

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are humbled to serve as Honorary Chairs of the Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation's Seventh Annual Wings to Cure Gala and proud of our work as members of HCRF's executive board.

We have been on the front lines in the war against cancer for more than a quarter century. Like many of you, we have been personally impacted by cancer. One of us (Scott) was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 1998 and the other (Charlene) was diagnosed with breast cancer just weeks after last year's gala. Our dear friend and fellow board member, Vonita Reescer, lost her battle to multiple myeloma earlier this year. Other friends and HCRF board members have been taken from us too soon by cancer. Considering one in two men and more than one in three women in America will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetimes, we know you (and virtually everyone) have been adversely impacted by cancer as well.

Cancer — and the death, anguish, and pain and suffering it causes — must be stopped! We are proud of the work of the Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation because nowhere on planet earth will you find people more committed to curing cancer than our fellow board members and supporters.

HCRF is not committed to curing one form of cancer, we are committed to curing cancer in all of its horrific forms. Our timeline is not someday, it is today. Our *modus operandi* is not investing in small, baby step research. We fund think big, out-of-the-box, high-impact, groundbreaking research. We are not content to fund research by competent, good, or even great scientists. We support the research of Dr. Platanias and his world-class team because we believe they represent the highest pedigree of cancer researchers, share our commitment to curing cancer, understand the urgency, and have the talent and research designs to accomplish the mission. As you will hear tonight, HCRF-funded research has been remarkably impactful.

This year's gala theme is "a Hand to Hold." It is a reminder that we must love each other, support each other, and be engaged, humanistic, caring, and compassionate with each other. Everyone battling cancer needs and deserves a hand to hold. You will feel lots of love in the room tonight.

We thank all of you — our sponsors, patrons, donors, volunteers, and supporters! It is your generosity that makes this critical research possible. You have the wisdom to invest in the research of Dr. Platanias and his team. We believe your investment will be rewarded with the greatest possible return on investment — saving the lives of many people! We are appreciative of all of our board members who set the standard. Thank you to our small and powerful staff for working hard to make the evening special.

The heart, compassion, vision, and relentless work of one amazing woman created and drives HCRF. You know we are speaking of our dear friend and HCRF founder Eleni Bousis. Wings to Cure was created with her vision, built with her hands, beats with her heart, and soars with her passion. Eleni always brushes compliments aside saying it is not her, "it is all of us." She is correct. The genesis of HCRF dates back to a discussion over lunch Eleni had with the late Jay Michael, Annasophia Loumis, Danielle Samolovich, and Dr. Nicole Liadis Boufis. Eleni suggested they create a foundation to eradicate cancer by funding out-of-the-box research. Everyone jumped on the opportunity to save those affected by cancer and several of us joined the mission over the years. This is a brief history of HCRF, but our work will not be complete until cancer itself is relegated to the ash heap of history. Each day, we think of and are driven by those taken from us by cancer and those battling cancer today.

We hope you have a wonderful evening. Tonight, you will have the unique opportunity to hold hands with angels!

Warm regards,

Charlene and Scott Seaman

