ANNUAL REPORT 2019

FUNDING BRAVE AND BOLD.

DAMON RUNYON CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION
unding brave and bold. Cancer. No disease in the history of medicine has proven more elusive and resilient. It defies logic. It’s unpredictable. It hides in plain sight. It evolves. And it’s soon to be the number one killer in America.

The very nature of cancer is why, at the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, we believe that only by pursuing and investing in the most audacious and ambitious ideas will we achieve victory over humankind’s deadliest enemy.

Our research focus is singular: high-risk, high-reward. Research that others might deem radical or believe to be reaching too far. Research that has a good chance of failure, but at the same time has a chance to fundamentally change the game.

Who does that kind of research? Young scientists with the brilliance and unbridled passion to push boundaries and break rules. People with the incredible brainpower to earn millions of dollars on Wall Street or in Silicon Valley, but who have chosen to take a different path, a path that could instead save millions of lives.

And we support them the best way we know how—with the money they need to bring their ideas from whiteboards to reality. The funding and freedom to pursue theories, concepts and strategies that others are not brave or bold enough to bet their careers on.

Brave and bold. That’s where the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation invests. That’s where we believe the answers will come from.

Brave and bold. The only two words that will beat cancer.
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Most recently, we identified a critical area for cancer research: quantitative biology. In this current era of vast amounts of patient data (genetic and clinical) and research data, there is an urgent need for scientists with the unique expertise to analyze these data in the best way possible. What can we learn from these data—when combined, compared, sorted in the right ways or perhaps unexpected ways—that will inform how to improve cancer treatment, diagnosis, and prevention? What are the right types of data to collect in order to explore important questions in cancer?

Can we learn more about how cancers evolve and develop resistance to therapy, or transition from latent to acute disease? To answer these questions, we need scientists who are specially trained to work in quantitative fields (such as mathematics, physics, computer science) in addition to cancer biology. For these reasons, we are proud and excited to announce that we have created a new program, the Damon Runyon Quantitative Biology Fellowship Award, to recruit and invest in these people.

Earlier this year, we increased our Innovation and Clinical Investigator Awards by 33% to provide more robust and much-needed additional resources to our scientists. This new quantitative biology program (described more on page 6) will further increase our annual Damon Runyon award programs budget to nearly $21.5 million in 2020. We are confident that our sustained investment will lead to even more brave and bold impact on cancer research.

DAMON RUNYON BOARD MEMBER
WILLIAM G. KAELIN, JR., MD, WINS 2019 NOBEL PRIZE

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, shares the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability. This work has led to the development of potential drugs for heart attack, stroke, anemia and cancer. Dr. Kaelin has shown incredible dedication to the leadership of the Foundation’s scientific programs, particularly the Clinical Investigator and Physician-Scientist Training Awards.
We are at a unique time in cancer research, when the volume and diversity of data—including genome sequences, catalogs of all the proteins in a single cell and patient information such as pathology and imaging—is exponentially growing. Increasingly, biologists are required to not only work at the lab bench, but also mine vast amounts of data to find the valuable clues that will address key challenges in cancer research and patient treatment.

Damon Runyon anticipates the need for an elite cadre of computational biology leaders with expertise and understanding in both quantitative and biological sciences—scientists who are capable of traversing both worlds with ease and are truly bilingual, comfortably speaking both languages fluently. Highly skilled quantitative scientists, however, may be

“BECAUSE THIS IS IN ESSENCE A NEW FIELD...IT IS CRITICAL TO DRAW FEARLESS AND BRILLIANT YOUNG SCIENTISTS TO THESE PROBLEMS TO DRIVE THE FIELD FORWARD.”

AVIV REGEV, PhD

The Foundation is thrilled to have one of the world’s most accomplished computational biologists, Aviv Regev, PhD, lead the selection committee for the new Damon Runyon Quantitative Biology Fellowship Award. “She has a proven track record of using quantitative tools to drive major discoveries in cancer,” says Todd R. Golub, MD, of the Broad Institute, and Damon Runyon Board Member. Dr. Regev, also of the Broad Institute, has pioneered many leading experimental and computational methods that are now widely used by her colleagues in the field. She is co-leading one of the most ambitious projects in the history of biology—the Human Cell Atlas—which is creating a reference map that categorizes the approximately 37 trillion cells that comprise the human body.
pulled toward the technology industry to create the next Google, Amazon or YouTube. To proactively address this need, Damon Runyon has created a new funding mechanism designed to encourage quantitative scientists (trained in fields such as mathematics, physics, computer science, engineering and others) to pursue research careers in computational biology.

The Damon Runyon Quantitative Biology Fellowship Award will support a new generation of computational scientists who will pioneer novel approaches to the design and interpretation of experiments in cancer research, to answer a myriad of important biological and clinical questions.

“Damon Runyon is well-positioned to launch such an ambitious and bold endeavor. We must ensure that the cancer research field has strong leadership at the intersection of cancer biology and computational science. The Foundation has a long history of identifying visionary, early career scientists and investing in them,” says Todd R. Golub, MD, of the Broad Institute, and Damon Runyon Board Member.

Exposing more cancer researchers and oncologists to data science, and computational scientists to the biological complexity of cancer are critical steps to finding cures. “Realizing the importance of the burgeoning field of quantitative cancer biology, Damon Runyon is clearly signaling the importance of this area for the future of cancer research,” says Dr. Regev.

“Because this is in essence a new field at the nexus of traditional cancer research and data science, it is critical to draw fearless and brilliant young computational scientists to these problems to drive the field forward,” says Aviv Regev, PhD, of the Broad Institute and inaugural Chair of the new Quantitative Biology Fellowship Award Committee.

“What impact do you hope the award will have in the short-term? And in the long-term?

In the short-term, empowering trailblazing young scientists in this area will impact our ability to predict and understand disease and find therapeutic targets. In the mid-term, the scientists trained through these awards will be part of a new cadre of leaders to drive the field forward. And in the long-term, it will make it possible to bring new data-driven and machine learning approaches to cancer research beyond the lab and into the clinic.

Why is Damon Runyon the right organization to be launching this award?

Damon Runyon has long been at the very forefront of training generations of scientists in pursuing bold new approaches to cancer research. It is mission-driven and can ensure the focus and drive in this critical area.

“Damon Runyon is well-positioned to launch such an ambitious and bold endeavor.”

TODD R. GOLUB, MD
SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT
SAKIKO SUZUKI, MD

STRIVING FOR
BREATKROUGH
TREATMENTS
SAKIKO SUZUKI, MD

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST
Inflammation and Cell Death

INSTITUTION
University of Massachusetts Medical School

PROJECT TITLE
“Inflammatory cell death pathways in Myelodysplastic Syndromes”

“IF WE CAN JUST INTERRUPT [THE] CYCLE, THERE MIGHT BE A NEW WAY OF TREATING THESE CONDITIONS.”

In the best possible scenario, how would your work impact cancer patients?

I’m trying to prevent MDS patients from progressing into the leukemia stage where they need more serious chemotherapy and stem cell or bone marrow transplant. If we can diagnose the pre-cancerous conditions and nip it in the bud, we are saving patients side effects, painful recovery and expensive treatments.

What has Damon Runyon’s support meant to your career?

I can tell you with 100% certainty that if I didn’t have the Damon Runyon support, I would be a full-time physician with research a very remote part of my life. The only reason I’m able to work in the lab right now, continuing my scientific training, is because of Damon Runyon. There was no other funding.

What is the current state of your Damon Runyon-funded research?

Sakiko: We’re trying to determine whether inflammation and inflammatory cell death drive Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), a type of cancer caused by abnormal bone marrow cells that have difficulty making new blood cells. As a result, many of the blood cells produced are defective and often die earlier than normal. Inflammation causing the cell death that causes more inflammation. If we can just interrupt that cycle, there might be a way of treating these debilitating conditions.

How does your interaction with cancer patients affect your research, and vice versa?

In the clinic, I treat patients with leukemia and lymphoma and often they get bone marrow transplants, which provide a chance of a cure. In the meantime, we need to deal with the complications that come from these treatments. In the lab, we are working on treatments that may be years away from clinical application but have the potential to cure patients. I can take that excitement of future breakthroughs to patients who might be losing hope and say, “Hang in there—in three years, who knows what treatments are going to be available to treat your cancer.” I can say that with more authenticity since I’m in the laboratory doing research, than I could when I was just a clinician.

Inflammation and Cell Death
“BEFORE EMBARKING ON THIS PROJECT, WE KEPT HEARING, ‘THIS DOESN’T HAPPEN IN CANCER.’”

DAVID Q. MATUS, PhD

“VISUALIZING THE DEADLY SPREAD OF CANCER”

Cancer is synonymous with uncontrolled cell division. It makes sense, then, that many drugs target actively dividing cells to stop tumor growth. But Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovators Benjamin L. Martin, PhD, and David Q. Matus, PhD, at Stony Brook University, have taken a daring new approach that addresses recurrence and metastasis, the spread of cancer cells to distant organs. “We think of cancer progression as increases in both uncontrolled proliferation and invasive behavior,” David says.

Their research stems from David’s discovery in the roundworm Caenorhabditis elegans that cells cannot simultaneously divide and invade. “People didn’t think that cells needed to stop dividing before invading. We kept hearing that this doesn’t happen in cancer,” David says.

The researchers are proving they have the right idea. Using state-of-the-art microscopy and genetic analysis, they have achieved an unprecedented level of understanding about how circulating tumor cells exit blood vessels and invade new sites in the body. “The great strength of our collaboration is approaching the problem using different model organisms [zebrafish and roundworm],” says Benjamin.

They have captured the movement of human breast cancer cells injected into the vascular system of the zebrafish in high-resolution 3D video. It is the first time the process has been recorded live, in stunning detail—the cell rolling, crawling, and moving out of a blood vessel.

In parallel, they have identified the molecular control switch that causes cells to stop dividing and increases their capacity to invade other tissue. Insights from their work may lead to the development of new drugs to block metastasis. “Most cancer therapeutic strategies are not geared towards eliminating dormant tumor cells that may evade standard first-line therapies,” Benjamin explains. “As we make progress, it’s opening up new questions and different directions that our labs are pursuing.”

David and Benjamin exemplify Damon Runyon’s focus on finding creative, bold thinkers willing to push the boundaries of established science. Both credit Damon Runyon with providing support at a critical juncture in their research. Since the Damon Runyon award, “we have received additional funding from other sources that we may not have—just based on the novelty and risk of our original idea,” says Benjamin. “That was an initial huge impact for both of us.”
SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT
KYLE G. DANIELS, PhD

PIONEERING
KILLER CAR T THERAPIES
KRLE G. DANIELS, PhD

SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT

“CAR (chimeric antigen receptor) T cell therapy outsmarts cancer by using a patient’s own immune system, and it is saving lives—in some cases when all else has failed. These engineered T cells are removed from the cancer patient, genetically tailored in the lab to recognize that patient’s individual cancer, and then injected back into the body to find and kill tumor cells. Unlike a traditional small molecule drug with a temporary effect, CAR T therapy is a living drug given once that, theoretically, can protect the body for life.”

C "T cells act like little 'decision-making robots,' which can be reprogrammed to strike against a specific cancer—it's a much more intelligent therapeutic approach," says Damon Runyon Fellow Kyle G. Daniels, PhD, at the University of California, San Francisco. First-generation CAR T cells have proved effective only for a small number of patients with lymphoma and leukemia. Kyle is creating a sleek redesign that will give CAR T cells superior anticancer abilities to work more efficiently with fewer side effects, for more patients. "I wanted to have a more immediate impact on people’s lives, and this is probably about as close as a basic scientist can get to that." It’s a bold move. Most scientists who study CAR T cells are making small, incremental changes to one CAR T type. “My project is ambitious. We decided to look at thousands of CARs at once with diverse properties to find what makes the most effective CAR T,” Kyle explains. The volume of data he is collecting makes this particularly challenging. He is creating the tools to visualize complex, multi-dimensional data sets and extract meaningful information. Buried within these data are clues to creating CAR T cells that divide more rapidly once re-injected into the body, for a stronger upfront response to the cancer, and last longer so that the therapy is more effective over time. “Already we’ve found cell signals that give us three or four times as many memory cells as the treatments that are on the market now,” he says. Looking back four years ago, Kyle remembers turning down another prestigious award to accept the Damon Runyon Fellowship. "When you meet another scientist in the field, they know Damon Runyon, and it automatically gives you a bit of cancer 'street cred.' Having the time and private support from Damon Runyon has given me the freedom to trust my gut and follow my instincts.”

SEO:\n
CAR T cell

CAR T treatment involves genetically tailoring a patient’s T cells to specifically find and kill the individual’s tumor cells.

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FELLOW

Synthetic Immunology

INSTITUTION

University of California, San Francisco

PROJECT TITLE

“Controlling T cell signaling and fate choice using synthetic receptors”

Sequencing data (pictured) shows the precise order of bases—A, C, G, T—in a given DNA molecule. Buried within the thousands of letters are clues to creating CAR T cells that are more effective in treating patients.

“I WANTED TO HAVE A MORE IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON PEOPLE’S LIVES, AND THIS IS PROBABLY ABOUT AS CLOSE AS A BASIC SCIENTIST CAN GET TO THAT.”
Dr. Amaia Lujambio, PhD

Innovator
Resistance to Immunotherapy

Institution
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Project Title
"Overcoming resistance to anti-PD1 immunotherapy in hepatocellular carcinoma"

"Despite the initial failure of checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapies in clinical trials for liver cancer patients, I had a gut feeling that it would eventually work," Amaia says.

She was right. Now that immunotherapy has been approved for liver cancer patients, her lab is focusing on deciphering why only a small subset of patients respond to these treatments and finding strategies to overcome resistance.

Damon Runyon sat down with Amaia to learn more about her bold foray into the frontiers of immunotherapy for liver cancer.

Dr. Amaia Lujambio: How is your research addressing some of the difficulties checkpoint inhibitor therapy faces in the clinic?

Amaia: We are working on identifying which patients are more likely to respond to therapy and trying to establish novel combinations of immunotherapies that can be effective in those patients that are initially resistant to immunotherapy.

Trying to understand what’s going on inside patients is complicated by the different mutations each person’s tumor carries. We created a mouse model that accurately resembles tumors in patients. Using this model and samples from HCC patients treated with checkpoint inhibitor, we recently found a pathway that promotes immune escape and drug resistance. These findings will be critical in defining biomarkers to select the HCC patients that are most likely to benefit and help design strategies to overcome resistance.

How has Damon Runyon boosted your career in unexpected ways?

Receiving a Damon Runyon award is very prestigious and highly competitive. It has given me a lot of visibility and a broad network that has been critical to establishing collaborations.

I met Dr. Joshua Brody, a Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator, who also works at Mount Sinai, at a Damon Runyon retreat. We decided to join forces by adapting his novel therapies for lymphoma to liver cancer. I have another exciting collaboration with scientists at Genentech in San Francisco, who are developing novel combination immunotherapies for liver cancer patients.

Is your Damon Runyon research proposal risky?

Yes. That’s why I decided to apply for the Damon Runyon Innovation Award—because it specifically funds high-risk, high-reward projects. The basis of the project was innovative, but we didn’t have enough preliminary data for conventional funding agencies.

We have already published part of our new data in a high-impact journal, so now I feel confident that the risk was definitely worth it.
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In FY2019, Damon Runyon awarded nearly $20M to 66 newly selected, 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: $231,000**

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

**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-SOHN PEDIATRIC CANCER FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

Supports dedicated basic scientists and clinicians who conduct research with the potential to significantly impact the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of one or more pediatric cancers.

**FOUR-YEAR AWARD: $231,000**

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: $100,000**

**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**

**NEW YORK METRO COMMITTEE**

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California Institute of Technology
Ariana Peck, PhD*
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Exploring the reach of structure determination with nanocrystal tomography with Grant J. Jensen, PhD

Scripps Research Institute
Marsha M. Hirschi, PhD
Dennis and Marsha Dammerman Fellow
Molecular engineering of an optically controlled glutamate receptor with Gabriel C. Lander, PhD

Xiaoyu Zhang, PhD
Discovery of chemical probes that support targeted protein degradation in human cancer with Benjamin F. Cravatt, PhD

Stanford University
Christopher J. Cambier, PhD
HHMI Fellow
In vivo characterization of mycobacterial cording with Carolyn R. Bertozzi, PhD

Kelsie A. Eichel, PhD
Robert A. Swanson Family Fellow
Mechanisms of polarized membrane protein trafficking with Kang Shen, PhD

Ryan A. Flynn, MD, PhD
The interplay between cellular metabolism and RNA homeostasis in disease with Carolyn R. Bertozzi, PhD

Christina L. Hueschen, PhD*
Molecular basis and regulation of apicomplexan parasite motility with Alex Dunn, PhD

Victoria Hung, PhD
Fraternal Order of Eagles Fellow
Defining the post-translational landscape of ribosomes in control of gene regulation and cell fate with Maria Barna, PhD

John C. Janetzko, PhD
A biophysical approach to studying GRK-GPCR complexes with Brian K. Kobilka, MD

Christopher P. Lapointe, PhD
Regulatory roles of the 3’ untranslated region in human translation with Joseph D. Puglisi, PhD
“THE DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP ALLOWED ME TO PURSUE PROMISING BUT RISKY QUESTIONS. WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT, MY FINDINGS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.”

MATTHEW P. MILLER, PHD
Damon Runyon Fellow ‘14-18 and Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Breakthrough Scientist ‘18-19
University of Utah

Chuan Li, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Quantifying epistasis between tumor suppressor genes and revealing the underlying expression profiles at the single-cell level in murine lung adenocarcinoma with Dmitri A. Petrov, PhD

Fangfei Gu, PhD
Decoding the molecular and cellular mechanisms of the growth of brain metastases with Julian Sage, PhD

Jianjin Shi, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Dissecting intratumoral heterogeneity and hierarchy of cellular processes in breast cancer with Jonathan S. Chute, MD

Shaogeng Steven Tang, PhD
Merck Fellow
Decoding the ubiquitin receptor recognition mechanism of the 26S proteasome with Andreas E. Leschziner, PhD

Stephanie Gates, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Investigating the dynamic interactions of cellular rearrangements in epithelia with Ronald D. Vale, PhD

Trang Nguyen, PhD
Bypassing the unresponsiveness of T cell anergy and exhaustion with Arthur Weiss, MD, PhD

Jessica Sheu-Grutelandtaria, PhD
Elucidating the dynamic, organizational network of membraneless organelles through systems-level analysis and imaging with Ronald D. Vale, PhD

Sukrit Silas, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Discovery and characterization of viraly-encoded translation factors with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD, and Carol A. Gross, PhD

Digvijay Singh, PhD
Cryo-electron tomography of phase-separated transcription factories in situ with Elizabeth Villa, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

Adam J. Stevens, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Synthetic adhesion molecules: redirecting cell infiltration and organization with Wendell A. Lim, PhD

Seyed F. Torabi, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Evolution of triplex-forming RNAs from random sequences: a search for additional MALAT-1-like triplex motifs with Joan A. Steitz, PhD

Illinois
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Daniel J. Blair, PhD
Illini 4000 Fellow
An automated small molecule synthesizer for the discovery of new anti-cancer agents with Martin D. Burke, MD, PhD

Sarah Z. Tasker, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Synthesis and evaluation of a collection of complex molecules biased for penetration of the blood-brain barrier with Paul J. Hergenrother, PhD

Maryland
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Xintong Dong, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Investigating receptor interactions between defenses and mrgrps in cutaneous inflammation and wound healing with Xinzhong Dong, PhD

Daniel H. Goldman, PhD
Merck Fellow
The mechanistic basis of crosstalk between histone H2B ubiquitylation and H3K79 methylation with Cynthia Wolberger, PhD

Boris Zinshteyn, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Mechanisms of splicing-independent nonsense-mediated mRNA decay with Rachel Green, PhD

“THE DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP ALLOWED ME TO PURSUE PROMISING BUT RISKY QUESTIONS. WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT, MY FINDINGS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.”

MATTHEW P. MILLER, PHD
Damon Runyon Fellow ‘14-18 and Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Breakthrough Scientist ‘18-19
University of Utah
Deepshika Ramanan, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Developmental mechanisms of killish cell dispersion and aggregation with Alexander F. Schier, PhD

Brian J. Beliveau, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Decoding Polycomb-mediated gene regulation in single cells with single-molecule super resolution imaging and synthetic biology with Peng Yin, PhD

Grace E. Kenney, PhD
Merck Fellow
Two enzymatic routes towards diazo biosynthesis in cytotoxic natural products with Emily P. Balskus, PhD

Monica E. McCallum, PhD
Understanding alansosine biosynthesis to discover new cancer chemotherapeutics with Emily P. Balskus, PhD

Christopher Wilson, PhD
Marion Abbe Fellow
Development of a programmable writer and eraser of m6A RNA methylation with David R. Liu, PhD

Harvard University

Massachusetts General Hospital
Iva Tchassovnikarova, PhD
Deciphering the role of chromatin remodeling in epigenetic repression by the HUSH complex with Robert E. Kingston, PhD

Kurt J. Warnhoff, PhD
Molybdenum cofactor biosynthetic enzymes modulate miRNA biology and development with Gary B. Ruvkin, PhD

Jingyi Wu, PhD
Epigenetic clonal evolution in gliomas with Bradley Bernstein, MD, PhD

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Alexander M. Jaeger, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Targeting protein folding mechanisms to stimulate anti-tumor immune responses with Tyler E. Jacks, PhD

Lindsay M. LaFave, PhD
Investigating epigenetic mechanisms of transformation in SWI/SNF-mutant non-small cell lung cancer with Tyler E. Jacks, PhD

“"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS I HAVE GAINED AS A DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP HAS PREPARED ME TO PURSUE MY PASSION TO BE AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR IN CANCER BIOLOGY RESEARCH."
Alexandra Nguyen, PhD*  
Defining the cell type specific cell division requirements in acute myeloid leukemias with Iain M. Cheeseman, PhD

Missouri  
Washington University  
Darryl A. Wesener, PhD  
Synthetic food particles for studying human gut microbiota function with Jeffrey I. Gordon, MD

New Jersey  
Princeton University  
Caroline Bartman, PhD*  
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow  
Systems analysis of in vivo tumor and stromal cell metabolism in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma with Joshua Robinowitz, MD, PhD

Andrew A. Bridges, PhD  
HHMI Fellow  
Bacterial cell fates: The role of quorum sensing in biofilm patterning with Bonnie L. Bassler, PhD

Antony J. Burton, PhD  
Sculpting chromatin architecture in live cells using protein chemistry with Tom W. Muir, PhD

New York  
Columbia University  
J. Brooks Crickard, PhD  
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow  
Visualizing the strand invasion during homologous recombination on the single molecule level with Eric C. Greene, PhD

Cornell University  
Sudeep Banjade, PhD  
HHMI Fellow  
Division of labor in ESCRT-III proteins during polymer assembly and membrane remodeling with Scott D. Emr, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
Harish Basnet, PhD  
Identifying determinants of latency in brain metastatic breast cancer cells with Joan Massagué, PhD

New York University School of Medicine  
Robert S. Banh, PhD  
Merck Fellow  
Metabolic contribution of sensory neurons, via peripheral axons, to pancreatic tumorigenesis and serine metabolism with Alec Kimmelman, MD, PhD, and Michael Pacold, MD, PhD

Sophia Tintori, PhD*  
Mechanisms of radiation tolerance in Caenorhabditis from Chernobyl with Matthew Rockman, PhD

The Rockefeller University  
Alexsey Chudnovskiy, PhD  
Defining dendritic cell interaction history within the tumor microenvironment using enzymatic labeling with Gabriel D. Victor, PhD

Pennsylvania  
University of Pennsylvania  
Gregory P. Donaldson, PhD*  
Robert Black Fellow  
Cross-talk between B lymphocytes and bacteria in the maintenance of a non-inflammatory mucosal microbiome with Daniel Mucida, PhD

Yusong R. Guo, PhD  
HHMI Fellow  
Structural and mechanistic characterization of mechanosensitive Piezo channels with Roderick MacKinnon, MD

Lunghe Xi, PhD  
Wnt signaling and fate specification of normal versus tumorigenic stem cells with Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD

John C. Zinder, PhD*  
Lorraine W. Egan Fellow  
Structure and biochemistry of human shelterin and associated factors with Tiffa De Lange, PhD

Well Connell Medicine  
Eric E. Gardner, PharmD, PhD  
Kenneth G. and Elaine A. Langone Fellow  
Interrogating lung adenocarcinoma transformation to small lung cell cancer at single cell resolution with Harold E. Varmus, MD

Oregon  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Yunsik Kang, PhD  
Molecular mechanisms regulating phagocytosis of neurons with Marc H. Freeman, PhD

University of Washington  
Yi Yin, PhD  
Global analysis of DNA break repair by single-cell sequencing with Jay A. Shendure, MD, PhD

*Initial Year § Physician Scientists
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Vice Chair for Clinical Research
Department of Pediatrics
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

**PEDIATRIC CANCER FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

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Zuleka A. Gadee, PhD*
Targeting the BCR/ABL pathway to overcome dependencies in Group 3 Medulloblastoma with William A. Weiss, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Kathryn R. Taylor, PhD
The effect of neuronal activity on pediatric glioma invasion with Michelle L. Monje, MD, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Peng Wu, MD, PhD’s
Understanding and modulating aberrant differentiation in hepatoblastoma with Roel Nusse, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

**Maryland**
Challice L. Bonifant, MD, PhD
Dual-antigen targeting by ENG-T cells as improved anti-AML therapy with Donald Small, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore

**Massachusetts**
Adam D. Durbin, MD, PhD
Interrogation of neuroblastoma vulnerabilities in non-coding RNAs on the core-regulatory circuitry for therapeutic inhibition with A. Thomas Look, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

S. Naomi Olsen, PhD
Targeted degradation of the MLL-AF9 fusion oncoprotein in acute myeloid leukemia with Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Maxim Pimkin, MD, PhD’s
Divergent core transcriptional circuitries highlight context-specific vulnerabilities in AML with Stuart Orkin, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

**New York**
Robert L. Bowman, PhD
Interrogating the subclonal architecture and functional contributions of mutation order in FLT3-ITD mutant AML with Ross L. Levine, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Jessie A. Brown, PhD*
Candy and William Ravels Fellow
Master regulators of drug resistance in relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukemia with Adolfo A. Ferrando, MD, PhD, Columbia University Medical Center, New York

**Tennessee**
Katherine E. Gadek, PhD*
Defining endothelial progenitor cell pliancy in rhabdomyosarcoma with Mark Hatley, MD, PhD, and Stacey Ogden, PhD, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis

**Washington**
Jay F. Sarthy, MD, PhD
Characterization of the epigenomic landscape of diffuse midline gliomas with Steven Henikoff, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

*Initial Year
§Initial Year

**Challilce L. Bonifant, MD, PhD**
Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellow ’16-’19
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

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“DAMON RUNYON SETS ITSELF APART WITH THE DEPTH OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE WITHIN ITS SCIENTISTS AND SELECTION COMMITTEES. THIS HELPS YOUNG RESEARCHERS PUSH THE ENVELOPE TO GENERATE PARADIGM-SHIFTING DISCOVERIES IN PATIENT CARE AND CANCER BIOLOGY.”

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Challilce L. Bonifant, MD, PhD
Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellow’16-’19
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS

Brian J. Beliveau, PhD* Disclosing Polycomb-mediated gene regulation in single cells with single-molecule super resolution imaging and synthetic biology at University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Tara C. Levin, PhD* Master microbial manipulators: how hosts are shaped by bacterial interactions at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington

Sigrid Nachtergaele, PhD* The dynamic N1-methyladenosine methylome in eukaryotic mRNA at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Thomas M. Norman, PhD* Identifying the stochastic determinants of drug resistance at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

Alistair B. Russell, PhD* Impact of heterogeneity on the cellular recognition of influenza at University of California, San Diego, California

Justin L. Sparks, PhD* Replicative helicase bypass of bulky DNA lesions at Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts

*Initial Year

CHAO LU, PhD Damon Runyon Fellow ‘14–’16 and Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Breakthrough Scientist ‘18–’19 Columbia University

“DAMON RUNYON BRINGS TOGETHER THE BEST YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF OUR GENERATION. SUCH A PROFESSIONAL NETWORK WILL HAVE A LONG-LASTING AND PROFOUND POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR CAREER DEVELOPMENT.”

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD COMMITTEE

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Jeremy N. Rich, MD Professor, Medicine Director, Neuro-Oncology Director, Brain Tumor Institute University of California, San Diego La Jolla, California

Cassian Yee, MD Professor, Melanoma Medical Oncology Professor, Immunology, Division of Cancer Medicine Director, Solid Tumor Cell Therapy, Center for Cancer Immunology Research The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Texas

California

Julia C. Carnevale, MD Developing new therapeutic approaches for pancreatic cancer with homologous recombination repair defects with Alan Ashworth, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Jennifer L. Caswell-Jin, MD Breast cancer evolution and resistance in response to HER2-targeted therapy with Christina N. Curtis, PhD, and Allison W. Kurian, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Ashley K. Koegel, MD* Engineering next generation CAR T cells to treat AML: enhancing safety through dynamic control and specificity with Wendell A. Lim, PhD, and Mignon Loh, MD, University of California, San Francisco

David M. Kurtz, MD, PhD Response prediction and personalized therapy from mathematical modeling of circulating tumor DNA in non-Hodgkin lymphoma with Arash A. Alizadeh, MD, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Illinois

Michael W. Drazer, MD Defining leukomogenic mechanisms in hereditary hematologic malignancies with Lucy A. Godley, MD, PhD, The University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago

Massachusetts

Edmond M. Chan, MD* Validating a novel synthetic lethal target for microsatellite unstable cancers with Adam J. Bass, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

DAMON RUNYON

DAMON RUNYON PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD

DAMON RUNYON
“WITH DAMON RUNYON SUPPORT, I AM ABLE TO PURSUE MY RESEARCH UNFETTERED FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS WITH SIGNIFICANTLY LESS MEDICAL SCHOOL DEBT, SO I CAN MAKE THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES THAT WILL HELP PATIENTS.”

LILLIAN M. GUENTHER, MD
Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist ’18–’22
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD

California
Collin M. Blakely, MD, PhD
Doris Duke-Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator
Mechanisms of incomplete response and primary resistance to osimertinib in EGFR-mutant lung cancer with Trever G. Bivona, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Kavita Y. Sarin, MD, PhD
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 School of Medicine, Stanford

Catherine C. Smith, MD
Richard Lumsden
Foundation Investigator
Defining structure, function and therapeutic impact of oncogenic FLT3 mutations with Neil P. Shah, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Massachusetts
Mark G. Shrime, MD, PhD, MPH
Cash transfers for cancer surgery in West Africa: their health and economic consequences with John G. Meara, MD, DMD, MBA, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston

Adrienne A. Boire, MD, PhD
William Ravels Charitable Fund Investigator
Defining the evolutionary dynamics and antigen potential of neoantigens for human pancreatic cancer immunotherapy with Steven D. Leach, MD, and Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

New York
Vinod P. Balachandran, MD
William Ravels Charitable Fund Investigator
Defining the intratumoral and peripheral mechanisms mediating initiation of response, durability, and resistance to PD-1 blockade to inform rational immunotherapeutic development in NSCLC with Charles M. Rudin, MD, PhD, and Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Andrew M. Intlekofer, MD, PhD
Metabolic coupling of a hypoxic niche to stemness with Ross L. Levine, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Christopher A. Klebanoff, MD
Clinical development of next-generation T cell receptor (TCR)-based adoptive immunotherapies for the treatment of patients with common epithelial malignancies with Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD, and Larry Norton, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Pennsylvania
Brian C. Capelli, MD, PhD
Defining the role of epigenetic enhancer dysfunction in epithelial carcinogenesis with Shelley L. Berger, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

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

DAMON RUNYON

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD CONTINUATION GRANTS

California
AMI S. BHATT, MD, PhD
Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator ’16–’19
Stanford University

Massachusetts
Matthew G. Oser, MD, PhD*
Targeting neuroendocrine cancer: insights into the role of cell-free DNA (cfDNA) genotyping technologies for uptake of patients with common epithelial malignancies with Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD, and Larry Norton, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

New York
Deborah L. Estrin, PhD
Use of mobile applications to evaluate post surgical recovery in aging patients with GI cancer with Manish A. Shah, MD, and Deborah L. Estrin, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York

Texas
David G. McFadden, MD, PhD*
Identifying metabolic vulnerabilities in Hürthle cell carcinoma with Steven L. McKnight, PhD, and Ralph J. DeBerardinis, MD, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

*Initial Year

“DAMON RUNYON’S FINANCIAL SUPPORT HAS ENABLED ME TO TAKE ACADEMIC RISKS THAT HAVE FORMED THE BASIS OF SEVERAL MEANINGFUL AND HIGH-IMPACT DISCOVERIES PUBLISHED FROM MY LAB.”
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Moores Cancer Center
University of California, San Diego

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Professor, Department of Biological Chemistry
University of California, Los Angeles

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Jeanne Ann Plitt Professorship in Breast Cancer
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

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Chief and Senior Investigator, Divisions of Hematology-Oncology, Medicine, and Immunology
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

Dana Bar-Sagi, PhD
Professor and Chair, Department of Molecular Biology
University of California, Los Angeles

Dana Bar-Sagi, PhD
Professor and Chair, Department of Molecular Biology
University of California, Los Angeles

Joseph D. Mancias, MD, PhD*
Chief and Division Director, Division of Hematology-Oncology
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Susan H. Solomon, PhD
Professor, Department of Breast Cancer
University of California, Los Angeles

*Initial Year

INNOVATION AWARD

Massachusetts
Eric S. Fischer, PhD
Novel mechanisms for small molecule induced targeted degradation of RRM family proteins at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Joseph D. Mancias, MD, PhD*
Identifying the paradoxical role of tumor MHC-I ligandome in response to ionizing radiation for combination radiation-immunotherapy at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Jan P. Schuemann, PhD*
Using extreme dose rates to protect healthy tissue in proton radiation therapy at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Alexandra-Chloé Villani, PhD*
Deciphering the Achilles’ heel of cancer immunotherapy at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

New York
Arnold S. Han, MD, PhD
Precision T cell receptor-based cancer therapeutics at Columbia University, New York

Amaia Lujambio, PhD
Overcoming resistance to anti-PD1 immunotherapy in hepatocellular carcinoma at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York

Jason M. Sheltzer, PhD*
Are cancers addicted to aneuploidy? at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor

INNOVATION AWARD

Stage 2 Funding

California
Scott J. Dixon, PhD
Exploring the role of reductive stress in promoting cancer cell death at Stanford University, Stanford

Rushika M. Perera, PhD*
Nadia’s Gift Foundation Innovator
Mechanisms of cellular transformation at the single organelle level at University of California, San Francisco

Peter J. Turnbaugh, PhD
Nadia’s Gift Foundation Innovator
The gut microbiome: an unexpected contributor to cancer drug resistance at University of California, San Francisco

North Carolina
Lawrence A. David, PhD, and Anthony D. Sung, MD
Personalized prebiotics to optimize microbiota metabolism and improve transplant outcomes at Duke University, Durham

Ohio
Wayne G. Miles, PhD
Maximizing pro-apoptotic protein levels at The Ohio State University, Columbus

Texas
Xiaochun Li, PhD*
Cell ablation using a hedgehog pathway at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

*Initial Year
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Your support this year enabled us to invest $22.3 million in the next generation of leading scientists tackling the challenges of cancer research with bold new ideas and innovative technology.

Since our founding in 1946, in partnership with donors across the nation, Damon Runyon has invested nearly $375 million and funded more than 3,750 young scientists.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to donors like D.G. Mitchell, Damon Runyon has been able to fund brave and bold cancer research that is saving lives. Damon Runyon’s track record demonstrates that our approach works. “Though cancer research has made progress, these efforts are still needed to make safer and more effective therapies for all types of cancer. That is why I have named Damon Runyon the largest beneficiary of my estate,” he says.

D.G. MITCHELL is a retired United Airlines pilot, who has been donating to Damon Runyon since 1998.

AWARD SPONSORS

We are grateful to our individual and corporate sponsors who have partnered with us to launch new programs or are funding one or more of our scientists. Donors can choose to fund scientists based on location, institution, research focus or cancer type, and the award can be named in recognition of their gift. For more information, visit: damonrunyon.org/get-involved/sponsor

In 2014, GABRIELLE LAYTON, PhD and her husband THOMAS began supporting the Damon Runyon Layton Family Fellows at Stanford. She currently serves on the Damon Runyon Board of Directors.

EVENTS & BROADWAY TICKETS

2019 ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Our 2019 Annual Breakfast honoring Board Member William M. Raveis, Jr., Chairman and CEO of William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance, raised more than $1.1 million. His tireless commitment to raising funds and awareness for Damon Runyon has helped us support scientists pursuing the next breakthroughs against cancer.

RUNYON 5K AT YANKEE STADIUM

In May 2019, the 11th annual Damon Runyon 5K at Yankee Stadium drew over 2,100 participants and raised more than $415,000. The event was presented by MetLife Foundation, with additional support from GCT USA, Krasdale, Poland Spring, Lifeway Foods, Utz, Cabot, 24 Hour Fitness, New York Post, SiriusXM and the New York Yankees.

RAVEIS RIDE + WALK

The William Raveis Charitable Fund hosted the fourth annual Raveis Ride + Walk in September 2018, raising more than $500,000 for Damon Runyon scientists. The family-friendly fundraiser attracts participants from Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. We are grateful to everyone at William Raveis for their partnership and support in raising more than $2 million for Damon Runyon since 2015.

BROADWAY TICKETS

Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets offers premium seats to all of Broadway’s hit shows. We are grateful to the Shubert Organization, Nederlander Productions, Jujamcyn Theaters and Disney Theatrical Productions for making this program possible. Special thanks to our Premier Circle members for their ongoing support of our efforts to end cancer. To purchase tickets or gift certificates, please visit damonrunyon.org/broadway.
We thank our individual, foundation and corporate sponsors who have partnered with us to launch or provide continuing support for specific award programs.

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-RACHELLEF INNOVATION AWARD
This award was established thanks to the vision and generosity of Debbie and Andy Rachleff.

NADIA’S GIFT FOUNDATION INNOVATORS

Rushika M. Perera, PhD University of California, San Francisco

Peter J. Turnbaugh, PhD University of California, San Francisco

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

RICHARD LUMSDEN FOUNDATION CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Catherine C. Smith, MD University of California, San Francisco

WILLIAM RAVES CHARITABLE FUND CLINICAL INVESTIGATORS

Vinod P. Balachandran, MD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Adrienne A. Boire, MD, PhD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR CONTINUATION GRANT
Follow-up funding for select Clinical Investigators has been provided thanks to the William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation.

GORDON FAMILY CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Geoffrey R. Oxnard, MD Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

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

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Marsha M. Hirschi, PhD Scripps Research Institute

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Xintong Dong, PhD Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

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Yusong R. Guo, PhD The Rockefeller University

Alexander M. Jaeger, PhD Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award
This award program was launched in partnership with the generous support of the Sohn Conference Foundation.

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In conjunction with this initiative, each year the Accelerating Cancer Cures Research Symposium brings together our Clinical Investigators with industry leaders to foster communication and collaboration helping speed progress against cancer.

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FISCAL YEAR 2019

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 FY2019.

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

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TOTAL REVENUE
$26 MILLION

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES
$26 MILLION

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS

<table>
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<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$148,707,992</td>
<td>$150,535,887</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$116,471,765</td>
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