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Impact

dana-farber.org and jimmyfund.org

THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Living Proof riders and volunteers who, as current cancer patients and survivors, exemplify the PMC's impact on the fight against cancer.

"PMC weekend is a celebration of hope, community, and commitment to eradicate a terrible disease. The money raised by PMC will lead to newer and better treatments, and someday, we hope, a cure."

— **BILLY STARR**, PMC founder and executive director and Dana-Farber Trustee

The Pan-Mass Challenge hits its highest gear yet, raising an incredible \$51 million for Dana-Farber

Like an epic bike ride, the fight against cancer requires total commitment, grounded in recognition of how far one has come and fueled by the determination to go even further. A beacon of hope in the cancer community, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) evokes this dynamic, translating the tremendous commitment of riders, volunteers, and supporters into a transformative gift to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund that increases every year.

Established in 1980 by Billy Starr, the event's founder and executive director who has since become a Dana-Farber Trustee, the PMC has grown into the most successful athletic fundraiser in the country. Taking place on August 5-6, the 38th ride generated a record \$51 million for cancer research and care at Dana-Farber, surpassing their goal by \$3 million and bringing the PMC's cumulative total to an incredible \$598 million.

This year, 6,202 riders traveled from 40 states and seven countries to ride one of 12 routes ranging from 25 to 192 miles. More than 4,000 volunteers staffed food and water stops, provided medical and mechanical assistance, and supported riders from start to finish. Support from 200 companies, headlined by presenting sponsors New Balance and the Red Sox Foundation along with media partner WBZ-TV, ensured that 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar went directly to Dana-Farber.

Living Proof of progress

Inspiration abounds throughout the PMC, with cheering supporters lining the routes to thank riders, participants wearing mementos to honor loved ones, and volunteers offering encouragement at every refreshment stop. Perhaps most moving of all were the 850 riders and volunteers who, as current cancer patients and survivors, provided Living Proof of the PMC's mission and impact. At the end of day one, they gathered at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy for a champagne toast to celebrate surviving and thriving with cancer—a longstanding tradition that remains a highlight of the weekend.

Among them was Diane Legg, a 13-year lung cancer survivor and six-year rider on Team LUNGSTRONG who led the champagne toast, dedicating it to her late friend, fellow rider, and teammate Dave Sachs. According to Legg, the Living Proof gathering provides a meaningful and memorable experience that helps keep her going. She said: "The entire PMC experience is incredible, and to see so many riders and volunteers who have been affected by cancer continuing to give back is truly inspirational."

The number of Living Proof riders and volunteers has more than doubled since 2014, meaningfully reflecting progress enabled by PMC funding. According to Starr, however, the PMC's mission aims further—to bring an end to cancer closer with

every dollar raised and mile pedaled. He said: "PMC weekend is a celebration of hope, community, and commitment to eradicate a terrible disease. The money raised by PMC will lead to newer and better treatments, and someday, we hope, a cure."

Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, who rode in her second PMC this year, underscored the PMC's impact on the Institute's work. She said: "Dana-Farber is so very fortunate to partner with the PMC, which has played a pivotal role in nearly every advancement made at Dana-Farber over the past three decades. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of PMC riders, volunteers, and all supporters, the future of Dana-Farber and cancer care is bright." ■



PMC Founder and Executive Director Billy Starr and Living Proof rider Diane Legg.



Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been the top ranked cancer hospital in New England by U.S. News and World Report for 17 consecutive years, and is the only cancer center in the country ranked in the top 4 for both adult and pediatric cancer programs.



4
Largest-ever gift to DIPG



7
Advancing early detection



11
Spearheading precision immunology



Dear Friends,

As you know, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is a very special place. We are unwavering in our commitment to dual missions: while our respected physician-scientists conduct the most advanced cancer research, exemplary patient care at Dana-Farber is an equal priority.

This balance of research and patient care is nowhere more evident than at the Susan F. Smith Center for Women's Cancers. Conceived by the late Institute Trustee Susan F. Smith, the center brings the research and care for all women's cancers together in one place, uniquely fostering bench-to-bedside translational medicine. To honor the legacy of this visionary leader and benefactor, Chairman of the Dana-Farber Board of Trustees Josh Bekenstein and his wife, Anita, endowed the Susan F. Smith Chair, which will support the work of an exceptional senior faculty member who embodies Mrs. Smith's passion and commitment to excellence. The chair's first incumbent is Judy Garber, MD, MPH, who has significantly advanced Mrs. Smith's mission to improve cancer care through her roles as director of the Institute's Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention and as founder of the Dana-Farber Cancer Risk and Prevention Clinic, one of the first dedicated to identifying and caring for individuals at the highest risk of cancer.

Dana-Farber is fortunate to have many generous and loyal supporters, and the committed riders, volunteers, donors, and sponsors of the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) never fail to amaze with their dedication and stamina. This year's PMC raised an astonishing \$51 million for the Jimmy Fund, bringing their cumulative total to \$598 million since 1980. The riders, who work as hard at fundraising as they do at training, are proud that 100 percent of this rider-raised revenue goes to patient care and research at Dana-Farber.

Dana-Farber also has a long history of support from loyal corporate partners such as Stop & Shop Supermarket Company and its Our Family Foundation, which raised \$2.5 million with this year's in-store fundraising campaign. Since 1991, Stop & Shop employees and customers have raised nearly \$70 million to help Dana-Farber fight pediatric cancer.

HomeGoods, another longstanding friend of the Institute, raised \$2.3 million this year. HomeGood's enthusiastic support of our mission to eradicate cancer has generated \$11.5 million over the last 16 years.

Another example of amazing generosity is The Mikey Czech Foundation, established by Steve and Jennifer Czech in memory of their beloved 11-year old son. The foundation recently awarded a transformative \$1 million gift to advance Dana-Farber's research in pediatric diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas (DIPG), highly aggressive and difficult to treat brain tumors. This is the largest single gift dedicated to DIPG research in Dana-Farber's history, and has the potential to help pediatric brain tumor patients all over the world.

Dana-Farber's world-renowned researchers are frequent recipients of prestigious federal grants, as you will see in the quarterly update at the right. But federal funding is limited, and it is the loyal support of our donors that fills the fundraising gap, drives the pace of discovery, and benefits cancer patients everywhere. Thank you so very much for all that you give.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Paresky
Senior Vice President for Development

Study reveals genetic networks that influence risk of disease

Scientists at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute say they have made an important step toward understanding how variations in the human genetic blueprint determine complex traits such as normal body functions and susceptibility to cancer and other diseases.

Their findings, reported in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, help explain how a person's genome can generate different types of cells and tissues with different functions. The research also reveals how thousands of genetic variants, each having a very small effect, work in concert through networks to influence complex traits such as disease risk.

Led by John Quackenbush, PhD, director of the Center for Cancer Computational Biology at Dana-Farber, the investigators say their findings provide new insight into the relationship between genotype—the specific genetic instructions in an individual's cells—and phenotype—the observable characteristics of an individual, including physical traits and risks of disease.

Despite the deciphering of the human genetic code more than a decade ago, “our understanding of the relationship between genetic variation and complex traits remains limited,” say the authors, who include Dana-Farber's Maud Fagny, PhD, (first author) and John Platig, PhD.

The scientists studied genetic variants—points in the genome of individuals that differ by a single letter of the genetic code. These variants are known as single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs.

Most SNPs don't alter the code of genes, but instead tweak the expression of genes. What is new in the findings reported by Quackenbush and his colleagues is how these SNPs interact with each other to regulate the output of the genes, and how those interactions change between tissues.

“We decided to ask if we could understand how these hundreds of thousands of weak variants might work together to influence genetic traits,” said Quackenbush. He and his colleagues performed an analysis to determine the regulatory effects of



John Quackenbush, PhD

common SNP variants in 13 human tissues. “We found that there were tens of thousands of SNPs that were correlated with the expression levels of thousands of genes,” he said.

So the scientists developed advanced computational tools that allowed them to discover that the variants work together in networks, “and the structure of the network tells us something about how the genes in each tissue are regulated,” Quackenbush explained.

Previous studies have tried to connect variations in DNA code with susceptibility to disease. “But these studies are missing this complex community of variants working together,” says Quackenbush. “For example, if you carry a variant, say *BRCA1*, it increases your risk of breast cancer; but it won't tell you if you will develop cancer because the gene is going to be influenced by other genes in its community.” And the reason *BRCA1* mutations cause breast but not colon cancer is, in part, because it occupies a different community in breast and colon.

While the new findings don't fully explain how variations with weak effects combine to determine complex traits, the authors say “this network approach provides a framework which we are working to turn into a way to predict how changes in genotype affect phenotype.”

Support for the research included National Institutes of Health grants *SP01HL105339*, *SRO1HL111759*, *SP01HL114501*, *K25HL133599*, *SP50CA127003*, *1R35CA197449*, *1U01CA190234*, and *SP30CA006516*. ■

Annual Update on the Faculty Research Fund

Since its inception, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has placed an emphasis on cancer research and its applications to improve cancer outcomes. This commitment means that research is prominent in all of the Institute's strategic decisions. The creation of a Faculty Research Fund in 2013 was an institutional initiative designed to help Dana-Farber achieve its ambitious research agenda. Since the launch of the Faculty Research Fund, \$19.1 million has been

raised, which is especially important as federal funding for cancer research remains challenging.

Support totaling \$4.4 million to the Faculty Research Fund received in fiscal year 2016 was applied this year to the Longwood Center. These monies bolstered the Institute's chemical biology, structural biology, proteomics, and applied cancer science programs through enhanced laboratory space and cutting-edge technologies that are enabling new discoveries, accelerating drug development, and

advancing precision cancer medicine.

In fiscal year 2017, contributions to the Faculty Research Fund totaled \$5 million. In the coming year these funds will continue to support the Longwood Center, as well as Dana-Farber faculty and key Institute initiatives. This allocation is pivotal to growing the Institute's basic and applied cancer science programs, supporting and attracting exceptionally talented investigators, and bolstering promising new areas of research. ■

Endowed Chair honors the enduring legacy of Susan F. Smith

Susan F. Smith was a tireless advocate for women's cancer research and care and believed strongly that Dana-Farber Cancer Institute should stand for excellence in everything it does. Among her many contributions, she spearheaded a pioneering effort that became the Susan F. Smith Center for Women's Cancers. With her husband, Richard, she was a longtime Trustee and benefactor of Dana-Farber, including

support for the Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Research Laboratories. She was also a founding member of the Friends of Dana-Farber.

Mrs. Smith's leadership and generosity of spirit earned her many admirers; among them were Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Board of Trustees Chairman Josh Bekenstein and his wife, Anita. After Mrs. Smith's passing in July 2016, the Bekensteins were moved to create an endowed

chair at Dana-Farber in her honor.

"Susan Smith was the epitome of hope and action here at Dana-Farber and within the wider community," said Anita. "She led by example, encouraged others, and by extension, touched the lives of millions of patients and their families. For Josh and me, her passion for and contributions to Dana-Farber have always been an inspiration."

The Bekensteins' gift established the Susan F. Smith Chair to support the work of an exceptional senior faculty member at Dana-Farber who embodies the unwavering commitment to excellence and passion for conquering cancer that Mrs. Smith brought to every aspect of her work at the Institute. The chair will exist in perpetuity.

The first incumbent of the Smith Chair is Judy Garber, MD, MPH, director of the Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention at Dana-Farber and founder of the Dana-Farber Cancer Risk and Prevention Clinic, one of the first devoted to the identification and management of individuals at highest cancer risk. Garber's research activities include the study of breast cancer risk assessment and communication, breast cancer

genetics, and pharmacogenetics.

"Judy Garber is an outstanding choice as the first incumbent of the Susan F. Smith Chair," said Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women's Cancers, director of Breast Oncology, and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research. "For more than 20 years, Mrs. Smith was the driving force behind Dana-Farber's women's cancers program. Dr. Garber has played a critical role in advancing Mrs. Smith's vision of creating better approaches to care through her dedication to incorporating cancer genetics into effective early detection and treatment options for patients."

Today it seems unsurprising that researchers and clinicians would be studying and treating all women's cancers under one umbrella. More than 25 years ago, however, when Mrs. Smith began focusing on women's cancers, these diseases received little attention. Her determination to improve research and care for women's cancers through better collaboration helped revolutionize the field and set the stage for decades of advancements. The Bekensteins' gift ensures that Mrs. Smith's legacy will endure. ■



The late Susan F. Smith's legacy was honored by a major gift from Josh and Anita Bekenstein.

"Susan Smith was the epitome of hope and action here at Dana-Farber and within the wider community. She led by example, encouraged others, and by extension, touched the lives of millions of patients and their families."

— ANITA BEKENSTEIN

Grant from Gabrielle's Angel Foundation advances promising leukemia research

**GABRIELLE'S
ANGEL FOUNDATION**
FOR CANCER RESEARCH



In 1996, at age 27, Gabrielle Rich Aouad, an actress and Hodgkin lymphoma survivor, succumbed to acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). Her idea to create a leukemia foundation that would support research for improved treatments with less toxicity, and eventually a cure, led to the creation of Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research.

This year, the foundation awarded Dana-Farber's Birgit Knoechel, MD, PhD, a Medical Research Grant to support Knoechel's research on drug-resistant T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL). The \$225,000 grant will span three years.

Knoechel, who has emerged

as a leader in the field of cancer epigenetics research with a particular focus on T-ALL, seeks to further medicine's understanding of the disease treatment methods for T-ALL. Specifically, Knoechel's research aims to define the molecular mechanisms and functional relevance of enhancer rewiring associated with drug resistance in T-ALL.

"Birgit's research proposal was one of the very best of a group of truly outstanding proposals that the foundation reviewed for funding," said Dr. Stephen Nimer, chairman of the foundation's Medical Advisory Board. "Her work is not only at the cutting edge of leukemia research, but it is vital to advancing our understanding of how to cure patients of their leukemia."

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research focuses on encouraging the development of more effective therapies for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, and other related cancers. Since 1996, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation has awarded grants totaling nearly \$30 million in global giving. ■

Eaton Vance honored with 2017 Boston Red Sox Jimmy Fund Award



Boston-based global asset management firm Eaton Vance received the Jimmy Fund's highest honor, the 2017 Boston Red Sox Jimmy Fund Award, at Fenway Park on July 18. The award, given annually by the Red Sox, recognizes those with a remarkable commitment to the lifesaving mission of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Eaton Vance has raised more than \$1 million for the Jimmy Fund over the last 17 years through Team Eaton Vance in the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai, by serving as the title sponsor of the Dana-Farber Leadership Council's Jimmy Fund Golf tournament, and many other council and Jimmy Fund events.

Above from left: Red Sox Executive Vice President of Partnerships Troup Parkinson; Red Sox President and CEO Sam Kennedy; Eaton Vance Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Jeffrey P. Beale; Eaton Vance CEO Thomas E. Faust Jr.; and Larry Lucchino, Chairman of the Jimmy Fund.

The Mikey Czech Foundation awards largest-ever single gift for DIPG research at Dana-Farber

James Michael “Mikey” Czech was a perpetual optimist. So, when he was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), a rare and aggressive pediatric brainstem tumor, at just 11 years old, Mikey launched his personal motto: “Never, Never, Never Give Up!” Although Mikey passed away from this devastating cancer, his hopeful motto and inspirational legacy live on through The Mikey Czech Foundation.

Established by Mikey’s parents, Steve and Jennifer Czech, the nonprofit foundation works to increase awareness of pediatric brain tumors, particularly DIPGs, and finances medical research to help discover a cure for this extremely rare—and fatal—form of pediatric brain cancer.

The Mikey Czech Foundation recently awarded a transformative \$1 million gift to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to advance the DIPG research of Mark Kieran, MD, PhD, director of Pediatric Medical Neuro-Oncology. The largest-ever single donor gift dedicated to DIPG research in Dana-Farber’s history, this funding will further the research and development of personalized treatment plans for DIPG pediatric brain tumors by helping launch the next phase of a groundbreaking clinical trial. The foundation’s previous grant, The Mikey Czech DIPG Research Award in 2013, helped fuel Kieran’s work leading a pioneering clinical trial to collect DIPG biopsy samples at the time of diagnosis, resulting in an unprecedented resource bank that investigators

have been able to use to illuminate the biological workings of this complex malignancy.

“Funding from The Mikey Czech Foundation is critical because it will allow us to continue to conduct research to define the underlying molecular changes in DIPGs that have previously made these tumors so resistant to therapy,” said Kieran. “Dana-Farber is now developing targeted therapies against different DIPG mutations in the hope that we can finally begin to make a significant impact in the treatment of this disease. All of this effort came from the dedication of patients, their families, and foundations, including The Mikey Czech Foundation, and would not have been possible without them.”

“The assets required to cure DIPG consist of: (a) a sustainable funding source, (b) world-class neuro-oncologists, and (c) state-of-the-art research facilities,” said Steve Czech, Mikey’s father and chairman and co-founder of The Mikey Czech Foundation. “We intend to be the sustainable funding source, and we believe that Dr. Kieran, his colleagues, and Dana-Farber represent the ‘best-in-class’ with respect to pediatric neuro-oncology research and state-of-the-art research facilities. This gift is our second of what we hope will be a series of gifts, comparable or larger in size, designed to eradicate this heinous disease.”

“DIPG is a devastating disease for pediatric patients and their families,” said Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber.

“With The Mikey Czech Foundation’s funding, Dr. Kieran can continue his pioneering research and hopefully one day find a cure for DIPG.” ■



Mikey Czech’s mother, Jennifer, father, Steve, and sister, Sydney, support Dana-Farber’s pioneering research to cure pediatric brain tumors.

Fighting cancer to honor a lost colleague



Great Meal. Great Deal.

Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub’s cancer-fighting mission began in 2006 when David Lanzoni, a regional vice president who spent more than 20 years with the company, passed away from cancer. Lanzoni was not just a colleague, but a mentor and friend, and his professional network was more like a family. After his passing, his co-workers decided to take action to make a difference for those fighting cancer, and invited Ninety Nine restaurant guests to join their efforts.

The Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub’s passion to serve extends well beyond the kitchen and dining area. For the seventh consecutive summer, from July 15 to Aug. 11, diners at Ninety Nine locations across the region were invited to add an extra amount to their bill for the Jimmy Fund. The Ninety Nine successfully raised \$230,000 this summer,

bringing their cumulative restaurant fundraising total to \$1.5 million.

“We continue to honor David with generous support from our employees and guests, and in support of Dana-Farber’s innovative cancer research and patient care,” said Charlie Noyes, president of the Ninety Nine.

In addition, Ninety Nine employees led by colleague Jim Kiley and calling themselves “Team Lanzoni,” have raised more than \$3.5 million over the past nine years to support Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund through participation in the New Balance Falmouth Road Race, the Pan-Mass Challenge, mini-golf tournaments, bake sales, opportunity drawings, and more. ■



Ninety Nine President Charlie Noyes (left) and Regional Vice President Jim Kiley join Wally the Green Monster to present a check for restaurant and Team Lanzoni fundraising in 2017.

Dana-Farber Leadership Council Golf Tournament reaches \$1 million milestone



On June 14, the Dana-Farber Leadership Council (DFLC) Golf Tournament celebrated \$1 million in cumulative funds raised for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute since the tournament’s inception in 2004. This year’s event brought together more than 150 guests and golfers to enjoy a day of golf, dinner, and auctions at Granite Links Golf Club in Quincy, Mass.

“We’re incredibly proud to support the work being done at Dana-Farber through the DFCLC Golf Tournament, and sincerely thank all DFCLC Golf Committee members and sponsors over the past 14 years for making this \$1 million milestone possible,” said Victor Chiang and Rob Nicewicz, tournament directors.

Above, from left, are members of the DFCLC Golf Committee: Zach Natale, Jonathan Quint, Sarah Peach, Victor Chiang, Amy Sullivan, Jacqueline Modica, Sarah Canapari, Dana Miller, and Scott Stephens.

American Cancer Society invests in Dana-Farber researchers



Pasi Jänne, MD, PhD, was named an American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professor, receiving a five-year, \$400,000 award.

With its ambitious mission to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer, the American Cancer Society (ACS) has invested more than \$4.6 billion in cancer research since 1946. Recently, ACS made the following grants, totaling more than \$1 million, to investigators at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Pasi Jänne, MD, PhD, director of the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology and director of the Robert and Renée Belfer Center for Applied Cancer Science, received a prestigious five-year, \$400,000 award, naming him an American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professor, supporting his efforts to develop and study new drug combinations for various lung cancer subtypes.

Although lung cancer has a low cure rate—around 15 percent—the emergence of precision therapies that target the specific genetic changes in a patient’s cancer has opened up promising new avenues of research. This treatment strategy can be effective for many patients—but, unfortunately, cancer cells often mutate to become resistant to these smart drugs. Jänne is leveraging his ACS grant to launch preclinical

studies and clinical trials aimed at both overcoming this resistance and creating new combination therapies. His studies will focus specifically on *EGFR*-mutant lung cancer, but his findings are expected to be broadly applicable to all types of lung cancer.

Four other researchers received three-year, \$163,500 grants. Under the mentorship of William Hahn, MD, PhD, chief of the Division of Molecular and Cellular Oncology, Justin Hwang, PhD, is investigating how and why prostate cancers at various stages resist androgen inhibitors, with the goal of developing new therapeutic strategies for patients.

Under the mentorship of Nathanael Gray, PhD, the Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Behnam Nabet, PhD, is focusing on targeting *KRAS*, which is mutated in more than 90 percent of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas. Despite the mutation’s prevalence, no *KRAS* inhibitors have yet been approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration, demonstrating the need for these therapies.

Two investigators are conducting studies under the mentorship

of David Weinstock, MD. Mark Murakami, MD, is studying a subtype of acute lymphoblastic leukemia to determine why patients stop responding to targeted inhibition of the *BCR-ABL* fusion genes and to pinpoint promising therapeutic targets. Samuel Ng, MD, PhD, is studying how a specific mutation—RhoA G17V—found in a subtype of T-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma alters T cells to promote lymphoma development and how this mutation could be targeted by novel therapeutic approaches.

Finally, ACS sponsored Dana-Farber’s “Cancer Survivorship: Optimizing Care and Outcomes CME Conference” on October 26 and 27, which educated clinicians on the medical and psychosocial aspects of survivorship.

“The American Cancer Society is extremely excited by the prospects for meaningful advances that these projects represent, and we are very proud to be able to support the work of these investigators,” said William Chambers, PhD, senior vice president of extramural research at ACS. “We also look forward to the benefit of this work for patients and their families.” ■

The Sidney Kimmel Foundation awards research scholar grants

For 20 years, the Sidney Kimmel Foundation has supported the work of early career investigators through the Kimmel Scholars Program. Now, in the final year of the program, the Sidney Kimmel Foundation has awarded 15 grants to researchers and physicians across the United States, including \$200,000 to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute radiation oncologist Joseph Mancias, MD, PhD.

Sidney Kimmel, the organization’s

namesake, founder of Jones New York, and president of Sidney Kimmel Entertainment, has led the Kimmel Scholars Program in its effort to create opportunities for young investigators.

“I could not be more thrilled about Dr. Mancias’ selection as a Kimmel Scholar,” said Kimmel. “His work in the lab and in the clinic is exactly what the Scholars Program was designed to promote—the most cutting-edge cancer innovation by the youngest superstars in the field. The fact that Dr. Mancias is at Dana-Farber only enhances his prospects for bringing light to the devastating darkness of pancreatic cancer.”

The foundation has a particular interest in supporting translational research, which is likely to move rapidly from the laboratory to the clinic, where it can benefit patients.

“The Kimmel Scholars Program has a long history of excellence, and I’m honored to receive this award,” said Mancias. “Designing treatment strategies for pancreatic cancer remains a challenge, especially when tumors develop resistance to standard therapies. With this support, we are identifying novel targets for drug development.” ■



Joseph Mancias, MD, PhD, is leading research into the relationship between metabolism and pancreatic cancer with support from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation.

Baseball fans fulfill their dreams while fighting cancer



On June 3, baseball fans took to the field at Fenway Park to participate in the 26th annual John Hancock Fenway Fantasy Day to benefit the Jimmy Fund. The unique program provides supporters the chance to play on the famous field by fundraising, purchasing individual or corporate hospitality packages, or sponsoring a patient to participate in the event. This year’s event raised more than \$210,000, bringing the cumulative fundraising total to more than \$7.8 million since 1992.

The day began with batting and fielding sessions for individuals and corporate groups followed by the High School All-Star program, a big hit at Fantasy Day. The top three fundraising softball and baseball high school teams this year—Newton North High School, La Salle Academy, and Bishop Hendricken High School—won the chance to

bat and field. The Home Run Derby rounded out the day, as 10 high school players from Massachusetts and Rhode Island took turns at bat. The top three scorers competed in the final round, with Billy Butler of Ponaganset High School as the victor.

John Hancock Fenway Fantasy Day welcomed many Dana-Farber and Jimmy Fund Clinic patients, including 4-year-old Jayla Janosky, who was diagnosed in 2016 with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Jayla enjoyed batting and running the bases on the field with her father, Charles. At the end of John Hancock Fenway Fantasy Day, everyone leaves feeling like a winner. ■



John Hancock Fenway Fantasy Day participant Jayla Janosky ran the bases at the historic ballpark.

Fueling advances in pediatric cancer research



Dana-Farber is proud of its longstanding partnership with Hyundai Hope On Wheels, which has been awarding highly competitive grants to foster discovery for pediatric cancer for the past 19 years. Supported by Hyundai Motor America, the dedication of Hyundai Hope On Wheels to advancing research and improving standards of care makes it a strong ally in the fight against cancer. In 2017, Hyundai Hope On Wheels awarded grants totaling \$400,000 to Rani George, MD, PhD, and Brenton Mar, MD, PhD, of Dana-Farber.

According to Executive Director Zafar Brooks, Hyundai Hope On Wheels funds work with the greatest potential to provide high-impact results. “Drs. George and Mar have shown this potential and we are proud to support their work as well as the work of many other talented

doctors and researchers from Dana-Farber that we have supported over the years,” he said.

George is working to improve outcomes for patients with high-risk neuroblastoma. Despite therapeutic advances over the years, survival rates for those experiencing recurrent disease remain poor. With her Hyundai Hope On Wheels Scholar Hope Grant, George will conduct investigations aimed at identifying the mechanisms by which neuroblastoma tumors develop resistance to two promising *ALK* inhibitors.

With a similar focus on disease recurrence, Mar seeks to validate new markers in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) for predicting a patient’s vulnerability to relapse. His Hyundai Hope On Wheels Young Investigator Grant will help him evaluate a novel strategy that uses protein modification to treat forms of ALL with specific mutations.

Fueled by Hyundai Hope On Wheels’ generosity, these research studies aim to enable more effective care options for Dana-Farber’s youngest patients. ■

Foundation for the NIH fills funding gap



While the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a leading U.S. funder of biomedical research, the great demand for federal support means that NIH cannot fund all promising research. Established by Congress to support the mission of the NIH, the Foundation for the NIH (FNIH) raises funds, provides scientific expertise, and administers research programs.

Toward this mission, the FNIH recently awarded \$100,149 to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Geoffrey Oxnard, MD, for a collaborative research project called Vol-PACT that will help define the best practices for evaluating clinical trials.

“We are pleased to support this research, addressing a clear need to establish more effective and reliable imaging-based metrics for assessing drug activity,” said Stacey Adam, PhD, scientific program manager, FNIH. “This research will define novel imaging metrics for analyzing phase 2/3 clinical trials using new analytical approaches which leverage standard

technologies, making the findings applicable across multiple institutions and numerous forms of cancer.”

Oxnard and his colleagues are analyzing results from previously completed clinical trials studying four common solid tumors: non-small cell lung cancer, colorectal cancer, kidney cancer, and melanoma.

“With many exciting cancer therapies in development, there is a need to revisit the imaging tools we use to evaluate these drugs,” said Oxnard. “This need is what motivates the Vol-PACT effort—the desire to identify effective treatments and push them forward toward FDA approval.” ■



Geoffrey Oxnard, MD, has a leading role in Vol-PACT, a study to assess imaging technologies.

Pushing the boundaries of care through network development

Ilene Beal’s attitude never wavered during her 18 years as a cancer patient. “She remained upbeat, realistic, and always asked what we were going to do next,” recalls her treating oncologist, Jeffrey Wisch, MD. An ambitious woman who forged a path up the corporate ladder in the 1970s, Ilene didn’t believe in setting limits—not for herself and not

for cancer care.

Ilene spent more than a decade being treated by Wisch near her Wellesley home, and the two developed a very special relationship. Later, when given the opportunity to be treated at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Ilene was determined to investigate further treatment options, but felt that travelling farther from home to be treated by unfamiliar doctors was not ideal.

Her deep gratitude for Wisch’s commitment to providing high standards of care within a community hospital, and for his friendship, inspired her to do something to honor him and help the fight against cancer. This year, the Ilene Beal Charitable Foundation made a \$250,000 grant to Dana-Farber in honor of Wisch, who is now on staff as a senior physician at the Institute. It is their fervent hope that this gift will inspire others to support his work, as well.

Wisch will direct this grant with the goal of further building strong community networks to bring the Institute’s innovative practices and opportunities for novel therapies out to sites closer to where patients live. He is proud to be carrying on Ilene’s legacy of pushing boundaries. ■



Enabled by an initial gift from the Ilene Beal Charitable Foundation, Jeffrey Wisch, MD, is leading new network development initiatives that make Dana-Farber care available in community settings.

Dana-Farber Holiday Cards & Gifts

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and Help Conquer Cancer

Dana-FarberHoliday.org

HomeGoods Helps Families Fight Cancer tops \$11 million in lifetime fundraising



HomeGoods, a leading national off-price home fashions retailer, has partnered with the Jimmy Fund for 16 years to raise vital funds for adult and pediatric cancer care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Its “HomeGoods Helps Families Fight Cancer” fundraising campaign, which ran from June 1 through June 28, raised more than \$2.3 million this year, for an incredible cumulative total of \$11.5 million.

At 415 stores across the country, HomeGoods customers participated by contributing at the register, with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Customers could also purchase limited-edition, reusable shopping bags featuring artwork by two Jimmy Fund Clinic patients. Evan Yu, now a 17-year-old junior at Brookline High School, designed a colorful blue and green bag with an underwater theme. The second bag featured a bright, spring theme with a mix of blue, purple, and pink flowers.

HomeGoods’ longstanding partnership with Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund has helped fund research and care for cancer patients like Evan. In 2014, when Evan began experiencing pain, he and his family originally believed it stemmed from his rock climbing. However, Evan’s pain got progressively worse. He eventually spiked a fever and was unable to get out of bed. At the hospital, an oncology team met with the family to share the terrible news. Evan was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a quickly progressing disease in which too many abnormal white blood cells are found in the bone marrow.

Evan spent six weeks in the hospital, followed by weekly visits to Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic. Despite the battle Evan and his family were facing, his mother, Melissa Yu, described their experience at the clinic as “unbelievably amazing.” Now cancer free, Evan is looking forward to applying to colleges, hoping to study either medical genetics or engineering.

The funds raised through the “HomeGoods Helps Families Fight

Cancer” campaign are unrestricted, providing vital, flexible resources that fuel creative, innovative science and support patient care programs that are not otherwise covered by insurance. “We are deeply appreciative of HomeGoods’ commitment to helping Dana-Farber maintain our unique, equal focus on research and patient care,” said Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD. “HomeGoods’ associates and loyal customers have raised millions of

dollars for the Jimmy Fund to help find cures for cancer.”

“We are so grateful to our customers, and proud of our associates, for their generous support of the Jimmy Fund and helping families fight cancer,” said Emily Trent, vice president of marketing, HomeGoods. “Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is an inspiration to us all, and we are honored to continue our longstanding partnership in support of their mission.” ■



Jimmy Fund Clinic patient Evan Yu and his mom, Melissa, with the underwater-themed bag he designed for the 2017 “HomeGoods Helps Families Fight Cancer” campaign.

Bowen Family supports pancreatic cancer prevention and early detection

The cloud of pancreatic cancer always loomed large over Carol Bowen’s family—with her maternal grandmother, two aunts, two cousins, and her husband all claimed by the disease.

The fourth most common cancer in the U.S., pancreatic cancer has one of the most dismal survival rates, with only 8.2 percent of patients surviving five years after diagnosis, according to the National Cancer Institute. This staggering figure is due to the lack of clear symptoms—making early detection rare—and to the limited effectiveness of surgery and chemotherapy. “By the time you find it, it’s too late,” said Bowen.

To help combat this trend, Carol and her daughters, Stephanie and Kimberly, established the Bowen-Chapman Family Research Fund for Pancreatic Cancer Prevention at Dana-Farber with a gift of \$100,000. Their gift will support research into early detection and prevention of pancreatic cancer by Sapna Syngal, MD, MPH, and serve as a memorial for all their beloved family members.

“The generous support of Carol and her daughters is unique because it focuses on families who have been

affected by this devastating disease,” said Syngal, who is director of research for Dana-Farber’s Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention. “Our mission is to discover novel methods to detect pancreatic cancer early and, if possible, prevent it altogether.”

Said Bowen, “Pancreatic cancer is such a riddle. It’s essential that we not only learn how it can be prevented, but also develop innovative early detection strategies. I’m delighted that we can assist in this critical effort.” ■



Carol Bowen (center) and her daughters Stephanie (left) and Kimberly are supporting research into the early detection and prevention of pancreatic cancer.

DFMC top Pacesetters recognized for fundraising success



This year’s Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC) Top Pacesetters Reception welcomed more than 80 honorees to the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care at Dana-Farber in June. The gathering was held to celebrate DFMC runners who led the team in fundraising for DFMC’s 28th season, helping the event surpass its goal of \$5 million. Team members who achieved DFMC’s \$13.1K, \$20K, or \$26.2K Pacesetter milestones were invited to attend and were recognized for their accomplishments. Keynote speaker Patrick Bhola, PhD, an investigator in the Claudia Adams Barr Program for Innovative Basic Cancer Research, shared recent discoveries made possible by DFMC. The Claudia Adams Barr Program receives 100 percent of funds raised by the DFMC team.

Jennie Sheridan and Rick Connell (pictured) were two of the Top Pacesetters to raise more than \$26.2K each for the 2017 DFMC.

Stop & Shop raises \$2.5 million for pediatric cancer research and care



As one of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's most dedicated corporate partners, Stop & Shop Supermarket Company and its Our Family Foundation have made a powerful difference in the lives of pediatric cancer patients and their families. This year, through its Help Cure Childhood Cancer campaign, Stop & Shop raised an incredible \$2.5 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, bringing its total cumulative giving to almost \$70 million.

From June 5 through July 2, Stop & Shop employees and customers had the opportunity to contribute to the Jimmy Fund at store checkouts, and customers who gave \$3 or more received a coupon booklet with major savings.

Since 1991 and the launch of its original "Triple Winner" campaign, Stop & Shop and its customers have provided vital funding for pediatric cancer research and care, making a significant impact at Dana-Farber. Four patients in Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic served as campaign ambassadors, helping to

inspire customers to give: Madelyn Alexander, 4, from Millis, Mass.; Hailey Giguere, 15, from Windsor, Conn.; Hope Laiter, 16, from Riverside, R.I.; and Tommy Scardina, 10, from Marshfield, Mass.

The Institute is a world leader in research and care for cancers that

affect children, and is spearheading initiatives to improve outcomes for our youngest patients in areas including neuro-oncology, solid tumors, leukemia, and stem cell transplant, in addition to addressing genetic risk and psychosocial needs.

"This is a very exciting time in

cancer research," said Dana-Farber's Chief Medical Officer for Pediatric Oncology Lisa Diller, MD. "Thanks to the generous support of donors like Stop & Shop, we have been able to increasingly use 'personalized' therapy for children. By incorporating cancer genetics, newer targeted agents, and better understanding of long-term outcomes, we are developing treatments that not only cure the majority of patients but increasingly promise pediatric patients healthy lives after cancer and into adulthood."

Stop & Shop recognizes that there is still a long way to go to eradicate childhood cancer once and for all, and their passion shows in their ongoing support.

"Stop & Shop has been a proud partner of the Jimmy Fund and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for over a quarter century," said Mark McGowan, president of Stop & Shop. "Together with our customers, we have raised tens of millions of dollars toward the treatment and research of childhood cancer. The money we raise allows Dana-Farber to continue to make significant advancements in pediatric cancer that benefit children not just here in New England, but all over the world." ■



Dana-Farber Jimmy Fund Clinic patients Hope, 16, and Madelyn, 4, served as ambassadors for Stop & Shop's 2017 Help Cure Childhood Cancer campaign.

"The money we raise allows Dana-Farber to continue to make significant advancements in pediatric cancer that benefit children not just here in New England, but all over the world."

— MARK MCGOWAN, president of Stop & Shop

Pacesetters reach early fundraising success for the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk



The first 100 participants to reach Star Pacesetter status in the 2017 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai were celebrated at an event in June at Fenway Park. This motivated group of walkers, who have raised \$1,500 or more, enjoyed lunch, a Boston Red Sox game, and connecting with one another to share fundraising tips and traditions. Linda Turcotte, a Walk Team Captain and Pacesetter, spoke about the incredible care her sister-in-law received at Dana-Farber. Dana-Farber patient and Jimmy Fund Walk Pacesetter Sharon DeCosta appeared on field prior to the start of the game with friends and fellow walkers Tim Cox, Tina Cox, and Eric DeCosta.

Pictured above with Linda Turcotte (right), are her teammates Susan Hall and Ty Vitale.

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer fellowship funds cancer immunotherapy research



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Dana-Farber is a pioneer in cancer immunotherapies, which activate the natural power of the immune system to fight cancer. Despite several clinical successes, however, scientists have only a limited understanding of the immunologic changes in the tumor microenvironment that lead to successful therapy.

With a two-year, \$200,000 SITC-Bristol-Myers Squibb Cancer Immunotherapy Translational Fellowship award from the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer's Forward Fund, Benjamin Izar, MD, PhD, is studying the role a specific type of immune cell plays in mediating anti-tumor activity and drug toxicity following anti-PD-1 therapy.

PD-1 is a signaling pathway and is one of the most significant methods by which cancer cells evade the

immune system. The PD-1 protein binds to another protein to prevent the immune system from attacking cancer cells. Blocking this interaction has become a cornerstone of cancer immunotherapy.

"My SITC fellowship presents an exciting opportunity to identify specific immune cell populations that mediate the effects of cancer immunotherapy and, in turn, will aid in the development of novel treatment options for patients," said Izar, who is conducting this work with Niroshana Anandasabapathy, MD, PhD.

"For more than 30 years, SITC has been committed to advancing the science and translation of cancer immunotherapy, and developed the Forward Fund to support the achievements of early career scientists," said SITC President Lisa Butterfield, PhD. "All SITC Fellows are provided with critical support for research, innovation, and advancement of the science to make cancer immunotherapy a standard of care for cancer patients worldwide." ■

Grant provides a breath of hope for patients with lung cancer

A BREATH of HOPE

LUNG FOUNDATION

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation recently made a two-year, \$150,000 grant to support the work of Amanda Redig, MD, PhD, in Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology. Redig, a recipient of the Foundation's 2016 Women & Lung Cancer Fellowship, is studying a specific subtype of non-small cell lung cancer to reveal why patients with this disease eventually become resistant to treatment with targeted drugs like erlotinib, as well as to increase our understanding of how these tumors operate.

"A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation is thrilled to support the research being conducted by our newest A Breath of Hope Research Fellow, Dr. Amanda Redig, and her team at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute," said Nancy Torrison, executive director of A Breath of

Hope Lung Foundation. "We look forward to partnering toward better outcomes for lung cancer patients and hope this first fellowship will mark the beginning of a long partnership focused on our shared missions to beat lung cancer."

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation was founded in 2008, inspired by the dedication of a committed group of patients who had come together—along with their families and caregivers—to support patients and raise funds to conquer lung cancer. Today, the foundation provides patient education and support, has made \$1 million in grants aimed at driving critical research, and continues its tireless efforts to raise awareness of this disease.

"I am deeply honored to receive the foundation's support of my work, which is especially critical at this stage in my career," said Redig. "Through their generosity, I hope to advance research that could someday make a difference in the lives of patients and their families." ■

Patricia McInerney's legacy of support for gastrointestinal cancer research

Patricia McInerney's family was stunned and devastated by her cancer diagnosis. Always in the best of health, she "had a childlike sense of wonder about everything in life," remarked her sister, Nancy Henry. McInerney was an active, intelligent person with many hobbies, a keen wit, and fierce devotion to family and friends.

McInerney is remembered fondly by Kimmie Ng, MD, director of clinical research at Dana-Farber's Gastrointestinal Cancer Center. "She demonstrated courage and

resilience in the face of a terrible disease," said Ng.

The respect and admiration were mutual. "Pat was very happy with Dr. Ng," said Henry, who vividly recalls Ng's caring and empathy, particularly when McInerney's illness failed to respond to treatment. In gratitude for the compassionate care she received, McInerney left a gift in her will of \$200,000 to Dana-Farber's Gastrointestinal Cancer Treatment Center, directing it to fund Ng's research into new treatment options. "She wanted to help in any way she could to find a cure for

this insidious disease," explained Henry.

"It was a privilege and honor to care for Patricia," said Ng. "Her legacy gift will significantly advance our work in developing novel treatments for esophagogastric cancer, and her strength and spirit will live on through the impact of her generosity on future patients." ■



The late Patricia McInerney (right), pictured with her sisters, Joan Trifoso (left) and Nancy Henry, left a legacy to help other Dana-Farber patients.

Gildea Family Foundation continues legacy of giving back

Jim Gildea's father, a man of working-class origins who went on to establish a successful business, was dedicated to helping others through philanthropy. "Giving back was his guiding principle," said Gildea. "We follow that mandate by supporting worthy causes through the foundation he created."

Recognizing the financial struggles that many families face due to a cancer diagnosis, the Gildea Family Foundation has made a gift of \$100,000 to support patient assistance funds. "We have been incredibly fortunate in our lives," said Gildea's wife, Carol. "We're happy that we

have the ability to help patients come to Dana-Farber for treatment."

The Gildeas have been impressed by the care that their friends have received and the innovative new treatments that researchers are developing here, one of which has made a remarkable difference in the life of a close family friend. At the same time, they are aware of the financial burden cancer treatment places on a family, from taking time off work to traveling long distances.

Patient assistance funds administered by Deborah Toffler, MSW, LCSW, director of Patient and Family Programs and Services, help patients meet immediate needs—transportation, lodging, and groceries—so they can focus on their treatment.

"We are extremely grateful to the Gildea Family Foundation for this compassionate gift," said Toffler. "Provided solely through philanthropy, these funds make it easier for many patients to receive care." ■



Jim and Carol Gildea, pictured with their daughter, Hyde, made a gift through the Gildea Family Foundation to support patient assistance funds.

Crystal Family Charitable Foundation names space in memory of lifelong friend



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in September to celebrate the Crystal Family Charitable Foundation's generous gift to Dana-Farber. In tribute to Rona Crystal, a former patient at Dana-Farber, as well as her family, the foundation named a Vitals Bay on the 10th floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. The dedication was attended by foundation trustees Susan Dunham (left) and Paul Feinberg. Feinberg, who met Crystal when both were 7 years old and living in Brighton, Mass., was pleased to honor the Crystal Family in a way that will help other Dana-Farber patients. Dunham and Crystal were friends for more than 25 years, and Dunham accompanied Crystal during many of her appointments at Dana-Farber. Both Feinberg and Dunham describe Crystal as a loving friend who was committed to helping others.

Quinn Amsler Fund supports research into rare pediatric cancers

Quinn Amsler was a joyous 9-year-old, a talented and passionate basketball player, and a true friend. His generosity was boundless. Even as he was being treated for a rare type of sarcoma, Quinn collected toys for Dana-Farber patients and rode his bicycle in the Pan-Mass Challenge Kids Ride in Lexington, Mass.

To honor Quinn's memory and spur the development of new therapies for rare pediatric cancers, sarcomas in particular, his family established the Quinn Amsler Fund, which has raised more than \$155,000. "We are grateful for the exceptional care that Quinn received at Dana-Farber," said Joseph Amsler, Quinn's father. "At the same time, we recognize the need to fund research into new treatments because pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies aren't always willing to invest in the development of drugs for such rare diseases."

The Center for Pediatric Cancer Therapeutics is advancing preclinical studies into the drivers of these poorly understood cancers. Under the

leadership of Scott Armstrong, MD, PhD, chair of Pediatric Oncology and the David G. Nathan, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, and Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancy Program and Ted Williams Chair, these efforts will inform the development of targeted therapies for children with cancer.

"This is an incredibly meaningful way to honor Quinn's memory," said Armstrong. "With this support, we aim to bring new treatments and new hope to pediatric patients and their families." ■



To honor Quinn Amsler's memory, his family established a fund to support research into rare pediatric cancers.

Papa Gino's and D'Angelo serve up savings and hope



Since 2009, Papa Gino's and D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches have partnered with the Jimmy Fund to offer Grand Slam Savings for a Great Cause at their restaurants throughout New England. This year, in exchange for coupons from a variety of retailers, customers made \$1 gifts at more than 256 Papa

Gino's and D'Angelo restaurants from June 5 through July 16. As always, customers and employees participated with great generosity and enthusiasm, raising more than \$130,000 to support Dana-Farber's cancer-fighting mission.

Each year, a patient partner from Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic is selected to help promote the positive impact of Grand Slam Savings for a Great Cause. This year's partner was Luke, age 6, who took a break from his treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia to make a special visit to the Papa Gino's test kitchen with his brother, Matty. He created his own pizza, learned expert pizza-making tips from the chefs, and stole the show!

For their part, Papa Gino's and D'Angelo staff were happy to help. Mark DeBlois, chairman and CEO of Papa Gino's, said, "Thanks to the generosity of our guests and energy of our team members, we surpassed the \$1 million mark in 2015, and look forward to reaching more major milestones to benefit the Jimmy Fund, an organization we so deeply support." ■



Luke, a patient in Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic, served up pizzas in Papa Gino's test kitchen.

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President's Circle members enjoy exclusive presentations



Members of Dana-Farber's President's Circle giving society gathered for two special "insider" presentations in 2017, to learn about key areas of research and care at the Institute. Members attending the April event (above) learned about the current state of medical marijuana and how it is being used at Dana-Farber and elsewhere from Ilana Braun, MD, chief of Adult Psychosocial Oncology in the Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care. In September (below), Philippe Armand, MD, PhD, the Harold and Virginia Lash Chair in Lymphoma Research, spoke to members about groundbreaking work in immunotherapy at Dana-Farber. Both events included refreshments and engaging Q&A sessions.



Chandra helps launch new precision immuno-oncology research

Institute Trustee Monica Chandra wanted her support of Dana-Farber to break new ground. Inspired by the Institute's advances in immunology, she saw exciting possibilities when Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, one of the world's foremost immunologists, joined Dana-Farber as president and CEO in 2016. Chandra recently made a gift of \$500,000 to support one of Glimcher's chief priorities: precision immuno-oncology.

In 2011, Dana-Farber launched the Profile project, a flagship initiative in precision medicine. Through Profile, all adult and pediatric patients are given the opportunity to have their tumors tested for genetic mutations. To date, more than 17,000 patients have

participated. The genetic data is shared by multiple institutions, creating an unparalleled resource for developing and testing targeted therapies. Clinically relevant information from the test can be shared with doctors to help guide treatment and already, in some cases, oncologists can match the right drugs with precisely the right patients, yielding the best possible clinical outcomes.

Chandra's gift supports Dana-Farber's addition of immune profiling to genetic profiling, arming physician-scientists with an analysis of the immune status of patients and their cancers, as well as their genetic profiles. This combination should facilitate development of safer,

more effective, and lasting immune responses against cancer.

"I see this funding as 'seed capital' to get the project launched," explains Monica Chandra. "I hope that this investment will help create the infrastructure for the new Center for Precision Immuno-Oncology, and inspire other private philanthropists and foundations to support the center and the next phase of research."

"We are thrilled that Monica is enthusiastic about supporting our work in cancer immuno-oncology," said Glimcher. "The establishment of the Monica Chandra Fund for Precision Immuno-Oncology will help us to leverage our precision medicine platform and bring to bear

the immense power of the immune system to combat cancer." ■



Institute Trustee Monica Chandra's leadership gift will drive advances in precision immuno-oncology.

Conquer Cancer Foundation support surpasses \$10 million



In 2017, Conquer Cancer Foundation (CCF) of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) awarded a total of \$600,000 to six Dana-Farber researchers, bringing the foundation's total Institute support to more than \$10 million since 1985. This tremendous investment underscores CCF's unwavering commitment to conquering cancer worldwide.

Mark Awad, MD, PhD, and Jacqueline Garcia, MD, each received Career Development Awards of \$200,000 over three years, given to

The Campaign to Conquer Cancer

junior faculty to help them establish their own research programs.

"This funding provides critical support to my research focusing on novel therapeutics in relapsed acute myeloid leukemia," said Garcia. The award will facilitate the design of future immunotherapeutic approaches with potential for long-lasting remission or a possible cure.

Young Investigator Awards were made to Matthew Hemming, MD, PhD; Samuel Ng, MD, PhD; and Philip Poorvu, MD. These funds enable

quality research while helping to build credibility and a foundation for successful future funding. Additionally, Ana Christina Garrido-Castro, MD, received the Gianni Bonadonna Breast Cancer Research Fellowship.

ASCO has always been committed to conquering cancer through research and education. Through the creation of CCF in 1999, ASCO has focused its charitable activity on supporting the next generation of cancer science by funding promising investigations led by medical students, fellows, young scientists, and oncologists at all stages of their careers.

"We are proud to work together with the Dana-Farber community

of researchers, who are conducting important studies bringing us closer to our vision of a world free from the fear of cancer," said Thomas G. Roberts, Jr., MD, chair of CCF.

Roberts performed his medical oncology training through the Dana-Farber Fellowship Program. He serves on the foundation's board with Dana-Farber Faculty Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Mayer, MD, and Chief Clinical Research Officer and ASCO President Bruce Johnson, MD. Together, they are representative of the collaborative network between partners, supporters, and donors needed to make the greatest impact on improving cancer care worldwide. ■

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute provides expert, compassionate care to children and adults and is home to groundbreaking cancer discoveries. Since its founding in 1948, the Jimmy Fund has raised millions of dollars through thousands of community efforts to advance Dana-Farber's lifesaving mission.

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THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



At the 25th annual Jimmy Fund Clinic Summer Festival in July, 2,500 Dana-Farber cancer survivors sporting gold T-shirts marked this milestone year by forming a gold ribbon in honor of pediatric cancer survivorship. This day of fun for Jimmy Fund Clinic patients, families, and survivors is made possible through the generosity of One Mission; GBL Foundation, Inc.; The Gilmore Family; Knez Family Foundation; Don, Patricia, and Alec Medine; and Eric and Beth Mollenhauer.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

NOW–DECEMBER 15

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 an on-field

Rally Tunnel experience with the New England Revolution at an upcoming home game as well as other great prizes.

Visit KickForDanaFarber.org or contact Katherine Bahrawy at 617-632-3863 or KatherineL_Bahrawy@dfci.harvard.edu.



NOW–DECEMBER 31

Dana-Farber Holiday Cards & Gifts

Presented by Amica Insurance



Embrace a holiday tradition that's full of hope. Purchase cards and gifts that spread cheer while making a difference in the fight against cancer. View the complete collection, including this exclusive bracelet from Luca and Danni, at Dana-FarberHoliday.org.

JANUARY 19

Chefs for Jimmy

Sample fare from Western New England's finest chefs at Chez Josef in Agawam, Mass., at this 28th annual event benefiting the Jimmy Fund. For tickets or to learn more, contact Molly Moss at 617-632-5091 or Molly_Moss@dfci.harvard.edu.

JANUARY 27

PMC Winter Cycle

PMC Winter Cycle is coming to Fenway Park! Join this indoor cycling event that sends 100% of all rider-raised dollars directly to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Register to ride, volunteer, or make a gift at WinterCycle.org.



FEBRUARY 8

Palm Beach Pre-Celebration Dinner

Join us for an intimate dinner with the Institute's pioneering physician-scientists hosted by Institute Trustee Michele Kessler and her husband, Howard, at their home. Katie Couric, the award-winning journalist, cancer advocate, documentary filmmaker, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Best Advice I Ever Got: Lessons From Extraordinary Lives*, storied news anchor, and producer/narrator of *Fed Up*, is the featured speaker. Contact Karen Martins at 617-833-2080 or Karen_Martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

FEBRUARY 9

Palm Beach Breakfast with the Doctors

Discuss the latest breakthroughs with Dana-Farber physician-scientists at the Palm Beach Country Club, hosted by Event Chairs Vicki and Arthur Loring and Institute Trustee Judie Schlager and her husband, Larry. Contact Karen Martins at 617-833-2080 or Karen_Martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

FEBRUARY 10

Palm Beach Discovery Celebration

Join us for the premier event of our Palm Beach season: the 27th annual Discovery Celebration at The Breakers, featuring a special performance by award-winning actress, recording artist, and author Jennifer Hudson. The event is hosted by Event Chair Phyllis Krock, an Institute Trustee; and Event Co-Chairs Phyllis and Paul Fireman, Judy and Jim Harpel, Tom Quick, and Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner. Institute Trustee Sandra Krakoff will chair the silent auction. Contact Karen Martins at 617-833-2080 or Karen_Martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

ALL WINTER

Jimmy Fund Golf

Organize a golf or mini golf tournament and enjoy a sport you love while supporting groundbreaking research and compassionate patient care at Dana-Farber. Start planning your summer or fall tournaments now! Contact Josh Belowich at 617-632-6609 or JoshuaA_Belowich@dfci.harvard.edu.



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