



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Fourth Annual 'Living with Myeloma' Conference Will Unite Patients, Families, Medical Experts

Glendale AZ, March 3, 2010 – The Arizona Myeloma Network is currently accepting registrations for its Fourth Annual "Living with Myeloma" Conference taking place on Saturday, March 27, 2010, in Scottsdale, Arizona. The conference is free of charge and welcomes patients, family members, caregivers, physicians, researchers, and other healthcare providers with an interest in myeloma - a blood cancer affecting more than 25,000 newly-diagnosed patients annually. Along with a free continental breakfast and hot lunch, the conference also provides 4.5 continuing medical education (CME) credits for healthcare professionals.

This year's conference is being held at the Scottsdale Conference Center and Resort, 7700 E. McCormick Pkwy, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., with onsite registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. Registration for the free event is also ongoing on the Arizona Myeloma Network website, <http://www.azmyelomanetwork.org>.

The regional conference has attracted several high-profile researchers and specialists in the myeloma field, including Dr. Robert Kyle, M.D., of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Dr. Kyle is Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board and on the Board of Directors of the International Myeloma Foundation, and sits on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Blood Reviews*, *Clinical Lymphoma & Myeloma*, and *Leukemia*. Dr. Bodour Salhia, Ph.D., a myeloma researcher with TGen of Phoenix and other myeloma research and treatment facilities, will also speak at the conference, along with more faculty members and researchers.

In addition to presenting the latest information and cutting edge research, the meeting will provide a gathering spot for patients and others affected by a diagnosis of myeloma, where they can share experiences and resources in a caring and supportive setting.

"Our conference hopes to attract patients and families who often don't know anyone else with myeloma and who may feel alone and overwhelmed. That's how we felt when my husband was first diagnosed, and he has been living with myeloma now for 19 years." said Barbara Kavanagh, Founder and President of the Arizona Myeloma Network. "We also want to bring together researchers and doctors from different hospitals and medical practices who rarely have an opportunity to meet professionals outside of their own workplace or laboratory."

Alan R., a Prescott, Arizona, resident who has attended all three previous Arizona Myeloma Network conferences said, "I am a myeloma patient and have come to AzMN's conferences for the past three years. It may sound odd, but I look forward to coming. I learn so much and I also meet such nice people. It's like a reunion! We are all glad to see each other and know that we are alive and doing well."

Space is limited for the Living with Myeloma Conference and those interested in attending are urged to register quickly. "I believe this will be our best conference yet," notes Kavanagh. "It will be a day full of information and encouragement. Participants will not be disappointed."

For additional information please contact AZMN's Founder and President Barbara Kavanagh, MSW, at (623) 388-6837, azmyelomanetwork@cox.net, or visit the AZMN website at <http://www.azmyelomanetwork.org>.

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About Arizona Myeloma Network:

AzMN was founded in June 2004 by Barbara B. Kavanagh with the mission of promoting awareness, education, and advocacy for the improved treatment for and quality of life of multiple myeloma patients, their families, and caregivers. AzMN membership is comprised of patients, families, health care providers, medical researchers, volunteers, and others concerned about myeloma. AzMN is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that conducts outreach events and free educational programs, with special consideration for the underserved African-American, Asian-Pacific, Hispanic American and Native American populations.

Our Vision

- ▶ *To continue to build a network of support and resources for myeloma patients, their families and caregivers*
- ▶ *To increase knowledge about cancer research through community cancer awareness programs and seminars*
- ▶ *To encourage stronger cancer patient advocacy through training and education*
- ▶ *To provide culturally appropriate cancer information and outreach to the underserved*
- ▶ *To develop a collaboration of cancer patients, science, business and the community to support cancer research, and improve cancer treatment for all*

About Barbara Baroff Kavanagh:

Arizona Myeloma Network's founder and president, Barbara Baroff Kavanagh, started AzMN as a grassroots cancer advocacy and community organization located in Glendale with the purpose of supporting cancer patients like her own husband, so they won't be fighting their disease alone. Since then, Kavanagh has founded the Tissue Donation Awareness Program (TDAP)™ and the Ft. Defiance Cancer Awareness Program for the Navajo Nation. She is currently in the process of developing a unique Cancer Caregivers' Education Program. Kavanagh has been awarded both the Health Care Heroes Award for Education from Phoenix Business Journal and Volunteer of the Year from the Arizona Rural Health Care Association. In 2009, she was honored with the prestigious Hon Kachina Award – Arizona's most prestigious honor for volunteerism.

Upcoming Arizona Myeloma Network Events:

Fourth Annual Living with Myeloma Conference, Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Scottsdale Resort and Conference Center. Registration available online at www.azmyelomanetwork.org

2nd Race for Hope for all Cancers, Sunday, April 18th, Westgate City Center. Registration at www.arizonarunningeventsco.com.

3rd Annual AzMN/Ft. Defiance Cancer Awareness and Advocacy Conference, Saturday, June 5th, Navajo Museum, Window Rock, AZ. Register at www.azmyelomanetwork.org.

