



Milestones 2016



Laurie H. Glimcher, MD
President and CEO

Dear Friends,

As I embark on my first year as President and CEO of Dana-Farber, I would like to recognize the great progress the Institute has made in both the laboratory and the clinic. Many milestones mark our progress toward a very bright future in the fight against cancer.

This is a truly pivotal time. Two revolutions are taking place in cancer science and medicine, and Dana-Farber is at the forefront of both:

The first revolution is precision medicine—the recognition that each patient’s tumor is driven by unique genomic alterations necessitating treatments to target specific cancer-driving mutations. Dana-Farber is a leader in this field, as exemplified by our Profile program—the largest and most comprehensive patient-based genomics project in the world. The information gathered through Profile allows us to understand cancer better than ever before and offer treatments tailored to attack each patient’s individual disease. This precise form of care came even more into the limelight in 2016 due to Vice President Biden’s Cancer Moonshot initiative. I was pleased to participate in the effort and share ideas, along with several of Dana-Farber’s top faculty members.

The second revolution in cancer medicine is immunology, my medical specialty. Thanks in part to pioneering discoveries and studies at Dana-Farber, the idea of unleashing the body’s natural defenses against cancer has blossomed into new FDA-approved drugs and, in just the past year, more clinical trials in a variety of cancers. Our clinicians and researchers are focused on understanding why certain tumors are particularly vulnerable and on developing effective immunotherapies for patients who do not respond to existing drugs.

At the heart of all our discoveries and everything we do at Dana-Farber are our patients. Whether we are in the laboratory or at the patient bedside, we are committed to using every tactic available to ensure continued delivery of the highest quality care. The following pages highlight a sampling of our exciting achievements and breakthroughs in 2016 that are benefitting patients here at Dana-Farber and around the world.



Revolutionary Research

- Led clinical trials based on a crucial discovery at Dana-Farber that resulted in the FDA approval of **the first of a new class of drugs** that destroy cancer cells by attacking a protein they rely on for survival
- Demonstrated the promise of the **first potential targeted drug** for triple-negative breast cancer
- Discovered a novel way to selectively target a mutant protein in **the most common form of lung cancer**, leaving healthy cells alone and potentially avoiding resistance
- Identified a **previously unknown cause** of ovarian cancer drug resistance that could aid in developing more effective treatment strategies
- Discovered the **genetic cause of a rare pediatric brain tumor**, which ultimately may help patients avoid unnecessary treatments
- Achieved encouraging and **durable results with an experimental drug** against multiple cancers including breast cancer, lung cancer, glioblastoma, and melanoma in an early phase clinical trial

Compassionate Care

- **Expanded Dana-Farber's specialty care and clinical trials** to patients throughout New England with new hospital partnerships in Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire
- Began offering **sessions of Reiki, reflexology, massage, and acupuncture** to patients during infusion treatments to help mitigate side effects of nausea, pain, anxiety, and stress
- Created and launched a platform to **match a patient's genomic profile to clinical trials**, to accelerate trial enrollment and maximize options for patients
- Launched the use of a **mobile application** to provide a creative outlet for patients and caregivers to express complex feelings and emotions
- Launched a **first-of-its-kind HPV outreach program** for high school students and parents, to inform them about preventing HPV-related cancers affecting both men and women and provide free vaccination



"The American Nobel Prize"

William G. Kaelin Jr., MD, received the 2016 Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research—America's most prestigious biomedical award—for a basic science discovery that shed light on the underpinnings of cancer.

Recognition

- **Ranked the number one pediatric cancer hospital in the country** by *U.S. News & World Report* in conjunction with Boston Children's Hospital
- **The top ranked cancer care center in New England** by *U.S. News & World Report* for the 16th consecutive year in conjunction with Brigham and Women's Hospital
- **The only cancer center in the country** ranked in the top 4 for both adult and pediatric cancers by *U.S. News & World Report*
- Recognized in *Boston* magazine with **60 cancer specialists named "Top Doctors"** in the Greater Boston area
- Received a **perfect score of 10** on our application to renew the core National Cancer Institute grant underlying our Comprehensive Cancer Center designation
- Recognized as a **"Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality"** by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation for creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all patients

It is truly an honor to step into this role at such a remarkable and esteemed institution during an amazing time for cancer medicine. The milestones highlighted here, and so many more, simply would not have been possible without your dedicated support. Philanthropy is the lifeblood of innovation and it is what propels us toward critical improvements in cancer diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. On behalf of our researchers, clinicians, and most importantly, our patients and their families, thank you for your enduring partnership in advancing our lifesaving work.

Sincerely,



Laurie H. Glimcher, MD
President and CEO

A Lifetime of Care

Susan Block, MD, was honored with the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award—among the highest honors in the field—for her pioneering work.





Institute Trustee Larry Lucchino—Boston Red Sox President/CEO Emeritus, Pawtucket Red Sox Chairman, longtime Jimmy Fund supporter, and cancer survivor twice treated at Dana-Farber—was named Chairman of the Jimmy Fund in 2016.

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Myles Brown, MD, was honored by election to the National Academy of Sciences



Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, received the prestigious 2016 E. Mead Johnson Award in Pediatric Research from the Society for Pediatric Research



Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD, was recognized by the National Cancer Institute with its Rosalind E. Franklin Award for Women in Science