

**Remarks by Senator Clinton, Bob, and Pat at
Berg Laboratory Celebration-Fundraiser
National Democratic Club Event
May 10, 2006**

Remarks by Senator Hillary Clinton

I am here because I am a fan of both Bob's and Pat's. You know, Bob was a very valuable member of the White House staff, and he really showed a lot of backbone by standing up to the Starr chamber in the 1990's. And I am forever in both awe and gratitude for his willingness to step up and be counted when it really mattered. And, of course, we are here for Pat. There is no doubt about that. And, I see some of my colleagues from the House, and maybe they could make their way up here because it's great to have Representatives Diane [Watson] and I saw Mike Honda. And John Conyers is here! I see Steny Hoyer is in the house – he's leadership! Hi, Steny! I don't know who else is here, but let me also thank all the officials at the George Washington University Medical Center including Dean Jim Scott, Allan Goldstein, and everyone else who is here tonight. The reason we have gathered and are so enthusiastic about this, though, is because of Pat. And before I go into some of the significant breakthrough in breast cancer research that she has made, let me say why this research is so important.

Three million women in our country are currently living with breast cancer – one million of whom have not been diagnosed. Every one of us in some way, directly or indirectly – ourselves, our family members, our loved ones, a friend – know about the terrible toll that breast cancer takes on the victim and certainly on the family. I remember with great pride, my late mother-in-law, who confronted her breast cancer with courage and good humor. She, really, until the moment she died was just so determined to keep going and enjoy life and get the most out of it, and I have been privileged to work with so many breast cancer survivors who have felt the same way.

I have long supported increased funding, starting back in the White House years, and certainly the important work that is done by the National Institutes of Health which has helped to fund Pat's research. It's a part of the full-court press that we are undertaking against this disease. I've been particularly interested in the environmental factors that can contribute to or exacerbate breast cancer which is why I have supported several pieces of legislation to try to get us to focus more on chronic diseases, on cancer. We do a pretty good job of tracking infectious diseases and acute diseases in our country, but I think we could do a lot better in working to try to figure out what are the environmental connections?

Genetics, obviously, plays a very large role in determining breast cancer and its course, and this is where Pat's research has contributed. Dr. Berg has discovered BP1, a gene that is activated in 80% of breast cancer cases. BP1 is also activated in prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, and leukemia. If this gene appears in so many different kinds of cancers, learning how to suppress it will be immensely useful, and I know that Pat has been working on research to develop the treatments that could repress the gene – two of which already show promise. This is a very exciting area of research.

The discovery of BP1 can also help us engage in early detection. If we can develop simple tests and help women learn whether they have this gene we can catch cancer while it's treatable. In the future, I think we will be able to help women avoid the environmental factors or the genetic triggers that do work to cause this disease, and Pat's lab is making progress on a blood test that will allow for non-invasive detection of the gene which could simplify testing for millions of women.

Indeed, Dr. Berg's research is so promising that she has recently, as you've learned tonight, received a significant grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation which funds some of the most promising

research around the country. So I look forward to further discoveries and the application of those discoveries by Pat. As Bob said, every time I see him, I ask him how Pat's research is going, and I'm so glad to have this report about how well it is doing. Obviously, we all hope that in the not-too-distant future we will be able to prevent and totally cure breast cancer. It is just wonderful that we have scientists of your caliber, your commitment, your compassion working on this, Pat. So, the woman of the hour, Dr. Pat Berg.

Introduction of Senator Clinton by Bob Weiner

Pat and I had the privilege to meet Senator Clinton when she carried out a magnificent role as a thinking, dynamic, action-oriented First Lady at the White House, where I was lucky enough to work for 6 ½ years. We actually joined in some hard battles against that "right wing conspiracy" (excuse my partisan bent but we are here at the National Democratic Club so I hope it's OK). Pat and I landed on a certain courthouse step after some testimony before a certain not-so-Special Prosecutor... Senator Clinton's battles were right then and they are right now when she speaks about issues from gas prices to the war in Iraq to Social Security and Medicare to the deficit to tax fairness. I love getting her emails—they are the BEST and most factually, issue packed and the most reasoned of any out there -- please tell Ann Lewis.

TIME Magazine's May 8 issue named Senator Clinton as one of the world's most influential people – read the piece written by Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham no less...who said that she creates legislative partnerships and builds unusual bipartisan alliances with her influence, and adds, "Those who underestimate Hillary Clinton do so at their own peril."

Pat and I saw Newt Gingrich at the Kennedy Center recently who told us that Senator Clinton is "amazingly smart, very effective" and that he had not realized that when she came to the White House as First Lady!

Now the CNN-USA Today poll yesterday said that President Bush has dropped to an all-time low of 31... IS there anyone in the room here who could possibly replace President Bush???

Aside from her strong support over the years of breast cancer research and Pat's work, I think one reason Senator Clinton is here today is she probably likes to see a political husband organizing an event for his wife...

Seriously, when we met with her in her office a couple years ago, the Senator asked Pat about her research. Again when we spoke on the floor of the Democratic National Convention a year and a half ago as I was talking about the press room, the Senator called to Pat saying, "Pat, tell me about your research." Since I then knew where *I* stood, here we are today.

Senator Clinton has been a champion of breast cancer research, a year ago inducted into the National Breast Cancer Coalition's Congressional Hall of Fame. She has fought for appropriations for funding for \$150 million more in peer reviewed cancer research and is an original cosponsor of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research act. She and Pat and all of us here are allies in the search for a cure.

It is a dream come true to have this event for Pat and to have it headlined by Senator Clinton. Ladies and gentlemen, one of the world's 100 most influential people, then next Pres--- excuse me, the Senator from New York, Senator Hillary... Clinton!!!

Opening Remarks by Bob Weiner

- Thank friends, fellow NDC Club members, Pat's Church congregation members, and Hill staff colleagues and members of Congress who've known us for some time.
- Thank everyone who helped organize today's event: Rebecca Vander Linde, Ann Chabb, Jay Wind, Rolland Elliott, Susan Thompson-Hoffman Keith Jewell, Jeff Kamen and Richard Blakeslee, Christine Hilty, Dee Johnson, and NDC Officers including Jim Zoia, Scott Nishioki, and Ted Mastroianni.
- Thank our speakers here today—Senator Clinton (who knew us at the White House during my years there), and co-hosts Representatives Hoyer (lifetime friend since kids, and now Pat's and my local congressman), Honda (whose wife lost her battle with cancer), and Conyers (my boss for five years before I went to the White House).
- Congratulate Pat—how proud we all are of her—for her research discoveries; and state importance of continuing her work toward suppressor, blood test, and testing other cancers.
- Thank GWUMC for its continuing support of Pat's work, and especially Dr. Allan Goldstein, Pat's Chairman, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Wonderful news of Komen Foundation new \$250,000 grant, its second one to Pat in 3 years.
- Thank other sponsors today and everyone who contributed.
- Introduce Dr. Allan Goldstein, Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department, then remaining speakers, concluding with Pat.

Remarks by Dr. Pat Berg

- Thank you all for your support and for coming today. I especially want to thank Senator Clinton – the remarks that she made, you'll see when I make my remarks... I don't really need to say much after what she said because she pretty much covered it. I really appreciate the generous support of the three dedicated Congressmen who are the co-sponsors tonight, Congressman Steny Hoyer, Congressman John Conyers, and Congressman Mike Honda.
- I particularly appreciate the unswerving support of my chairman, Allan Goldstein. He recruited me to George Washington University Medical Center, as Bob mentioned, with a most generous offer, and has paved the way for me to be able to focus on my research, and he has made a huge difference in my life and in what I'm able to do. Thank you.
- Of course, George Washington University has provided the fertile ground for my work as well as having some wonderful collaborators there, and I am deeply grateful to the University and the Medical School as well.
- Without the incredible hard work and dedication of my incredible husband, Bob Weiner, we would not be here today. He conceived this event, and he planned it from A to Z. Let's give him a round of applause!
- I'd like to introduce my daughter, Bridget Mora, who is with us from Burlington, VT.

- As a scientist and the mother of a daughter, want to do something for the 212,000 women in the U.S. who will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and the 40,000 who will die from it.
- My laboratory has discovered and cloned a gene, BP1, expressed or turned on in 80% of the tumors of breast cancer patients.
- This work was accomplished through a collaboration between my lab and pathologists at GWUMC as well as working with other institutions, including the University of Maryland, Howard University, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and National Cancer Institute.
- Especially helpful to African American women: 89% vs. 57%, both high but there was a significant difference.
- The Komen Foundation has generously supported our breast cancer research for the last two years, and, as Bob announced, I was just awarded another Komen grant.
- The new grant is designed to better understand why breast cancer in African American women is much more aggressive than in Caucasian women.
- Now we have also found that the BP1 gene is turned on about 75% of prostate cancer, the leading killer of men in the U.S.
- Not only that, we have found BP1 activation in 63% of acute myeloid leukemias and a collaborator at M.D. Anderson has found it in ovarian cancer .
- What is BP1 doing in cells?
- We have new evidence that it protects cells from dying, so they just keep growing and growing – a hallmark of cancer.
- Early data also indicates that BP1 could contribute to resistance to cancer drugs and radiation.
- We have shown in different kinds of leukemia cells that suppressing BP1 can make the cells stop growing or die.
- So a major goal of my lab is to identify drugs that will suppress BP1.
- A second goal is to develop a blood test for early detection of BP1. This test might also be useful in monitoring treatment of cancer patients. The advantage of a blood test is that it is not invasive, like a tissue biopsy.
- A third goal is to discover whether BP1 is active in other cancers.
- This is why your contributions are so important – they will greatly speed up our research towards achieving these important goals.
- Again, thank you for your help!