

# Milestones 2021



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on another consequential year at Dana-Farber, I remain inspired and honored to be a part of this community. In a year that presented many ongoing challenges, we never missed a beat in advancing scientific discovery and providing world-class cancer care, and continued to set bold goals for the future—all because we can count on you, our generous supporters.

In May, we announced The Dana-Farber Campaign, our ambitious, multi-year \$2 billion fundraising effort that is the largest in the Institute's history and one of the largest ever in the U.S. focused solely on cancer. Philanthropy through the campaign will accelerate our strategic priorities by supporting revolutionary science, extraordinary care, exceptional expertise, and essential opportunities—helping us prevent, treat, and Defy Cancer.

These critical funds enable our clinicians' and researchers' continued progress in ensuring the best possible care for our patients. This year, Dana-Farber contributed to new FDA approvals, reported promising outcomes in clinical trials for difficult-to-treat diseases, identified new drug targets, advanced immunotherapy research, and broke new ground in epigenetics.

In 2021, Dana-Farber further expanded our efforts to improve inclusion, diversity, and equity in the delivery of our health care. We co-developed recommendations with the National Cancer Institute to address care inequities, partnered with health centers in marginalized communities, expanded patient navigation for Boston's most vulnerable populations, and pursued plans to improve the diversity of our workforce.

Philanthropy is crucial to bringing progress like this to bear for patients who need us. Thanks to our passionate community of donors, with your unwavering resilience and generous gifts of all sizes, we can continue to prove the power of scientific progress and help more patients everywhere. On behalf of everyone at Dana-Farber, I thank you, and wish you a wonderful start to 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie H. Glimcher".

Laurie H. Glimcher, MD  
President and CEO, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School



## Revolutionary Science

### FDA Approvals

Thanks to clinical trials led by Dana-Farber, the FDA approved the first CART-T-cell therapies for indolent follicular lymphoma and multiple myeloma, major milestones that bring hope for patients with relapsed or resistant forms of these diseases.

### Prevention for Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer

New research from Dana-Farber suggests that consuming higher amounts of Vitamin D, mainly from dietary sources, may help protect against developing young-onset colorectal cancer—the first study to show this association.

### Staying Power of Cancer Vaccine

Nearly four years after receiving the personalized vaccine NeoVax, pioneered at Dana-Farber, the immune response of melanoma patients in a Dana-Farber clinical trial not only remained robust and effective, but even expanded to provide patients with additional protection from the disease.

### Targeting BRCA Mutations

Dana-Farber researchers discovered that an antibiotic from the 1950s selectively targets and kills cancer cells with BRCA1 and 2 mutations—even those resistant to PARP inhibitors—sparking plans for a clinical trial.

### Epigenetics Breakthrough

Dana-Farber scientists have created the most complete 3D structural model of a key molecular “machine” known as the BAF complex, providing a critical foundation for understanding how mutations in the complex lead to cancerous growth in as many as 20% of cancers.

### Promising Uterine Cancer Trial

A new targeted drug showed promising results in its first clinical trial for a hard-to-treat form of uterine cancer led by Dana-Farber. The drug caused tumors to shrink in nearly one-third of patients, an encouraging outcome in a disease with limited effective treatment options.



King, a patient in Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic, pictured above with Sara Shobin, NP.

## Extraordinary Care

### Support for Caregivers

The Pediatric Psychosocial Oncology Program launched a new online support program for parents and caregivers of pediatric patients, with a toolbox of resources to foster connections. Dana-Farber is the first to offer a completely virtual version of what has historically been an in-person gathering.

### Bringing Care to the Community

Dana-Farber's Cancer Care Equity Program partnered with Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center in Dorchester to bring cancer prevention, education, diagnosis, and treatment to underserved patients. Embedding oncology practices in local communities has shown early positive results in addressing persistent health care disparities.

### Working to Eliminate Racial Bias

Dana-Farber partnered with the FDA and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) to release recommendations aimed at eliminating racial bias in clinical trials for multiple myeloma, which is twice as deadly in African Americans as in white people.

### Expanding Our National Reach

Dana-Farber joined AccessHope as the exclusive Northeast partner to establish a national platform for remote delivery of written second opinions to cancer patients and their treating physicians, enabling patients across the country to benefit from Dana-Farber's expertise.

To learn more about our world-class research and patient care, or to get involved, please visit: [Dana-Farber.org](https://Dana-Farber.org) | [JimmyFund.org](https://JimmyFund.org) | [DefyCancer.org](https://DefyCancer.org)

Follow us: @Dana-Farber | @TheJimmyFund | @DefyCancer





Cigall Kadoch, PhD, who leads epigenetic research at Dana-Farber, was named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator in 2021.

## Exceptional Expertise

### #3 in the World for Cancer

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute was named the #3 cancer hospital in the world by *Newsweek* in its World's Best Specialized Hospitals rankings.

### Top in New England, Top 4 Nationwide

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been the top-ranked cancer hospital in New England by *U.S. News & World Report* for 21 consecutive years, and is the only cancer center in the country ranked in the top 4 for both adult and pediatric cancer programs.

### Giants of Cancer Care

Five Dana-Farber faculty were named Giants of Cancer Care® by OncLive for their exceptional contributions to cancer research and clinical practice—one third of the prestigious 2021 class.

### #1 Women-Led Business

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, president and CEO, are #1 on the list of Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts, *The Boston Globe* and The Commonwealth Institute's annual list of noteworthy companies and nonprofits led by women.

### Top Doctors

*Boston* magazine named more than 110 physicians and surgeons affiliated with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to its annual "Top Doctors" guide, recognizing their expert and compassionate care.

### Nursing Excellence

Dana-Farber was awarded the 2021 American Red Cross Nursing Hero Medal for the lifesaving work and tireless dedication of the Dana-Farber nursing heroes on the front line of the pandemic.

### THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

## Jonathan's Story



A welder for his entire working life, Jonathan Owens was diligent about keeping himself in shape. But as he reached his 50th birthday, like many of his similarly aged friends he had never had any type of colon screening. Learning he had stage IV metastatic colon cancer in 2015 shocked and scared Owens, but it also made him resolute. There was still time for him to get treatment—and to share some wisdom.

The burden of colorectal cancer disproportionately affects African Americans, who are over 20% more likely to get the disease. Owens hopes that by sharing his story, he might lessen some of that gap.

"My men friends basically have a fear around the whole idea of getting a colonoscopy—I tell them it's an easy procedure that can save their lives," says Owens, 58, who gives his care team at Dana-Farber high praise. "Without them I wouldn't be here today."

**At Dana-Farber we are committed** to an inclusive community where human differences are valued and celebrated, and where all are welcome. We work every day to create an innovative, caring, and inclusive environment where each patient, family, and staff member feels valued and respected.

**Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund** share patient stories which may include descriptions of actual medical results. Dana-Farber provides personalized care for each patient based on their unique needs; their experiences and results will vary.

**To be removed from our mailing list**, please contact: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute & The Jimmy Fund, Division of Philanthropy, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th Floor, Brookline, MA 02445-7226; 617-632-3019 or 800-52-JIMMY; or visit [JimmyFund.org/opt-out](http://JimmyFund.org/opt-out).

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



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**William C. Hahn, MD, PhD**, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine for his fundamental contributions in the understanding of cancer initiation, maintenance, and progression.



**Judy Garber, MD, MPH**, received the Brinker Award for Scientific Distinction in Clinical Research from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, for her contributions in clinical cancer genetics.

**Benjamin Ebert, MD, PhD**, received the 2021 Stanley J. Korsmeyer Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation for his contributions to research and treatment of myeloid malignancies.



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