



Media Advisory

June 6, 2017

Two Toronto scientists who spearheaded the research that brought a life-saving drug to patients around the world will jointly receive the *Humanitarian of the Year Award* for their work on deferiprone (Ferriprox™), as well as patient education and empowerment initiatives.

- WHO:** Drs. Michael Spino and Fernando Tricta
- WHAT:** Cooley's Anemia Foundation Gala
- WHEN:** Thursday, June 8th, 2017
- WHERE:** Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers, New York City

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About Cooley's Anemia Foundation: Since 1954, the mission of Cooley's Anemia Foundation is to increase life expectancy and enhance the quality of life for those impacted by thalassemia, a class of genetic blood disorders, most of which require regular blood transfusions and aggressive management of chronic iron overload, the predominant cause of early death. We do so by funding medical research to advance treatment and curative approaches, by supporting and advising patients and their families and advocating on their behalf, and by educating medical professionals and the general public. Every day, we strive for longer and healthier lives for all patients with thalassemia until a universal cure is found.

About Ferriprox™: The first oral iron chelator used to treat iron overload caused by blood transfusions in people with certain hereditary red blood cell disorders (thalassemia). Prior to the approval of Ferriprox™, many patients died from cardiac failure and other complications from iron overload, as well as the inadequacy of the only existing treatment. Patients also suffered a significant burden on their quality of life due to the need for a treatment process that required lifelong, daily 8-12 hour treatments using an infusion pump to remove excess iron from the body. Ferriprox™ has been used to treat patients for almost 30 years and has been approved for almost 20 years. It is now approved in more than 60 countries.