

REPORT CARD

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Highlights and Achievements Fiscal Year 2008

Damon Runyon Scientists – Honors and Awards

- > **5 Damon Runyon alumni** were elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors that can be accorded to an American scientist. Damon Runyon's total is now 39.
- > **11 of 56** new Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators were former Damon Runyon Fellows.

Damon Runyon Scientists – Top Discoveries 2008

- > Cure of a Stage 4 melanoma patient using a new form of immunotherapy – a first.
Cassian Yee, MD, *Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center*
- > Development of a saliva test to enable early detection of head and neck cancers.
Joseph A. Califano, MD, *The Johns Hopkins University*
- > Discovery of a molecule that is critical to the proliferation of malignant brain cells, which gives hope for new therapies to target the most deadly form of brain cancer.
Jeremy N. Rich, MD, *Duke University Medical Center*
- > Identification of the cause of a potentially fatal allergic reaction some patients had to the cancer drug Erbitux.
Christine H. Chung, MD, *Vanderbilt University Medical Center*
- > Demonstration that cancers metabolize sugar differently than normal cells, potentially identifying a way to starve cancers.
Matthew G. Vander Heiden, MD, PhD,
Harvard Medical School
- > Establishment of the human papillomavirus (HPV) as a cause of head and neck cancers.
Maura L. Gillison, MD, PhD, *The Johns Hopkins University*
- > Demonstration that a promising cancer drug that targets cancer cells will not harm healthy cells, as previously assumed.
Ivan Maillard, MD, PhD, *University of Michigan*

2008



Damon Runyon
Cancer Research
Foundation

FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

- > **Scientific Awards:** 116 scientists at 39 institutions were funded through Damon Runyon Awards.
- > **Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award launches:** 3 scientists were selected from a pool of 400 applicants as the first recipients of the \$450,000 Innovation Award grant that promotes high risk, high return research.
- > **Donations:** \$11 million (up 30% over 2007).
- > **Operating costs:** \$1.8 million, paid from the Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets service and endowment.
- > **Annual Breakfast** honoring John Angelo, CEO of Angelo, Gordon & Co, raised \$2 million.
- > **Go Vertical Chicago**, the stair climb to the top of the Sears Tower, raised \$340,000 through sponsorship and the fundraising efforts of 2000 participants.
- > **Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets** sold more than 5000 seats, raising more than half a million dollars.

DAMON RUNYON CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

MISSION:

- 1 Recruit** the most brilliant young scientists into cancer research.
- 2 Accelerate** the translation of scientific discoveries into new diagnostic tools and treatments.
- 3 Enable** risk taking on bold new ideas.

100% of all donations support scientific research.

All administrative and fundraising expenses are paid through the Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets service and endowment.

2008



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www.damonrunyon.org