

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

The Newspaper of Record for the World of Beverly Hills

VOLUME: LV NUMBER 21 \$145 PER YEAR - \$3.00 PER COPY • www.bhcourier.com SINCE 1965 May 24, 2019

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER | MAY 24, 2019

Page 8

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Tower Cancer Research Foundation's Tower of Hope Gala Raises Nearly \$1.3 Million

Tower Cancer Research Foundation's (TCRF) "Tower of Hope Gala" last week at The Beverly Hilton raised nearly \$1.3 million for cancer research and patient support programs.

TCRF has the honor to help support the scientific community through our scientific grant funding," Dr. Solomon Hamburg, TCRF president told the nearly 700 in attendance. He currently serves as a UCLA faculty member, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology.

"As a practicing physician for nearly 40 years I have witnessed a technologic and scientific explosion, which has prolonged and cured many people with this terrible disease," Hamburg added.

Several of Tower's noted Career Development Grants were awarded to researchers at UCLA, Cedars-Sinai and UCSD as part of Tower's ongoing Power of Precision Campaign that seeks to accelerate the pace of cancer research in molecular genetics and to promote translation of scientific advances into new life-saving therapies.

Historically, cancer patients have usually received the same

treatment as others who have the same type and stage of cancer. "After decades of research, scientists now understand that patients' tumors have genetic changes that cause cancer to grow and spread," Hamburg said.

They have learned that the changes that occur in one person's cancer may not occur in others who have the same type of cancer. Precision medicine targets the changes in cancer cells that help them grow, divide and spread.

"One of the trials we funded looked at combining genetic changes of cancer with immunotherapy in lung cancer, and it works 30 percent of the time," said Hamburg. "We can improve genetic changes in cancer and combine immunotherapy with targeted therapy and get greater success.

"Doctors now understand that when a cancer tumor is sending a signal to the immune system to leave the tumor alone, we can send a different signal to allow the immune system to do what it does, and overcome the tumor signal."

With more exact information, doctors can screen for early signs of cancer before



At the Tower of Hope Gala, were from left: Dr. Solomon Hamburg, president, Tower Cancer Research Foundation; Gala Honorees Dick, Sally and Alexandra Lippin, Abby Levy and Dr. Philomena McAndrew; Donna Rosen, chair, Tower Cancer Research Foundation, and Linda David, executive director, Tower Cancer Research Foundation.

symptoms emerge, identify the highly individualized forms of the disease, avoid treatments that do not help and determine what treatments will, Hamburg said.

The campaign is designed to enable researchers to explore promising therapies that specifically target these changes or block their effects.

Honorees this year included Dr. Philomena McAndrew, Abby and Alan Levy, and Dick, Sally and Alexandra Lippin and The Lippin Family Trust.

• Dr. McAndrew, one of the

country's leading oncologists, is one of the founding members of Tower Hematology Oncology Medical Group.

• Abby Levy joined the Tower Board of Directors in 2004, and served as chair from 2009 to 2011. Alan Levy is chairman of Tishman International Companies, a commercial real estate management and development company headquartered in L.A.

• Dick Lippin founded the respected PR firm, The Lippin Group in 1986. In 2009, he married Sally. Alexandra Lippin

built a fashion, jewelry and special events division at The Lippin Group. She left the firm in 2016 to join Elyse Walker, where she currently heads the company's marketing, jewelry and fine arts departments.

In the last two decades, Tower has raised more than \$30 million to support a multitude of different scientific grants from one-year \$100,000 Career Development Grants to five year \$500,000 Senior Investigator Grants to \$1,000,000 Multi-disciplinary Discovery Funds.