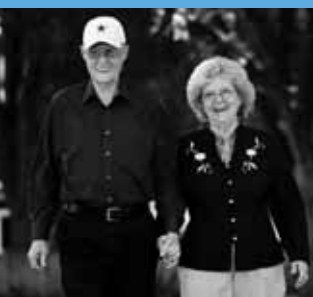


# Deep in the Heart of Texas

Brave people faced with dire challenges do not surrender without a fight. Sapacitabine trial patient Marvin Arnold proved an 81-year old “true blue” Texan would be no exception.

IN NOVEMBER 2005, Marvin Arnold’s entire world changed. He learned that he had acute myeloid



leukemia or AML. AML is a blood cancer diagnosed in approximately ten percent of the approximately 138,500 people in the United States found each year to have leukemia. As an elderly patient, Marvin was facing extraordinary treatment challenges. He would be less likely than younger patients to respond to the combination of two chemother-

apy drugs that has been the standard of therapy for decades. He would likely experience severe treatment complications. A retired oilfield worker, outdoorsman and loving husband and great-grandfather, Marvin Arnold was facing the fight of his life.

Over the past year, Marvin had shared his personal fight against AML with some of us at Cyclacel. His experience offers unique insights into the plight faced every day by elderly patients with AML and also the potential contributions that sapacitabine may make in the fight against this terrible disease if it reaches the market.

During the late fall of 2005, Pankaj Khandelwal, M.D., a medical oncologist at the West Texas Cancer Center in Odessa, Texas, treated Mr. Arnold for his AML with the standard chemotherapy combination given as intravenous infusion. After two months, it became clear the standard treatment was no longer working.

Marvin had no other approved treatment options after failing the standard chemotherapy drugs. Dr. Khandelwal referred his patient to Hagop M. Kantarjian, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Leukemia at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston in part because of Dr. Kantarjian’s reputation and his extensive experience in developing novel, experimental drugs against leukemia. With his fighting spirit intact, Marvin and Norma, his wife of more than sixty years, made the seven-hour journey to Houston to meet the physician who might offer him a new chance in his fight against AML.

Marvin was quickly enrolled in his first experimental drug study at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and received a drug that is approved for another type of leukemia called chronic myeloid leukemia that can only be used as experimental therapy in patients with AML. By May 2007 he was failing this experimental medication. Elderly patients with AML that fail two prior therapies typically have a very poor prognosis.

Dr. Kantarjian identified Marvin as a candidate for a Phase 1 clinical trial of sapacitabine, a new experimental drug taken by mouth. Marvin was very excited to be accepted into the trial. He was 81-years old and his next birthday was fast approaching. He told his doctors that he believed he could beat his disease. He also hoped to spend more time with his wife and family after trying this experimental drug. The most difficult part of the sapacitabine treatment, said Marvin, was the requirement of the clinical trial protocol for a bone marrow aspiration procedure done every few weeks to measure the levels of leukemic cells. Speaking about the best part of the treatment after being on the sapacitabine study for about 16 months, Marvin said:

*“I am still alive. No one thought I would be. No one but me, Norma and Dr. Kantarjian.”*

Norma was grateful for every week and month that she has had with Marvin. In early November 2008 they were still holding hands while walking together. They also enjoyed fishing together and cherished the memory of his catching a 50-pound catfish.

Later that month, however, Marvin was hospitalized with an infection, and passed away a short while later.

Norma still smiles when she thinks of Marvin in his Dallas Cowboys’ hat, looking forward to seeing “his” team hold the Super Bowl trophy aloft one more time. She recalls that Marvin believed that his life was “normalized” after starting sapacitabine, as he did not suffer many side effects from the treatment.

In one of Marvin’s last letters to Cyclacel, he wrote:

*“Thank you for your gracious words and encouragement. Norma and I wish to express our appreciation to Dr Kantarjian, M. D. Anderson, and Cyclacel Pharmaceuticals in providing the treatment that has benefited me. It is our heartfelt wish that many others will receive the same benefit. It is our sincere hope we have contributed in some way for the successful future treatment of AML.”*

Cyclacel is honored to dedicate this year’s annual report to Marvin Arnold, his family and caregivers, and to the many other cancer patients agreeing to take part in clinical trials of novel cancer drugs. Their bravery and altruism are essential to advance our understanding of new approaches for difficult to treat diseases like AML. All of us at Cyclacel are fortunate to have encountered Marvin Arnold and his wonderful wife Norma and admire his courage in the fight against AML. Their story inspires us to continue pursuing our mission: to develop novel drugs to prolong and improve the lives of cancer patients. ★