



Long Wharf Theater Outing Draws Bioscience Community Together



Event chair David Scheer of Scheer and Company and sponsor Jay Brotman of Svigals+Partners.

nonprofit organization focused on creating medicines for the neglected diseases endemic to the developing world.

Gordon Edelstein, artistic director of Long Wharf, and Joan Channick, executive director, spoke briefly about the new production, which is making its world debut in New Haven, and of the Long Wharf's plans for furthering its involvement with the New Haven community. The theater is scheduled to move in 2012 from its current location to a new theater on the footprint of the razed New Haven Coliseum.

Connecticut's bioscience community joined local arts leaders January 30 under the auspices of CURE for cocktails, dinner, and a performance at New Haven's Long Wharf Theater of "Let Me Down Easy." The new one-woman show about the human body features the acclaimed performer Anna Deveare Smith portraying Yale School of Medicine faculty and others interviewed over several years for her project.

Prior to the show, plenty of networking and dealmaking took place during the Italian buffet supper at Leon's -- the former Rusty Scupper on Long Wharf Drive.

Welcoming the 70+ guests, event chair David Scheer discussed the rewarding evening to come and reminded the guests that their participation was in support not only of the Long Wharf, but also of CURE's new subsidiary Developing World Cures, a

William Boughton, the recently appointed music director of the New Haven Symphony, applauded the guests for their support of the New Haven arts scene and reminded them that the New Haven Symphony is the fourth oldest such organization in the country (after New York, Chicago, and Boston).

Peter Farina, who retired earlier this month from pharmaceutical giant Boehringer Ingelheim and will now serve as CEO of Developing World Cures, spoke of his goals for the new organization. It will seek to secure donations, from pharmaceutical companies and research universities, of suitable compounds



Paul Pescatello, CEO of CURE, with Peter Farina, CEO of Developing World Cures.

and intellectual property that would otherwise lie dormant, and develop them into medicines of interest to the third world.

Farina introduced Denice Spero, who will serve as president of Developing World Cures.

Paul Pescatello, president and CEO of CURE, said he was delighted that CURE had had the opportunity to organize an evening that brought together the science and arts communities. He thanked Jay Brotman of Svigals +Partners for their support as sponsor of the event, and also acknowledged event chairs Colin Foster of Optherion, Derek Chalmers of Cara Therapeutics, Susan Froshauer of Rib-X, Toni Hoover of Pfizer, and Michael Kishbauch of Achillion.



Denice Spero, president of Developing World Cures.

In her captivating performance, which ended in a standing ovation, Smith explored the subject of the human body, its strengths and its frailties, in a caring and thought-provoking manner. Having interviewed dozens of subjects, ranging from politicians to sports figures to ordinary individuals, she "channeled" 30 or so of them in her one-woman show.

Personalities that came to life on the stage included Ann Richards, the former governor of Texas and Joel Siegel, the ABC critic, both of whom succumbed to cancer. Nephrologists Asghar Rastegar and Peggy Bia of Yale-New Haven Hospital were also portrayed, as was Ruth Katz, Associate Dean of the Yale School of Medicine.

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