As the sun rose Aug. 1, more than 6,000 cyclists from 41 states and eight countries gathered to participate in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), the most successful athletic fundraising event in the nation. After rainy conditions in 2014, riders eagerly welcomed bright sunny skies, and embarked on treks of up to 192 miles over one or two days. The PMC’s mantra, “Closer by the mile,” propelled riders toward a $45 million goal and an incredible milestone—half a billion dollars in cumulative fundraising since 1980 benefitting Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund.

“The PMC weekend is the best of the human condition on display. The dedication and energy of our PMC riders and volunteers always exceeds my expectations. Their commitment to raising extraordinary funds to support cancer research inspires me every single day.”

— BILLY STARR, PMC Founder and Executive Director, and Dana-Farber Trustee

Pan-Mass Challenge raises half-billion dollars for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund since 1980

The PMC weekend combines the grit of riding long miles with the generosity and determination of so many people dedicated to conquering cancer. Just like the research and care received by Dana-Farber and Jimmy Fund Clinic patients, the PMC provides a world-class experience. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh (bottom, right) were proud to participate in this year’s event alongside 6,000 riders, 4,000 volunteers, and countless supporters along the route.

A family tradition

Philanthropic friends

25 Years of Partnership

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A community of support

Prominent among the 2015 riders were Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. Both committed to ride a route at the PMC’s 2014 “Heavy Hitters Dinner,” an event held to recognize significant participant fundraising achievements. During his remarks, Baker joked that he hadn’t been on a bike since he was 18 years old, and told the audience, “I’m in.” In his address to the crowd, Walsh joked that if Baker was in, he was, too. Mayor Walsh was diagnosed with Burkitt’s lymphoma, a rare form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, at age 7. He received inpatient care at Boston Children’s Hospital and outpatient care at Dana-Farber, and remains cancer-free to this day. “I would not be standing here if it weren’t for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund,” said Walsh. “All of the real heroes are out there, all of the survivors, all of the family members.”

Volunteers are critical to the PMC’s success, and more than 4,000 devoted time and effort to prepare and serve food, distribute water, give massages, and provide medical and mechanical assistance as needed to the riders. The remarkable commitment of so many generous donors, and nearly 200 sponsors including presenting sponsors Red Sox Foundation and New Balance, and media partner WBZ-TV, enables 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar to go to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund.

“Our partnership with the PMC is truly helping to make a significant impact in the fight against cancer,” said Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber.
Dear Friends,

You hear from us often about the incredible advances in research happening at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and in their translation into top-quality, compassionate patient care. Behind that assertion is a community of real people—dedicated scientists, doctors, nurses, and staff—who are driven by their passion to improve the lives of our patients. And surrounding them is an even larger community of individuals, families, organizations, corporations, and foundations, equally driven by their passion to do whatever they can to support this lifesaving work.

Nowhere is this passion more evident than in the committed riders of our longtime partner, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), who this year made a groundbreaking advance of their own. Speeding toward a 2015 goal of $45 million, they will surpass the phenomenal milestone of a half-billion dollars in cumulative funds raised for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund since 1980.

This steadfast grassroots support was also exemplified this summer by generous donors across the country who contributed millions of dollars in the name of cancer research. The WEEI/NESS Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon presented by Arbella Insurance Foundation raised more than $3.5 million in two days from donors in all 50 states. The national “HomeGoods Helps Families Fight Cancer” campaign raised $1.4 million, exceeding the $1 million mark for the second year in a row. And in its 25th year of partnership with Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, the Stop & Shop Supermarket Company and its Our Family Foundation once again raised $2.5 million.

Foundations and philanthropic individuals are also driving innovation throughout the Institute. A tremendous $1.5 million grant from The Lustgarten Foundation is helping to launch a comprehensive study to define new prevention and treatment strategies for pancreatic cancer. American Cancer Society grants and professorships totaling more than $5.1 million are supporting research in a wide range of cancers and related areas such as treatment disparities and adherence. And Robert “Robin” McGraw and the Donald C. McGraw Foundation furthered the family’s longstanding commitment to Dana-Farber with a $1 million gift to expand treatment options for head and neck cancers.

Since its inception, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has placed an emphasis on cancer research and its applications to improve cancer outcomes. This commitment means that research is prominent in all of the Institute’s strategic decisions. The creation of a Faculty Research Fund in 2013 was an institutional initiative designed to help Dana-Farber achieve its ambitious research agenda. Since the launch of the Faculty Research Fund, 10 percent of all new restricted gifts have been placed in the Fund, which is especially important as federal funding for cancer research remains on the decline.

Gifts totaling $3.7 million to the Faculty Research Fund received in 2014 were applied this year to the Longwood Center, allowing the project to open successfully in January 2015. These monies bolstered the Institute’s investment in cancer biology, chemistry, and drug discovery, as well as in attracting and retaining the very best physician-scientists in the world.

In fiscal year 2015, gifts to the Faculty Research Fund totaled $3.8 million. These funds will be applied to Dana-Farber’s initiatives in immunotherapy, genomics, and leukemia to advance cancer treatments for patients. This allocation is pivotal to the Institute’s investment in therapeutic strategies that provoke an immune response against cancer, target the causes of gene mutations, and employ collaborative research approaches as precision cancer care expands its scope.

As you will note in the quarterly update at right, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute continues to be a leading recipient of federal grants. But federal funding even at its highest does not support our entire agenda for research and care. Your generous gifts fill that gap and fuel our ambitious mission to conquer all forms of cancer. Thank you for the powerful difference you are making in the lives of adults and children with cancer, here in Boston and around the globe.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Paresky
Senior Vice President for Development

Quarterly Update on Government Funding at Dana-Farber

Researchers from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women’s Hospital have received a $10 million Breakthrough Award from the Department of Defense to test whether aspirin helps women with breast cancer avoid recurrence and live longer.

“This trial will be the first of its kind in the United States,” said Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women’s Cancers, director of the Breast Oncology Program, and Thompson Chair of Breast Cancer Research at Dana-Farber. “The potential benefits of aspirin in preventing breast recurrence are significant and we look forward to determining if aspirin could augment current therapies. This is a treatment that needs to be evaluated further,” emphasized Winer, who is a partnering principal investigator of the grant.

In the U.S., the pharmaceutical industry plays a significant role in sponsoring cancer treatment, but there has been little industry incentive to fund a large-scale trial using aspirin, which is generic and widely available over the counter. The Department of Defense Breakthrough Award is a unique mechanism that supports studies like the Aspirin for Breast Cancer trial, which would be unlikely to receive funding through traditional industry sources.

Although chemotherapy and hormonal therapies have helped women with breast cancer live longer, they are expensive and have many side effects,” said Wendy Chen, MD, MPH, a senior physician at Dana-Farber’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and co-investigator of the study. “Women whose tumors are not sensitive to hormones have limited treatment options. The results of this trial, if positive, could have a huge impact on the disease, as we have estimated that aspirin may save 10,000 lives a year in the U.S. and 75,000 lives in low-income countries.”

The Institute’s success in obtaining federal grants is a credit to donors who have the foresight and vision to fund innovative research aimed at new ways to combat cancer, and the state-of-the-art facilities required to enable that progress. Investigators must have a proven scientific track record to attain federal funding. The generosity of philanthropists helps the Institute remain competitive in this marketplace, and recruit and retain world-class faculty members whose contributions span multiple fields of cancer research. ■

The grant reported in this publication was supported by the Department of Defense’s Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program.

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Wendy Chen, MD, MPH, will lead research funded by a $10 million Department of Defense grant.
McGraw Family continues legacy of support with $1 million gift to accelerate head and neck cancer discoveries

When Robert “Robin” McGraw was faced with the decision about where to receive his cancer care, he knew where to turn. The McGraw Family has long supported Dana-Farber, including Robin’s mother, who was passionate about raising money to improve early detection and treatment of breast cancer. The family’s foundation, the Donald C. McGraw Foundation, Inc., also previously funded a fellowship at Dana-Farber and established the McGraw/Patterson Center for Population Sciences, named for the physician who treated Robin’s mother.

Inspired by his care at Dana-Farber and the need for additional treatment options, Robin and the McGraw Foundation recently made a $1 million gift to establish the McGraw Family Fund for Head and Neck Cancer Research under the direction of Robert Haddad, MD, disease center leader of Dana-Farber’s Head and Neck Oncology Program.

“The McGraw Family has been tremendously supportive of Dana-Farber, and this meaningful gift is furthering that legacy,” said Haddad. “Head and neck cancers attract limited funding for research, making philanthropic support vital to propel discoveries. Robin’s generosity will be transformational in helping us to elucidate the alterations driving these malignancies, identify new drugs, and deliver more effective treatments.”

Robin carefully considered how best to help overcome the challenges in treating head and neck cancers, many of which are rapidly increasing in incidence. Recognizing the importance of discovery science and the need for more funding in this disease, Robin chose to support Haddad and his colleagues as they strive to understand the biological mechanisms linked to these tumors, which could improve early diagnosis and inform the delivery of targeted treatments.

“Research is the key to ending all of this. The more money that’s invested in research, the better chance we have,” said Robin. “I wanted to make a significant contribution to the current progress in head and neck cancer treatment, and I put my money where I felt the most impact could be made.”

Long dedicated to the fields of medicine and health care, Robin is a retired paramedic and former medical captain of the Egremont Fire Department. He also holds leadership roles in medical research organizations, including the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. While his philanthropic interests are many, Robin recognized that his support of Dana-Farber would not only drive research, but also contribute to the Institute’s signature, total patient care.

Avon Foundation closes the funding gap in metastatic breast cancer

It is estimated that up to 250,000 people are living with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) in the U.S., yet, over the last decade, only 7 percent of breast cancer research investments have been dedicated to MBC. With no cure available, and 40,000 Americans dying of MBC each year, the Avon Foundation for Women has made MBC research a funding priority, and has chosen Dana-Farber’s Constantine Mitsiades, MD, PhD, and Eugen Dhimolea, PhD, to receive one of their prestigious research grants.

“The Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance issued a Landscape Report last fall that identified the lack of effective lab models as a factor that impedes progress in developing new treatments for MBC,” said Carolyn Angelieri Ricci, program director at the Avon Foundation for Women. “Dr. Mitsiades’ project directly addresses this gap as it proposes to develop a new laboratory model to study MBC.”

The Avon Foundation hopes their $125,000 grant will help Mitsiades and Dhimolea, a member of Mitsiades’ lab and co-investigator on this grant, answer significant questions in treating MBC.

“With support from the Avon Foundation, we will be able to develop a system to determine how breast cancer cells spread and how some breast cancer cells are protected from the effects of chemotherapy,” said Mitsiades. “We hope that by understanding more about these mechanisms and processes we can significantly improve our ability to treat MBC and improve patient outcomes.”

New imaging facility will propel precision cancer research

The opening of the Molecular Cancer Imaging Facility (MCIF) at Dana-Farber’s Harbor Campus in June marked a pivotal shift for research in precision cancer medicine.

Made possible in part by a visionary $10 million grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC), a state-funded agency that supports life sciences innovation, research, development, and commercialization, the MCIF is home to the only cyclotron in New England dedicated to cancer research. The cyclotron generates short-lived molecular imaging probes that are tracked by PET scanners, enabling researchers to assess the effectiveness of treatments within days instead of weeks or months.

“The MCIF cyclotron will allow our scientists to create the tools needed to identify the precise molecular and genetic abnormalities that drive cancer,” said Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, chief scientific officer at Dana-Farber.

Cutting the ribbon at the MCIF opening were (below, from left) Hay Nguyen, MD, interim executive director and medical director of the Boston Public Health Commission; Angus McQuilken, MLSC vice president for communications and marketing and a former Dana-Farber patient; Barrett Rollins; and Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, Dana-Farber president and CEO.
In the early hours of Aug. 18, dozens of volunteers, participants, and radio and television crews arrived at Fenway Park to kick off the 14th annual WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon presented by Arbella Insurance Foundation. The 36-hour event, broadcast live by New England Sports Network (NESN) and WEEI Sports Radio Network (93.7 FM), featured inspiring stories from Dana-Farber patients, doctors, researchers, and nurses, and raised $3.5 million. Members of the Boston Red Sox stopped by throughout the event to snap photos and talk with patients, speak on air, and make personal gifts.

Patients and family members shared their personal stories of struggle and triumph after receiving a cancer diagnosis, demonstrating the critical importance of the funds raised through the Radio-Telethon, and encouraging listeners and viewers to join the mission to give.

“At its core, sports talk radio is about passion, persuasion, and, above all, community, and nowhere is that better displayed than during the two days of the Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon,” said Phil Zachary, vice president and market manager at Entercom Boston, parent company of WEEI. “It’s humbling for us at WEEI to witness our audience respond to the impassioned and persuasive pleas of Dana-Farber patients and staff, and to know that in some small way we’re a part of their caring community.”

Highlights from the event included interviews with New England sports team principal owners John Henry of the Boston Red Sox; Robert Kraft of the New England Patriots and the New England Revolution, who is also a Dana-Farber Trustee; Charlie Jacobs of the Boston Bruins; and Wyc Grousbeck of the Boston Celtics. Boston Bruins Jimmy Hayes, Torey Krug, Tuukka Rask, and former Bruins Shawn Thornton also appeared to encourage the audience to make gifts. New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady texted in his generous $50,000 gift.

There was also plenty of activity before and during the games each night of Radio-Telethon. On Day One, the Boston Red Sox Jimmy Fund Award was given to Robert Brack for his work to support ovarian cancer research, as well as a number of other worthy causes at Dana-Farber. Also during the pre-game ceremony, fans were able to hear the incredible story of a Dana-Farber stem cell recipient who was meeting his donor in person for the first time on field. Their story was made even more impactful as they threw out the first pitch together.

On Day Two, Mark Giave, the father of a Jimmy Fund Clinic patient, beautifully sang the National Anthem, while Jimmy Fund Clinic teenagers who attended this year’s Spring Training Trip were featured during the pre-game show. Two of those teens were chosen to throw out the first pitch during that night’s game.

Phones kept ringing until late into the night of Aug. 19, with donors calling from all 50 states, pushing the 14-year total past the $40 million mark. ■

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Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation drives research

I nspired by the life and memory of Terri Brodeur and Norma Logan, the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation has supported breast cancer research for over a decade. The foundation’s activities—including its Walk Across Southeastern Connecticut, which recently celebrated its milestone 10th anniversary—are led by a committed core of volunteers who support promising young investigators in New England and beyond.

In 2015, the foundation awarded two $100,000 fellowships to Dana-Farber researchers Eugen Dhimolea, PhD, and Nina Bic, PhD. Dhimolea will use laboratory models to study the relationship between the bone metastatic microenvironment and the evolution of malignant cell populations in relation to resistance to antieastrogens, a common post-operative treatment for patients with estrogen receptor (ER)-positive breast cancer. Dhimolea’s research will help to reveal why breast cancer metastatic lesions do not respond to treatment.

Bic is examining mutations to the PIK3CA gene, which promotes the growth of approximately 30 percent of all breast cancer tumors. She will investigate specific metabolic vulnerabilities in PIK3CA-mutant breast cancers, which she recently discovered, to see if these targets represent new opportunities for treatment.

“We direct 100 percent of the funds we raise directly to research,” said Michael Martin, PhD, a member of the organization’s Scientific Advisory Committee. “For many young investigators, this support is a lifeline for their career development. As NIH funding decreases, it’s important for us to step in—we can’t afford to let such critical research unravel.” ■

Dana-Farber researchers Eugen Dhimolea, PhD (left) and Nina Bic, PhD (right) with them (left) the Foundation’s Patricia Newborg, board secretary and 10th Anniversary Walk Across Southeastern Connecticut chair; Sandy Merriwether, co-founder and interim executive director; Howard Brensilver, MD, board vice president; and Mike Martin, PhD, Scientific Advisory Committee member.

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The 8th annual “Music Heals the Soul” event held May 12 at the InterContinental in Boston hit a high note, raising a phenomenal $775,000—more than three times the previous year—to support the Leonard P. Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies at Dana-Farber, pushing the event’s cumulative fundraising past the $1 million milestone. The night celebrated the Zakim Center’s 15th anniversary and brought together more than 600 guests for an evening of music and healing emceed by WCVB-TV’s Kelley Tuthill, a cancer survivor herself.

Guests enjoyed live performances from local musicians, delicious food, and demonstrations of therapies from the Zakim Center, including massage, acupuncture, and art therapy.

The evening honored Harold and Linda Schwartz (above), longtime friends and benefactors of the center, and Angela Menino, whose late husband, former City of Boston Mayor Tom Menino, was a Dana-Farber patient who utilized the services of the Zakim Center.

Music Heals the Soul” hits a high note for the Zakim Center

In 2015, the foundation awarded two $100,000 fellowships to Dana-Farber researchers Eugen Dhimolea, PhD, and Nina Bic, PhD. Dhimolea will use laboratory models to study the relationship between the bone metastatic microenvironment and the evolution of malignant cell populations in relation to resistance to antieastrogens, a common post-operative treatment for patients with estrogen receptor (ER)-positive breast cancer. Dhimolea’s research will help to reveal why breast cancer metastatic lesions do not respond to treatment.

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Intel Corporation advances imaging technology for immunology and AIDS research

Intel Corporation has made a concerted effort to optimize software and computational tools necessary to accelerate scientific discovery. As part of this effort, Intel awarded a gift to Youdong Mao, PhD, of Dana-Farber’s Department of Cancer Immunology and Virology.

Intel’s gift will enable Mao to apply cryo-electron microscopy to cancer immunology and AIDS research to study the structure of protein at an atomic level. Protein structures can be used to design new cancer-fighting drugs, guide the development of molecular medicine and treatments, and create a template to design vaccines that can prevent infectious diseases.

“Intel’s gift allows us to directly visualize individual molecules at the finest level that are involved in cancers and diseases and are heretofore unseen,” said Mao. “Intel not only provided research funds, but also sent their highly experienced software engineers to assist with the state-of-the-art parallel computer technology.”

“Molecular imaging represents the next grand challenge for life sciences, bringing together the disciplines of structural biology, computation chemistry, biophysics, and bioinformatics to solve problems which were not possible even six months ago,” said Brian Napier, validation engineer at Intel. “Cryo-electron microscopy allows visualization of subcellular structures and complex proteins at the atomic level, without the harmful effects of radiation which damage sensitive biological structures. Youdong Mao is applying this very technology in cancer immunology and AIDS research.”

Robert Brack receives Jimmy Fund’s highest honor

On Aug. 18, the Boston Red Sox presented Robert B. Brack with the 2015 Boston Red Sox Jimmy Fund Award, the Jimmy Fund’s highest honor, in recognition of his longstanding commitment to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund’s lifesaving mission.

In 1999, Brack’s wife, Joan, passed away from ovarian cancer. To honor her memory and the compassionate care she received at Dana-Farber, the Brack family established the Joan H. Brack Family Foundation, which supports ovarian cancer research under Ursula Matulonis, MD, interim director of Dana-Farber’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and medical director of Gynecologic Oncology. Along with his dedicated committee, Brack also organizes the annual Joan H. Brack Memorial Golf Tournament, which has cumulatively raised more than $1.7 million since 2000.

Above, Boston Red Sox President/CEO Emeritus and Institute Trustee Larry Lucchino (left) with Robert Brack during the presentation ceremony at Fenway Park.

Bill and Lynne Gillen fuel lung cancer research with new $100,000 gift

In 2007, Institute Trustee Bill Gillen and his wife, Lynne, established the James B. Gillen Thoracic Oncology Research Fund in honor of Bill’s father, who lost his battle to lung cancer in 1978. Since then, the fund has supported research at Dana-Farber’s Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology, which is currently overseen by Pasi Jänne, MD, PhD. Recently, the Gillens generously gave another $100,000 to continue their support of the fund.

“The most effective tools for treating lung cancer are prevention and early detection, this gift will help us to develop targeted immunotherapies for today’s patients while changing the odds for patients in the future,” said Jänne. Longtime supporters of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Bill and Lynne are also model ambassadors for Dana-Farber’s mission. They have participated in many Institute and Jimmy Fund events, along with speaking about their experience with lung cancer.

“This renewed gift is a sign of our continued confidence in the thoracic team and the leadership of Dr. Jänne,” said Bill Gillen. “We are at a point now where the pace of discovery is accelerating. The return on investment is greater than it has ever been. The dedication of the researchers and staff at Dana-Farber and the Lowe Center is extraordinary and they deserve our support. I have seen the collaboration within the Institute, and believe that the discoveries in thoracic will benefit a wide range of disease centers.”

The Herb Chambers Automotive Family named official partner of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund

In addition to its financial contribution, Herb Chambers dealerships have hosted a number of initiatives throughout the past year to increase awareness and funding for Dana-Farber. Among these were a month-long in-store fundraising campaign, and promotion and sales of the popular Boston Red Sox/Jimmy Fund License Plate to the purchasers of new and pre-owned vehicles.
When Ken Schwartz was diagnosed with esophageal cancer earlier this year, his entire family rallied by his side with love, support, and a shared mission: partner with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to conquer the disease.

During his treatment, Ken and his family met with Dana-Farber physician-scientists to learn more about esophageal and gastric cancer—and the vital need for research funding. Inspired to fulfill that need, Ken’s daughter and son-in-law, Alyson and Michael T. Strianese, made a $500,000 gift to Dana-Farber to establish the Schwartz and Strianese Family Fund for Esophageal Cancer Research—and, with Ken’s wife, Julia, created a Giving Page online to enable others to support the fund.

And their support does not stop there. Alyson and Julia launched funds as virtual riders in the Pan-Mass Challenge, and Ken’s other daughter, Karly Servais, participated in the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. All three are involved in forming an advocacy group for Dana-Farber’s Center for Esophageal and Gastric Cancer with other Boston-based families, and Alyson has joined Dana-Farber’s Visiting Committee for the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center.

The Strianeses’ fund will support research led by Peter Enzinger, MD, director of the Center for Esophageal and Gastric Cancer, who treated Ken before his passing in September. “Alyson and Michael’s generous investment is vital to continue funding the Schwartz and Strianese Family Fund for Esophageal Cancer Research to support early-career investigators catalyzing their promising research, helping make new breakthroughs that may change the results of their important work in the field.”

Ovarian Cancer Research Fund granted Sarah Walker, PhD, a Liz Tilberts Early Career Award for $450,000. Ovarian Cancer Research Fund’s steadfast dedication to invigorating the careers of these investigators catalyzes their promising research, helping make new breakthroughs that may change patient care.

“This support from Ovarian Cancer Research Fund has a tremendous impact on my career as an investigator,” said Walker. “This grant will help enable my work to better understand the molecular events that underlie ovarian cancer, develop better models to study ovarian cancer, and identify novel therapeutic strategies for targeting this disease.”

In addition to this support, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund granted Ann Schreiber Mentored Investigator Awards to Zeina Kais, PhD, and Nicole Spanyd, PhD. Kais is investigating a novel approach to treating a unique subtype of high-grade serous ovarian cancer by targeting two different mechanisms that contribute to resistance to chemotherapy. Spanyd is identifying new genetic dependencies in ovarian cancers that lack a certain type of DNA repair mechanism, which can be caused by BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutations.

New grants from Ovarian Cancer Research Fund support early-career investigators

Difficult to detect, and with no available screening test, ovarian cancer is an elusive disease that is often caught only once it has spread. Through investment in research, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund seeks to better understand, identify, treat, and ultimately cure ovarian cancer. Continuing a longstanding relationship with Dana-Farber, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund recently awarded a total of $600,000 in grants to three early-career investigators.

“The quality of proposals received and grants funded by Ovarian Cancer Research Fund increase every year, and those from Dana-Farber are no exception,” said Jeff Boyd, PhD, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund’s Scientific Advisory Committee chair and board member. “We continue to award ovarian cancer research grants to this leading cancer institution, which serves as a testament to the caliber of its investigators, and we look forward to seeing the results of their important work in the field.”

Ovarian Cancer Research Fund granted Sarah Walker, PhD, a Liz Tilberts Early Career Award for $450,000, and a Liz Tilberts Early Career Award for $450,000. Ovarian Cancer Research Fund’s steadfast dedication to invigorating the careers of these investigators catalyzes their promising research, helping make new breakthroughs that may change patient care.

“This support from Ovarian Cancer Research Fund has a tremendous impact on my career as an investigator,” said Walker. “This grant will help enable my work to better understand the molecular events that underlie ovarian cancer, develop better models to study ovarian cancer, and identify novel therapeutic strategies for targeting this disease.”

In addition to this support, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund granted Ann Schreiber Mentored Investigator Awards to Zeina Kais, PhD, and Nicole Spanyd, PhD. Kais is investigating a novel approach to treating a unique subtype of high-grade serous ovarian cancer by targeting two different mechanisms that contribute to resistance to chemotherapy. Spanyd is identifying new genetic dependencies in ovarian cancers that lack a certain type of DNA repair mechanism, which can be caused by BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutations.

A Chance For Kids & Families® is a win-win for everyone

From July 27 through Sept. 6, customers who visited Burger King® or Valvoline Instant Oil Change and paid $1 for an A Chance for Kids & Families® scratch card won a prize and helped the Jimmy Fund conquer cancer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Paul Caprino, a bike messenger from Somerville, Mass., was inspired to give because his girlfriend lost her father to cancer when she was a child. “This is a way to support cancer research,” said Caprino. “And small amounts can really add up.”

Small amounts do add up: this year’s promotion raised more than $570,000. Since the program began as a partnership between Burger King and the Jimmy Fund in 2000, A Chance for Kids & Families® has raised over $13.3 million. Valvoline Instant Oil Change joined the effort in 2014.

“Cancer has touched so many lives,” said Jim Frigo, Burger King franchisee. “The work being done at Dana-Farber is helping to rid this devastating disease from the world. The Burger King franchise community, our employees, and vendor partners are proud to help this effort through A Chance for Kids & Families®.

Customers who contributed $1 to the Jimmy Fund received a scratch card and won a prize provided by a corporate sponsor. Prizes included a TNT Vacations trip powered by Funjet Vacations, American Airlines AAdvantage®, a hot tub from New England Spas, a Sea-Doo® personal watercraft, a shed from Reeds Ferry Sheds®, and tickets to Blue Man Group Boston, Six Flags New England, and Water Country.

Caprino’s ticket yielded a Whopper Jr.™ with cheese, which he redeemed while between deliveries at the Center Plaza Burger King in downtown Boston.
American Cancer Society awards more than $5.1 million to Dana-Farber investigators

A longtime supporter of Dana-Farber, the American Cancer Society (ACS) recently bestowed two of its most prestigious honors on investigators Kenneth Anderson, MD, and Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD, among 11 ACS grants to Dana-Farber investigators totaling more than $5.1 million.

Anderson, director of Dana-Farber’s Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and LeBow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics and the Kraft Family Professor of Medicine, received a renewal of his 2010 Clinical Research Professor Award. Meyerson, co-director of the Center for Cancer Genome Discovery, earned a Research Professor Award.

ACS Research Professorships provide flexible funding for investigators who have made seminal contributions to cancer research and provide leadership in their research area. Clinical Research Professorships are awarded to scientists who have made significant contributions in the area of cancer control that have changed the direction of clinical, psychosocial, behavioral, health policy, or epidemiologic cancer research.

Anderson’s award funds research on new therapies to treat multiple myeloma. “I am highly honored and grateful to be an American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professor,” said Anderson. “It helps to support development of novel therapies and mentoring of the next generation of researchers and caregivers, ultimately leading to new and more effective treatments for patients and their families.” Meyerson’s professorship supports genome-inspired approaches to lung cancer discovery and therapeutics. “I am extremely grateful for this American Cancer Society professorship,” said Meyerson. “This grant will help us to generate innovative approaches to the prevention, management, and treatment of lung cancer, which is a major global public health problem.”

In addition, nine Dana-Farber investigators earned ACS research grants:

- Gregory Abel, MD, MPH, to study the effectiveness of new treatments for myelodysplastic syndromes;
- Adam Bass, MD, to enhance therapy for gastrointestinal adenocarcinoma driven by mutations to the ERBB2 gene;
- Curtis Chong, MD, PhD, to accelerate drug discovery for patients with EGFR-mutant lung cancer who have developed resistance to standard treatments;
- Rachel Freedman, MD, MPH, to examine disparities in breast cancer knowledge and treatment adherence;
- Cigall Kadoch, PhD, to identify small-molecule-based therapeutics to treat human synovial sarcoma;
- Rachel Kubista, PhD, to structurally characterize protein complexes implicated in tumor suppression and identify small molecules capable of stabilizing these complexes;
- Jennifer Mack, MD, MPH, to examine difficult parent-physician relationships in pediatric oncology;
- Samuel McBrayer, PhD, to investigate the functional effects of a mutant enzyme in glioma; and
- Xiao-Feng Zheng, PhD, to examine the dysregulation of a tumor suppressor gene implicated in lymphoma and breast cancer.

“The advances made by Dana-Farber investigators are being translated into improvements for cancer patients around the world,” said Peg Camp, ACS executive vice president and New England Division operating officer. “We are proud to support these talented scientists in their quest to cure cancer.”

John Hancock Fenway Fantasy Day participants step up to the plate for the Jimmy Fund

On June 27, more than 2,000 participants and fans gathered at historic Fenway Park to live out their baseball dreams and fight cancer at John Hancock Fenway Fantasy Day to benefit the Jimmy Fund. This year, presenting sponsor John Hancock and Fantasy Day participants knocked cancer out of the park, raising more than $200,000 for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s patient care and research initiatives—bringing the event’s cumulative fundraising total to more than $7.5 million since 1992.

Jimmy Fund supporters could fundraise their way onto the field, purchase individual or corporate hospitality packages, or contribute by sponsoring a patient—creating an opportunity for adult and pediatric cancer patients to enjoy a memorable day of batting and fielding fun.

This year also marked the start of the High School All-Stars, a program for baseball and softball teams to fundraise and sponsor patients, as well. The top three fundraising teams earned the opportunity to play on the field during the event. “John Hancock is honored to support Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund through this event,” said Rob Friedman, assistant vice president of Sponsorship and Event Marketing at John Hancock. “We maintain a longstanding commitment to the communities in which we live and work, and we are particularly proud of our partnership with Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund as we work together to conquer cancer.”

Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute rise to the occasion

The Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute held their annual spring gala, this year entitled “RISE: An Evening to Celebrate the Power of Mentorship,” Friday, May 1, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston. Nelly Carreño, three-time Emmy award-winning NECN meteorologist, emceed the event, and special honorees and Boston-based chef Gordon Hamersley spoke on the power of mentorship. The night provided fine dining and an auction with unique items for all interests. More than $500,000 was raised in support of various research, treatment, and patient programs at Dana-Farber. Below, 2015 Friends of Dana-Farber Co-Presidents Jennifer Cunningham Butler (left) and Debbie Maltzman, at the event.

Established in 1976, the Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is an all-volunteer group of more than 1,200 members united by a shared dedication to the fight against cancer. In addition to their fundraising efforts, the Friends also volunteer throughout the Institute.

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission
The Lustgarten Foundation recently awarded a generous grant of $1.5 million for groundbreaking pancreatic cancer research.

**The Lustgarten Foundation grant of $1.5 million fuels groundbreaking pancreatic cancer research**

The Lustgarten Foundation recently awarded a generous grant of $1.5 million over three years to Charles Fuchs, MD, MPH, director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center and the Robert T. and Judith B. Hale Chair in Pancreatic Cancer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. This generous award, which will help Fuchs launch a comprehensive study to define new targets for prevention and treatment of pancreatic cancer, exemplifies the organization’s commitment to funding the most promising studies across the United States and advancing efforts that may lead to new breakthroughs.

“We have made some progress in the treatment of pancreatic cancer, there is an urgent need to define new, more effective therapies,” said Fuchs. “In the years ahead, we seek to better understand the biologic drivers of pancreatic cancer, and thereby develop new therapeutic approaches based on those critical biologic discoveries. We are grateful to have the foundation as a partner on our mission to improve outcomes for men and women with this disease.”

In a previous study of more than 300,000 healthy patients, Fuchs and his collaborators determined that traits such as obesity and diabetes can increase an individual’s risk of developing pancreatic cancer—but the mechanisms that lie behind this relationship remain a mystery. The grant funding will be shared with Mandar Muzumdar, MD, a member of Dana-Farber’s gastrointestinal faculty, and the team will use sophisticated laboratory models to investigate how obesity contributes to the spread of this disease. By studying various types of blood and tumor specimens, the researchers hope to gain new insights into how pancreatic cancer forms in the body—knowledge that may help to reveal new targets for therapy.

Building upon their findings, the team will then conduct tests in the laboratory aimed at inhibiting the most promising new targets that they uncover.

Preclinical testing is critical in determining which therapeutic options may be effective at halting cancer’s growth and development, and is an important first step before investigators can move their work into the clinic.

“Cancer of the pancreas is the most lethal cancer there is—it is difficult to detect and hard to treat,” said Kerri Kaplan, executive director and chief operating officer of The Lustgarten Foundation.

“Research is our best weapon in the fight against this deadly disease, and we remain committed to collaborating with and supporting expert investigators like Dr. Fuchs to find better treatment options and offer new hope to patients and their families.”

Founded in 1998, The Lustgarten Foundation is America’s largest private funder of pancreatic cancer research. The foundation is devoted to finding a cure, facilitating dialogue within the medical and scientific community, and educating the public about this lethal disease, which affects nearly 49,000 people in the United States each year.

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**The scoop on Scooper Bowl®**

At the 33rd annual Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl® presented by Walgreens, ice cream lovers devoured more than 8,000 gallons of ice cream and 24,000 frozen novelties on Boston’s City Hall Plaza June 2-4. The nation’s largest all-you-can-eat ice cream festival raised more than $463,000 to support Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund.

Thousands braved the rain and heat to enjoy delicious treats provided by the nation’s top ice cream and frozen yogurt companies, including Baskin-Robbins®, Ben & Jerry’s®, Breyers®, DelishTM by Walgreens, Edy’sScooper Bowl®, Hood®, Orange Leaf® Frozen Yogurt, and Yuengling’s Ice Cream®.

Attendees also posed for photos with a special Scooper Bowl photo frame and shared them with their social media followers and friends using #ScooperBowl.

“Walgreens was proud to support the Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl as the presenting sponsor again this year,” said Tyler Hough, director of Pharmacy and Retail Operations at Walgreens. “With over 140 local store team members volunteering more than 500 hours at the event, we were able to show our alignment with Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. It is a rewarding way for Walgreens to give back to an organization that builds a strong, happy, and healthy community and helps us with our purpose to help people get, stay, and live well.”

Since 1983, the Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl has raised more than $5 million.

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**Terrana’s passion for Dana-Farber propels translational research**

Beth Terrana has made a $100,000 gift to support the work of Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women’s Cancers, director of the Breast Oncology Program, and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research at Dana-Farber. An Institute Trustee, Terrana was inspired by the medical advances being made, and by the passionate commitment of the doctors, researchers, and fellows she has encountered during her years of involvement with Dana-Farber.

“When you look at Dana-Farber’s patient care and research, the work is outstanding,” said Terrana. She is also a co-founder, former co-chair, and current member of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers Executive Council and a member of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers Visiting Committee.

“From the first day I was involved with Visiting Committee, I have been overwhelmed by the researchers and the clinicians involved with the program,” said Terrana. “Not just because they are brilliant, but because they are so dedicated. I called Dr. Winer after a meeting and asked, ‘What can I do?’”

“Beth Terrana’s gift will fund research conducted in HER2-positive breast cancer,” said Winer. “In particular, the gift will support Shom Goel, MD, PhD, a young translational investigator who is conducting experiments in the laboratory and the clinic to improve the care for women with advanced HER2-positive breast cancer who have already experienced a worsening of their cancer in spite of the standard treatments.”

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**Impact is available online at JimmyFund.org/Impact**
Crowleys support innovative melanoma research

Longtime contributors Jane and Brian Crowley have established a fund to support the melanoma investigations of F. Stephen Hodi, MD, director of both the Melanoma Center and Center for Immunology and the Sharon Crowley Martin Chair at Dana-Farber.

“We have seen the problems associated with melanoma and want to help in the development of new therapies for the people and families that may be affected by this disease now and in the years to come,” said Brian. “There have been a tremendous number of advancements made in the fight against melanoma at Dana-Farber and we’re proud to be associated with that work.”

Last year, the drugs pembrolizumab and nivolumab, which were tested extensively at Dana-Farber, were the first in a new class of immunotherapies approved by the FDA for patients with advanced melanoma. Called PD-1 inhibitors, these therapies unleash the immune system’s natural anti-tumor response. Additionally, Hodi led a study that extended survival in patients with metastatic melanoma by 50 percent with a combination of immune therapies. He looks forward to continued progress in the Melanoma Center’s immunotherapy studies.

“With the generous support of the Crowleys, we will be able to pursue areas of investigation that would otherwise take much longer or not happen at all,” said Hodi.

“Dr. Hodi certainly has shown that the money that has been invested into the research of melanoma has helped many people with the disease,” said Brian.
ASH expands early-career funding with nearly $600,000 in grants to Dana-Farber

The mission of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) is to conquer blood diseases worldwide. To help realize this mission, ASH fosters a climate of research and innovation in hematology through highly competitive grant programs, including the ASH Scholar Awards.

This year, ASH awarded Dana-Farber physician-scientists a total of $592,000 for their studies in critical areas of hematology research. Dana-Farber junior faculty members Birgit Knoechel, MD, PhD; Jens Lohr, MD, PhD; and Jennifer Whangbo, MD, PhD, and fellow Dan Landau, MD, PhD, joined a prestigious group of 31 ASH Scholars—the largest cohort of Scholar Award recipients in ASH history.

“These awards give talented young physician-scientists the opportunity to dedicate time and attention to their research, instead of the pursuit of incremental funding for their labs,” said Patricia Frustace, director of development for ASH, which dedicated an additional $1 million to its Scholar Awards fund this year in response to the challenging federal funding climate. “The work of these investigators is what’s leading the innovations we’re seeing in hematology right now.”

Knoechel continues studies into the mechanisms of resistance in acute T-cell lymphoblastic leukemia. Lohr works to develop a new technique to genetically profile multiple myeloma with reduced patient discomfort. Whangbo hopes to establish a potential treatment strategy for chronic graft versus host disease in children. And Landau researches the cellular evolution of relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and the genetic predictors for progression-free survival.

“The ASH Scholar Awards are transformative for early career investigators,” said Robert Soffier, MD, chief of the Division of Hematologic Malignancies. “For some of these investigators, it may be the first support they receive, and it gives them the chance to pursue research that they otherwise might not be able to focus on.”

“To support research is to support the future of this field and treatments for these diseases,” said Frustace.

Tina’s Wish drives early detection research in ovarian cancer

Tina Brozman was an extraordinary woman. The youngest judge ever appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, she was widely respected as a brilliant attorney, a dedicated mentor, and—most importantly—beloved wife and mother to three children. After her passing from ovarian cancer, The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation, also known as Tina’s Wish, was established in her memory to propel groundbreaking research for the early detection and prevention of this disease.

At Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the foundation is currently supporting two projects: Jarrod Marto, PhD, director of the Blais Proteomics Center at Dana-Farber, received a grant of $100,000 to fuel research focused on identifying the distinct proteins that ovarian cancer cells secrete into the bloodstream, and Dipanjan Chowdhury, PhD, received a grant of $200,000 to look for the specific genetic alterations in microRNAs that regulate the cancer-preventing BRCA genes. Alterations in microRNAs may emerge as early markers for detecting ovarian cancer. Tina’s Wish also is funding a collaborative research consortium—

including Dana-Farber and four of the nation’s top medical institutions—that brings together world-class physician-scientists to develop innovative prevention and diagnostic strategies for ovarian cancer. Through initiatives like these, the foundation continues to further its mission, “Know Early. Know Hope.”

“We’ve seen incredible hope from the passion that investigators are bringing to their research and from the progress that they’ve made thus far,” said Amy Kyle, Institute Trustee and president of the foundation.

“We still have a long way to go, but we’re moving closer to our goal of discovering an economical and effective early detection test for ovarian cancer.”

— AMY KYLE, Institute Trustee and president of The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation

Jimmy Fund Big Ideas Contest

The Jimmy Fund Big Ideas Contest, a biennial contest that solicits innovative fundraising ideas from the general public, received 209 submissions from 19 states this spring. Five finalists were selected to present their ideas to a panel of judges and a live audience at a June 10 event emceed by WCVB-TV/Channel 5’s Phil Lipof. The judges crowned the Surprenant family the grand prize winners with “Jimmy Fund Jokers: Laughter is the Best Medicine,” a campaign utilizing social media to share jokes and raise money.

At left, Michael, Joy, and Maxwell Surprenant display their winners’ certificate surrounded by judges who mentored and offered expertise to each finalist (from left): Institute Trustee Daniel Kraft, president, the Kraft Group-International; Pam Hamlin, global president, managing partner, Arnold Worldwide; Institute Trustee Larry Lucchino, president/CEO emeritus, Boston Red Sox; John Donohue, chairman, president & CEO, Arbella Insurance Group; Bill Fine, president & general manager, WCVB- TV/Channel 5; and John Maguire, CEO, Friendly’s Ice Cream. (Not pictured, Institute Trustee Laura Sen, president & CEO, B&I’s Wholesale Club, Inc.)

Contributing stock or securities is an easy and efficient way to invest in Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund’s mission to create a world without cancer—with additional benefits for you!

To learn more about the power of giving stock and securities, contact Caitlin Fink at Caitlin_Fink@dfci.harvard.edu or (617) 582-7537.

To arrange a stock transfer, contact Nina Khosrowsalafi at NinaM_Khosrowsalafi@dfci.harvard.edu or (617) 632-5501.

dana-farber.org/stock

Always consult with your tax advisor for specific tax information when giving securities, as certain limitations to deductions may apply.
Strong team effort raises $597,000 in the 2015 Rally for the Jimmy Fund

I t takes a team to defeat cancer, and nowhere is that more evident than with Rally for the Jimmy Fund presented by Next Step Living. Participants contributing $5 or more enjoyed the opportunity to wear their Red Sox gear at school or the office on April 13 for Red Sox Opening Day at Fenway Park. Thanks to the collective efforts of countless supporters, these small gifts have translated into huge impact over the years, bringing in more than $46.6 million for cancer research and care since 2006. This year, 497 companies and schools throughout New England joined together to raise more than $597,000. State Street Corporation finished first among companies for the sixth consecutive year with $42,000 raised, and Bentley University led the schools by raising $22,000. While every team’s hard work was truly appreciated, Bentley stole the show this year by topping their category in their first year of participation. It began in the classroom, where Adjunct Assistant Professor Troy Boullette challenged his “Effective Sales” class to apply what they learned by fundraising for Rally for the Jimmy Fund as their semester project. The students teamed up to raise thousands of dollars through social media, heartfelt video appeals, sales at local businesses, and other creative tactics. Boullette noted that the students were happy to give their all to such a good cause, saying, “Rally for the Jimmy Fund was a rewarding experience for all of us, and we took pride in what we were able to accomplish together.” This achievement did not go unnoticed by other top Rally teams—team leaders from companies like State Street and John Hancock personally contacted Jimmy Fund staff to praise the Bentley effort. Proceeds from Rally provide unrestricted, flexible funding that may be directed where most needed to advance Dana-Farber’s mission. Priority areas include discovery science, patient care, community outreach, and capital improvements, among others.

Members of Bentley University’s “Effective Sales” class met with Red Sox player and Jimmy Fund Co-Captain Brock Holt (center) at Fenway Park as their prize for being the top school fundraising team in Rally for the Jimmy Fund.

American Heart Association grant paves way for cardiovascular disease prevention strategies

M arc Vidal, PhD, director of Dana-Farber’s Center for Cancer Systems Biology, has received a two-year, $500,000 grant from the American Heart Association (AHA) as part of a groundbreaking new program to develop personalized treatment and prevention strategies for cardiovascular disease (CVD) and stroke.

Called the Cardiovascular Genom-Epigenome Phenome Study, the program enables researchers for the first time to simultaneously access massive volumes of deeper-level data from multiple studies, including the Framingham Heart Study and the Jackson Heart Study. Vidal’s project focuses on the integrated genomic, transcriptomic, and epigenetic analysis of CVD subtypes. Transcriptomics is the system of gene readouts in a cell, while epigenetics is a traffic signal for the molecular machinery that turns genes on and off.

“But because genomics, epigenomics, and transcriptomics are functionally related,” said Vidal, “integrated analysis will reduce longstanding gaps in our knowledge of CVD risk and identify epigenetic marks that regulate gene expression.”

In turn, that knowledge may lead to strategies for early prevention and novel therapies for CVD. Vidal’s research focuses on constructing a map of interactions among the various proteins in human cells—called the interactome. By interacting with other proteins and molecules, proteins enable cells to survive, reproduce, and fulfill their role within the body. Genetic mutations can introduce errors in the makeup of specific proteins, potentially interfering with the proteins’ interactions and leading to disease.

With the AHA grant, Vidal and his team will take a systems biology approach to CVD, which will provide a deeper understanding of disease mechanisms, identify biomarkers shared among multiple disease subtypes, and decipher the genetic and epigenetic architecture underlying the disease. Based on their findings, Vidal and his team will then develop and implement personalized medicine strategies in the treatment and prevention of CVD.

When New England-area Hyundai dealers began to fund pediatric cancer research in 1998, they chose to direct their support to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund. Now a national effort with support from Hyundai Motor America and dealers nationwide, Hope On Wheels continues to support studies at Dana-Farber, including three new grants totaling $650,000. A $250,000 Scholar Hope Grant was awarded to Stuart Orkin, MD, chair of Pediatric Oncology and the David G. Nathan, MD, Professor of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, to identify more impactful therapies for children with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML).

“Despite many recent advances in the management of CML, challenges remain, especially for younger patients,” said Orkin. “This award is empowering us to conduct preclinical studies to identify treatment strategies directed at curing CML.” Hope On Wheels awarded a $250,000 Scholar Hope Grant to Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancy Program, to validate new inhibitors against pediatric solid tumors. “Thanks to generous support from Hyundai, we are taking the steps needed to leverage our recent discoveries and test a new class of anti-cancer drugs against neuroblastoma and other solid tumors,” said Stegmaier.

Allison O’Neill, MD, received a $150,000 Hyundai Scholar Young Investigator Award to enhance the diagnosis of Ewing sarcoma. “We designed novel imaging technology that demonstrates great promise in detecting Ewing sarcoma,” said O’Neill. “This grant will allow us to hone our technique, with the goal of improving patient diagnosis and treatment.”

In addition to Hope On Wheels, Hyundai supports Dana-Farber through sponsorship, local dealer fundraising, and programs including the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai.

“Hyundai Hope On Wheels is honored to work with Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund to uncover new treatments for young patients with cancer,” said Hyundai Hope On Wheels Board Member and President of Lester Glenn Auto Group Adam Kraushaar. “We are tremendously proud of the projects we have supported at Dana-Farber for more than 15 years, and we look forward to continuing to partner with this world-class organization to propel discoveries.”

Marc Vidal, PhD, is analyzing protein interactions as part of an American Heart Association study.
American Institute for Cancer Research grant furthers study of the effect of exercise on breast cancer

In 1982, the American Institute for Cancer Research charted a unique course toward disease prevention by funding studies on nutrition, physical activity, and cancer. These trailblazing investigations showcase the critical importance of researching cancer through the lens of lifestyle choices, and demonstrate how evidence-based recommendations for healthy living can impact patient health. Expanding their support for this area, the American Institute for Cancer Research awarded a grant of $165,000 to Jennifer Ligibel, MD, senior physician in the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and director of the Leonard P. Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies at Dana-Farber.

“The American Institute for Cancer Research is delighted to support Dr. Ligibel’s work,” said Susan Higginbotham, PhD, RD, the institute’s vice president of research. “We are confident her investigation will shed much-needed light on an area that cries out for it—the mechanisms by which physical activity protects against breast cancer progression.”

Ligibel is conducting this work as part of Dana-Farber’s Preoperative Health and Body study, which delves into the underlying biology of the cellular mechanisms that link exercise with improved breast cancer outcomes.

“I’m very grateful for this support from the American Institute for Cancer Research,” said Ligibel. “This grant will enable us to explore more thoroughly the biological impact of exercise on breast cancer, and guide our ongoing efforts to bring the benefits of exercise to breast cancer patients.”

Swimmers support survivorship

Compassionate swimmers of all ages and abilities plunged into the pool, harbor, and ocean for three Swim Across America (SAA) events in Massachusetts this year. In April, nine teams participated in a two-hour relay at Harvard University’s Blodgett Pool. On July 10, Olympians Carlton Bruner, Kristy Kowal, Heather Petri, Erik Vendt, Eric Wunderlich, and SAA President and CEO Janel Jorgensen McArdle, joined the swimmers for a 22-mile, relay-style course in Boston Harbor. The Olympians returned the next day for an open water swim at Nantasket Beach in Hull, Mass.

SAA is a national organization that raises money and awareness for cancer programs through dozens of swim-related events each year. In 2015, $150,000 was raised for the David B. Perini, Jr. Quality of Life Clinic at Dana-Farber, and supported fellow Eric Zhou, PhD, for a fourth year as he continues to conduct valuable research into late and long-term effects of cancer treatment, such as insomnia, in adolescent and young adult survivors.

Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo surpass $1 million cumulative milestone

This summer, Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo Grilled Sandwiches once again proved that customers can save lives while saving money. Continuing a tradition started in 2009, employees at both restaurants sold $1 coupon sheets July 6 through Aug. 9, with proceeds going to support the Jimmy Fund. Through dedicated efforts and the generosity of their customers, more than $193,000 was raised for Dana-Farber's lifesaving mission in 2015, bringing the cumulative total to $1 million.

The campaign kicked off on July 1 with a rousing celebration at the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. District managers from participating restaurants toured the expanded Jimmy Fund Clinic and heard an inspiring talk from Lisa Przybylski, mother of the campaign’s featured patient partner, Wynter. According to Lisa, Wynter, a bone marrow transplant survivor who wants to be a singer when she grows up, remains thankful to Dana-Farber for the lifesaving treatment she received. “We are truly grateful to everyone involved in this coupon campaign because they help make stories like Wynter’s possible,” Lisa said. “We were thrilled to be able to give back in this way.”

For their part, Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo staff were happy to help. Mark DeBlois, chairman and CEO at Papa Gino’s, said, “It is a privilege to support the Jimmy Fund because we know every dollar raised will make an impact at Dana-Farber.”

To include Dana-Farber in your estate plans, contact us at 617-632-3756

For their part, Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo staff were happy to help. Mark DeBlois, chairman and CEO at Papa Gino’s, said, “It is a privilege to support the Jimmy Fund because we know every dollar raised will make an impact at Dana-Farber.”

Wynter Przybylski, the Jimmy Fund Clinic patient featured during this year’s Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo Grilled Sandwiches campaign, received lifesaving treatment made possible by funds raised through the Jimmy Fund and its corporate partners.

United Against Lung Cancer powers promising SCLC research

Despite incredible therapy breakthroughs for many types of lung cancer, there has not been significant progress in the development of treatments for small cell lung cancer (SCLC), the most aggressive type of lung cancer, since chemotherapy was introduced in the 1970s.

Dana-Farber’s Camilla Christensen Ross, PhD, aims to change that with a generous $100,000 grant from Uniting Against Lung Cancer, now known as the Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF). “We believe that our foundation fills a gap in funding for pilot projects that may lead to improved therapies, diagnostic technologies, cancer screenings, and prevention that will reach patients and improve lives,” said Jan Baranski, PhD, director of scientific programs for LCRF. “We are providing seed-stage funding for innovative ideas that researchers like Dr. Christensen Ross may have, and we are proud to support high-quality research being conducted at institutions like Dana-Farber.”

Christensen Ross’ study examines the potential of using the molecule THZI to treat SCLC. Initial research shows SCLC cells are highly sensitive to THZI, which inhibits transcription, the first step of genes creating products.

“By focusing on promising transcription-targeting drugs with the help of this funding, we may be able to uncover more about SCLC and further direct treatment decisions,” said Christensen Ross.

“This is a pivotal time in lung cancer research,” said Baranski. “A number of exciting developments have been made, and researchers are working to translate them into clinically relevant therapies that will impact patients on a larger scale.”
Since 1991, the Stop & Shop Supermarket Company has partnered with the Jimmy Fund to offer the Triple Winner Game, which gives customers the opportunity to support Dana-Farber by contributing $1 to the Jimmy Fund and receiving a Triple Winner scratch ticket. Triple Winner participants can receive free store products, coupons, gift cards, or cash prizes. Promotional material for the program features Jimmy Fund Clinic patients from various New England states. This year, Stop & Shop and its Our Family Foundation once again presented Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund with a check for $2.5 million, bringing its total cumulative giving to more than $58 million. As one of Dana-Farber’s largest corporate partners, Stop & Shop’s funding makes a significant impact in advancing groundbreaking pediatric cancer research, empowering Dana-Farber researchers to discover new opportunities for clinical trials for pediatric patients.

“Thanks to the incredible support from Stop & Shop, we have been able to investigate new drugs and less-toxic treatments for pediatric cancers,” said Dana-Farber’s Andrew Place, MD, PhD. “The technology that has been developed to help identify new targets in genes is revolutionary and will lead to tremendous progress in pediatric cancer research in the next decade. As we learn more about tailoring treatments, the outcome for pediatric patients will be improved significantly. This progress wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of Stop & Shop.”

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Triple Winner Program, Stop & Shop held a kick-off event for franchisees at Fenway Park in March. The speaking program included Lisa Scherber, director of patient and family programs at the Jimmy Fund Clinic, and former Jimmy Fund Clinic patient Matthew Courtney, who was featured on the Triple Winner promotional material in 1991. “I am a good example of how your support can help children with cancer,” said Courtney. “There is hope. Stop & Shop and the Jimmy Fund Clinic are the reason why I am still here.”

“We are incredibly proud of our commitment to helping eradicate children’s cancer, and are grateful for the unwavering support we have received from our customers, associates, and vendors.”

— MARK MCGOWAN, president of Stop & Shop New England Division

Stop & Shop celebrates 25 years and $58 million in support of pediatric cancer research

Theatre Collections turns the spotlight on cancer

The Jimmy Fund/Variety Children’s Charity Theatre Collections, the Jimmy Fund’s longest-running fundraiser, is still going strong after 66 years. From June 12 to July 30, thousands of moviegoers at National Amusements theatres in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Ohio gave generously after viewing a trailer depicting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund’s compelling story, when dedicated volunteers passed canisters down the aisles. Blue Man Group in Boston joined the effort for the first time this year, inviting patrons of this scintillating live performance to make contributions as they left the theatre. The Regal Foundation once again made a generous $125,000 contribution to the program, bringing the total raised through the 2015 Theatre Collections to nearly $413,000.

Theatre Collections is a tradition nearly as old as the Jimmy Fund itself. In 1948, leaders of the Variety Club of New England were drawn to the groundbreaking work being done by Sidney Farber, MD, to treat childhood leukemias. The organization’s support led to the famed 1948 radio broadcast that made a pediatric patient dubbed “Jimmy” a household name. Theatre Collections was launched the following year, with the help of Hollywood stars such as Spencer Tracy, Bing Crosby, and Debbie Reynolds, who made the now-familiar Jimmy Fund movie theatre trailers. Since that time, Theatre Collections has raised nearly $29 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund.

The speaking program included Lisa Scherber, director of patient and family programs at the Jimmy Fund Clinic, and former Jimmy Fund Clinic patient Matthew Courtney, who was featured on the Triple Winner promotional material in 1991. “I am a good example of how your support can help children with cancer,” said Courtney. “There is hope. Stop & Shop and the Jimmy Fund Clinic are the reason why I am still here.”

“We are incredibly proud of our commitment to helping eradicate children’s cancer, and are grateful for the unwavering support we have received from our customers, associates, and vendors,” said Mark McGowan, president of Stop & Shop New England Division.

Giacalone Fund advances ovarian cancer clinical trials

While Joan “Stevie” Giacalone was being treated for ovarian cancer at Dana-Farber, she wanted to help find a cure for the disease that eventually took her life by increasing the number of clinical trials available to women. To honor that desire and inspire others to support ovarian cancer research, her sister and father, Patricia and Joseph Giacalone, established the Joan S. Giacalone Ovarian Cancer Research Fund with a $100,000 gift to Dana-Farber.

While some newer drugs have proven effective at targeting genetic abnormalities that drive ovarian cancer, tumors often develop resistance to these single agents. Under the direction of Ursula Matulonis, MD, medical director of gynecologic oncology at Dana-Farber’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers, the fund will help support both laboratory-based research and clinical trials of novel drug combinations that may be effective at overcoming this obstacle.

“The Giacalone Fund will help us move laboratory findings into clinical trials to test the effectiveness of these combination therapies, which we believe will be far superior to single-drug treatments for ovarian cancer,” said Matulonis.

Stevie’s passion was to make a difference for other women with ovarian cancer, said her sister. “This is a really tragic disease and is underfunded in terms of research,” said Giacalone. “Funding ovarian cancer research is Stevie’s way of helping other women live a full life.”

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission
**HomeGoods celebrates banner year for fundraising**

For 15 years, through initiatives in their retail locations, HomeGoods has made an important impact on Dana-Farber’s fight against cancer. Their dedicated staff and generous customers raised a record-breaking $1.4 million in 2015 through the annual “HomeGoods Helps Families Fight Cancer” promotional campaign. From June 4 to 28, more than 335 stores across the country displayed bright and distinctive signage featuring Jimmy Fund Clinic patient artwork, and customers were invited to give at the register.

Every summer, the national off-price home fashions retailer also offers customers the opportunity to purchase a reusable shopping bag. For every 99-cent bag sold, 50 cents is given to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. This year’s bag featured artwork by 7-year-old Jimmy Fund Clinic patient Kate Morris from Watertown, Mass.

Last January, Kate was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Kate, a first-grader at the Brimmer and May School in Chestnut Hill, Mass., loves playing, princesses, and practicing art when not in treatment. When she grows up, Kate would like to be a chef or a ballerina. Her colorful artwork adorned thousands of bags that were sold at stores.

“We are grateful to our customers and associates who generously support Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund,” said Robyn Arvedon, HomeGoods spokesperson. “Each year, we are amazed by their passion and commitment to support Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund in its mission to help families fight cancer.”

As a dedicated supporter of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund, HomeGoods has raised millions of dollars that support research and patient care for children and adults faced with cancer. This year, in recognition of HomeGoods’ ongoing commitment, Dana-Farber named the HomeGoods Infusion Area in the Jimmy Fund Clinic.

**Stemline Therapeutics supports discovery in rare leukemia**

**Stemline**

“We hope Dr. Lane’s research will shed light on how therapeutics act to eliminate or thwart progression of disease.”

— CHRISTOPHER BROOKS, PHD
VP of research and development, Stemline Therapeutics, Inc.

Blastic plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasm (BPDCN) is a rare, aggressive form of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with no established therapy. With the support of Stemline Therapeutics, Inc., Dana-Farber may be one step closer to finding a treatment.

Recently, Stemline Therapeutics, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company that develops cancer therapeutics, including those for so-called “orphan” diseases, made a gift of $100,000 to Dana-Farber’s Andrew Lane, MD, PhD, to fuel his research into the biology of BPDCN.

“I’m interested in understanding how the disease is initiated, progresses, and develops drug resistance,” said Lane. “The generous support of Stemline will allow me to determine the prime biological targets for therapy and predict which types of therapies may be most effective for treating patients. This work may also inform better treatments for other types of AML that have a poor prognosis.”

One of these treatments might be Stemline’s therapeutic, SL-401, which Stemline is currently studying in BPDCN and AML clinical trials. The company is excited to support Lane’s research into the disease. “We hope Dr. Lane’s research will shed light on how therapeutics like SL-401 act to eliminate or thwart the progression of disease, improving outcomes for patients with BPDCN,” said Stemline’s Vice President of Research and Development Christopher Brooks, PhD.

“When we began this project, we were already generating interesting new information. We look forward to continuing progress in understanding BPDCN, and to giving patients with this disease a fighting chance,” said Lane.

**Knocking out cancer**

When Julie Anne Kelly and fellow Bostonian Andrew Myerson (above) met in 2008, they were both training for the New York City Golden Gloves boxing tournament. Kelly, a cancer survivor, was a defending champion, and Myerson, an amateur, had lost a close friend to the disease. The pair decided to fight for cures in and out of the ring by founding Haymakers for Hope, a charity that trains amateur boxers and organizes tournaments to raise money for cancer research.

Two annual Boston-based events benefit Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund: the all-female Belles of the Bravi transformed Royale Boston into a boxing ring on Oct. 2, 2014, while the 5th annual Rock N’ Rumble, this past May at the House of Blues Boston, featured 30 amateur boxers, including cancer survivors and Dana-Farber researcher John Quakenbush, PhD. Together, these events raised nearly $240,000 for Dana-Farber, contributing to nearly $936,000 that Haymakers for Hope has raised to date.
Executive Council raises nearly $500,000 for women’s cancers

Each year, the Executive Council of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers hosts two events to educate guests on the latest advances in women’s cancers research and clinical care, and to raise vital funding for the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers at Dana-Farber. "The Executive Council works tirelessly to advocate for the work of Dana-Farber physician-scientists," said Susan F. Smith, honorary chair of the Executive Council. “Together, they have raised more than $10.6 million for cutting-edge breast and ovarian cancer research and care.”

On Thursday, April 16, 2015, more than 200 guests attended the 12th annual Executive Council Breakfast, which raised close to $250,000 at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston, where attendees learned about Dana-Farber’s efforts to overcome drug resistance in breast cancers.

Additionally, the Executive Council raised more than $250,000 last November at their sixth annual Beyond Boston Luncheon at the Wellesley Country Club in Wellesley, Mass., which featured a panel discussion on Dana-Farber’s efforts to provide more effective treatments to patients with ovarian cancer.

“For more than a decade, the Executive Council has been a driving force behind our women’s cancers research,” said Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women’s Cancers, director of the Breast Oncology Program, and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research at Dana-Farber. “Their enthusiasm for our work and their dedication to the Susan F. Smith Center has inspired our team to challenge ourselves to find new ways of treating these diseases.”

Ribbon-cuttings commemorate generosity

Naming space with a gift to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund is a wonderful way to leave a lasting mark of your support for our lifesaving mission. Ribbon-cuttings were recently held to celebrate donors who named space in the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care and the Charles A. Dana Building with their generous gifts.

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10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission

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NOW – DECEMBER 4
Cheer for Dana-Farber™
Presented by Walmart

Cheerleading squads across New England are raising vital funds for Dana-Farber while competing for the opportunity to perform prior to a New England Patriots home game. Support a team at cheerfordanafarber.org or contact Nicole Allo at 617-632-5461 or nicole_allo@dfci.harvard.edu.

NOW – DECEMBER 14
Kick for Dana-Farber

This exciting new program gives youth soccer teams the chance to win an exclusive on-field Rally Tunnel experience at a New England Revolution home match, and clinics with Revolution players and coaches, while raising funds for Dana-Farber. Register or support a team at kickfordanafarber.org or contact Casey Pereira at 617-632-3863 or casey_pereira@dfci.harvard.edu.

JANUARY 2 – 3
The Resolution by PMC

Kick off the new year with The Resolution by PMC, a new indoor cycling event from the Pan-Mass Challenge to help Dana-Farber find cures for all forms of cancer. Register to ride, volunteer, or make a gift at the-resolution.org.

JANUARY 22
Chefs for Jimmy

Sample fare from Western New England’s finest chefs at Chez Josef in Agawam, Mass., at this 26th annual event benefiting the Jimmy Fund. For tickets or to learn more contact Kerry Sachs at 617-582-7916 or kerry_sachs@dfci.harvard.edu.

JANUARY 18
Palm Beach Pre-Celebration Dinner

Join us for an intimate dinner with the Institute’s pioneering physician-scientists at the Palm Beach home of Lawrence Moens, who is hosting the event with Event Chairs Phyllis Krock, an Institute Trustee, and Tom Quick. Contact Karen Martins at 561-833-2080 or karen_martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

JANUARY 19
Palm Beach Breakfast with the Doctors

Discuss the latest breakthroughs with Dana-Farber physician-scientists at the Palm Beach Country Club, hosted by Event Chairs Robert Belfer, an Institute Trustee, his wife, Renée, and Vicki and Arthur Loring. Contact Karen Martins at 561-833-2080 or karen_martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

JANUARY 20
Palm Beach 25th Anniversary Discovery Celebration

Join us for the premier event of our Palm Beach season at the historic Mar-a-Lago Club, featuring a special performance by James Taylor. The event is chaired by Event Chairs Judie Schlager, an Institute Trustee, and her husband, Larry, as well as Event Co-Chairs Peter Palandjian, an Institute Trustee; Amy and Robert Schlager; Eric Schlager, an Institute Trustee, and his wife, Beth; and Joan and Mark Weinstein. Contact Karen Martins at 561-833-2080 or karen_martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

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