



• CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA •

# CLL RESEARCH

## 2023 Year In Review

*CLL Global Research Foundation has provided over \$35 million in research funding (2005 – 2023).*

## Greetings!

The past year has been exceptionally productive, with our annual Alliance Meeting and the celebration of Dr. Michael Keating's incredible 53 years of clinical service. We hosted our first live CLL Town Hall since the pandemic, and plans are in motion for another event in 2024. As we look ahead to the new year, we invite you to stay with us on this exciting journey.

Our ambitions continue to grow, and we are more determined than ever to make a profound impact on the world of CLL. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our cause. Together, we can achieve even greater success in the year ahead.



*Dr. Michael Keating (right) and Dr. Bill Plunkett commemorate a lifetime of pioneering achievements in CLL treatment.*

## CLL Global Alliance Meeting



In April, the annual CLL Global Alliance Meeting brought together over 40 esteemed CLL experts at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, Texas. The event featured a diverse range of talks, covering topics such as deepening our understanding of CLL biology, unraveling resistance mechanisms to BTK and BCL2 inhibitors, and exploring the latest developments in novel therapeutics within clinical trials. A unique aspect of this year's conference was the dynamic roundtable discussion that concluded the event. Led by Dr. William Wierda, this engaging dialogue invited audience input on the most critical unmet needs in the CLL field and how to effectively address them. This interactive exchange of ideas proved highly productive, helping shape the funding priorities of CLL Global and its esteemed Scientific Advisory Board.

As the meeting concluded, a commitment was made to follow up on the research priorities identified. Next year's gathering will expand the reach of the Alliance Meeting, with a focus on involving more young investigators and content experts, ensuring a diverse and inclusive assembly of minds dedicated to advancing our understanding and treatment of CLL.



*Dr. Michael Keating and Dr. Jackie Broadway-Duren celebrate their decades of collaboration in the CLL clinic.*

In April, we had the privilege of hosting a reception to honor Dr. Keating's remarkable 53 years of clinical service, celebrating his exceptional achievements as a clinician, researcher, and treasured friend. Dr. Keating's profound influence has left an indelible mark on the medical community, benefiting patients for years to come. In the words of one profoundly grateful patient, "Dr. Keating guided me through the journey of regaining my health and cherishing life with the next generation of my family. How can you adequately thank someone for such an extraordinary gift?"

Dr. Keating's influence extends beyond his patients to the healthcare providers he nurtured over the decades. One such individual, Jackie Broadway-Duren, worked closely with Dr. Keating as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse for nearly two decades. Over this time, Dr. Keating generously shared his extensive knowledge and expertise, and together, they played a pivotal role in implementing new CLL therapeutics in the clinic.

From the introduction of chemoimmunotherapy (FCR) to the ongoing revolution in small molecule inhibitors and cellular therapies, their collaboration has positively impacted countless patients.

*"It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a whole bunch of people - families, friends, doctors and nurses - to give CLL patients the best opportunity for long-term survival. I've been very, very fortunate to have worked in the clinic with some amazing people, Jackie Broadway among them. For me, it's about paying it forward in the same way Dr. [Emil] Freireich and Kanti [Rai] did for me."* – Dr. Michael Keating

Today, Dr. Broadway-Duren continues Dr. Keating's legacy by helping train the next generation of CLL clinicians, equipping them with the insights and skills needed for effective CLL patient management. In doing so, she upholds Dr. Keating's tradition of paying it forward, ensuring his remarkable contributions endure through the work of those he has inspired.

*"Dr. Keating guided me through the journey of regaining my health and cherishing life with the next generation of my family. How can you adequately thank someone for such an extraordinary gift?"*

– A Grateful Patient





## LET'S TALK CLL

In October, CLL Global, in collaboration with The Patient Story, marked a significant milestone by hosting our first in-person town hall event since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our expert panel explored crucial topics, including the latest advancements in FDA-approved CLL therapies, updates on clinical trials, and strategies for enhancing the quality of life for CLL patients. The experts highlighted the remarkable progress in CLL care over the past decade. They emphasized the significant advancements with newer oral, small molecule inhibitor therapies, which allow patients to “take a daily pill to keep cancer at bay.” Additionally, insights from the 2023 International Workshop on CLL (iwCLL) were shared, showing that the life expectancy for an elderly CLL patient receiving upfront targeted agents is similar to age-matched individuals in the general population (Simon et al., Abstract ID 1541946).

The event also emphasized comprehensive patient care beyond CLL management. The panel stressed the importance of up-to-date vaccinations to reduce disease severity and hospitalization risks, along with the significance of recommended cancer screenings to detect potential second cancers at an early, treatable stage.

## ADVANCING OUR MISSION

The CLL Global Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has identified four critical areas of unmet need in CLL as top funding priorities for our foundation. These include immune dysfunction and restoration, refractory CLL, Richter Transformation, and survivorship. With these priorities firmly established and further refined through discussions at the Alliance Meeting, so far this year CLL Global has made a substantial investment of over \$2.2 million in our research program. Currently, we are providing funding to support 28 projects spanning across three continents, each addressing some of the most pressing challenges within CLL.

This commitment is of utmost importance, especially in light of the shift in resource allocation by federal, state, and private funding agencies in the United States and around the world, which is increasingly directed towards diseases with more severe outcomes and higher mortality rates.

The impact of this investment is already becoming evident. It is reflected in the growing number of abstracts presented by researchers funded by CLL Global at international conferences throughout the year. Furthermore, it can be seen in the rising number of high-impact journal articles published and cited, underlining the foundation's dedication to advancing the understanding and treatment of CLL.

**LET'S TALK CLL!**

**PATIENTS & DOCTORS DISCUSS  
THE LATEST- LIVE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**

10am-2:30pm







DR. WILLIAM WIERDA  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
MD ANDERSON CANCER  
CENTER

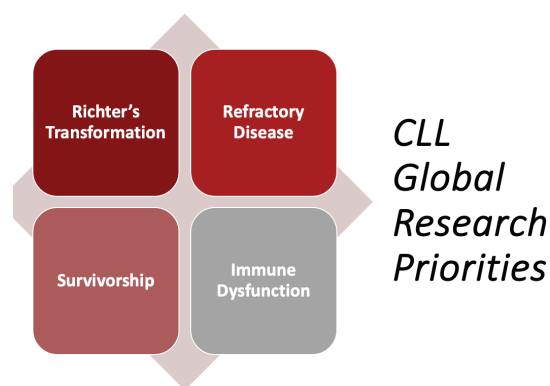
DR. NICOLE LAMANNA  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER  
CENTER

DR. ADAM KITTAI  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER  
CENTER

DR. JACKIE BROADWAY-DUREN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
MD ANDERSON CANCER  
CENTER

JEFF FOLLODER  
PATIENT ADVOCATE &  
MODERATOR

The event concluded with a focus on addressing the mental and emotional aspects of living with a CLL diagnosis. The experts advocated for a balanced diet, regular physical activity, social connections, and open communication with healthcare providers to manage stress and anxiety, all contributing to an improved quality of life. We were pleased to welcome over 375 virtual and in-person participants and look forward to our next CLL town hall in 2024. If you missed this year's event, a recording is available on our website at [www.clglobal.org](http://www.clglobal.org).



H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

2024



## Happy New Year!

As we approach the conclusion of this year, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on our collective achievements. The remarkable progress in treating CLL has not only extended the quality of life for patients around the world but has also brought us closer than ever to the real possibility of curing this disease. It's a realistic goal that drives our determination to continue advocating for cutting-edge research and advancing the CLL narrative.

These extraordinary milestones wouldn't have been possible without the ongoing collaboration between patients and the dedicated research community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our journey and made our current achievements a reality. Together, we work with unwavering commitment to ensure that the best is yet to come.

"Never a holiday morning, never an old year ends, but someone thinks of someone—old days, old times, old friends (Anonymous)." This sentiment reminds us of the enduring connections that fuel our shared mission. Thank you for being an essential part of our CLL Global family and for helping us make a difference in the lives of those affected by CLL.

**The mission of CLL Global Research Foundation (CLL Global) is to abolish CLL as a threat to the life and health of patients by accelerating CLL research. Find out more about us by visiting our website at [www.clglobal.org](http://www.clglobal.org).**



• CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA •

*Please consider making a donation today and helping us turn our passion for finding a cure for CLL into a reality for patients around the world. To donate online, visit our website at [clglobal.org/donate](http://clglobal.org/donate). Donations may also be mailed to CLL Global Research Foundation, c/o Dr. Michael Keating, P.O. Box 301402, Unit 428, Houston, Texas 77230.*

*CLL Global Research Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and all monetary donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent as allowed by law. Tax Identification Number: 88-0517430*