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Indiana University's Bryan Schneider Receives Conquer Cancer Foundation Award in Support of Research on New Biomarker in Breast Cancer Patients

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--Foundation funds follow-up research on one of the first genetic biomarkers to have been reported for neuropathy caused by taxanes--

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The Conquer Cancer Foundation of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) (formerly The ASCO Cancer Foundation) today announced Bryan P. Schneider, MD, as the recipient of the 2011 Advanced Clinical Research Award (ACRA) in Breast Cancer. Dr. Schneider will be recognized as the recipient of the 2011 ACRA at this year's Breast Cancer Symposium, taking place September 8-10 in San Francisco, which will include more than 300 abstracts and focus on a range of topics, from prevention and screening to treatment and survivor care.

"Dr. Schneider's research has immediate implications for patients. This research, if successful, may allow oncologists to know before recommending therapy whether the patient has a high risk for developing neuropathy from taxanes. This information would also enable patients to more objectively weigh the risk and benefits of therapy," said Lajos Pusztai, MD, Chair of the Conquer Cancer Foundation 2011 ACRA in Breast Cancer Selection Committee. "Research like that being conducted by Dr. Schneider is critical to building upon the progress we've made over the past 40 years against breast cancer."

The three-year grant, supported by The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, provides \$450,000 to further Dr. Schneider's research on the relationship between taxane-induced neuropathy (nerve damage that causes pain and numbness resulting from certain chemotherapy treatments) and clinical outcomes after adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with breast cancer. About one-third of patients who receive chemotherapy with a taxane develop neuropathy, and it can hinder a patient from receiving a full dose of chemotherapy. Dr. Schneider's research aims to provide insight into the mechanism of the neuropathy side effect, which would in turn help scientists develop treatments to prevent this toxicity altogether. Dr. Schneider is Associate Professor of Medicine at Indiana University, a physician/researcher at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center, and is also a past recipient of the Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO's 2006 Career Development Award and 2002 and 2003 Merit Awards.

ACRA recipients are selected based on their unique patient-oriented approaches to research. Additional selection criteria include the significance and originality of the project, appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed research methods, potential impact of the research, and prior research experience and accomplishments of the applicants. Learn more about the ACRA at www.conquercancerfoundation.org/ACRA.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation has given more than \$6 million in support of the Conquer Cancer Foundation's Grants Program over the last nine years, and has been a top donor to the Conquer Cancer Foundation for five consecutive years (2007-2011). Together, the two organizations have accomplished a great deal in the fight against breast cancer, and together, they continue to partner on projects of significance to the breast cancer community.

"The Breast Cancer Research Foundation is proud to support the next generation of breast cancer researchers through the Conquer Cancer Foundation's Grants Program, and is especially pleased to have inaugurated the Advanced Clinical Research Award in 2004," said Margaret (Peg) Mastrianni, Deputy Director.

In 2011, an estimated 230,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to occur in women in the United States, and another 2,140 cases are expected in U.S. men. An additional 57,650 cases of in situ (non-invasive) breast cancer are expected to occur in U.S. women as well, totaling more than 290,000 new cases.¹ Thanks to the work of dedicated researchers like Dr. Schneider, significant progress is being made in breast cancer. In the past four decades, breast cancer screening, treatment and prevention has been transformed, resulting in a decrease in mortality by more than one-third since the 1980s.¹ To learn more about clinical advances and milestones in breast cancer research, visit www.cancerprogress.net/breastcancer.

About the Conquer Cancer Foundation

The Conquer Cancer Foundation is working to create a world free from the fear of cancer by funding breakthrough research, by sharing knowledge with physicians and patients worldwide, and by supporting initiatives to ensure that all people have access to high-quality cancer care. Working in close collaboration with a global network of top scientists and clinicians, as well as leading advocacy and research organizations, the Foundation draws on the passion and expertise of the more than 30,000 oncology professionals who are members of its affiliate organization, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). For more information, visit www.conquercancerfoundation.org.

About the American Society of Clinical Oncology

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world's leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 30,000 members, ASCO is committed to improving cancer care through scientific meetings, educational programs and peer-reviewed journals. For ASCO information and resources, visit www.asco.org. Patient-oriented cancer information is available at www.cancer.net.

About The Breast Cancer Research Foundation

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation® was founded in 1993 by Evelyn H. Lauder as an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to funding innovative clinical and translational research. In October 2011, BCRF will award \$36.5 million to over 185 scientists across the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia. Currently, more than 90 cents of every dollar donated is directed to breast cancer research and awareness programs. With exceptionally low administrative costs, BCRF continues to be one of the most efficient organizations in the country. BCRF has received 4-stars from Charity Navigator for nine consecutive years and an "A+" from The American Institute of Philanthropy. For more information about BCRF, visit www.bcrfcure.org.

¹Cancer Facts & Figures 2011. Atlanta, GA; American Cancer Society: 2011.

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