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Impact

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THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



More than 530 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team members raised critical funds for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Research at the 121st Boston Marathon®.

Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge aims high for the Claudia Adams Barr Program

The running of the 121st Boston Marathon® April 17 marked the 28th season for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC). More than 530 runners wore eye-catching, neon orange team singlets as they ran 26.2 miles from Hopkinton, Mass., to Boston's Copley Square in support of the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Throughout the season, runners pursued their training targets as well as the team's \$5 million fundraising goal.

The 2017 team included runners from 28 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Japan. An estimated one million spectators lined the historic route, offering support through inspirational signs and energizing cheers of "Go, Dana-Farber," reminding DFMC participants of the importance of their fundraising.

The Claudia Adams 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 28 seasons, DFMC has raised more than \$85 million to support the Claudia Adams Barr Program.

For two participants, 2017 marked a special achievement: 25 years with

Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge.

Dennis Moran began his tenure with DFMC when his friend Tom Zappala encouraged him to join. After 12 years, Moran's DFMC journey took an unexpected detour when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. During treatment and recovery, from 2003 to 2011, Moran participated in DFMC as a virtual fundraiser.

Moran returned to the race route in 2012. No longer able to run, he handcycled 26.2 miles with essential support from DFMC teammate and Institute Trustee John Legere. Legere set up Moran with his first handcycle, and later, Moran received a second handcycle from Legere's company, T-Mobile. This type of generosity from teammates is, in part, what Moran says makes DFMC so special. The passion and drive within each DFMC runner show in their devotion to both the cause and the team.

Although a Boston Marathon finish is a daunting goal, Moran always encourages others to take on the challenge and participate in DFMC. He says the key to success in both training and fundraising is remembering why you are involved.

"Fundraising frightens a lot of people—I am not sure if the distance or the fundraising is scarier," said Moran. "When people focus on why they are running, though, it's easy."

This year also marked a DFMC milestone for 25-time participant

Clare Twist, MD. Twist, a pediatric oncologist, helped found DFMC's Patient Partner Program, which pairs runners with Jimmy Fund Clinic patients undergoing treatment. Prior to cheering on teammates at several locations along the route, Twist spoke at the DFMC Pasta Party the afternoon before the marathon. "My message is really simple," Twist told the audience. "What you are doing really matters. You are making a difference in the lives of people living with cancer." ■



Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been the top ranked cancer hospital in New England by U.S. News and World Report for 16 consecutive years, and is the only cancer center in the country ranked in the top 4 for both adult and pediatric cancer programs.



3
Risk Reaps Rewards



5
Innovation in Immunotherapy



10
Family Pays It Forward



14
A Legacy of Love



Clare Twist, MD, and Dennis Moran were honored for 25 seasons on the DFMC team.



Dear Friends,

Dana-Farber is renowned for its unique, equal commitment to leading-edge research and top-quality patient care. This dual mission originated with our founder, Sidney Farber, MD, who pledged to bring his research discoveries from the laboratory bench straight to his patients in the clinic, and to treat the whole patient, not just their disease.

Our commitment to total patient care is reflected in Dana-Farber's recent recognition by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation as a Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality. We are proud to have received this honor for the fifth year in a row.

The impact of our dedication to conducting the most advanced research is exemplified by the FDA's recent approval of a new drug for acute myeloid leukemia, the first new treatment for this disease in more than 25 years. The benefits of the drug were borne out in an international clinical trial led by Dana-Farber researchers.

Thousands of individuals and groups make the game-changing work of Dana-Farber possible. At the 121st Boston Marathon® on April 17, more than 530 committed members of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team raised more than \$5 million to support the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research.

Many foundations support Dana-Farber with a goal of accelerating promising treatments. The Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation underscored its deep commitment to our glioblastoma research with new grants totaling \$3 million to optimize innovative immunotherapies for brain cancer.

Individual philanthropists play a major role in Dana-Farber's work. For example, Katherine and Steve Pinard's recent gift of \$2.3 million has established a research fund and fellowship in cancer chemistry and biology aimed at fighting the most drug-resistant cancers.

The exemplary career of the Institute's first chief of medical oncology, George P. Canellos, MD, is being recognized by the David Family, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Canellos Family, and other donors who contributed a total of \$3.3 million to endow a professorship at Dana-Farber and Harvard Medical School in honor of Dr. Canellos and his wife, Jean.

As you will see in the quarterly update at the right, the achievements of Dana-Farber researchers frequently result in major federal grants, like the four Outstanding Investigator Awards from the National Cancer Institute recently won by our scientists. Federal funding, however, is limited, and it is donor support which fills the gap and speeds the pace of discovery.

We are grateful that our many donors have chosen to support Dana-Farber. The exceptional work done here helps our own patients, and cancer patients throughout the world. For making this possible, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Paresky
Senior Vice President for Development

Dana-Farber researchers garner prestigious NCI and NIH recognition

Four Dana-Farber scientists have received Outstanding Investigator Awards from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), providing seven years of support for new projects "of unusual potential."

The recipients are William Kaelin, MD, of Medical Oncology, winner of the 2016 Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research; A. Thomas Look, MD, of Pediatric Oncology; Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancy Program and the Ted Williams Chair; and Jean Zhao, PhD, of Cancer Biology.

The awards, which provide up to \$600,000 per year in direct costs, were developed in 2014 to give investigators more time than standard grants to break new ground or extend previous discoveries to advance biomedical, behavioral, or clinical cancer research. The recipients are cancer researchers, nominated by their institutions, who have served as a principal investigator on an NCI grant for the last five years and have demonstrated outstanding cancer research productivity.

"The NCI Outstanding Investigator Award addresses a problem that many cancer researchers experience: finding a balance between focusing on their science while ensuring that they will have funds to continue their research in the future," said Dinah Singer, PhD, director of NCI's Division of Cancer Biology. "With seven years of uninterrupted funding, NCI is providing investigators the opportunity to fully develop exceptional and ambitious cancer research programs."

In addition, Justin Brown, PhD, a research fellow in Population Sciences and Gastrointestinal Oncology, has received the inaugural National

Institutes of Health (NIH) Early-Stage Investigator Award. Brown's was one of only two such awards made in 2017.

The award was created by the Office of Disease Prevention at the NIH to recognize early career scientists who have not yet competed successfully as a principal investigator for a substantial independent NIH research grant but who have already made significant, outstanding research contributions to their respective fields and are poised to become future leaders in prevention research. Brown's research mission is to identify the specific biological and biobehavioral pathways through which lifestyle factors such as physical activity, diet, and body composition influence cancer prevention and control.

While these exceptional awards are indicative of the excellence of Dana-Farber researchers, the progression of their innovative work from promising idea to proven result worthy of federal funding is made possible by the philanthropic support of our generous donors. ■



William Kaelin, MD, is one of four Dana-Farber faculty who received Outstanding Investigator Awards from the National Cancer Institute.

AACR supports innovative work of young investigators



The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) continued its ongoing, generous support of Dana-Farber through three recent research grants to fuel the work of innovative young physician-scientists at the Institute.

Nikhil Wagle, MD, was awarded a \$450,000 AACR NextGen Grant for Transformative Cancer Research, the association's flagship funding initiative. Brian Miller, MD, PhD, was granted a \$110,000 AACR-Bristol-Myers Squibb Fellowship in Translational Immuno-oncology. Birgit Knoechel, MD, PhD, received a \$100,000 AACR-Aflac Inc. Career Development Award for pediatric cancer research.

Each of these AACR grants focuses on funding

cancer research with strong potential for groundbreaking, paradigm-shifting discoveries led by investigators in the early stages of their careers.

"Research saves lives, and the AACR is pleased to support these exceptional research projects being conducted by early career investigators at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute," said Margaret Foti, PhD, MD, AACR's chief executive officer. "As the world's first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing all aspects of cancer research, the AACR is committed to nurturing the next generation of researchers, who will make the pioneering breakthroughs that will fundamentally change the face of cancer as we know it."

AACR's grant will fund Wagle's study on how estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) metastatic breast cancer (MBC) develops resistance to the strategy of combining agents that target the estrogen receptor

with novel agents called CDK4/6 inhibitors.

Although this combination yields significant clinical responses in a large fraction of patients, these tumors still develop resistance to the combination, and the mechanisms of resistance are not yet known.

"Thanks to the generosity of the AACR, we can deepen our understanding of ER+ MBC resistance and develop new biomarkers and novel therapeutic strategies for patients treated with CDK4/6 inhibitors," Wagle said.

Miller's research focuses on mapping the cellular response during anti-PD-1 therapy, an immunology therapeutic option with powerful potential to improve the efficacy of the treatment.

Knoechel will study drug resistance and epigenetic dependencies in acute T-cell lymphoblastic leukemia to uncover future therapeutic targets to overcome drug resistance. ■

Pinards invest \$2.3 million in high-risk, high-reward study

Longtime Dana-Farber supporters Katherine and Steve Pinard are teaming up with Nathanael Gray, PhD, and his team of chemists to tackle previously “undruggable” cancers. The Pinards have made two gifts totaling \$2.3 million to establish the Katherine L. and Steven C. Pinard Research Fund, supporting Gray’s innovative *KRAS* research, and the Katherine Loker Pinard Fellowship, funding talented young investigators in Dana-Farber’s cancer chemistry program.

During a recent visit to Gray’s lab in Dana-Farber’s Longwood Center, Katherine and Steve were impressed with the breadth of the team’s pioneering research and enthusiasm.

“Observing their *KRAS* research

in action really inspired us,” said Katherine. “We wanted to provide the opportunity for this innovative study to expand and break down barriers to discovering new cancer treatments.”

Most pharmaceutical companies have abandoned efforts to tackle *KRAS*, a gene mutation that fuels cancer cells, calling it “undruggable.” However, Gray and his team refuse to give up. They have developed a novel technology that uses specially designed small molecules that induce destruction of proteins to which the cancer cells bind.

“This concept could change the whole field of cancer treatment,” said Gray, who is the Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Medicine. “Our

high-risk, high-reward investigation is virtually impossible to do with traditional federal funding alone, so the Pinards’ support is absolutely critical to launching this promising and potentially lifesaving study.”

The Pinards’ seed investment will provide the proof of principle that could lead to additional federal, foundation, and pharmaceutical resources, and potentially uncover new treatments for many *KRAS*-related cancers, including lung, colon, and pancreatic cancers.

“We recognize that breakthroughs happen when scientists take risks and think outside the box,” said Steve. “We are proud and excited to provide funding that will progress

this type of research.”

Katherine and Steve also established the Katherine Loker Pinard Fellowship to help Gray attract and retain highly talented scientists—bright minds who will drive discoveries that will ultimately lead to new and effective treatments.

“The Pinards’ tremendous contribution will advance promising research and train the next generation of cancer scientists, translating into hope for cancer patients everywhere,” said Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD. “We thank them for their continuous commitment and generosity to the Institute.”

The Pinards’ newest gifts build upon their previous investments to help construct the Institute’s Yawkey Center for Cancer Care and to establish the Loker Pinard Fund for Kidney Cancer Research.

“We continue to support Dana-Farber because, in our opinion, it is the number one institution in cancer treatment, compassionate care, and innovative research,” said Katherine.

“We also share a common vision—to bring hope to patients and advance the battle against cancer,” added Steve. ■



Katherine and Steve Pinard made a tremendous investment in pioneering *KRAS* research.

“We wanted to provide the opportunity for this innovative study to expand and break down barriers to discovering new cancer treatments.”

— KATHERINE PINARD

Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Summit on Women and Science

On March 3, more than 60 faculty and staff attended the inaugural Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Summit on Women and Science. Featured speaker Joan Brugge, PhD, director of the Ludwig Center and the Louise Foote Pfeiffer Professor of Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School, spoke about her career path and offered professional and educational advice to attendees. The summit is part of the Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Initiative at Dana-Farber, established in 2016 with a generous grant from The Pussycat Foundation. This initiative also supports the research and professional development of five young women scientists and expands mentoring opportunities for senior female faculty members at the Institute. Below: Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD (left), and Joan Brugge, PhD.



Generous grants support critical MDS research

The Edward P. Evans Foundation recently awarded two EvansMDS grants totaling \$400,000 to Dana-Farber investigators A. Thomas Look, MD, and R. Coleman Lindsley, MD, PhD. The foundation is dedicated to fulfilling the philanthropic vision of the late Edward P. Evans, particularly within the medical, educational, and artistic sectors. EvansMDS, the primary medical funding initiative of the Edward P. Evans Foundation, is committed to finding cures for myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), a collection of devastating types of blood cancer.

Look and his team aim to generate preclinical evidence using a zebrafish model of MDS to define new drug combinations that specifically kill mutant blood stem cells, and to verify their activity against human *TET2*-mutant myeloid leukemia cells that they have generated in the Look laboratory. The long-term goal is for these drug combinations to be incorporated into clinical trials for human patients with *TET2*-mutant MDS. This grant will help Look to identify drugs that eliminate *TET2*-mutant MDS stem cells and allow normal blood stem cells to recover and

repopulate the blood of MDS patients.

Lindsley and his team study the biology of gene mutations, and make models of MDS that more accurately reflect the complexity of the disease within humans. The grant will enable Lindsley to look more closely at how the loss of the *BCOR* gene affects development and function of blood cells, and ultimately establish an experimental platform to evaluate how mutations cooperate to cause MDS.

“We are pleased to support Drs. Look and Lindsley as they advance treatments for MDS,” said Michael Lewis, president, Edward P. Evans Foundation. “It is critical that we find new ways to better understand these devastating types of blood cancer, and create more positive outcomes for MDS patients and their families.” ■

“We are pleased to support Drs. Look and Lindsley as they advance treatments for MDS.”

— MICHAEL LEWIS, president, Edward P. Evans Foundation

Endowed professorship honors contributions of George Canellos, MD, and Jean Canellos

George P. Canellos, MD, joined Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 1975 as the first chief of medical oncology, and he continues to serve as the William Rosenberg Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS). To honor Dr. Canellos' extraordinary career, George and Kaity David and their children, Harry David, Anastassis David, the late Nicola David-Pinedo, and Clemente Pinedo, recently committed \$1.2 million toward a \$3.3 million endowed professorship at Dana-Farber and HMS. Several others joined the Davids to make the professorship a reality.

"The promotion of education and academic learning has always been paramount for the David family and they recognize Dana-Farber as an undisputed center of excellence in the field of cancer research," said Myrto Hatzaki, David family spokesperson. "After the devastating loss of their daughter, Nicola, the family remains committed to honoring her life and preserving her memory by making a gift they hope will help support vital work in cancer research."

The professorship will be named the Nicola David-Pinedo Professorship until Dr. Canellos retires, at which time it will be re-named the George P. Canellos, MD, and Jean S. Canellos Professorship in honor of the couple's commitment to Dana-Farber. An endowed seminar tied to the professorship will also be

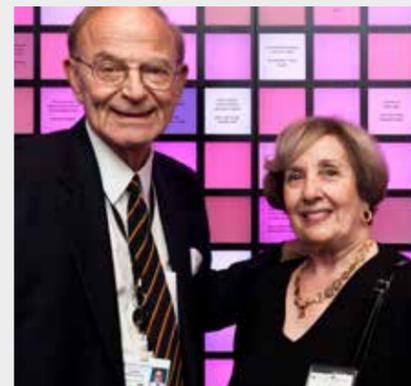
named for Nicola.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)—a private international philanthropic organization—issued a \$1.1 million challenge grant to inspire others to support the professorship.

"The Stavros Niarchos Foundation has a long history of supporting academic medical centers and research institutes that set the standards for quality health care, education, and research around the world. Dana-Farber is one such center, benefitting society at large," said Roula Siklas, program officer at SNF. "Dana-Farber and Dr. Canellos exemplify the excellence in medicine and leadership that inspire our grantmaking at SNF. We were very happy the challenge was met, motivating many others to support this professorship and maintain Dana-Farber's excellent record of discovery and innovation to improve cancer care around the world. Our grant will honor Dr. Canellos' contributions to the field and support Dana-Farber's long-term commitment to the next generation of leaders in cancer care."

The three Canellos sons, Andrew, Peter, George, and George's wife, Pamela Mary Brown, made generous gifts in honor of their parents. "We're deeply proud of our parents and grateful to everyone who contributed to this professorship," said Peter on behalf of his brothers. "Our father's career has spanned almost the entirety

of modern medical treatment for cancer, and we had front-row seats for many fascinating developments. Our mother's dedication to the Institute, including her role in helping to create the Friends of Dana-Farber, shows how much a volunteer can do to help. It's inspiring to think that those who occupy this professorship will be



George P. Canellos, MD, and his wife, Jean Speare Canellos.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF GEORGE CANELLOS, MD, AND JEAN SPEARE CANELLOS

Allyson Ahern	Corey S. Cutler, MD	Dr. Ann Steward LaCasce	William Rosenberg Family Foundation, Inc.
Edwin P. Alyea III, MD	George A. and Kaity David, and their three children,	Anthony G. Letai, MD, PhD, and Jean C. Letai	Margaret A. Shipp, MD
Giada Bianchi, MD	Harry G. David, Anastassis G. David, Nicola David-Pinedo and Clemente Pinedo	Dr. and Mrs. Yiannis Monovoukas	Rowena Simberg
Ellen L. Brinker	James DeCaprio, MD, and Leslie Hanrahan	Stavros Niarchos Foundation	Robert J. Soiffer, MD, and Stacey Sperling, MD
Andrew P. Canellos	Nancy C. Downer	Julene and John Stellato	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tourkistas
George P. Canellos, MD, and Jean Speare Canellos	Glenn Dranoff, MD	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tourkistas	Dr. and Mrs. James W. Triant
George S. Canellos and Pamela Mary Brown	F. Stephen Hodi Jr., MD	Paul G. Richardson, MD, and Annie Richardson	Jeffrey S. Wisch, MD, and Cynthia Crofts-Wisch
Peter S. Canellos	Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Irvin	Dr. Jerome Ritz and Ms. Sara Mattes	"Deceased"
Joan F. and Gorham L. Cross, and their daughter Heather Cross Woodworth			

carrying on a mission about which our parents cared so much."

John and Julene Stellato provided significant support for the professorship. "I first met George when I was treated for non-Hodgkin lymphoma at Dana-Farber," John said. "I was immediately impressed by his knowledge of the disease, as well as his compassion for patients, and we became good friends over the years. It's a privilege to come full circle and be able to give back and honor the man who saved my life."

Dr. Canellos and his wife, Jean, also gave generously to the professorship. "Jean and I are a team," said Dr. Canellos. "She is as much a part of Dana-Farber as I am through her participation in the founding and growth of the Friends of Dana-Farber during as many years as I've been on the medical staff. We are delighted to invest in this professorship, which we hope will enrich the lives of those exceptional investigators dedicated to cancer research and care for generations to come." ■

Mary Kay Foundation supports promising breast cancer research



Mary Kay Ash was a pioneering entrepreneur who devoted her life and business to helping women succeed. Today, the cosmetic company she began in 1963 with a \$5,000 investment from her son is a multibillion-dollar company.

Grateful for her success, Mary Kay Ash established The Mary Kay FoundationSM in 1996, choosing the fight against women's cancers as a priority. The foundation has funded research at Dana-Farber for several years, most recently through a generous \$100,000 grant to support the work of Nikhil Wagle, MD, in Dana-Farber's Susan F. Smith Center for Women's Cancers.

One of the questions that cancer researchers grapple with is why some patients benefit more from a certain treatment than others. Wagle studies the biological mechanisms responsible for the

development of drug resistance in patients with estrogen receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer. "These resistant tumors remain the most common cause of breast cancer death," said Wagle, "yet mechanisms by which this resistance develops are poorly understood."

Wagle's findings should help inform treatment decisions for individual patients and propel the development of new combination treatment strategies for the disease. The Mary Kay FoundationSM is optimistic about Wagle's research. "Our mission is to eliminate cancers affecting women," said Michael Lunceford, Mary Kay Inc. senior vice president of public affairs and president of The Mary Kay FoundationSM. "We are pleased to support Dr. Wagle's research, which we hope will uncover new treatment options for women with metastatic breast cancer." ■

LCRF seeks improved outcomes



Lung Cancer Research Foundation

The loss of a loved one to cancer is devastating, and the Lung Cancer Research Foundation's (LCRF) board members, like so many of Dana-Farber's strongest supporters, responded to their personal lung cancer experiences with action. Determined to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and improve treatment options, LCRF has spent the past two decades selecting and funding novel, promising lung cancer research.

LCRF provides funding to the best and brightest researchers at universities and cancer research centers around the world. The organization

has supported Dana-Farber researchers since 2007, recently surpassing \$2 million in total grants. In 2016, LCRF made a \$150,000 grant to support the post-doctoral research of Matthew Oser, MD, PhD, under the direction of Dana-Farber's William Kaelin Jr., MD. The goal of Oser's research is to better understand the biological underpinnings and vulnerabilities associated with small cell lung cancer, hopefully enabling researchers to develop new therapies that will result in better survival rates for lung cancer patients.

"We are proud to support the work of Dr. Oser and many other Dana-Farber researchers over the past decade," said Nancy Sanford, executive director of LCRF. "We have awarded more grants to investigators at Dana-Farber than any other institution to date. This trend reflects the extraordinary quality of research being done there." ■

"We have awarded more grants to investigators at Dana-Farber than any other institution to date."

— NANCY SANFORD, executive director, Lung Cancer Research Foundation

Ivy Foundation investment makes advances in glioblastoma research possible



Thanks to generous support from The Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute investigators have developed a solid foundation of Institute-based, precision immunotherapy research for glioblastoma that will potentially have a major impact on further advances. Underscoring their commitment to Dana-Farber's glioblastoma research and to improving patient quality of life, the Ivy Foundation has made two additional grants totaling \$3 million.

Specifically, \$1.5 million of this transformative funding will support the work of David Reardon, MD, clinical director of the Center for Neuro-Oncology, in a second neoantigen vaccine trial involving NeoVax, a therapeutic vaccine for brain cancer developed at Dana-Farber. The Ivy Foundation's partnership was instrumental in the

initial clinical trial of this innovative treatment.

An additional \$1.5 million will be invested in work undertaken by Reardon and co-investigators Kai Wucherpfennig, MD, PhD, chair of Cancer Immunology and Virology; Keith Ligon, MD, PhD; and collaborators from Massachusetts General Hospital and the Broad Institute to predict how immunotherapy can benefit newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients.

"Funding from The Ivy Foundation has allowed us to take the very first clinical steps in applying a personalized, precision immunotherapy treatment approach for glioblastoma patients," said Reardon. "Using state-of-the-art genomic and immunologic technology to identify individualized, tumor-specific mutations, our trials are evaluating the impact of an individualized, patient-specific, multi-neoepitope vaccine with and without anti-PD-1 therapy. Our hope is that this innovative approach will stimulate each patient's natural defenses—the immune system—to work to successfully eradicate their glioblastoma tumor, and this

exciting advance would not have been possible without Ivy Foundation funding."

"We are excited about the life-saving research being done by Dr. Reardon and his lab at Dana-Farber," said Catherine Ivy, founder and board president of The Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation. "We are hopeful and looking forward to seeing the positive impact for patients with these new treatment options."

The Ivy Foundation was founded in 2005 by Ben and Catherine Ivy, who believed in the importance

of giving back to their community through philanthropy to support efforts in the areas of health care and education. Unfortunately, Ben was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme shortly after their foundation was established and passed away four months after his diagnosis.

The foundation remains patient-focused and invests in research that will develop better diagnostics and treatments leading to longer-term survival and a higher quality of life for patients with brain tumors. ■

"We are hopeful and looking forward to seeing the positive impact for patients with these new treatment options."

— CATHERINE IVY, founder and board president, The Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation



The Ivy Foundation, led by Catherine Ivy, is advancing glioblastoma research with \$3 million in new grants to Dana-Farber.

Trustee gift fuels industry-leading immunoprofiling initiative

Institute Trustee Howard Cox has made a \$200,000 gift to support Dana-Farber's sophisticated and revolutionary immunoprofiling effort led by Scott Rodig, MD, PhD.

"I always enjoy supporting entrepreneurial projects to help Dana-Farber remain at the forefront of cancer research," said Cox. "Immunoprofiling is an important priority for the Institute, and I see great potential for the endeavor to change the cancer treatment landscape."

With Cox's contribution, Rodig, who leads the pathology assessment laboratory at Dana-Farber's Center

for Immuno-Oncology, will implement the first-ever prospective immunoprofiling effort. He will explore how a patient's immune system is or is not recognizing cancer, and determine how the cancer interacts with the immune system and how their immune system can be altered to better fight cancers. This work is an expansion of Dana-Farber's pioneering Profile program, which looks at the genomic profile of a patient's tumor to identify the most effective treatments.

"Howard's gift helps Dana-Farber extend precision medicine into immunotherapy, which could have a tremendous impact on how we treat patients," said Rodig. "It is currently very difficult to predict which patients will or will not respond to immunotherapies, but this project will help us overcome that challenge."

Cox is a longtime supporter of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, and has recently funded other entrepreneurial initiatives led by Dana-Farber's Center for Immuno-Oncology and Center for DNA Damage and Repair, in addition to other generous contributions to the Institute. ■



Institute Trustee Howard Cox is funding Dana-Farber's first-ever prospective immunoprofiling initiative.

Great White Gala supports multiple myeloma research

One quality that makes Dana-Farber special is the generosity it inspires in its patients. One such patient is Jay Foran, who was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a rare form of cancer that begins in the bone marrow and for which there is no known cause or cure. Supported by his family, Foran entered into a phase 2 clinical trial being conducted at Dana-Farber by Irene Ghobrial, MD, director of the Michele and Steven Kirsch Laboratory. The Foran family's experience with the "outstanding team" at Dana-Farber inspired them to host an event to recognize and support Ghobrial's research.

The Dana-Farber Great White Gala Against Cancer, held on Oct. 28 at the Chatham Bars Inn on Cape Cod, raised \$200,000. With Fox 25 meteorologist Sarah Wroblewski as master of ceremonies and several alumni of the New England Patriots in attendance, the gala included an

auction offering such items as vacation packages, fishing trips, a basketball signed by Boston Celtics legend Larry Bird, and a football signed by New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski. Ghobrial also spoke to the guests about the latest research she and her colleagues are conducting.

Jay Foran is determined to help Dana-Farber find a cure for future multiple myeloma patients, and remains positive about his own battle. "I think that this challenge has, in a way, made me a far better person," he said. "Each day is a blessing and I'm extremely lucky to have the love and support of so many family members and outstanding friends." ■



At the Dana-Farber Great White Gala Against Cancer (from left): Irene Ghobrial, MD, Jay Foran, event emcee Sarah Wroblewski, and Jay's son Patrick.

Tomsichs fuel progress in multiple myeloma research

To accelerate momentum in the treatment of multiple myeloma, Robert and Suzanne Tomsich have committed \$1 million to Dana-Farber to establish the Robert J. and Suzanne Tomsich Research Fund for Multiple Myeloma. Generous supporters of the Institute since 2009, the Tomsichs regularly attend the Palm Beach Discovery Celebration and have hosted physicians and fellow donors on their yacht in both Palm Beach and Boston. In 2011, with their first \$1 million gift to Dana-Farber, they named the Robert J. Tomsich Family Gallery, which houses the Gene Display.

The Tomsichs' latest gift, under the direction of Kenneth Anderson, MD, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and LeBow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics at Dana-Farber, will help the Institute build upon an already impressive record of recent achievements in multiple myeloma.

After 35 years without any new FDA-approved drugs for myeloma, Anderson and his team were instrumental in securing the federal approval of 18 new therapies—an unparalleled success that has prolonged the lives of many patients and made myeloma a paradigm for drug development worldwide. In 2015, those efforts helped garner a record seven FDA approvals for multiple myeloma therapies in just one year.

Most recently, through leadership in the lab and clinic, Anderson's team built the case for the first monoclonal antibodies to treat myeloma, elotuzumab and daratumumab, which are now FDA-approved for

relapsed disease. Monoclonal antibodies are immune-based therapies that selectively induce the destruction of myeloma cells while sparing healthy cells and minimizing side effects. These therapies demonstrated powerful results when used in combination with other targeted drugs for relapsed myeloma, and the team is now evaluating them for the treatment of newly diagnosed myeloma, where they expect the benefits to be even more impressive.

"We're so appreciative of Suzanne and Robert's generous commitment to advancing multiple myeloma therapies," said Anderson, who is also the Kraft Family Professor of Medicine. "Myeloma is an ever-changing disease, so constant innovation is needed to develop new drugs and combination therapies to stave off drug resistance and tailor treatments to the specific needs of each of our patients. With the support of the Tomsichs, we're excited to continue our work on this front—defining genetic and immunologic targets for new treatments and translating these findings into successful clinical trials."

The Tomsichs are pleased to support Anderson and his team at Dana-Farber, and look forward to the continued progress they will make in multiple myeloma.

"Dr. Anderson is a world-renowned physician-scientist whose research has improved the lives of myeloma patients around the globe," said Robert Tomsich. "We have great faith in Dr. Anderson and his team and are proud to have our names associated with such excellent work." ■



Robert and Suzanne Tomsich are supporting research to accelerate the development of novel therapies for multiple myeloma.

"Dr. Anderson is a world-renowned physician-scientist whose research has improved the lives of myeloma patients around the globe."

— ROBERT TOMSICH

Foundation drives discovery and clinical trials



**A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure
PLGA Foundation**

FUNDING RESEARCH ► FINDING CURES

A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation (also known as the PLGA Foundation) has made a \$300,000 gift to Mark Kieran, MD, PhD, as part of its continued support of the Pediatric Low-Grade Astrocytoma (PLGA) Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Established in 2007 through the tireless efforts of affected families, the foundation's goal is to find more-effective, less-toxic treatments and a cure for children battling PLGA brain tumors. Dana-Farber has the only program dedicated to pediatric low-grade glioma in the world, and through the incredible efforts of Kieran and his colleagues, it has grown into a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional program with collaborations across the country and around the world.

"Our initial gift to Dana-Farber was the result of a grassroots fundraising effort, which gained momentum as affected families learned that their

support could change the fate of children battling brain cancer," said Amy Weinstein, executive director of A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation. Over the past decade, thanks to the foundation's efforts to launch and support the PLGA Program, it has now garnered nearly \$28 million in total funding from direct grants, events, NIH-related grants, and other donors, making a powerful impact in the battle against this disease.

"We've reached a tipping point in PLGA research because families have recognized that additional funding will make a difference," said Andrew Janower, president of the PLGA Foundation and a Dana-Farber Trustee. "And the dedicated and brilliant Dana-Farber scientists have leveraged this support to become leaders in finding a cure for this disease. We are fortunate to have such engaged partners in defeating this orphan disease."

Kieran agrees, saying, "These incredible collaborations between A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure and Dana-Farber have created an opportunity to host vital clinical trials to help save the lives of kids battling PLGA." ■

Silencing ovarian cancer with girlygirl power



girlygirl P.A.R.T.S. organizers present Ursula Matulonis, MD (third from the left), with a generous check supporting her work in ovarian cancer.

When Jill Di-Tomasso was diagnosed with stage IIIC ovarian cancer at the age of 44, she knew she had a difficult road ahead. The disease, often referred to as the "silent killer," can be challenging to diagnose in early stages, as symptoms can be subtle and easily missed.

After undergoing a complete hysterectomy, Jill started chemotherapy, finding strength in a support system of people, including Ursula Matulonis, MD, director of Gynecologic Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. To show gratitude to her care team, Jill and her friend Laura Smith created a 5K run/walk to raise funds to support Matulonis' research on a pre-screening tool to assist with early ovarian cancer diagnosis.

The girlygirl P.A.R.T.S. 5K Run/Walk for Ovarian Cancer—the acronym standing for "Pre-screening Awareness Required To Silence"—raised \$124,000 in 2016, totaling more than \$480,000 raised since 2009.

Sadly, Jill passed away in December 2015 after a courageous eight-year battle. "I vow to continue our commitment to the women in our lives that we can't imagine living without," said her friend and event co-founder, Laura Smith. "Ovarian cancer has a voice now, and I promise I will stay strong and carry on Jill's legacy."

The event's participants look forward to surpassing 2016's fundraising total at the 2017 event in September, and are more determined than ever to silence this disease in Jill's memory. ■

LaTorre Family propels chemical biology

When Institute Trustee Jim LaTorre first met Loren Walensky, MD, PhD, principal investigator in Dana-Farber's Linde Family Program in Cancer Chemical Biology, he was impressed with Walensky's vision and the caliber of the graduate students in his laboratory. In 2007, LaTorre and his wife, Lisa, began to fund the work of these young investigators, enabling them to pursue their promising research ideas. The LaTorres recently made a new \$200,000 gift to drive chemical biology and drug development in the Walensky lab.

"Jim and Lisa have generously supported a remarkably talented cohort of students in my lab for 10 years, thereby playing a transformational role in advancing some of our pioneering projects," said Walensky. "Their investment in the next generation of premier cancer scientists is laying the foundation for continued excellence in chemical biology at Dana-Farber and beyond."

Through their ongoing support, the LaTorres aim to bolster Walensky's efforts to cultivate scientific talent and develop effective new treatment



Institute Trustee James LaTorre and his wife, Lisa, generously support chemical biology research.

strategies. Using state-of-the-art technologies, Walensky's team is advancing therapies that could break new ground in cancer medicine and improve patient outcomes.

"Loren and his team are conducting extraordinary research at Dana-Farber, a leading center for innovation," said LaTorre. "I feel fortunate to help jumpstart the careers of some of the brightest minds in the industry, with the hope that they will cultivate their skills and help more patients throughout their careers." ■

Lifesaving research is a tribute to Ira Schneider

Although he passed away more than two decades ago, Ira Schneider is still mourned by his close friends, Michael and Jamie Shapiro. Frustrated that few effective treatments were available to Ira during his battle with cancer from 1989 to 1991, the Shapiros have paid close attention to scientific progress made in recent years. They established the Ira Schneider Memorial Cancer Foundation to support areas of research that stand to increase treatment options and ultimately eradicate cancer.

"Scientific discoveries and a better understanding of cancer over the past

few decades have given oncologists better tools to treat and, in more and more cases, cure their patients," said Michael Shapiro. "There are many initiatives, and we chose epigenetics and immunotherapy as some of the most promising."

After studying many cancer research centers, the Ira Schneider Foundation made a \$300,000 grant to support the work of Kai Wucherpfennig, MD, PhD, chair of Cancer Immunology and Virology at Dana-Farber. Exploring genetic approaches to discover combination immunotherapies, Wucherpfennig and his team have identified a novel target for enhancing T-cell function against tumors. This finding was particularly significant given that a drug is already available for this target. "Studies funded by this generous gift lay the groundwork for making immuno-based treatments available to many more patients," said Wucherpfennig.

The Shapiros intend to keep Ira Schneider's memory alive, explains Jamie, "by supporting research that will uncover more about this terrible disease, and discover new ways to treat and defeat it." ■



Michael and Jamie Shapiro established a foundation in honor of Ira Schneider.

Garfinkles' gift alleviates financial pressures facing pediatric patient families

Steven Garfinkle says he first became aware of Dana-Farber when he "used to drop nickels in the Jimmy Fund cans during Saturday afternoon double-features at the Morton Theater in Dorchester." Steven and his wife, Barbara, continued to support Dana-Farber by establishing the Garfinkle Family Pediatric Patient Assistance Fund in 2007. Under the leadership of Joe Chabot, MS, Pediatric Resource Program director, the fund provides vital financial assistance to help

families coping with the financial burden of a child's cancer diagnosis and treatment. Recently, Steven and Barbara made a \$100,000 gift, their fourth commitment, to the fund.

"The Pediatric Resource Program is critically important," said Garfinkle. "These are families that have serious needs, whether it be making mortgage payments or having enough food to eat or having gifts to give their kids during the holidays. They are going through enough with having a child in cancer treatment. Barbara and I want to do anything we can to help alleviate their day-to-day financial pressures."

The Pediatric Resource Program helps address financial and material hardships that can become barriers to care and directly affect patients' well-being. Indeed, research conducted at Dana-Farber suggests that patient outcomes can be affected by such hardships.

"A child's cancer diagnosis often has grave monetary consequences for a family," said Chabot. "Our goal is to make it easier for a family to concentrate on caring for their child." ■



Joe Chabot, MS (above), oversees financial assistance for pediatric patient families funded by Steven and Barbara Garfinkle.

The V Foundation shoots to save more lives through cutting-edge research

By all accounts, Jim Valvano was a memorable personality. "Jimmy V," as the celebrated basketball coach and ESPN commentator was known to his fans, died nearly 24 years ago after battling metastatic adenocarcinoma. The V Foundation for Cancer Research, established in the last few months of Valvano's life, is still going strong. As part of its mission to fund "extraordinary cancer research to save more lives," the V Foundation supports the work of Dana-Farber's physician-scientists through generous grants.

Recent grants made by the V Foundation to Dana-Farber researchers include \$200,000 to support Birgit Knoechel, MD, PhD, as she works to uncover the mechanisms underlying T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL). This important research stands to inform the development of new treatment approaches for advanced or aggressive T-ALL.

The V Foundation also awarded \$100,000 to Dana-Farber's Andrew Lane, MD, PhD, extending his V Scholar Grant. Lane is leveraging

genomic technologies to better assess why some cancers are more prevalent in men than women, information that may lead to more targeted treatment plans for patients of each gender.

"V Foundation grants are highly competitive," said Susan Braun, CEO of the foundation. "Those awarded go to the very best researchers at top institutions solving cancer's most perplexing problems. We are proud of our grants to Dana-Farber." ■



The V Foundation for Cancer Research, which honors the legacy of legendary sports figure Jim "Jimmy V" Valvano, has made many grants to Dana-Farber to accelerate lifesaving cancer research.

Susan G. Komen propels breast cancer research with new grants



For 35 years, Susan G. Komen has had a powerful impact on millions of people worldwide through support for lifesaving research in all areas of breast cancer, from basic biology to prevention, treatment, and survivorship.

Susan G. Komen made its first grant to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 1995, and that long-standing relationship continues today. In the past year, Susan G. Komen granted \$1.6 million to Dana-Farber physician-scientists who are tackling different aspects of breast cancer across the spectrum of care—from basic scientific discovery in the laboratory to compassionate, world-class care in the clinic.

With a \$600,000 grant from Susan G. Komen, Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD, is identifying risk factors for breast cancer that can be detected at the molecular level. Incorporating these biomarkers into clinical analysis could help predict a woman's risk of

developing the disease, particularly for women whose biopsies reveal normal tissue with high levels of the biomarkers. "The support from Susan G. Komen is vital to the research in my lab," said Polyak. "The findings from our work may allow screening and prevention tailored to specific patients."

Jennifer Ligibel, MD, director of the Leonard P. Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies and Healthy Living and a breast oncologist in the

Susan F. Smith Center for Women's Cancers, was awarded \$600,000 for her leadership of a potentially groundbreaking study that investigates the impact of weight loss on breast cancer recurrence. "This study is bolstered by the generosity of Susan G. Komen, and I am grateful for their tremendous contribution," said Ligibel. Polyak and Ligibel are also members of the Komen Scholars Program.

Ellen Willmott, interim president and CEO of Susan G. Komen, said,

"Susan G. Komen is committed to reducing current U.S. breast cancer deaths by 50 percent by 2026. We look for collaboration with the best and the brightest in the breast cancer field and are proud to support the research happening at Dana-Farber. From the lab to the clinic, Dana-Farber investigators contribute daily to the body of knowledge that is saving lives."

Susan G. Komen also generously supported research at the Institute into subtypes of the disease. Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women's Cancers, director of Breast Oncology, and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research, received a \$244,680 grant aimed at improving treatment for women with hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. Winer served as Komen's first Chief Scientific Advisor and had led the Scientific Advisory Board since its creation in 2007. He currently serves as Past Chair of Komen's Scientific Advisory Board.

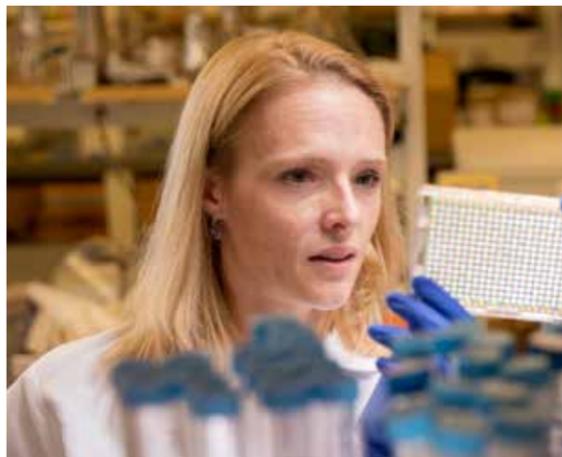
Additionally, Susan G. Komen is supporting early career investigators. Johann Bergholz, PhD, received an award of \$180,000 for a post-doctoral fellowship to develop new combination therapies for treating PTEN-deficient breast cancer. ■



Susan G. Komen made grants to Dana-Farber totaling \$1.6 million to support breast cancer research across the spectrum of care, including efforts by Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD (left), to identify risk factors for breast cancer at the molecular level to help predict a woman's risk of disease; and a groundbreaking study by Jennifer Ligibel, MD (right), investigating the impact of weight loss on breast cancer recurrence.

New gift drives innovative chemical biology research

When John Wang, PhD, toured Dana-Farber's Longwood Center, he was impressed by the newly expanded laboratories and the cutting-edge chemical biology research. As a chemist and leader in the laboratory supply industry, Wang recognized the importance of a research approach that combines biology and chemistry to develop new cancer drugs. In addition to donating laboratory equipment, Wang made a gift to establish the TWD Kemtech BioX Research Fund, which is propelling the innovative research of Sara Buhrlage, PhD.



Thanks to generous support from John Wang, PhD, Sara Buhrlage, PhD, is leading important work to find new therapies for patients with blood cancers.

"This support comes at an important time, and will enable my laboratory to uncover and test novel strategies to stabilize the tumor suppressor p53," said Buhrlage. "Due to this protein's known role in many blood cancers, this work could lead to critical new therapies for patients who need them."

Buhrlage is exploring ways to stabilize p53 by targeting a related protein called USP7. This work could ultimately help to expand treatment options for patients whose tumors are associated with malfunctioning p53, including some forms of multiple myeloma and other blood cancers.

"Knowing that Dana-Farber has a long history of leadership in studying and treating blood cancers, I am very impressed by current efforts to take this progress further," said Wang. "It has been exciting to witness the laboratory space at the Longwood Center come to life and to see this interesting and important chemical biology research move forward." ■

Walkers brunch with Superman



The Extra Mile Brunch, held March 5 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, welcomed nearly 800 participants and guests to celebrate raising more than \$8.7 million in the 2016 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. The annual Extra Mile Brunch serves as an opportunity to thank Pacesetters, who raised at least \$1,500 each (\$500 or more for children under 12); Captains and Co-Captains of teams that raised at least \$10,000; sponsors; Volunteer Site Captains; Walk Heroes; and donors who gave \$1,500 or more.

Above, featured speaker Loren Walensky, MD, PhD (center), was surprised by Laura Zaks (left) and Amy Schwartz who presented their superhero with a cape in honor of their brother and Walensky's patient, Todd Schwartz. As a part of Team Todd, the Schwartz Family has raised nearly \$900,000 since they first became a part of the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk 16 years ago. Their mother and Team Captain, Janet Schwartz, also spoke at the event.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society deepens pledge to fight blood cancer

someday is today



A longtime supporter of Dana-Farber, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) recently presented seven awards totaling nearly \$1.6 million to eight Dana-Farber researchers, continuing its commitment to eradicating blood cancers and improving the quality of life of blood cancer patients and their families.

Margaret Shipp, MD, chief of the Division of Hematologic Neoplasia at Dana-Farber, received a joint award from the Rising Tide Foundation for Clinical Cancer Research and LLS. With this Patient-Focused Immunotherapy Research Grant for Blood Cancer, Shipp is studying alterations in genes along the PD-1 pathway in primary central nervous system lymphoma and primary testicular lymphoma, which are both aggressive large B-cell lymphoma subtypes. In collaboration with Lakshmi Nayak, MD, the group is evaluating the efficacy of PD-1 blockade in these diseases.

Constantine Mitsiades, MD, PhD, received a Scholar award as part of LLS's Career Development Program (CDP). CDP awards provide support to rising stars in the blood cancer field during a critical time of their career. Mitsiades is researching various mechanisms by which multiple myeloma cells develop resistance to all available therapies,

including the role of several genes that are located near super-enhancers—master switches that turn genes on or off—and determining the best way to thwart such treatment resistance.

Shruti Bhatt, PhD; Irene Ghobrial, MD, director of Dana-Farber's Michele and Steven Kirsch Laboratory; and Selwin Wu, PhD, also received CDP awards. Bhatt is focusing on methods to improve therapy for acute myeloid leukemia (AML) by identifying agents that increase cell-death signaling; personalizing therapy by predicting response to targeted agents; and identifying pathway dependencies to design combination therapy for relapsed patients. Ghobrial is studying ways to eradicate precursor conditions like smoldering multiple myeloma before they become full-blown malignancies, and conducting clinical trials of common multiple myeloma drugs to determine if they can disrupt the interaction between cancer cells and immune cells during disease progression. Wu is investigating how extra centrosomes promote the secretion of prometastatic factors, and their impact in blood cancers dissemination.

Andrew Lane, MD, PhD, Sara Buhrlage, PhD, and Ellen Weisberg, PhD, received New Idea Awards, a grant program designed to identify novel research strategies with a potential for high impact on blood cancer. Lane will study HMGN1, an epigenetic protein that helps to unravel chromatin, the mass of genetic material in a cell's nucleus that includes

DNA. He will examine how HMGN1, which is frequently overexpressed in leukemia, affects the growth of AML cells, and ultimately how this may lead to new targets for therapy. Buhrlage and Weisberg are teaming up to identify deubiquitinating enzymes that stabilize oncogenic proteins including mutant FLT3 and JAK2 in AML and PML-RAR α in acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL).

"LLS is committed to supporting leading-edge research and is honored to help advance the paramount work of this esteemed group of researchers," said Louis DeGennaro, PhD, LLS president and chief executive officer. "Our longtime partnership with Dana-Farber helps to fulfill our shared mission to better understand blood cancers, improve treatments, and find cures." ■

"LLS is honored to help advance the paramount work of this esteemed group of researchers."

— LOUIS DEGENNARO, PhD, LLS president and chief executive officer



Using cookies to drive discovery science

It all started with 96,000 cookies, a vision, and a little boy named Liam. In 2007, Gretchen and Larry Witt were determined parents in pursuit of funding for a safer, more effective treatment for pediatric cancer after their son Liam was diagnosed at just 2 years old. With 250 volunteers in tow, the baking and selling of every single cookie that holiday season sparked a fire in the hearts of Gretchen, Larry, their community, and passionate people around the world. From that spark, Cookies for Kids' Cancer was born as a national non-profit organization just 8 months later.

"Shared values are the hallmark of all great partnerships and the one between Cookies for Kids' Cancer and Dana-Farber is no exception," said Gretchen Witt, whose organization has become a strong ally and beacon of hope for kids and families fighting pediatric cancer. Cookies for Kids' Cancer has generously supported pediatric research at the Institute in the past, and most recently awarded

grants totaling \$400,000 to fund work under the direction of Dana-Farber's Chair of Pediatric Oncology Scott Armstrong, MD, PhD, and W. Nicholas Haining, BCh, BM.

With this support, Armstrong and his colleagues are working to evaluate new drugs for infants and children with mixed lineage leukemia by first testing them in pediatric leukemia models. If the results of this study are positive, children could be included in clinical trials assessing these treatments going forward. Additionally, Haining's team is working to identify gene mutations that create tumor resistance to immunotherapy, and hope that deepening our knowledge about how tumors evade a patient's immune response will lead to new therapeutic strategies.

By partnering with those conducting promising research, Witt knows that the very sentiment that started Cookies For Kids' Cancer remains true today: "Together, we are making hope a reality." ■

"Together, we are making hope a reality."

— GRETCHEN WITT, co-founder, Cookies for Kids' Cancer

Dallai supports thoracic research in honor of his wife

There have been many recent promising advances in immunotherapy, which harnesses the body's own immune system to identify and destroy cancer cells. However, research in lung cancer and its challenging subtype, small cell lung cancer, receive a small portion of government funding. Riccardo Dallai hopes to change this through his generous gift to the Anna and Riccardo Dallai Family Endowed Fund for Small Cell Lung Cancer Research at Dana-Farber.

Riccardo started this fund after his wife, Anna, passed away from the disease in July 2014. Riccardo's recent gift of \$100,000 marks his third contribution to the fund, and will further 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. "The treatment landscape in small cell lung cancer is changing dramatically, and we greatly benefit from funds like this to fuel discovery and development of new therapies," Jackman said. "We hope to honor Anna's memory by using this gift to fight lung cancer with



Anna Dallai, with her son, Riccardo Jr., daughter-in-law, Sager, and husband, Riccardo, at the young couple's wedding in June 2014.

the same passion and resolve that Anna herself did."

Riccardo and his son, Riccardo Jr., maintain a close relationship with Dana-Farber because they greatly appreciate the doctors and staff who cared for Anna throughout her challenging treatment. "The care provided to our beloved wife and mother was tremendous, and it is important to continue to support Dana-Farber so other families in similar situations can benefit from our gift," they said. ■

Khanna Family Fund helps stem cell transplant patients avoid financial hardship

For many patients who receive potentially lifesaving stem cell transplants, the need for months of regular return medical appointments can be significantly draining on their finances and quality of life. A recent \$1 million gift from Homai Khanna and her sons, Raja and Samir, created the Khanna Family Fund for Transplant Patient Assistance at Dana-Farber to benefit families in need of financial assistance stemming from the added cost burden of transplantation.

“I have always wondered what happens to the people who cannot afford to go through a stem cell transplant, who had to wipe out their life’s savings,” said Homai Khanna, whose late husband, Radhey, was a patient of Joseph Antin, MD, chief and program director of Stem Cell Transplantation at Dana-Farber. “That was the motivation for my family and me to start this fund.”

Dana-Farber offers supportive resources to reduce the financial stress of cancer, helping patients and their families regain their footing so they can focus on their treatment and care. Though all of this support is made possible by philanthropy, only the

Khanna Family Fund is earmarked specifically for transplant patients.

Under the direction of Antin, the Khanna Family Fund helps transplant patients meet basic, critical needs, including short-term accommodations, utility payments, gift cards for gasoline and other transportation costs, and fees for post-transplantation home preparation.

Patients are assessed by resource specialists, social workers, and nurses to ensure the most effective use of all available resources before applying to the Khanna Family Fund for assistance.

To better understand the unique needs of transplant patients, Dana-Farber launched a study to quantify financial hardship after transplantation and evaluate its impact on long-term outcomes. The study found that 46 percent of patients reported declines in income and 56 percent reported financial hardship six months after transplantation. Those with financial hardship reported worse quality of life, lower treatment adherence, and shorter long-term survival.

“There is a clear opportunity to intervene to address financial hardship

and improve patients’ quality of life after transplantation,” said Antin. “The Khanna Family Fund will help to improve overall outcomes and enable patients and families to focus on what is most important—their health and the health of their loved ones.”

With this gift, the Khanna family

builds on their previous support of Dana-Farber. In 2010, they established the Homai and Radhey Khanna Family Fellowship for Stem Cell Transplantation to educate and train the next generation of physician-scientists in this highly specialized field. ■

“I have always wondered what happens to the people who cannot afford to go through a stem cell transplant, who had to wipe out their life’s savings. That was the motivation for my family and me to start this fund.”

— HOMAI KHANNA



The Khanna Family Fund helps Dana-Farber stem cell transplant patients in need of financial assistance. Above (from left): the late Radhey Khanna, his wife Homai, son Raja and his wife, Kristen, daughter-in-law Jael and son Samir, and their children.

Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night celebrates a record-breaking season



With several tournaments reaching fundraising milestones, and many more commemorating longtime participation, the Jimmy Fund Golf community celebrated their stalwart commitment to conquering cancer at the annual Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night. Hosted March 2 at Dana-Farber’s Boston Red Sox Jimmy Fund Auditorium, more than 150 tournament directors, golfers, and volunteers came together to help commemorate a record-breaking 2016 season, which raised more than \$7.2 million.

Among the many accolades bestowed that evening was the Ken Coleman Extra Mile Award, named in honor of the former Boston Red Sox sportscaster and presented annually to outstanding tournament volunteers. The 2016 recipient was Mary Lou Sabbag, above with event emcee Dave Madsen, Western Mass News anchor and past Jimmy Award recipient. Mrs. Sabbag’s efforts have helped the Robyn Elise Abrams Memorial Golf Tournament raise more than \$4.5 million over the course of 20 years.

Sutherland fuels quest for a cure

Victoria Sutherland started out her sixties with a bright outlook on life and lots of travel plans with her husband. Then life took a sudden turn: During a pre-op exam for a hip replacement, a tumor was found on her right upper lung. Further exams and a biopsy showed that, despite her healthy lifestyle, she had adenocarcinoma lung cancer with additional tumors in her brain and spine. Victoria and her husband entered the world of cancer in a state of shock that soon turned into their quest for a cure.

Victoria’s journey started in Southern California, where she lives. “Being new to cancer, we entered a world of ‘Who do you trust to be sure we are not missing any options?’” Victoria said. “It was scary times.”

Their search eventually brought them to Boston, where they met Pasi Jänne, MD, PhD, director of the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology and a specialist in the *EGFR* mutation driving Victoria’s cancer. To support Jänne’s promising research, Victoria made a generous gift of \$100,000 through The Three Sisters Foundation to establish the Sutherland Exon 18 Fund at Dana-Farber.

“We are very grateful for Victoria’s generous gift to help us find new strategies to combat *EGFR*-mutant lung cancer,” said Jänne. Victoria is now back in California receiving treatment, and Jänne continues to advise on her care. ■



Victoria Sutherland, above with her granddaughter, Mesa Luna, is advancing research in *EGFR* lung cancer with her generous gift.

Cancer Couch drives research for metastatic breast cancer

Rebecca Timlin-Scalera, PhD, a thriving neuropsychologist, athlete, wife, and mother, was shocked in August 2015 when she was misdiagnosed with stage IV metastatic breast cancer (MBC), which was later downgraded to stage IIIC. This experience revealed to Dr. Timlin-Scalera the vast difference between early and late-stage breast cancer, and the dire need for more research funding for stage IV, which is not yet curable. Vowing never to leave behind the women and men affected by MBC, Dr. Timlin-Scalera founded The Cancer Couch Foundation to create awareness and support for those living with MBC.

The volunteer-run, privately funded Cancer Couch recently made a gift of \$125,000 to Dana-Farber's Nikhil Wagle, MD, which was matched by the Breast Oncology Program under the direction of Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women's Cancers and Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research.

"Dr. Wagle is not only a researcher, he is an advocate," said Dr. Timlin-Scalera, the foundation's executive director. "When I was looking for the

best and the brightest, his name kept coming up. He puts himself out there with patients and the MBC community. He's a hero to them."

The Cancer Couch gift fuels two projects in Wagle's laboratory, exploring the role of the immune system and of HER2 mutations in estrogen receptor-positive MBC to identify new therapeutic approaches. "This collaboration between the Cancer Couch and Dana-Farber has great potential to make major advances for patients with metastatic breast cancer," said Wagle. "My colleagues and I are grateful for this generous and impactful gift." ■



Rebecca Timlin-Scalera, PhD, founder of The Cancer Couch Foundation.

Mitchells aim to bring hope to others with gift to support multiple myeloma research

Why don't we just focus on helping you get better?"

These were the first words Kenneth Anderson, MD, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and LeBow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics said to David Mitchell when he came to Dana-Farber after being diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2010. And they are words Mitchell says he will never forget.

"People told me to go to Dana-Farber, and that I had to see Ken Anderson because he's the best," said Mitchell. Six and a half years later, Mitchell says Anderson is always available, always responsive.

Because of the comprehensive care he continues to receive, Mitchell and his wife, Nicole, pledged \$100,000 to establish the David and Nicole Mitchell Family Fund for Multiple Myeloma Research.

"This generous support will allow us to develop combination immune therapies with great promise to improve patient outcomes," said Anderson, aligning with Mitchell's



Nicole and David Mitchell's gift honors Ken Anderson, MD, whom they fondly refer to as their "North Star" in guiding and providing outstanding care.

hope that more-targeted and less-toxic treatments will help more people. "The potency, adaptability, and selectivity of these approaches suggests that they will be both very effective and well tolerated."

"Cancer is a very scary disease and it took over our life," said Nicole Mitchell, herself a breast cancer survivor. "Ken helped us understand the disease, while the nurses and support staff looked after us and helped us navigate the side effects. The multiple myeloma team at Dana-Farber is as good as it gets." ■

Decoding cancer through gene sequencing



Where Good Taste Begins™

Bake'n Joy Chief Executive Officer

Bob Ogan knew he wanted to make a generous \$100,000 gift to Dana-Farber before he knew exactly what he wanted to fund. Ogan points out that "cancer has impacted all of our lives at one time or another. It is a disease of many." Was there a way to have an impact without being limited to cancer type, patient age, or prevalence of disease?

It turns out there was, and the answer was an initiative called Profile, led by Dana-Farber faculty including Chief Scientific Officer and Linde Family Professor Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD. Profile uses next-generation gene sequencing to analyze tumor samples, creating a database of

genetic information along with anonymous clinical data such as how a patient's cancer responded to different treatments. This enables researchers to better predict how effective a therapy will be for future patients with specific DNA alterations. To date, more than 17,000 tumor profiles have been generated, ranking Profile as one of the most comprehensive sets of cancer genomic data in the world.

The fight against a disease of many will require the commitment of many. Along with the project's participants, Ogan knows that "the Profile project is comprised of a group of doctors, scientists, and clinicians who have dedicated their lives to eradicate this dreadful disease. They have been gifted the intellect to succeed, but also, it is in their hearts as it is in mine." ■

"Cancer has impacted all of our lives at one time or another. It is a disease of many."

— BOB OGAN, CEO of Bake'n Joy

The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation positively propels innovative AML research

For Andrew McDonough, B+ was not just his blood type, but also his mantra and way of life.

Diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) in 2007 at 14 years of age, Andrew remained relentlessly positive throughout his battle with this disease. While he succumbed to AML later that year, his inspirational courage and legacy endure through The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation, which funds research to increase understanding of childhood cancers and advance more-precise, less-toxic treatment strategies.

Recently, the foundation made a \$107,000 grant to support the AML research of A. Thomas Look, MD, at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Building on a drug screening project made possible by a previous B+ Foundation grant, Look and his team are conducting a preclinical study to test the potential effectiveness in AML of four drugs approved by the FDA for human use to treat other diseases. By providing pre-clinical validation for further study in clinical trials, they hope to speed delivery of the most effective



The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation honors Andrew McDonough's life and legacy by supporting pediatric cancer research.

combination therapies to patients.

While the foundation is dedicated to achieving progress against all types of childhood cancers, AML remains a top target because of its connection with Andrew. Joe McDonough, foundation president and Andrew's father, said, "This one's very personal to us. If our small contribution to Dr. Look and Dana-Farber's work can save another family from a diagnosis of AML and the passing of their child, then we will find some small measure of comfort, as we honor Andrew's life and legacy." ■

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation supports early career researchers

DAMON RUNYON CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Since its founding in 1946, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation has been dedicated to making a difference for cancer patients by supporting the work of early career cancer researchers. Now more than ever, funding the work of talented physician-scientists at the start of their careers is crucially important. Early career investigators strive to make discoveries in the laboratory, develop novel ideas, utilize the latest tools and technologies, and advance innovative cancer treatment strategies while competing with more senior colleagues for increasingly limited federal funding.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, with a robust fellowship training program as well as dedicated faculty mentorship, provides a fertile environment for early career researchers to flourish. This makes Dana-Farber a perfect partner for Damon Runyon, which recently awarded three new grants to early

career investigators totaling more than \$1.1 million. With these awards the researchers will have the flexibility and resources needed to pursue their most promising projects.

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

The new grants awarded by Damon Runyon include \$460,000 to Giada Bianchi, MD, a member of Dana-Farber’s Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and LeBow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics.

“This support comes at a critical juncture in my career as a physician-scientist, when I’m pursuing this new research avenue,” said Bianchi.

Multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer that affects plasma cells, can develop from a precursor state called monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), but the cellular mechanisms that

propel MGUS to develop into multiple myeloma remain largely unknown. Bianchi is investigating whether activation of the *ROBO1* gene underlies the transformation from MGUS to multiple myeloma. Results from this study may provide a basis for developing biomarkers and novel therapies directed at blocking *ROBO1* signaling in multiple myeloma or precursor conditions like MGUS.

“This grant will enable my investigations into understanding the role *ROBO1* may play in the development of multiple myeloma,” added Bianchi.

Damon Runyon also awarded \$450,000 to Geoffrey Oxnard, MD, of the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology, to advance blood-based biopsy technology, which may rapidly and efficiently identify genetic mutations in cancer cells without the need for a traditional tumor biopsy.

Additionally, Eric Wang, PhD, in cancer biology, was awarded \$231,000 to identify new cellular targets that bolster immune responses with a particular focus on cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs) and targeted CDK inhibitor drugs. ■



Giada Bianchi, MD, and Geoffrey Oxnard, MD, received significant support from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation.

Patient assistance funds make treatment possible for children and adults

Over 60 years ago, Sidney Farber foresaw the economic impact that cancer treatment would have on patients, and called on society to alleviate this financial burden. Digital Federal Credit Union (DCU) and its charitable foundation, DCU for Kids, continue to answer this call with a significant gift to support Dana-Farber’s adult and pediatric patient assistance programs equally.

“The generous support provided by DCU and DCU for Kids has taken our program to a new level,” said Joe Chabot, MS, director of the Pediatric Resource Program at Dana-Farber. “We can be more proactive in assessing our families’ resource needs, which allows

us to identify and address financial hardship issues before they become barriers to care.”

Deborah Toffler, MSW, LCSW, director of Patient and Family Programs and Services, which serves adults, noted that DCU’s gift actually makes treatment possible for some patients by paying for everyday essentials, such as transportation and meals, which they could not otherwise afford.

As part of Dana-Farber’s patient assistance programs, resource specialists help identify benefits, such as supplementary health insurance for children and pharmaceutical co-pays for adults, that lessen the

financial burdens of cancer treatment and care. Dana-Farber’s patient assistance programs have long been recognized for their excellence, and Chabot and Toffler regularly visit and collaborate with other hospitals to advise them on establishing similar programs. ■



Joe Chabot, MS, and Deborah Toffler, MSW, LCSW, lead patient assistance programs made possible in part by DCU and DCU for Kids.

Morse gift supports the future of breast cancer research

In January, Phillip and Susan Morse established the Phillip H. and Susan K. Morse Fund with a generous gift of \$250,000 to support the research of estrogen-sensitive breast cancer. The fund will be overseen 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.

The gift will support innovative work that focuses on drug resistance to both hormonal agents and drugs that are called CDK 4/6 inhibitors. Both classes of drugs are highly effective, but resistance to the drugs can develop, particularly in women with metastatic breast cancer. A team of investigators in the breast cancer program will study mechanisms of resistance by obtaining biopsies from patients and performing comprehensive genomic analyses of the tumor tissue.

“Phillip and Susan are supporting our work in hormonally sensitive breast cancer, which represents approximately three quarters of all cases,” said Winer. “This is an area where much work is needed and the Morses’ generous gift will jumpstart our efforts.”



With their most recent gift, Phillip and Susan Morse are supporting research into estrogen-sensitive breast cancer.

“My wife was treated at Dana-Farber, and we are incredibly grateful for the care she received from Dr. Winer’s team,” said Morse. “Dana-Farber is on the forefront for determining the appropriate targeted treatment for breast cancer. We are so fortunate to have access to this revolutionary research.”

Since 2002, Morse has given over \$260,000 through the Boston Red Sox Partners’ Challenge as part of the WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon presented by Arbella Insurance Foundation, including purchasing the No. 9 Boston Red Sox/Jimmy Fund license plate, bringing the Morses’ generous support to more than \$500,000. ■

Prostate Cancer Foundation leads the way in funding groundbreaking research



The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is a global leader in funding groundbreaking prostate cancer research, with the ultimate goal of uncovering a cure for a disease estimated to strike 1 in 8 men during their lifetime.

Since its inception in 1993, the PCF has supported more than 2,000 research projects—and in October 2016, the foundation made four grants totaling \$1.03 million to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Ginevra Botta, PhD; Myles Brown, MD, director, Center for Functional Cancer Epigenetics; David Labbé, PhD; and Eliezer Van Allen, MD. All of these awards will help Dana-Farber investigators conduct critical research that explores the underlying biology behind prostate cancer and reveal new ways to attack its weaknesses.

Botta and Labbé both received PCF Young Investigator Awards, which aim to nurture innovative studies from the next generation of cancer researchers. Men with prostate cancer often have poor outcomes once their disease becomes resistant to standard treatment and metastasizes. Botta is exploring the mechanisms involved in this resistance, ultimately trying to identify novel

potential drug targets. Labbé is examining the connection between a fatty diet and poor survival outcomes. A fatty diet has been shown to change a cell’s inherited genetic program, so Labbé aims to learn more about these alterations and how they might lead to tumor growth.

Brown is leveraging his multi-institutional PCF Challenge Award to study the androgen receptor. He and his collaborators are using research models to see if blocking a protein called BAG-1, which partners with the androgen receptor in its normal and variant forms, could halt tumor growth. The team also aims to develop new drugs that could disrupt this interaction.

Van Allen and his partners, including Dana-Farber’s Alan D’Andrea, MD, director of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and director of the Center for DNA Damage and Repair, are using their Movember Foundation-PCF Challenge Award to bring precision medicine—which leverages the individual genetic makeup of each patient’s tumor to drive treatment—to greater numbers of patients. The team is working to identify and study the mutations that occur in the genes that regulate DNA repair; although these abnormalities drive certain subtypes of prostate cancer, they also cause the tumor cells to be sensitive to certain types of treatment. Through their studies, the researchers hope to confirm which treatments are most effective at targeting tumor cells with these mutations, as well as identify ways to prescreen



Myles Brown, MD, director of Dana-Farber’s Center for Functional Cancer Epigenetics, is studying ways to disrupt androgen receptor function and halt tumor growth with support from a Prostate Cancer Foundation Challenge Grant.

patients who might respond well to specific therapies.

“PCF is pleased to fund this outstanding group of investigators who join our research team to eradicate prostate cancer,” said Howard R. Soule, PhD, the foundation’s Chief Science Officer. ■

The Michael J. Fox Foundation funds research to benefit Parkinson’s patients



The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research (MJFF) has supported the work of Dana-Farber investigators with more than \$2 million in grants since 2011. Jarrod Marto, PhD, director of the Blais Proteomics Center at Dana-Farber, and Nathanael Gray, PhD, Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, recently received nearly \$200,000 in grants from MJFF to further studies of the *LRRK2* gene, which is associated with both Parkinson’s and cancer.

LRRK2 mutations are a genetic risk factor in both familial Parkinson’s disease and the more common sporadic form of the disease. Gray and his colleagues are investigating the fundamental biology of *LRRK2*, to evaluate the benefits of reduced *LRRK2* in managing the progression of Parkinson’s. Marto’s group is exploring *LRRK2*’s potential as a

therapeutic target using proteomic approaches.

“*LRRK2* mutations are one of the most common genetic causes of Parkinson’s disease,” said Marco Baptista, PhD, director of research programs at The Michael J. Fox Foundation. “MJFF is pioneering initiatives that bring industry and research groups together to advance understanding of how *LRRK2* dysfunction leads to Parkinson’s disease, and to speed collective efforts toward targeted therapies.”

MJFF, launched in 2000 by actor and advocate Michael J. Fox, seeks to accelerate breakthroughs that result in better outcomes for patients. Their support of physician-scientists at Dana-Farber may result in improved diagnosis, treatment options, and quality of life for Parkinson’s patients. ■

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

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Edward and Angeline Herbert leave generous bequest to help children with cancer

Edward Herbert considered himself a lucky man. He survived 28 months as a sergeant rifleman in the South Pacific during World War II, even as two friends standing on either side of him were killed. He married the love of his life, Angeline, in 1945, and the marriage lasted until her death 46 years later.

“The Herberts were the best example of the World War II generation,” said their longtime attorney, Gene Lucarelli. “They served their country, they worked hard, they saved, they were tough-minded but big-hearted and generous.” So generous, in fact, that when Edward Herbert passed away in 2014 at the age of 94, his charitable planning provided \$1 million in assets to fund pediatric oncology research at Dana-Farber.

Edward worked for 36 years as a hardware wholesaler, while Angeline was co-owner and operator of a photography business. Unable to have children of their own, they made the decision to help the children of others through their charitable giving, during their lifetimes and after death. Edward was shattered when Angeline

died of a heart attack at age 73, and until the end of his life, the mention of her name would move him to tears—and inspire him to sing a love song about her.

Their thoughtful planning and generosity resulted in a transformative gift to fund pediatric oncology research. “The Herberts’ faith in our pediatric cancer research program is an inspiration to those of us working to better understand and treat childhood cancers,” said Scott Armstrong, MD, PhD, chair of Pediatric Oncology at Dana-Farber.

Survival rates of children with cancer have improved dramatically over the last 30 years, but there is still work to do. Cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease among children, and gifts like the Herberts’ fund research that saves lives. One example is Dana-Farber’s recent clinical study of genetic abnormalities in pediatric brain tumors. Armed with genetic information about the disease, clinicians are better able to use precision medicine, in which treatments are targeted based on the molecular features of a patient’s tumor.

The physician-scientists at



Edward and Angeline Herbert’s generous charitable planning will help Dana-Farber’s youngest patients.

“The Herberts were the best example of the World War II generation.”

— GENE LUCARELLI, attorney for the estate of Edward Herbert

Dana-Farber seek to cure every child battling cancer. By generously bequeathing their estate to pediatric oncology research, Edward and

Angeline Herbert have left an enduring legacy that will undoubtedly make a difference in the lives of our youngest cancer patients and their families. ■

President’s Circle Appreciation Night recognizes loyal supporters at Fenway Park



At the 11th annual President’s Circle Appreciation Night at Fenway Park on April 5, 137 President’s Circle members were recognized for their ongoing and generous giving to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Members and their guests enjoyed ballpark fare and other goodies in the Champions Club before watching the Red Sox win against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

WEEI Red Sox Radio Network broadcaster Joe Castiglione (above, right) spoke about his longtime relationship with the Jimmy Fund, and Dana-Farber patient Brian Regan shared his inspiring story. The event was hosted by Dana-Farber Chief of Staff Richard Stone, MD, who shared updates from the Institute and thanked President’s Circle members for their steadfast commitment to Dana-Farber.

Life Sciences Research Foundation supports promising postdoctoral fellow



The Life Sciences Research Foundation (LSRF) was founded on the belief that providing training and support to exceptional young scientists will lead to breakthrough discoveries and innovations in biology for the public good. LSRF identifies and funds the work of outstanding postdoctoral fellows in all areas of the life sciences. Since LSRF has no endowment, it relies on philanthropic partnerships with organizations and individuals who believe in its mission.

In 2016, Dana-Farber’s Douglas Wheeler, MD, PhD, was among those who received the prestigious three-year Life Sciences Research Foundation fellowship. LSRF’s award to Wheeler was sponsored by Good Ventures.

Postdoctoral fellows generally have fewer opportunities to secure funding for their research than more seasoned investigators. Traditional funders

often require a robust track record of success that younger applicants lack. LSRF is bridging this gap and helping launch the careers of a new generation of world-class scientists.

Dr. Donald Brown, president of LSRF, said, “From a highly competitive pool of 1,000 applicants, our Peer Review Committee was pleased to support an extraordinary young scientist like Dr. Wheeler from Dana-Farber at this critical juncture in his career.”

With his \$180,000 award Wheeler will study lung cancer. Though several genes have been implicated in lung cancer, nearly 25 percent of patient genomes lack an identifiable gene that is driving tumor growth. Wheeler will use CRISPR-Cas9, a genome editing tool, to help identify additional genes that contribute to tumor formation. These novel cancer genes could ultimately serve as biomarkers or drug targets for more patients. ■

IWMF grant spurs deeper look into the genomics of Waldenström's macroglobulinemia



Supported by a nearly \$500,000 Discovery

Grant from the International Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia Foundation (IWMF), Dana-Farber physician-scientist Steven Treon, MD, PhD, is taking a deeper look at the molecular mechanisms that drive this slow-growing form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma so that potential new treatments can be developed.

In 2012, Treon, director of Dana-Farber's Bing

Center for Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia, discovered a mutation in the *MYD88* gene that drives about 90 percent of all Waldenström's cases. With the IWMF grant, Treon and his colleagues are studying how a specific mutation, called wild-type *MYD88*, contributes to Waldenström's development and progression. Patients with this mutation often do not respond to first-line therapies and have poor outcomes.

"The genomic basis for wild-type *MYD88* Waldenström's disease remains to be delineated," said Treon, "and may provide important insights into disease pathogenesis and the development of targeted therapies for this high-risk patient population."

Treon and his team are collaborating with

multidisciplinary experts across Dana-Farber to better understand the molecular drivers underlying Waldenström's and uncover the most promising novel therapeutic approaches. Their work delves into the genomics (genes), transcriptomics (gene expression), and epigenomics (the chemical modifications that alter gene expression) of Waldenström's to identify potential new treatment targets.

"As a longtime supporter of Dana-Farber, we are proud to fund Dr. Treon's groundbreaking research, which, ultimately, will result in better treatment options for patients," said IWMF President Carl Harrington. ■

Charles H. Hood Foundation supports promising investigators in pediatric cancer

Progress against pediatric cancers depends upon the vision of donors who invest in the next generation of researchers. Established in 1942, the Charles H. Hood Foundation embodies this forward-thinking approach through the Child Health Research Awards Program, which supports newly independent faculty at the beginning of their careers.

The foundation recently awarded a \$150,000 grant to Dana-Farber researcher Philip Kranzusch, PhD. This grant provides funding for his study of STING, an immune system

protein whose deregulation causes debilitating symptoms in children, such as chronic inflammation, severe tissue loss, and neurological impairment. Noting this project's potential for increasing understanding of childhood auto-immunity in general, Kranzusch credited the foundation for enabling him to innovate and expand his research.

"Support from the Charles H. Hood Foundation is critical as it allows us to begin a new research direction studying STING-associated disease, potentially leading to improved treatments," Kranzusch said.

According to Robert Sege, MD, PhD, executive director of the Charles H. Hood Foundation, grant funding for junior faculty leverages durable benefits for children and families by launching the careers of promising researchers who can contribute to pediatric cancer science for years to come. He said, "We are pleased to support Dr. Kranzusch and other talented investigators as they advance innovative research, develop as leaders in the field, and build for the future of childhood health." ■



Philip Kranzusch, PhD, is analyzing the underlying mechanisms of the immune system with the support of the Charles H. Hood Foundation.

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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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For the third consecutive year, Boston Red Sox players Pablo Sandoval (left) and Brock Holt, pictured here with Dana-Farber patient Madie at Spring Training, have returned to serve as Jimmy Fund Co-Captains for the 2017 baseball season. The two ambassadors will raise awareness for the Jimmy Fund and build support for adult and pediatric research and patient care at Dana-Farber.

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–AUGUST 31

Jimmy Fund Little League

Presented by Extra Innings and Franklin Sports

Support Little League teams throughout New England who are fundraising to strike out cancer while continuing their season of play. Top district fundraisers will be invited to attend Jimmy Fund Little League game day at Fenway Park. Contact: Katherine Bahrawy at 617-632-3863 or Katherinel_Bahrawy@dfci.harvard.edu.



NOW–DECEMBER 1

Cheer for Dana-FarberSM

Presented by Plymouth Rock Assurance

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: Sarah Hunt at 617-632-5461 or SarahW_Hunt@dfci.harvard.edu.



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 a 2017 home game as well as other great prizes. Contact: Katherine Bahrawy at 617-632-3863 or Katherinel_Bahrawy@dfci.harvard.edu.



JULY 24–SEPTEMBER 3

A Chance for Kids & Families[®]

Give \$1 at the register of participating Burger King[®] and Valvoline Instant Oil ChangeSM 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 617-582-9675 or Kate_Brown@dfci.harvard.edu.



AUGUST 5–6

Pan-Mass Challenge

More than 6,000 riders will bike across the Commonwealth in the 38th Pan-Mass Challenge with a goal of raising \$48 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to cancer research and care. Make a gift to support a rider at PMC.org.



AUGUST 15–16

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: Teresa Dabrila at 617-582-8342 or visit JimmyFundRadioTelethon.org.



AUGUST 20

New Balance Falmouth Road Race



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

SEPTEMBER 24

Boston Marathon[®] Jimmy Fund Walk

Presented by Hyundai

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 all forms of cancer at Dana-Farber. Register today at JimmyFundWalk.org or contact Robert Hendrickson at 866-531-9255 or JimmyFundWalk@dfci.harvard.edu.



OCTOBER 8

B.A.A. Half Marathon[®]



Register now to join the official Dana-Farber team and raise funds to conquer cancer, or make a gift to support a runner. Visit RunDanaFarber.org or contact Kelly Wicks at 617-632-1970 or DFRunners@dfci.harvard.edu.