ANNUAL REPORT 2025

DAMON RUNYON
CANCER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

A LIFELINE FOR SCIENTISTS

DIRE THREATS TO FEDERAL FUNDING OF SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL RESEARCH ARE JEOPARDIZING THE REMARKABLE PROGRESS AGAINST CANCER MADE IN RECENT DECADES.

Hiring freezes and canceled grants are interrupting life-saving clinical trials, derailing the careers of investigators on the cusp of discovery, and deterring promising young scientists from entering the field at all.

Independent funding organizations like the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation have never played a more critical role in the research ecosystem.

Damon Runyon is widely recognized in the scientific community for our ability to identify future leaders in cancer research early in their careers, when support can have an exponential impact. Our focus has always been to fill gaps in traditional funding by investing in young scientists pursuing high-risk, high-reward ideas. Now that those gaps are widening and some sources of funding are disappearing altogether, **it is absolutely essential that we protect the work of these rising stars**.

This fall, the Damon Runyon Board of Directors approved additional funding as needed to scientists nearing the end of their Damon Runyon Fellowship, with the goal of providing stability to Damon Runyon Fellows whose important work is at highest risk of being thrown off course. We know this intervention will not solve the crisis facing science in this country. **But every lifeboat makes a difference to those caught in the storm**.

In this report, you will read about some of the Fellows whose much-needed work can continue **thanks to your generous support**. We hope their stories—just a few of many across the country—will inspire you to help us **cast more lifelines** in the upcoming year.

ONE OF THE MOST IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS IS THE INTERRUPTION OF ONGOING RESEARCH INTO CANCER PREVENTION, DIAGNOSTICS, AND TREATMENT.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Cancer Institute, has been forced to withdraw much of its funding from cancer research labs around the country, causing these labs to either drastically scale down their experiments or halt them altogether.

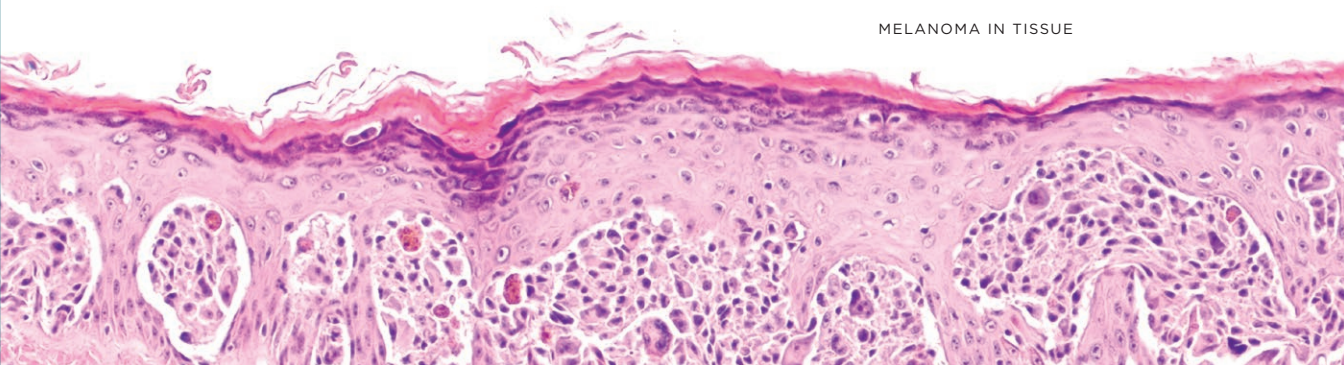
At Harvard University, which has become one of the institutions targeted by this administration, researchers are feeling the effects of these cuts particularly acutely.

"All our funding has been frozen," says **Madi Y. Cissé, PhD**, a fourth-year Damon Runyon-Merck Fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where he and his colleagues study how cancer cells regulate their metabolism in response to the nutrients in their environment. "This obviously limits our ability to continue projects and plan ahead."

His department has implemented a hiring freeze, leaving his lab with no research assistants and thus a much larger share of tasks each lab member must shoulder to keep the lab running. Despite having more work to do, they cannot expect the standard cost-of-living salary increase this year. "The school is trying everything to save money," Dr. Cissé says. "Even small things, like no more coffee at meetings."

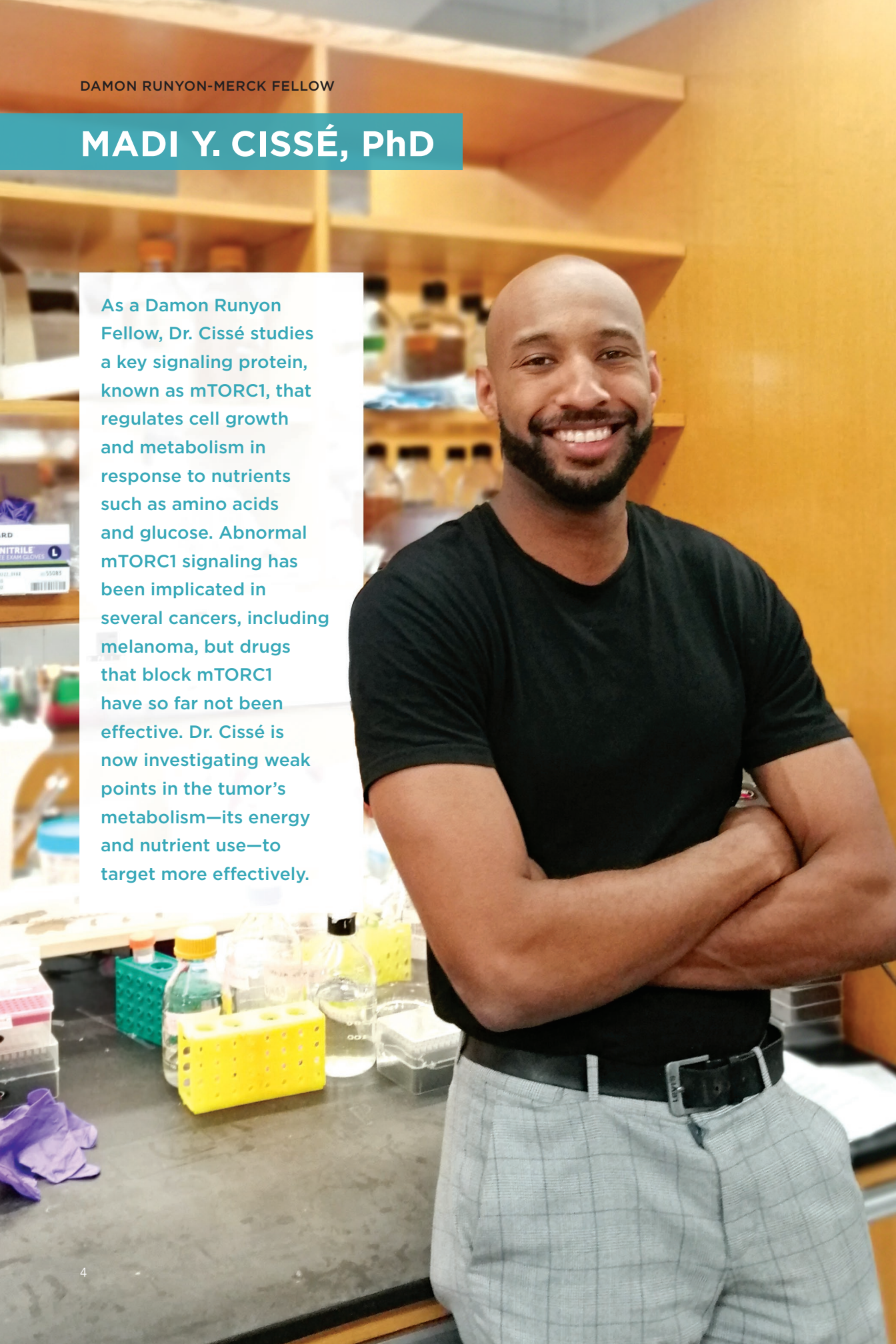
Unfortunately, no amount of coffee savings can cover the costs of experimental research. The lab has postponed any experiments deemed too "risky," their outcomes too uncertain, though these are often the type of experiments that yield breakthroughs.

MELANOMA IN TISSUE



DAMON RUNYON-MERCK FELLOW

MADI Y. CISSÉ, PhD



As a Damon Runyon Fellow, Dr. Cissé studies a key signaling protein, known as mTORC1, that regulates cell growth and metabolism in response to nutrients such as amino acids and glucose. Abnormal mTORC1 signaling has been implicated in several cancers, including melanoma, but drugs that block mTORC1 have so far not been effective. Dr. Cissé is now investigating weak points in the tumor's metabolism—its energy and nutrient use—to target more effectively.

Having spent the past four years collecting data about skin cancer cells, Dr. Cissé was preparing to publish his results when the funding cuts hit. These results indicate a potential new therapeutic target for melanoma, the deadliest type of skin cancer.

"If the lab is, for any reason, not able to have me anymore, it would be terrible to be forced to wrap up the story without finishing it," he says. "It would be heartbreaking."

"Any reason" could be loss of funding, but it could also be the loss of a visa, as Dr. Cissé, like many scientists, was not born in the United States. Since World War II, the U.S. has welcomed brilliant scientists from around the world to train and conduct research in American labs, and as a result has remained the global leader in science and technology for the past eight decades. Days after we spoke, the presidential administration announced a prohibitive $100,000 fee for H1-B visas, designed to attract such global talent—the type of visa Dr. Cissé has.

Fortunately, receiving an extra year of funding from Damon Runyon guarantees that Dr. Cissé can continue his work. Over the next year, he aims to submit two papers detailing his findings, which will help him launch his own lab to further investigate new treatment for skin cancer.

"My project would not exist without Damon Runyon," he says.

"SCIENTISTS NEED MONEY TO PERFORM OUR EXPERIMENTS. IF THERE'S NO MONEY, WE CANNOT DO IT. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT."

Madi Y. Cissé, PhD

WHEN GRANTS ARE CANCELED AND HIRING FREEZES IMPLEMENTED, IT IS POSSIBLE TO MEASURE THE SHORT-TERM IMPACT:

the reduction of experiments,
the increase in hours worked,
the positions unfilled,
the money unspent.

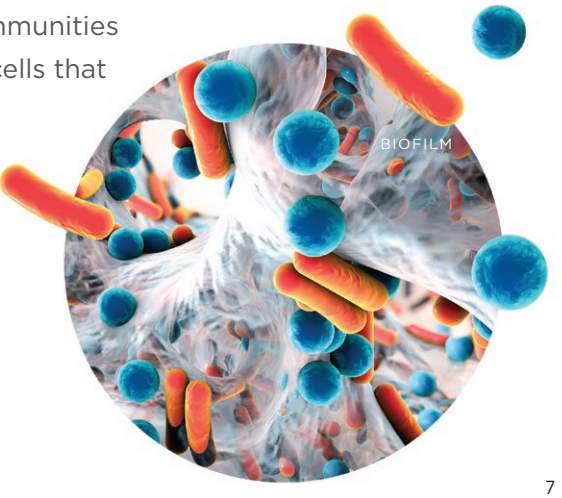
Less quantifiable is the chilling effect on the whole research enterprise, as talented scientists leave their field—or the country—and would-be scientists choose other career paths.

"It's happening already, and I'm worried it will get worse," says Damon Runyon Fellowship Award Committee Chair **Ken H. Cadwell, PhD**, a Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and a former Damon Runyon awardee. "Our inability to retain talent keeps me up at night."

"The journey to become a scientist is already hard, even in the best of times," adds **Carissa Chan, PhD**, a Damon Runyon-Sijbrandij Foundation Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley.

"And now I see trainees who could potentially lead really exciting research programs are hesitant to do so, or are switching to other fields because of the lack of funding."

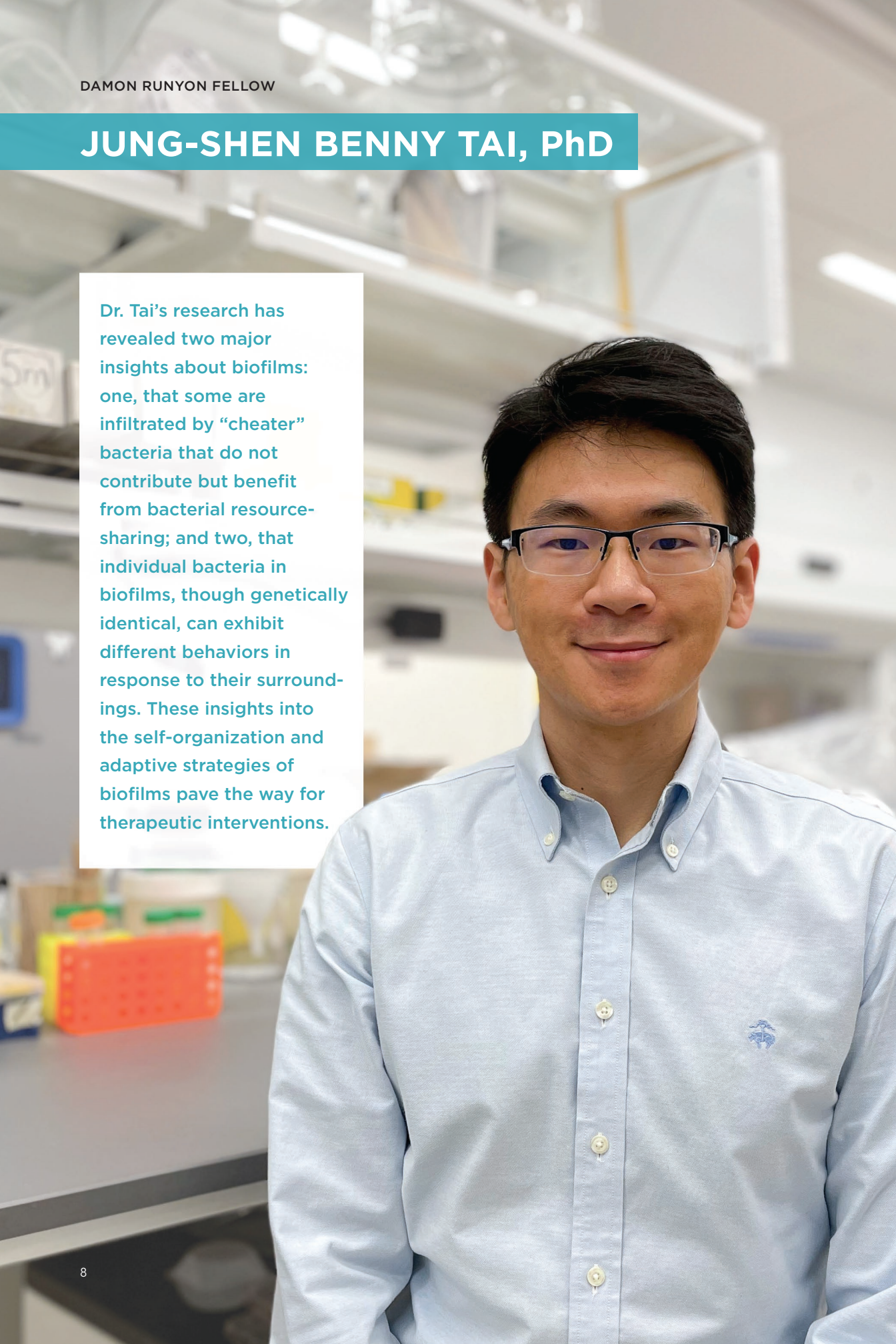
Jung-Shen Benny Tai, PhD, is among those trainees with the potential to lead an exciting research program. As a Damon Runyon Fellow at Yale University, he studies bacterial biofilms, communities of bacterial cells that resist antimicrobial treatment and are particularly dangerous for immunocompromised cancer patients. His research has uncovered fundamental principles underlying the development of biofilms, paving the way for better therapeutic strategies. With two major publications under his belt, he entered the academic job market in 2024 as



DAMON RUNYON FELLOW

JUNG-SHEN BENNY TAI, PhD

Dr. Tai's research has revealed two major insights about biofilms: one, that some are infiltrated by "cheater" bacteria that do not contribute but benefit from bacterial resource-sharing; and two, that individual bacteria in biofilms, though genetically identical, can exhibit different behaviors in response to their surroundings. These insights into the self-organization and adaptive strategies of biofilms pave the way for therapeutic interventions.



a highly competitive candidate and was invited to interview at five universities. As the result of canceled grants and hiring freezes, however, none of the interested institutions could offer him a position.

Dr. Tai refuses to be discouraged. With an additional year of funding from Damon Runyon, he says, he will be able to finish a few key experiments, develop new research directions from his work, and emerge even more qualified to launch an independent lab.

But without continued funding, it is not hard to imagine someone as talented and qualified as Dr. Tai leaving academia or the United States in search of more stability.

In his home country of France and elsewhere, Dr. Cissé notes, researchers who may have once been drawn to the United States are no longer seeking positions here. "That's another immeasurable impact," he says. "The talent that never comes."

"We have to ask ourselves as a country—do we believe in the value of basic science? Because when the country starts questioning it, the trainees start questioning it," says **Paul C. Klauser, PhD**, a Damon Runyon-Marilyn and Scott Urdang Quantitative Biology Fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

> "WE PUT OUR LIVES ON HOLD TO PURSUE OUR GOALS IN THIS FIELD. BUT THIS COULD BE THE BREAKING POINT THAT PUSHES MANY TALENTED SCIENTISTS OUT OF THE FIELD. THAT'S MY BIGGEST WORRY."
>
> Paul C. Klauser, PhD

THE OPTION FOR SCIENTISTS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY EXISTS BECAUSE CANCER RESEARCH IS, OF COURSE, A GLOBAL ENTERPRISE.

"What we know about lung cancer or any other disease is part of a global knowledge base," explains Léa Montégut, PhD, a Damon Runyon-National Mah Jongg League Fellow at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "We come here to share the knowledge that we acquire through our training."

But American researchers are increasingly being cut off from international collaborators, losing the valuable opportunity to synthesize discoveries from around the world.

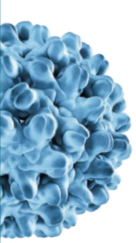
"Any application with an international component—even in the form of mentorship, not money or reagents—is now scrutinized much more aggressively," says **Catherine A. Freije, PhD**, a fourth-year Damon Runyon-Berger Foundation Fellow at The Rockefeller University.

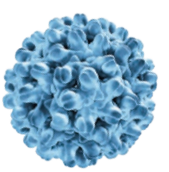
Dr. Freije would know. Her NIH grant application was withdrawn from consideration because a faculty member in Israel lent his expertise to her proposal. (This was a few months after her other major NIH grant was canceled as the result of the elimination of all diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, and not long after federal funding was pulled from her mentor's lab, which focuses on virology and pandemic preparedness.)

Dr. Freije recently re-submitted an application without international collaborators and is now waiting to hear back. But this enforced isolation comes at a cost.

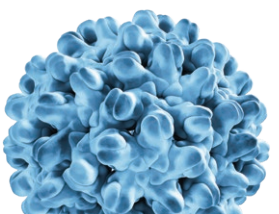
"We all know diseases don't respect borders, right?" she says. "I study hepatitis B, which of course is present here, but most of the chronic cases are in Africa and Asia. We need experts who have studied it in their own countries and can bring their expertise to the table."

Amid so much uncertainty, Dr. Freije is especially grateful for bridge funding from Damon Runyon.





HEPATITIS B VIRUS



DAMON RUNYON-BERGER FOUNDATION FELLOW

CATHERINE A. FREIJE, PhD

As a Damon Runyon Fellow, Dr. Freije developed an innovative method to initiate HBV replication within a cell, enabling her to study the relative effectiveness of different drugs. She also identified key genes responsible for maintaining the HBV life cycle and is now studying these in mouse models, with the goal of preventing chronic infection, which can lead to liver cancer.

> **WHEN SO MANY PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN CUT OR ARE PULLING BACK DUE TO THESE ORDERS, IT'S REALLY NICE TO SEE DAMON RUNYON REACT IN THE OPPOSITE WAY. INSTEAD OF PULLING BACK, THEY ASKED, HOW CAN WE HELP? IT'S SO WONDERFUL.**
>
> Catherine A. Freije, PhD

Once Dr. Freije's postdoctoral fellowship is over, she hopes to launch an independent lab to create better tools to study hepatitis B virus (HBV) and develop strategies for preventing HBV-associated liver cancer.

"I really don't know what the job market will look like," she says. "But what I can control is preparing my materials and applying. So I've been trying to keep my head up and keep going, because I do really care about the work that I'm doing."

Dr. Chan sums up the situation well: "Public health crises are not going to stop just because the money has stopped," she says. "So every scientist I know is committed to continuing their research, even in this uncertain climate. But it is logistically and practically much harder."

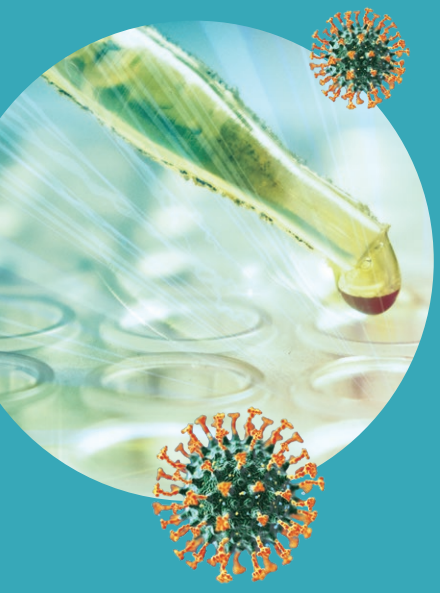
Our scientists are indeed deeply committed to their work, which has and will continue to yield discoveries that transform the way cancer is detected, treated, and prevented.

But unpredictable changes to the funding landscape are making their work harder and testing their resolve. If current trends continue, we risk losing some of these talented scientists to other countries or other fields entirely.

As an independent funding organization, Damon Runyon stands behind our scientists. Our goal is to provide them with as much support, stability, and encouragement as possible during this time.

"DAMON RUNYON HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OTHERS HOW TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE BY INVESTING IN SCIENTISTS. OTHERWISE, WE'RE GOING TO LOSE AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS WHO WERE GOING TO MAKE THE NEXT MAJOR DISCOVERY IN CANCER RESEARCH. CURES ARE NOT GOING TO ARRIVE. CANCER DOES NOT CARE ABOUT PEOPLE'S POLITICAL OPINIONS."

Ken H. Cadwell, PhD



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 over $490 million and funded more than 4,070 scientists.

In fiscal year 2025, we funded 200 Awardees who were working at 59 distinct institutions across 22 states and provinces in the United States and Canada.

Your support this year enabled us to invest over $21 million in exceptional young scientists working across research disciplines to better prevent, diagnose, and treat all forms of cancer.

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

To learn more, visit damonrunyon.org.

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STEVE HAYDEN
1947 – 2025

A visionary advertising executive, Steve Hayden launched his career with Apple's iconic "1984" Super Bowl ad and went on to become Vice Chairman and Chief Creative Officer of Ogilvy, where he was instrumental in guiding landmark campaigns for brands such as Kodak, Motorola, and Dove.

Steve joined the Damon Runyon Board of Directors in 2011 and was elected an Emeritus member in 2023. For over a decade, he lent his prodigious talents to the Foundation to aid in its branding, awareness, and marketing efforts, notably providing pro bono support through Ogilvy and helping develop our tagline, "Funding Brave and Bold." We are truly grateful for his commitment to Damon Runyon and our mission.

On and off the Board, Steve was an exceptionally kind and thoughtful person, and he will be greatly missed. His Damon Runyon legacy will carry on in the life-saving research that his fundraising efforts and wise guidance made possible.

AWARD PROGRAMS

In fiscal year 2025, we awarded $21 million in new grants to 68 exceptional scientists.

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-ST. JUDE PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARD

In partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, this award provides funding to early career scientists conducting research with the potential to significantly impact the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of one or more pediatric cancers.

FOUR-YEAR AWARD: $300,000
plus up to $100,000 for medical school loan repayment

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

Provides outstanding recent college graduates with the potential to become scientific leaders with a financial stipend, intensive laboratory training, a network of mentors and peers, and other resources to support their next career steps.

ONE-YEAR POSTBACCALAUREATE PROGRAM: UP TO $61,000

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Department of Chemical and Systems Biology
Department of Developmental Biology
Stanford University School of Medicine
Member, Stanford Cancer Institute
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Katrin Karbstein, PhD
Ingram Professor of Cancer Research
Professor of Biochemistry
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Basic Sciences
Co-Leader of Cancer Cell Biology Program
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Raymond E. Moellering, PhD
Professor
Department of Chemistry
University of Chicago
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Alfonso Mondragón, PhD
Ethel and John Lindgren Professor
Director of the Structural Biology Facility
Department of Molecular Biosciences
Northwestern University
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Joshua C. Munger, PhD
Professor
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics
Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Rochester Medical Center
School of Medicine and Dentistry
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Akinyemi I. Ojesina, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Medical College of Wisconsin
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Arun Radhakrishnan, PhD
Professor
Department of Molecular Genetics
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

Jeremy Reiter, MD, PhD
Albert Bowers Endowed Chair in Biochemistry
Professor
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics
University of California, San Francisco
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Rajat Rohatgi, MD, PhD
Professor of Biochemistry and Medicine (Oncology)
Stanford University School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Carla Rothlin, PhD
Professor, Department of Immunobiology
Co-Leader, Cancer Immunology Program
Yale Cancer Center
Yale School of Medicine
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

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

Gerald S. Shadel, PhD
Professor, Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Audrey Geisel Chair in Biomedical Science
Co-Director, Salk Glenn Center for Biology of Aging Research
Salk Institute for Biological Studies
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

David R. Sherwood, PhD
Jerry G. and Patricia Crawford Hubbard Professor
Associate Chair of Biology
Department of Biology
Member, Duke Cancer Institute
Co-Director, Duke Regeneration Center
Duke University
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Michael J. Smanski, PhD
McKnight Land Grant Professor
Associate Head of Biochemistry
Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics
Biotechnology Institute
University of Minnesota
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

DAMON RUNYON

FELLOWSHIP AWARD

CALIFORNIA

California Institute of Technology

Bo Gu, PhD†
Understanding and engineering combinatorial gene regulation in mammalian cells with Michael B. Elowitz, PhD

Dhiraj Indana, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Synthetic intercellular signaling circuits for threat sensing and response with Michael B. Elowitz, PhD

Ling S. Loh, PhD*
Sijbrandij Foundation Fellow
Selfish persistence within a (super)organismal host with Joseph Parker, PhD

Georgia R. Squyres, PhD†
Spatiotemporal regulation of eDNA release in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms with Dianne K. Newman, PhD

Gladstone Institutes

Ronghui Zhu, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Mapping and modeling the human CD4+ T cell differentiation gene regulatory network with Alexander Marson, MD, PhD (Gladstone Institutes), and Jonathan K. Pritchard, PhD (Stanford University)

Salk Institute

Matthew L. Miller, PhD*
Sijbrandij Foundation Fellow
Enter and persist: enhancing anti-tumor T-cell infiltration and metabolism in the brain with Susan M. Kaech, PhD

Wen Mai Wong, PhD
Kenneth G. and Elaine A. Langone Fellow
Modulation of neuronal circuitry using sonogenetics with Sreekanth H. Chalasani, PhD

Scripps Research

Anna Karen Orta, PhD*
Structural and functional studies of ATAD3A: implications for mitochondrial maintenance and cancer progression with Danielle A. Grotjahn, PhD, and Gabriel C. Lander, PhD

Stanford University

Felix C. Boos, PhD
Inter-organ communication of protein homeostasis stress responses in vertebrate aging with Anne Brunet, PhD

Lauren E. Cote, PhD†
Constructing one continuous digestive tract, cell by cell with Jessica L. Feldman, PhD

Laura Crowley, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Identifying fibroblast stem cells in organ maintenance, repair, and cancer with Mark A. Krasnow, MD, PhD

Brendan Floyd, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Systematic characterization of lysosomal-targeting protein degradation with Carolyn R. Bertozzi, PhD

Lucia Ichino, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Mechanisms underlying cis-regulatory rewiring and chromatin reorganization during epithelial to mesenchymal transition with Joanna K. Wysocka, PhD

David S. Roberts, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Defining the molecular landscape and native interactome of the Siglec-sialoglycan axis in disease with Carolyn R. Bertozzi, PhD

Xianfeng Zeng, PhD
Fraternal Order of Eagles Fellow
Microbiome-cancer connection: From understanding to rational design with defined communities with Michael A. Fischbach, PhD

Stanford University School of Medicine

Debadrita Bhattacharya, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
Investigating molecular and cellular mechanisms of intra-tumoral heterogeneity in small-cell lung cancer with Julien Sage, PhD

Kate M. MacDonald, PhD*
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Formation, excision and cytoplasmic export mechanisms for pathological R-loops with Karlene A. Cimprich, PhD

Anita Reddy, PhD*
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Elucidating the contributions of diet and exercise on the redox environment of the gut with Justin L. Sonnenburg, PhD

Simon Sretenovic, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
High-throughput precision genome editing for dissecting complex traits in yeast and human cell lines with Lars M. Steinmetz, PhD

Xiaowei Yan, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Spatial organization and inheritance regulation of oncogenic extrachromosomal DNA (ecDNA) with Paul S. Mischel, MD

University of California, Berkeley

R. Camille Brewer, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Defining how early-life microbial encounters sculpt the B cell repertoire and shape vaccine responses with Gregory M. Barton, PhD

Ben F. Brian, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Mechanisms and consequences of microbiota-directed immune responses with Gregory M. Barton, PhD

Gabriel Cavin-Meza, PhD
Merck Fellow
Leveraging polyploid *Xenopus* to probe spindle adaptation to increases in genome size with Rebecca Heald, PhD

Carissa Chan, PhD*
Sijbrandij Foundation Fellow
Control of gamma delta T cell anticancer activity by bacterial infection with Daniel A. Portnoy, PhD

Yoshiki Sakai, PhD
Rhee Family Fellow
How do tumors evade cell extrusion? with David Bilder, PhD

Joshua B. Sheetz, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Mitochondrial ubiquitylation mechanisms to exploit metabolic vulnerabilities in cancer with Michael Rape, PhD

Longfu Xu, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Filming mechanochemical cycles of ring ATPase: Phi 29 DNA packaging motor as an example with Carlos J. Bustamante, PhD

University of California, San Diego

Jinchun Wu, PhD
Marion Abbe Fellow
Identifying cytoplasmic nucleases that shatter micronucleated chromosomes with Don W. Cleveland, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

Sagar Bhattacharya, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
De novo design of protease-activated anticancer proteins with William F. DeGrado, PhD

Rodrigo Gier, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Targeted chemical aggregation as a general strategy to overcome cancer drug resistance with Kevan M. Shokat, PhD

Kashish Jain, PhD*
Lois A. Cinelli Fellow, supported by the Cinelli Family Foundation
Spatial mechanical regulation of oncogenic signaling in tumor progression and metastasis with Valerie M. Weaver, 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

Hannah R. S. Martin, PhD*
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Investigating the neural mechanisms that drive skeletal pain with David Julius, 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

Sue Im Sim, PhD*
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Cellular structural biology of an evolutionarily-ancient organizer of cell shape and movement with Orion D. Weiner, PhD

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

Daniel A. Waizman, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
IL25 induced tissue resilience in the prevention of colorectal cancer and therapy-induced adverse events with Ari B. Molofsky, MD, PhD, and Richard M. Locksley, MD

Shaohua Zhang, PhD
Timmerman Traverse Fellow
Preventing tumor evasion of CAR T killing: engineering adhesion molecules to enhance cell immunotherapy with Wendell A. Lim, PhD

COLORADO

University of Colorado, Boulder

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

Nicole M. Hoitsma, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Chromatin remodeler SMARCAD1 in DNA repair with Karolin Luger, PhD

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

University of Colorado, Denver

Cayla E. Jewett, PhD
Merck Fellow
Mechanisms of centriole number control in multiciliated cells with Chad G. Pearson, PhD

CONNECTICUT

Yale University

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

ILLINOIS

Northwestern University

John Devany, PhD
Bakewell Foundation Fellow
Engineering next-generation T cell therapies by learning from cancer mutations with I. Caroline Le Poole, PhD (Northwestern University), and Jaehyuk Choi, MD, PhD (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center)

MARYLAND

The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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

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 (Institut Pasteur), and Michail Lionakis, MD, ScD (National Institutes of Health)

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Children's Hospital

Saket Rahul Bagde, PhD*
Bakewell Foundation Fellow
Integrin a6ß4 in hemidesmosome dynamics: structural and functional insights for tissue homeostasis, organoid growth, and cancer with Timothy A. Springer, PhD

Longyue Lily Cao, MD, PhD§*
Bakewell Foundation Fellow
Using hyperactive dendritic cells to generate improved cancer vaccines with Jonathan C. Kagan, PhD

Teng Gao, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Unraveling the cellular and molecular determinants of hematopoietic aging and regeneration in stem cell transplantation with Vijay G. Sankaran, MD, PhD

Shreoshi Sengupta, PhD
Deborah J. Coleman Fellow
Decoding cell-cell interactions aiding angiogenesis and immune evasion in early-stage lung cancer with Carla F. Kim, PhD

Brigham and Women's Hospital

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

Rebecca Pasquarelli Rios, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Investigating novel mechanisms of tumor immune evasion with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

Jordan B. Jastrab MD, PhD§
Robert Black Fellow
Molecular mechanisms of inflammasome activation by intraphagosomal bacteria with Jonathan C. Kagan, PhD

Broad Institute

Chaiheon Lee, PhD
Suzanne and Bob Wright Fellow
Development of haptenizing chimeras for neoantigen generation with Amit Choudhary, PhD

Wendy Xueyi Wang, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Dissecting the molecular identity and contents of neuronal synapses using spatially resolved RNA sequencing with Xiao Wang, PhD (Broad Institute), and Jia Liu, PhD (Harvard University)

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Kheewoong Baek, PhD
Meghan E. Raveis Fellow
Expansion of the glueable and degradable targets of IMiD-CRBN with Eric S. Fischer, PhD

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

Brooke D. Huisman, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Elucidating the lineage relationships of thymic mimetic cells with Diane Mathis, PhD, and Christophe Benoist, MD, PhD

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

James C. Taggart, PhD
Mechanistic interrogation of robustness and vulnerability in a bacterial essential gene network with Allon M. Klein, PhD, and Johan Paulsson, PhD

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

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

Harvard University

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

Antonio J. LaPorte, PhD*
Timmerman Traverse Fellow
A general platform for preparation and study of 3O-sulfated sugars with Eric N. Jacobsen, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

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

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Yuxuan Chen, PhD
Genetic engineering of oncolytic viruses for pyroptosis-accelerated cancer virotherapy with Daniel G. Anderson, PhD

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

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

Phaedra C. Ghazi, PhD*
Investigating therapeutic vulnerabilities of lung cancer by tracking cellular identity with Tyler E. Jacks, PhD

Jane E. Lodwick, PhD*
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Revealing structure and function of an anomalous bacterial secretion system throughout the host cell with Rebecca L. Lamason, PhD

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

Expery O. Omollo, PhD
Robert A. Swanson Family Fellow
Elucidating what determines the strength of bacterial transcription terminators with Gene-Wei Li, PhD

Ian J. Roney, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Discovery and characterization of bacteriophage effectors of bacterial immune systems 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

Yichi (Tony) Zhang, PhD*
Bakewell Foundation Fellow
Determining how cancer cachexia influences gluconeogenesis with Matthew Vander Heiden, MD, PhD

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

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

Ryan Y. Muller, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Elucidating PABPC1 sequence preferences and determining how these preferences shape gene regulation 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

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Leslie A. Day, PhD*
Sijbrandij Foundation Fellow
From tools to tumors: building genetic systems to determine *Prevotella's* role in cancer with George A. O'Toole, PhD

NEW JERSEY

Princeton University

Hasreet K. Gill, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Defining mechanisms by which quorum sensing and 3D morphogenesis interact in space and time to drive *Vibrio cholerae* pellicle maturation with Bonnie L. Bassler, PhD

Grace E. Johnson, PhD
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

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

Cheng Yang, PhD
Merck Fellow
Chemoproteomic platforms for deciphering and drugging redox regulation between methionine and methionine sulfoxide in pancreatic cancer with Christopher J. Chang, PhD

Juner Zhang, PhD
The role of histone H2A.Z monoaminylation 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

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Léa Montégut, PhD*
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Decoding and targeting myeloid-driven immune-stromal programs in pre-cancerous lung lesions with Miriam Merad, MD, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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

Antonio Cuevas-Navarro, PhD
Berger Foundation Fellow
Elucidating mechanisms that reverse the detrimental effect of RAS mutations in cancer with Piro Lito, MD, PhD

Michael V. Gormally, MD, PhD§
Dennis and Marsha Dammerman Fellow
Immunologic targeting of "undruggable" TP53 hotspot mutations through T cell receptor gene therapy with Christopher A. Klebanoff, MD, and Michael F. Berger, PhD

Tamar Kavlashvili, PhD
Timmerman Traverse Fellow
Developing tools to mechanistically investigate the mtDNA 'common deletion' with Agnel Sfeir, PhD

Nalin Ratnayeke, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Dissecting heterogeneous cellular responses to oncogenic KRAS inhibition in pancreatic adenocarcinoma with Scott W. Lowe, PhD

Ariën Schiepers, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Regulatory T cells in health and disease: from Foxp3 dependence to resilience and back again with Alexander Y. Rudensky, PhD

Denis Torre, PhD*
Dissecting dynamic cellular responses to genetic perturbations using time-resolved single-cell CRISPR screens with Danwei Huangfu, PhD, and Thomas M. Norman, PhD

Pu Zhang, PhD
Understanding the role of R-loops in cancer at the single cell leve with Omar Abdel-Wahab, MD

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

Wenzhi Song, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Neuroimmune: cancer stem cell interactions in the tumor microenvironment with Elaine Fuchs, PhD

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
Investigation of the role of peripheral secreted molecules on sleep and circadian rhythms with Amita Sehgal, PhD

Christopher Noetzel, PhD
Merck Fellow
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

University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine

Sangin Kim, PhD*
Lallage Feazel Wall Fellow
ATM kinase orchestrates transcription silencing and anti-tumor immune responses with Roger A. Greenberg, MD, PhD

TENNESSEE

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Sarah L. Price, PhD
Merck Fellow
Targeting *Clostridioides difficile* biofilm dynamics to combat recurrent infections with Eric P. Skaar, PhD

UTAH

University of Utah

Parker J. Nichols, PhD*
Merck Fellow
Elucidating the mechanism of inosine-dependent inhibition of RIG-I-like receptor filamentation and interferon signaling with Brenda L. Bass, PhD

WASHINGTON

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

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

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

CANADA

University of Calgary

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

University of Toronto

J. Scott P. McCain, PhD
Connecting growth rates and fluxes to gene expression with Gary D. Bader, PhD

**Initial Year*
§Physician-Scientists
†Bridge Funding

DAMON RUNYON

QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD COMMITTEE

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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

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Departments of Medicine (Hematology & BMT) and Genetics
Stanford University
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Gaudenz Danuser, PhD
Co-Director and Head of Computational Biology
Institute of Human Biology
BASEL, SWITZERLAND

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

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

Amoolya Singh, PhD
Chief Technology Officer
Delfi Diagnostics
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Cole Trapnell, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Genome Sciences
University of Washington
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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

DAMON RUNYON

QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Stanford University

Jakob Wirbel, PhD
Microbial genome variation in hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation patients with Ami Bhatt, MD, PhD, and Mike Bassik, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles

Sohyeon Park, PhD*
Chromosome structure remodeling in innate immune training and gene regulation with Alexander Hoffmann, PhD, and Frank Alber, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

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 in St. Louis

ILLINOIS

University of Chicago

Ruoyu Wang, PhD*
Single-molecule sequence models to decode regulatory genome in cancers with Jian Zhou, PhD, University of Chicago, and W. Lee Kraus, PhD, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

MASSACHUSETTS

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Simone Bruno, PhD*
Optimal epigenetic therapies in triple-negative breast cancer with Franziska Michor, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Karen Cichowski, PhD, Harvard Medical School

Ahmed Roman, PhD
Leslie Cohen Seidman Quantitative Biology Fellow
Signal bottleneck theory for dissecting gene interactions in pancreatic cancer with Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD, and Andrew J. Aguirre, MD, PhD

NEW JERSEY

Princeton University

Jeremy A. Owen, PhD
The biophysics of substrate recognition in chromatin remodeling with Tom W. Muir, PhD, and Ned S. Wingreen, PhD

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

NEW YORK

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Paul C. Klauser, PhD*
Marilyn and Scott Urdang Quantitative Biology Fellow
Generative artificial intelligence enabling next-generation radiopharmaceuticals with Jason S. Lewis, PhD, and Caleb A. Lareau, PhD

New York Genome Center

Isabella N. Grabski, PhD
Kenneth G. Langone Quantitative Biology Fellow
A probabilistic framework for deconvolving causal mechanisms of cancer therapeutics with David A. Knowles, PhD, and Rahul Satija, PhD

Aaron Zweig, PhD*
Sijbrandij Foundation Quantitative Biology Fellow
Geometric modeling of perturbed gene regulation dynamics across time and space with David A. Knowles, PhD, New York Genome Center, and Elham Azizi, PhD, Columbia University

WASHINGTON

University of 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

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON

DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS

Rongxin Fang, PhD
Developing tools to mechanistically investigate cellular communications in healthy brain and tumors at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Xin Gu, PhD
Sijbrandij Foundation Breakthrough Scientist
Catching transcription factors for degradation via the midnolin-proteasome pathway at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, Boston

Fangyu Liu, PhD
Targeting membrane enzymes for next-generation precision medicine against cancer at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

Akanksha Thawani, PhD
Mechanisms of retrotransposon spread and regulation and their applications in gene therapy at Columbia University, New York

Qinheng Zheng, PhD
Chemical rescue of somatic mutations in cancer at Harvard Medical School, Boston

DAMON RUNYON

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD COMMITTEE

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

Glenn Dranoff, MD
Professor of Medicine
Department of Medical Oncology
Leader
Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Program in Cancer Immunology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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

Deepak Nijhawan, MD, PhD
Joseph F. Sambrook, PhD Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science
University of Texas Southwestern Presidential Scholar
Associate Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine and Biochemistry
Member, Division of Hematology and Oncology
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

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

DAMON RUNYON

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD

ILLINOIS

Alexandra E. Rojek, MD*
Sijbrandij Foundation Physician-Scientist
Leveraging memory-like T cell phenotypes to improve cellular therapies with Justin P. Kline, MD, The University of Chicago, Chicago

MASSACHUSETTS

Wallace A. Bourgeois, MD
Characterizing mechanisms of resistance to Menin inhibitors in KMT2A-rearranged and NPM1-mutant AML with Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Charles S. Dai, MD*
Epigenetically targeting MYC through paradoxical nuclear receptor activation in hormone-dependent malignancies with Daniel A. Haber, MD, PhD, and Shyamala Maheswaran, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Vignesh Shanmugam, MD
Uncovering microenvironmental dependencies in follicular lymphoma with Todd R. Golub, MD, Brigham and Women's 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

Rebecca Zon, MD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist
Defining the mechanism of thrombosis in patients with multiple myeloma with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

NEW YORK

Nicole M. Cruz, MD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist
Targeting ubiquitin-independent proteasomal control of MYB in acute myeloid leukemia with Alex Kentsis, MD, PhD, and Robert G. Roeder, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

Xiaoli Mi, MD
Lois A. Cinelli Physician-Scientist, supported by the Cinelli Family Foundation
Origin and evolution of long-lived CAR T cells in patients with hermatologic malignancies with Omar Abdel-Wahab, MD, and Dan A. Landau, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, 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

OHIO

Annabelle J. Anandappa, MD*
The role of inflammatory signaling in the pathogenesis and therapeutic targeting of RAS-mutated AML with Daniel T. Starczynowski, PhD, and Linde A. Miles, PhD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati

PENNSYLVANIA

Rahul Bhansali, MD
Lois A. Cinelli Physician-Scientist, supported by the Cinelli Family Foundation
Investigating chromatin architectural dynamics mediated by LDB1 in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia with Gerd A. Blobel, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON

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President, Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center
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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Associate Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Boston Children's Hospital
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Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center
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Dean for Cancer Research, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Ward-Coleman Chair in Cancer Research
Director, Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center and Mount Sinai Health System
Professor and Chair Oncological Sciences
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
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Director, Adult Survivorship Program
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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School
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Weill Cornell Medicine
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DAMON RUNYON

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Jonathan Chou, MD, PhD*
Defining and exploiting the cancer surfaceome landscape for novel therapeutics with James A. Wells, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Steven M. Corsello, MD
Leslie Cohen Seidman Clinical Investigator
Targeting intrinsic immune signaling in pancreatic cancer with small molecule therapeutics with Nathanael S. Gray, PhD, and Ronald Levy, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Bridget P. Keenan, MD, PhD*
Improving outcomes for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma and liver disease by circumventing myeloid cell-mediated suppression with Matthew H. Spitzer, PhD, University of California, San Francisco, and Lawrence Fong, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle

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

Megan Insco, MD, PhD
Targeting cancer-associated aberrant RNA to treat metastatic melanoma with F. Stephen Hodi, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Peter G. Miller, MD, PhD*
The role of RecQ helicases in premalignant hematopoiesis and myeloid neoplasia with Timothy A. Graubert, MD, and David T. Scadden, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Erin M. Parry, MD, PhD
Defining follicular lymphoma transformation: molecular basis, detection and therapeutic vulnerabilities with Margaret A. Shipp, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Srivatsan Raghavan, MD, PhD*
Defining and targeting transcriptional drivers of KRAS inhibitor resistance in pancreatic cancer with William C. Hahn, MD, PhD and Brian M. Wolpin, MD, MPH, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Lachelle D. Weeks, MD, PhD
Timmerman Traverse Clinical Investigator
Predicting leukemia risk from peripheral blood smears with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

MICHIGAN

John R. Prensner, MD, PhD
Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation Clinical Investigator
Therapeutic opportunities and biological mechanisms for protein-RNA dyssynchrony in medulloblastoma with Sriram Venneti, MD, PhD, and Carl J. Koschmann, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

MISSOURI

Mary M. Mullen, MD
COPS5 as a novel therapeutic target in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer with Dineo Khabele, MD, and Nima Mosammaparast, 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

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

OREGON

Tanaya Shree, MD, PhD*
Unraveling resistance to bispecific T-cell engagers with Brian J. Druker, MD, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

Benjamin A. Nacev, MD, PhD
Understanding and targeting chromatin reorganization in ATRX deficient sarcomas with Jeremy N. Rich, MD, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, and Ronald J. Buckanovich, MD, PhD, 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

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR CONTINUATION GRANTS

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, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, University of California, San Francisco

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

MISSOURI

Kelly L. Bolton, MD, PhD
The use of ivosidenib in IDH1-mutated clonal cytopenia of undetermined significance with Matthew J. Walter, MD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, and Eytan M. Stein, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

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

Aaron D. Viny, MD
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
Shared antigen and neoantigen-specific T cells in checkpoint blockade efficacy and toxicity with Gerald P. Linette, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF

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Professor, Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences
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DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF

INNOVATION AWARD

STAGE 2 FUNDING

CALIFORNIA

Meghan A. Morrissey, PhD*
Nadia's Gift Foundation-Rachleff Innovator
Nibbled to death: improving macrophage's ability to kill solid tumors by trogocytosis at University of California, Santa Barbara

Ziyang Zhang, PhD
Small molecule activators of GTP hydrolysis for mutant Ras-driven cancer at University of California, Berkeley

FLORIDA

Alex M. Jaeger, PhD
William Raveis Charitable Fund-Rachleff Innovator
Engineering approaches to exploit MHC-II antigen presentation in cancer at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa

MASSACHUSETTS

Yiyin Chen, MD, PhD*
Skin commensal bacteria as a novel source of systemic antitumor immunity at The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Boston

Humsa S. Venkatesh, PhD
Identifying and disrupting the bioelectric circuits driving brain cancer at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

NEW JERSEY

Natasha O'Brown, PhD*
Timmerman Traverse-Rachleff Innovator
Leveraging zebrafish models to overcome blood-brain barrier in glioblastoma treatment at Rutgers University, Piscataway

NEW YORK

Justin Perry, PhD*
Lois A. Cinelli-Rachleff Innovator, supported by the Cinelli Family Foundation
Tumor-macrophage metabolic symbiosis as a driver of disease progression and therapeutic resistance at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Daniel J. Puleston, PhD
Bakewell Foundation-Rachleff Innovator
A new platform to study cancer biology and therapy in humans at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York

Mark Yarmarkovich, PhD*
Bakewell Foundation-Rachleff Innovator
Unveiling the tumor antigenome through immune intelligence at New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York

PENNSYLVANIA

Sydney M. Shaffer, MD, PhD
Bakewell Foundation-Rachleff Innovator
Spatially resolved cellular competition in oncogenesis at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**Initial Year*

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*
Bakewell Foundation-Rachleff Innovator
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

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

**Initial Year*

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Senior Vice President for Drug Discovery and Chief Research Strategy Officer
President, Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center
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Associate Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Boston Children's Hospital
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Benioff UCSF Professorship in Children's Health
Department of Pediatrics
Director, Molecular Oncology Initiative
Co-Leader, Pediatric Malignancies Program
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of California, San Francisco
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

DAMON RUNYON-ST. JUDE

PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Stanford University

Mohammad Balood, PhD
Development and evaluation of T cell receptor (TCR)-based immunotherapy to target pediatric Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia with Tanja A. Gruber, MD, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

Matthew Decker, MD, PhD[*§]
The N-Ras palmitoylation cycle as a therapeutic target in pediatric acute myeloid leukemia with Kevin M. Shannon, MD

Philip T. Pauerstein, MD, PhD[§]
Enhancing immune synapse formation with synthetic adhesion to overcome chimeric antigen receptor-T cell resistance in pediatric B cell malignancies with Wendell A. Lim, PhD

MASSACHUSETTS

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

April A. Apfelbaum, PhD
Investigation of receptor tyrosine kinase-independent mechanisms of FGFR1-mediated oncogenesis in pediatric gliomas with Pratiti Bandopadhayay, MBBS, PhD, and Keith Lignon, MD, PhD

Costanza Lo Cascio, PhD
Investigating the neuronal regulation of radioresistance in diffuse midline gliomas with Mariella G. Filbin, MD, PhD

James J. Morrow, MD, PhD[§]
Application of single-cell approaches to investigate the developmental origin and early transformation steps of osteosarcoma with Bradley E. Bernstein, MD, PhD

Geoffrey A. Smith, MD, PhD[§*]
Identifying mechanisms of immune evasion in a murine model of osteosarcoma with Tyler Jacks, PhD

Lara Wahlster, MD, PhD[§*]
Decoding mechanisms of B-acute lymphoblastic leukemia pathogenesis through the lens of genomics with Vijay G. Sankaran, MD, PhD

NEW YORK

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Oriana Miltiadous, MD[§*]
Investigating the role and therapeutic potential of microbiome and bile acids in immune recovery and graft-versus-host disease in pediatric allogeneic transplantation with Andrew L. Kung, MD, PhD, and Ivan Maillard, MD, PhD

TENNESSEE

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Tuyu Zheng, PhD[*]
Functional characterization of tumor neuronal networks that drive ependymoma with Stephen C. Mack, PhD

WASHINGTON

Seattle Children's Research Institute

Ian Blumenthal, PhD[*]
Addressing antigen heterogeneity in pediatric gliomas with tumor-assimilating multispecific immune cell engagers with Jim M. Olson, MD, PhD

**Initial Year*
§Physician-Scientists

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Fox Chase Cancer Center
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Freeman Hrabowski Scholar of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Assistant Professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology
Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology Department
Harvard University
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Henry Ross Perot Distinguished Professor in Biomedical Science
Rolf Haberecht and Ute Schwarz Haberecht Dean
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University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

DAMON RUNYON

SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE (SPARK) AWARD

Isabella Alves
National Mah Jongg League Scholar
with Christina M. Termini, PhD, at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle

Subyeta Chowdhury
with Ross L. Levine, MD, at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Milen Negasi
National Mah Jongg League Scholar
with Xin Gu, PhD, at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Imani Williams
with Ralph J. DeBerardinis, MD, PhD, at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Your support this year enabled us to invest over **$21 million** in exceptional young scientists working across research disciplines to better prevent, diagnose, and treat all forms of cancer.

DAMON RUNYON BROADWAY TICKETS

SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH FROM THE BEST SEATS ON BROADWAY!

In a long-standing partnership with Broadway theaters, we offer the best seats to nearly every show on Broadway. The price of each ticket includes a voluntary, tax-deductible donation to the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation.

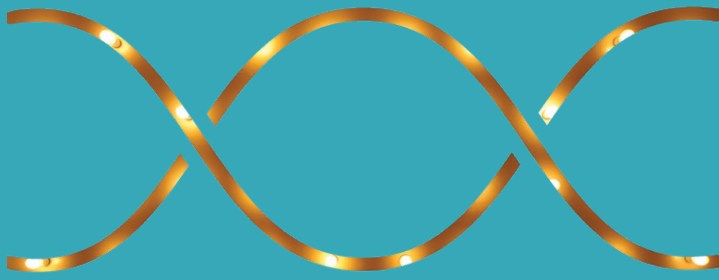
BROADWAY TICKETS

"As far back as I can remember, my family has supported Damon Runyon through the Broadway ticket program. I believe I was 13 years old when I saw Zero Mostel in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*," recalled longtime donor David G. Schwartz. "I highly recommend it to anyone with an appreciation for theater and a desire to find cures for cancer—you get the satisfaction of getting to see the finest Broadway has to offer while at the same time helping humanity."

THEATER BENEFITS

"We've so enjoyed attending dinners with these young scientists," remarked Sandye Berger, who, with her sister Reneé, has sponsored Damon Runyon Fellows through the Sol & Margaret Berger Foundation. "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."

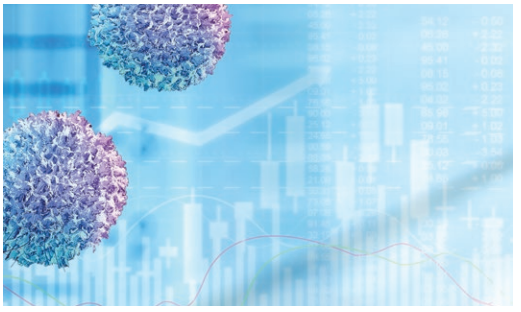
To learn about upcoming shows and purchase tickets, visit **damonrunyon.org/broadway-tickets** or call **212-455-0550**.



2025 EVENTS

ANNUAL BREAKFAST

The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation held its Annual Breakfast at the Metropolitan Club in New York on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. The event raised over $1.1 million to support our scientists and honored former Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator and cellular therapy pioneer Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD, Deputy Director and Chair of Medicine at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Attendees also heard research updates from Damon Runyon-Timmerman Traverse Clinical Investigator Lachelle D. Weeks, MD, PhD, and Damon Runyon-Bakewell Foundation Rachleff Innovator Daniel J. Puleston, PhD, who are each developing innovative ways to study cancer biology.

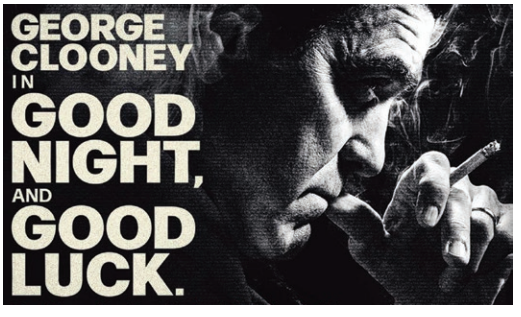


ANNUAL FELLOWS' RETREAT

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 from what we can learn about cancer from African frogs to "chalk talks" in job interviews. Among the Retreat's many highlights was the presentation of the Damon Runyon-Jake Wetchler Award for Pediatric Innovation to Damon Runyon-Fayez Sarofim Fellow Pu Zheng, PhD, of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research.

CULTIVATION EVENTS

This year, Damon Runyon hosted regional events in South Florida, Westchester, Boston, and the Bay Area to highlight the work of our scientists for the generous supporters who make their research possible. From our winter movie screening in Boca Raton to a sunset gathering on the edge of Long Island Sound, these unique events provided an opportunity for current and prospective donors to hear directly from Damon Runyon awardees about their progress in finding new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat all types of cancer.



THEATER BENEFITS

In celebration of our long-standing partnership with Broadway theaters, Damon Runyon held its biannual Theater Benefits this spring and fall to raise money for our scientists. In the spring, guests enjoyed George Clooney's Broadway debut in a performance of *Good Night, and Good Luck*, and in the fall, a preview performance of *Chess*, starring Tony Award winner Aaron Tveit and acclaimed stage and screen star Lea Michele. As always, attendees had the opportunity to meet Damon Runyon scientists over dinner before the show.

DAMON RUNYON REACHES NEW HEIGHTS WITH THE TIMMERMAN TRAVERSE

Luke Timmerman (right) and Damon Runyon-Timmerman Traverse Fellow Tamar Kavlashvili, PhD

This year, we were thrilled to continue our partnership with the Timmerman Traverse, an adventurous initiative that brings leaders and investors in biotech together to scale extraordinary physical—and philanthropic—heights.

Led by biotech journalist, entrepreneur, and mountaineer **Luke Timmerman**, participants in the Timmerman Traverse successfully trekked to Everest Base Camp in April, raising nearly $800,000 to benefit Damon Runyon.

This October, participants in the first "mini-Traverse," an ambitious one-day strike on Maine's Mount Katahdin, raised an additional $95,000 for cancer research. The Timmerman Traverse for Damon Runyon has raised **more than $2 million** to benefit Damon Runyon's cancer researchers since the partnership began in 2024.

"The Timmerman Traverse is a special event because it achieves several goals: raising awareness, raising money, and forming meaningful relationships on the trail," says Mr. Timmerman. "There's something almost primal about getting together, outside, in shared purpose and doing something difficult. That is how humans evolved, and it's something that we don't get very much of in our modern world. This is what I'm seeking: to bring people together to work toward the common good of cancer research."

Judith Hasko, Expery, Vineeta Agarwala, and Art Kreig

"It's more than just a trip to Mount Everest or a hike up Kilimanjaro," says **Henry Kilgore, PhD**, one of the first Damon Runyon Fellows to complete the Traverse in 2024.

"You join a community of people who are passionate about improving others' lives. I feel like I made some lifelong friends." Next year's Traverse will bring another team of intrepid climbers to the peak of **Mt. Kilimanjaro in February 2026**.

"When I was asked to join, I immediately said yes," recalls **Antonio LaPorte, PhD**, a Damon Runyon-Timmerman Traverse Fellow who participated in the mini-Traverse and will join the team next year. "One, because I love the outdoors, but also because this is an opportunity for me to give back to future generations of Damon Runyon Fellows. Everyone who has sponsored and participated in the Traverse events over the last few years has made such an impact on my life. Participating myself is a way to give back."

"Damon Runyon is one of those rare cancer research foundations where all of the donations actually support cancer research," says **Tamar Kavlashvili, PhD**, a Damon Runyon-Timmerman Traverse Fellow and 2025 Traverse participant.

"And not just cancer research, but out-of-the-box projects that might not otherwise get funded. So we are extremely grateful to groups like the Timmerman Traverse that fundraise for this organization."

"Obviously, the Traverse is not big enough to replace all that may be lost [in federal funding]," says Mr. Timmerman. "But it is one meaningful way for people to contribute to scientific excellence. For folks who want to put their checkbook—or maybe their hiking boots—where their mouth is, this is a great way to support the scientific enterprise in America that we are so blessed to have inherited and to hopefully continue to steward."

To learn more about the initiative and how to support future expeditions, visit damonrunyon.org/traverse.

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.

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Ryan A. Flynn, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital

Daniel J. Puleston, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Sydney M. Shaffer, MD, PhD
University of Pennsylvania

Mark Yarmarkovich, PhD
New York University Grossman School of Medicine

LOIS A. CINELLI-RACHLEFF INNOVATOR, SUPPORTED BY THE CINELLI FAMILY FOUNDATION

Justin Perry, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

NADIA'S GIFT FOUNDATION-RACHLEFF INNOVATOR

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Alex M. Jaeger, PhD
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute

DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

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

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Stanford University School of Medicine

TIMMERMAN TRAVERSE CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Lachelle D. Weeks, MD, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

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

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Saket Rahul Bagde, PhD
(September 2025 – Present)
Boston Children's Hospital

Longyue Lily Cao, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital

John Devany, PhD
Northwestern University

Yichi (Tony) Zhang, PhD
(January – August 2025)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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Catherine A. Freije, PhD
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University of California, San Francisco

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Stanford University

Mingjian Du, PhD
Columbia University

Brendan Floyd, PhD
Stanford University

Teng Gao, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital

Rodrigo Gier, PhD
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Hasreet K. Gill, PhD
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Nicole M. Hoitsma, PhD
University of Colorado, Boulder

Lucia Ichino, PhD
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Dhiraj Indana, PhD
California Institute of Technology

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

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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 Damon Runyon's highest expectations with an additional investment. It was established in honor of late former Damon Runyon Board Chair Dale F. Frey.

SIJBRANDIJ FOUNDATION BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTIST

Xin Gu, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School

DAMON RUNYON PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARDS

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

DAVID M. LIVINGSTON, MD, PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST

Mounica Vallurupalli, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

LOIS A. CINELLI PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS, SUPPORTED BY THE CINELLI FAMILY FOUNDATION

Rahul Bhansali, MD
University of Pennsylvania

Xiaoli Mi, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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The Rockefeller University

Rebecca L. Zon, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

SIJBRANDIJ FOUNDATION PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST

Alexandra E. Rojek, MD
The University of Chicago

DAMON RUNYON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

The following awards are funded by donors who generously sponsor an individual Quantitative Biology Fellow.

KENNETH G. LANGONE QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW

Isabella N. Grabski, PhD
New York Genome Center

LESLIE COHEN SEIDMAN QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW

Ahmed Roman, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

MARILYN AND SCOTT URDANG QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW

Paul C. Klauser, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

SIJBRANDIJ FOUNDATION QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW

Aaron Zweig, PhD
New York Genome Center

DAMON RUNYON SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE

The following awards are funded by donors who generously sponsor an individual SPARK Scholar.

NATIONAL MAH JONGG LEAGUE SCHOLARS

Isabella Alves
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Milen Negasi
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

DAMON RUNYON-JAKE WETCHLER AWARD FOR PEDIATRIC INNOVATION

This award is given annually in honor of Jake, who survived Hodgkin's lymphoma at age 18, but lost his life to leukemia at age 20. It recognizes a third-year Damon Runyon Fellow whose research has the greatest potential to impact the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of pediatric cancer.

Pu Zheng, PhD
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

ACCELERATING CANCER CURES

Accelerating Cancer Cures is supported by leading biopharmaceutical companies committed to finding new cures for cancer. Thank you to Genentech, Merck, AbbVie, Amgen, and Novartis for partnering with us to support the Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award.

In conjunction with this initiative, the Accelerating Cancer Cures Research Symposium brings together our translational researchers with industry leaders to foster communication and collaboration to help speed progress against cancer.

The 2025 Accelerating Cancer Cures Research Symposium was held on Thursday, March 27, at the Novartis campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We thank Novartis and all our partners for their support and commitment to the next generation of clinical investigators.

WAYS TO GIVE

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1.877.7CANCER or 1.877.722.6237
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One Exchange Plaza, 55 Broadway, Suite 302
New York, NY 10006

ESTATE PLANNING

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.

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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 2025

The financial activities of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation were audited by BDO USA. Below is a snapshot of FY2025.

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

TOTAL REVENUE

65.4%	Contributions
28.8%	Investment Return
3.1%	Misc. Income
2.3%	Bequests & Trusts
0.4%	Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

87.5%	Programs
7.7%	Fundraising
4.8%	General Administration

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS

	2024	2025
Total Assets	$160,511,709	$170,380,475
Total Liabilities	$35,205,374	$35,526,498
Total Net Assets	$125,306,335	$134,853,977

Charity Navigator ✦ FOUR-STAR ✦ 2025

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.

Cover Illustration by Traci Daberko

DAMON RUNYON
CANCER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Funding brave and bold.