

# News Release

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## The Ryan Gibson Foundation Honors Namesake With Donation to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society



Dallas (January 26, 2010) –

The Ryan Gibson Foundation (TRGF) has presented The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) with a \$50,000 Research Grant, to help support their ongoing CML research. This co-investment between The Ryan Gibson Foundation and LLS is the first Collaborative Grant, but not the first time the two have worked together. TRGF & LLS have co-invested in at least three other research projects in the U.S. The gift was presented to LLS on behalf on the entire Foundation by Hook Harmeling, president & founder, of The Ryan Gibson Foundation.

“The Ryan Gibson Foundation is particularly excited about this Grant, as it will be out first direct funding in conjunction with LLS.” Harmeling said. “Ryan was a supporter of LLS and this grant shows our commitment to work with other similarly focused groups.”

In its early funding of CML research, LLS helped develop Gleevec, a targeted therapy that has become the frontline treatment for CML patients. Gleevec has been extremely effective in controlling the disease for most patients, particularly those in the earlier phases of blood cancer. However, Gleevec and newer drugs, like Sprycel and Tasigna, (which LLS has also invested), do not cure the disease. Research funding, like the grants made by LLS & TGRF are still urgently needed to find safe and effective treatments for CML patients. LLS-funded CML researchers are working to develop new therapies, including novel drugs and vaccines, and new methods to target the cancer stem cells from which CML can arise and relapses derive.

Sadly, Ryan did not benefit from the discovery of Gleevec. He was diagnosed in the summer of 1995, underwent a grueling bone marrow transplant and developed complications from the procedure. “We along with LLS are trying to accelerate the development of procedures and drugs that prevent people like Ryan, from enduring the traditional transplants” Harmeling said.

Tina Garcia, executive director of LLS's North Texas chapter, commented "We are thrilled to receive this gift from The Ryan Gibson Foundation. On behalf of all the patients living with CML who will benefit from this generous gift, we are extremely grateful to for the Ryan Gibson Foundation for their interest and support."

### **About The Ryan Gibson Foundation**

The Ryan Gibson Foundation (TRGF) serves to fund Leukemia & Blood Cancer Research. The initial "grass-roots" effort has blossomed into a nationwide platform and one of the leaders in basic science research.

Founded in 2001 in Dallas, Texas its National Chapters, have enabled them to fund research projects throughout the U.S. Likewise, through these same chapters, the Foundation has held events in fifteen (15) states through its College and University philanthropic initiatives. For more information, visit [www.trgf.org](http://www.trgf.org).

### **About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services.

Founded in 1949 and headquartered in White Plains, NY, LLS has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. To learn more, visit [www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org) or contact the Information Resource Center at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET. [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org).

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