Impact

Thanking Those Who Make a Difference

dana-farber.org and jimmyfund.org

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation’s mission is to find cures for childhood cancer and to give survivors long and healthy lives. This is done by giving children access to the latest in clinical trials and funding innovative research nationwide. Recently, St. Baldrick’s awarded several grants totaling more than $3.5 million to pediatric oncology researchers at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancy Program and the Ted Williams Chair, received a $2.5 million Consortium Research Grant Award to support her research in precision-based therapy for childhood leukemia.

“This grant is supporting the first U.S. multi-institutional clinical study that applies state-of-the-art genomic tests to identify targeted drug therapies for children with subtypes of leukemia that typically result in poor outcomes,” said Stegmaier.

“This study has tremendous potential to benefit individual children with leukemia as well as to improve our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying pediatric leukemia more broadly. We cannot thank the St. Baldrick’s Foundation enough for the generous support to make this critical study possible.”

In addition, Rameen Beroukhim, MD, PhD, received a Research Grant Award for his research in intratumoral heterogeneity of resistance drivers in diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas (DIPG) to help determine how DIPG becomes resistant to treatments. Brian Crompton, MD, received the Extended Scholar Award for his work targeting FAK and integrin signaling in preclinical models of Ewing sarcoma to help identify the most effective treatments. Michael Eck, MD, PhD, received a Research Grant Award for his structural and mechanistic approach to discovery of drugs effective against the KIAA1549-BRAF fusion in pediatric brain cancers. And Lindsay Frazier, MD, received a second-year Consortium Research Grant Award to continue her research as part of the Malignant Germ Cell Tumor International Consortium, which will allow her to make significant advances in clinical trials for germ cell tumors leading to less toxic therapies.

“St. Baldrick’s prides itself on supporting the most promising childhood cancer research in the world,” said Kathleen Ruddy, chair executive officer at St. Baldrick’s Foundation. “And while no single institution has a monopoly on talent or good ideas, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is consistently one of the leading research institutes in the world, so we are proud to support cutting-edge pediatric cancer research taking place at Dana-Farber. We are grateful to work together to ensure that every child has the opportunity to live a happy and healthy childhood.”

Breast Cancer Research Foundation surpasses $20 million milestone

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) began supporting the work of Dana-Farber scientists in 1994, just a year after its founding by Evelyn H. Lauder. With 2016 grants of $2.3 million to fund innovative breast cancer research projects, BCRF’s investment in the work of Institute physician-scientists now surpasses $20 million.

“BCRF has shown unwavering commitment to improving care, producing better outcomes, and transforming lives through research,” said Judy Garber, MD, MPH, director of Dana-Farber’s Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention. “BCRF grants have given Dana-Farber investigators the freedom and opportunity to pursue pioneering studies, such as an active clinical trial for women with early stage breast cancer who have inherited BRCA mutations.” An excellent example of BCRF dollars at work, this trial—known as the INFORM project—is a national effort led by Garber and her BCRF collaborators that stands to provide more treatment options and targeted care in the future.

Other research funded by BCRF has allowed investigators to test novel drug treatments for triple-negative breast cancer, better understand the intractable challenge of drug resistance, provide alternatives for metastatic breast cancer, study the common genetic features of breast and ovarian cancers, and evaluate therapy adherence among young women with breast cancer.

In addition to Garber, 2016 BCRF grants were awarded to: Myles Brown, MD, director of the Center for Functional Cancer Epigenetics; Alan D’Andrea, MD, director of the Center for DNA Damage and Repair; William Kaelin Jr., MD, Nancy Lin, MD, clinical director of Breast Oncology in the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers; Caroline Livingston, MD, deputy director of Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center; Charles A. Dana Chair in Human Cancer Genetics, and Emil Frei III, MD, Professor of Genetics and Medicine; Ursula Matulonis, MD, interim director of the Susan F. Smith Center and medical director of Gynecologic Oncology; Ann Partridge, MD, MPH, founder and director of the Program for Young Women with Breast Cancer in the Susan F. Smith Center; Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD; Meredith Regan, ScD; Nikhil Wagle, MD; Zhigang Charles Wang, MD, PhD; Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women’s Cancers, director of Breast Oncology in the Susan F. Smith Center, and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research, and Jean Zhao, PhD.

BCRF funds research that promises to result in new discoveries and faster breakthroughs. “We are continually impressed by top scientists pursuing innovative lines of investigation at Dana-Farber,” said Marc Huntjens, PhD, chief mission officer of BCRF. “Our approach is to seek out the brightest minds in science and medicine, and give them the support they require to accelerate progress in understanding, treating, and eradicating breast cancer.”

St. Baldrick’s Foundation funds new treatments in pediatric oncology

Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, is leading a multi-institutional clinical study with support from St. Baldrick’s Foundation.
Dear Friends,

Dana-Farber physician-scientists are at the forefront of the rapidly expanding field of precision medicine, in which cancer treatments are tailored to the genetic characteristics of an individual patient's tumor.

In recent months, research made possible by our donors has resulted in truly significant findings. For example, a multi-institutional study that employs genomic testing will enable our clinicians to design more targeted treatment plans for children with leukemia. St. Baldrick's Foundation provided $2.5 million to support that study, part of their extraordinary $3.5 million in total grants made recently to further our pediatric oncology research.

Promising research supported by the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) includes a study in which Dana-Farber investigators test novel combinations of targeted drugs to treat triple-negative breast cancer, a particularly complex form of the disease. Their findings stand to advance more precise and effective treatments. We are grateful that the BCRF has supported Dana-Farber since 1994, recently passing the $20 million mark of cumulative giving, with grants totaling $2.3 million in 2016 alone.

Gateway for Cancer Research recently provided $1 million in funding for another burgeoning area of cancer research and treatment, immunotherapy. Gateway's grant supports a potentially groundbreaking clinical trial that combines a personalized vaccine with a checkpoint inhibitor for clear cell renal cell carcinoma—one of the most common cancers in the United States.

And our loyal and generous friends in the Palm Beach community recently came together for the 26th annual Discovery Celebration weekend of events, raising $2.2 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, bringing their total raised over the years to more than $35 million.

It is a tribute to the unparalled dedication and expertise of our physician-scientists that so many funders, determined to accelerate the pace of cancer research and save lives, choose to support Dana-Farber year after year.

It is also a tribute to our physician-scientists, and to the donors who support them, that Dana-Farber remains a leader in garnering federal grants.

Philanthropy lays the groundwork for studies like that described in the Federal Funding Update at the right, which confirmed the value of genetic profiling in selecting the best treatments for myelodysplastic syndromes.

Thank you to all of our donors for your generosity. It has a very real impact on the lives of our patients and their families, and ultimately on cancer patients everywhere.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Paresky
Senior Vice President for Development

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**UPDATE ON FEDERAL FUNDING AT DANA-FARBER**

**Genetic profiling can guide stem cell transplantation for patients with myelodysplastic syndrome**

A single blood test and basic information about a patient's medical status can indicate which patients with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) are likely to benefit from a stem cell transplant, and the intensity of pre-transplant chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy that is likely to produce the best results, according to new research led by scientists at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The investigators reported that genetically profiling a patient's blood cells, while factoring in a patient's age and other factors, can predict the patient's response to a stem cell transplant and help doctors select the most effective combination of pre-transplant therapies. The findings are based on an analysis of blood samples from 1,514 patients with MDS, ranging in age from six months to more than 70 years.

MDS is a family of diseases in which the bone marrow produces an insufficient supply of healthy blood cells. Treatments vary depending on the specific type of MDS a patient has. Donor stem cell transplants are generally used for patients with a high risk of mortality with standard treatments.

“Although donor stem cell transplantation is the only curative therapy for MDS, many patients die after transplantation, largely due to relapse of the disease or complications related to the transplant itself,” said the study's lead author, R. Coleman Lindsay, MD, PhD, of Dana-Farber. “As physicians, one of our major challenges is to be able to predict which patients are most likely to benefit from a transplant. Improving our ability to identify patients who are most likely to have a relapse or to experience life-threatening complications from a transplant could lead to better pre-transplant therapies and strategies for preventing relapse.”

Researchers have long known that the specific genetic mutations within MDS patients' blood cells are closely related to the course the disease takes. The current study sought to discover whether mutations also can be used to predict how patients will fare following a donor stem cell transplant.

Analysis of the data showed that the single most important characteristic of a patient's MDS was whether their blood cells carried a mutation in the gene TP53. These patients tended to survive for a shorter time after a transplant, and also relapse more quickly, than patients whose cells lacked that mutation. This was true whether patients received standard “conditioning” therapy (which includes chemotherapies and/or radiation therapy) prior to transplant or received reduced-intensity conditioning, which uses lower doses of these therapies. Based on these results, doctors at Dana-Farber are now working on new strategies to overcome the challenges posed by TP53 mutations in MDS.

Support for the study was provided by a grant from the Edward P. Evans Foundation; a Harvard Catalyst KL2-CM09395 Award; a National Marrow Donor Program Immunobiology Research Study grant; grants from the National Institutes of Health (R01HL082945, R24DK099808, and 5P30 CA006516); and a grant from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

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- Start a team today
- Give $10 to the Jimmy Fund
- Win prizes and conquer cancer!

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**IMPACT | SPRING 2017**
Dana-Farber announced a new Presidential initiative led by President and CEO Laurie Glimcher, MD, and funded by a grant from The Pussycat Foundation. This $800,000 grant will support the research endeavors and professional development of five pairs of female Dana-Farber senior and junior researchers. Helen Gurley Brown avidly supported professional advancement of women, and the researchers will be known as Helen Mentors and Helen Fellows, respectively.

“The Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Initiative represents a unique opportunity to advance women in academic medicine and highlight the scientific impact of our women faculty and fellows at Dana-Farber,” said Glimcher. “We thank The Pussycat Foundation for this progressive and generous grant.”

“This is an unprecedented chance for our women postdoctoral fellows to receive both funding for research training and critical mentoring support,” added Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, Helen Mentor to Helen Fellow Clare Malone, PhD. “I am excited about this program and the promise that it holds.”

Other Helen Mentors include Lisa Diller, MD; Jennifer Mack, MD, MPH; Rosalind Segal, MD, PhD; Margaret Shipp, MD; and Sapna Syngal, MD, MPH. Their respective Helen Fellows are Maya Rowte, MD; Ozge Tasdemir-Yilmaz, PhD; Zumla Cader, PhD; and Chinedu Ukaegbu, MBBS, MPH.

The foundation’s grant also funds the establishment of the Helen Gurley Brown Leadership Development Program, which includes semiannual meetings between Helen Mentors, Helen Fellows, and Glimcher; the annual Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Summit on Women and Science; and support for the Helen Fellows to attend scientific conferences.

CURE Childhood Cancer supports neuroblastoma clinical trial

Since CURE Childhood Cancer was founded in 1975, cure rates for children with cancer have risen dramatically. However, new treatments are still critically needed for patients with diseases that are not cured by standard therapy. To help advance novel pediatric cancer treatments, CURE Childhood Cancer recently awarded a grant of more than $300,000 to Steven DuBois, MD, MS, director of experimental therapeutics in Pediatric Oncology at Dana-Farber. With this support, DuBois is leading a clinical trial for patients with neuroblastoma, a cancer that forms from still-developing peripheral nerve cells and thus occurs primarily in infants and young children.

“We are pleased to support Dana-Farber and Dr. DuBois as he advances new treatments for neuroblastoma patients,” said Kristin Connor, executive director, CURE Childhood Cancer. “As federal funding for research declines, and even smaller amounts are earmarked for pediatric cancer, it is increasingly important to support studies that bring innovative therapies forward and continue to improve outcomes for children with cancer.”

The clinical trial will evaluate an innovative new drug that targets abnormalities found in an aggressive form of neuroblastoma characterized by extra copies of the MYCN gene. “I am so grateful to CURE Childhood Cancer for their support for this clinical trial,” said DuBois. “There is a tremendous need for novel therapies for children with neuroblastoma, and with CURE’s generosity we will be able to study a drug that inhibits targets called PI3K and BRD4 and thereby provides a new way to decrease MYCN in these tumors.”

Celebrity hosts set the stage to UnMask Cancer

On the evening of October 22, more than 400 guests flocked to the Mandarin Oriental, Boston to attend Dana-Farber’s third annual UnMask Cancer presented by The Herb Chambers Companies. Attendees honored the efforts of Dana-Farber doctors and researchers who work relentlessly to unmask the secrets of cancer, by raising an astounding $270,000, nearly $100,000 more than the previous year.

Hosted by Bill and Giuliana Rancic, made possible by Jessica and Sam Slater, UnMask Cancer offered guests an evening filled with enchanting “live art” entertainment, exquisite cocktails, delicious food, exciting auctions, and a drawing for a Vespa generously provided by The Herb Chambers Companies. “Being part of the tremendous growth and success of 2016 UnMask Cancer has been an incredible experience,” said Sam Slater. “I am truly fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such incredible people at Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, and all those participating in this event.”

The Rancics’ involvement made UnMask Cancer even more special this year. As a breast cancer survivor now more than five years cancer-free, Giuliana spoke candidly to guests about her personal challenges with the disease, including her diagnoses and the difficult decision to have a double mastectomy.

“Dana-Farber’s commitment to cancer care and research is very near and dear to our hearts,” said Bill. Based on the event’s attendance and fundraising totals, guests seemed to be in agreement with the inspiring host’s sentiments.

Thank you for supporting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund!
Generous gift creates esophageal cancer fellowship in memory of Maureen Twomey

When Maureen Twomey began treatment for esophageal cancer at Dana-Farber, she and her husband, Lee, were immediately impressed by the care they received—beginning in the parking garage at the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. “Everyone at Dana-Farber demonstrates competency and caring,” said Lee. “From the parking attendants and receptionists to the doctors and nurses, Maureen was always impressed and comforted at Dana-Farber.”

The Twomeys were continually grateful for Dana-Farber’s thorough and compassionate approach throughout Maureen’s treatment. Sadly, Maureen passed away in 2016. In her memory, Lee made a generous gift from his individual retirement account to create the Maureen C. Twomey Esophageal Cancer Research Term Fellowship. “Maureen was a great believer in research, education, and learning,” said Lee. “Any research progress made through this fellowship is a step forward.”

Gabrielle Wong, PhD, is the first fellow and will work in consultation with Peter Enzinger, MD, Maureen’s oncologist and the director of Dana-Farber’s Center for Esophageal and Gastric Cancer, and Adam Bass, MD, the center’s director for translational research.

“This fellowship allows Dr. Wong to further build on our understanding of the genome in esophageal carcinomas to build new and more effective treatments for our patients by effectively targeting key genes and pathways in the disease,” said Bass.

“Maureen’s fellowship is a wonderful tribute and a vital step in advancing our knowledge of esophageal cancer to inform new therapies,” said Enzinger.

Myriad Genetics, Inc., bolsters research in hereditary cancer testing

Myriad Genetics, Inc.—a molecular diagnostic company focused on improving patients’ quality of life—recently made a grant of nearly $200,000 to fuel investigations into improved detection of hereditary colorectal cancer under the direction of Matthew Yurgelun, MD, of Dana-Farber’s Gastrointestinal Cancer Center and Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention.

In addition to this funding, Myriad is providing free genetic testing of samples that have been collected from more than 1,800 patients enrolled in two of Dana-Farber’s sample registries—some of whom are colorectal cancer patients and others who are at high risk for developing the hereditary form of the disease.

With Myriad’s support, Yurgelun will study the possible benefit of multigene panel testing over standard genetic evaluation practices for early detection of hereditary colorectal cancer, focusing on 25 inherited gene mutations known to be risk factors for this disease.

“Dana-Farber researchers are worldwide leaders in the research of hereditary gastrointestinal cancers,” said Ron Rogers, executive vice president of corporate communications at Myriad Genetics. “Myriad has strong interest in identifying patients with hereditary susceptibility to cancer, since there are clear-cut ways that such cancers can be prevented if mutations in key genes are identified.”

“With the generous support of Myriad Genetics, we hope to improve our ability to detect the warning signs of hereditary colorectal cancer in high-risk patients and give patients and their physicians the chance to take early action against the disease,” said Yurgelun.
Cheer for Dana-Farber raises spirits and funds

Cheer for Dana-Farber presented by Walmart finished its fourth season by surpassing $100,000 in funds raised for Dana-Farber. From April through November 2016, 34 cheerleading squads from New England high schools, colleges, and club teams organized bake sales, held car washes, and pursued a wide variety of other creative fundraising efforts.

Top fundraising squads were entered to win the chance to perform a routine at a New England Patriots home game and to participate in a cheer clinic with the New England Patriots Cheerleaders. Raising a total of $36,750, Rocket Cheer of Natick, Mass., was the top fundraiser. Second place fundraiser, Team Riley Rocks, was unable to attend the game. Nine teams will participate in the cheer clinic with the Patriots Cheerleaders in April.

Cheer for Dana-Farber offers squads a chance to bond with their teammates around an important cause while learning the value of philanthropy. The first fundraising event launched by the Big Ideas Contest, Cheer for Dana-Farber benefits from the generous support of Institute Trustees Robert and Daniel Kraft, the New England Patriots, and the New England Patriots Cheerleaders.


details

Schussel Family Fund promotes T-cell lymphoma research

Two years ago, when Sandi Schussel was diagnosed with a rare T-cell lymphoma, she was so ill she could do not much of anything, including skiing or hiking, two of her favorite outdoor activities. Today, after treatment at Dana-Farber, she is in complete remission and looks forward to getting back on the slopes and trails of New Hampshire.

Grateful for the care she received, Sandi and her husband, George, have created the $100,000 Sandra and George Schussel Family Fund to support T-cell lymphoma research under the direction of her physician, Matthew Davids, MD, MMS, and David Weinstock, MD.

“This generous gift allows us to explore new therapeutic combinations in the laboratory using novel techniques developed here at Dana-Farber,” said Davids. “We hope this work will directly lead to new clinical trials for patients with T-cell lymphoma.”

Specifically, Davids will employ a technique pioneered by Anthony Letia, MD, PhD, and colleagues at Dana-Farber called dynamic BH3 profiling to determine which drug combinations are most promising for killing T-cell lymphoma tumor cells. Weinstock will use new tools for studying T-cell lymphomas, known as a patient-derived xenograft, to predict human tumor responses to anti-cancer drugs.

“We have gained so much from Dana-Farber’s research and medical treatment,” said George. “They have given us our lives back, so that we can start to hike again and take advantage of the wonderful New England countryside we live in.”

Cyclists jumpstart fundraising for 2017 Pan-Mass Challenge

The cold of winter couldn’t stop 340 participants from riding together in January—they just used indoor wheels. The Resolution by PMC, an indoor bike-a-thon, kicked off fundraising for the 2017 Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC). Last year’s PMC raised an extraordinary $47 million for cancer research and clinical care at Dana-Farber.

 Gathering at host facility Everybody Fights in Boston, event participants were led by PMC Founder and Executive Director Billy Starr, as well as top fitness instructors from Cyc Fitness, Everybody Fights, The Handle Bar, and Turnstyle Cycle.

“We are proud of the participants and instructors who gave their time and sweat equity to raise funds for top-notch research and patient care at Dana-Farber,” said Starr, who is also an Institute Trustee.

When legs grew tired, riders were motivated by remarks from Boston City Councilor and Resolution participant Josh Zakim, whose father, Leonard Zakim, was treated at Dana-Farber and worked with doctors, administrators, and other patient care advocates to establish the Institute’s Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies before his death. Cancer survivors also shared their inspirational stories.

“Helping to drive the Pan-Mass Challenge’s exponential growth, The Resolution by PMC gives participants a way to support Dana-Farber and be a part of the nation’s most successful athletic fundraising event,” said Starr. This year’s Pan-Mass Challenge will be held on August 5 and 6.
Haymakers for Hope hits $1 million to knock out cancer

Haymakers for Hope was born in 2009 when Julie Anne Kelly and fellow Bostonian Andrew Myerson met while training for the New York City Golden Gloves boxing tournament. Kelly, a survivor of Hodgkin lymphoma, was a defending champion, and Myerson, an amateur, had lost a close friend to cancer. The pair quickly saw the tournament as an opportunity to fight for a cure and in and out of the ring and founded Haymakers for Hope.

Haymakers for Hope trains ordinary people to compete in charity boxing events and gives them the chance to fight back in the hope of one day knocing out cancer. Two annual Boston-based events—the all-female Belles of the Brawl and the Rock N’ Rumble—and a third event in New York City benefit Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. In 2016, these events raised more than $30,000. The first year, Haymakers for Hope raised around $5,000, and six years later they have surpassed $1 million in funds raised for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Haymakers for Hope was recognized for their incredible dedication in February at a reception held at the Institute, featuring guest speaker John Quackenbush, PhD, director of Dana-Farber’s Center for Cancer Computational Biology, who is also a past Haymakers participant and is on the event’s board of directors.
**Dana-Farber patient funds assistance for others**

During cancer treatment, patients suffer a variety of side effects, which may include potentially life-threatening complications with blood clots that require costly medications to treat. Insurance does not always cover these drugs, leaving some patients struggling to cover the expense themselves. At Dana-Farber, the Anticoagulation Management Service, under the direction of Jean Connors, MD, helps these patients get the medications they need.

Terri Seales recently made a gift of $100,000 to support this service. A Dana-Farber patient herself and longtime friend of Connors since their days at Wellesley College, Seales wanted to help patients who cannot afford these expensive drugs.

“I talked to Jean about what I could support at the Institute—something that wouldn’t get lost,” said Seales. “As a result I established the Terri Seales Family Fund to support a program to help people get the prescriptions they need, when they otherwise would not be able to afford them.” Patients who lack adequate insurance may pay as much as $4,000 per month.

**Balassiano Family Gift honors total patient care**

Jose Carlos Balassiano was well aware of Dana-Farber’s reputation for cutting-edge research when his physician in Brazil, Daniel Herchenhorn, MD, PhD, referred him to Dana-Farber. Seeking further treatment for lung cancer, Balassiano came under the care of Pasi Jänne, MD, PhD, director of the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology.

In gratitude for the outstanding care and results achieved throughout his treatment, the Balassiano Family made a gift of $100,000 to establish the Balassiano Family Fund for Lung Cancer Research.

“Dana-Farber’s team of Portuguese interpreters, led by Aloysio Fernandez, assisted me in overcoming the linguistic barrier,” said Balassiano.

“I received complete care from the radiology team to the biochemical lab and cardiology evaluation. The dedication and commitment of the medical team, led by Dr. Jänne, ensured my experience was always the best possible.”

Balassiano’s experience is the standard—Dana-Farber patients receive treatment from teams of experts across specialized centers working closely together to provide comprehensive care.

“My Balassiano’s generosity will help us develop more effective treatment strategies for patients with EGFR-mutant lung cancers,” said Jänne.

“I want to share my experience with patients with health problems similar to mine, and encourage them to seek evaluation by this center of excellence,” added Balassiano. “It is gratifying to know that my gift will be put to good use. I hope to inspire others to give to Dana-Farber’s brilliant cause.”

**Pace Family and friends fuel lung cancer research**

Dana-Farber is fortunate to receive the support of many grateful patients who give back in appreciation for their care at the Institute. Joseph Pace, the owner of Rosaria Restaurant in Saugus, Mass., and three restaurants in the Boston area, provides an inspiring example of such gratitude at work. A lung cancer patient being treated at Dana-Farber, Joe organized a fundraiser at Rosaria that raised nearly $102,000 to support innovative research by his Dana-Farber oncologist, David Kwiatkowski, MD, PhD.

The Pace Family and Friends Fundraiser was held Nov. 6 at Rosaria and attended by more than 400 of Joe’s family, friends, and business contacts. Guests enjoyed hors d’oeuvres, live entertainment, and an auction featuring such items as Boston sports memorabilia, game tickets, and gift certificates to local eateries. Kwiatkowski attended to thank everyone—especially Joe—and describe his research, which focuses on identifying novel drug targets and advancing precision therapies for multiple lung cancer subtypes.

Thanks to Joe’s tireless networking and the generosity of attendees, the event was a terrific success, generating more than five times its initial goal of $20,000. Joe’s motive was clear: to give back so that future patients may also receive the best available cancer treatments. He said, “I want to thank Dr. Kwiatkowski and Dana-Farber staff from the bottom of my heart, and I wish them the best as they continue seeking cures for this disease.”

**Estate gift honors memory of daughter six decades later**

A generous gift from the estate of Alice Newton Smith in memory of her daughter will advance the research and care that Alice greatly respected when she first visited Dana-Farber nearly six decades ago. Her daughter Alice Louise Childs was treated at Dana-Farber, then known as the Children’s Cancer Research Foundation, after a diagnosis of acute leukemia at the age of 2 in 1954. Although Alice sadly passed away in 1956, the care she received at Dana-Farber left a strong impression on the entire family, including her three sisters: Susan Merrick, Katharine Jones, and Eliza Childs.

“Our mother’s gift remembers our sister Alice and the hospital where she was treated with such care,” said Susan. “Our family was touched by the compassion of Dana-Farber’s doctors.”

Eliza and Katharine recall being with their parents in Boston nearby 20 years after Alice’s death and running into one of her Dana-Farber doctors, Dr. Rudolf Toch, who remembered the family. “It was amazing that he recognized our parents so many years later,” said Eliza.

Katharine said her parents were also moved by words shared in a personal meeting with Dana-Farber’s founder, Sidney Farber, MD, when her sister began treatment. Farber told Alice and her husband, Ben Childs, they must never give up hope.

“Dr. Farber told my parents that his researchers were always working and there would be a cure,” said Katharine.

With Alice Newton Smith’s generous estate gift in memory of her daughter, that research work continues on.
Dana-Farber Holiday Cards & Gifts: A tradition full of hope

The Smith Family Foundation supports promising junior investigators

A
s cancer medicine continues to evolve rapidly, Dana-Farber must keep pace by developing the next generation of researchers and pioneering solutions to cancer’s most pressing challenges. The Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation has enabled the Institute to do both through the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research, which supports promising researchers early in their careers as they work toward impactful medical breakthroughs.

The Smith Family Foundation, a longstanding and generous supporter of Dana-Farber, recently awarded Smith Family Awards Program grants totaling $600,000 to Stephanie Dougan, PhD, and Philip Kranzusch, PhD, of the Department of Cancer Immunology and Virology. According to Foundation Chair and Institute Trustee Richard Smith, these grants are intended to allow junior investigators to focus on their research before they may be eligible to receive larger federal grants, which typically go to senior faculty. He said: “We are pleased to support Dana-Farber’s and other talented early career scientists as they pursue groundbreaking discoveries and grow as leaders in their fields.”

Fueled by Smith funding, Dougan and Kranzusch are conducting innovative basic research aimed at shaping the future of cancer care. Dougan’s work focuses on extending the promise of immunotherapy to pancreatic cancer. Leveraging state-of-the-art preclinical research models, she is testing a novel combination therapy utilizing targeted radiation together with a cancer vaccine. Kranzusch’s project is directed at identifying a new form of cellular signaling that may be harnessed to optimize the immune response against cancer and other diseases. By uncovering the biology and function of the molecules controlling these processes, he hopes to lay the groundwork for improved treatment options for patients.

In expressing her gratitude for the Smith Family Foundation grant, Dougan noted that this funding comes at a crucial point in her career. She said, “For junior faculty it’s a really fragile time because you need to succeed scientifically, but you also need to promote yourself and learn from senior faculty how to run your own lab. The Smith Family Awards help us do this while also pursuing the next breakthroughs in cancer medicine.”

Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation supports promising junior investigators

Dana-Farber Holiday Cards & Gifts presented by Amica continued its annual tradition of providing seasonal gifts with meaning, with 100 percent of the proceeds going toward advances in cancer research and compassionate, personalized care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. What began as a grassroots effort through a small group of volunteers has grown and strengthened into a pipeline of critical support for Dana-Farber that has raised more than $8 million cumulatively, including more than $500,000 in 2016 alone.

Available online, in the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, and at leading retail locations including The Paper Store, Stop & Shop, Crafty Yankee, Cooper Jewelers, Terrazza, and the Christmas Dove from August to December, the 2016 collection featured a unique assortment of gifts, including cards, candles, chocolates, ornaments, gift baskets, jewelry, and more. Rhode Island-based Amica continued its annual tradition of providing new for the 2016 holiday season was the unique collection to Jimmy Fund Clinic patient Cameron Miller and other adult and pediatric patients at the Institute.

With thanks to the customers, companies, and volunteers, Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund is already looking forward to next holiday season’s collection of cards, gifts, and more.

Celebrating the Simberg Awards

Rowena and Charles Simberg endowed the Rowena and Charles Simberg Oncology Leadership Fund in 2011, to spotlight outstanding Dana-Farber faculty, staff, and volunteers with a program of seven annual awards. In October 2016 Rowena Simberg visited campus, as she has done each year since 2012, to meet the Simberg award recipients and learn how the award funds are being used. In addition this year, she enjoyed a tour of the new Longwood Center, and lunch with the faculty in whose honor several of the awards are named.

Pictured at left: Rowena Simberg (center) with recipients of the awards funded by Rowena and her husband, Charles; award administrators; and guests.
For 26 years, members of the Palm Beach community have provided generous, heartfelt support to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund, and 2017 was no exception. In February, more than 635 steadfast donors came together for a weekend of events and raised an incredible $2.2 million for our lifesaving mission. Led by Institute Trustees and joined by area philanthropists and businesses, the Palm Beach community has raised more than $35 million since 1991.

"Dana-Farber is a special place that has touched so many of us in Palm Beach, whether we or our loved ones have just received care there, or have benefitted from a drug or treatment protocol pioneered there," said Institute Trustee Phyllis Krock, who chaired this year’s Discovery Celebration with her husband, Richard. "The advances Dana-Farber has made, and the exciting breakthroughs yet to come, are made possible by the passionate support of this Palm Beach community."

The Discovery Celebration weekend opened with the 16th annual Breakfast with the Doctors chaired by Institute Trustee Robert Belfer and his wife, Renee, Judy and Jim Harpel, and Vicki and Arthur Loring. Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, led a panel of Dana-Farber’s expert physician-scientists, who shared news of the Institute’s latest research breakthroughs aimed at improving outcomes for patients.

Later that evening, Institute Trustee Michele Kessler and her husband, Howard, chaired and generously underwrote an intimate dinner at their home for 120 people. Guests were treated to remarks by Institute Trustee Robert Kraft and keynote speaker Tom Brokaw, special correspondent for NBC News and author of The Greatest Generation and A Lucky Life Interrupted. The weekend culminated at the Discovery Celebration with a very special performance by Grammy-winning producer David Foster, also known as “The Hit Man.”

This year’s Discovery Celebration was made possible by the incredible dedication and generosity of chairs Phyllis and Richard Krock, and co-chairs Robert and Renee Belfer, Institute Trustee Donald Dwares and his wife, Bonnie, Institute Trustee Sandra Krakoff, Tom Quick, and Institute Trustee Jean Sharf and her husband, Fred. Institute Trustee Judie Schlager and her husband, Larry, served as Honorary Chairs.

The event was a success thanks to key donors including Grand Benefactors Phyllis and Paul Fireman, The Fishman Family Trust – Sandra Fishman, and Michele and Howard Kessler. Grand Patrons were Lori and Christopher Alf, Kathryn Limbaugh, and the Schlager-Weinsten Family. Corporate in-kind sponsors included Saks Fifth Avenue Palm Beach with de Grisogono and Tiffany and Co. Ltd.

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission.
Science is constantly forging onward, as new discoveries reveal intriguing possibilities for the future of cancer care. Rising Tide Foundation believes funding for science should keep up with the pace of research, ensuring that no good idea gets put on hold due to a lack of resources.

Fueling research that directly affects cancer patients is at the heart of the Rising Tide Foundation. To further this mission, the foundation recently awarded $500,000 to Dana-Farber. With this support, David Barbie, MD, is leading a clinical and research team focused on developing more effective immunotherapies for patients with non-small cell lung cancer and discovering how these drugs affect the immune microenvironment of the tumor. Mark Awad, MD, PhD, is working with Barbie in conducting the clinical trial.

“Time is a luxury that many cancer patients don’t have; they need new therapies now,” said Shawn Stephenson, chairman of the Rising Tide Foundation. “That is why we’re thrilled to support this innovative clinical and translational research project at Dana-Farber, which will add to the body of knowledge about non-small cell lung cancer while simultaneously making a promising new treatment available to patients.” The clinical trial will build upon the previous success of immunotherapy in lung cancer to increase the number of patients who benefit from these treatments. Specifically, the trial will combine a PD-1 inhibitor with a novel drug that targets histone deacetylase (HDAC). HDAC helps control how the code contained in DNA is interpreted by a cell.

“Support from the Rising Tide Foundation is playing a vital role in our efforts by enabling translational research that bridges the gap between making novel discoveries about the biology of lung cancer and bringing new treatments into the clinic where they can benefit patients,” said Barbie. “These projects will not only explore whether the combination of HDAC and PD-1 inhibitors is effective in patients, but also reveal new insights into how these drugs may be altering immune response.”

Rising Tide Foundation supports innovative lung cancer clinical trial

A sparkling night of sisterhood

On Maggie Loucks’ 28th birthday, she was a semester shy of completing her nurse practitioner degree. A week later, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Through the Program for Young Women with Breast Cancer at Dana-Farber’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers, Loucks met Carrie Capossela, Meghan Martin, and Kelly Tuthill, and the four became friends. In October 2016, they co-hosted the third annual Celebrating Young and Strong gala at the Boston Harbor Hotel. The event attracted 400 guests and raised more than $117,000, its highest total to date.

“When I got to know Meghan, Carrie, and Kelly through breast cancer and the experience of treatment, and is conducting research on the biology of breast cancer and the experience of the disease for younger women. Celebrating Young and Strong is a magical night,” said Partridge. “I am honored to be a part of it, and grateful for their support of the program and our collective mission to make things better for young women with breast cancer.”

Runners help outpace cancer

Every year, runners join Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's official teams in renowned races, such as the Boston Marathon® to raise crucial funds for cancer research and patient care. In 2016, athletes also participated around the country in races such as the Disney Princess 10K, the Berkeley Half Marathon, and the Chicago Marathon to raise funds for Dana-Farber through Run Any Race presented by Saucony.

Run Any Race allows runners of all levels to register for any race, of any distance, anywhere in the world, and raise vital funds to further Dana-Farber’s mission to conquer cancer. Popular among many longtime participants, Run Any Race gives runners complete control over their fundraising goals by having no minimum commitment. Last year, 109 athletes participated, raising more than $231,000.

One of those athletes was Molly Curley, who ran the 2016 New Balance Falmouth Road race with her own race number, and raised funds for Dana-Farber through Run Any Race. Molly had run Falmouth in previous years, last year, though, when her boyfriend's 2-year-old niece was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the challenge became more personal. Inspired by the young girl's incredible strength and positive attitude throughout treatment, Molly and 10 friends combined efforts, and became the second-highest fundraising group in the 2016 Run Any Race program. Together they are committed to doing all they can to help accelerate progress in the fight against cancer.
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation advances medulloblastoma research

Over the past three decades, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation has worked to increase awareness about childhood brain tumors and fund lifesaving research projects and family support programs. The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation recently awarded Dana-Farber physician-scientist Rameen Beroukhim, MD, PhD, a grant of $150,000 to propel his pioneering medulloblastoma work.

“Medulloblastoma is one of the most common and aggressive brain tumors in children,” said Beroukhim. “I am so grateful for this generous support and the opportunity to better understand promising drug targets, which could help expand and improve treatment options to help these kids.”

Building on his previous studies, which demonstrated that medulloblastomas are sensitive to drugs that inhibit BET proteins, Beroukhim aims to clarify the mechanism underlying this response. He is specifically exploring the role of the BETD4 protein in driving medulloblastoma development, and the most effective way to target this and other members of the BET family of proteins.

“The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is committed to advancing discoveries that will help children with brain cancer by funding research at Dana-Farber and other premier institutions,” said Joanne Salski, PhD, vice president of research and advocacy, Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. “We are proud to support the compelling work of investigators like Dr. Beroukhim, and we aim to empower researchers to break new ground in cancer science.”

Golfers fight cancer while playing from “Sunrise to Sunset”

Last October, 74 golfers gathered at The International Golf Club & Resort in Bolton, Mass., for the inaugural Sunrise to Sunset Jimmy Fund Golf Tournament. To help conquer cancer, golfers raised funds to play 36 holes on the International’s two premier golf courses, The Oaks and The Pines. The tournament exceeded its first-year goal, raising an impressive $100,375 to support research and patient care at Dana-Farber.

Dana-Farber patient Mike Mottola, who survived an aggressive form of lymphoma, spoke at the reception following the event, telling participants: “I played to give back to the place that saved my life, while playing the sport I truly love.” Many golfers in the tournament were also cancer survivors, or played in tribute to a loved one with cancer.

Golfers enjoyed this coveted opportunity to play on the exclusive courses while raising money for Dana-Farber. It was a long and exhilarating day, with golfers teeing off at 8 a.m. and playing until sunset. Top golfers and top fundraisers won prizes, including six tickets to a Boston Red Sox game with the added thrill of watching one inning with Joe Castiglione, the radio voice of the Red Sox on the WEEI Red Sox Radio Network.

Participants look forward to building on this year’s success in the second annual Sunrise to Sunset Jimmy Fund Golf Tournament in October 2017.

Impact

Impact is a newsletter of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute published by the Division of Development & the Jimmy Fund.

For questions, or to be removed from our mailing list, please contact:

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or visit jimmyfund.org/opt-out

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission.
Boston Bruins players visited Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic in January to spend time with patients and families, autograph photos, and give away memorabilia. Three-year-old Cayden Murray and his mom, Lynn, were all smiles as they met (from left) Riley Nash, Joe Morrow, and Tim Schaller.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information on all Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber events and programs, go to jimmyfund.org or dana-farber.org

APRIL 3
Rally for the Jimmy Fund
Presented by Sully’s Brand
Give $10 or more to wear your Boston Red Sox gear to work or school on Opening Day at Fenway Park while supporting cancer research and care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Contact Andrew Calder at 617-632-5420 or visit RallyfortheJimmyFund.org.

APRIL 7
Dinner and Late Night with Friends
Join the Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and award-winning Chef Jeremy Sewall at Hotel Commonwealth for cocktails and an interactive dinner with celebrity chefs to raise funds for innovative research and patient care at Dana-Farber. Contact Shawn Belzaire at 617-632-3909 or Friends@dfci.harvard.edu.

APRIL 15
B.A.A. 5K®
Conquer cancer by supporting the Dana-Farber B.A.A. 5K team as they run 3.1 miles around Boston’s iconic Back Bay neighborhood. To support the team or learn more, contact Rayley Fishman at RunnersDFA@dfci.harvard.edu or visit RunDanaFarber.org.

APRIL 17
Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge
Support the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team in running the 2017 Boston Marathon® to raise funds for innovative basic cancer research. To support a DFMC runner or to volunteer, contact Jan Ross at 617-632-1970 or DFMC@dfci.harvard.edu, or visit RunDFMC.org.

MAY 6
Jimmy Fund Fit Fest
Presented by Reebok
Join Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman at Jimmy Fund Fit Fest presented by Reebok, an outdoor fitness festival featuring the city’s best trainers. To register or learn more, please contact Rachel Lattie at 617-632-4651 or Rachel_Lattie@dfci.harvard.edu, or visit JimmyFundFitFest.org.

JUNE 5 – JULY 9
Papa Gino’s & D’Angelo Grand Slam Savings for a Great Cause
Give $1 at the register at any participating Papa Gino’s or D’Angelo restaurant and receive coupons for popular menu items at D’Angelo, Papa Gino’s, and other retailers. Last year’s coupon sheet had a savings of over $100. Contact: Katie Brown at 617-582-9675.

JUNE 6 – 8
Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl®
Presented by Valvoline Instant Oil Change
The nation’s largest all-you-can-eat ice cream festival features entertainment, music, andbottomless sweet treats from the nation’s leading ice cream brands. Tues. to Thurs., noon to 8 p.m. at Boston City Hall Plaza. Contact Molly Moss at 617-632-5091 or visit ScooperBowl.org.

JUNE – JULY
Jimmy Fund Theatre Collections
Volunteer for the Jimmy Fund’s most enduring fundraiser and help to pass collection canisters at National Amusements and other participating movie theatres. Contact Teresa Dublaria at 617-582-7724 or Teresa_Dublaria@dfci.harvard.edu.