

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

★★★★ THE BEVERLY HILLS COURIER ★★★★★

Bone Cancer Research Institute Fundraiser Sunday At Local Gallery

The Institute for Myeloma and Bone Cancer Research's Fall Art Benefit will be Sunday at the Andrew Weiss Gallery, 179 S. Beverly Dr.

Eight-year Beverly Hills resident Dr. James R. Berenson founded the L.A.-based institute six years ago after a 28-year career studying multiple myeloma, a unique cancer of plasma cells that attacks and destroys bone.

Berenson became interested in the bone-marrow cancer, that also effect kidneys and can reduce blood count, after a cousin developed the disease and died.

"It's less common than other cancers, but a lot of people are walking around with it," Berenson said. As a disease of the elderly it's being seen more in an aging population.

Funds from the benefit will

help the institute's ongoing research where it conducts pre-clinical testing of drugs. "We try to use FDA-approved drugs in novel ways, or in combination with others or in early development," Berenson said. "We want to develop new drugs and make the drugs we have better."

While his is not the only non-profit researching the disease; "it is an exciting time to be doing this," Berenson adds.

Strides have been made so that today's survival rate is 11 years. Ten years ago it was three.

Another aspect of the institute, Berenson likes is the "rapidity." With the help of the clinic next to the institute, they can do a clinical trial of a drug, quickly translate the lab work, and test the drug in patients. "It's been great to do that," Berenson said.

The clinic also has the ability to grow patient-specific tumors in mice and then try different treatments to see what works.

It is estimated that more than 1 million people are living with multiple myeloma.

Tickets for the benefit, which includes art appreciation, an auction, wine and hors d'oeuvres, are \$75 and available online at www.imbcr.org.



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Names In The News...

LeSage Marks 20 Years In City

Dr. Brian LeSage, celebrated his anniversary of two decades of dentistry in Beverly Hills and a write-up in *The New York Times* at a party hosted at his offices on Roxbury Drive.

A member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, Dr. LeSage has received appointments and awards for cosmetic dentistry and continuing education. In 2009, Dr. LeSage was honored with the Excellence in Cosmetic Dental Education Award—"Educator of the Year" by the AACD.

He is a member of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry and his work drew the attention of the *Times*. A reporter tracked LeSage to Europe, where he was lecturing at the international meeting for the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry in London.

A member of the UCLA Center for Esthetic Dentistry faculty, LeSage was asked to discuss the trend for achieving



Dr. Brian LeSage

less than perfect teeth.

On the night of his celebration, LeSage and his wife, Dr. Afsaneh

Malalakeh noted that many of the guests had been his patients since the practice opened. He is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.

Attendees included producer Robert Hitzig and wife Karen Heroes and 24 actor John Antonini and Tanya Zehenni of Beverly Hills.

More than 150-well wishers congratulated Dr. LeSage, and his two children, Ceerou, 6, and Ellika, 2 1/2.

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