



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Debbie's Dream Foundation Strengthens Leadership with Esteemed Appointments to Scientific and Medical Advisory Board

Esteemed medical professionals join DDF's leadership to advance stomach cancer research and patient support

Fort Lauderdale, FL – February 14, 2025 – Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) is pleased to announce the appointment of esteemed medical professionals to key leadership positions within its Scientific and Medical Advisory Board (SMAB). These distinguished individuals bring a wealth of experience and expertise, further strengthening DDF's commitment to advancing research and support for the stomach cancer community.

DDF appointed the following SMAB officers: Dr. David H. Ilson, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, was appointed Chair; Dr. Samuel J. Klempner, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, was appointed Vice Chair; Dr. Yelena Y. Janjigian, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, was appointed Chief Scientific Officer; and Dr. Han-Kwang Yang, Seoul National University Hospital, was appointed International Chair. With over 30 esteemed members, the SMAB is crucial in guiding DDF's programs and initiatives, ensuring they are grounded in the latest scientific research and clinical best practices. Adding these new officers underscores DDF's dedication to fostering innovation and excellence in the fight against stomach cancer.

"We are honored to welcome these exceptional leaders to our Scientific and Medical Advisory Board," said Andrea P. Eidelman, Chief Executive Officer of Debbie's Dream Foundation. "Their combined expertise and unwavering dedication to advancing stomach cancer research and treatment will be invaluable as we continue our mission to find a cure and provide comprehensive support to patients and their families."

Dr. David H. Ilson, MD, PhD – Chair

Dr. Ilson has served as the Chair of the SMAB since 2016. He is a medical oncologist and attending physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, as well as a professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. His pioneering research and clinical work have been instrumental in advancing treatments for gastric and esophageal cancers.

Dr. Samuel J. Klempner, MD – Vice Chair

Dr. Klempner is a medical oncologist at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School in Boston. His focus on stomach and esophageal cancer research has led to significant advancements in the field, reflecting his dedication to improving patient outcomes.

Dr. Yelena Y. Janjigian, MD – Chief Scientific Officer

Dr. Janjigian is a leading medical oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She specializes in gastrointestinal cancers. Her research has been pivotal in developing novel therapies for stomach cancer patients, exemplifying her commitment to advancing cancer treatment.

Dr. Han-Kwang Yang, MD, PhD, FACS – International Chair

Dr. Yang is a professor in the Department of Surgery at Seoul National University Hospital. He has led significant clinical trials in gastric cancer treatment, including serving as the Korean principal investigator for the REGATTA study. His research interests encompass gastric carcinogenesis and developing patient-derived xenograft models. Dr. Yang holds prominent positions in various surgical and cancer associations and has delivered numerous invited lectures internationally.

For more information about Debbie's Dream Foundation and its Scientific and Medical Advisory Board, please visit <https://debbiesdream.org/scientific-and-medical-advisory-board/>.

About Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

DDF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about gastric cancer, advancing research funding, and providing international education and support to patients, families, and caregivers. DDF's ultimate goal is to make the cure for stomach cancer a reality.

DDF was founded in 2009 by Debbie Zelman after she was diagnosed with stage IV incurable gastric cancer in 2008 and given only weeks to live. Debbie is considered a pioneer by many for bringing awareness to the plight of stomach cancer patients worldwide, as well as to the lack of federal funding for stomach cancer research. She did all of this while receiving hundreds of rounds of chemo and daily oral treatments. Debbie passed away on December 23, 2017, at 50, almost a decade later. As a result of her leadership, DDF now has a Scientific and Medical Advisory Board of world-renowned doctors and chapters throughout the United States, and in Canada, Germany, and Japan. DDF strives to continue Debbie's mission to make her dream a reality. To learn more, visit www.DebbiesDream.org.

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