

The Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation Appoints Maria Figueroa, MD, as Chair,
Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research Fund Scientific Advisory Board



The Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Maria Figueroa, MD, as the Chair of the Foundation’s Myelodysplastic Syndromes Research Fund (MDSRF) Scientific Advisory Board. This national initiative provides grant support for innovative MDS basic science, clinical and translational research.

In this planned leadership transition, Dr. Figueroa will assume the Chair position that was held by Dr. Mikkael Sekeres since the fund’s 2017 inception. Dr. Figueroa will formally assume this role on January 1, 2021.

Dr. Figueroa is an Associate Professor and Co-Leader of the Cancer Epigenetics Research Program at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Health System. Dr. Figueroa received her medical degree from the Universidad del Salvador, School of Medicine, Buenos Aires, Argentina. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine, at Clinical Bazterrica, Buenos Aires, Argentina and Hematology Fellowship, at the Institute for Hematological Research “Mariano R. Castex”, Academia Nacional de Medicina, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Figueroa was also one of the MDSRF’s inaugural Scientific Advisory Board members.

“I am truly honored and humbled to have been selected to continue the excellent work started by Dr. Sekeres to help translate Joseph Dresner’s vision for research in MDS. Through this research fund we will seek to identify talented investigators who will help improve our understanding of this complex disease in order to develop novel therapies and potential cures.”

Dr. Sekeres’ energy, expertise and passion for this field of work was instrumental in assisting the Foundation design and launch the MDSRF. The Foundation is appreciative of Dr. Sekeres’ commitment to the work accomplished during the past four years and wishes him much success in his new position as Chief, Division of Hematology, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine – Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Miami, FL. Dr. Sekeres will continue as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board through 2021.

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The Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation is dedicated to transforming lives in profoundly positive ways through grants focused on health, youth and families and animal welfare. For more about the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation, visit www.dresnerfoundation.org