

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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The Life Raft Group is pleased to announce the launch of ***The GIST Cancer Journal***, the first journal specifically focused on Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST). ***The GIST Cancer Journal*** will commence publishing in the fall of 2013 and will release issues on a quarterly basis. Once launched, the Journal will also be accessible via an interactive website at www.thegistcancerjournal.com.

The Life Raft Group is working in partnership with GUPA, LLC to develop, produce, and distribute ***The GIST Cancer Journal***. The journal will be distributed to clinical oncologists, specific gastroenterologists, and other healthcare professionals directly involved in the care of GIST patients, researchers and educators. GUPA, LLC also publishes *The Kidney Cancer Journal ~ Official Journal of the Kidney Cancer Association*.

Jonathan C. Trent, MD, PhD has been appointed as the journal's Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Trent is the Co-Director of the Musculoskeletal Center, Director of the Sarcoma Medical Research Program and professor of medicine at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. He has published numerous abstracts and research articles in leading journals, as well as book chapters, and is a frequently requested lecturer. He is the chief editor of the sarcoma section of *Cancer Investigation* and on the editorial board of *The Chinese Journal of Clinical Oncology* and has served as a journal reviewer on a number of journals, including *Nature Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Cancer*, *Clinical Cancer Research*, and *Cancer Research*, and has received a number of honors for his work in cancer research. Dr. Trent earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and his MD and PhD in cancer biology from The University of Texas Health Science Center. He completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center, and a fellowship in medical oncology at The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center while serving as chief fellow. Dr. Trent is board certified in internal medicine and medical oncology.

About the Life Raft Group:

The Life Raft Group is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2002 and headquartered in Wayne, NJ that operates in over 50 countries worldwide. Its mission is to ensure the survival of patients with a rare form of cancer known as GIST (Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor) through a comprehensive approach connecting individual patients' needs, the worldwide community of GIST advocates and the global health and research environment. Its focus is in three key areas: research, patient support and education, and advocacy. The Life Raft Group funds and manages uniquely coordinated research initiatives that always keep the needs of the GIST patient foremost. It is the only GIST advocacy organization with a dedicated research initiative led by a team of world renowned scientists and clinicians in GIST.

The Life Raft Group also provides support and education to patients and caregivers living with GIST on an individual basis by providing one-on-one counseling sessions, local in-person meetings, and a biennial meeting that gathers the patient, pharmaceutical and medical professional communities together in a supportive and educational setting. It also offers education to the GIST community at large through videos and webinars, websites, a worldwide GIST specialist database, a one-of-a-kind GIST-specific clinical trials database, newsletters, and other materials.

In addition, The Life Raft Group is a very active presence in effecting change in the GIST community, engaging in advocacy that ranges from helping patients with treatment access issues on a one-on-one basis, creating regional groups in underserved areas in order to better inform and empower patients, championing patients' needs before government and policy makers to reporting on trends in dosage and survival to the world.

For more information, please see the Life Raft Group's website, <http://www.liferaftgroup.org>

About GUPA, LLC:

Genitourinary Publishing Associates (GUPA, LLC) is a New York-based communications company focused on the publication and distribution of high quality medical journals, including ***The Kidney Cancer Journal ~ The Official Journal of the Kidney Cancer Association.***

For more information about *The GIST Cancer Journal* or GUPA, LLC, please contact:

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