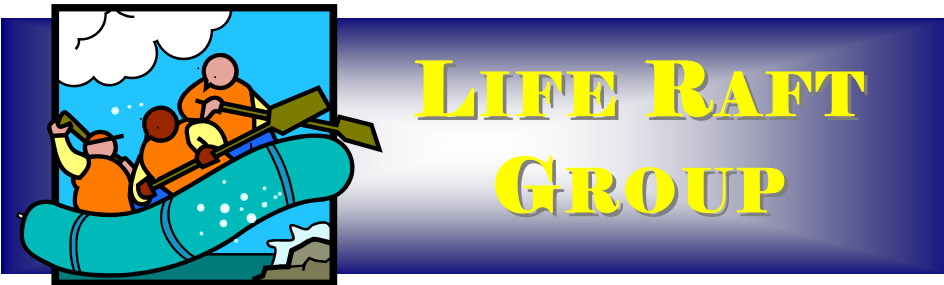


## BULLETIN

### Battling gastrointestinal stromal tumor

GISTers and caregivers met in Chicago to gather information and support at Life Fest 2008. As you can see from the pictures above, fun and friendship was had by all.



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## A Message from the Executive Director

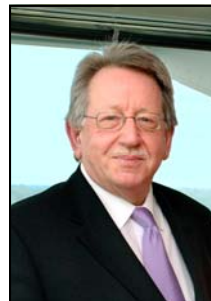
By Norman Scherzer  
LRG Executive Director

Following our most successful Life Fest Meeting ever, we are taking a one month break from our regular newsletter schedule and will be back at full capacity for the November issue. Despite never-ending rains flooding much of Chicago, prompt sandbagging of the hotel perimeter and a number of last minute speaker cancellations due to Hurricane Ike, a record number of GIST patients and family members were treated to over 15 expert presentations and to the incredible comradery created by countless hugs and support. We have begun placing presentations on our website and will have more to say in our next newsletter.

### Looking Beyond Life Fest

The Life Raft Group approach to research is unique. Our effort to find a cure for GIST is the only one that is built upon a coordinated team effort to implement a plan of action. Our newly expanded research team will be meeting in Portland Oregon on October 28. This

is truly a dream team of ten of the world's best GIST researchers from eight of the world's most prestigious institutions located on two continents. We continue to make great progress within the lab to identify and overcome the reasons for GIST treatment resistance and have begun building the translational links to develop the most likely compounds and to test the drugs most likely to benefit patients within the foundation of a clinical trial consortium that we intend to create. We continue to make two year commitments to ensure the continuity of our research efforts and to cap the administrative overhead paid by our grant awards at 10 percent, as contrasted with the usual 70 to 75 percent.



SCHERZER

Our forthcoming holiday fundraising campaign will turn to each of you for support. We hope that those reading this brief article will agree that donating to the LRG research effort provides the best hope for GIST patient survival.

### Mark your calendars!

**October 3-** Familial GIST webcast with Drs. Judy Garber and Suzanne George and Genetic Counselor, Irene Rainville of Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

**October 4-** Michigan chapter meeting. Contact Ellen Rosenthal at [ebrosenthal@comcast.net](mailto:ebrosenthal@comcast.net) for details.

**October 11-** Pennsylvania chapter meeting. Contact Kim Trout at [musikwithkim@yahoo.com](mailto:musikwithkim@yahoo.com) for more information.

**October 19-** GCRF Walk for a Cure at Rockland Lake State Park in Congers, NY.

**October 26-** GCRF Walk for a Cure -California will be held at Almaden Lake park in San Jose, California. Visit [www.gistinfo.com](http://www.gistinfo.com) for details and directions to both events.

**October 27-28-** LRG Research Team meeting in Portland, Ore.

**November 1-** 2nd Annual St. Louis GIST gathering. Contact [giststlouis@hotmail.com](mailto:giststlouis@hotmail.com) for details.

**The LRG Holiday Fundraising Campaign will begin in November. If you have any questions in advance, please email Tricia at [fmcaleer@liferaftgroup.org](mailto:fmcaleer@liferaftgroup.org).**