

endofound.org



ENDOMETRIOSIS  
FOUNDATION OF  
AMERICA

# THIRD ANNUAL BLOSSOM BALL

*Friday, March 18, 2011*

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Dear Friend:

Endometriosis affects an estimated 176 million women and girls worldwide – more than Alzheimer’s and Crohn’s Disease combined - at a staggering associated cost of approximately \$22 billion annually. The disease interrupts lives and causes intractable, often chronic abdominopelvic pain; infertility/pregnancy loss; and painful sex, and leaves many women and adolescents feeling isolated. Yet, despite the overwhelming, negative impact endometriosis has on the global female population, this chronic, as-yet incurable disease continues to be stigmatized, ignored and even dubbed “psychosomatic.” Endometriosis remains a mystery; continually fraught with missed and delayed diagnoses, ineffective treatments and needless hysterectomies. Though symptoms may present in adolescence, the average woman will go nearly a decade – across as many as five physicians – before her pain is taken seriously.

In our young years, the EFA is already a pivotal influence amid the public and those working in reproductive health, bringing vital attention to a disease that has not received its due for hundreds of years. At the heart of our goals, we strive to improve the lives of all those struggling by facilitating early intervention, timely diagnosis and effective treatment. Our mission is to fight against the devastating effects of endometriosis by generating awareness, promoting accurate education and advocating for legislative and research advances. The EFA further addresses societal prejudices and misinformation in the medical community by combining research and education, while actively working to find a cure. It is our hope that as a result of our crucial efforts, the millions of women and girls struggling with this enigmatic disease will not feel so alone.

In 2010, we made a decision to fund the first repository tissue bank initiative of its kind with Lenox Hill Hospital to study the science behind this complicated disease. This landmark, translational research effort will have a significant impact and change the paradigm of diagnosis and treatment. We also continue to host scientific symposiums annually, highlighting pioneering research on endometriosis presented by a consortium of international experts. Our annual Blossom Ball continues to raise widespread, societal awareness and helps facilitate our research endeavors. In just the last year alone, our foundation generated over 320 million media impressions, encouraging women to get diagnosed early. With our Executive Director Deborah Castillero, we have ambitious plans for 2011, including a high school/college outreach campaign, more seminars for health practitioners, collaborative initiatives with prestigious universities, and a robust public awareness campaign.

Please join us in our efforts. On behalf of the 1 in 10 women and girls struggling with this debilitating disease, we ask for your support in helping us make history to heal all those afflicted by endometriosis.

Sincerely,



Ms. Padma Lakshmi



Tamer Seckin, MD

## *Blossom Ball Program:*

7:00 PM	COCKTAILS
8:00 PM	DINNER
8:45 PM	REMARKS BY PADMA LAKSHMI  FOUNDATION HONOREES PRESENTED BY TAMER SECKIN, MD  REMARKS BY SPECIAL GUEST SUSAN SARANDON
9:45 PM	PERFORMANCE BY BEBEL GILBERTO
10:30 PM	DANCING

## 2011 Foundation Honorees



Dr. Caroline Gargett, BAppSci, MAppSci, PhD is the Deputy Director (Women's Health) of The Richie Centre and Senior Scientist in the Monash Institute of Medical Research (MIMR). She is also a member of Monash University Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. She holds a prestigious RD Wright Fellowship from Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). In 2004 she established an independent laboratory at MIMR and founded the Endometrial Stem Cell Group. Her pioneering research discovered 2 types of adult stem cells in the highly regenerative endometrial lining of the uterus, and she published the first papers, reviews and book chapters on the topic. More recently her group discovered the first markers that enable the isolation of mesenchymal stem cells from human endometrium. Her group has also identified cancer stem cell activity in endometrial cancer. Current research examines the role of endometrial stem cells in endometriosis and endometrial cancer, and the potential use of endometrial mesenchymal stem cells in a tissue engineering application for pelvic organ prolapse repair surgery. Dr. Gargett holds an international reputation as the world authority on endometrial stem cells. Dr. Gargett was featured in the NHMRC publication "10 of the Best Research Projects in 2008". She has received several national and international awards for her research, including the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology Established Scientist (2005) and British Council Researcher Exchange (2007) Awards. Dr. Gargett serves on the Editorial Board of Reproductive Sciences and was an Associate Editor for Human Reproduction (2005-2008). She is currently Vice President of the Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research and has also served as Secretary for the Society for Reproductive Biology (2005-2007).



David B. Redwine, MD, FACOG was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He is a 1970 graduate of Stanford University and received his MD degree from Baylor College of Medicine in 1973. He received his Ob-Gyn specialty training at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center in Portland, Oregon. He became interested in endometriosis when his first wife was diagnosed with the disease. Dr. Redwine has been in private practice in Bend, Oregon, since 1978. Active in research and surgical management of endometriosis by complete excision since 1979, he has experience in over 3,000 surgical cases from around the world, including over 900 cases of intestinal endometriosis. He tabulated the range of visual manifestations of endometriosis which revealed a historical lack of understanding of the real nature of the disease. He developed economical techniques for laparoscopic excision for virtually every pelvic and intestinal disease presentation possible. He showed that endometriosis can be cured by excision in approximately 60% of patients, a result that has been confirmed by many other studies. Mülleriosis, his theory of origin of the disease published in 1988, is now receiving increasing support from genetic studies illuminating endometriosis as an embryologically-patterned process governed in part by poly-genic processes, principally HOX genes. He has published dozens of scientific papers, dozens of textbook chapters, several books, and travels internationally to lecture and perform demonstration surgery.

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CONGRATULATE DR. TAMER SECKIN AND  
THE ENDOMETRIOSIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA  
ON THE IMPORTANT WORK  
BEING EXECUTED TO HELP WOMEN  
WITH ENDOMETRIOSIS.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE GREAT  
STRIDES THE EFA IS MAKING TOWARDS  
IMPROVING THE LIVES OF WOMEN  
WITH ENDOMETRIOSIS.

*Janet Rosel & Peter Lewis*

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IN BEHALF OF *Kim Bendheim,*  
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WE ARE THRILLED TO CELEBRATE  
THE ENDOMETRIOSIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA  
FOR ITS INNOVATIVE AND  
REVOLUTIONARY WORK IN THE AREAS OF  
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*Lisa M. Cirando, Esq. & Friends*



THANK YOU EFA  
 FOR INCREASING AWARENESS  
 OF ENDOMETRIOSIS AND  
 ITS PROPER MANAGEMENT.

*Elizabeth Doynor* MD / PhD / FACOG



# BLOSSOM BALL ONLINE AUCTION MARCH 3-30, 2011

Join us with Padma Lakshmi for the first annual Blossom Ball Online Auction to raise funds for the Endometriosis Foundation of America, a nonprofit organization focused on fighting the devastating effects of a disease that affects millions of women and adolescent girls.



## Auction Highlights



Go Shopping with Padma at Kalustyan's Spices Followed by a Private Cooking Lesson in Your Home



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We are proud to support The Endometriosis Foundation of America in the very important work that they do in promoting early detection and state of the art treatment of Endometriosis.

**We're very proud to join DR. TAMER SECKIN and the ENDOMETRIOSIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA in support of this worthy cause.**



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important work raising awareness of  
this disease and helping the millions of  
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*and*

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## All Rise.

Distinction is always confined to the few. Jones Day is proud to support the Endometriosis Foundation of America and applauds its efforts. We are honored to sponsor the 2011 Blossom Ball, and we congratulate Caroline Gargett, Ph.D., and David B. Redwine, M.D., on their accomplishments.



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