

# James Graham Brown

## Cancer Center

a proud member of  
UofL HealthCare

Division of Medical Oncology Hematology.

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

361A Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

We are contacting you to advocate the importance of the Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act of 2009, recently introduced in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives (S.332 and H.R.2112 respectively), and ask for your support. This legislation declares lung cancer a national health priority and establishes in law a broad comprehensive program to address the disease.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths both nationally and in every state. In 2009, an estimated 4,650 Kentuckians will be diagnosed with lung cancer and 3,430 will die from the disease. Two out of three of those diagnosed are former or never smokers.

Additionally, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in every ethnic group and disproportionately impacts African American men whose mortality rate is over 25% higher than white men. Our veterans are at a 25% higher risk of being diagnosed with lung cancer than the general public. And only 15% of those diagnosed with lung cancer will live for five years or more.

Kentucky has the highest rates of lung cancer in the country. We witness the tremendous suffering and loss of lives daily in our clinics. Kentucky not only has the highest number of lung cancers, but the disease also affects patients 10 years younger than the national average age, which leads to a significant human and economic burden for the Commonwealth. The funding for lung cancer has been proportionally lower than for other cancers.

These facts demonstrate why the Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act is so necessary. The Act involves over a dozen federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Health and Human Services to devise a comprehensive and coordinated plan to address this lethal disease and reduce its mortality

At the University of Louisville we have numerous clinical and translational studies to find a way to prevent, detect, treat and recover from lung cancer, which kills more people than the next five cancers combined (breast, prostate, colon, lymphoma, and pancreas). To succeed in this scientific fight against cancer we need funding and support for our research.

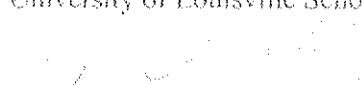
This is important legislation as it not only calls for a coordinated federal response to a public health epidemic but, gives hope to a long underserved community. We are asking that you give your support and endorsement to the first comprehensive legislation designed to fight lung cancer.


Please feel free to contact me, or any members of the University of Louisville Thoracic Oncology Program for more information about our efforts as the University of Louisville to raise awareness about lung cancer and improve outcomes for the lung cancer community.

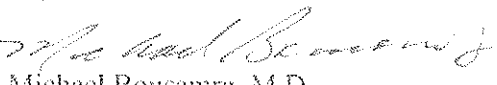
Sincerely yours,

Thoracic Oncology Clinic, University of Louisville, KY  


Donald M. Miller, MD, PhD  
Director, Brown Cancer Center  
Associate Vice President for Health Affairs  
University of Louisville School of Medicine

  
Goetz H. Kloecker, MD, MBA, MSPH, FACP  
Assistant Professor, Hematology and Oncology  
Director of the Thoracic Oncology Clinic

  
Craig Silverman, M.D.  
Professor, Radiation Oncology

  
Michael Bousamra, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Director Thoracic Surgery of James Graham Brown Cancer Center

*A. Cahid Civelek*

A. Cahid Civelek, M.D.  
Professor of Diagnostic Radiology

Stephen P. Stone, M.D.  
Associate Professor Pathology

*Stephen P. Stone M.D.*

Beth Riley, M.D.  
Assistant Professor, Hematology and Oncology

*Beth Riley M.D.*

Kathy Costanzo, MDiv, BCC, CSW  
Staff Chaplain

*Kathy Costanzo*