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The Connecticut Challenge Announces Speaker Series for Cancer Survivors

Richard C. Frank, MD, author of *"Fighting Cancer with Knowledge and Hope: A Guide for Patients, Families, and Health Care Providers"* to speak at Pequot Library on December 15th

November 19, 2010, Fairfield, CT - The Connecticut Challenge (CTC) will host the first in a series of talks with noted authors and experts in the field of cancer survivorship, Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 7 pm at the Pequot Library in Southport.

Dr. Richard C. Frank, a medical oncologist and director of cancer research at the Whittingham Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital will talk about his internationally acclaimed book, *"Fighting Cancer with Knowledge and Hope: A Guide for Patients, Families, and Health Care Providers,"* published in 2009 by the Yale University Press. The book was awarded first place in the 2010 American Medical Writers Association Medical Book Awards for the Health Care Professionals category. The book had previously received the 2010 Will Solimene Award for Excellence in Medical Communication from the New England Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association.

"We're very excited to have Dr. Frank as our inaugural speaker," said Christian McEvoy, Director of the CT Challenge Center for Survivorship.

Dr. Frank understands that cancer patients and their families need insight into the disease along with a sense of control. His book is praised for providing insight on what cancer is and how it spreads; how cancer treatment strategies are chosen; how cancer-fighting drugs work to shut down the growth of the disease; which factors affect a patient's prognosis; how patients can visualize cancer treatments at work in the body and why this is helpful; how to deal with "incurable" cancer; the emotional needs of cancer patients; and the psychological effects of a cancer diagnosis.

Said McEvoy, "in a recent review, Cure Magazine's Kathy Latour said of the book, "throughout, Frank honors the 'power of people' to overcome, endure, and move on through, with, and beyond cancer."

The Connecticut Challenge's mission is to empower cancer survivors to live longer, happier, healthier lives. While many survivorship programs are targeted to cancer survivors who have completed active treatment, survivorship begins at diagnosis. The CT Challenge wants to make sure that all cancer survivors and their families, no matter where they are in their cancer journey, are empowered with information to make the best choices possible about the care they receive. We share Dr. Frank's belief in the power of people to move through and beyond their cancer

EMPOWERING CANCER SURVIVORS

diagnosis.”

The program is open and free to the public. Copies of Dr. Frank’s book will be available for purchase.

About Dr. Richard Frank

Educated at Harvard University and SUNY Stony Brook, he is board certified in internal medicine, medical oncology, and hematology, and has been honored as one of Connecticut’s Top Doctors, awarded the Humanitarian Award from the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society of Fairfield County in 2005, and recognized with the David A. King Community Clinical Scientist Award from the Association of Community Cancer centers in 2007.

Dr. Frank has worked for many years to educate the public on the importance of cancer research, and established the clinical trials program at Norwalk Hospital that, among other achievements, participated in the research on the drug Herceptin, which has been proved to be effective in treating early-stage breast cancer.

About the Connecticut Challenge

www.ctchallenge.org

The Connecticut Challenge was founded in 2005 to create supportive care resources for cancer survivors in Connecticut and has impacted the lives of 5,000 cancer survivors in our state. The organization currently supports survivorship programs at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport, Stamford Hospital, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, and Yale Cancer Center, and will open the Connecticut Challenge Center for Survivorship in April 2011 in Fairfield, CT. The CT Challenge also provides research grants, sponsors medical symposiums and promotes survivor education and awareness events. Their website is a statewide resource where survivors can find out about the issues they may face and locate programs and services that can help them. The organization raises money primarily through the annual Connecticut Challenge charity bike ride. To date more than \$5 million has been raised to support survivorship programs.