

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2003

Dear Nominating Committee:

It is with great pleasure that we nominate Dr. Clara D. Bloomfield to be featured as an American Medical Women's Association Local Legend.

We believe Dr. Bloomfield is deserving of this prestigious award because of her life-long commitment and achievements in cancer research and patient care in Ohio and across the United States. We also believe she is deserving of this award because of her many contributions to advancing the role of women in medicine by active mentorship, by serving as a role model, and by her strong leadership in many different local, national and international positions of responsibility.

Dr. Bloomfield graduated *Summa cum laude* from San Diego State College (1963) and received her M.D. degree from the University of Chicago (1968). She completed her training in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology at the University of Minnesota, where in seven years she rose to the rank of mil Professor of Medicine, the first woman to achieve that position. In 1989, she became Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Oncology at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and Chairperson of the Department of Medicine at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI). Thus, she became one of the very few female chairs of a Department of Medicine in the country. In August 1997, Dr. Bloomfield, assumed the directorship of The Ohio State University (OSU) Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC), thereby becoming only the third woman in the United States to lead a National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated comprehensive cancer center. She was also named to the William Greenville Pace III Endowed Chair in Cancer Research and as Deputy Director of the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. In June 2003, Dr. Bloomfield returned full time to her primary passion — research to increase the cure rate of patients with leukemia. To allow her to do this, OSU created a new program, the OSU Cancer Scholars Program, and appointed her the charter member and senior advisor to the OSU Cancer Program.

Dr. Bloomfield is an internationally recognized physician scientist whose three decades of groundbreaking research on adult leukemia and lymphoma described in over 700 publications have changed the way these patients are treated. The quality and importance of Bloomfield's work are clearly reflected in 28 years of continuous funding through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a principal investigator, authorship of multiple invited articles on leukemia and lymphoma in leading textbooks, hundreds of invitations to chair sessions and lecture at national/international meetings, and election or appointment to leadership/membership/advisory roles in multiple national/international scientific organizations and governmental agencies. For example, due to her contributions in improving our understanding of the biology and treatment of acute leukemia, she was recently chosen to chair the NCI Progress Review Group to define the scientific direction of research for the next 5 years in the United States of Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma.

Dr. Bloomfield's most original and innovative scientific contributions are demonstration that (1) adult acute leukemia, including the elderly, can be cured, (2) biomarkers, especially chromosomal abnormalities, can be used to predict outcome and select treatment in adults with acute leukemia and lymphoma, and (3) biomarkers, including expression array profiles, are important to classify hematologic malignancies resulting in the current World Health Organization (WHO) classification for these cancers. As a result of her accomplishments as a physician, she has been listed as one of the "Outstanding Medical Specialists in the U.S." and one of the "Best Doctors in America." During her tenure from 1997 to 2003 as director of the OSUCCC, Dr. Bloomfield led the most significant eras of growth and expansion in the cancer program history, recruiting more than 80 cancer

investigators with interests in basic, clinical, translational and population-based cancer research to OSU. Further, because of her efforts, programs such as the Diversity Enhancement Program were initiated in the OSU Cancer Program to enhance not only the diversity of the faculty and staff but also to improve medical care for underserved underrepresented minorities in Columbus and throughout Ohio. These efforts have truly increased both the caliber and level of cancer research being performed at OSU and have provided patients with new and innovative prevention and treatment options.

In addition, under Dr. Bloomfield's OSUCCC leadership one of the best Human Cancer Genetics Programs in the country was created. She established new interdisciplinary programs in translational research and initiated new state-of-the-art core facilities to give investigators the tools to conduct effective cancer research. Through these efforts and others, cancer research funding at OSU has increased from \$22 million in 1997 to more than \$74 million today. Funding from the NCI alone has more than quadrupled, to \$31 million, in the same time period. This is the most significant growth in research support ever seen in the 30 year history of the OSUCCC.

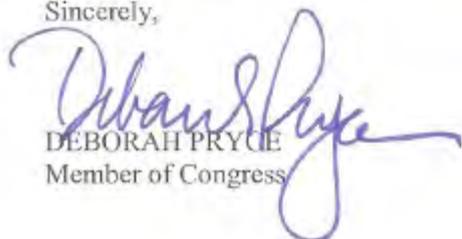
Dr. Bloomfield has long worked to advance women in academic medicine. She has personally mentored over 20 women who currently are professors and in senior leadership positions at universities throughout the country, including OSU, Virginia Commonwealth University, State University of New York at Buffalo, University of Minnesota (U. MN), University of Michigan, Dartmouth Medical School, University of California at San Diego, Moravian College, Northwestern and the University of Chicago. Bloomfield is one of the few role models of a female academic physician leader and administrator who is also recognized as an outstanding scientist. She was the first female Full Professor of Medicine at U. MN, the only woman to chair the NCI Division of Cancer Treatment Board of Scientific Counselors, one of the first female department of medicine chairs (RPCI), and one of the first female NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center directors (OSU).

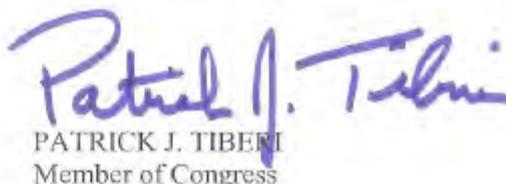
In addition to direct mentoring and leading by example, Dr. Bloomfield has been instrumental in enhancing university policy guidelines on equal employment and other issues for women faculty at U. MN, SUNY Buffalo and OSU. Nationally she has worked continuously to give women scientists opportunities and recognition. She has ensured their appointment to important committees and leadership roles in the major national oncology societies and editorial boards of the prestigious scientific journals, and seen that women were Plenary session speakers at national meetings and received major awards. Her work as a leading female academic and champion for women in academia was recognized early by her Award of The National Board of The Medical College of Pennsylvania (1981) and her receipt of the Past State President's Business and Professional Women's Award from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital (1987).

We feel confident that Dr. Bloomfield's image and attributes coupled with her long list of significant accomplishments in cancer research and clinical care are truly representative of a person who has changed the face of medicine in Ohio, as well as nationally and internationally.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to nominate Dr. Bloomfield as a Local Legend. Please feel free to contact Rep. Pryce at 202-225-2015 and Rep. Tiberi at 202-225-5355 with any questions

Sincerely,


DEBORAH PRYCE
Member of Congress


PATRICK J. TIBERI
Member of Congress