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.
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.
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.

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
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."
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.

“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
PAVING THE WAY FORWARD

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.

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.
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.

“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

“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.”

ANAND G. PATEL, MD, PhD
A PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGIST AT ST. JUDE
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.**

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.

100% of your donations go directly to brave and bold cancer research.
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*Indicates member is also a Board Member
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.

**IN MEMORIAM**

MEGHAN RAVEIS
1978 – 2023

**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
**DAMON RUNYON**

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**Agnel Sfeir, PhD**
Paine Webber Chair in Cancer Genetics
Member, Molecular Biology Program
Sloan Kettering Institute
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
“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.”
“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.”

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The design principles of stable aggregation with Ahmad S. Khalil, PhD, and Mary Dunlop, PhD

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HHMI Fellow
Charting the tumor antigen landscape of breast cancer with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD (Broad Institute), and Jia Liu, PhD (Harvard University)

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Identifying the genomic basis for Fusobacterium nucleatum’s colonization of colorectal cancers with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD

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

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Lallage Feazell Woll 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

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Rachel S. Greenberg, PhD
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Manuel Osorio Valeriano, PhD  
Montgomery, Jr., MD, Fellow  
Molecular and structural basis for gene expression regulation by the nucleosome remodeling and deacteylation (NuRD) complex in human cancer with Lucas Farnung, PhD, and Danesh Moazed, PhD

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School of Public Health

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

Mark R. Sullivan, PhD  
Merck Fellow  
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Rongkin Fang, PhD  
HHMI Fellow  
Genome-scale imaging of enhancer-promoter interactions in cancer at single cell resolution with Xiaowei Zhuang, PhD

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Discovery and characterization of bacterial immunity against RNA phages with Michael T. Laub, PhD

Stefan Niekamp, PhD  
Dennis and Marsha Dammerman Fellow  
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Understanding how ketone body metabolites influence intestinal stemness, immune responses and tumorigenesis with Ömer H. Yilmaz, MD, PhD

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An integrated imaging- and sequencing-based spatial-omic method to study tumor evolution with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD

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

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  
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 Israelsen 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

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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

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William Raveis Charitable Fund 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 Kivanc Birsoy, 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

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

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
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

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

Christopher Noetzli, 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 Strepen, 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 (Willi) Chen, PhD
Decoding the transcription code: de novo protein design for precise gene regulation with David Baker, PhD

Jean-Benoit 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 Kubes, PhD

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

*Initial Year
§Physician-Scientists

“THERE ARE THOSE WHO 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
"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."

DAMON RUNYON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW
TIN YI CHU, PhD

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, Seattle, 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

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."

DAMON RUNYON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD

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

Anshul Kundaje, PhD
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

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

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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’
“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. Overace-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

FORMER DAMON RUNYON-DALE F. FREY BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTIST

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

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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

CHAIR

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD
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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School
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Comprehensive Cancer Center
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Director, Silver Family Blood Cancer Institute
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Physician, Division of Hematology and Oncology
Montreal Children's Hospital
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Executive Director, Quantitative Imaging Analysis Core
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Stanford University School of Medicine
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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
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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
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 of neuroblastoma to enforce epigenetic reprogramming KAT6A and KAT6B in the tumor microenvironment: another parallel between atherosclerosis and cancer with Scarlett L. Zoncu, MD, PhD, Boston Children’s Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Albert E. Kim, MD
Using liquid biopsy and MRI to non-invasively identify therapeutic targets for brain metastases with Priscilla K. Brostianos, 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, PhD
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-Leeshey, 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

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

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

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

Pennsylvania

DALLAS, TEXAS
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

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J. Robert Beck, MD
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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 ROSE GALEN, PENNSYLVANIA

Howard A. Fine, MD
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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

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DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD COMMITTEE CONTINUED

**CALIFORNIA**

Daniel J. Delitto, MD, PhD
Pathogen sensing in fibroblasts restrains antitumor immunity in pancreatic cancer with Michael T. Langaker, 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

**MASSACHUSETTS**

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

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

Kwok-Kin Wong, MD, PhD
Anne Mumick Cogan and David H. Cogan Professor of Oncology, Department of Medicine-NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, New York

**MARYLAND**

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

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

**MICHIGAN**

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

**MISSOURI**

Kelly L. Bolton, MD, PhD
The use of ensatinib 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 co-mutations-driven CAR T cell dysfunction with John F. DiPersio, MD, PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

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

**NEW YORK**

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

Santosha 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

**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

**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

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

**CALIFORNIA**

Ramen E. Parsons, MD, PhD
Director, Tisch Cancer Institute-Ward-Coleman Chair in Cancer Research and Anthony E. Oro, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Katerina Politii, PhD
Associate Professor of Pathology, Co-Leader, Cancer Signaling Networks Research Program, 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

**DAMON RUNYON**

**DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD CONTINUATION GRANTS**

**CALIFORNIA**

Matthew G. Oser, MD, PhD
Dissecting and therapeutically exploiting synthetic lethality between NOTCH and TRIM28 with Theodore S. Lawrence, MD, PhD, and Garrett M. Brodeur, MD, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Santosha 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

**PENNSYLVANIA**

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

**Pennsylvania**

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**CALIFORNIA**

Mathew C. Glaubiger, MD
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**MASSACHUSETTS**

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Dissecting and therapeutically exploiting synthetic lethality between NOTCH and TRIM28 to drive anti-tumor immunity in gastric cancer with Charles L. Sawyers, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

**Pennsylvania**

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INNOVATION AWARD COMMITTEE

**CO-CHAIR**
Julien Sage, PhD
Elaine and John Chambers Professor of Pediatric Cancer
Professor of Genetics
Stanford University
School of Medicine
Stanford, California

**CO-CHAIR**
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Professor of Radiation Oncology
Vice-Chair for Research
Cancer Biology Division Director
Department of Radiation Oncology
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

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Gilula Chair of Chemical Biology
Professor, Department of Chemistry
Scripps Research
La Jolla, California

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Department of Molecular Genetics
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Howard Y. Chang, MD, PhD
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
Director, Center for Personal Dynamic Regulomes
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Professor of Dermatology and Genetics
Stanford University
School of Medicine
Stanford, California

Chuan He, PhD
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
Member, Immunology Program, Sloan Kettering Institute
Professor, Gerstner Sloan Kettering Graduate School
Professor, Weil Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

Ivan P. Maillard, MD, PhD
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Division of Hematology and Oncology
Professor of Medicine
Member, Abramson Cancer Center
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Nickolas Papadopoulos, PhD
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Director of Translational Genetics
Ludwig Center for Cancer Genetics and Therapeutics
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

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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

MARYLAND
Jamie B. Spangler, PhD
Engineered multispecific down-regulating antibodies to advance cancer immunotherapy at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

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

NEW YORK
Ryan A. Flynn, MD, PhD
Tools to target novel cell surface ligands in cancer at Boston Children’s 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

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

*Suggested Year*
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

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

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

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

Brian B. Liau, PhD
Investigating allosteric mechanisms regulating DNA methyltransferase enzymes at Harvard University, Cambridge

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.
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.

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.

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.
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-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

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

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

ONLINE
damonrunyon.org/donate

PHONE
1.877.7CANCER or 1.877.722.6237
9 am–5 pm ET, Monday to Friday

MAIL
One Exchange Plaza, 55 Broadway, Suite 302
New York, NY 10006

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
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

**SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS**

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<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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**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

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.