Linde Family Foundation drives research in chemical biology and ALL

The Linde Family Foundation has made a wonderful new commitment to strengthen innovative research and discovery efforts in chemical biology and pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) at Dana-Farber. A focused investment that builds upon the family’s past philanthropy, the gift will enable the Institute to recruit new scientists to the Linde Family Program in Cancer Chemical Biology, as well as establish the Linde Family ALL Program Core Endowment Fund to shore up key resources for ALL research.

“We are thrilled to support the world-class scientists and physicians working in both cancer chemical biology and pediatric ALL research,” said Institute Trustee Karen Linde Packman, who is a trustee of the Linde Family Foundation. “We have seen great progress being made over the years in these areas and are proud to continue to support Dana-Farber’s efforts.”

Established in 2008 as part of the foundation’s extraordinary gift to Dana-Farber’s Mission Possible Campaign, the Linde Family Program in Cancer Chemical Biology drives research in chemical biology and ALL.

The Linde Family Foundation, including foundation trustees (from left) Douglas Linde, Carol Linde, Joyce Linde, Institute Trustee Karen Linde Packman, and Jeffrey Packman, is accelerating discovery in chemical biology and pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Dana-Farber leads “Dream Team” for ovarian cancer research

Each year, more than 20,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with ovarian cancer. To address the urgent need for new therapies to help treat patients with this disease, Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C), the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance (OCRFA), and the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC), made a tremendous $6 million grant to form a “Dream Team” for ovarian cancer research, administered by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the scientific partner of SU2C.

The Dream Team brings together world-renowned investigators from six of the top health care institutions in the United States to focus on a single goal: transforming the way in which physicians treat and care for patients with this disease. Alan D’Andrea, MD, director of the Center for DNA Damage and Repair at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, is leader of this remarkable partnership, which also includes researchers from the University of Washington, the Mayo Clinic, the University of Chicago, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Demonstrating Dana-Farber’s leadership role in the field, five other Institute investigators are also on the team: William Barry, PhD, the Nancy and Morris John Lurie Investigator; Panos Konstantinopoulos, MD, PhD; Ursula Matulonis, MD, interim director of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and medical director of Gynecologic Oncology; Giovanni Parmigiani, PhD, chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology; and Geoffrey Shapiro, MD, PhD, director of the Early Drug Development Center and clinical director of the Center for DNA Damage and Repair.

As part of this three-year grant, investigators will collaboratively explore ways to leverage DNA repair therapies to treat ovarian cancer. A growing body of research has shown that inhibiting DNA repair mechanisms within cancer cells can make tumors more vulnerable to treatment. In 2014, for example, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved...
Dear Friends,

FDA approval of new cancer drugs is always a cause for hope, and the recent approvals of two drugs in particular also represent special milestones of achievement for Dana-Farber. Venclexta is the first of a new category of cancer drugs that destroy cancer cells by attacking a protein needed to survive, and the second drug, dehbudtide, treats a potentially fatal side effect of stem cell transplantation. Both drugs are the product of decades of discovery and trials in the labs and clinics at Dana-Farber, and neither would have been possible without the early and ongoing support of our donors.

In this issue of Impact, we are honored to recognize the Linde Family Foundation, whose visionary gifts are once again pushing Dana-Farber’s research ahead of the curve. With this new investment, the foundation enables the Linde Family Program in Cancer Chemical Biology to expand its expert team of chemists and biologists, opening new opportunities to accelerate drug development. It also endows in perpetuity core infrastructure that is essential to all our research in pediatric hematologic malignancies, ensuring continued treatment advances for our youngest patients.

The Institute’s leadership in women’s cancers research has been recognized again by Stand Up To Cancer, the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance, and the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, which together named Dana-Farber to lead a $6 million Ovarian Cancer Dream Team. This multi-institution initiative will explore opportunities to exploit DNA repair therapies for treatment, as well as strategies for early detection and prevention.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society continued 40 years of partnership with Dana-Farber by awarding $6.1 million in new grants, including a prestigious $5 million Specialized Center of Research (SCOR) grant to study the underlying biology of and advance therapies for T-cell lymphoma, a disease for which there are few treatment options.

On another front, in April, 550 passionate members of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team once again tackled the Boston Marathon® to raise $5.4 million for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, a cornerstone of early stage research at Dana-Farber that has accelerated major scientific advances for 27 years.

As our events season moves into full swing, we are thrilled to announce a new Chairman of the Jimmy Fund: Institute Trustee and Boston Red Sox President/CEO Emeritus Larry Lucchino. Larry has been active with us for many years in many different capacities, and the chairmanship is a natural next step. His expertise and personal passion for our mission, detailed at the right, will be tremendous assets in our never-ending fight against cancer.

The steadfast generosity of all our donors enables our physician-scientists to explore promising new ideas, and to translate those ideas into treatments and cures. As detailed below, your gifts also help us secure the federal funding necessary to take our research to new levels. Because of you, we are saving more patients every year. On behalf of them and their families, I thank you.

Sincerely,
Susan S. Paresky
Senior Vice President for Development

Larry Lucchino named Chairman of the Jimmy Fund

On April 20, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute appointed Larry Lucchino as Chairman of the Jimmy Fund. Lucchino has long been a supporter, leader, Trustee, and patient of Dana-Farber, which twice helped save his life from cancer over the last 30 years. He was the President/CEO of the Boston Red Sox for 14 years, and was named President/CEO Emeritus after the 2015 season.

As Chairman, Lucchino will be the lead ambassador and public spokesperson for the Jimmy Fund to strengthen relationships with the corporate community and professional sports teams, to strategize on policy and fundraising initiatives, and to recognize the many passionate donors and event participants. Lucchino will help increase awareness of the importance of philanthropic support for Dana-Farber, and highlight the breakthroughs and milestones Dana-Farber doctors and researchers have achieved toward finding cures and treatments for cancer as a result of Jimmy Fund support.

Others who have served as the Jimmy Fund Chairman include much-admired former Red Sox infielder Mike Andrews (1984-2009), legendary broadcaster Ken Coleman (1978-1984), and Bill Koster (1948-1977), known as “Mr. Jimmy Fund” and one of the three founders of the Jimmy Fund.

“The opportunity to participate in the leadership of the Jimmy Fund is an honor and a duty,” said Lucchino. “I want to deepen my connection with this remarkable organization which is on the front lines in the battle against cancer, and I am eager to expand the important work of raising awareness, more funds, and support to help us treat, research, and conquer this miserable disease.”

During his time with the Boston Red Sox, Lucchino has participated in and personally supported many Jimmy Fund fundraising events including the Pan-Mass Challenge, Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk, Jimmy Fund Big Ideas Contest, and WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon. A Dana-Farber Trustee since 2003, Lucchino served alongside Chairman of the Board of Trustees Josh Bekenstein as co-chair of Mission Possible: The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer, which was completed in 2010 and raised $1.18 billion. In addition, Lucchino currently chairs the Institute’s Trustee Development Committee.

“Larry Lucchino has been a vigorous, engaged, and very effective advocate of the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber for many years,” said Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber. “We are all excited for him to be a champion for us in this way and build on our fundraising efforts. He is the perfect person to spread the word about the Jimmy Fund and increase enthusiasm for our mission. I am personally very grateful to Larry and Stacey for this and the many other extraordinary ways that they have supported our organization.”

Quarterly update on federal funding at Dana-Farber

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute researchers are leading a nearly $87.7 million five-year study that brings together researchers from 11 institutions in the U.S. and Africa to try to find new information about the genetic causes of prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men of African descent worldwide. African Americans have a five-fold higher incidence of prostate cancer compared to other ethnic groups, and a 150 percent higher risk of dying from it. Yet, our understanding of the reasons for these disparities remains incomplete.

To bridge this knowledge gap, the study, funded by the National Cancer Institute and led by principal investigator Timothy Rebbeck, PhD, aims to investigate the genetic susceptibility and population genomics of prostate cancer in men of African descent.

Specifically, the study stands to provide new information about the genetic causes of prostate cancer, and will evaluate how population differences and history of African and African American population affects the underlying reasons for high rates of prostate cancer in African Americans.

“Men of African descent, including African Americans, seem to have biologically more aggressive forms of prostate cancer than other groups,” said Rebbeck. “By studying these men, we may learn about aggressive prostate cancer so that we can better prevent and treat the disease in all men,” said Rebbeck.

In addition to Rebbeck’s leadership, Dana-Farber will play a major role in this study as the data coordinating center for all of the institutions.

While federal funding is crucial to advance cancer science, philanthropy plays an important role when federal grants do not cover the full cost of the research. The Institute’s success in obtaining 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.

The grant reported in this publication was supported by the National Cancer Institute, grant number U01-CA184374.
James Taylor performance culminates successful 25th Silver Anniversary Discovery Celebration

Twenty-five years ago, the first-ever Palm Beach event benefiting Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund was held: a dinner dance that raised $25,000. Since then, the Palm Beach community has raised more than $34 million to support Dana-Farber, including $2.3 million that Institute Board of Trustees Chairman Josh Bekenstein proudly announced was raised at this year’s memorable 25th Silver Anniversary Discovery Celebration.

The sold-out milestone event was held Feb. 20 at the spectacular Mar-a-Lago Club. The evening began with an elegant and festive cocktail party, followed by dinner and—the highlight of the evening—a very special performance by singer and songwriter James Taylor. “It is thrilling to be able to be part of this event to support Dana-Farber,” said Taylor, who received a standing ovation and sang two encores.

“No one in life escapes unscathed; cancer touches all of us,” added Kim Taylor, who joined her husband on stage. “The science and research needed to understand this cunning, baffling, and powerful disease is remarkable.” The evening ended with a lively after-party, where guests danced past midnight to music performed by the Sultans of Swing.

Discovery Celebration weekend opened Feb. 18 with an intimate Pre-Celebration Dinner hosted by Lawrence Moens and Gisele Coutinho and chaired by Institute Trustee Phyllis Knock and Tom Quick. There, more than 130 guests had the opportunity to speak with Dana-Farber cancer experts and learn about the latest advances in cancer care and research.

The next morning, Institute Trustee Robert Belfer and his wife, Renée, and Vicki and Arthur Loring chair the 15th Annual Breakfast with the Doctors symposium at the Palm Beach Country Club. A panel of seven physicians and scientists, moderated by Institute President and CEO Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, discussed research breakthroughs and progress at Dana-Farber.

The 25th Silver Anniversary Discovery Celebration was made possible by the shared dedication and generosity of Chairs Judie Schlager, an Institute Trustee, and her husband, Larry; and 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.

Grand Benefactors of the event included Phyllis and Paul Fireman; the Fishman Family Trust–Sandra Fishman; Michele Kessler, an Institute Trustee, and her husband, Howard; Sheila Palandjian; Peter Palandjian; and the Schlager-Weinstein Families.

Grand Patrons included Lori and Christopher Alf, Diane and Bruce Halle, Lawrence Moens, and James A. Pappas–The Judge John C. and Katherine A. Pappas Family Charitable Foundation, Inc./Thomas Anthony Pappas Charitable Foundation, Inc. Several underwriters and in-kind sponsors also contributed to the festivities.

“For a quarter of a century, the Palm Beach community has played an important role in advancing Dana-Farber’s innovative research and compassionate patient care,” said Benz. “Their steadfast support and dedication are greatly advancing our mission to conquer cancer.”
Pasquarellos bolster Tissue Bank with new gift

For more than 15 years, the Ted and Eileen Pasquarello Tissue Bank has formed the backbone of research in hematologic cancers at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. From conducting studies that uncover the genetic underpinnings of certain types of cancers to correlating research data to humans, Dana-Farber investigators inevitably turn to one of the Institute’s most invaluable resources: the Pasquarello Tissue Bank.

Recently, Institute Trustee Ted Pasquarello and his wife, Eileen, made a tremendous $1 million gift to renew their support of the Pasquarello Tissue Bank. This gift continues their longstanding relationship with Dana-Farber, building upon their years of philanthropy and Ted’s dedicated service as a Trustee, member of Trustee committees on Science and on Facility Planning and Construction, and co-chair of the Visiting Committee for Hematologic Oncology.

“We are deeply grateful for Ted and Eileen’s visionary commitment to the Tissue Bank,” said Robert Soiffer, MD, chief of the Division of Hematologic Malignancies. “They immediately recognized the impact that their gift could have on the future of cancer care, and their philanthropy has helped to spur countless advances over the years. Their support of the Tissue Bank continues to drive everything we do.”

The Pasquarellos first became involved with Dana-Farber in 1998, after Ted was diagnosed and treated for chronic myelogenous leukemia. Through this experience, Ted and Eileen wanted to advance research and help other patients who might be diagnosed in the future. “We knew that, especially with cancer research, you need to be in the front of the curve,” said Ted. “We looked to Dr. Soiffer, Dr. Jeremy Ritz, and their team to provide guidance on the best way to do that, and then we never looked back.”

The Pasquarello Tissue Bank supports Dana-Farber’s integrative model of research, enabling physician-scientists from across departments to come together to accelerate cures. Containing more than 200,000 samples from patients with leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, Waldenstrom’s macroglobulinemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, and certain types of anemia, the Pasquarello Tissue Bank is a resource for researchers across hematologic malignancies and has provided the data for more than 350 scholarly articles.

With the depth and breadth of its holdings, the Pasquarello Tissue Bank is a powerful tool that makes the Institute highly competitive for funding from the National Institutes of Health. Crucially, despite the advantage its presence provides, this type of essential infrastructure is not eligible to receive federal grants—so the Pasquarellos’ philanthropy fills a critical gap unmet by governmental agencies.

“Altogether, the Tissue Bank has exceeded our expectations,” Ted said. “It’s been a privilege to serve on the Board and to see the remarkable advancements that are being made in cancer research. At Dana-Farber, you can see progress happening here every day.”

Proudfoot pledges to end NET cancer

When his wife of 21 years, Jane, was diagnosed with neuroendocrine cancer in August 2010, Harry Proudfoot had never heard of the illness. This rare form of cancer remains overlooked and misunderstood. Jane’s oncologist encouraged the couple to visit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Jane vowed to overcome this disease. Sadly, four months after her diagnosis, Jane passed away. She was 56.

A seasoned journalism teacher, Harry Proudfoot carries his journalistic integrity into his passion for curing this rare disease. “I told Jane’s doctors we would do whatever it took to kill this particular form of cancer,” said Proudfoot.

True to his word, and to honor his wife, Proudfoot established the Walking with Jane Dybowski Fund for Neuroendocrine Cancer in 2011 and recently made a second gift of $100,000. The fund supports Dana-Farber’s Program in Neuroendocrine and Carcinoid Tumors (NET), led by Matthew Kulke, MD, and Jane’s oncologist Jennifer Chan, MD.

“Dana-Farber’s program has a long history of advancing breakthrough targeted therapies that have changed the standard of care for neuroendocrine and carcinoid tumors,” said Kulke. “Thanks to funds provided by Walking with Jane, we can continue to build on this progress and further investigate the molecular mechanisms responsible for neuroendocrine tumor growth using newly developed lab models. These sophisticated resources enable us to explore new methods for early detection and improve outcomes for patients.”

Proudfoot is optimistic about the future. “Dr. Kulke and Dr. Chan’s research is helping NET cancer patients all over the world. We are going to find a cure. My dream is that I can visit Jane’s resting place and tell her ‘We did it.’”

Jimmy Fund Co-Captains return for 2016

For the 2016 baseball season, Boston Red Sox left fielder Brock Holt (left) and third baseman Pablo Sandoval, above with Dana-Farber patient Jodi Killeffer, have returned to serve as Jimmy Fund Co-Captains. In this role, Holt and Sandoval will continue to partner with us to support adult and pediatric cancer research and patient care by visiting adult and pediatric patients at the Institute, and by supporting Jimmy Fund events and programs including Boston Red Sox/Jimmy Fund license plates, Jimmy Fund Month at Fenway Park, and the WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon presented by Arbella Insurance Foundation. The Jimmy Fund is thrilled to welcome back Holt and Sandoval as this season’s Co-Captains and is continually grateful for its historic 63-year partnership with the Red Sox.
Maor Foundation propels breast cancer research

For Cheri Fox, a two-time breast cancer survivor, having as much information as possible is the key to making treatment decisions. While Fox’s medical team members are what she describes as “amazing teachers,” she knew that even with all of the available information about the different types of breast cancer, researchers still have much to learn about the biologic underpinnings of certain subtypes of the disease.

To help propel research on invasive lobular carcinoma, the second-most common type of breast cancer, Fox’s foundation, the Maor Foundation, made a $1.5 million gift to support research by Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women’s Cancers, director of Breast Oncology in the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers, and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research at Dana-Farber.

“Even though I live abroad, I came to Dana-Farber because Dr. Winer is one of the top breast oncologists in the country and, having prior experience with the Institute, I knew its stellar reputation,” said Fox, trustee of the Maor Foundation. “Working with such a great team, I wanted to support their efforts to make a difference for women like me with invasive lobular carcinoma.”

A distinct subtype of breast cancer, invasive lobular carcinoma is almost always hormone receptor-positive and, until recently, was always studied along with other hormone receptor-positive breast cancers. However, invasive lobular carcinoma has unique clinical features, leading researchers at Dana-Farber’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers to explore the biology of this subtype. In previous work, Otto Metzger, MD, found that invasive lobular carcinoma responds differently to the available hormone therapies compared to other hormone receptor-positive breast cancers.

Based on these findings and with the support of the Maor Foundation, Metzger, Winer, and their colleagues launched a comprehensive research program to examine the differences between invasive lobular carcinoma and invasive ductal carcinoma, another type of hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. The investigators are using cell lines to create a map of the specific locations on DNA where there is binding to the estrogen receptor. This map will help the investigators study the interaction between the hormone receptor and DNA, including how it may help the cancer cells to grow. The investigators will also test different hormone therapies to uncover how the cells respond to these various treatment regimens.

“The remarkably generous support of the Maor Foundation will enable our team of investigators to conduct critical studies related to invasive lobular carcinoma,” said Winer. “The foundation’s investment serves as a catalyst for illuminating the underlying biology driving the difference in responses between these different types of breast cancer, and holds the potential to inform the development of new treatment strategies for patients with invasive lobular carcinoma.”

DCU gives gift of strength in vulnerable times

When Dana-Farber patient “Imelda” learned that she would not survive her breast cancer, she asked her 24-year-old daughter “Rosa” to take care of her little brother. Sadly, Imelda died before writing a will, and 6-year-old “Marco” was left in legal limbo. To honor Imelda’s last wishes, Dana-Farber connected the family with pro bono legal counsel who established Rosa’s guardianship and ensured Marco a stable home.

To help families like Imelda’s navigate legal and financial struggles that confront patients, Digital Federal Credit Union (DCU) committed a $250,000 endowment and $75,000 current-use gift toward Dana-Farber’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers, and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research at Dana-Farber.

“A portion of the gift supports Dana-Farber’s relationship with Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston (MLP), a program that matches patients with pro bono legal counsel. The gift also provides direct financial assistance to patients who may otherwise forgo treatment due to economic strain.

“By contributing to patient assistance funds and our relationship with MLP, Digital Federal Credit Union makes a lasting impact on patients and families,” said Deborah Toffler, MSW, LCSW, director of the Division of Patient and Family Programs and Services at Dana-Farber.

“We are extremely grateful for DCU’s insightful support.”

Walkers brunch with Benz

The annual Extra Mile Brunch, held March 6 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, celebrated the success of the 2015 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai with more than 750 attendees. Pacesetters, who raised $1,500 or more ($500 or more for children 12 years old and younger), Team Captains and Co-Captains whose teams raised $10,000 or more, donors who made gifts of $1,500 or more, walk sponsors, Volunteer Site Captains, and Walk Heroes came together for a morning of inspirational speakers and an awards ceremony.

Edward J. Benz Jr., MD (below), was on hand to accept the ceremonial check for more than $8.2 million raised by the 2015 Jimmy Fund Walk participants, and to share some of his own personal Jimmy Fund Walk stories. Benz, who will retire as President and CEO of Dana-Farber this fall, is a Pacesetter and has walked since 2001 with his wife, Peggy Vettese.
LLS awards $6.1 million in grants for innovative blood cancer research at Dana-Farber

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), a longtime supporter of Dana-Farber, recently awarded more than $6.1 million in grants to Dana-Farber investigators to study the biology of blood cancers and translate laboratory findings into new treatments for patients. Among the grants was a $5 million Specialized Center of Research (SCOR) grant awarded to David Weinstock, MD.

Prestigious SCOR grant

Weinstock’s SCOR focuses on enhancing therapies for T-cell lymphoma, a disease for which there are few effective treatment options. SCORs support five-year, multi-institution research projects, and Weinstock is collaborating with scientists at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

With the SCOR grant, Weinstock and his colleagues will advance therapies for a subset of T-cell lymphoma called peripheral T-cell lymphoma, which is a rare, aggressive form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The scientists are developing research models to study the disease, sequencing tumor samples for genetic mutations, and conducting clinical trials of drugs and drug combinations to treat the disease.

“Many patients with T-cell lymphoma do very poorly, and there are very few treatments that can help them,” said Weinstock. “This LLS SCOR enables my colleagues and me to study the underlying biology of the disease and develop more effective treatments for these patients. This grant supports an exciting area of research that might not otherwise get funded.”

Grants drive novel research, young investigators

In addition to the SCOR grant, LLS awarded grants to five other Dana-Farber investigators.

Nikhil Munshi, MD, director of Basic and Correlative Science at the Jerome Leper Multiple Myeloma Center and Lellow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics, received a Translational Research Program (TRP) grant to evaluate the role of AP endonuclease, a key mediator of genomic stability, in multiple myeloma. TRP grants fund new research to accelerate bench-to-bedside treatment for leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma.

Jacqueline Garcia, MD, and Zuzana Tothova, MD, PhD, were awarded Special Fellow grants. Garcia is studying the effectiveness of an investigational drug, NLM9708, in treating a specific mutation that occurs in acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Tothova is investigating why patients who carry a single abnormal copy of the SF3A2 or SMC3 gene develop AML or myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). Special Fellow grants enable young postdoctoral researchers to begin to transition to an independent research program.

I-Ju Lee, PhD, and Prabha Sarangi, PhD, earned Fellow grants. Lee is characterizing critical parameters for successful chromosome separation, which will define fundamental differences between normal cells and cancer cells and identify mechanisms essential to cancer cell survival. Sarangi studies molecular pathways underlying Fanconi anemia (FA), which may suggest therapeutic strategies for FA and associated diseases such as AML and MDS. Fellow grants support promising investigators with less than two years of postdoctoral research.

“LLS and Dana-Farber have a shared commitment to increase the understanding of cancers and to improve treatments and find cures.”

— LOUIS DEGENNARO, PhD, president and CEO, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

With an LLS Translational Research Program grant, Nikhil Munshi, MD, will evaluate a key mediator of genomic stability in multiple myeloma.

$60 Million

to support cutting-edge blood cancer research at Dana-Farber.

With a shared mission to conquer blood cancer, LLS has awarded more than 170 grants to over 140 Dana-Farber faculty and staff.
Since its founding in 1982, Susan G. Komen has awarded 64 grants to investigators at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute forging new inroads in our understanding of breast cancer. With over $26 million in support over more than 30 years, Dana-Farber and Susan G. Komen have together made important strides in advancing novel discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic. This longstanding relationship continued in 2015, with grants totaling $2.28 million for researchers exploring a variety of different aspects of breast cancer. Nikhil Wagle, MD, was awarded a $450,000 Career Catalyst Research Grant for his project identifying resistance mechanisms in ER-positive breast cancer.

“I’m incredibly grateful for this support, which will help us address one of the most pressing issues for patients with metastatic breast cancer: understanding resistance to therapies that target the estrogen receptor, and hopefully developing new strategies to overcome that resistance,” said Wagle. The Career Catalyst award serves a pivotal role for early career investigators in need of funding to establish their own laboratories and pursue critical questions that remain about breast cancer.

“Komen is proud to fund investigators like Dr. Wagle who are helping us understand the spread of breast cancer,” said Judith Salerno, MD, MS, Susan G. Komen president and CEO. “By pinpointing what makes a tumor resistant to therapy, we can ensure that patients are getting the right therapy at the right time and ultimately save lives.” She added, “Further, Dr. Wagle’s work highlights how critical it is to ensure a continuous stream of research funding, particularly for investigators who are launching their careers. We’re proud to be among Dr. Wagle’s early supporters, and look forward to the many contributions he will bring to the field.”

Komen also awarded Leadership Grants to the Institute. These grants included $400,000 in support of David Livingston, MD, deputy director of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, Emil Frei III, MD, Professor in Genetics and Medicine, and Charles A. Dana Chair in Human Cancer Genetics; and $600,000 in support of Ann Partridge, MD, MPH, founder and director of the Program for Young Women with Breast Cancer. Both are members of the Komen Scholars Program. Additionally, Myles Brown, MD, director of the Center for Functional Cancer Epigenetics, received $425,000 to study transcription networks in hormone-positive breast cancer; and Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women’s Cancers, director of Breast Oncology, and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research, received $225,000 to improve treatment approaches for women with metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer.

Remigio Picone, PhD, also received $180,000 for a postdoctoral fellowship to study the underlying biology of breast cancer under mentors David Pellman, MD, Margaret M. Dyson Professor of Pediatric Oncology, and Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD.

Preparing for the future drives donor to give

A s Managing Director at Bain Capital, David Gross-Loh knows when to support great talent with the resources they need to succeed. After touring the new state-of-the-art Longwood Center and meeting Kwock-Kin Wong, MD, PhD, co-scientific director of the Robert and Renée Beller Center for Applied Cancer Science, Gross-Loh and his wife, Christine, were inspired to invest $100,000 to create the Gross-Loh Family Fund for Lung Cancer Research. The fund will support Wong’s work including his partnerships with doctors in China.

“We need to accelerate the pace of discovery in lung cancer and be ready for the looming health crisis in Asia and around the world that pollution could cause,” Gross-Loh said. “With this gift, I want to ensure that decreases in government funding in the U.S. don’t affect discovery. Donors need to fill the gap,” he added.

Wong’s research focuses on utilizing immunotherapy in lung cancer and how these therapies can prime the immune system’s own cancer fighting abilities. Wong’s partnership with Chinese researchers is aimed at securing tumor samples that can be genetically and immunologically analyzed and sharing that data among researchers.

“David and Christine’s generous gift will be a huge help as I continue my work on decoding the environmental and environmental factors at play in lung cancer,” Wong said. “With access to more samples and the best technology, we’ll be better able to translate discoveries to treatments.”

More than 1,200 attend annual Chefs for Jimmy

The seasonally appropriate theme was “Fire and Ice” as nearly 1,200 supporters braved the wintry weather to attend the 26th annual Chefs for Jimmy event on Friday, Jan. 22. Dozens of local restaurants and caterers participated by generously providing epicurean wonders inspired by the evening’s theme. The event, which also included an opportunity drawing and silent auction, was held at Chez Josef in Agawam, Mass. Since 1990, Chefs for Jimmy has been held annually in honor of Neal Webber, a longtime supporter of the Jimmy Fund, and has raised more than $5.5 million in unrestricted funding. The 2016 event raised more than $100,000 to benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

“We had another fantastic Chefs for Jimmy event this year, with 30 of the area’s top restaurants serving their signature dishes,” said Mike Katz, co-chair and founder of Chefs for Jimmy (above, third from right). “There was great food, music, an auction, and other activities, all of which contributed to our terrific results,” Katz added. “My co-chairs, Institute Trustee Barbara Sadowsky, Andy Cohen, and I remain committed to working with our dedicated committee to present our 27th Chefs for Jimmy gala again next January.”
On Monday, April 18, the 2016 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC) team, more than 550 runners clad in bright neon DFMC racing singlets, successfully crossed the finish line of the 120th Boston Marathon®. In addition to completing 26.2 miles, the team is also on pace to achieve its goal of $5.4 million for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

An experience to remember
Arriving in Hopkinton before sunrise Marathon Monday, DFMC teammates decorated racing singlets with names and photos of loved ones, huddled together for pictures, and swapped encouraging words and stories to ease pre-race nerves.

DFMC runners from 36 states and four countries ran alongside thousands of runners from all over the world to take part in the celebrated long-distance trek stretching from Hopkinton to Boylston Street in Boston’s Copley Square. Spectators and volunteers lined the route with inspiring signs, water, and snacks, key ingredients to a successful and exciting experience for every runner.

Families and friends, massage therapists, medical staff, and DFMC volunteers and staff were stationed at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, DFMC’s official runner and fan zone, to greet runners, provide post-race care, and extend congratulations.

Personal best: 25 years with DFMC
Only two people can say they’ve run the Boston Marathon 25 times with DFMC—Matt Bergin is one of them. An avid runner who has completed marathons on all seven continents, Bergin’s motivation to keep running and fundraising lies in honoring his family and friends who have been diagnosed with or lost to cancer. Over the last quarter century, discoveries made through the Barr Program have given new hope to patients and kept runners like Bergin and his wife, Heather, also a DFMC participant, passionate about conquering cancer through their miles.

“Over the years, this team has been like a second family,” said Bergin. “As DFMC has grown, so too have our fundraising capabilities, and our ability to contribute to advances in cancer treatment.”

Bergin has cumulatively raised more than $150,000 in his impressive 25-year DFMC career.

Lights, camera, action—fundraise!
A new video was created this year to support runner fundraising efforts, visually connecting the progress being made in the laboratories of Barr Program investigators with donor gifts made to DFMC runners. The video equips DFMC teammates to reach their donor networks in a more dynamic, informative way.

“The video is a great fundraising resource for runners, and provides inspiring moments for donors,” said Dana-Farber Chief Scientific Officer Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, one of the video narrators and a past DFMC participant. “Funds raised by DFMC runners drive dollars to the Barr Program’s support of basic research, which is essential to the development of new treatments and cures.”

The video was produced by Dan Frank, a past DFMC runner who continues to support the event each year.

A lasting tribute
The Barr Program was established in 1987 by Dana-Farber Trustees Delores Barr Weaver and her husband, Wayne, in memory of her mother, Claudia Adams Barr. Since its inception, the program has been a cornerstone of innovative, early stage cancer research at Dana-Farber, and continues to accelerate major scientific advances. In the last 27 years, DFMC runners have raised more than $80 million to support the Barr Program.

2016 DFMC raises $5.4 million for Barr Program

Inspired by Claudia Adams Barr, Institute Trustees J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver established the Barr Program to fund and support groundbreaking basic research.
Damon Runyon propels early stage research with six new grants

While many funding resources are directed to experienced investigators pursuing well-established projects, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation aims to support the creative ideas of young, early stage researchers. Damon Runyon recognizes the importance of empowering emerging physician-scientists to pursue their most promising novel concepts, and the impact that their groundbreaking work can have on advancing cancer science and care. Building on its longstanding support of Dana-Farber, Damon Runyon selected six additional investigators to receive funding for their compelling research through awards totaling $1,838,000 in 2015.

Leveraging his Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award, Pavan Bachireddy, MD, is investigating why some patients with relapsed blood cancers respond to a particular immunotherapy while others do not. “By studying immune responses across different leukemias and lymphomas, I hope to find factors that can help us predict which patients will respond to these immunotherapies and identify new therapeutic targets,” said Bachireddy.

Through his Fellowship Award, Serkan Kir, PhD, is studying the mechanisms that drive cancer cachexia, a wasting syndrome that impacts nearly half of cancer patients. “This prestigious award is enabling me to examine potential strategies to prevent cachexia, which could help to improve treatment options and survival for patients,” said Kir.

As a Fellowship Award recipient, Amanda Balboni, PhD, is uncovering ways to target an error that fuses two genes and is associated with Ewing sarcoma. “Thanks to the Damon Runyon Foundation, I am working to expand our understanding of how Ewing sarcoma develops and progresses, with the ultimate goal of identifying new therapies for the treatment of this disease,” said Balboni.

“Basic research can lead to game-changing discoveries in cancer science and medicine,” said Foundation President Ambrose K. Monell. “Through unrestricted gifts, we’re able to work with the Institute to identify areas of great need, and fund initiatives that could change the future of cancer medicine.”

“The Monell Foundation’s steadfast generosity has had a powerful, tangible impact on scientific research, mission-driven capital expenditures, and other critical areas of institutional focus,” said Institute President and CEO Edward J. Benz Jr., MD. “A driving force behind our clinical and research endeavors, the foundation’s philanthropic partnership serves as an inspiration to the entire Dana-Farber community—allowing us to support novel basic research, attract the best and brightest faculty, and make invaluable progress.”

“We are proud to partner with Dana-Farber to advance the critical, lifesaving work of these talented rising stars.” — LORRAINE EGAN, president and CEO of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation

Through his Fellowship Award, Neil Umbreit, PhD, is applying his Fellowship Award to study chromosome fragile sites (CFS). “I’m so grateful to Damon Runyon for advancing my work to understand how these errors contribute to genome instability, as the underlying pathways are promising targets for cancer therapy,” said Umbreit.

Eleezer Van Allen, MD, is using preclinical models and patient tumor samples to study chemotherapies that impact DNA repair. “Through this Clinical Investigator Award, I hope to uncover key information about the underlying genomic characteristics associated with response to existing and novel DNA repair therapies,” said Van Allen.

“Here at Damon Runyon, we aim to support the most innovative early career investigators as they strive to overcome the greatest challenges in cancer research,” said Lorraine Egan, president and CEO of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. “We are proud to partner with Dana-Farber to advance the critical, lifesaving work of these talented rising stars.”

Ambrose Monell Foundation renews crucial support

The Ambrose Monell Foundation has continued its longstanding support of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute with a generous $300,000 gift, bringing its cumulative giving to more than $2 million. Founded in 1956, the Ambrose Monell Foundation has made unrestricted grants to Dana-Farber since 2002. Such unrestricted gifts provide adaptable funding that allows the Institute to seize opportunities and direct support where and when it is needed most. This year, the foundation continued this generous tradition with $200,000 in unrestricted support, as well as $100,000 designated to the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and the Lellow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics to accelerate the Institute’s progress in this rapidly changing field.

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Quasney Family helps Dana-Farber “fight hard” against ovarian cancer

For Niki Quasney, “fight hard” was not just a mantra, but a way of life. Diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer in 2009, the Chicago native and mother of two confronted the disease with relentless defiance from start to finish. Eventually, Niki’s search for new treatment options led her to Dana-Farber, where she found a supportive care team that gave her help and hope for her fight.

While Niki fought tirelessly until her passing in 2015, her legacy endures through her family’s generosity. In January, her mother, Linda Quasney, made a significant gift to establish the Niki Quasney “Fight Hard” Ovarian Cancer Research Endowment, supporting Dana-Farber’s Early Drug Development Center (EDDC). Funds will be directed toward BRCA1-related ovarian cancer studies and clinical trials led by Geoffrey Shapiro, MD, PhD, director of the EDDC and member of Niki’s care team. The BRCA1 gene, for which Niki had tested positive, puts one at high risk for breast and ovarian cancer. According to Niki’s sister, Amanda Wade, the family is supporting Dana-Farber because of Shapiro’s research focus as well as the compassionate, fighting approach he and his colleagues took with Niki. Their hope is that their investment ultimately benefits future generations by accelerating the development of lifesaving therapies.

“We want to support a place that gives people hope and fights with them,” Wade said.
Obesity and related disorders such as diabetes are major public health concerns that continue to impact populations around the globe. Importantly, these metabolic diseases are also risk factors for many types of cancer. In addition to increasing education about the importance of diet and exercise, researchers aim to uncover new treatment strategies to improve outcomes for patients facing these challenges. Toward this goal, Bruce Spiegelman, PhD, the Stanley J. Korsmeyer, MD, Professor of Cell Biology and Medicine at Dana-Farber, is spearheading studies focused on better understanding cellular regulation of energy metabolism. Leveraging a recent grant from a generous donor, Spiegelman is leading premier research into examining both how cells manage energy and the role of brown fat in protecting against obesity and diabetes.

Through this support, Spiegelman and his laboratory have made several discoveries about how fat cells impact body metabolism, including diabetes and cancer cachexia, a debilitating wasting syndrome that impacts approximately half of cancer patients. For instance, Spiegelman previously identified a genetically distinct type of fat cell called beige fat, which can burn chemical energy to release heat. Spiegelman’s findings indicated that the presence of these beige cells might be critical for the conversion of energy-storing white fat to energy-burning brown fat, creating healthier fat with fewer negative impacts on the body. These cells could thereby help to protect the body against obesity, diabetes, and cancer. Spiegelman and his team also discovered irisin, a hormone that is produced in response to exercise. Their research suggests that irisin might convert white fat to beige fat, and could be an important therapy to boost the development of beige fat.

These findings and philanthropic support are empowering Spiegelman and his team to further explore these interactions and leverage their expanding knowledge to uncover ways to increase the activity of beige fat. The team is now exploring several novel molecules through preclinical studies in order to pinpoint those that should be further tested in clinical trials. Spiegelman’s innovative work could ultimately offer a new class of therapeutics to better treat obesity and obesity-related illnesses such as diabetes and cancer. This grant, courtesy of The JPB Foundation, is also enabling Spiegelman to collaborate with other leaders in the field, empowering them to work together to expedite groundbreaking discoveries and solve some of the greatest challenges in cancer science and care.

"With limited governmental funding available, The JPB Foundation has played a monumental role in allowing us to continue full steam ahead with this important research," said Spiegelman. "Our basic scientific studies have yielded key findings about the biology behind cellular metabolism and its role in obesity, diabetes, and cancer, as well as novel strategies for intervening with therapy. We are tremendously grateful for this generous support."

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Innovative new research led by Bruce Spiegelman, PhD, could ultimately offer a new class of therapeutics to better treat obesity and obesity-related illnesses such as diabetes and cancer.

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Philanthropic support drives metabolic and diabetes research

Volunteer tournament directors honored at Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night

Members of the Jimmy Fund Golf community came together at The International Golf Club in Bolton, Mass., to celebrate the 2015 fundraising year at the annual Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night. More than 160 tournaments, with support from 18 program sponsors, raised more than $6.8 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Since its inception in 1983, the Jimmy Fund Golf program and its volunteers have raised $108 million, an impressive accomplishment.

The Ken Coleman Extra Mile Award, named in honor of the former Boston Red Sox sportscaster and past Chairman of the Jimmy Fund, is presented annually to outstanding tournament volunteers. The 2015 recipients were Bob Tucker (right) of the Paul Dowd Jimmy Fund Golf Classic, which has raised more than $440,000 since 1984, and Pat (left) and Kathi Lee of the Horseshoe Grille Tournament, which has raised nearly $225,000 since 1986.

WHEN ELIGIBLE MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS GIVE $50 OR MORE TO DANA-FARBER AND THE JIMMY FUND, ARBELLA GIVES THEM:

6% OFF THEIR ARBELLA AUTO INSURANCE POLICY

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Innovative new research led by Bruce Spiegelman, PhD, could ultimately offer a new class of therapeutics to better treat obesity and obesity-related illnesses such as diabetes and cancer.

Create your own Giving Page at myjimmyfundpage.org

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Official Auto Insurance Partner of the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

“With limited governmental funding available, The JPB Foundation has played a monumental role in allowing us to continue full steam ahead with this important research.”

—BRUCE SPIEGELMAN, PhD
10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission
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Stephanie Dougan, PhD, in cancer

in support of research by Suzanne

The Louis B. Mayer Foundation

awarded two grants totaling $250,000

in support of research by Suzanne

Gaudet, PhD, in cancer biology, and

Stephanie Dougan, PhD, in cancer

immunology and virology, at Dana-

Farber.

The goals of both Gaudet’s and

Dougan’s research have widespread

applications for cancer research

and treatment. Gaudet’s study is

focused on understanding epithelial-

mesenchymal transition so that

biological signals that drive metastasis

can be identified.

“Our research aims to provide

new insights into the early steps

of cancer metastasis, which could

lead to more effective strategies to
treat cancer before it has a chance
to spread,” said Gaudet.

Dougan’s work, while focused on

using immunotherapy strategies to

fight pancreatic cancer tumors

specifically, can be applied

across multiple types of cancer.

“Novel immunotherapy strategies

have proven useful in treating

a variety of cancers. Further

investigation could provide us

with new treatment options and better

outcomes,” said Dougan.

“We hope that the avenues of

research we support will become

the basis for significant advances in

medical knowledge and ultimately

treatment,” said Judd Farkas, treasurer

of The Louis B. Mayer Foundation.

“Both Gaudet and Dougan’s projects

could have the greatest possible

benefits for the greatest number of

people. Whether or not the path

of research does or does not lead to

the outcome we hoped for, we still

recognize that the knowledge gained

is extremely valuable and we will

continue to support Dana-Farber’s

work enthusiastically.”

When Allen Lipson

was diagnosed with a

neuroendocrine tumor

more than 10 years ago, he received

multiple recommendations to go
to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Neuroendocrine tumors are rare

and some may not cause any signs

or symptoms. The tumors develop

in the body’s hormone-producing

cells and are most often found in the

gastrointestinal tract.

“We found there were not many

places that had the expertise to treat

neuroendocrine tumors, but Dana-

Farber did,” said Allen.

Allen and his wife, Cheryl, found

the expertise they were looking for

when they met Matthew Kuklo, MD,
director of Dana-Farber’s Program in

Neuroendocrine and Carcinoid Tumors.

The Lipsons have provided
generous, ongoing support to Kuklo’s

work, including a new gift they hope

will help lead to earlier detection and

more treatment options.

“At Dana-Farber, we see a

tremendous emphasis on research,”
said Allen. “We also appreciate the high

quality of all of the people here. At

the end of the day, that’s what counts.”

“You have to have a relationship

with your doctor,” Cheryl added.

Allen and Cheryl both feel these

connections, along with ground-

breaking research, are what set Dana-

Farber apart.

“The Lipsons’ loyal generosity

advances our mission to perform

innovative research and explore new

paradigms to identify therapeutic

targets in neuroendocrine tumors,”
said Kuklo. “We hope that the
discoveries made possible by their

gift will lead to the development of

more effective therapies for our

neuroendocrine tumor patients.”

J

im and Lois Champy

established the James A. and

Lois J. Champy Fund for

Research in Hematologic Oncology

at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

with a $100,000 gift to support the

research of Dana-Farber’s David

Steensma, MD, and R. Coleman

Lindsay, MD, PhD.

The gift will enable investigators

to leverage data from the Rapid

Heme Panel, a “next generation”
genetic test that provides an

unprecedented amount of

information, within days, that aids

the choice of treatment. Importantly,

this new test also provides a critical

source of information for research.

Because this new test can be used

multiple times during the course

of the disease, physician-scientists

plan to use it to track the frequency

of mutations to determine which

ones are present for the duration of

the disease, and identify which may

cause the disease to relapse.

“This generous gift from the

Champy family will allow us
to catalog mutations associated

with leukemia, myelodysplastic

syndromes, and related disorders

in the patients that we see,” said

Steensma. “With the Rapid Heme

Panel we can better understand the
disease biology and design more

effective therapies.”

“When meeting with Dr. Steensma

and Dr. Lindsay, we were very

impressed with the genetic profiling

they were conducting for treatment

of myeloid disease and were inspired
to support that research,” said Jim

Champy. “We believe that Dana-Farber

is on the forefront for determining

the appropriate targeted treatment for

cancers. They are making the prospect

for personalized medicine real. We are

so fortunate to have that resource here

in Boston.”

The Louis B. Mayer Foundation

supports research by Suzanne Gaudet, PhD (left), and Stephanie Dougan, PhD.

Ongoing generosity fuels research into neuroendocrine tumors

Louis B. Mayer Foundation awards two new grants

Champy Family fuels research in hematologic oncology

President’s Circle Appreciation Night celebrates donors at Fenway Park

Allen and Cheryl Lipson’s generosity is furthering research into neuroendocrine tumors.

James and Lois Champy’s gift will leverage data from the Rapid Heme Panel, a “next generation” genetic test.

Members of Dana-Farber’s President’s Circle giving society were recognized for their steadfast generosity with a night of celebration at the 10th Annual President’s Circle Appreciation Night. The April 13 event at Fenway Park attracted more than 110 President’s Circle members and guests, who enjoyed famous Fenway Franks and other ballpark fare before watching the Boston Red Sox defeat the Baltimore Orioles. WEEI Red Sox Radio Network broadcaster Joe Castiglione (right) gave a warm welcome to attendees, and Dana-Farber Chief of Staff Emeritus, Quick Family Chair, and Faculty Chairman of Philanthropy Stephen Sallan, MD, shared recent updates on the Institute.
A long-time friend Jonathan Kazarian and Zach Hagopian had been planning beach parties on Cape Cod for years. In 2014, Jonathan went through a family experience that highlighted the importance of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Inspired by this development, and driven to find a way to help, Jonathan and Zach put their party planning skills to work to raise funds for Dana-Farber. Jonathan and Zach’s first step was to find the perfect venue. They decided on the Boston Aquarium, which matched nicely with their fun, beach theme. One deposit, a Facebook event page, and two days later, nearly 300 people had expressed interest in attending this first-year event, and the Fall Formal was born. Weeks later, more than 840 were in attendance. In 2015, this time with the help of a committee, Jonathan and Zach hosted their second Fall Formal at the Boston Children’s Museum. In just one year, they were able to increase event attendance to more than 1,000 young professionals, who together raised more than $107,000 for Dana-Farber. Jonathan and Zach have big plans for continuing this very popular event. “We see a strong future for this event, and our 2016 goal is to raise $200,000,” said Jonathan. “We look forward to watching the Fall Formal engage hundreds of young professionals while raising awareness for Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission.”

Riccardo’s generous gift will help Dana-Farber investigators learn more about small cell lung cancer and advance the development of new treatments. “Anna was a great woman, a great wife, and I want to honor her by supporting small cell lung cancer research in every way I can,” said Riccardo.

Fall Formal surpasses $100,000 in its second year

Fall Formal founders Jonathan Kazarian (third from right) and Zach Hagopian (far right) with members of the 2015 event planning committee.

For More Information

For more information about Dana-Farber’s research, please visit db.com/research.

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

SUMMER 2016 Impact 13

Ultrathin lung cancer takes more lives than any other form of cancer, lung cancer research receives little government funding. And within this limited pool of resources, small cell lung cancer, a particularly challenging form of the disease, receives a mere fraction of research dollars. This unfortunate reality is something Riccardo Dallai aims to change.

After his wife, Anna, passed away from the disease in July 2014, Riccardo established the Anna and Riccardo Dallai Family Endowed Fund for Small Cell Lung Cancer Research at Dana-Farber. Riccardo’s recent gift of $100,000 marks his second contribution to the fund. The gift will further support small cell lung cancer research at the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology, where Anna was under the care of David Jackman, MD, and Dana-Farber fellow Sameer Chopra, MD, PhD.

Riccardo, a Lowe-Center for Thoracic Oncology Visiting Committee member, says he appreciates the Dana-Farber doctors and staff who cared for Anna throughout her challenging treatment. “I was grateful for their moral support along with their medical support,” said Riccardo. “Dana-Farber was always a place my wife felt comfortable during treatment.”

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Riccardo Dallai honored his late wife, Anna, with a generous new gift.

“Anna was a great woman, a great wife, and I want to honor her by supporting small cell research in every way I can.”

—RICCARDO DALLAI

“Dream Team” continued from page 1

use of the drug olaparib to treat a subset of patients with this disease: those who have advanced ovarian cancer with an inherited mutation in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene. DNA repair genes other than BRCA are often mutated in ovarian cancer, so the team seeks to expand the use of approved and investigational drugs that target these specific genes across an even broader group of patients.

In addition to these efforts, the team will conduct laboratory work aimed at developing ways to identify those women whose ovarian cancer is likely to respond to DNA repair therapy, as well as prevention and early detection strategies. The Dream Team also includes Dana-Farber’s Ursula Matulonis, MD, Alan D’Andrea, MD (seated, left), was named to lead a new Ovarian Cancer Dream Team to explore DNA repair therapies as well as prevention and early detection strategies. The Dream Team also includes Dana-Farber’s Ursula Matulonis, MD (seated, right); and (standing, from left) Panos Konstantinopoulos, MD, PhD, William Barry, PhD, Geoffrey Shapiro, MD, PhD, and Giovanni Parmigiani, PhD.

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Dream Team” continued from page 1

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Fall Formal surpasses $100,000 in its second year

Fall Formal founders Jonathan Kazarian (third from right) and Zach Hagopian (far right) with members of the 2015 event planning committee.
In 2012, Silicon Valley entrepreneur Evan Goldberg learned he was a carrier of the BRCA gene, which is implicated in numerous cancers. The specter of his two daughters being BRCA-positive led him to take action to prevent them from facing a future of uncertainty regarding cancer. Goldberg and his wife, Cynthia, established The BRCA Foundation to bring focus to the genetic underpinnings of cancers and support research on BRCA-related diseases.

The BRCA Foundation recently awarded $2 million to fund the Harvard Medicine BRCA1 Research Project. This effort is co-led by David Livingston, MD, deputy director of the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Hospital Program in Cancer Genetics at Dana-Farber.

“BRCA1 mutations account for about 6 percent of all breast cancers. A woman with just one BRCA1 mutation has a 40 percent chance of developing breast cancer by age 70,” said Livingston, MD, deputy director of the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Hospital Program in Cancer Genetics at Dana-Farber.

“While relatively uncommon, BRCA1 is one of the best-known genes linked to breast cancer risk. BRCA1-associated abnormalities could lead to novel approaches to treating BRCA1 breast cancer and have broader implications for all BRCA1-related cancers.”

“The strength of this collaboration is that it can deliver across both Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber,” said Goldberg, BRCA Foundation president and director. “I am incredibly impressed with the scale of the institutions and the focus of the researchers toward this problem.”

“The moment Dr. Jacobsen walked into the room I immediately knew I was in the right hands,” said Michael. “He had a calm confidence, was beyond miserable—that is, until he met Eric Jacobsen, MD.”

“The moment Dr. Jacobsen walked into the room I immediately knew I was in the right hands,” said Michael. “He had a calm confidence, was beyond miserable—that is, until he met Eric Jacobsen, MD.”

“Excited away from celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, Michael and Nancy Diamonti sat in a Dana-Farber exam room anxiously waiting to hear what it was that had been plaguing Michael for months. Despite visiting multiple hospitals, nobody knew what was wrong, and Michael was beyond miserable—that is, until he met Eric Jacobsen, MD.”

“I am incredibly impressed with the scale of the institutions and the focus of the researchers toward this problem.”

— EVAN GOLDBERG, president and director, The BRCA Foundation

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Celebrating the right mix of treatment and care

“We hope that through our gift to enhance and sustain two important programs, cancer patients and families nationally and internationally will benefit from Dana-Farber’s cutting-edge research and discovery.”

— JOYCE LINDE, chair of the Linde Family Foundation

“With all of the program’s research depends. The three core facilities provide access to a wealth of patient samples across 17 member institutions; statistical design and analysis for laboratory, clinical, and population-level studies; and specimen storage and molecular assessment for future research. “These robust facilities are essential to our research in ALL and other pediatric hematologic malignancies, but they depend completely on philanthropy to be sustained,” said Stephen Sallan, MD, chief of staff emeritus and the Quick Family Chair in Pediatric Oncology at Dana-Farber. “The Linde Family’s generous and strategic support of our program’s infrastructure safeguards our research enterprise for years to come, ensuring continued treatment advances for our patients.”

Joyce Linde, chair of the Linde Family Foundation, said, “I am incredibly impressed with the scale of the institutions and the focus of the researchers toward this problem.”
10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission.

JULY 27–AUGUST 16

Strike Out Cancer

Give $1, $3, or $5 to the Jimmy Fund at participating New England Taco Bell, KFC, and The Paper Store locations and receive a baseball pin-up to personalize with names or messages. Contact: Katie Brown at 617-582-9675.

AUGUST

Jimmie Fund Month at Fenway

The Boston Red Sox declare August as “Jimmy Fund Month” at Fenway Park in honor of their longtime partnership with the Jimmy Fund. Visit redsox.com or contact Rebecca Freedman at 617-632-4215.

AUGUST 5

Joe Cronin Memorial Jimmy Fund Fishing Tournament

This fun day on the water in Osterville, Mass., includes a full day of children’s activities plus dinner, entertainment, awards, and live and silent auctions, to support the Jimmy Fund. Contact: Laura Oudia at 617-632-3613 or Laura_Oudia@dfci.harvard.edu or visit jocroninfishing.com.

AUGUST 6–7

Pan-Mass Challenge

More than 6,000 riders will bike across the Commonwealth in the 37th Pan-Mass Challenge with a goal of raising $46 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. 100 percent of every raised dollar goes directly to cancer research and care. Make a gift to support a rider at pmc.org.

SEPTEMBER 25

Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk

Walk one of four routes along the historic Boston Marathon® course, from a 5K to the full 26.2 miles, and raise funds to conquer cancer at Dana-Farber. Register today at jimmyfundwalk.org or contact Robert Hendrickson at 617-582-8322.

AUGUST 21

New Balance Falmouth Race Road

Run this seven-mile road race on scenic Cape Cod to raise funds for Dana-Farber, or make a gift to support a runner. Contact: Emily Falconer at 617-632-6610 or Emily_Falconer@dfci.harvard.edu.

AUGUST 29–30

WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon

Presented by Arbella Insurance Foundation

Tune in to this 36-hour live broadcast from the Boston Red Sox’ historic Fenway Park, and give generously. Contact: Jacqueline Callahan at 617-632-9008 or visit jimmyfundradiotelethon.org.

OCTOBER 9

B.A.A Half Marathon®

Register now to join the official Dana-Farber team and raise funds to conquer cancer. Contact Kelly Wicks at 617-582-8043 or Kelly_Wicks@dfci.harvard.edu.

OCTOBER 14

Celebrating Young and Strong

This festive coastal reception celebrates the courage and strength of all young women diagnosed with breast cancer. All proceeds benefit Young and Strong, the Program for Young Women with Breast Cancer in the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’sCancers. Contact: Casey Pereira at 617-632-3883 or email celebratingyoungandstrong@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 17

Sunrise to Sunset Jimmy Fund Golf Tournament

This all-day golf fundraiser on The International’s premier courses, The Oaks and The Pines, includes prizes for the top 10 fundraisers and top 3 golfers. Contact: Katie McGlynn at 617-632-6603 or visit sunrisetosunsetgolf.org.

OCTOBER 22

UnMask Cancer

Presented by The Herb Chambers Companies

The third annual UnMask Cancer, hosted by Giuliana and Bill Rancic, features living entertainment, delicious bites, and signature cocktails, to benefit Dana-Farber. Contact:4Qualcoynes@gmail.com or 617-632-5381 or visit unmaskcancer.org.

For more information on all Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber events and programs, go to jimmyfund.org or dana-farber.org.
The Dana-Farber Rink Rats, a team of Institute faculty and staff, faced off against the Boston Bruins Alumni in their second annual fundraiser for the Jimmy Fund. Although the match ended with the Bruins Alumni on top, Dana-Farber patients and their families were the ultimate winners.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

**JULY 1–AUGUST 7**

**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. Contact: Katie Brown at 617-582-9875.

**NOW–AUGUST 12**

**Jimmy Fund Little League**
Presented by Extra Innings and Franklin Sports

Little League teams throughout New England can fundraise to strike out cancer while continuing their season of play. Contact: Casey Pereira at 617-632-3863 or Casey_Pereira@dfci.harvard.edu.

**NOW–DECEMBER 1**

**Kick for Dana-Farber**
Score big with your soccer team by raising funds to support Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission. Participating teams are entered to win a Rally Tunnel experience with the New England Revolution at a 2016 home game as well as other great prizes. Contact: Casey Pereira at 617-632-3863 or Casey_Pereira@dfci.harvard.edu.

**NOW–DECEMBER 1**

**Cheer for Dana-FarberSM**
Presented by Walmart
Empower cheerleading squads to conquer cancer through fundraising. Top fundraising squads win the chance to perform prior to a New England Patriots home game or participate in a cheer clinic with New England Patriots Cheerleaders. Contact: Brenda Goodell at 617-632-5089 or jimmyfundevents@dfci.harvard.edu.

**NOW–AUGUST 12**

**Jimmy Fund/Variety Children’s Charity Theatre Collections**
Volunteer for the Jimmy Fund’s most enduring fundraiser and help to pass collection canisters at National Amusements and other participating movie theaters. Contact: Suzanne Crane at 617-632-5344 or Suzanne_Crane@dfci.harvard.edu.

**NOW–JULY 10**

**Stop & Shop Coupon Booklet**
This summer, Stop & Shop customers can support Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund by purchasing an exclusive coupon booklet featuring special offers and savings. Contact: David Giagrando at 617-632-3804 or David_Giagrando@dfci.harvard.edu.

**NOW–JULY 25–SEPTEMBER 4**

**A Chance for Kids & Families®**
Give $1 at the register of participating Burger King® and Valvoline Instant Oil ChangeTM locations and receive a promotion card with a guaranteed prize, proving everyone’s a winner when you support the Jimmy Fund. Contact: Katie Brown at 617-582-9875.

**NOW–JULY**

**Swim Across America**
Dive into the 22-mile Boston Harbor Swim on July 8 and support the David B. Perini, Jr. Quality of Life Clinic at Dana-Farber. Contact: Casey Pereira at 617-632-3863 or Casey_Pereira@dfci.harvard.edu.

**NOW–AUGUST 8**

**Jimmy Fund Little League**
Presented by Extra Innings and Franklin Sports

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**JULY 23–24**

**The Decathlon**
Head to Brandeis University for the ultimate test of athleticism: The Decathlon. Individuals and teams compete in events including a 400-meter run, football throw, bench press, and 40-yard dash, raising funds for pediatric cancer research at Dana-Farber. To register, visit thedecathlon.org or contact Molly Moss at 617-632-5911.

**JULY 8**

**Swim Across America**
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**FOR MORE EXCITING EVENTS GO TO PAGE 15!**