

News Release

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**The George Washington University Medical Center Announces the Honorees for the
[Sixth Annual Cancer Gala, April 25](#)**

WASHINGTON – The GW Medical Center is pleased to announce the esteemed honorees for the [Sixth Annual GW Cancer Gala](#), which will be held on April 25 at the Ritz Carlton in Washington, DC. The event, chaired by GW President Steven Knapp and The Honorable Michael B. Enzi and hosted by Dr. John F. Williams, provost and vice president of health affairs, will raise funds for critical cancer programs in the DC metropolitan area, and supports research to deliver cutting-edge treatments to cancer patients in our region and beyond.

This year the honorees' contributions to cancer research and awareness span from policy, to treatment, to serving as an advocate for those living with the disease. The honorees include:

The 2009 recipient of the Cancer Compassion Award, which is given to an individual or organization that has exemplified devotion to improving access to and quality of care among medically underserved communities, is [The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy](#). Senator Kennedy is the chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and has long championed the cause of providing quality, affordable health care for all Americans. As part of that effort, Senator Kennedy, in conjunction with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, on March 26, 2009, reinvigorated the War on Cancer. The proposed legislation, called the 21st Century Cancer ALERT Act, would foster more effective coordination of policy and science in order to attain rapid progress in fighting cancer. It creates a comprehensive approach to cancer prevention, detection, research, and treatment. Sen. Kennedy has also been an advocate for pediatric cancer and co-sponsored a bill establishing a national childhood cancer database that would advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers.

The recipient of the 2009 Commitment to Overcoming Cancer Award, which is presented to an individual or team who exemplifies the GW Medical Center commitment to overcoming cancer through patient care, outreach, research, education, and/or policy work, is [Rachel F. Brem, MD](#), director of Breast Imaging and Intervention, professor of Radiology, and vice-chair, Department of Radiology, The George Washington University Medical Center. Dr. Brem is a cornerstone of the breast imaging services at GW Medical Center. She is nationally known for her expertise and has dedicated her career to eliminating breast cancer as a life threatening disease by advancing diagnosis, treatment, research, and education.

The recipient of the 2009 Spirit of Life Award, which is presented to an individual whose survival story inspires courage and imparts hope to others fighting cancer, is [Jeanette A. Michael, Esq.](#), former executive director of the DC Lottery and Charitable Games Control Board, member of The George Washington University Board of Trustees and a seven-year breast cancer survivor. Ms. Michael has been an inspiration to other breast cancer survivors as a leader in the community and an advocate for breast cancer awareness. She has been featured several times in the media to help inspire women with breast cancer to continue their fight with the disease.

For cancer patients in Washington, the GW Medical Center is an ever expanding resource. In the past few years, GW has exponentially increased its community outreach efforts, has grown its cancer research agenda, improved its clinical facilities and has established an Office of Cancer Survivorship to address the issues of the ever growing population of cancer survivors.

To support these programs and to enable additional cancer research and outreach programs, the GW Cancer Gala has added some exciting new components to the program this year. [Wolf Blitzer, host of CNN's The Situation Room](#), will emcee the evening, and guests will enjoy performances by Grammy-award winning guitarist [Al Petteway and Amy White](#). An online auction to benefit the Gala is hosted at www.gwcancergala.org, and the event will include both a live and a silent auction. Some of the featured items to be auctioned off include: a limited availability 2009 smartcar Passion Coupe; a Washington Redskins game helmet autographed by Super Bowl MVP, Hall of Fame quarterback, and popular Washingtonian Joe Theismann; a weekend stay at Sofitel Lafayette Square; a state room stay and breakfast at The Inn at Perry Cabin; a seven-course dinner for 10 at Marrakesh; and other exciting items.

About The George Washington University Medical Center

The George Washington University Medical Center is an internationally recognized interdisciplinary academic health center that has consistently provided high-quality medical care in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, since 1824. The Medical Center comprises the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the 11th oldest medical school in the country; the School of Public Health and Health Services, the only such school in the nation's capital; GW Hospital, jointly owned and operated by a partnership between The George Washington University and a subsidiary of Universal Health Services, Inc.; and the GW Medical Faculty Associates, an independent faculty practice plan. For more information on GWUMC, visit www.gwumc.edu