



PAVING THE WAY FORWARD

Three scientists have arrived at a crossroads.

**The first, a recent college graduate, dreams
of making progress against cancer but
does not see a path toward a career in science.**

**The second, a postdoctoral fellow,
is passionate about her research but under
enough financial strain that she considers
leaving academia. And the third, also a
postdoctoral fellow, is driven to find better
treatments for childhood cancers
but cannot find the funding.**

For more than 75 years, the Damon Runyon
Cancer Research Foundation has sought
to identify and support scientists at critical
junctures like these. We fund scientists before
they are established and ideas before they
are safe bets, because our track record shows
that with the right early support, these scientists
become leaders in their field and their ideas
become standards of care.

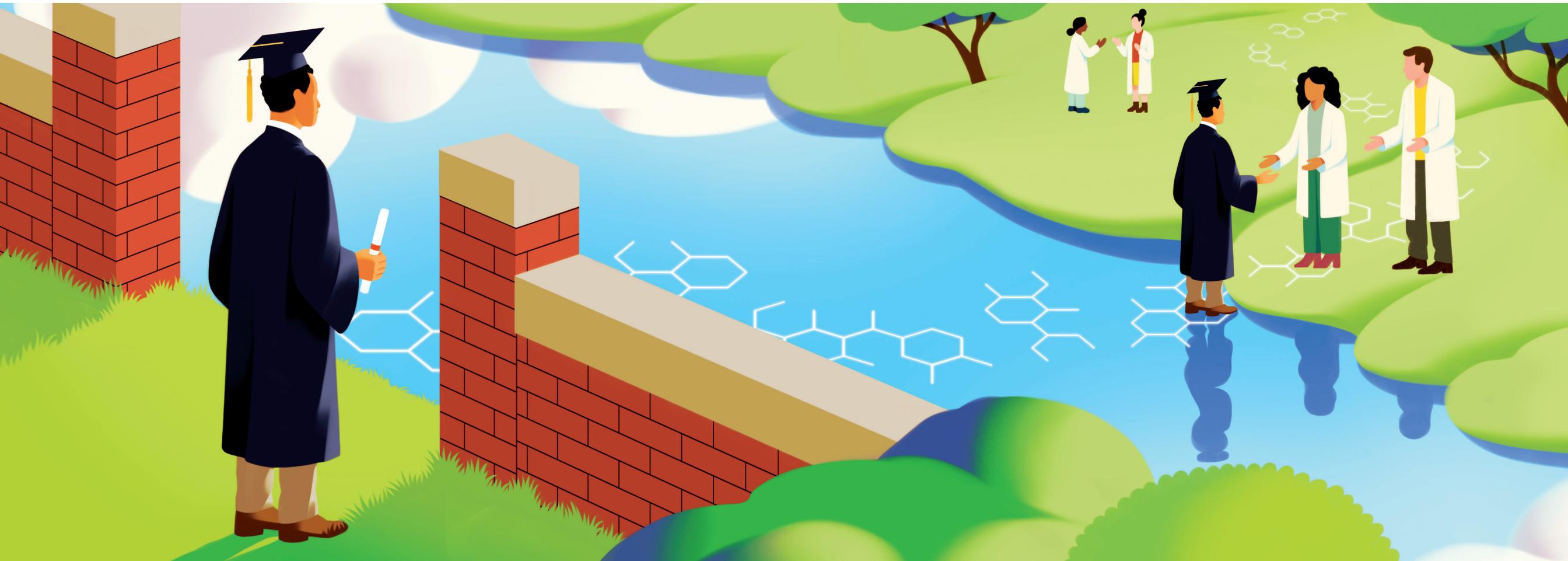
In these pages, you will see how Damon Runyon
support makes it possible for scientists to
surmount the obstacles in their path.

**Thanks to the support of donors like you,
we will continue to pave their way forward.**

SPARK: A CRITICAL STEP FORWARD

At Damon Runyon, we understand that there is great risk and great reward not only in the work our scientists do but in their decision to pursue scientific research at all. This is why our core Award Programs aim to support scientists at precarious moments in their careers—in the early years of postdoctoral research, as newly independent investigators, and as physicians making the leap to become physician-scientists.

But we want to ensure that we are not losing cancer researchers before they ever step foot in a lab. We want to encourage the best and brightest college graduates to pursue rigorous scientific educations and to commit their talents to taking on cancer. We recognize that talented young people are all across the nation from all backgrounds, and we want to make sure that those with the passion, curiosity, and determination to pursue a career in cancer research have the opportunity to do so.



**DAMON RUNYON SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR ADVANCING
RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE (SPARK)**

To this end, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the Damon Runyon Scholars Program for Advancing Research and Knowledge (SPARK), a one-year intensive cancer research internship program for post-baccalaureate students who come from backgrounds underrepresented in the sciences. This program leverages Damon Runyon’s existing infrastructure to support students earlier in the pipeline and eliminate barriers to a career in academic research.

up to \$50,000 stipend

+ LIVING ALLOWANCE + TRAVEL

a network

OF MENTORS AND PEERS

SPARK Scholars will be matched with a current or former Damon Runyon scientist at seven partnering institutions across the country, where they will learn to conduct research in a mentored environment. Each Scholar will receive a stipend up to \$50,000, along with a living allowance and a travel stipend. Throughout the year, Scholars will gather for unique programming to foster community among the cohort and strengthen the skills needed to be successful in a research career. They will also have the opportunity to present a poster at the Annual Damon Runyon Fellows’ Retreat alongside our postdoctoral scientists. The goal of the program is to provide those with the potential to become leaders in cancer research with rigorous scientific training and a network of mentors and peers to support their next steps into graduate school and beyond.

The three-year pilot program will launch in 2024 with five inaugural Scholars.

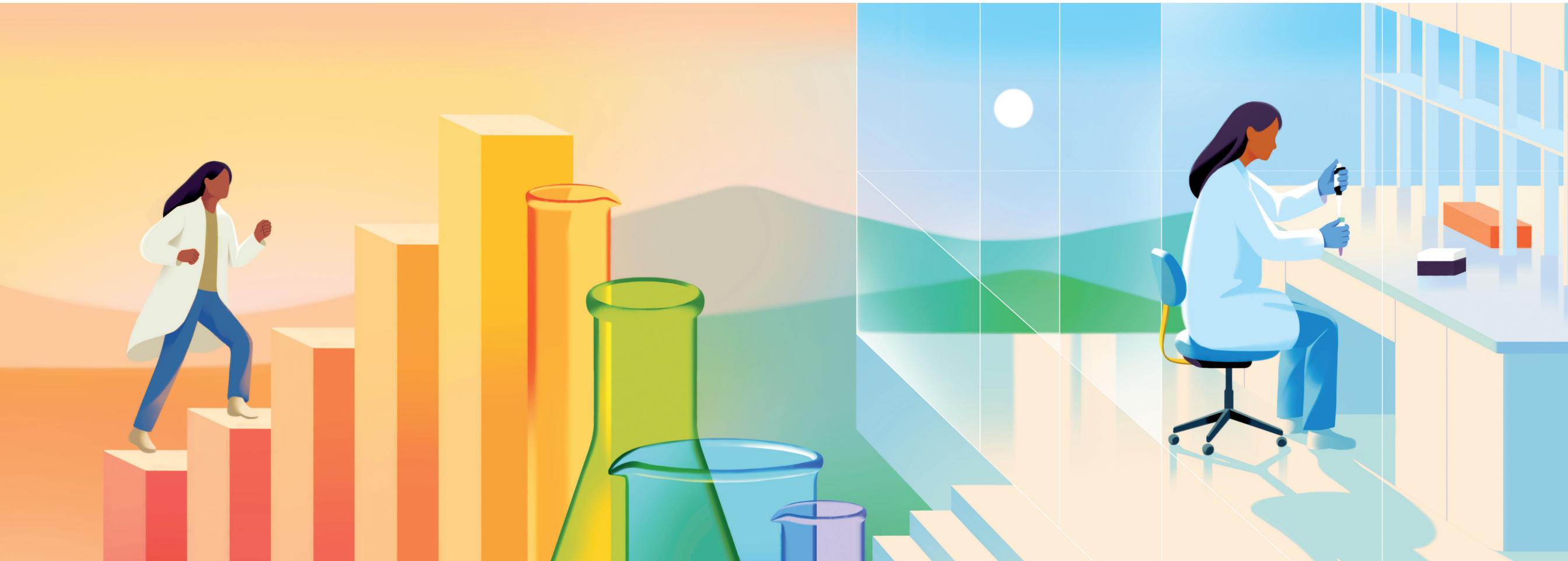
“Scientists come from everywhere. It’s crucial that we support scientists from every walk of life so that we can do the best, most creative, most interesting, most innovative work possible. Without support, the majority of people just cannot continue in the profession, and we lose so much richness, both intellectually and personally. So trying to make sure that everybody who is drawn to this profession has the chance to pursue a research direction and contribute to the scientific enterprise—this is a critical mission.”

**DAMON RUNYON-NATIONAL MAH JONGG LEAGUE FELLOW
GEORGIA R. SQUYRES, PhD**

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: A CRITICAL JUNCTURE

The Damon Runyon Fellowship Award, designed to encourage high-risk, high-reward cancer research, provides postdoctoral scientists with independent funding to support their training as they embark upon their careers in the labs of leading senior investigators.

“Postdoctoral fellows are instrumental in advancing scientific knowledge in the U.S. and around the world, but it has grown even more evident in recent years that financial pressures deter promising researchers from continuing their scientific careers,” says Yung S. Lie, PhD, President and CEO of Damon Runyon. “We will continue to listen to our scientists and identify opportunities to make our Fellowship programs even stronger and more supportive.”



THE DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD

15%

STIPEND INCREASE

\$300,000

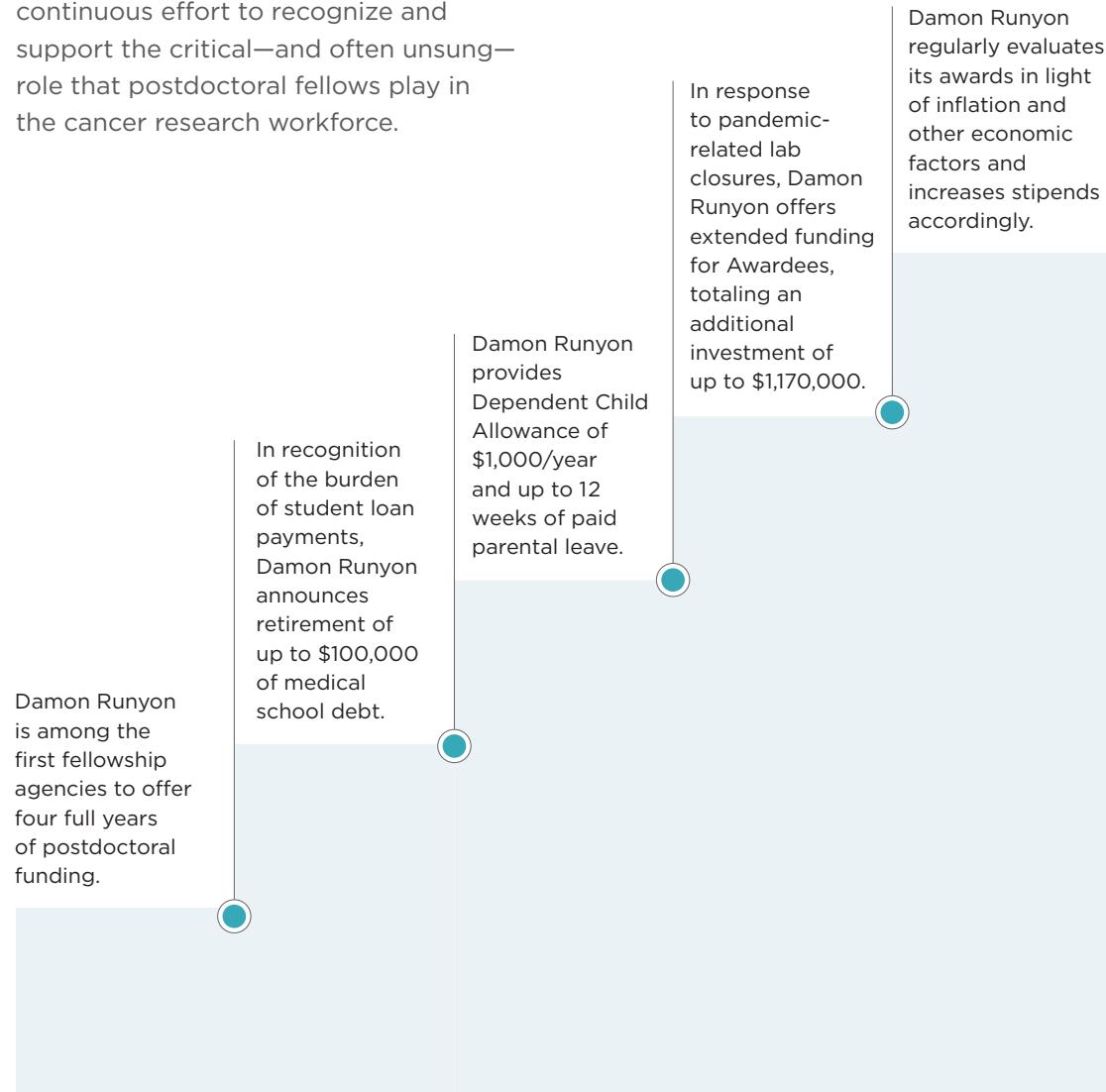
FOUR-YEAR STIPEND TOTAL

In July 2023, Damon Runyon announced a 15% increase in its Fellowship stipend, bringing the total to \$300,000 over the award's four-year term.

This marks the Foundation's most recent continuous effort to recognize and support the critical—and often unsung—role that postdoctoral fellows play in the cancer research workforce.

“It becomes more difficult, as you get more personal responsibilities and family responsibilities, to stay in academia, where salaries are often not as generous as they are in industry. And it’s really important that we have talented researchers working in both.”

DAMON RUNYON-WILLIAM RAVEIS
CHARITABLE FUND FELLOW
JAMES SWANN, VetMB, DPhil



“As a quantitative scientist, the moment I finish my PhD, there are so many options. There’s a world of tech, there’s a world of finance, and then there’s a world of research. Which of these three gives me that combination of a stable career and genuine fulfillment and enjoyment in my work? For me, having the support of the Damon Runyon Fellowship allows me to say, I don’t want the finance world—I’m going to do research. And that meant a lot to me.”

DAMON RUNYON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW
HARIPRIYA VAIDEHI NARAYANAN, PhD

PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH: A CRITICAL GAP

Because cancer occurs less frequently in children and young adults than in the adult population, pediatric cancer research does not receive significant funding from either the National Cancer Institute (where it represents only four percent of the budget) or the biopharmaceutical industry. As a result of the limited funding opportunities in pediatric oncology research, it can be incredibly difficult for an early career scientist to dedicate their efforts to prevention and new treatments for cancers affecting children—though these breakthroughs are desperately needed.

Launched in June 2023 in partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the new Damon Runyon-St. Jude Pediatric Cancer Research Fellowship will help address the critical shortage of pediatric cancer researchers by recruiting and supporting outstanding young minds committed to tackling these issues.



\$300,000 total

FUNDING FOR FOUR YEARS

up to \$100,000

RETIREMENT OF MEDICAL DEBT

“At St. Jude and elsewhere, we need the brightest minds working to advance our mission of finding cures and saving children. This incredible partnership with Damon Runyon will help support gifted researchers in their work to accelerate progress and develop cures for children around the globe.”

JAMES R. DOWNING, MD
ST. JUDE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Each Fellow selected will receive funding for four years (\$300,000 total) to support an innovative project in either basic or translational research with the potential to significantly impact the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of one or more pediatric cancers. In addition to all the benefits associated with a fellowship from Damon Runyon, including the retirement of up to \$100,000 of medical school debt, the Pediatric Fellows will be invited to attend an annual meeting with their colleagues for valuable scientific exchange and potential collaboration with St. Jude faculty and trainees.

The program will build upon the success of a former Damon Runyon program that invested in 33 promising early career pediatric cancer researchers between 2012 and 2020. These Fellows have gone on to secure additional research grants and prizes from the National Institutes of Health and private funders, produce hundreds of scientific publications, and transform the landscape of pediatric cancer research with breakthroughs in our understanding of childhood malignancies. The inaugural class of Damon Runyon-St. Jude Pediatric Cancer Research Fellows, selected by a distinguished committee of leaders in the field, will be announced in January.

“Damon Runyon support has protected my time, allowing me to dedicate more hours in the laboratory focusing on advancing the science. As a physician-scientist, it gives me the opportunity to bring my patients’ problems and challenges to the lab and spend the necessary time and resources to try to address their suffering.”

DAMON RUNYON-SOHN FELLOW
ANAND G. PATEL, MD, PhD
A PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGIST AT ST. JUDE

PAVING THE WAY FORWARD



Since 1946, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation has been paving the way for talented young scientists to pursue their boldest, riskiest—and potentially most impactful—ideas. In that time, our scientists have transformed how cancer is studied, diagnosed, and treated with paradigm-shifting innovations like CRISPR and cancer immunotherapy. But despite the scientific advancements that have come with each decade, logistical and financial challenges create new forks in the road where a promising young scientist might forgo the bumpy path of research in search of smoother ground.

While there is always more that we can do as a scientific community to support early career scientists, we are confident that the initiatives launched in 2023 bridge some of the hazards that pull promising scientists away from cancer research. We can't wait to see what our scientists will accomplish and how far they will go.

Thank you for everything your support has made possible this year: both the life-saving discoveries of our current Awardees and all the discoveries yet to come from the brilliant young scientists still on the road.

100% of your donations go directly to brave and bold cancer research.

Since its founding in 1946, in partnership with donors across the nation, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation has invested nearly \$450 million and funded nearly 4,000 scientists.

We currently support 175 researchers at over 50 institutions across the United States.

We pay our low overhead from Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets and our endowment.

To learn more, visit damonrunyon.org.

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IN MEMORIAM



MEGHAN RAVEIS
1978 - 2023

Meghan Raveis was a dedicated Member of the Damon Runyon Board of Directors and the motivating force behind the William Raveis Charitable Fund (WRCF), the philanthropic arm of William Raveis Real Estate.

In 2015, Meghan Raveis assumed the role of Managing Director of the WRCF, where her responsibilities included steering the strategic direction, overseeing operations, promoting the fund's mission, executing fundraising efforts, and ensuring their placement. Her passion and dedication were evident as she led the fund to remarkable heights, more than quadrupling its fundraising during her tenure.

As Managing Director, Meghan initiated the largest event in the charitable fund's history, the Raveis Ride + Walk, an annual family-friendly fundraising event dedicated to supporting innovative cancer research. By 2022, the Raveis Ride + Walk had raised nearly \$4 million for the cause, a testament to Meghan's vision and hard work. In this time, WRCF supported more than 20 Damon Runyon scientists studying dozens of types of cancer with William Raveis Charitable Fund Fellowships.

Meghan Raveis was known for her energy and generous spirit, invigorating any project she tackled. Her commitment to Damon Runyon's mission will continue to bear fruit in the scientific discoveries and life-saving therapies made possible by her philanthropic efforts.

AWARD PROGRAMS

In fiscal year 2023, we awarded **\$17.56 million** in new grants to **54 exceptional scientists**, including an additional **\$580,000** in Fellowship stipend increases.

DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD

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

FOUR-YEAR AWARD: \$300,000

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

DAMON RUNYON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Supports quantitative scientists (trained in fields such as mathematics, computer science, physics, engineering, or related) to pursue research careers in computational biology.

THREE-YEAR AWARD: \$240,000

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

DAMON RUNYON-DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS

Supports a select few Damon Runyon Fellows who have exceeded the Foundation's highest expectations. This additional investment in these exceptional individuals catapults their research careers and their impact on cancer.

TWO-YEAR AWARD: \$100,000

DAMON RUNYON PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD

Supports and encourages outstanding recent medical school graduates to pursue cancer research careers by funding a protected research training experience under the guidance of a highly qualified and gifted mentor.

FOUR-YEAR AWARD: \$460,000

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

DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Supports early career physician-scientists conducting patient-oriented research. This innovative program aims to increase the number of physicians who can seamlessly move between the laboratory and the patient's bedside in search of breakthrough treatments.

THREE-YEAR AWARD: \$600,000

plus up to \$100,000 for medical school loan repayment and the possibility of an additional \$400,000 extension over two years

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 approaches to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer.

TWO-YEAR AWARD: \$400,000

with the possibility of an additional \$400,000 extension over two years

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“I can’t stress enough the critical importance of funding these young, brilliant minds at this stage in their careers. If these scientists are funded now, they will go off and do amazing things, and then they will pay it forward by training the next generation of scientists.”

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DAMON RUNYON

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Jiao Sima, PhD
Cellular mechanisms linking sleep disturbance and cancer development with Yang Dan, PhD

Akanksha Thawani, PhD
Merck Fellow
Targeted genetic supplementation by harnessing transposable elements with Eva Nogales, PhD, and Kathleen Collins, PhD

[University of California, Los Angeles](#)

Yajing Gao, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Characterize the role of non-vesicular cholesterol transport in CD8+ T cell function with Peter Tontonoz, MD, PhD

DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD CONTINUED

University of California,
San Diego

Julia Su Zhou Li, PhD
Spatial regulation of the inheritance of genomic abnormalities in cancer cells with Don W. Cleveland, PhD

University of California,
San Francisco

Fangyu Liu, PhD
Discovery of novel ligands that treat metabolic disorders with Brian K. Shoichet, PhD

Tadashi Manabe, MD, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Characterization of oncogenic kinase signaling by membraneless cytoplasmic protein granules with Trever G. Bivona, MD, PhD

Tristan Wold Owens, PhD
Suzanne and Bob Wright Fellow
Molecular mechanisms of heat shock transcription factor 1 in cancer with David A. Agard, PhD

Fanglue Peng, PhD*
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Humanize CXCL13 expression in mouse to understand lymphoid neogenesis in cancer with Jason G. Cyster, PhD

Erron W. Titus, MD, PhD[§]
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Engineered cellular fusogens for novel immune effector functions with Matthew F. Krummel, PhD

Koki Tohara, PhD
Robert A. Swanson Family Fellow
Investigating chemical signaling between gut enteroendocrine cells and intrinsic primary afferent neurons with David J. Julius, PhD

Qinheng Zheng, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Drugging K-Ras(G12D) with targeted covalent inhibitors with Kevan M. Shokat, PhD

COLORADO

University of Colorado Boulder

Edward M. C. Courvan, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Functional analysis of post-transcriptional RNA regulation in hypoxic macrophages with Roy R. Parker, PhD

Nicole M. Hoitsma, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Chromatin remodeler SMARCD1 in DNA repair with Karolin Luger, PhD

Dylan M. Parker, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Stress granule regulators and their roles in cancer progression with Roy R. Parker, PhD

CONNECTICUT

Yale University

Hui (Vivian) Chiu, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
The neuroimmune basis of fatigue with Ruslan Medzhitov, PhD

Elizabeth J. Culp, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Mechanisms and consequences of microbial transformation of dietary xenobiotics in cancer risk with Andrew L. Goodman, PhD

Jung-Shen Benny Tai, PhD
From form to function: Cell shape, cell ordering, and gene regulation in bacterial biofilm with Jing Yan, PhD (Yale University), and Christopher Waters, PhD (Michigan State University)

MARYLAND

National Institutes of Health

Claudia A. Rivera Cifuentes, PhD*
Lorraine W. Egan Fellow
Endogenous retroviruses modulation of intestinal immune homeostasis and tumor development with Yasmine Belkaid, PhD

The Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Marco A. Catipovic, PhD
HHMI Fellow
In vitro reconstitution of ribosome collision dependent signaling with Rachel Green, PhD

Cayla E. Jewett, PhD
Merck Fellow
Mechanisms of centriole number control in multiciliated cells with Andrew J. Holland, PhD

“Damon Runyon is one of the few funding organizations that spans the gap between basic and biomedical research. By supporting basic scientists who may be studying single-celled organisms and biomedical scientists potentially on the edge of clinical trials—having all those people in the same room funded by the same source—that’s how we go from that first ‘Ooh, this bacteria is infected by this virus!’ all the way to gene therapy.”

DAMON RUNYON FELLOW
HANNAH A. GRUNWALD, PhD

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston University

Heidi E. Klumpe, PhD
Merck Fellow
The design principles of stable aggregation with Ahmad S. Khalil, PhD, and Mary Dunlop, PhD

Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Ge Zhu, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Charting the tumor antigen landscape of breast cancer with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

Broad Institute

Wendy Xueyi Wang, PhD*
Spatial-temporally resolved activity and transcriptome mapping in transplanted glioma organoids with Xiao Wang, PhD (Broad Institute), and Jia Liu, PhD (Harvard University)

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Anders B. Dohlman, PhD*
Meghan E. Raveis Fellow
Identifying the genomic basis for *Fusobacterium nucleatum*’s colonization of colorectal cancers with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD

Archana Krishnamoorthy, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Mechanisms of chromosome fragmentation generating chromothripsis with David S. Pellman, MD (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute), and Johannes Walter, PhD (Harvard Medical School)

David M. Walter, PhD
Identifying the selective mechanism behind U2AF1 mutations in lung adenocarcinoma with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD

Harvard Medical School

Rachel S. Greenberg, PhD
Developing functional diversity in interoceptive circuits with Stephen D. Liberles, PhD

Hannah A. Grunwald, PhD
Lallage Feazel Wall Fellow
Unraveling the role of molecular capacitors that obscure cryptic genetic variants in fish with Clifford J. Tabin, PhD

Xin Gu, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Characterization of a novel pathway regulating the protein degradation of immediate-early genes with Michael E. Greenberg, PhD

James Osei-Owusu, PhD*
Structure and inhibition of the relaxin receptor RXFP1 with Andrew C. Kruse, PhD

DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD CONTINUED

Manuel Osorio Valeriano, PhD
Philip O'Bryan
Montgomery, Jr., MD, Fellow
Molecular and structural basis of gene expression regulation by the nucleosome remodeling and deacetylase (NuRD) complex in human cancer with Lucas Farnung, PhD, and Danesh Moazed, PhD

[Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#)

Madi Y. Cissé, PhD
Merck Fellow
Integration on oncogenic signaling and nutrient sensing by mTOR in tumors with Brendan D. Manning, PhD

Mark R. Sullivan, PhD
Merck Fellow
Identifying requirements for lung infection by opportunistic pathogens with Eric J. Rubin, MD, PhD

[Harvard University](#)

Alon Chappleboim, PhD*
Uncovering signaling mechanisms in somitogenesis through high-throughput genetic screens in robust human organoids with Sharad Ramanathan, PhD

Rongxin Fang, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Genome-scale imaging of enhancer-promoter interactions in cancer at single cell resolution with Xiaowei Zhuang, PhD

[Massachusetts General Hospital](#)

Charles H. Adelman, PhD
Systematic exploration of the organellar and cellular requirements of pigmentation with David E. Fisher, MD, PhD

Stefan Niekamp, PhD
Dennis and Marsha Dammerman Fellow
Understanding the switch: Competition between chromatin remodeler and polycomb repressive complexes with Robert E. Kingston, PhD

[Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)

Fangtao Chi, PhD
Understanding how ketone body metabolites influence intestinal stemness, immune responses and tumorigenesis with Ömer H. Yilmaz, MD, PhD

Isabella Frascilla, PhD*
Merck Fellow
Examining bacteria as a source of tumor antigens with Tyler E. Jacks, PhD

J. Scott P. McCain, PhD
Estimating growth rates and fluxes using gene expression: Theory and applications with Gene-Wei Li, PhD

Jon McGinn, PhD
Dissecting the genetic networks underlying host subversion during *rickettsia* infection with Rebecca Lamason, PhD

Senén D. Mendoza, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Discovery and characterization of bacterial immunity against RNA phages with Michael T. Laub, PhD

Patrick J. Woida, PhD
Functional dissection of the bacterial-host interface during cell-to-cell spread with Rebecca Lamason, PhD

[Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research](#)

Henry R. Kilgore, PhD
Subcellular pharmacokinetics with Richard A. Young, PhD

Jingchuan Luo, PhD
Deciphering roles of nuclear-mitochondrial communication in cellular homeostasis with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD

Ryan Y. Muller, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Excised stable introns of Epstein-Barr virus: functions and mechanisms with David P. Bartel, PhD

Pu Zheng, PhD*
Fayez Sarofim Fellow
An integrated imaging- and sequencing-based spatial-omic method to study tumor evolution with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD

MICHIGAN

[Van Andel Institute](#)

McLane Watson, PhD*
Understanding CD8 T cell epigenetic changes fueled by S-adenosylmethionine metabolism for improved adoptive cell therapy with Russell G. Jones, PhD

MINNESOTA

[University of Minnesota](#)

Nicholas N. Jarjour, PhD
Antigen-independent proliferation of tissue-resident memory T cells and therapeutic applications with Stephen C. Jameson, PhD

NEW JERSEY

[Princeton University](#)

Nir Hananya, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
The roles of histone ADP-ribosylation in DNA damage response with Tom W. Muir, PhD

Grace E. Johnson, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Defining quorum-sensing signaling patterns and their effects on gene expression and morphology in *V. cholerae* biofilms at the single-cell and community levels with Bonnie L. Bassler, PhD

Aaron E. Lin, PhD
Walter Isaacson Fellow
Contact tracing within an organism: developing a genome editing platform to record the history of virus-infected and transformed cells with Alexander Ploss, PhD, and Brittany Adamson, PhD

Titus Sengupta, PhD
Rebecca Ridley Kry Fellow
Investigating bacterial small RNA-mediated regulation of host behavior with Coleen T. Murphy, PhD

Juner Zhang, PhD*
The role of histone H2A.Z monoamination in transcription regulation with Tom W. Muir, PhD

NEW YORK

[Columbia University](#)

Mingjian Du, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
The gut-brain axis mediating overnutrition with Charles S. Zuker, PhD

James Swann, VetMB, DPhil*
William Raveis Charitable Fund Fellow
Emergency myelopoiesis pathways as common drivers of clonal dominance and disease progression in acute myeloid leukemia with Emmanuelle Passegué, PhD

[Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)

Kaixian Liu, PhD
The studies of double-strand break proteins in germline genome transmission with Scott N. Keeney, PhD, and Shixin Liu, PhD

[Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research](#)

Rico C. Ardy, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
An atlas of fibroblast cell states in health and disease through functional genomics with Thomas Norman, PhD

Zeda Zhang, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Decode the senescent cell surface *in vivo* and develop cell therapies for senescence-related diseases with Scott W. Lowe, PhD

[New York University Grossman School of Medicine](#)

Nicholas M. Adams, PhD
Marion Abbe Fellow
Elucidating how pDC genome organization regulates IFN production in cancer with Boris Reizis, PhD

[The Rockefeller University](#)

Catherine A. Freije, PhD
Berger Foundation Fellow
Investigating the role of fitness and host pressure in shaping hepatitis B diversity with Charles M. Rice, PhD

Anita Gola, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
A spatially patterned stem cell and immune cell barrier at the skin surface with Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD

Gokhan Unlu, PhD
Targeting cancer nutrient limitations using dietary interventions with Kivanç Birsoy, PhD

DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD CONTINUED

NORTH CAROLINA

Duke University

Elizabeth R. Hughes, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
Mechanisms of microbial modulation of cancer immunotherapy with Raphael H. Valdivia, PhD

PENNSYLVANIA

University of Pennsylvania

Nicholas P. Lesner, PhD*
Hepatic urea cycle function in NASH-induced HCC progression with M. Celeste Simon, PhD

Rebecca S. Moore, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Investigation of the role of peripheral secreted molecules on sleep and circadian rhythms with Amita Sehgal, PhD

Christopher Noetzel, PhD*
How do eukaryotic cells count cell cycles? Intrinsic regulation of quantized asexual replication cycles and commitment to sexual differentiation in the protozoan parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum* with Boris Striepen, PhD

Catherine Triandafillou, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Intrinsic and extrinsic drivers of heterogeneous drug resistance in cancer with Arjun Raj, PhD

WASHINGTON

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Ching-Ho Chang, PhD
Genetic conflicts shape protamine evolution with Harmit S. Malik, PhD

Edie I. Crosse, PhD
Illini 4000 Fellow
Precision therapeutics for hematologic malignancies with splicing factor mutations with Robert Bradley, PhD

Grant A. King, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
How do host cells engage with extrachromosomal DNA? with Harmit S. Malik, PhD

Siqi Li, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Deciphering clonal competition between oncogenic mutant and normal cells and its effect on cancer initiation with Slobodan Beronja, PhD

University of Washington

Wei (Will) Chen, PhD*
Decoding the transcription code: *de novo* protein design for precise gene regulation with David Baker, PhD

Jean-Benoît Lalanne, PhD
At-scale dissection of developmental enhancers with single-cell reporters with Jay A. Shendure, MD, PhD

Erik Van Dis, PhD*
Robert Black Fellow
Investigating innate immune activation in the autoimmune pancreas with Daniel B. Stetson, PhD

CANADA

University of Calgary

Ysbrand Nusse, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
Defining the role of eosinophils in liver injury and repair with Paul Kubas, PhD

Marie R. Siwicki, PhD*
Dale F. and Betty Ann Frey Fellow
Investigating neutrophil functional heterogeneity in wound healing and cancer with Paul Kubas, PhD

**Initial Year*
\$Physician-Scientists

“I see Damon Runyon scientists as scientific explorers. And when you are exploring new areas, you may run into roadblocks. But if you can get past them, if you keep going, you can make paradigm-shifting discoveries in cancer biology.”

FELLOWSHIP AWARD COMMITTEE MEMBER

JASON M. CRAWFORD, PhD

DAMON RUNYON FELLOW '09-'11

DAMON RUNYON-DALE F. FREY BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTIST '12-'14

DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF-WILLIAM RAVEIS CHARITABLE FUND INNOVATOR '16-'17

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and Harvard

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Professor of Pediatrics
Harvard Medical School
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrea Califano, PhD

Clyde and Helen Wu Professor of
Chemical and Systems Biology
Chair, Department of
Systems Biology
Director, JP Sulzberger
Columbia Genome Center
Herbert Irving Comprehensive
Cancer Center
Columbia University
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Gaudenz Danuser, PhD

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Distinguished Chair in
Basic Biomedical Science
Lyda Hill Department of
Bioinformatics and
Department of Cell Biology
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

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Associate Professor, Genetics
and Computer Science
Stanford University
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Han Liang, PhD

AAAS Fellow
Barnhart Family Distinguished
Professor in Targeted Therapies
Professor and Deputy Chair
Department of Bioinformatics
and Computational Biology
Professor
Department of Systems Biology
University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Dana Pe'er, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Investigator
Chair, Computational and
Systems Biology Program
Scientific Director, Alan and
Sandra Gerry Metastasis and
Tumor Ecosystems Center
Alan and Sandra Gerry
Endowed Chair
Sloan Kettering Institute
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Amoolya Singh, PhD

Senior Vice President,
Bioinformatics and
Data Science
Chief Science Officer
GRAIL
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA

Cole Trapnell, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Genome
Sciences
University of Washington
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Caroline Uhler, PhD

Professor
Department of Electrical
Engineering and
Computer Science
Institute for Data, Systems,
and Society
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Core Institute Member
Co-Director, Eric and Wendy
Schmidt Center
Broad Institute of MIT
and Harvard
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Chief, Division of Population
Sciences
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Member
Broad Institute of MIT
and Harvard
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Youngmu (Nick) Shin, PhD*

Exploring phase condensation
as a general mechanism
for organizing cell-cell
communication assemblies
with Wendell A. Lim, PhD,
University of California,
San Francisco, and Rohit V.
Pappu, PhD, Washington
University, Saint Louis

Haripriya Vaidehi Narayanan, PhD

Developing a mechanistic
multi-scale framework
relating signaling and
spatiotemporal dynamics
in B-cell affinity maturation
and lymphomagenesis with
Alexander Hoffmann, PhD,
and Roy Wollman, PhD,
University of California,
Los Angeles

NEW JERSEY

Cong Ma, PhD

Modeling spatial organization
and interactions among genetic
and epigenetic states across
cancer types with Benjamin
Raphael, PhD, Princeton
University, Princeton, and
Li Ding, PhD, Washington
University, Saint Louis

Carolina Trenado-Yuste, PhD*

Screening migratory modes
and drug delivery schedules in
3D spheroids of triple-negative
breast cancer cells with Celeste
M. Nelson, PhD, and Ned S.
Wingreen, PhD, Princeton
University, Princeton

NEW YORK

Tin Yi Chu, PhD

Statistical modeling of cell-cell
interactions in normal intestine,
inflammatory bowel disease and
colorectal cancer using single
cell and spatial transcriptomics
with Dana Pe'er, PhD, Memorial
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,
and Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD, The
Rockefeller University, New York

Sukrit Singh, PhD

Physics-driven prediction of
drug-resistant clinical mutations
to improve precision oncology
with John D. Chodera, PhD,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer
Center, New York, and Markus
A. Seeliger, PhD, Stony Brook
University, Stony Brook

WASHINGTON

Nicholas C. Lammers, PhD*

A computational platform
for predicting whole-embryo
morphologies from single-
cell transcriptomes with Cole
Trapnell, PhD, and David
Kimelman, PhD, University
of Washington, Seattle

Yapeng Su, PhD

Quantitative analysis to elucidate
spatial-temporal heterogeneity
of therapeutic T cell dysfunction
mechanisms in the context of
adoptive cell therapy against
pancreatic cancer with Philip D.
Greenberg, MD, and Raphael
Gottardo, PhD, Fred Hutchinson
Cancer Center, Seattle

**Initial Year*

“We need more people from quantitative backgrounds to do cancer research. Cancer is such a complex system, with tens of thousands of genes involved, and if you think about the number of elements regulating these genes, it’s more complex by orders of magnitude. To understand such a system, we need a quantitative approach—to not only handle the vast amount of data, but also to derive meaningful insights from this data.”

DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS

“Getting the Dale Frey Award was so helpful in that transition period from being in someone else’s lab to starting my own lab. Damon Runyon not only solidified that my ideas were exciting but also gave other funding agencies confidence to fund me. It was really the seed that has grown my research program over the last few years.”

FORMER DAMON RUNYON-DALE F. FREY BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTIST
LINDSAY B. CASE, PhD

Liudmila Andreeva, PhD*

Making an inflammasome: Structural and biochemical elucidation of NLRP3 inflammasome activation at Eberhard Karl University of Tübingen, Tübingen

Erin E. Duffy, PhD*

Activity-dependent changes in RNA stability as a mechanism for synaptic plasticity at Harvard Medical School, Boston

Courtney Ellison, PhD*

Marilyn and Scott Urdang Breakthrough Scientist
The regulation and function of type IV pili in *Acinetobacter* biofilm formation at University of Georgia, Athens

Esteban A. Orellana Vinueza, PhD*

tRNA dysregulation and cancer at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Hanover

Abigail E. Overacre-Delgoffe, PhD*

Harnessing the immune response to cancer through the microbiota at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Hillman Cancer Center, Pittsburgh

Tyler Starr, PhD*

Protein evolution at the host-virus interface at University of Utah, Salt Lake City

Lexy von Diezmann, PhD*

Single-molecule dynamics of DNA repair assemblies in live cells at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

**Initial Year*

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD COMMITTEE

CHAIR

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD

Sidney Farber Professor of Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

David P. Carbone, MD, PhD

Barbara J. Bonner Chair in Lung Cancer Research
Director, James Thoracic Center
Professor, Division of Medical Oncology
Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Ohio State University
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Lucy A. Godley, MD, PhD

Jeffrey and Marianne Silver Family Professor of Oncology
Director, Silver Family Blood Cancer Institute
Clinical Director of Cancer Genetics
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center
Division of Hematology/Oncology
Northwestern University
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Nada Jabado, MD, PhD

Professor, Pediatrics and Human Genetics
McGill University
Physician, Division of Hematology and Oncology
Montreal Children’s Hospital
MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

David R. Piwnica-Worms, MD, PhD

Professor and Chair, Cancer Systems Imaging
Executive Director, Quantitative Imaging Analysis Core
Gerald Dewey Dodd, Jr., Endowed Distinguished Chair in Diagnostic Imaging
Division of Diagnostic Imaging
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
HOUSTON, TEXAS

W. Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD

Hugh Jackson Morgan Chair in Medicine
Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry
Chair, Department of Medicine
Physician-in-Chief
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Jean Y. Tang, MD, PhD

Professor of Dermatology
Member, Stanford Cancer Institute
Stanford University School of Medicine
REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA

Matthew G. Vander Heiden, MD, PhD

Director, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT
Lester Wolfe (1919) Professor of Molecular Biology
Professor of Biology
Member, MIT Center for Precision Cancer Medicine
Member, Ludwig Center at MIT
Member, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassian Yee, MD

Professor, Melanoma Medical Oncology
Professor, Immunology
Division of Cancer Medicine
Director, Department of Solid Tumor Cell Therapy
Center for Cancer Immunology Research
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
HOUSTON, TEXAS

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Caitlin F. Bell, MD

Smooth muscle cell plasticity in the tumor microenvironment: another parallel between atherosclerosis and cancer with Nicholas J. Leeper, MD, and Irving L. Weissman, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

MASSACHUSETTS

Elisa A. Aquilanti, MD The Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation Physician- Scientist

Targeting telomerase in glioblastoma with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Wallace A. Bourgeois, MD

Targeting JMJD1C and IKZF1 as therapeutic opportunities in KMT2A-rearranged leukemia with Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Albert E. Kim, MD

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, Physician-Scientist

Using liquid biopsy and MRI to non-invasively identify therapeutic targets for brain metastases with Priscilla K. Brastianos, MD, and Elizabeth R. Gerstner, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

(Peter) Geon Kim, MD

Elucidating the mechanisms of inflammation in clonal hematopoiesis with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Mark B. Leick, MD

The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist

Engineering novel CAR T cells for AML: translating lessons from correlative studies and other diseases with Marcela V. Maus, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Mounica Vallurupalli, MD*

David M. Livingston, MD, Physician-Scientist

Defining the mechanistic implications of SF3B1 mutations in MDS with Todd R. Golub, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Nina Weichert-Leahey, MD*

Elucidating the role of KAT6A and KAT6B in the epigenetic reprogramming of neuroblastoma to enforce neuronal differentiation with A. Thomas Look, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

NEW YORK

Nicole M. Cruz, MD*

The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist

Understanding the role of KMT2D in MLL-AF9 acute myeloid leukemia with Robert G. Roeder, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

Mira A. Patel, MD

Molecular mechanisms of human APOE-mediated myeloid cell modulation in cancer with Sohail F. Tavazoie, MD, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

PENNSYLVANIA

Dennis J. Hsu, MD

Metabolic determinants of codon usage bias in colorectal cancer with Jeremy N. Rich, MD, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

Max M. Wattenberg, MD

Epigenetic reprogramming of dendritic cells for cancer immunotherapy with Gregory L. Beatty, MD, PhD, and Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**Initial Year*

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Ralph J. DeBerardinis, MD, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator Professor, Children's Research Institute Chief, Division of Pediatric Genetics and Metabolism Director, Genetic and Metabolic Disease Program Sowell Family Scholar in Medical Research Joel B. Steinberg, MD Distinguished Chair in Pediatrics University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center DALLAS, TEXAS

VICE CHAIR

Mignon L. Loh, MD

Chief, Division of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplant, and Cellular Therapies Seattle Children's Hospital Director, Ben Towne Center for Childhood Cancer Research Seattle Children's Research Institute Professor of Pediatrics University of Washington Head, Pediatric Oncology Section Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

OUTGOING CHAIR

Charles L. Sawyers, MD

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Chair in Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Chair, Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD

President, Dana-Farber/ Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center Chair, Department of Pediatric Oncology Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Associate Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology Boston Children's Hospital David G. Nathan Professor of Pediatrics Harvard Medical School BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

J. Robert Beck, MD

Professor Emeritus H.O. West and J.R. Wike Chair in Cancer Research Fox Chase Cancer Center PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Christina Curtis, PhD, MSc

RZ Cao Professor of Medicine, Genetics and Biomedical Data Science Director, Artificial Intelligence and Cancer Genomics Director, Breast Cancer Translational Research Co-Director, Molecular Tumor Board Investigator, Chan Zuckerberg Biohub Stanford University School of Medicine Departments of Medicine and Genetics STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Howard A. Fine, MD

Director, Brain Tumor Center Associate Director, Translational Research Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center Louis and Gertrude Feil Professor of Medicine Chief, Division of Neuro-Oncology New York-Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell Medicine NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Daniel F. Hayes, MD, FASCO, FACP

Stuart B. Padnos Professor of Breast Cancer Research University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Dan A. Laheru, MD

Professor of Oncology Co-Director, Skip Viragh Center for Pancreas Cancer Ian T. MacMillan Professorship in Clinical Pancreatic Cancer Research Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Daniel C. Link, MD

Alan and Edith Wolff Endowed Professor Chief, Division of Oncology Deputy Director, Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center Washington University School of Medicine ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Ramon E. Parsons, MD, PhD
 Director, Tisch Cancer Institute
 Ward-Coleman Chair in
 Cancer Research
 Director, Mount Sinai Cancer
 and Mount Sinai Health System
 Professor and Chair,
 Oncological Sciences
 Icahn School of Medicine
 at Mount Sinai
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Ann Partridge, MD, MPH
 Vice Chair of Medical Oncology
 Founder and Director, Program
 for Young Women with
 Breast Cancer
 Director, Adult Survivorship
 Program
 Eric P. Winder, MD, Chair in
 Breast Cancer Research
 Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
 Professor of Medicine
 Harvard Medical School
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Katerina Politi, PhD
 Associate Professor of
 Pathology
 Co-Leader, Cancer Signaling
 Networks Research Program
 Scientific Director, Center for
 Thoracic Cancers
 Yale Cancer Center and
 Yale School of Medicine
 NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Vered Stearns, MD, FASCO
 Director for Translational
 Breast Cancer Research
 Hematology and
 Medical Oncology
 Associate Director
 for Clinical Services
 Sandra and Edward Meyer
 Cancer Center
 Weill Cornell Medicine
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD
 Meyer Director
 Sandra and Edward Meyer
 Cancer Center
 Professor of Medicine
 Weill Cornell Medicine
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Kwok-Kin Wong, MD, PhD
 Anne Murnick Cogan and
 David H. Cogan Professor
 of Oncology
 Department of Medicine
 NYU Grossman School
 of Medicine
 Director, Division of Hematology
 and Medical Oncology
 Laura and Isaac Perlmutter
 Cancer Center
 NYU Langone Health
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Sandra L. Wong, MD, MS
 Chair and William N. and Bessie
 Allyn Professor of Surgery
 Senior Vice President,
 Surgical Service Line
 Dartmouth-Hitchcock
 Medical Center
 The Geisel School of
 Medicine at Dartmouth
 LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Founding Member
Richard J. O'Reilly, MD
 Claire L. Tow Chair in Pediatric
 Oncology Research
 Memorial Sloan Kettering
 Cancer Center
 New York, New York

DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD CONTINUED

Daniel R. Wahl, MD, PhD
 Targeting metabolic interactions
 in the glioblastoma micro-
 environment to overcome therapy
 resistance with Theodore S.
 Lawrence, MD, PhD, and
 Maria G. Castro, PhD, University
 of Michigan, Ann Arbor

MISSOURI

Kelly L. Bolton, MD, PhD
 The use of enasidenib in IDH2-
 mutated clonal cytopenia of
 undetermined significance
 with Matthew J. Walter, MD, and
 Eytan M. Stein, MD, Washington
 University School of Medicine,
 St. Louis

Nathan Singh, MD
Bakewell Foundation
Clinical Investigator
 Tailored cellular engineering to
 overcome costimulation-driven
 CAR T cell dysfunction with
 John F. DiPersio, MD, PhD,
 Washington University, St. Louis

NEW YORK

Andrew L. Ji, MD*
 Dissecting spatial crosstalk in
 squamous cell carcinoma arising
 in organ transplant recipients
 with Miriam Merad, MD, PhD,
 Icahn School of Medicine at
 Mount Sinai, New York

Santosh A. Vardhana, MD, PhD*
Gordon Family Clinical
Investigator
 Overcoming metabolic
 suppression of anti-tumor
 immunity in gastric cancer
 with Charles L. Sawyers, MD,
 Memorial Sloan Kettering
 Cancer Center, New York

Aaron D. Viny, MD
Damon Runyon-Doris Duke
Clinical Investigator
 Epigenetic coupling of DNA
 methylation and chromatin
 structure on leukemic
 transformation and therapeutic
 response with Emmanuelle
 Passegué, PhD, and
 Joseph G. Jurcic, MD,
 Columbia University, New York

PENNSYLVANIA

Alexander C. Huang, MD
Damon Runyon-Doris Duke
Clinical Investigator
 Shared antigen and neoantigen-
 specific T cells in checkpoint
 blockade efficacy and toxicity
 with Gerald P. Linette, MD, PhD,
 University of Pennsylvania,
 Philadelphia

Benjamin A. Nacev, MD, PhD*
 Understanding and targeting
 chromatin reorganization in
 ATRX deficient sarcomas with
 Jeremy N. Rich, MD, University
 of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

TEXAS

Pavan Bachireddy, MD*
 Immune evasive circuits that
 define MRD progression in
 myelodysplastic syndrome
 with Jeffrey J. Molldrem, MD,
 University of Texas MD Anderson
 Cancer Center, Houston

Xiuning Le, MD, PhD
 Structure- and lineage-based
 classification and targeting
 of resistance in EGFR-mutant
 NSCLC with John V. Heymach,
 MD, PhD, University of Texas
 MD Anderson Cancer Center,
 Houston

Sangeetha M. Reddy, MD
 Multi-modality approach to
 enhancing antigen presentation
 in breast cancers with Zhijian
 (James) Chen, PhD, and Hans
 Hammers, MD, PhD, University
 of Texas Southwestern Medical
 Center, Dallas

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Daniel J. Delitto, MD, PhD
 Pathogen sensing in fibroblasts
 restrains antitumor immunity in
 pancreatic cancer with Michael
 T. Longaker, MD, DSc, Stanford
 University, Stanford

David Y. Oh, MD, PhD
 Co-receptors modulating
 anti-tumor activity of human
 cytotoxic CD4+ effector cells
 with Lawrence Fong, MD,
 University of California,
 San Francisco

Melody Smith, MD
 Regulatory mechanisms of
 the intestinal microbiome on
 chimeric antigen receptor T cells
 with Robert S. Negrin, MD,
 Stanford University, Stanford

MARYLAND

Fyza Y. Shaikh, MD, PhD*
 Defining microbiome stability
 and longitudinal shifts as
 biomarkers of tumor response
 to immune checkpoint inhibitors
 across multiple malignancies
 with Cynthia L. Sears, MD, and
 Drew M. Pardoll, MD, PhD,
 The Johns Hopkins University
 School of Medicine, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Sylvan C. Baca, MD, PhD*
 Epigenetic drivers of resistance
 to novel therapies for bladder
 and kidney cancer with
 Toni K. Choueiri, MD, Dana-
 Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

MICHIGAN

Phillip L. Palmbos, MD, PhD
 Targeting TRIM29 to reverse
 immune checkpoint inhibitor
 resistance in bladder cancer with
 Joshi J. Alumkal, MD, University
 of Michigan, Ann Arbor

DAMON RUNYON

**CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR
 CONTINUATION GRANTS**

CALIFORNIA

Kavita Y. Sarin, MD, PhD
D.G. "Mitch" Mitchell Clinical
Investigator
 Genetic contributions and
 novel therapies for individuals
 with frequent basal cell cancer
 with Jean Y. Tang, MD, PhD,
 and Anthony E. Oro, MD, PhD,
 Stanford University, Stanford

MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew G. Oser, MD, PhD
 Dissecting and therapeutically
 exploiting synthetic lethality
 between NOTCH and TRIM28
 to drive anti-tumor immunity
 in SCLC with William G. Kaelin,
 Jr., MD, Dana-Farber Cancer
 Institute, Boston

PENNSYLVANIA

Jennifer M. Kalish, MD, PhD
 Epigenetic and genetic
 mechanisms of cancer in
 Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome
 with Marisa S. Bartolomei,
 PhD, and Garrett M. Brodeur,
 MD, Children's Hospital of
 Philadelphia, Philadelphia

INNOVATION AWARD COMMITTEE

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Professor of Genetics
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School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

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and Genetics
Stanford University
School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

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Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Investigator
John T. Wilson Distinguished
Service Professor of
Chemistry, Biochemistry,
and Molecular Biology
The University of Chicago
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Ming Li, PhD

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Sloan Kettering Institute
Professor, Gerstner Sloan
Kettering Graduate School
Professor, Weill Cornell Graduate
School of Medical Sciences
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Ivan P. Maillard, MD, PhD

Vice Chief for Research
Division of Hematology
and Oncology
Professor of Medicine
Member, Abramson Cancer
Center
University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Nickolas Papadopoulos, PhD

Professor of Oncology and
Pathology
Director of Translational Genetics
Ludwig Center for Cancer
Genetics and Therapeutics
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive
Cancer Center
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School of Medicine
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Professor of Cell Biology,
Harvard Medical School
Margaret M. Dyson Professor
of Pediatric Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/
Boston Children's Hospital
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Theodora S. Ross, MD, PhD

Vice President, Early Oncology
Research and Development
Bay Area Site Head
AbbVie, Inc.
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Julie A. Segre, PhD

Chief and Senior Investigator
Translational and Functional
Genomics Branch
Head, Microbial Genomics
Section
National Human Genome
Research Institute
National Institutes of Health
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Stephen T. Smale, PhD

Distinguished Professor,
Microbiology, Immunology,
and Molecular Genetics
Sherie L. and Donald G. Morrison
Chair, Molecular Immunology
University of California,
Los Angeles
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Investigator
University of Texas
Southwestern Presidential
Scholar
Martha Steiner Professorship
in Medical Research
W.W. Caruth, Jr. Scholar in
Biomedical Research
Professor, Biochemistry
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

Founding Member

Ronald Levy, MD

Robert K. and Helen K. Summy
Professor
Stanford University
School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

INNOVATION AWARD

MARYLAND

Jamie B. Spangler, PhD

Engineered multispecific
down-regulating antibodies to
advance cancer immunotherapy
at Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Lucas Farnung, PhD*

Understanding the mechanistic
basis of gene expression
regulation by MLL complexes
in cancers at Harvard Medical
School, Boston

Ryan A. Flynn, MD, PhD*

Tools to target novel cell surface
ligands in cancer at Boston
Children's Hospital, Boston

Max Jan, MD, PhD*

Programming next-generation
NK cell therapies using
targeted protein degradation
at Massachusetts General
Hospital, Boston

Nora Kory, PhD

Targeting mitochondrial
transporters in cancer at
Harvard T.H. Chan School
of Public Health, Boston

Srinivas R. Viswanathan, MD, PhD

X marks the spot: exploring
how X-chromosome alterations
drive sex differences in cancer
at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,
Boston

NEW YORK

Santosh A. Vardhana, MD, PhD, and

Ekaterina V. Vinogradova, PhD
Investigating and targeting
T cell exhaustion in solid tumors
at Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center/The Rockefeller
University, New York

Elvin Wagenblast, PhD*

Untangling the evolutionary
dependency of childhood
leukemia at Icahn School
of Medicine at Mount Sinai,
New York

PENNSYLVANIA

Chengcheng Jin, PhD

Investigating neuro-immune
interaction in lung cancer
at University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia

(Kathy) Fange Liu, PhD*

Y chromosome proteins
in sex bias of cancers in
non-reproductive organs at
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF

INNOVATION AWARD STAGE 2 FUNDING

CALIFORNIA

Danielle Grotjahn, PhD*
**Nadia's Gift Foundation
Innovator**

Uncovering structural mechanisms of mitochondrial fragmentation in cancer by cellular cryo-electron tomography at Scripps Research, La Jolla

CONNECTICUT

Luisa F. Escobar-Hoyos, PhD*
**William Raveis Charitable Fund
Innovator**

Understanding RNA splicing in tumor-cell adaptation and anti-tumor immunity at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven

Mandar D. Muzumdar, MD*

Targeting endocrine-exocrine signaling in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma progression at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven

MASSACHUSETTS

Michael E. Birnbaum, PhD
Decoding and reprogramming tumor-infiltrating T cells by pMHC-targeted lentiviruses at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

Brian B. Liau, PhD

Investigating allosteric mechanisms regulating DNA methyltransferase enzymes at Harvard University, Cambridge

NEW YORK

Michael E. Pacold, MD, PhD

Tracing molecular oxygen in pancreatic cancer at NYU Langone Health, New York

Elli Papaemmanuil, PhD

Leveraging multi-modal genome profiling approaches to study disease initiation, progression, and response to therapy in TP53 mutated myeloid neoplasms at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON-SOHN

PEDIATRIC CANCER FELLOWSHIP AWARD

TENNESSEE

Anand G. Patel, MD, PhD

Targeting the developmental architecture of rhabdomyosarcoma with Michael A. Dyer, PhD, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Your support this year enabled us to invest over **\$17.5 million** in exceptional young scientists working across research disciplines to better prevent, diagnose, and treat all forms of cancer.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

A conversation with
Damon Runyon supporter
Sandye Berger



How did you learn about the Foundation?

My sister Renée and I learned about Damon Runyon from our parents, Sol and Marly Berger, who founded the Sol and Margaret Berger Foundation in the early 1960s to raise money for cancer research and other health-related causes. When we took over as trustees in the mid-1990s, we learned all about **Damon Runyon’s Broadway Tickets program** and the wonderful scientists Damon Runyon supports.

The Berger Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of Damon Runyon for decades now. What originally appealed to your family about our mission?

You invest in young, brilliant scientists in the hope that one day there will be a cure for all cancers—that mission should appeal to all of us!

As longtime donors, you’ve been able to attend Damon Runyon events over the years and meet some of our Awardees. What has stood out to you from those experiences?

We’ve so enjoyed attending dinners with these young scientists. They are amazing. They present their projects in such a passionate, sincere, and direct way, I’m sure everyone at the dinner comes away with the hope of a cure. One highlight that comes to mind is the Theater Benefit this past spring, when two Berger Foundation Fellows—Dr. Catherine Freije and Dr. Juhee Pae—spoke about their progress in developing new cancer therapies. I felt so proud to be part of their journey.

What would you say to prospective donors or anyone who is considering becoming a Damon Runyon theater customer?

To all prospective donors—just do it. Everyone benefits. You get to see a Broadway show of your choice and your donation goes to a wonderful cause.

What is your favorite show you’ve seen through the Broadway Tickets service?

There are so many. I think *Good Night, Oscar* is my number one. Then there’s *Hamilton*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Springsteen on Broadway*, *Prima Facie*, *A Beautiful Noise*, *MJ*, *Lion King*—just to mention a few. The list keeps growing!

2023 EVENTS



ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Damon Runyon held its Annual Breakfast at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York on Wednesday, June 7. The event raised over \$1 million to support our scientists and honored sports industry trailblazer and cancer survivor Cynt Marshall, Chief Executive Officer of the NBA’s Dallas Mavericks, and former Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator and immunotherapy pioneer Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD, of Weill Cornell Medicine. Attendees also heard research updates from Damon Runyon scientists Abby Overacre, PhD, and Vinod P. Balachandran, MD, whose groundbreaking work is advancing the field of cancer immunotherapy.



THE HORSE PARK AT WOODSIDE

Damon Runyon donors, awardees, Board Members, and their guests gathered on Tuesday, October 17, at The Horse Park at Woodside in the San Francisco Bay Area for an evening of food, drink, and inspiring conversation about innovations in cancer research and therapeutics. Guests enjoyed a horse-jumping demonstration by an accomplished rider prior to a seated dinner in the field that featured a panel discussion with Damon Runyon scientists representing different Bay Area institutions and award programs.



RUNYON 5K AT YANKEE STADIUM

More than 1,200 people from the five boroughs of New York City and beyond took part in the Runyon 5K at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, July 29, to support our bright young scientists as they pursue breakthroughs in cancer research. A beloved annual tradition since 2009, participants in the Runyon 5K have helped raise more than \$6 million for cancer research. This year’s Runyon 5K was sponsored by GCT USA, CLIF Bar & Company, MUSH, Poland Spring, Cabot Creamery, Fleet Feet NYC, New York Post, and SiriusXM.



ANNUAL FELLOWS’ RETREAT

Every fall, our first- and third-year Fellows gather to present their research, offer each other feedback, and learn from accomplished senior scientists. This year’s retreat took place in Southbridge, Massachusetts, where discussions ranged in topic from bacterial biofilms to grassroots efforts to create more inclusive academic institutions. Among the Retreat’s many highlights was the presentation of the Damon Runyon-Jake Wetchler Award for Pediatric Innovation to Qinheng Zheng, PhD, of the University of California, San Francisco.

SPONSORED AWARDS

We thank our individual, foundation, and corporate sponsors who have partnered with us to launch or provide continuing support for specific award programs.

DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF INNOVATION AWARDS

This award was established thanks to the vision and generosity of Debbie and Andy Rachleff.

NADIA'S GIFT FOUNDATION INNOVATOR

Danielle Grotjahn, PhD
Scripps Research

WILLIAM RAVEIS CHARITABLE FUND INNOVATOR

Luisa F. Escobar-Hoyos, PhD
Yale University School of Medicine

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

This award was initially established in partnership with Eli Lilly and Company. In addition to the named award, it is supported by Accelerating Cancer Cures, a collaboration between Damon Runyon and leading biopharmaceutical companies.

BAKEWELL FOUNDATION CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Nathan Singh, MD
Washington University

D.G. "MITCH" MITCHELL CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Kavita Y. Sarin, MD, PhD
Stanford University

GORDON FAMILY CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Santosha A. Vardhana, MD, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

The following awards are funded by donors who have generously endowed an award in perpetuity or sponsored an individual Fellow.

BERGER FOUNDATION FELLOW

Catherine A. Freije, PhD
The Rockefeller University

CONNIE AND BOB LURIE FELLOWS

Tadashi Manabe, MD, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Fanglue Peng, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Erron W. Titus, MD, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Xiaowei Yan, PhD*
Stanford University School of Medicine

Qinheng Zheng, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Ronghui Zhu, PhD
Gladstone Institutes

DALE F. AND BETTY ANN FREY FELLOW*

Marie R. Siwicki, PhD
University of Calgary

DAVID RYLAND FELLOW

Timothy J. Eisen, PhD
University of California, Berkeley

DENNIS AND MARSHA DAMMERMAN FELLOW*

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Massachusetts General Hospital

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Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES FELLOW*

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California Institute of Technology

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University of California, Berkeley

Marco A. Catipovic, PhD
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Hui (Vivian) Chiu, PhD
Yale University

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University of Colorado Boulder

Mingjian Du, PhD
Columbia University

Rongxin Fang, PhD
Harvard University

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University of Colorado Boulder

Lucia Ichino, PhD
Stanford University

Grace E. Johnson, PhD
Princeton University

Seungsoo Kim, PhD
Stanford University

Grant A. King, PhD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Archana Krishnamoorthy, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Conor J. McClune, PhD
Stanford University

Senén D. Mendoza, PhD
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Rebecca S. Moore, PhD
University of Pennsylvania

Ryan Y. Muller, PhD
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

Dylan M. Parker, PhD
University of Colorado Boulder

Joshua B. Sheetz, PhD
University of California, Berkeley

Zeda Zhang, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research

Ge Zhu, PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital

ILLINI 4000 FELLOW

Edie I. Crosse, PhD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

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New York University Grossman School of Medicine

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University of California, Los Angeles

Haoxin Li, PhD
Scripps Research

Siqi Li, PhD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Katy Ong, PhD
University of California, Berkeley

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

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Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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Boston University

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Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Akanksha Thawani, PhD
University of California, Berkeley

Yunxiao Zhang, PhD
Scripps Research

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The Rockefeller University

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California Institute of Technology

Catherine Triandafillou, PhD
University of Pennsylvania

Xin Gu, PhD
Harvard Medical School

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James Swann, VetMB, DPhil
Columbia University

*In perpetuity

**DAMON RUNYON-
DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR
BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS**

This award supports those
Fellows who have greatly
exceeded the Foundation's
highest expectations with
an additional investment.
It was established in honor
of late former Damon Runyon
Board Chair Dale F. Frey.

MARILYN AND SCOTT URDANG
BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTIST

Courtney Ellison, PhD
University of Georgia

**DAMON RUNYON
PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST
TRAINING AWARDS**

This award was established
thanks to the generosity of
Damon Runyon Emeritus Board
Member Leon G. Cooperman
and Damon Runyon Board
Member Michael L. Gordon.

THE BEN AND CATHERINE IVY
FOUNDATION PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST

Elisa A. Aquilanti, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

DAVID M. LIVINGSTON, MD,
PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST

Mounica Vallurupalli, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

THE MARK FOUNDATION
FOR CANCER RESEARCH
PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS

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The Rockefeller University

Mark B. Leick, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital

WILLIAM G. KAELIN, JR., MD,
PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST

Albert E. Kim, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital

**DAMON RUNYON-SOHN
PEDIATRIC CANCER
FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

This award program was
launched in partnership with
the generous support of the
Sohn Conference Foundation.

DAMON RUNYON-SOHN
FOUNDATION PEDIATRIC
CANCER FELLOW
SUPPORTED BY THE SOHN
CONFERENCE FOUNDATION

Anand G. Patel, MD, PhD
St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital

**DAMON RUNYON-
JAKE WETCHLER AWARD
FOR PEDIATRIC INNOVATION**

This \$7,000 award is named
in honor of Jake Wetchler,
who died at age 20 after
a heroic fight against two
different cancers.

Qinheng Zheng, PhD
University of California,
San Francisco

WAYS TO GIVE



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9 am-5 pm ET, Monday to Friday



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Visit our website for more information:
damonrunyon.org/get-involved



DAMON RUNYON BROADWAY TICKETS

Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets offers Broadway's best seats and the opportunity to support cutting-edge cancer research at the same time. Orchestra seats are available for even the most popular shows.

Join our **Premier Circle** to enjoy benefits like priority access to tickets before they go on sale each month, and more.

Our **Gift Certificates** are perfect for holiday gifts, as well as birthdays, anniversaries, or any occasion—a fun night and a meaningful gift.

Call us for tickets at 212.455.0550 between 9 am-5 pm ET, Monday to Friday. Purchase tickets online at damonrunyon.org/broadway

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FISCAL YEAR 2023

As in previous years, the financial activities of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation were audited by RMS US LLP. Below is a snapshot of FY2023.

For our complete audited financial statements, please visit our website at damonrunyon.org

TOTAL REVENUE



- 53.3% ● Investment Return
- 38.8% ● Contributions
- 5.5% ● Misc. Income
- 1.6% ● Bequests & Trusts
- 0.8% ● Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES



- 86.9% ● Award Programs
- 9.0% ● Fundraising
- 4.1% ● General Administration

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Assets | \$143,543,813 | \$147,680,687 |
| Total Liabilities | \$31,902,382 | \$32,920,972 |
| Total Net Assets | \$111,641,431 | \$114,759,715 |



100% OF YOUR DONATION FUNDS BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS.

We pay our low overhead with revenue from Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets and our endowment.

**100% OF YOUR DONATION
FUNDS BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS.**

DAMON RUNYON
CANCER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Funding brave and bold.