough information to decide whether or not to trust his diagnosis? Could it have been a misdiagnosed GIST? And if so, had it been identified and treated properly, as in my case, could he still be alive?

Of course, we will never know the answer to all those questions, but after the Monterrey meeting I felt compelled to return to my country to try to do my bit in the fight against this disease. This conversation further cemented my decision and confirmed the need to provide physicians with all the information possible related to this cancer so they can draw upon such information when making a diagnosis.

It also confirmed the need to arm GIST patients with all the wealth of information available so they may better understand what is happening inside their bodies. I need to support them so they never feel alone in this fight for their lives, and in some way, give to others the same gifts I have received during my journey.

*This is an excerpt from an article that appeared in the LRG Newsletter, February 2011 issue.*

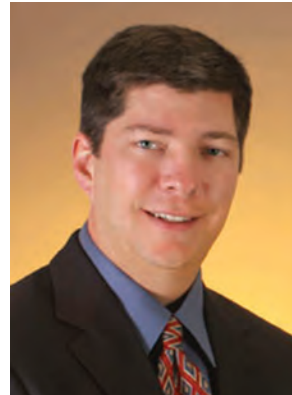
The LRG would like to extend deep thanks to its generous and committed Board of Directors. Each year our Directors strive to push themselves further in support of GIST patients and in 2010, the Board raised a combined \$175,000 to support GIST research and patient support, education and advocacy.

- Robert Book**
- Stan Bunn**
- Mia Byrne**
- Chris Carley**
- Jerry Cudzil, President**
- Jim Hughes**
- Jerry Knapp**
- Ray Montague**
- John Poss**
- Marietta Robinson**
- David Safford**
- Rodrigo Salas**
- Lawrence Selkovits**
- Silvia Steinhilber**

Also this year, the LRG Board welcomed a new director, **David Safford** to its ranks.

David became a member of the GIST family on January 21, 2010. After receiving an initial diagnosis that gave little room for hope due to the extensive nature of his metastatic cancer, pathology reports later confirmed kit+ GIST and a new mission was formed. David is inspired by the stories of GIST patients and is dedicated to helping not only control the positive outcome of his own disease but in those of the new GIST friends he has made, by participating in the efforts of the Life Raft Group.

David Safford is the Chief Business Development Executive for Insight e-Tools, a growing high tech services

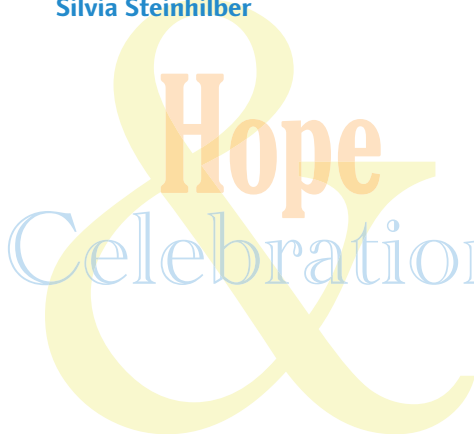


**David Safford**

provider with business clients large and small, all across the USA. David's professional sales management career has included positions in both Fortune 500 and small business environments for specialty product distribution, business services and high tech data solutions. Areas of expertise include strate-

gic corporate partnerships, innovative problem solving, group dynamics, neuro-marketing, keynote addresses and other public speaking engagements. David is also a member of Vistage Key Executive Group in Seattle.

He has been married to his wife, Cherry for over 18 years and has three wonderful daughters, Natalie, Kiana and Alani.



December 2010 issue



In August 2010, LRG Board Member, Marietta Robinson's husband, **Jim Robinson** (on right), passed away from GIST. Jim was a dedicated and outspoken public servant, who frequently wrote and spoke on criminal justice issues. He was Dean and

a Professor of Law at Wayne State Law School, served as the President of the State Bar of Michigan and in 1998 he was appointed by President Clinton to be Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He touched the lives of so many and is truly missed.

April 2010 issue



**Kate Poss**, daughter of LRG Board of Director and GISTer, John Poss not only managed to run the Austin Marathon in February 2010, she also managed to raise a

tremendous \$7,000 while she did it! And when Kate finished that last mile, John was waiting for her with a big smile.

# Celebration



Long-time LRG member, Ruijia Mu, gives each month to our patient support efforts, even after the passing of his father, Xiangjie (left), in March 2008.

## \$100,000 & Above

BST Consultants  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals  
Pfizer Inc.

## \$20,000 – \$99,999

Carlos & Liana Baldor  
Helen Frey  
Rodrigo Salas

## \$10,000 – \$19,999

Jerry Cudzil  
Jim Hughes  
Arbor Foundation Inc  
Jerry Knapp  
Marietta Robinson  
RTI  
Lawrence Selkovits

## \$5,000 – \$9,999

Michael DiMaio  
Genentech  
Martha Smart  
Pat Brady & David Smith  
Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp

## \$1,000 – \$4,999

Nasser Ahmad  
ASCO  
Brian Behrens  
David Bell  
Ettore Bianchi  
Bob Book  
Kathryn Byrne  
Mia & Mike Byrne  
KS Carberry  
Celtic Therapeutics  
Fred Chamanara  
Benji Cheung  
Perry DeVitto  
DiMaio Ahmad Capital LLC  
Dublin's Pub

Robert & Jeanie Eller  
Daniel Erlichman  
Thomas & Jane Green  
Pierre Grellet-Aumont  
Carolina & Dan Heflin

Jan Hofstetter  
Michael Hofstetter  
Steven Hollender  
Douglas Horst  
Arrow Steel Inc  
Paul Karpowich

Joe Kippels  
John R. Kirk  
Joy & Douglas Knopp  
Louise W. Korder  
Jack R. LaDue  
Robert Lynn

David Malvern  
Valerie Matthews  
John Matway  
Patrick Moore  
Salvatore Muzio  
Network for Good

Roberta Offen  
Stephen Oplinger  
Melinda & John Poss  
Andrew Roberts  
Jonathan Rosee

Steve Rosenberg  
Norman & Anita Scherzer  
Jacky Lewkovich Schiestel  
Carlos Sorrentino  
Nicole Sparks

Silvia Steinhilber  
Stanford University  
Systems Plumbing LLC  
Jean & John Talken  
Andrew Tarica

Brian Tilyou  
Gail & Frank Tondo  
Angelo Vasiento  
Cali Wojdyla  
John Young

Kim & Chris Zimmer

## \$500 – \$999

Alison Anderson  
Paul Andiorino  
Scott Ascherman  
Ryan Atkinson  
John Atorino

Richard Azevedo  
Glen P. & Elizabeth J. Banks  
Joe & Melissa Barbey  
David Bayles  
Ian Behar  
Randy Beil

Wayne Bellet  
Eric Bischoff  
Marisa & Richard Bolognese  
Joe Bonavita  
Joseph Brachfeld

Ann Amer Brennan  
Timothy Brennan  
Pam Broadus  
Bruce E. Brockstein  
Kelly Buckley

Chris Carley  
Bryan Carroll  
Thomas Carroll  
Lyon Carter III  
Jiayi Chen  
Nick Chiara

Jae Choi  
David & Maxine Clark  
Cohn & Wolfe  
Michael Cudzil  
Cuyahoga Cnty Land

Revitalization Corp  
Doris Dallow  
Doug Davies  
Deciphera Pharmaceutical  
John Denning

Joseph DiMaria  
Vicki Dotson  
Michael Fargione  
Alexis Feliciano  
Timothy Fischer

Michael Ginsberg  
Gary Glasser  
Gary Godshaw  
Andrew Goldman  
Mark Green  
Glen Gregorio  
Robert Grillo  
Sharon & Jim Guizzetti  
Todd Hirsch  
Michael Hommeyer  
Matt Howard  
Paul Huchro  
Vince Irwin  
Jennifer James  
R. Jesse  
Sachin Jhangiani  
Timothy Joyce  
Levent Kahraman  
Richard & Sue Kinzig  
Matt Knopman  
Mark Landis  
Marc Lavine  
Lai Oy Louie  
Steven Luskey  
James McAuliffe  
Mark McCarthy  
Michael McKean

Michael Meyer  
Middlegate Insurance  
Frank Moretti  
Matthew Morris  
Vincent Murray  
Norma Nadeau  
Allen Oppici  
Parente/Risner Family Fund  
Donald Perlman  
Thomas Perneti  
Floyd Pothoven  
Project Flag  
James Pryor  
Qualcomm Matching Gift Program  
John W. Rafal  
Vivek Raman  
Andrew Rich  
Darren Richman  
Ricky Romano  
Ellen Rosenthal  
Armin Rothauser  
Tom Saxton  
John Scarrone  
Linda B. Schroeder  
Dudley Scott  
Ross Shapiro

## February 2010 issue



Not only did **Carolina Ponce-Williams** celebrate her four-year cancer anniversary in 2010, she was blessed with the one thing she always wanted—a child. “I am so thankful to be able to celebrate my four year NED anniversary this year, especially because I am still a wife, a teacher, a daughter, a friend and now I am also a MOM!!!”

# HOPE Celebration

Mali Sinai  
Derek Smith  
Robert Spellman  
Rajeev Srivastava  
Alice B. Sulkowski  
Thomas Tarantino  
Jordon Thompson  
Timothy V. Turpin  
Richard Vandermass  
Bohn Vergari  
Marc Wasserman  
Ira Weidhorn  
Duane Williams  
Hans Wyss

**\$100 – \$499**

Sunil Aggarwal  
Rizwan Akhter  
David Alexander  
AMA Laboratories  
Steven Ammann  
Erick Ammons  
Karen S Ammons  
Catherine Avila  
Harold K Baldwin  
Sandra L. Banks  
Harold & Gloria Baston  
Lisa & Andy Batchelor  
Richard Bellofatto  
Betty Benjamin  
Wayne Bennett  
Brian Berg  
Kris Berg  
Patricia M. Berg  
Louis & Joan Berge  
Ken Berger  
Isadore Bergner  
John Bertrand  
Margaret O. Beyers  
Storrs & Suzanne Bigelow  
Kerry Birch  
John Birdsall  
Ben & Susan Bishop  
Kathleen A. Bishop  
Terry & Susan Bishop  
James & Patricia Blake  
Dena Blood  
Barbara Bodinson  
Patricia Bonda-Swenson  
Henry H. Borland  
Leigh Borland  
Pat Borland  
Albert Boyle

Alice Boyle  
Paul Bradshaw  
Dr. David Brandis  
Susan Brandt  
Brian Brauth  
Susan Brazier  
Linda & Kenneth Brecko  
James Breitman  
Brian Brennan  
Michelle Brophy  
Timothy Brown  
Barbara & Wayne Bruce  
Alexandra Buchanan  
William Buchanan  
Stan Bunn  
Lynn B. Burrows  
Ann G. Byrne  
Tom Byrne  
Ashley Candy  
Nick Caradonna  
Tom Castelnuovo  
Kevin Cavolo  
Karl Cerny  
Ilya Chalyt  
Robert Chernow  
Mark R. & Bette Christofersen  
Sharon Clarke  
Vincent Coccia  
Kenneth Cook  
Deedee Corradini  
Anna Costato  
Myrna Cramer  
Crew of Motor Yacht Bayou  
Maureen Culhane  
Dan & Mickey Cunningham  
Pam & John Curtis  
Patricia Dahl  
Daniel & Monica Dean  
Peter Deering  
Carl & Mary Del Balzo  
Dell Direct Giving Campaign  
Michael Deluca  
Neal Desai  
Dr. Tanya DeSanto  
Jerome Diamond  
Karl Heinz Didshun  
Ann & Sam DiMisa  
Robert K. Dobbs  
Mary Dowski  
William Chip Douglas  
Jennifer Dunn  
Julius M. Dziak

Judy & Robert Earl  
Patricia Ehresmann  
Laura Eldred  
Gail A. Ellis  
Russel & Bonnie Emerson  
Tessie & Arthur Epstein  
Joshua Feiler  
Steven Feinberg  
Rita & Mario Ferraro  
Christopher Flammia  
Lisa & Peter Fleming  
Glenn & Beth Franz  
Ralph & Joyce Fredericks  
Effie French  
Liz & Jeff Friedman  
Shawn Gallagher  
Joseph Gallo  
Pat Garcia-Gonzalez  
Dan Gardella  
Elizabeth Gardner  
Matthew Gardner  
Jaime Garland  
Marion "Pat" George  
Saju Georgekutty  
Anita Getler  
Kristen L. Getler  
Christine & David Ginsburg  
Robert & Sandra Glassman  
William Goebelbecker  
Sachin Goel  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Goldberger  
Gerald Alan Goldman  
Jay Goldsamt  
Eli Goldschmiedt  
Maria Isabel Gomez  
Felicia Graziano  
Adam Norton Green  
Avi Greenberg  
Gesche Haas  
Hajduk Family  
Joseph & Allyson Hall  
Patricia Hampel  
Robert & Sue Hare  
Basil Harrison  
Evelyn Harrison  
Marcia Harrison  
Margaret Lynn Hartman  
C. Douglas Hartsell  
Theresa & Edward Hausbeck  
Arthur Hawkins  
Paul Hill  
Janet Hines  
David Hinton  
Stanley Hladik  
Ed & Terri Housbeck  
Angela & Daniel Howell  
AW Landscapes Inc  
Independent Fiduciary Services Inc  
United Seamen's Service Inc.  
International Longshoremens's Assoc.  
Israeli GIST Patient's Org  
Jim Jacobson  
Ann C. Johnson  
Carol Jordan  
David Josephy  
Michael Josephy



In 2010, the LRG offices went "intern"-ational when Samantha Leconte flew all the way from France to be the newest LRG intern. Here she is (left) posing in the "Raft" with her sister, Estelle, at Life Fest 2010.

James Kaletta  
Geneva Kanter  
Bracha Kaplan  
Sherman Kaplan  
Jim & Dot Kase  
Russell & Cindy Kaye  
David Kern  
Su Young Kim  
Marlin Kirshenbaum  
Sam Kirshenbaum  
Mark Klizas  
Alexis Knopp  
Stephen J. Korn  
Chuck & Peggy Korte  
Jeff Korte  
Marc Kosaka  
Erin K. Kristoff  
Phillip Kukucka  
Cathryn K. Kwart  
Cayetano Lacroze  
Malcolm Lane  
Joseph Lanzisera  
Estelle Leconte  
Christopher Leech  
Jeanine & Michael Lemker  
Jonell & Isadore Lenglet  
David Levene  
Cameron Lewis  
Michael Lightle  
Abbe Lindebaum  
Clare Lindquist  
John Lofaso  
Joshua Lonsk  
Albert Lotz  
Timothy P. Lowney  
Adrienne Lucier  
Kevin Lynyak  
M.M. & P. Mates Program  
Edward Mackiewicz  
Lucille Madsen  
Michael Mahoney  
Chet Malhorta  
Timothy & Gail Mansfield  
Donald & Gwen Marcus  
Mary Culhane & William Marre  
William L. Marre  
Friends of Mike Matthews  
Richard W. May  
Tricia A. McAleer  
Peter McAree

Brian McBride  
Sam McCandless  
Terry McCarty  
Ellen McDonald  
Rhonda McGhee  
Stephanie Meltzer  
Terrill Meyer  
Glenn & Linda Miller  
Jeff & Robyn Miller  
Martha E. Miller  
Stephanie A. Miller  
James Mills  
Robert C. Minion  
Alejandro Miranda  
Mina Mitby  
Angelo Monello  
Ray Montague  
Ruijia Mu  
Sean Mullen  
Francis Mulvey  
Seishin Murahashi  
Jessie & Lita Naldo  
Michael Neal  
Richard Nechtow  
Brian & Amy Newman  
Marie Niemann  
Sumito Nishitate  
Dr. Geoffrey Oddie  
James Oliver  
Christina Osborn  
Joyce O'Shea  
Vicky Ossio  
Thomas Overly  
Terrasa & Stair P.A.  
Slevin & Hart P.C.  
Anne Pacifico  
John Pagan  
Elizabeth Reamer Palmer  
Umesh Patel  
Abbas Patni  
Jim & Beth Patti  
Tina Paulsen  
Susan & Christian Pedersen  
Christopher Perneti  
Armando & Susie Petruccelli  
Randi Pezzuto  
Permit Popp  
David Portnoy  
Kate Poss  
Purcells Cove Social Club  
Amit Rametra



From left: Henji Cheung (2nd Place), Cayetano Lacroze (1st place) & Jonathan Rosee (3rd place) were this year's winners at our annual NYC Poker Tournament.

Sendhil Revuluri  
 Thomas Richetti  
 Andrew Rick  
 Amit Rihal  
 John Risner  
 Carlos Rizov  
 James & Cindy Robbins  
 Charles Roberts  
 Mike & Juli Rodriguez  
 Roger Rosenblatt  
 Arnold Rosenthal  
 Lisa Rosenthal  
 Sara R. Rothschild  
 Jane Rowan  
 Tammy Roy  
 Roger D. Ruggles  
 Ken & Jane Runyon  
 Mackenzie Russel  
 Lawrence & Janeen Ryan  
 Hassan Safdar  
 David Safford  
 Steven Saggese  
 Arun & Jayshree Sanghvi  
 Ashleigh & John Santamaria  
 James Sarvis  
 Marjorie Schecker  
 Sheldon Scher  
 Raymond & Cynthia Schiestel  
 K.M. Schlichting  
 John F. Schmelzer D.O.  
 Helga Schnorf  
 Karen A. Kelley & Joseph V. Schuder  
 David Schulte  
 Margaret F. Scott  
 Oren Shaked  
 Saul & Carolyn Shenberg  
 Richard Schoenbohm  
 Amer Siddiqui  
 Norma & Robert Siegel  
 Lawrence F. Signora  
 Howard & Lois Silberberg  
 Bob & Debbie Silverstein  
 Karam Singh  
 Diana Smith  
 Peter Smith  
 Roger S. Smith  
 Sunista Smith  
 Thomas L. Smith  
 Bruce Sneed  
 Benjamin Snouffer  
 Sobel & Company CPA  
 Ann Spar  
 Philip Steinhauer  
 John Stinson  
 Jean Stride  
 Tania Stutman  
 STV Engineers/Architects/Planners  
 Kelley Suwak  
 Thelma Swindell  
 Kim Tallau  
 Susan Tayman  
 Andrew Templar  
 David Templar  
 John & Susan Thompson  
 Linda A. Thompson  
 Pat Tikkanen

Robert Tikkanen  
 Gary Trombley  
 Ayumi Tsuno  
 Joyce & Stanley Tucker  
 Patricia Ann Tyler  
 John Venderzyden  
 Paula & Philip Vettel  
 Linda B. Volkening  
 Frank Vondrasek  
 Judith A. Wagman  
 James Wang  
 Sydney Wasserman  
 Margot Weber  
 Rebecca Wedgworth  
 Ruth Weigand  
 Susan Weigand-Smith  
 Charles Weinberger  
 Karen & Ronald Wertheimer  
 Richard Whiteman  
 Peggy & David Wicker  
 Wimal Wijenayake  
 Carolina Williams  
 Geoffrey Williams  
 Robert Wilson  
 World Wide Events  
 Joseph & Anna Zappala  
 Glenda Zick  
 Martha Zielinski  
 Joshua Zucker

**\$50 – \$99**

Cheryl Abhau  
 Janet & Marvin Adelman  
 Joel & Judith Adelman  
 Therese M. Ahlers  
 Cheryl Asato  
 James Baer  
 Cheryl Barr  
 Ronald Baynor  
 Andrew Bell  
 David & Ruth Bell  
 Carole Blood  
 Robert & Ann Bonda



The LRG would like to give big thanks to Kim Tallau of Innovative Images who donated her time and experience as a photographer in 2010, helping us keep these moments alive for many years to come.

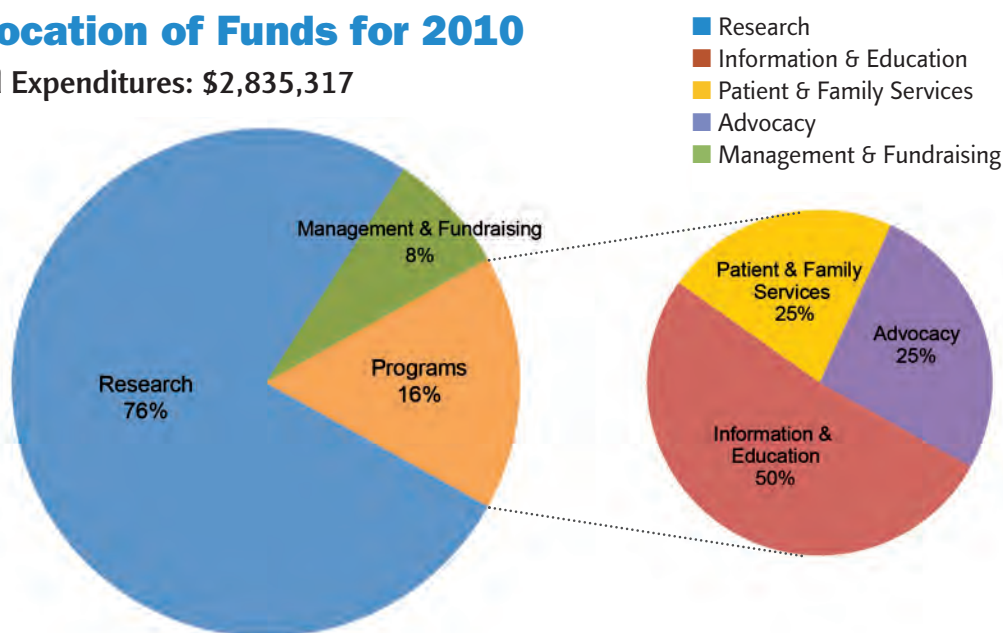
Gary & Chris Borda  
 Beverly Brooks  
 James & Joy Brossia  
 Dineen Burke  
 Troy & Janet Burns  
 Jerry & Stephanie Call  
 Kendra Cerda  
 Alice May Clark  
 Dale Claypoole  
 Ellen Colucci  
 Robert & Regina Cooley  
 Toler, Bly & Associates CPA PLLC  
 Sarah & Steve Crowder  
 Maria Cutrone  
 Megan E. Danielson  
 Howard & Arlene Danziger  
 Peter & Jane Del Vecho  
 Christina DiLullo  
 Paul W. Dunn & Family  
 Jackie Edwards

Stuart Elson  
 Eleanor Falkenstern  
 Marco Filipovic  
 Henry M. Forster  
 Daniel & Meg Foster  
 Bonnie Glenn  
 Anne Goodwin  
 Louis & Suzanne Greenwald  
 Bill & Judy Griesel  
 J. Robert & Helen Hall  
 Bonnie & Gary Halvorsen  
 Robert & Heather Hamilton  
 S.A. Hann  
 Rebekah Hardie  
 Patrick Wayne Hare  
 Elaine Hauptman  
 Elizabeth Healy  
 Craig Hobbs  
 Marc Holloway  
 Nancy C. Howie  
 Eunice Howley  
 Abraham Hussein  
 Sharon & John Iota  
 Jim Kardong  
 Marcia Keane  
 Karen Kelley  
 Gale Marie Kenny  
 Maureen Keyhani  
 Ann & Mitch Kremer  
 Claudia Lapcevic  
 Thomas W. Lynch  
 Eric Markowitz  
 Sally McCarthy  
 Robert Melillo  
 Howard & Sandra Meridy  
 Audrey Merry  
 Robert & Hedy Miller  
 James Mullen  
 Marsha G. Mullera  
 Michael & Diana Neirink  
 Colleen O'Brien  
 Jennifer Olcovich  
 Marilyn Jane Oosterhuis  
 Alejandro Ortega

Pat & Mark Ostroff  
 John Padgett  
 David Palacios  
 Dorrie Pariser  
 Partners Healthcare  
 Larry Payne  
 Bonnie Pedigo  
 Paul C. Perkus  
 Precision Payroll Service  
 Rose & Richard Pridgen  
 Ted L. Purcell  
 Otto Raggambi  
 Robert Rennak  
 P. Rocca  
 Pablo Rodriguez  
 Mary Rohr  
 Gary R. Rottmann  
 Troy & Marie Saliba  
 Magdalena Sarnas  
 Richard Schoenbohm  
 Rexford Schroyer  
 Darlene Shaw  
 J. Bert & Linda Smith  
 John Snyder  
 Lawrence C. Sparks  
 Lesley & Harvey Spencer  
 Akshay Sura  
 Thomas J. Tax DDS  
 Kendra Tobes  
 United Health Group Emp Giving  
 Joan Urban  
 JoEllen Urban  
 Frederick H. Vanderbeek Jr.  
 Pradeep Vijayakumar  
 Inna Voloshina  
 Maren & Stanley Waksmundski  
 Rebecca Warren  
 Stephen & Teri Weisenstein  
 Daniel White  
 Scott Wicker  
 Charles Wilson  
 Nancy P. Zinser

## Allocation of Funds for 2010

Total Expenditures: \$2,835,317



# The Life Raft Group

We direct research to

## find a cure

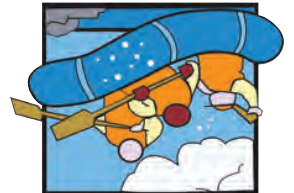
for a rare cancer and help those affected

through **support and advocacy** until we do.



*ensuring that no one has to face GIST alone*

The Life Raft Group  
155 US Highway 46, Suite 202  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
[www.liferaftgroup.org](http://www.liferaftgroup.org)



PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALBANY NY  
PERMIT #370