

Damon Runyon
Cancer Research
Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

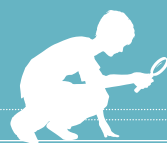
BUILDING A BRIDGE

Accelerating discovery
from **lab** to **patient**



The best in the business

The mission of the **Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation** is to identify the best early career scientists and encourage them to dedicate themselves to cancer research. Over our 63-year history, we have selected the most brilliant scientists, those with fresh insights and bold ideas. They have gone on to make breakthrough discoveries about the complexities of the human cell and the causes of cancer, and to develop innovative approaches to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the many forms of this disease.



100% of all donations fund cancer research

(Overhead is paid through Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets and our endowment)

The best doctors understand cancer on a personal level.
The best scientists understand cancer on the molecular level.
Those who bridge both roles will accelerate breakthroughs.

In this report, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Clinical Investigator Award, a groundbreaking program to create an elite group of physicians capable of translating laboratory research into new treatments for patients.

Thanks to the vision of the Damon Runyon Board of Directors and very generous support from Eli Lilly and Company, the Award was established in 2000 to help bridge the “bench to bedside” gap. The Award focuses on

physician-scientists who have direct contact with patients, as epitomized by the ‘handshake rule’, which requires that they have personal involvement with patients engaged in their research and clinical trials.

By providing salary and research support, mentorship by leading senior clinical investigators and up to \$100,000 in medical school loan repayment, this prestigious program has helped build a new corps of outstanding investigators.

In the past 10 years, we have funded 48 exceptional individuals, a few of whom are highlighted in this report.





NEW HOPE

Colleen S. Delaney, MD, MSc, Damon Runyon-Novartis Clinical Investigator
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

WHEN TYLER COLOSIMO FIRST met Dr. Colleen Delaney he had just started his final year of college, but it wasn't clear that he would finish. Tyler had an aggressive form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) and his prognosis was "grim."

In AML patients, abnormal white blood cells grow rapidly and accumulate in the bone marrow, interfering with the production of normal blood cells. AML progresses quickly and is typically fatal within weeks or months if left untreated.

Tyler was told that without a bone marrow transplant, his form of AML had a 100% chance of relapse. Additionally, a suitable donor could not be identified – a situation common to approximately 30% of Caucasians and most minority or mixed ethnicity patients. For these patients, umbilical cord blood offers the hope of a cure, and Tyler became the third person to enroll in Dr. Delaney's experimental cord blood transplant trial.

Like bone marrow, umbilical cord blood contains blood stem cells that can form all the components of our blood and immune system. Also, being "immunologically naive", cord blood does not require close matching with



“Seeing my patients healthy is what gives me a thrill beyond belief. They are my motivation.” – Dr. Delaney

the patient, which vastly increases donor options.

However, umbilical cord blood contains only one tenth of the stem cells than that of bone marrow. As a result, there is a significant delay (of up to four weeks after treatment) in the return of the blood system, in particular the white blood cells that fight infection. This is a critically dangerous waiting period for patients, who often encounter severe infections that can be fatal.

Dr. Delaney’s lab uses novel technology that dramatically increases the number of cord blood stem cells available for the patient. On the day of Tyler’s transplant, Dr. Delaney delivered the “expanded” unit herself and stayed by Tyler’s bedside during the infusion, as she does for all of her patients.

Within nine days, Tyler began to show signs of white cell recovery. Within four

weeks, he was discharged from the hospital, free of any symptoms of cancer. He has now graduated from college and is hoping to begin teaching English in South Korea in the near future.

“To see Tyler back after two years and looking so good – what’s better than that?” says Dr. Delaney.

Of her Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award, Dr. Delaney says:

“The Damon Runyon Award enabled me to ask questions in the lab and then bring them to the bedside. It also enabled me to recruit personnel support that was absolutely vital to move these experiments forward.

From initial concept to where we are now was a six-year process, and it is still continuing. Seeing my patients healthy is what gives me a thrill beyond belief. They are my motivation.”



CURING KIDS

Patrick A. Brown, MD, Damon Runyon-Lilly Clinical Investigator
The Johns Hopkins University

“ON THE FIRST DAY ROTATING
on the pediatric oncology
ward as a medical student,
I met these kids and their
parents and was blown away
by their strength in the
face of incredibly difficult
circumstances.

That, and having a real fascination with leukemia as a disease process, I remember having the gut feeling that I had finally figured out what I wanted to do,” says Dr. Patrick A. Brown, a pediatric oncologist who also researches childhood leukemias.

Dr. Brown sees patients like four-year-old Joshua Czorapinski, who has been battling an acute form of leukemia since he was an infant.

“For decades, patients like Joshua have had to endure years of treatment with chemotherapy. In these high risk cases, chemo tends to be less effective and can have terrible short- and long-term side effects,” Dr. Brown says.

Dr. Brown and his colleagues have developed a promising new drug that selectively targets a gene that drives an acute form of childhood leukemias. Having seen promising results in



→ Treatment

“With the help of the Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award, we have developed this new targeted therapy that we hope will revolutionize treatment for these children by attacking the cancer cells and not the patient’s normal cells.” –Dr. Brown

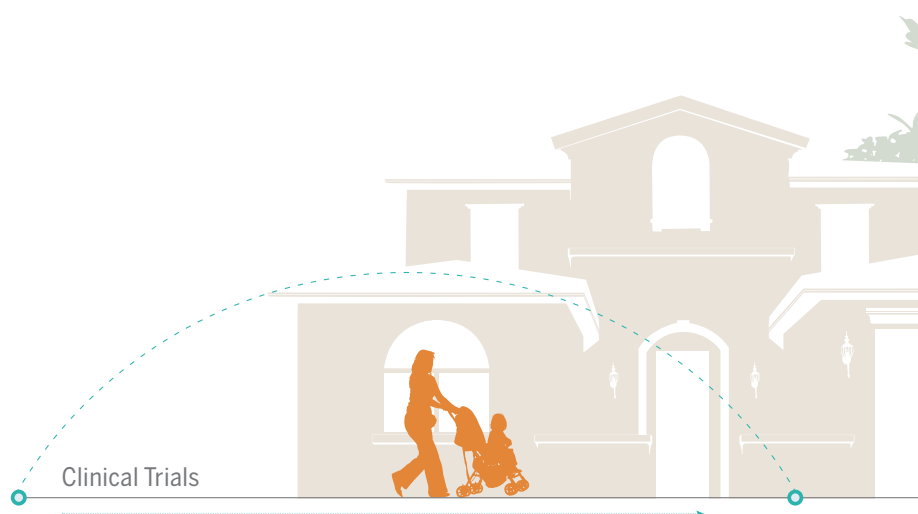
laboratory models and early adult clinical trials, he is now testing this drug in two national Phase I and II clinical trials of children with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) and acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). He is also devising methods to predict which children are likely to respond to this treatment. Because of the importance of this work, he was recently awarded an additional two years of funding from Damon Runyon.

“With the help of the Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award, we have developed this new targeted therapy that we hope will revolutionize treatment for these children by attacking the cancer cells and not the patient’s normal cells,” he says. “The ultimate goal is to improve childhood cure rates for leukemia in a way that leaves the children able to fully function and enjoy the rest of their lives.”

Ami Czorapinski, Joshua’s mother, says, “So much of what Dr. Brown does is

hands-on. As a researcher, he can see the problem and act on it. As a doctor, he knows how to get down to a kid’s level and also how to make parents feel comfortable.

Cancer research has played a huge role in our journey with Joshua, who was diagnosed as an infant. The fact that Dr. Brown could take Joshua’s cells and work on them, and add to the body of knowledge about infant leukemia, is very important. We hope that it will help other parents whose children have this disease.”



FRESH APPROACH

Vered Stearns, MD, Damon Runyon-Lilly Clinical Investigator
The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

“I JOINED DR. STEARNS’
clinical trial simply because
I wanted to make sure I gave
myself every opportunity to
succeed in my health.

And, as a mother of a young daughter, I look to the next generation and want to be part of a process to identify better drugs,” says Mari Kate Connolly, a 34-year-old mother who has an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Dr. Vered Stearns is taking a fresh approach to testing new drug combinations on patients with aggressive breast cancer. Mari Kate is taking part in one of her most recent studies to test a drug that is already approved for lymphoma and may also make breast cancer more susceptible to chemotherapy.

“The traditional approach is to try new drugs or combinations after patients have already had surgery. In these situations, it can be difficult to see the effectiveness of new treatments because the significant mass of cancer cells – the tumor – has been removed.



“Knowing that Dr. Stearns is a researcher is a huge benefit, as she can talk firsthand about the studies.” – Mari Kate Connolly

“In some cases, we can test new therapies before the tumor is removed. In this way we can see changes in the tumor within the breast itself. This is what my clinical trials are focused on now – testing promising combinations and utilizing this approach to see clearly and quickly what works,” says Dr. Stearns.

Since receiving the Clinical Investigator Award in 2000, Dr. Stearns has led more than 20 breast cancer studies. Her work has identified new, promising drug combinations and has great potential to significantly improve therapy regimens for breast cancer patients.

“We need to try new ideas to make progress, and if there is a drug that could give me a couple of extra percentage points (towards survival), then I’ll take it,” says Mari Kate.

“Knowing that Dr. Stearns is a researcher is a huge benefit, as she can talk firsthand

about the studies. There’s a sense of passion, a real desire to make advances. She also has a genuine care for me as a patient. I feel fortunate to be with her.”

Dr. Stearns, who was part of the inaugural group of Damon Runyon Clinical Investigators, added, “The Foundation has been enormously helpful in giving me and other physician-scientists protected time to balance research and clinical work. It gave me flexibility and also offered some repayment of my medical school loan, and this was very important in keeping me in the academic setting.

“My patients motivate me to do better – they drive me to do the research. Also, the observations that patients and their families make help to generate new research questions. So the connection is essential for translational research.”

More Extraordinary Physicians and Breakthrough Research

In the decade since its founding, the Clinical Investigator Award has supported studies and clinical trials that have made a significant impact in the field of cancer research. More importantly, this work is already helping cancer patients.

Some of these outstanding discoveries are highlighted here:

Immunotherapy Breakthrough

Cure of advanced-stage melanoma using the patient's own immune cells.

Cassian Yee, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Pioneering Cancer Stem Cell Research in Brain Tumors

Determining why cancer stem cells are resistant to treatment and finding new ways to make them vulnerable.

Jeremy N. Rich, MD, Cleveland Clinic

New Skin Cancer Vaccine

Developed immunotherapy-based melanoma vaccine that is approved for canine use and is currently being tested in humans.

Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

HPV Identified as a Cause of Head-And-Neck Cancer

Establishment of the human papillomavirus (HPV) as a cause of head-and-neck cancers, and discovery that HPV-related cancers respond to treatment differently than non-HPV-related cancers.

Maura L. Gillison, MD, PhD, The Ohio State University

Making Personalized Medicine a Reality

Development of a new technique that could allow cancer patients to receive personalized treatments based on genetic profiles of their own tumors, decreasing unwanted side effects and improving cure rates.

Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and **William R. Sellers, MD**, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research



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2009

Damon Runyon Award Programs

Damon Runyon Fellowship Award

Supports the training of the brightest postdoctoral scientists as they embark upon their research careers. The funding enables them to be mentored by established investigators in leading research laboratories across the country.

THREE-YEAR AWARD

Basic Scientists: \$140,000

Physician-Scientists: \$174,000

Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award

Supports early career physician-scientists conducting patient-oriented research. The goal of this innovative program is to increase the number of physicians capable of moving seamlessly between the laboratory and the patient's bedside in search of breakthrough treatments.

THREE- TO FIVE-YEAR AWARD

\$450,000 to \$750,000 plus up to \$100,000 for medical school loan repayment.

Continuation Grant*

Supports Damon Runyon Clinical Investigators who are approaching the end of their original three-year awards and need extra time and funding to complete a promising avenue of research or initiate/continue a clinical trial.

TWO-YEAR AWARD

\$300,000

* This program, initiated this year, is possible through the generous support of the William K. Bowes, Jr., Foundation, and Connie and Robert Lurie.

Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award

Supports the next generation of exceptionally creative thinkers with high-risk, high-reward ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and/or approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer.

THREE-YEAR AWARD

\$450,000

*This program is supported by a founding grant from Andy and Debbie Rachleff.

Damon Runyon Fellowship Award Committee 2009

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Damon Runyon Fellowship Awards

CALIFORNIA

Lu Gan, PhD

"Electron cryotomography of a eukaryotic nucleus" with Grant J. Jensen, PhD, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena

Maya Capelson, PhD

"Investigation into the role of the nuclear pore complex in chromatin function" with Martin W. Hetzer, PhD, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla

Sharsti L. Sandall, PhD *

"Mechanisms regulating maintenance of stem cells and the niche in *Drosophila*" with D. Leanne Jones, PhD, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla

Sarah E. Tully, PhD

Conrad Hilton Fellow

"A functional proteomic strategy to characterize endocannabinoid biosynthetic enzymes" with Benjamin F. Cravatt, III, PhD, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla

Sean C. Bendall, PhD *

"Improved single-cell phospho-protein signaling analysis of oncogenic progression in leukemia" with Garry P. Nolan, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

Won-Suk Chung, PhD *

"Heterogeneity of astrocytes in their origins and regenerative potentials" with Ben A. Barres, MD, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

Liana F. Lareau, PhD *

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow

"Global analysis of the role of 5' untranslated regions in the regulation of translation" with Patrick O. Brown, MD, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

Benjamin R. Myers, PhD *

"Analyzing the mechanism of Hedgehog signaling regulation by the Patched protein" with Philip A. Beachy, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

Cara T. Pager, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

"The role of liver-specific microRNA-122 in Hepatitis C virus gene expression" with Peter Sarnow, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

Yu Wong, MD, PhD †

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow

"Development of novel T cell repertoire assay for the study of the immune response to breast cancer" with Mark M. Davis, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

Xiaomeng Milton Yu, PhD

"Investigating the mechanisms that determine localized axon degeneration during *Drosophila* mushroom body γ neuron pruning" with Liqun Luo, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

Michael D. Gordon, PhD

"Taste circuits and motor control in *Drosophila melanogaster*" with Kristin Scott, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Chitra V. Kotwaliwale, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow

"Regulation of meiotic chromosome behavior in *Caenorhabditis elegans*" with Abby F. Dernburg, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Dipali G. Sashital, PhD

"Biochemical and structural investigation of Piwi-interacting RNA biogenesis" with Jennifer A. Doudna, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Sarah E. Siegrist, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

"Mechanisms of adult neurogenesis in *Drosophila melanogaster*" with Iswar K. Hariharan, MBBS, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Karsten H. Siller, PhD

"Mechanisms of homeostatic synaptic scaling" with Lu Chen, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Hayan Yoon, PhD

"GABAergic inhibition in drug addiction and reward-dependent learning" with Mu-Ming Poo, PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Orkun Akin, PhD *

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow

"Identification and characterization of *Drosophila* Dscam cytoplasmic domain binding partners" with S. Lawrence Zipursky, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Christopher S. Campbell, PhD *

"Control of the chromosomal passenger complex by post-translational modification" with Arshad B. Desai, PhD, University of California, San Diego

Erhu Cao, PhD

"Structure and physiology of sensory TRP channels" with David J. Julius, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Lee Stirling Churchman, PhD

Merck Fellow

"Exploring mammalian endocytic pathways using quantitative RNAi-based genetic interaction maps" with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Gianna Elena Hammer, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

"Coordination of dendritic cell maturation and immune responses by the ubiquitin modifying enzyme A20" with Averil Ma, MD, University of California, San Francisco

Thomas M. Huckaba, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow

"Identification and characterization of tubulin acetylase" with Ronald D. Vale, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Rebecca A. Ihrie, PhD

"Decoding signaling pathway interactions in brain tumor development" with Arturo Alvarez-Buylla, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Melissa R. Junttila, PhD

Enrique Cepero, PhD, Fellow

"Re-designing p53-mediated tumor suppression" with Gerard I. Evan, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Krista Kaasik, PhD

"Mechanisms of GSK3 dependent circadian phosphoproteome-relevance for tumorigenesis" with Ying-Hui Fu, PhD, and Louis J. Ptáček, MD, University of California, San Francisco

Guangshuo Ou, PhD

"Cellular events underlying organ repair in planaria" with Ronald D. Vale, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Avi Priel, PhD

"Looking for novel thermoreceptors in the mammalian nervous system" with David J. Julius, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Timothy O. Street, PhD

Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

"Investigating the physical basis of substrate interaction with the HSP90 protein chaperone" with David A. Agard, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Jesse Zalatan, PhD *

"Elucidating the kinetic mechanism by which a scaffold protein regulates MAPK signaling" with Wendell A. Lim, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

COLORADO

Jianfu (Jeff) Chen, PhD *

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow

"The role of folic acid in the maintenance of X inactivation" with Lee A. Niswander, PhD, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora

CONNECTICUT

Jelena Bezbradica, PhD

*Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Fellow*

"Molecular basis for transcription-independent cytokine regulation of immune responses" with Ruslan M. Medzhitov, PhD, Yale University, New Haven

Oscar R. Colegio, MD, PhD *

"Defining the role of the innate immune system in tumor progression and metastasis" with Ruslan M. Medzhitov, PhD, Yale University, New Haven

Kristina M. Herbert, PhD *

*Howard Hughes Medical
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"Regulation and mechanism of pri-miRNA processing by Drosha and DGCR8" with Joan A. Steitz, PhD, Yale University, New Haven

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Fayez Sarofim Fellow

"Defining the functional interface between *Campylobacter jejuni* and its mammalian host cells" with Jorge E. Galán, PhD, DVM, Yale University, New Haven

ILLINOIS

Brian J. Yeh, PhD

"Determining how a conserved signaling network establishes cell fate asymmetry" with Eric L. Weiss, PhD, Northwestern University, Chicago

MARYLAND

Mary G. Goll, PhD

"Genetic analysis of transcriptional silencing in the vertebrate brain" with Marnie E. Halpern, PhD, Carnegie Institution for Science, Baltimore

Chuan-Hsiang Huang, MD, PhD *

Harold L. Plotnick Fellow

"Adaptation and gradient amplification in the chemotaxis signaling pathway" with Peter N. Devreotes, PhD, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra M. Deaconescu, PhD

*Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Fellow*

"Elucidation of the mechanism of transcription-DNA repair coupling" with Nikolaus Grigorieff, PhD, Brandeis University, Waltham

Michael J. Emanuele, PhD

*Philip O'Bryan Montgomery,
Jr., MD, Fellow*

"Identification and characterization of proteins with altered stabilities in response to DNA damage" with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

Xu Tan, PhD *

"Study of the BRCA1 A complex in DNA damage response" with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

Akinyemi I. Ojesina, MBBS, PhD

Rebecca Ridley Kry Fellow

"Pathogen discovery and genomic characterization of infection-associated lymphomas" with Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Eric J. Bennett, PhD

"Deubiquitylating enzymes as molecular regulators of oncogenesis" with J. Wade Harper, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston

Jason Michael Crawford, PhD *

"Systematic approaches to discovering bioactive bacterial metabolites" with Jon Clardy, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston

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Yunsun Nam, PhD

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Elizabeth S. Sattely, PhD

"Biosynthesis of covalent bonds between heteroatoms: mechanistic understanding for the development of novel therapeutics" with Christopher T. Walsh, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston

Ilan Wapinski, PhD *

*Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Fellow*

"Unraveling the costs and benefits of gene expression on cellular growth" with Roy Kishony, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston

William J. Greenleaf, PhD *

"Fluorogenic single-molecule fluorescence enzymology" with X. Sunney Xie, PhD, Harvard University, Cambridge

Yoh Isogai, PhD

"Molecular mechanisms of innate defensive behaviors in rodents" with Catherine Dulac, PhD, Harvard University, Cambridge

László Kürti, PhD

"Synthesis of anti-angiogenic steroidal alkaloid, Cortistatin A, and preparation of potentially active analogs" with Elias James Corey, PhD, Harvard University, Cambridge

Josselin Milloz, PhD *

"Coordination of quiescence, meiosis and autophagy in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*" with Sharad Ramanathan, PhD, Harvard University, Cambridge

Melanie A. Samuel, PhD

"Molecular basis of age-related synaptic disorganization" with Joshua R. Sanes, PhD, Harvard University, Cambridge

Shenqin Yao, PhD

*Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Fellow*

"Identification of neuronal circuits mediating innate aggressive behavior in mouse" with Catherine Dulac, PhD, Harvard University, Cambridge

Sarah K. Bowman, PhD

"Characterization of nucleosome positioning in Polycomb-mediated gene repression" with Robert E. Kingston, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Daniel H. Kim, PhD *

"Epigenetic regulation of X-chromosome inactivation by noncoding RNAs" with Jeannie T. Lee, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Ken S. Lau, PhD *

Robert Black Fellow

"Elucidation of a novel signaling network downstream of KRas in colorectal cancer" with Kevin M. Haigis, PhD, and Douglas A. Lauffenburger, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Taiowa A. Montgomery, PhD *

"Mechanisms of microRNA-directed RNA silencing" with Gary B. Ruvkun, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Carolyn M. Phillips, PhD

Marion Abbe Fellow

"Characterization of chromatin-associated factors in small RNA pathways" with Gary B. Ruvkun, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Yimon Aye, PhD *

"Investigations toward mechanistic understanding of human ribonucleotide reductase β -subunit-specific inhibition by triapine" with JoAnne Stubbe, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

Robert K. Bradley, PhD *

"Investigating the splicing co-regulatory network" with Christopher B. Burge, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

Damon Runyon Fellowship Awards (continued)

Nadya Dimitrova, PhD *

Robert Blount Family Fellow
"Functional characterization of the role of p53-regulated lincRNAs in tumorigenesis" with Tyler Jacks, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

Ryan C. Heller, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow
"Analysis of initial stages of the activation of replication origins in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*" with Stephen P. Bell, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

Adam G.W. Matthews, PhD

Fraternal Order of Eagles Fellow
"Defining the architecture of human DNA replication origins" with Stephen P. Bell, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

William Rodney Hardy, PhD *

"Elucidation of signal transduction pathways controlling oncogene-induced senescence and their protective roles against melanoma and breast cancer" with Michael R. Green, MD, PhD, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

Elaine M. Youngman, PhD

Kenneth G. and Elaine A. Langone Fellow
"Analysis of the biogenesis and functions of endogenous small RNAs in *Caenorhabditis elegans*" with Craig C. Mello, PhD, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

Daniel F. Jarosz, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow
"The influence of Hsp90 on the relationship between genotype and phenotype" with Susan L. Lindquist, PhD, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge

Jared T. Nordman, PhD *

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow
"Cell cycle control of DNA replication in metazoans" with Terry L. Orr-Weaver, PhD, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge

Alla A. Sigova, PhD

Robert Black Fellow
"Genetic and epigenetic mechanisms of maintaining the embryonic stem cell identity" with Richard A. Young, PhD, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge

MISSOURI

Ken Cadwell, PhD

Lallage Feazel Wall Fellow
"Characterization of mice deficient in autophagy protein ATG16" with Herbert W. Virgin, IV, MD, PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

Tiffany A. Reese, PhD *

"The immune response to latent gamma herpesvirus infection" with Herbert W. Virgin, IV, MD, PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

NEW JERSEY

Michelle M. Boehm, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow
"Understanding the molecular mechanisms of prokaryotic/eukaryotic communication" with Bonnie L. Bassler, PhD, Princeton University, Princeton

Yun Wu, PhD

Robert Black Fellow
"Investigation of the activation mechanism of telomerase by Est3p in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*" with Virginia A. Zakian, PhD, Princeton University, Princeton

NEW YORK

Esteban O. Mazzoni, PhD

"Establishment of antero-posterior pattern of Hox gene expression in ES cell-derived motor neurons" with Hynek Wichterle, PhD, Columbia University, New York

Katharina Schlacher, PhD

Berger Foundation Fellow
"Taking on SSA, a mutagenic DNA repair pathway induced in familial-inherited breast cancer" with Maria Jasin, PhD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Lu Bai, PhD

Suzanne and Bob Wright Fellow
"Promoter architecture for genes in the G1/S regulon: rules governing nucleosome positioning, noise, amplitude and regulation in gene expression" with Frederick R. Cross, PhD, and Eric D. Siggia, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

Laura A. Banaszynski, PhD

Angelo Family Fellow
"Investigating the epigenetic nature of histone modifications" with C. David Allis, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

Erik W. Debler, PhD

Dale F. and Betty Ann Frey Fellow
"Assembly and structure of the nuclear pore complex scaffold" with Günter Blobel, MD, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

Emily A. Foley, PhD

"Examining the role of mitotic kinases in mitotic slippage using phospho-sensors and chemical inhibitors" with Tarun M. Kapoor, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

Jung-Min Kee, PhD *

Leo and Lilyan Cole Fund Fellow
"Investigation of histidine phosphorylation in histone H4 through synthetic protein chemistry" with Thomas W. Muir, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

NORTH CAROLINA

David Q. Matus, PhD

Robert Black Fellow
"Unraveling the gene regulatory network underlying anchor cell invasion" with David R. Sherwood, PhD, Duke University, Durham

OREGON

Sunny D. Gilbert, PhD

"Mechanisms of RNA silencing selectivity" with James C. Carrington, PhD, Oregon State University, Corvallis

Christopher A. Johnston, PharmD, PhD

Dennis and Marsha Dammerman Fellow
"Implementation of a novel system in *Drosophila* S2 cells for investigating asymmetric cell division" with Kenneth E. Prehoda, PhD, and Chris Q. Doe, PhD, University of Oregon, Eugene

PENNSYLVANIA

Kathryn E. Wellen, PhD

Nancy and Larry Bossidy Fellow
"Role of hexosamine signaling in linking metabolism and growth control" with Craig B. Thompson, MD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

TENNESSEE

Matthew F. Calabrese, PhD *

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow
"Ubiquitin interactions with a novel ubiquitin recognition motif" with Brenda A. Schulman, PhD, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis

WASHINGTON

Tao Wang, PhD

"Dissection of the TSC/Rheb/TOR pathway in cell growth control" with Bruce A. Edgar, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

Danielle S.W. Benoît, PhD

Merck Fellow
"Intracellularly targeted siRNA delivery vehicles for cancer therapies" with Patrick S. Stayton, PhD, University of Washington, Seattle

* Initial Award

† Physician-Scientist

Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award Committee 2009

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Kevan M. Shokat, PhD

Investigator, Howard Hughes
Medical Institute
Professor and Vice Chair
Department of Cellular and
Molecular Pharmacology
University of California, San
Francisco

Elizabeth Yang, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Cancer Biology and Cell and
Developmental Biology
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Awards

CALIFORNIA

Sarkis K. Mazmanian, PhD

"Host-bacterial immunomodulation
in the development of cancer" at the
California Institute of Technology,
Pasadena

MASSACHUSETTS

John L. Rinn, PhD

"The functional roles of large
intergenic non-coding RNAs in
cancer" at the Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center, Boston

Nathanael S. Gray, PhD

"Identification of kinase substrates
using selective irreversible
crosslinkers" at the Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute, Boston

MICHIGAN

Ivan Maillard, MD, PhD, and Yi Zhang, MD, PhD

"Modulation of Notch signaling to
control graft-versus-host-disease
and preserve the anti-tumor
activity of alloreactive T cells" at the
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

NORTH CAROLINA

David G. Kirsch, MD, PhD

"Transforming cancer therapy
with molecular imaging" at Duke
University Medical Center, Durham

WASHINGTON

Muneesh Tewari, MD, PhD

"Cancer detection in 'pre-diagnosis'
blood samples via exosome-
associated small RNAs" at the
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research
Center, Seattle

**This program is supported by a
founding grant from Andy and
Debbie Rachleff.*

Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award Committee 2009

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Seraph Professor of Oncology
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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Leland Fikes Chair of Pediatrics
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Awards

CALIFORNIA

John M. Timmerman, MD
Lilly Clinical Investigator
“Dendritic cell-based immunotherapy for lymphoma” with Steven M. Dubinett, MD, University of California, Los Angeles

COLORADO

Douglas K. Graham, MD, PhD
Novartis Clinical Investigator
“Novel biologically targeted therapy against the Mer receptor tyrosine kinase in the treatment of pediatric ALL” with James V. DeGregori, PhD, and Sue Gail Eckhardt, MD, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora

FLORIDA

Juan Carlos Ramos, MD
Genentech Clinical Investigator
“Resistance to interferon-based therapy in adult T-cell leukemia” with Glen N. Barber, PhD, and Joseph D. Rosenblatt, MD, University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami

ILLINOIS

Vu H. Nguyen, MD *
August M. Watanabe, MD, Clinical Investigator
“Organ-specific regulatory T cells as a targeted therapy for graft-versus-host disease” with Thomas F. Gajewski, MD, PhD, The University of Chicago, Chicago

MARYLAND

Patrick A. Brown, MD †
Lilly Clinical Investigator
“Translating FLT3 inhibition into improved outcome for high risk childhood leukemia” with Donald Small, MD, PhD, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore

Andrea L. Cox, MD, PhD †
“Analysis and manipulation of cross reactive immune responses to partial escape mutation in chronic Hepatitis C virus infection” with Drew M. Pardoll, MD, PhD, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Rachael A. Clark, MD, PhD
“Reversing immune evasion in human squamous cell carcinomas of the skin” with Thomas S. Kupper, MD, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston

Catherine J. Wu, MD
“Immune-targeted leukemia antigens for eradication of CML stem cells” with Jerome Ritz, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Andrew T. Chan, MD, MPH

“Molecular imaging of colorectal neoplasia” with Charles S. Fuchs, MD, MPH, and Ralph Weissleder, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

MICHIGAN

Ronald J. Buckanovich, MD, PhD
“Tumor endothelial cells as a therapeutic and diagnostic target in ovarian cancer” with Daniel F. Hayes, MD, and Max S. Wicha, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Joel H. Rubenstein, MD
Gordon Family Clinical Investigator
“The epidemiology of adipokines in Barrett’s esophagus” with John M. Inadomi, MD, and Philip S. Schoenfeld, MD, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor

MINNESOTA

Andrew L. Feldman, MD *
“Investigation of IRF4 as a therapeutic target in T-Cell Lymphomas” with Stephen M. Ansell, MD, PhD, and Ahmet Dogan, MD, PhD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester

NEW JERSEY

Vassiliki Karantzis-Wadsworth, MD, PhD
“Autophagy as a therapeutic target in breast cancer treatment” with Robert S. DiPaola, MD, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick

NEW YORK

Renier J. Brentjens, MD, PhD †
Lilly Clinical Investigator
“Adoptive therapy of B cell leukemias with genetically modified autologous T cells” with Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York

NORTH CAROLINA

Phillip G. Febbo, MD
Lilly Clinical Investigator
“Mechanisms of docetaxel resistance in metastatic prostate cancer” with Herbert Kim Lyerly, MD, and Joseph R. Nevins, PhD, Duke University Medical Center, Durham

William Y. Kim, PhD *
Merck Clinical Investigator
“Molecular determinants of clinical response to EGFR inhibition in bladder cancer” with Charles M. Perou, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Christopher Ryan Miller, MD, PhD *
Genentech Clinical Investigator
“Genomics-driven drug development for glioblastoma” with Charles M. Perou, PhD, and Terry Van Dyke, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

PENNSYLVANIA

Marcia S. Brose, MD, PhD
Siemens Clinical Investigator
“The emerging clinical role of genetics in the treatment and diagnosis of thyroid cancer” with Susan J. Mandel, MD, MPH, and Peter J. O’Dwyer, MD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

TENNESSEE

Christine H. Chung, MD
Lilly Clinical Investigator
“Gene expression-based outcome prediction in head and neck cancer” with David P. Carbone, MD, PhD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville

WASHINGTON

Colleen S. Delaney, MD, MSc
Novartis Clinical Investigator
“Notch-mediated ex vivo expansion of cord blood progenitors for hematopoietic cell transplantation” with Irwin D. Bernstein, MD, and Frederick R. Appelbaum, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

Elahe A. Mostaghel, MD, PhD
Genentech Clinical Investigator
“Defining and exploiting molecular mechanisms of androgen-metabolism for prostate cancer therapy” with Peter S. Nelson, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

John M. Pagel, MD, PhD
Lilly Clinical Investigator
“Radioimmunotherapy of CD45+ leukemias” with Oliver W. Press, MD, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

This award program is supported by a founding grant from Eli Lilly and Company of \$27.5 million, a \$1.5 million grant from Siemens Medical Solutions, \$900,000 grants from both Genentech, Inc. and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, and a \$450,000 grant from Merck and Company.

The Continuation Grant Program is supported by the William K. Bowes, Jr., Foundation, and Connie and Robert Lurie.

* Initial Award

† Continuation Grant Recipient

Thank You to our Donors

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Your support makes it possible for us to continue to address one of the most complex and devastating diseases today. Your generosity, through direct and planned gifts, demonstrates your trust in the work we do and accelerates progress toward new treatments and cures. Below, we highlight a sample of the generous gifts of the past year.

Left to right: Annual Breakfast speakers Christine H. Chung, MD, with John L. Rinn, PhD; Joe Kernen of CNBC's "Squawk Box"; and Richard T. Clark of Merck and Co., Inc.



The Island Outreach Foundation, after researching several cancer charities, chose to support our high-risk, high-reward Innovation Award by funding one of its recipients, starting this year.

Rear Admiral Julia Plotnick, a former Chief Nurse Officer and Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, is honoring her late husband by naming a Fellow in his memory.

Bequests and Estates once again played an important role in sustaining

our work. Through the estates of two very generous individuals, **Elsinore Machris Gilliland** and **George Trommer**, the Foundation received close to \$11 million this year.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute, one of the nation's most prestigious medical philanthropies, doubled its support of our Fellowship Award to \$1 million annually – a strong endorsement of the quality of scientists we select.

The 2009 Damon Runyon Annual Breakfast honoring Richard T.

Clark, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Merck and Co., Inc., raised \$1.4 million. More than 250 guests heard from Joe Kernen, co-anchor of CNBC's flagship morning program "Squawk Box" and current Damon Runyon scientists, John L. Rinn, PhD, and Christine H. Chung, MD, who described their important research projects.

Go Vertical Chicago, our annual Sears Tower climb, had more than 2,000 participants and raised \$410,000 for cancer research. We are grateful to our loyal Go Vertical Chicago climbers, volunteers and donors who have made this event a success for seven years.

Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets sold more than 4,800 tickets, raising close to half a million dollars. These funds help support our administrative operations, enabling us to give 100% of all direct donations to cancer research. We are indebted to the **Shubert Organization, Nederlander Productions, Jujamcyn Theaters** and **Disney Theatrical Productions** whose long-standing partnerships make this possible.

Thanks again to the visionary companies that understand that the next breakthrough drugs will not happen without the fresh ideas of young physicians and scientists: **Eli Lilly and Co., Merck and Co., Genentech, Novartis Pharmaceuticals and Siemens Medical Solutions.**



Volunteers help feed hungry climbers at Go Vertical Chicago 2008.

Ways to Give

PLAN FOR CANCER RESEARCH

IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST Throughout our history, approximately 20% of our support has come through bequests and trusts. Please remember us in your estate plans. There are many ways to meet the financial needs of your loved ones and provide for the charities you feel passionate about. For advice, please contact us.

SPONSOR A SCIENTIST By sponsoring an individual Damon Runyon scientist, you could play an active role in the development of future cancer treatments and cures. We will name the award for you, your family or in honor of someone you choose.

ANNUAL AND MONTHLY GIVING We rely on annual and monthly gifts to fund our research programs. You can donate by mail, by phone or via our secure website at **www.damonrunyon.org**. We also welcome securities, which may provide you with significant tax savings.

TRIBUTES Honor your friends and loved ones with a donation for birthdays, holidays, or for no particular reason at all! You can also make gifts in memory of those close to you. A special card will be sent on your behalf.

ATTEND AN EVENT We specialize in events that are high in content yet short on lengthy speeches. Join us, meet other informed supporters and have the chance to engage with Damon Runyon scientists.

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Enjoy access to top "house" seats at Broadway shows and support cancer research. Gift certificates are available that allow your beneficiary to choose the show and date. Call 212.455.0550 or visit

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To learn more about ways to support the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation contact us at 212.455.0500 or visit at **www.damonrunyon.org/donate**.

100% of all donations support scientific research.

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

Named Awards

The following awards are funded by dedicated supporters of the **Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation** who have generously endowed an award in perpetuity or sponsored an individual Damon Runyon scientist:

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Carolyn M. Phillips, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Berger Foundation Fellow

Katharina Schlacher, PhD
Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center
New York, New York

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Boston, Massachusetts

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San Francisco
San Francisco, California

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Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

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Duke University
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Cara T. Pager, PhD

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Stanford, California

Sarah E. Siegrist, PhD

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Alla A. Sigova, PhD

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical
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Cambridge, Massachusetts

Yun Wu, PhD

Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Blount Family Fellow

Nadya Dimitrova, PhD
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Nancy and Larry Bossidy Fellow

Kathryn E. Wellen, PhD
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Enrique Cepera, PhD, Fellow

Melissa R. Junttila, PhD
University of California, San
Francisco
San Francisco, California

Leo and Lilyan Cole Fund Fellow

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The Rockefeller University
New York, New York

*Dennis and Marsha Dammerman
Fellow **

**Christopher A. Johnston,
PharmD, PhD**
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

*Fraternal Order of Eagles Fellow **

Adam G.W. Matthews, PhD
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

*Dale F. and Betty Ann Frey Fellow **

Erik W. Debler, PhD
The Rockefeller University
New York, New York

Conrad Hilton Fellow

Sarah E. Tully, PhD
The Scripps Research Institute
La Jolla, California

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Los Angeles, California

Jelena Bezbradica, PhD

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Michelle M. Boehm, PhD

Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Matthew F. Calabrese, PhD

St. Jude Children's Research
Hospital
Memphis, Tennessee

Jianfu (Jeff) Chen, PhD

University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, Colorado

Alexandra M. Deaconescu, PhD

Brandeis University
Worcester, Massachusetts

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Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Thomas M. Huckaba, PhD

University of California, San
Francisco
San Francisco, California

Daniel F. Jarosz, PhD

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical
Research
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Simon Jenni, PhD

Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Chitra V. Kotwaliwale, PhD

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Liana F. Lareau, PhD

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Jared T. Nordman, PhD

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical
Research
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Ilan Wapinski, PhD

Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Yu Wong, MD, PhD

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Shenqin Yao, PhD

Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Akinyemi I. Ojesina, MBBS, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

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Fellow **

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University of Massachusetts Medical
School
Worcester, Massachusetts

*Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow **

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Chuan-Hsiang Huang, MD, PhD
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New Haven, Connecticut

*Lallage Feazel Wall Fellow **

Ken Cadwell, PhD
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St. Louis, Missouri

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*Suzanne and Bob Wright Fellow **
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August M. Watanabe, MD, Clinical Investigator
Vu H. Nguyen, PhD
The University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

A number of Clinical Investigators are named in recognition of generous support from Eli Lilly and Company, Genentech, Inc., Siemens Medical Solutions, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation and

Merck and Company. Please refer to page 19 for a list of those who hold this distinction.

* In perpetuity

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The Damon Runyon Advisors act as special advisors to the Foundation in their areas of expertise and are committed to expanding awareness about our important work to the next generation of supporters.

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Financial Summary, Fiscal Year 2009

As in previous years the financial activities of the Foundation were audited by McGladrey and Pullen, LLP. For our complete audited financial statements please visit our web site at www.damonrunyon.org.

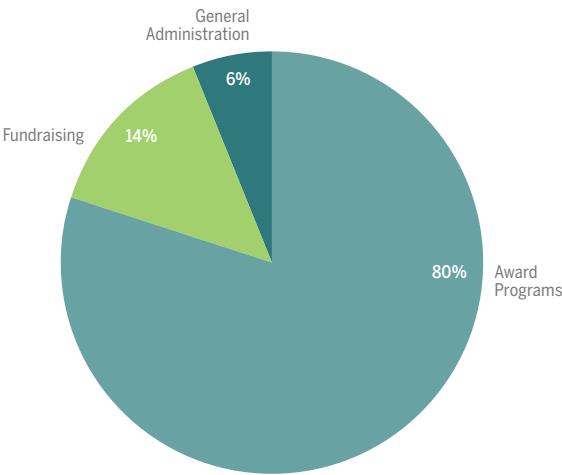
Overall Financial Health–Summary of Balance Sheets

Despite the economic crisis, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation remains financially strong. Because we have been able to grow our reserves over many years, we have been able to maintain our award programs at FY 2008 levels and have no current plans to reduce our commitment to the outstanding scientists we fund. However, like other organizations, the value of our investments, as well as those held in trust for us by others, declined.

	2009	2008
Total Assets	82,223,404	96,418,937
Total Liabilities	15,249,307	15,592,947
Total Net Assets	66,974,098	80,825,989

Where Our Money Goes–Summary of Operating Expenses

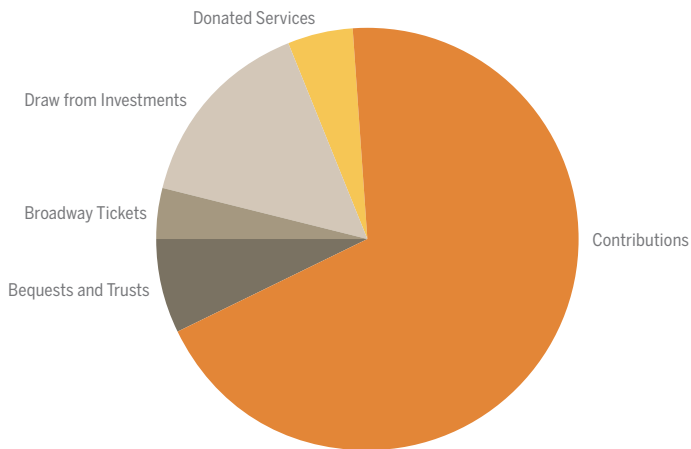
TOTAL Operating Expenses \$11.6 million



Where Our Support Comes From—Summary of Operating Revenue

Our sustained work depends on the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations across the nation. We use a diversified fundraising approach that includes significant gifts to fund specific programs, events, annual giving, and our signature service, Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets, which, along with draws from our investments, allow us to continue to spend every dollar raised on vitally important cancer research.

TOTAL Operating Revenue \$12.1 Million



Contributions \$8.2 Million | Bequests and Trusts \$0.9 Million | Broadway Tickets \$0.5 Million | Draw from Investments \$1.9 Million | Donated Services \$0.6 Million | **TOTAL Operating Revenue \$12.1 Million**

“During our investigation of organizations involved in cancer research,

we became intrigued with the work being done through Damon Runyon. Of particular interest was the Innovation Award program, which invests in individuals with high-risk, high-reward ideas that might not ordinarily be funded. Taking chances doesn't always lead to success, but we believe it is well worth the investment in some of the brightest minds working on a most difficult challenge.”

The Island Outreach Foundation

“My husband of 41 happy years died in 2005 of metastatic cancer

of the lung and brain. He had a very successful career as a university professor. We were both in 'helping' professions, Harold in social work and I in nursing. When I was deciding where to make a contribution in Harold's memory, it seemed appropriate to fund research in cancer prevention and treatment that potentially will help many others to live longer, healthier lives.”

Julia R. Plotnick

“The fellowship that I received from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation

gave me the opportunity to pursue my research passion in the lab of my dreams. It also allowed me to support my young family during those 'postdoc years'. Now, almost 20 years later, I can help support the next generation of scientists by giving back to the Foundation. My goal is to pay back my fellowship.”

Brian J. Stockman, PhD

Damon Runyon Fellow '90-'91

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