

## Founder's Blog

### **PMC Leadership Award**

The MMRF has always been an organization of firsts, dating back to its roots when it was virtually the only research foundation of its kind doing *big* things for this *small* cancer. Today, with the help of world-class partners, we have built the strongest cancer community in the country.

In keeping with that tradition, on November 6<sup>th</sup>, at Harvard Medical School, on behalf of the MMRF, I am accepting one of the most meaningful awards of my career--the 2013 Leadership in Personalized Medicine Award from the [Personalized Medicine Coalition](#) (PMC). Personalized, or Precision Medicine as we call it, is the driving force behind everything we do today at the MMRF to accelerate cures for this uncommon, highly heterogeneous and incurable disease.

This prestigious recognition comes on the heels of the new [MMRF Revolution](#) we announced this past September—putting Precision Medicine into action—a trail we started blazing more than three years ago. We know through our experience over the past 15 years that Precision Medicine is putting more speed in the system and bringing more tailored therapies directly to the patient as a result of advancements like our landmark CoMMpass Study. To date we have collected tissue samples of more than 580 patients-- well on the way to our goal of following 1,000 patients from initial diagnosis through their course of treatment.

We are advancing the practice of Precision Medicine by harnessing big data, placing that medical information into the public domain, driving ideas and hypotheses to the clinic and fostering team science through our groundbreaking Gateways: the [MMRF Researcher Gateway](#) and the [MMRF CoMMunity Gateway](#).

The MMRF Researcher Gateway is the home of big data in myeloma. Drawing on our CoMMpass study, the Researcher Gateway centralizes the most complete collection of data in multiple myeloma, making it openly available to researchers globally for the first time ever.

With the MMRF CoMMunity Gateway, the power of the patient comes first. Patients worldwide can sign up for personalized treatment options, connecting them with others like themselves where they can pose questions or post information, find and create groups that address their interests or concerns, connect with experts, and Yes, best of all, Take Action! They can also utilize research and clinical studies based on the information they shared, which will help them find trials that are most suitable for them.

And it couldn't be easier to join! In less than five minutes I was signed up, along with more than 1,300 patients. And the number is growing. I've registered with the t(4;14) group, following the information specific to my type of myeloma, and am looking for trials that are right for me.

This recognition by the PMC is wonderful confirmation of our innovative approach to advancing the promise of Precision Medicine for our patients, and our goal of finding cures for myeloma in our lifetime.

I am deeply humbled to accept this award and thank the many supporters and visionaries who have enabled our success at the MMRF.