



PEDIATRIC BLOOD AND MARROW TRANSPLANT CONSORTIUM

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg is the fourth recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Consortium (PBMTc). Dr. Kurtzberg is being recognized for a career that exemplifies the mission of the PBMTc, *“to support research and education to improve the availability, safety, and efficacy of hematopoietic cell transplantation and other cellular therapeutics for children and adolescents.”*

Dr. Kurtzberg is the Chief Scientific Officer and Medical Director of the Robertson Clinical and Translational Cell Therapy Program, Founder of the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program, Co-Director of the Stem Cell Laboratory and Director of the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank at Duke University Medical Center. For over 30 years, she has dedicated her career to groundbreaking clinical studies and clinical care, teaching and mentoring numerous fellows and residents, and fostering basic research into pediatric bone marrow transplantation, cancer chemotherapy, immunology, and cellular therapy. She received her medical training at the New York Medical College, Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse New York, and Duke University Medical Center and joined faculty at Duke in 1983. Since then she has held several positions at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. One of the key accomplishments in Dr. Kurtzberg’s numerous list is the pioneering and continued intense investigation of the use of banked umbilical cord blood as an alternative stem cell source for unrelated marrow transplant. Her dedication to all aspects clinical and basic research of cord blood has been instrumental in making this one of the most commonly used unrelated stem cell sources in pediatric transplantation, leading to improved survival and quality in life of thousands of patients undergoing this procedure.

The PBMTc is comprised of more than 100 pediatric BMT centers in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, with affiliate members in Europe, South America and Southeast Asia. The PBMTc is the largest clinical trials group focused exclusively on blood and marrow transplants for children and adolescents. Dr. Kurtzberg will receive this well-deserved award during the 2012 Tandem BMT Meetings of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation and the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research to be held in San Diego, California.

The presentation of the award to Dr. Kurtzberg will occur during the PBMTc Spring Meeting during the BMT Tandem Meetings in San Diego, California. After receiving the award, Dr. Kurtzberg will give a lecture outlining some of her achievements as well as a challenge to BMT community regarding important areas of future research. The presentation will take place on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 7:30 pm. There is no cost to attend and dinner is provided. We invite friends, colleagues and all in the BMT community to attend and hear a thought-provoking lecture as we honor Dr. Kurtzberg.