February 16, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Please join me and the Canadian Blood and Marrow Transplant Group (CBMTG) executive in congratulating Dr. Hans Messner on being awarded the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is granted to individuals who have made continuous clinical and scientific contributions to the field of blood and marrow transplantation. Dr. Messner will receive the award at the BMT Tandem Meetings in Orlando, Florida, on Friday, February 24th at 5 pm.

Dr. Messner is a Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology, University of Toronto and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Ontario. In a career spanning close to fifty years he established Canada’s first and largest bone marrow transplant program and has trained and mentored scores of Canadian and international trainees in hematopoietic cell transplantation. Many of his trainees have been recognized as substantial contributors to the field in their own rights, and many lead HCT programs in Canada, the US and internationally. Many of us have continued to benefit from his advice and mentorship years after graduating from PMH.

Dr. Messner’s scientific observations are too numerous to list, but include the first description of an in vitro assay for a human pluripotent hematopoietic progenitor cell and the first description of a plasma factor promoting growth of megakaryocytes. He has published extensively on the role of hematopoietic cell transplantation for the treatment of myeloid disorders and on management of complications of transplantation.

Dr. Messner is the founding president of the CBMTG and served on the executive for many years. Under his leadership the CBMTG developed a highly successful and internationally-recognized clinical trials network that has published results in Blood, The Lancet Oncology and other high impact journals. The CBMTG is now recognized as one of the leading multidisciplinary medical societies in Canada and continues to promote Dr. Messner’s vision by bringing all members of the BMT team together in one organization to improve the lives of bone marrow transplant recipients.

Sir Isaac Newton is often quoted as saying “if I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” When I think of the giants who have helped me in my career (and there have been many) Dr. Messner’s name always tops the list. I can’t think of a more deserving recipient for this award than him.
With warm regards,

Andrew Daly MDCM, FRCPC
President
CBMTG