ANNUAL REPORT 2019

FUNDING BRAVE AND BOLD.

DAMON RUNYON
CANCER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

Funding 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

YUNG S. LIE, PhD

Our scientists are brave and bold. They have taken the path less traveled, a path that could save lives and change medicine forever.

As an organization, we also strive to be brave and bold. We look for the next frontiers, areas that are most promising and show the greatest potential for breakthroughs. We seek opportunities to provide funding that is catalytic to young innovative scientists, to cancer research and to cancer patients. Our esteemed scientific leaders work with us to rigorously evaluate the research landscape, identifying areas where breakthroughs are needed and looking for gaps in funding. We work efficiently and rapidly to design and create mechanisms to respond to these needs and fill these gaps. We ask our current Damon Runyon scientists to help us brainstorm other ways we can support their career trajectory and success, and accelerate their progress.

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?

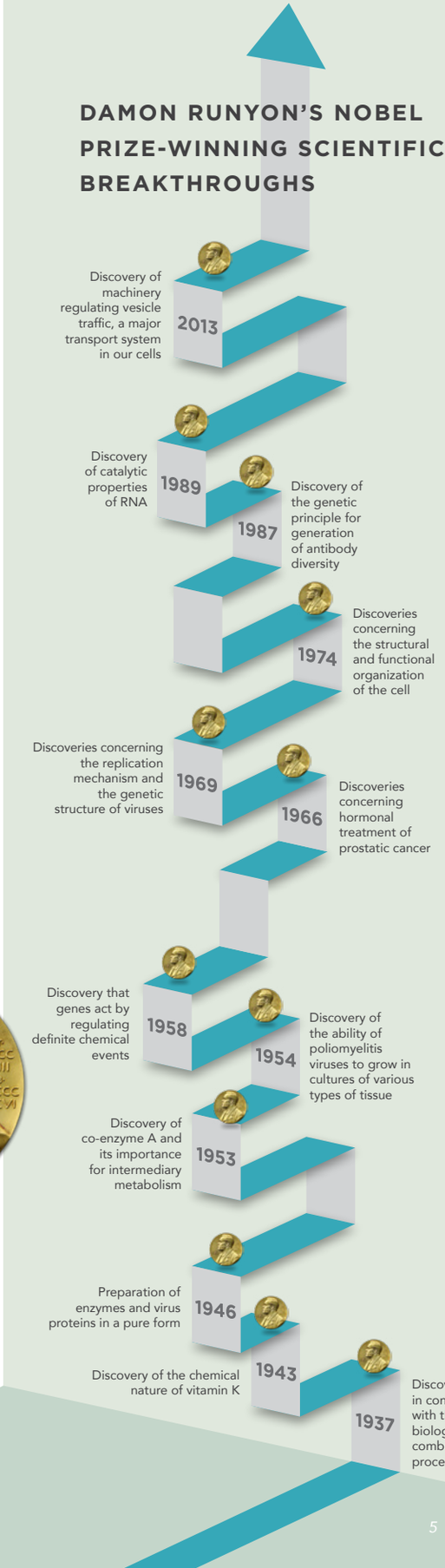
"WE LOOK FOR THE NEXT FRONTIERS, AREAS THAT ARE MOST PROMISING AND SHOW THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR BREAKTHROUGHS."

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.



QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY

INAUGURAL AWARD

2020

FELLOWSHIP

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

"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

are truly bilingual, comfortably speaking both languages fluently. Highly skilled quantitative scientists, however, may be

MEET 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.

"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.

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.

Q&A WITH DR. AVIV REGEV

DR: WHY IS THIS AWARD SO IMPORTANT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME IN CANCER RESEARCH?

Dr. Regev: The vast amount of data being collected presents a remarkable opportunity to connect all aspects of cancer biology in human patients and in animal models that are both predictive and mechanistic. This will not only drive cancer research forward, but will also unveil new clinically relevant insights that will ultimately impact patient care. However, it also poses a large analysis challenge, and requires deep expertise not just in applying current methods but also in inventing new ones. Fortunately, the remarkable advances in data science and machine learning of the past decade should be up to this challenge. We need to bring experts in these fields in full force into cancer research.

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

BREAKTHROUGH TREATMENTS

SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT

SAKIKO SUZUKI, MD

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST
Inflammation and Cell Death

INSTITUTION
University of Massachusetts Medical School

PROJECT TITLE
"Inflammatory cell death pathways in Myelodysplastic Syndromes"

Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Sakiko Suzuki, MD, at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, combines a deep commitment to her patients with a passion for discovery. Sakiko focuses on hematologic (blood) cancers. Trained as an engineer, she once worked on engineering systems to help thousands of people at a time. "As a physician, you help one person at a time. But as a physician-scientist, I'm inching back towards that engineering side where my research can help many people with one project."

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

DR: 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 cells, leaving the person without enough healthy blood cells. We've known for decades that MDS patients have bone marrow and blood characterized by signs of inflammation. But is inflammation causing the disease, or is the disease process causing the inflammation? I believe it's a vicious cycle with 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?

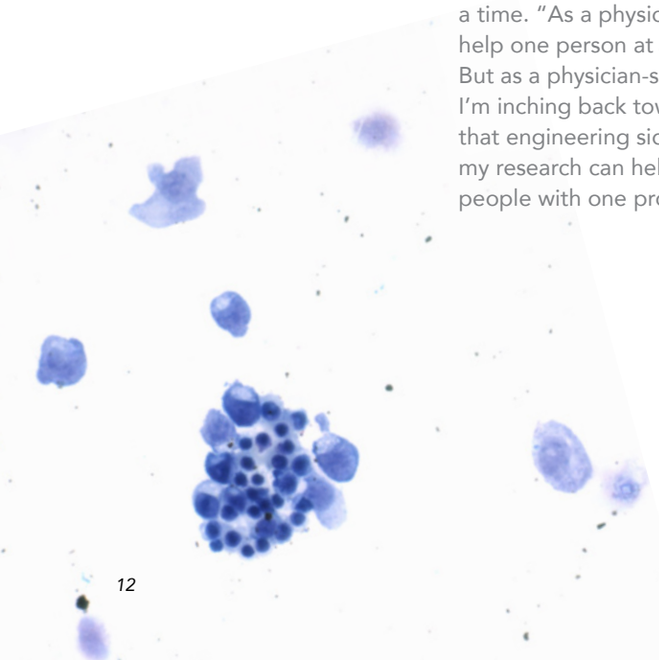
In the clinic, I treat patients with leukemia and lymphoma and often they get bone marrow transplants, which provide a chance of a cure. In the meantime, we need to deal with the complications that come from these treatments. In the lab, we are working on treatments that may be years away from clinical 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.

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.

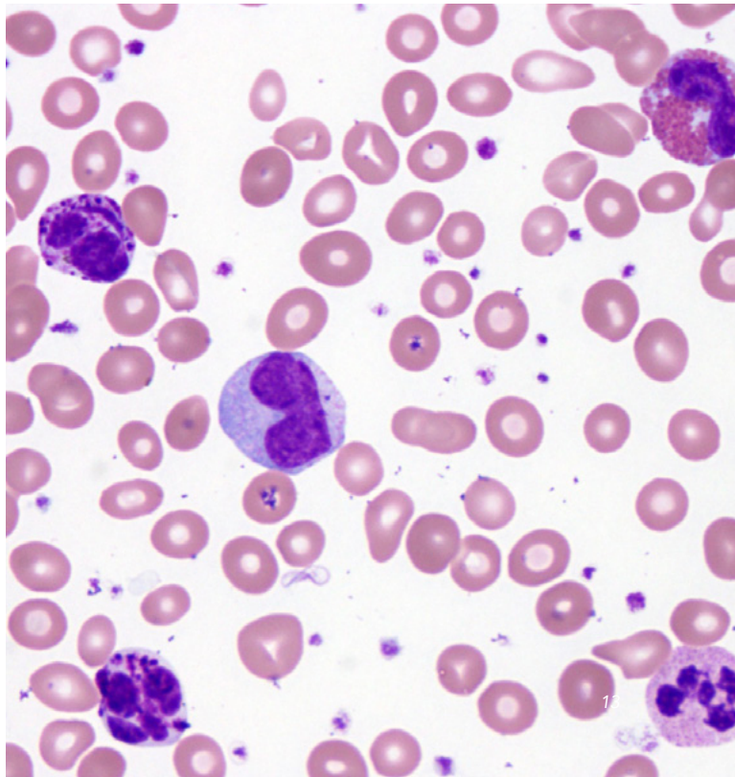
IN THE BEST POSSIBLE SCENARIO, HOW WOULD YOUR WORK IMPACT CANCER PATIENTS?

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.



MYELOID CELLS

Immature myeloid cells in the blood (pictured) fail to work properly and cause symptoms such as fatigue, pain, recurrent and prolonged infections, and bruising.



MDS BLOOD CELLS

Abnormal blood cells (dark purple) from a myelodysplastic (MDS) patient. MDS is caused by poorly formed blood cells that do not work properly. This failure of the bone marrow often progresses to acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

BENJAMIN L. MARTIN, PhD
DAVID Q. MATUS, PhD

INNOVATORS
Cell Biology of Metastasis

INSTITUTION
Stony Brook University

PROJECT TITLE
"Cell cycle regulation of cellular behaviors associated with cancer metastasis"

"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 *C. 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.

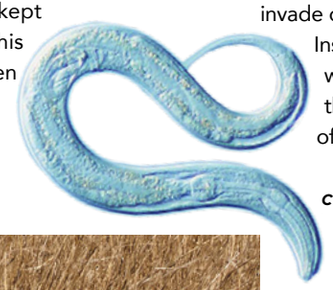
The researchers are proving they have the right idea. Using state-of-the-art microscopy and genetic analysis, they have achieved an unprecedented level of understanding about how circulating tumor cells exit blood vessels and invade new sites in the body. "The great strength of our collaboration is approaching 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."

ZEBRAFISH

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."



CAENORHABDITIS ELEGANS (C. ELEGANS)

SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT

KYLE G. DANIELS, PhD

PIONEERING

KILLER CAR T THERAPIES

SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT

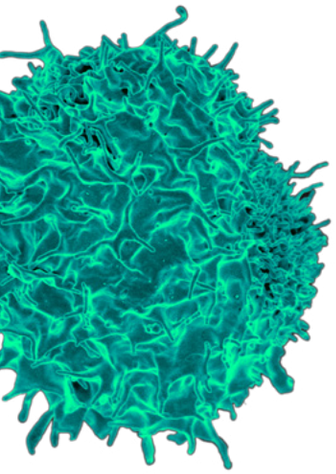
KYLE G. DANIELS, PhD

FELLOW
Synthetic Immunology

INSTITUTION
University of California, San Francisco

PROJECT TITLE
"Controlling T cell signaling and fate choice using synthetic receptors"

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.



CAR T CELL

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

"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."

SEQUENCING DATA

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.

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 Ts," 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."

"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."

SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT

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 ...I HAD A GUT FEELING THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY WORK."

TRAVERSING UNCHARTED TERRITORY FOR CURES

For Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovator Amaia Lujambio, PhD, at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, cancer research isn't just a job, it's a passion. Amaia decided to focus on hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), the most common form of liver cancer, because she wanted to tackle a difficult disease with few treatment options and poor prognosis. Patients who cannot have surgery on their tumors have a median survival of less than a year.

"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: 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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Stromal reprogramming as a therapeutic approach in pancreatic cancer with Ronald M. Evans, PhD

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Next generation adoptive cell therapy: SMARTER T cells for enhanced and durable anti-tumor immunity with Susan M. Kaech, PhD

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Calcium signaling and the molecular clock of T cell exhaustion with Susan M. Kaech, PhD

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Molecular engineering of an optically controlled glutamate receptor with Gabriel C. Lander, PhD

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

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In vivo characterization of mycobacterial cording with Carolyn R. Bertozzi, PhD

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

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Molecular basis and regulation of apicomplexan parasite motility with Alex Dunn, PhD

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

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Regulatory roles of the 3' untranslated region in human translation with Joseph D. Puglisi, PhD

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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

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Decoding the molecular and cellular mechanisms of the growth of brain metastases with Julien Sage, PhD

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Biochemical and genetic dissection of axon degeneration with Marc Tessier-Lavigne, PhD

Shaogeng Steven Tang, PhD
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Toward small-molecule inhibitors against human immune checkpoint PD-1 with Peter S. Kim, PhD

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Diagnosis of hematologic malignancies from paucicellular aspirate material using highly multiplexed single cell analysis with Sean C. Bendall, PhD

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Remembering the past: epigenetic mechanisms of cancer drug resistance with Daniel F. Jarosz, PhD

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Studying the tumor immune microenvironment in breast cancer using a novel multiplexed imaging platform with Michael R. Angelo, MD, PhD, and Edgar G. Engleman, PhD

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Viral mimics of host transcription factors in oncogenic herpesviruses with Britt A. Glaunsinger, PhD

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Decoding the ubiquitin receptor recognition mechanism of the 26S proteasome with Andreas Martin, PhD

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Proteoglycan remodeling of the bone marrow niche regulates hematopoietic stem cell regeneration with John P. Chute, MD

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Understanding the mechanisms of SWI/SNF-mediated chromatin remodeling and its misregulation in cancer with Andres E. Leschziner, PhD

Janice M. Reimer, PhD*
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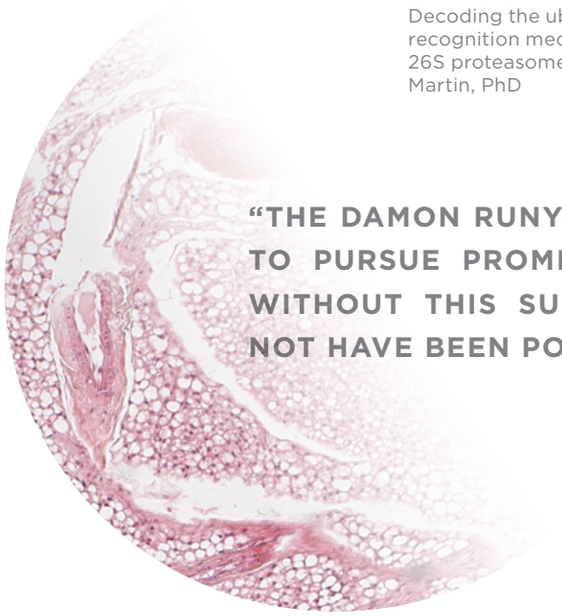
Regulation of nucleosome remodelers with Andres E. Leschziner, PhD



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

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Mapping the unfolded protein response signaling network with optogenetic actuators with Peter Walter, PhD

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Controlling T cell signaling and fate choice using synthetic receptors with Wendell A. Lim, PhD

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Role of EBI2 in the regulation of lymphocyte migration during viral infection and cancer with Jason G. Cyster, PhD

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Mechanisms and functions of cellular rearrangements in epithelia with Ronald D. Vale, PhD

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

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

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Discovery and characterization of virally-encoded translation factors with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD, and Carol A. Gross, PhD

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Synthetic adhesion molecules: redirecting cell infiltration and organization with Wendell A. Lim, PhD

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Off-the-shelf T cells from human pluripotent stem cells with precise tumor recognition using combinatorial antigen-sensing circuits with Jeffrey A. Bluestone, PhD

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Conferring organelle-specificity to tail-anchored proteins with Peter Walter, PhD

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Elucidating the role of ER as a novel RNA-binding protein and its function in regulating translation with Davide Ruggero, PhD

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Dissecting intratumoral heterogeneity and hierarchy at single cell resolution with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD, and Trever G. Bivona, MD, PhD

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Controlling the activity of bispecific T cell engagers with a chemically cleavable molecular switch with Kevan M. Shokat, PhD

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Understanding and perturbing protein post-translational modifications in cancer and autoimmune diseases with James A. Wells, PhD

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The effect of microbes and diet on the intestinal immune system in the context of obesity with Richard A. Flavell, PhD

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An automated small molecule synthesizer for the discovery of new anti-cancer agents with Martin D. Burke, MD, PhD

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

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Investigating ligand-receptor interactions between defensins and mrgprs in cutaneous inflammation and wound healing with Xinzhong Dong, PhD

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Elucidating the role of the exon junction complex in regulating translation of spliced mRNA with Rachel Green, PhD

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The mechanistic basis of crosstalk between histone H2B ubiquitylation and H3K79 methylation with Cynthia Wolberger, PhD

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Mechanisms of splicing-independent nonsense-mediated mRNA decay with Rachel Green, PhD

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Characterization of the microbiota-mediated cutaneous neuroimmune interface and its impacts on tumorigenesis and cancer therapy with Yasmine Belkaid, PhD

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Making an inflammasome: Structural and biochemical elucidation of NLRP3 inflammasome activation with Hao Wu, PhD

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Investigating transcriptional cyclin dependent kinases as novel melanoma drug targets with Leonard I. Zon, MD

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Role of Lgr6-expressing Mesenchymal cells in lung cancer initiation and progression with Carla Kim, PhD

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Role of METTL1-WDR4 tRNA methyltransferase complex in cancer with Richard I. Gregory, PhD

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Mechanisms that promote DNA double strand break clusters in brain and liver with Frederick W. Alt, PhD

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The role of a tumor suppressor gene ASXL1 in immune evasion during tumorigenesis with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

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Metabolic stress response: Exploring transcript-level regulation of metabolic feedback with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

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Predicting the interactions of T cell receptors with peptide-MHC complexes with Nir Hacohen, PhD

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Identification of muscle-secreted factors responsible for local and systemic effects of exercise with Bruce M. Spiegelman, PhD

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Characterizing novel molecules and mechanisms that mediate cell-cell communication with Norbert Perrimon, PhD

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The role of activity-regulated gene expression in human brain evolution with Michael E. Greenberg, PhD

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Transgenerational inheritance of structure-based infections with Scott G. Kennedy, PhD

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Signal integration by bHLH circuits to enable cell fate decisions with Sean G. Megason, PhD, and Galit Lahav, PhD

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Molecular and cellular mechanisms of transcytosis regulation in blood-brain barrier function with Sean G. Megason, PhD, and Chenghua Gu, PhD

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Investigating the molecular determinants of blood-brain barrier heterogeneity with Chenghua Gu, PhD

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Identifying functions of regulatory T cell subsets in intestinal inflammation and colorectal cancer with Christophe Benoist, MD, PhD

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Mechanism of DNA processing during non-homologous end joining with Johannes C. Walter, PhD, and Joseph J. Loparo, PhD

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Defining the cell type specific cell division requirements in acute myeloid leukemias with Iain M. Cheeseman, PhD

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Systems analysis of *in vivo* tumor and stromal cell metabolism in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma with Joshua Rabinowitz, MD, PhD

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Bacterial cell fates: The role of quorum sensing in biofilm patterning with Bonnie L. Bassler, PhD

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Visualizing the strand invasion during homologous recombination on the single molecule level with Eric C. Greene, PhD

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Molecular mechanisms regulating phagocytosis of neurons with Marc R. Freeman, PhD

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Fructose-1,6 bisphosphatase nuclear localization, new functions and implication in hepatocellular carcinoma progression with M. Celeste Simon, PhD

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Microbiome control of the tumor microenvironment: harnessing immunosuppression and exhaustion with Timothy W. Hand, PhD, and Olivera Finn, PhD

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Characterizing a new hematopoietic stem cell niche factor with Sean J. Morrison, PhD

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Novel roles for retrogenes in host immunity with Nels C. Elde, PhD, and Cedric Feschotte, PhD

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State changes of a liquid-like compartment monitor crossover recombination with Ofer Rog, PhD, and Erik Jorgensen, PhD

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Fayez Sarofim Fellow
Defining virus-host co-evolutionary dynamics that underlie the unusually broad HIV neutralizing antibody response in infants with Julie M. Overbaugh, PhD

Ying Qi Shirleen Soh, PhD
Mapping paths and mechanisms of virus-host adaptation with Jesse D. Bloom, PhD

Tyler Starr, PhD*
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The sequence-function landscape of antibody affinity maturation with Jesse D. Bloom, PhD, and Frederick Matsen, PhD

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Head, Basic and Translational Research, Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
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Agata Smogorzewska, MD, PhD
Associate Professor and
Head, Laboratory of Genome Maintenance
The Rockefeller University
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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."

CHALLICE L. BONIFANT, MD, PhD

Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellow '16-'19

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

PEDIATRIC CANCER FELLOWSHIP AWARD

California

Zulekha A. Qadeer, PhD*
Targeting TGFβ pathway 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*§
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

Michael A. Koldobskiy, MD, PhD§
DNA methylation stochasticity in pediatric pre-B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia with Andrew P. Feinberg, MD, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore

Cara A. Rabik, MD, PhD§
Determination of the role of WT1 in hematopoiesis and leukemogenesis with Patrick A. Brown, MD, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore

Massachusetts

Adam D. Durbin, MD, PhD§
Interrogation of neuroblastoma dependencies and 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 oncoptrotein in acute myeloid leukemia with Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Maxim Pimkin, MD, PhD§
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 Raveis Fellow
Master regulators of drug resistance in relapsed acute lymphoblastic leukemia with Adolfo A. Ferrando, MD, PhD, Columbia University Medical Center, New York

Srinjoy Chakraborti, PhD
Mining pHLA and T cell receptor (TCR) specificities by phage display for de novo TCR engineering and personalized cancer therapy with Jonathan R. Lai, PhD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx

Marissa Rashkovan, PhD
Targeting metabolic vulnerabilities in ETP-ALL with Adolfo A. Ferrando, MD, PhD, Columbia University Medical Center, New York

Yadira M. Soto-Feliciano, PhD
Dissecting the role of Menin in acute leukemia with C. David Allis, PhD, The Rockefeller University, 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*
§ Physician Scientists

DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS

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

Tera 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*

"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."

CHAO LU, PhD

Damon Runyon Fellow '14-'16 and Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Breakthrough Scientist '18-'19

Columbia University

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School
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Professor, Division of Medical Oncology, Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Ohio State University
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Professor, Medicine, Section of Hematology and Oncology
The University of Chicago Medicine
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Adjunct Professor, Genome Sciences and Pathology
University of Washington School of Medicine
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Deputy Division Head, Research Affairs, Division of Diagnostic Imaging
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
HOUSTON, TEXAS

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Professor, Medicine, Medical Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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Director, Neuro-Oncology
Director, Brain Tumor Institute
University of California, San Diego
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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

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD

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

Christopher J. Gibson, MD
Elucidating the connection between clonal hematopoiesis and lymphoma in humans with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Gabriel K. Griffin, MD*
Enhancing cancer immunotherapy through epigenetic modulation of the repetitive genome with Bradley E. Bernstein, MD, PhD, and Arlene H. Sharpe, MD, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

Lillian M. Guenther, MD
William Raveis Charitable Fund Physician-Scientist
Investigation of CITED2 as a novel dependency in Ewing sarcoma with Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Harshabad Singh, MBBS
William Raveis Charitable Fund Physician-Scientist
Cellular origins of Barrett's esophagus and its role in development of adenocarcinoma with Ramesh A. Shivdasani, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Sakiko Suzuki, MD
Inflammatory cell death pathways in Myelodysplastic Syndromes with Michelle A. Kelliher, PhD, and Peter E. Newburger, MD, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

New York

Andrew J. Dunbar, MD*
Interrogating functional contribution of JAK2V617F in the maintenance of myeloproliferative neoplasms with Ross L. Levine, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

John R. Ferrarone, MD
Lee Cooperman Physician-Scientist
Seeking and evaluating novel therapeutic targets in human lung adenocarcinomas with loss-of-function mutations in LKB1 with Harold E. Varmus, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York

Jonathan E. Shoag, MD*
Harnessing clinical data to identify new prostate cancer therapeutics with Christopher E. Barbieri, MD, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York

Melody Smith, MD
CD19 targeted donor T cells improve graft versus tumor activity and reduce graft versus host disease with Marcel R.M. van den Brink, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Rabi Upadhyay, MD*
Determining the distal effects of gut microbiota on the lung tumor microenvironment, cancer progression, and checkpoint blockade efficacy with Dan R. Littman, MD, PhD, New York University School of Medicine, New York

North Carolina

Nicholas C. DeVito, MD
Investigating the role of EMT-mediated dendritic cell tolerization in checkpoint inhibitor resistance with Brent A. Hanks, MD, PhD, Duke University, Durham

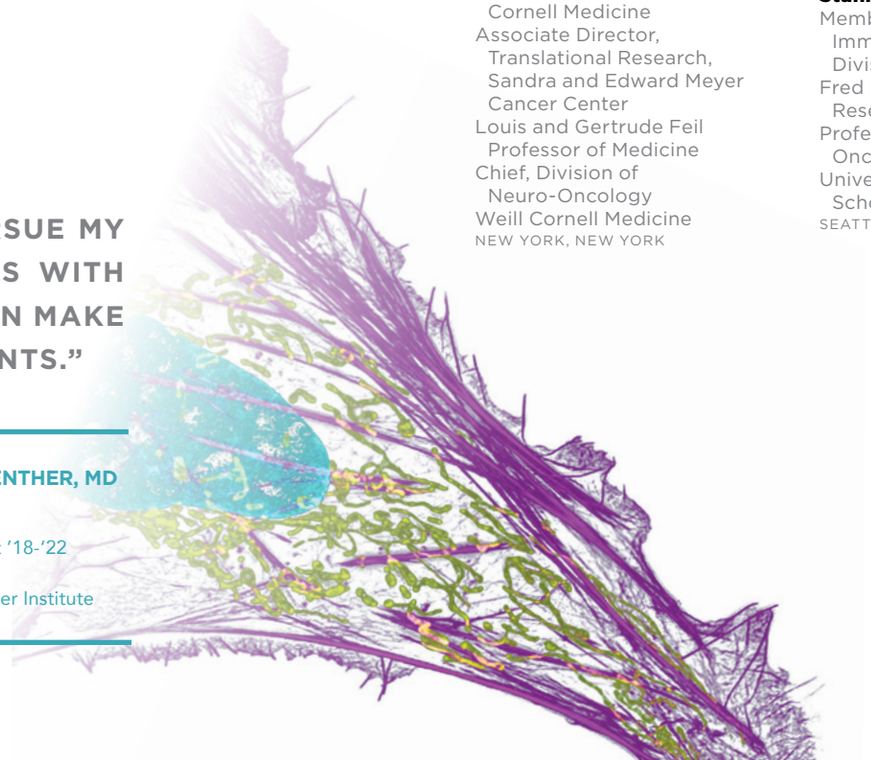
**Initial Year*

"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



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Chair, Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program
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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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Chief, Melanoma and Immunotherapeutics Service
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Anne Murnick Cogan and David H. Cogan Professor of Oncology, Department of Medicine
Director, Division of Hematology/Medical Oncology, Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center
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Chair and Professor, Surgery
Senior Vice President, Surgical Service Line, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
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Founding Member

Richard J. O'Reilly, MD
Claire L. Tow Chair, Pediatric Oncology Research
Chief, Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

DAMON RUNYON

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

Matthew G. Oser, MD, PhD*
Targeting neuroendocrine differentiation as a novel therapeutic strategy for small cell lung cancer with William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

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

Missouri

Gavin P. Dunn, MD, PhD
Characterizing the immunogenic landscape of malignant brain tumors
Characterizing the immunogenic landscapes of malignant brain tumors with John F. DiPersio, MD, PhD, and Robert D. Schreiber, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis

New York

Vinod P. Balachandran, MD
William Raveis 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

Adrienne A. Boire, MD, PhD
William Raveis Charitable Fund Investigator
Molecular determinants of leptomeningeal metastasis: a translational approach with Joan Massagué, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Karuna Ganesh, MD, PhD*
Leveraging patient-derived organoid models to define the molecular determinants of metastatic regeneration with Joan Massagué, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Matthew D. Hellmann, MD
Defining 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 the hypoxic niche to stemness with Ross L. Levine, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

"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."

AMI S. BHATT, MD, PhD

Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator '16-'19

Stanford University

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

Piro Lito, MD, PhD
Modeling the evolution of resistance to ERK signaling inhibitors at the single cell level with Neal X. Rosen, MD, PhD, and Charles M. Rudin, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Pennsylvania

Brian C. Capell, 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

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

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD CONTINUATION GRANTS

Illinois

Jaehyuk Choi, MD, PhD*
Development of novel therapeutic strategies for aggressive CTCL subtypes with Stephen D. Miller, PhD, and Joan Guitart, MD, Northwestern University, Chicago

Massachusetts

Priscilla K. Brastianos, MD
Investigation of novel targeted therapeutic approaches for brain metastases with Keith T. Flaherty, MD, and Tracy T. Batchelor, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Geoffrey R. Oxnard, MD*
Gordon Family Clinical Investigator
Clinical translation of plasma cell-free DNA (cfDNA) genotyping technologies for NSCLC care with Pasi A. Janne, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD
Dissecting response to conventional and emerging DNA damage and repair therapies with Geoffrey I. Shapiro, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Missouri

Vivek K. Arora, MD, PhD*
Defining a targetable oncogenic dyad in bladder cancer with Lee Ratner, MD, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis

New York

Christopher E. Barbieri, MD, PhD*
Subtype-specific modes of clinical and molecular progression in prostate cancer with Lewis C. Cantley, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York

Heather L. Yeo, MD*
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

Washington

Aude G. Chapuis, MD
Multifaceted transgenic TCR approach to high-risk AML with Philip D. Greenberg, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

**Initial Year*

INNOVATION AWARD COMMITTEE

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Professor, Cell and Developmental Biology
University of California, Berkeley
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Head, Microbial Genomics Section, National Human Genome Research Institute
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Robert K. and Helen K. Summy Professor
Stanford University School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

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 pancreatic 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 therapies 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

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

Texas

Xiaochun Li, PhD*
Investigations on Patched, a tumor suppressor, and its regulation in Hedgehog pathway at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

**Initial Year*

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

Roberto Zoncu, PhD
Identifying and disabling organelle circuits that fuel cancer cell metabolism at University of California, Berkeley

Massachusetts

Marcela V. Maus, MD, PhD*
Next-generation CAR T cells for EGFRvIII-positive glioblastoma at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

New York

Benjamin L. Martin, PhD, and David Q. Matus, PhD*
Cell cycle regulation of cellular behaviors associated with cancer metastasis at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook

Ohio

Christin E. Burd, PhD
Exploiting mutational specificity to target RAS-driven melanoma at The Ohio State University, Columbus

Wisconsin

Philip A. Romero, PhD
Digital circulating tumor cell detection using scalable molecular logic at University of Wisconsin, Madison

**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**

Award sponsors are listed on pages 46–48.

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

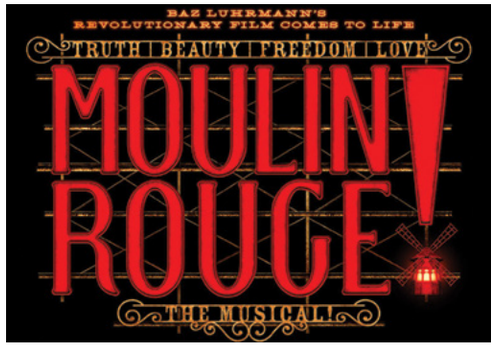
Our 2019 Annual Breakfast honoring Board Member William M. Raveis, Jr., Chairman and CEO of William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance, raised more than $1.1 million. His tireless commitment to raising funds and awareness for Damon Runyon has helped us support scientists pursuing the next breakthroughs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

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 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 addition 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 RAVEIS CHARITABLE FUND CLINICAL INVESTIGATORS

Vinod P. Balachandran, MD
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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.

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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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FINANCIAL SUMMARY 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**

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

- Award Programs **85.4%**
- Fundraising **11.6%**
- General Administration **3.0%**

TOTAL REVENUE

- Investment Return **51.9%**
- Contributions **40.9%**
- Misc. Income **4.3%**
- Bequests & Trusts **1.5%**
- Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets **1.4%**

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS

	2018	2019
Total Assets	**$148,707,992**	**$150,535,887**
Total Liabilities	**$32,236,227**	**$35,517,843**
Total Net Assets	**$116,471,765**	**$115,018,044**

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