## Special Event - 2009 Robert A. Kyle

#### HONORING PROF. JEAN-LUC HAROUSSEAU AND HIS WORK

#### The Award

Nearly a century ago, Dr. William Mayo set the standard for treatment of patients at Mayo Clinic with these words: "The needs of the patient are the only needs to be considered." In 2003, the IMF bestowed the first annual Lifetime Achievement Award to a physician whose work against multiple



myeloma reflects the dedication

Dr. Robert Kyle

and compassion inherent in Dr. Mayo's vow. The IMF chose to name this award for Dr. Robert Kyle, whose life and work give new meaning to Dr. Mayo's words.

In his more than 40 years at Mayo Clinic, Dr. Kyle has never wavered from his commitment to the needs of patients with myeloma. He has devoted his life's work to them. He has gained recognition the world

over as a pioneer and respected leader in the advancement of research, clinical treatment, and education about myeloma.

When Brian Novis sought to learn more about his disease, he was looking for the finest doctor available to help him. When he heard about Dr. Kyle,

Brian didn't know at the time that Dr. Kyle was considered to be the "grandfather" of myeloma treatment.

Later, when Brian Novis and Dr. Brian Durie decided to create an international foundation dedicated to helping others with myeloma, Dr. Kyle was the first person they contacted. Dr. Kyle agreed to collaborate with the two Brians, and became a founding member of the International Myeloma Foundation's Board of Directors and chairman of its Scientific Advisory Board, a position he still holds today.

Dr. Kyle is a sought-after presenter at IMF clinical conferences and workshops, and is the most frequently requested speaker at IMF Patient & Family Seminars. Through IMF programs, Dr. Kyle has made himself accessible to thousands of myeloma patients and their families around the world. His guidance and encouragement are as important to the IMF today as when the IMF first began.

When Dr. Kyle was first approached about receiving the Robert A. Kyle Lifetime Achievement Award, his response to Susie Novis was, "I'm not done yet." His humility, dedication, sense of humor, and caring and compassionate nature are among the many reasons for which the IMF named this award in his honor.



Left to right: Prof. Mario Boccadoro, Susie Novis, Prof. Jean-Luc Harousseau, Florence Harousseau, and Dr. Brian G.M. Durie

# The Seventh Annual Robert A. Kyle Lifetime Achievement Award

#### The Recipient

Prof. Jean-Luc Harousseau

Professor of Hematology and Director of the Cancer Center René Gauducheau at Nantes, France

Prof. Harousseau was born in Nantes in 1948, where he has spent almost all his personal and professional life. He joined the faculty of medicine in Nantes in 1965, and moved to Paris in 1972, where he spent four years as Interne des Hôpitaux de Paris. He was then appointed as Assistant in the Department of Hematology chaired by Prof. Jean Bernard at Hôpital St-Louis. During this period he trained in hema-



tology and his main topic was the treatment of acute leukemias.

In 1980, at the age of 32, he became the youngest professor of hematology in France. He returned to Nantes where he created the department of hematology of the University Hospital, including the Pediatric Onco-Hematology Unit and the Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit, with the help of Prof. Noël Milpied. He became Head of Department when he was only 36. At that time he was mostly involved in autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplantation, and he created the multicentric French group GOELAMS initially

focused on the treatment of acute myeloid leukemia.

Prof. Harousseau's interest in myeloma started in 1983 with the publication in *Lancet* of "High-dose melphalan in high-risk myeloma" by Drs. MacElwain and Powles. He became one of the pioneers of high-dose therapy in myeloma, and was also one of the founders of the

Intergroupe Francophone du Myélome (IFM) with Prof. Michel Attal and Prof. Thierry Facon. The IFM has conducted a number of randomized trials that have contributed significantly to the major improvements in the prognosis of myeloma in the past 20 years.

The major contribution of IFM trials was initially in the field of high-dose therapy (conventional chemotherapy



Prof. and Mrs. Harousseau

versus autologous transplantation, conditioning regimen, single versus double transplantation, tandem auto versus mini allogeneic transplantation). More recently, the IFM introduced novel agents in frontline therapy (thalidomide as maintenance, MP-thalidomide versus MP in elderly patients, bortezomib in the induction treatment). The large number of

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**



patients recruited for the IFM trials also permitted analysis of prognostic factors and of the impact of complete or very good partial response achievement.

In the early 1990s, Prof. Harousseau convinced Dr. Régis Bataille, who was already a world-renowned researcher in myeloma, to join him in Nantes and build a Center for Research on Myeloma "from bench to bedside." Their work has ranged

from laboratory research on the phenotype of the malignant plasma cell, bone disease, and mechanisms of apoptosis and resistance with Dr. Martine Amiot and Dr. Catherine Pellat; to clinical trials with Dr. Philippe Moreau; to translational research, including FISH, gene expression profile, and more recently SNP-arrays, with Hervé Avet-Loiseau.

Prof. Harousseau is the author or co-author of more than 400 peer-reviewed articles, including papers in high-impact factor journals (New England Journal of Medicine, Blood, Journal of Clinical Oncology) and of a number of book chapters. He is very



involved in the life of the French Society of Hematology, and is a member of several scientific societies. He has a passion for education and is proud of having created in Nantes one of the best French teams of coworkers in the field of hematology. In October 2008, he left the department of hematology he created and developed, and has been appointed as Director of the Cancer Center of Nantes.

#### The Ceremony

The Seventh Annual Robert A. Kyle Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony took place on May 15 in Monte Carlo, Monaco. Along with many of his col-



Dr. Brian G.M. Durie

leagues from around Europe, Prof. Harousseau was in Monte Carlo participating as faculty for the already-scheduled New Developments in Multiple Myeloma Clinical Conference. The Fairmont Hotel was the perfect venue for both the conference and the award ceremony.

A trio of classical musicians greeted Prof. Harousseau, his wife Florence, and their invited guests for a celebratory glass of champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Susie Novis and Dr. Brian Durie

gave a short welcome to the more than 150 colleagues and friends in

attendance before announcing the commencement of the special dinner in Prof. Harousseau's honor.

After dinner, Drs. Kyle and Durie spoke about the importance of Prof. Harousseau's many contributions to myeloma research and treatment. During the ceremony,



Prof. Jean-Luc Harousseau (left) being congratulated by Prof. Jesús San Miguel

Dr. Kyle asked both Prof. Heinz Ludwig and Prof. Mario Boccadoro to stand for a nice round of applause to recognize them as being previous recipients of the Robert A. Kyle Lifetime Achievement Award.

Prof. Philippe Moreau, who has worked closely with Prof. Harousseu for many years, gave a moving speech about the importance of Prof. Harousseau's contribution to the field of myeloma, his legacy as co-founder of the Intergroupe Francophone du Myélome, the French national myeloma research consortium, and his tremendous dedication to myeloma patients in France and around the world. MT



Prof. Philippe Moreau of the CHU de Nantes gave an extensive and entertaining speech about Prof. Harousseau's remarkable tenure there



Dr. Catherine Pellat and Dr. Brain G.M. Durie



Prof. Jean-Luc Harousseau

Dr. Michel Delforge and Greg Brozeit



Prof. Heinz Ludwig and Prof. Jean-Luc Harousseau



David Girard, Susie Novis and Prof. Antonio Palumbo

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