

Blumberg Institute Laboratory dedicated to liver cancer research in memory of Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. manager

Steven W. Miller, widely respected and loved by his colleagues at Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc., died from liver cancer, which is difficult to diagnose.

DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES, August 11, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Steven W. Miller, who was widely respected and loved by his colleagues at Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc., died in 2020 from [liver cancer](#) caused by metabolic associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD), a chronic illness for which symptoms don't emerge until the latter stages.



Dianna Miller with many of her husband's colleagues at the Aug. 8 celebration.

Steve's family, friends and former colleagues honored him this week with the dedication of a new laboratory at the Baruch S. [Blumberg Institute](#), where scientists are working on tests to better diagnose MAFLD, liver cancer and related diseases. Along with attaching Steve's name to the lab, more than \$80,000 so far has been contributed to support the associated scientific initiatives.

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*Randall N. Hyer, MD, PhD,
MPH, president of the
Blumberg Institute*

The idea for raising funds to support research into MAFLD diagnosis came from Dianna Miller, Steve's wife of 28 years and an employee of the Blumberg Institute. When she learned that a scientist working in that area is on the institute's faculty, the fundraising effort began, starting with some of Steve's closest colleagues.

“We were thrilled to contribute to demonstrate how much we all appreciated Steve,” Jenean

Janeski, senior manager at Johnson & Johnson Consumer, said. "Steve had such a monumental impact on so many of his colleagues' lives and careers, and our organization will always be a better place because Steve was part of our J&J family. We're especially satisfied that the research is being done at the place where Dianna is employed and, going forward, in a lab named after Steve—he always put his people first so we believe it is only fitting to have this lab named in his honor, so even after his death, this lab will allow his legacy of helping others live on in a hugely epic way!"

Jenean worked with Geoff Betrus, strategic sales and business development leader at J&J Consumer, and Jean Holmes, vice president of institutional advancement at the Blumberg Institute, to lead the fundraising effort. At the Aug. 8 dedication ceremony, Jenean and Geoff credited their employer for contributing seed money and significant advice and support to assist the campaign. To date, dozens of Steve's former colleagues have contributed, and many attended the ceremony, held at the Blumberg Institute just outside of Doylestown.

The scientist who runs the newly christened Steven W. Miller Laboratory is Aejaz Sayeed, PhD, associate professor at the Blumberg Institute. His research aims to develop a non-invasive biomarker test for liver disease surveillance and early detection of liver cancer. Such a test would greatly improve identifying high-risk liver disease patients and potentially lead to much higher survival rates. Dr. Sayeed has determined that the blood of people with liver cirrhosis, cancer and related diseases have heavily mutated messenger RNA (mRNA). It's a completely new concept in early disease detection and testing and could provide a "liquid biopsy" of the liver to identify high-risk patients and guide treatments.



Geoff Betrus and Jenean Janeski of J&J Consumer with Dr. Aejaz Sayeed of the Blumberg Institute



Dianna, Mandy and Matthew Miller

“Dr. Sayeed’s research shows tremendous potential for producing innovative and revolutionary testing technologies that could enable us to catch liver disease earlier,” said Randall N. Hyer, MD, PhD, MPH, president of the Blumberg Institute and former pharmaceutical industry executive. “I am so moved by the outpouring of love and support for Steve Miller, which further drives us to solve liver cancer. This funding will significantly boost Dr. Sayeed’s research.”

Steve Miller lived in Buckingham Township, near Doylestown, with Dianna and their two children, Mandy and Matthew. A 30-year employee of Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc., Steve was a manager of data capabilities and analytics. He graduated from The College of New Jersey in 1988 with a business degree.

To contribute to the Steven W. Miller Fund, contact Jean Holmes at 215-479-4946 or jean.holmes@bblumberg.org.

About the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute: An independent, nonprofit research organization, the Blumberg Institute was launched in 2003 by the [Hepatitis B Foundation](#) to advance its research mission. Today, the Institute is one of the nation’s leading centers for translational research in hepatitis B and liver cancer. The Institute supports drug discovery, biomarker discovery and translational biotechnology around common research themes such as chronic hepatitis, liver disease and liver cancer in an environment conducive to interaction, collaboration and focus. The Blumberg Institute is located in the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center, which it manages, near Doylestown, Pa. For more, go to www.blumberginstitute.org and follow us on Twitter @blumbergInstit1.

About the Hepatitis B Foundation: We are the nation’s leading nonprofit organization solely dedicated to finding a cure for hepatitis B and improving the quality of life for those affected worldwide through research, education, and patient advocacy. Founded in 1991, the Hepatitis B Foundation is based in Doylestown, Pa., with offices in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. To learn more, go to www.hepb.org and www.hepb30years.org, read our blog at hepb.org/blog, follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook (@hepbfoundation) or call us at 215-489-4900. To donate, contact Jean Holmes at 215-489-4900 or jean.holmes@hepb.org.

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