FUNDING BRAVE AND BOLD.
At the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, we fund high-risk, high-reward cancer research. We identify and enable young scientists who are brilliant, brave and bold enough to go where others haven’t.
BY ITS NATURE, SCIENCE REQUIRES RESILIENCE. WHEN EXPERIMENTS FAIL OR RESULTS CONFOUND EXPECTATIONS, SCIENTISTS MUST QUICKLY ADAPT TO FIND A NEW PATH FORWARD.

Michael and Yadira are just two of the Damon Runyon scientists whose research—and life—was affected by COVID-19. When the extent of the pandemic’s impact on scientific research became evident, the Scientific Committee of our Board of Directors immediately began discussing how we could support our scientists at the most critical points of their careers. Thanks to their proactive leadership and vision, we have been able to offer an additional investment of nearly $1.2 million to our Damon Runyon Fellows and Physician-Scientists in the final years of their award to protect their progress.

FOR MANY, RETURNING TO FULL PRODUCTIVITY MAY TAKE MONTHS AS THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES, BUT OUR SCIENTISTS ARE UNDAUNTED.

Now, more than six months later, our scientists report that this support was crucial for enabling them to reopen their laboratories and resume their research. For many, returning to full productivity may take months as the pandemic continues, but our scientists are undaunted. They have adapted by working in shifts either early mornings, late nights, or on weekends to maintain social distancing guidelines, and by meeting with their colleagues and collaborators virtually rather than in person.

These are the future leaders in all areas of cancer research—our mission is to give them the support they need to break past the barriers and obstacles that lie in their path. We are inspired by their fierce determination and resolve to push cancer research forward, no matter what challenges they face.

YUNG S. LIE, PhD

BY ITS NATURE, SCIENCE REQUIRES RESILIENCE. WHEN EXPERIMENTS FAIL OR RESULTS CONFOUND EXPECTATIONS, SCIENTISTS MUST QUICKLY ADAPT TO FIND A NEW PATH FORWARD.

Yung S. Lie, PhD

The road to becoming a scientist requires no less perseverance. Navigating the gauntlet of graduate school, postdoctoral training, and building an independent research program all present challenges and roadblocks of their own. Damon Runyon’s awards are intentionally designed to offer the most promising scientists the resources and support needed to clear these early career hurdles.

But many of our scientists in this vulnerable stage of their careers found themselves facing a new and unexpected challenge this spring when the pandemic closed research institutions across the nation. Experiments had to be paused, cell lines frozen, analyses postponed. Physician-scientists had to leave their benches for the frontline, to care for patients not only with cancer but with COVID-19. In this annual report, you’ll hear from Michael W. Drazer, MD, on his experience as a physician during the earliest days of the pandemic, and Yadira M. Soto-Feliciano, PhD, on how she harnessed the resilience and fortitude built up over the course of her career to remain productive even while her laboratory was closed.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO
Mutations leading to errors in how DNA stacks inside the chromosome are associated with many diseases, including cancer. Damon Runyon-Sohn Fellow Yadira M. Soto-Feliciano, PhD, wants to understand this process on a fundamental level to reveal new opportunities to thwart cancer.

“I think basic research is critically important, particularly in cancer biology, because it helps us dissect the roots of the problems that cause disease,” she explains.
EVEN HAVING ALL THE CARDS STACKED AGAINST ME, I WAS ABLE TO DO IT.

trivial and simple, but the lab can be an intimidating environment. As someone who has faced the challenges of building a scientific career, I am also thinking of ways to help the next generation of scientists.

Even though as a Latina woman in science, I’ve not had a straightforward path to where I am today, I still consider myself privileged in the sense that I’ve been supported by great mentors along the way. I want to use those advantages I’ve had to help other scientists from underrepresented backgrounds. I want them to know that there are opportunities in science for them, there are people who look like them, and they can get to these places themselves.

HOW DOES DAMON RUNYON PREPARE YOU FOR CHALLENGING MOMENTS IN A SCIENTIFIC CAREER?

Damon Runyon gives us the financial support for our salaries and research-related expenses, and also provides a wide network of peers, from clinicians to PhDs in different career stages, that otherwise would be really hard to reach. In my personal experience, these connections have led to scientific collaborations and important discoveries in cancer biology and other fields. The Foundation also makes an additional investment in a select group of fellows to facilitate the transition from postdoctoral training to a junior faculty position.

WHAT MOMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF AS A DAMON RUNYON FELLOW?

I think the proudest achievement during my fellowship has been writing and submitting a first-author manuscript this year when New York City shut down due to the pandemic. My husband and I live in a one-bedroom apartment with our two-year-old son. Without any childcare assistance and spending only an hour a day in front of my computer, I was able to prepare the figures, write drafts, and email with collaborators to submit the manuscript. Even having all the cards stacked against me, I was able to do it.

I WANT TO USE [THE] ADVANTAGES I’VE HAD TO HELP OTHER SCIENTISTS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED BACKGROUNDS. I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE FOR THEM.
Researchers recently discovered that at least 13 percent of all blood cancers are caused by mutations that are passed from generation to generation within families. Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Michael W. Drazer, MD, is investigating the cellular mechanisms that give rise to these blood cancers with the goal of developing earlier diagnostic approaches and therapies.

We asked Dr. Drazer to discuss the challenges of conducting research during a pandemic.

MICHAEL: I was raised on a small family farm in Indiana, and I’ve always been struck by how the uncertainty of farming mirrors the uncertainty of scientific research. Both disciplines require a single-minded dedication to uncovering the genetic basis of blood cancers.

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST
Cancer Genetics
INSTITUTION
The University of Chicago
PROJECT TITLE
“Defining leukemogenic mechanisms in hereditary hematologic malignancies”

The pandemic has exacerbated the day-to-day uncertainties [...] but I’ve stayed focused on my long-term research goals and the belief that this will impact patient lives.
dedication and an ability to respond to challenges that are often beyond our control. When I was in second grade, for example, our farm flooded unexpectedly—my dad and I stayed up all night digging a trench, trying to drain our fields and save our work for that year. The pandemic has exacerbated the day-to-day uncertainties we always encounter, but I’ve stayed focused on my long-term research goals and the belief that this will impact patient lives.

DR: HOW HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY THE COVID-RELATED SHUTDOWN?

My initial concern was for my patients with blood cancers who are often immunocompromised and more susceptible to the life-threatening effects of the coronavirus. I had to protect those patients without compromising the efficacy of their treatments. Some interventions, such as stem cell transplants, are extraordinarily time-sensitive, so our teams had to be creative in performing those procedures early in the pandemic when our healthcare system was already stretched thin. As a physician-scientist, I also had to freeze my experiments in the lab as efficiently as possible, so I could resume my work at some point. Damon Runyon has supported my research developing novel, one-of-a-kind experimental models of people with the different blood cancers that I study.

This irreplaceable collection of high-tech patient “avatars” is, I believe, the largest of its kind.

HOW HAVE YOU ADJUSTED YOUR APPROACH TO RESEARCH?

I pivoted to answer clinical questions and turned my attention to bioinformatics projects which can be completed remotely. For example, I suspected that many genetic tests incorrectly evaluated patients for their risk of developing a blood cancer. We published a paper demonstrating that the majority of these tests are completely inadequate for our patients with hereditary cancer syndromes. We want physicians to realize that this is a problem, so patients aren’t given false reassurances and are offered proper treatments earlier. This could save lives and improve the care of their family members.

Now, I am back in the lab at 20% of my normal capacity as we maintain social distancing. Though we shifted our research priorities and never stopped working, we will still lose months to years of progress during this time.

IN WHAT WAYS HAVE DAMON RUNYON’S SUPPORT AND RESOURCES HELPED YOU?

My patients provide me with direct insights into questions that inspire my research. The Physician-Scientist Training Award is transformational because it allows me to look for those answers even if it takes years. The Foundation’s leadership is clearly invested in us as people and has been unwavering in its support even during this uncertain time.

WHAT IS THE LONG-TERM GOAL FOR YOUR RESEARCH?

I hope that my research in hereditary blood cancers informs the development of treatments for all types of blood cancers. I am inspired by scientists like Dr. William G. Kaelin, Jr. and my sponsor Dr. Lucy Godley, who have used a similar scientific philosophy and dedication to develop treatments that are saving lives.
Basic research is an investment in future breakthroughs. It’s important to point out that one of the reasons things have gone so quickly with COVID-19 is the decades of investment in basic understanding of what makes a virus tick.

We are reaping the benefits of lots of knowledge that was accumulated over time. Because of basic research, we almost immediately knew how to sequence the virus, identify the potential genes, identify the likely protein products produced by those genes, and so on. We were almost limited more by resources than knowledge.

That’s where we’d like to get with cancer—to have enough knowledge so that for every single patient’s tumor, we can say “We’ve seen this before and we know exactly what to do. We know, for example, what the altered genes in this tumor do and how to treat them.’ It’s important to point out that for COVID-19, the virus is a 10-gene problem, as opposed to cancer, which is on the order of 20,000 different genes that can be altered in different tumors. It’s a fundamentally different and, in many ways, more complex problem despite all the knowledge we’ve already gathered, we still have knowledge to gain. The COVID experience shows that if you have enough knowledge, disseminate the information, and work together, then things can go quite rapidly. In the field of cancer research, Damon Runyon is one of the most active forces in building that library of knowledge and training the researchers who will be able to use it.”

The fundamental research that Damon Runyon supports is enormously valuable. That kind of basic research serves as a building block for discoveries that apply to nearly all areas of human health. To use a timely example, scientists who understand the fundamental mechanisms of stem cells, inflammatory responses, virology and the immune system have led the way to a greater understanding of how the SARS-CoV-2 virus acts in the human body. By supporting young scientists now in basic science that relates to cancer research, Damon Runyon generates a cadre of scientists who will serve the world well as we increasingly face unexpected health challenges that include but extend beyond cancer.”
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**AWARD PROGRAMS**

In FY2020, Damon Runyon awarded nearly $20M to 71 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 QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD**
Supports quantitative scientists (trained in fields such as mathematics, computer science, physics, engineering, or related) to pursue research careers in computational biology.

FOUR-YEAR AWARD: $231,000
THREE-YEAR AWARD: $240,000
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 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.

FOUR-YEAR AWARD: $600,000
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 one or more pediatric cancers.

FOUR-YEAR AWARD: $231,000
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-DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS**
Supports a select few Damon Runyon Fellows who have exceeded the Foundation’s highest expectations. This additional investment in these exceptional individuals catapults their research careers and their impact on cancer.

TWO-YEAR AWARD: $100,000

**DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF INNOVATION AWARD**
Supports the next generation of exceptionally creative thinkers with high-risk, high-reward ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer.

**TWO-YEAR AWARD: $400,000**
with the possibility of an additional $400,000 extension over two years
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University of California, Los Angeles

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

Ge Zheng, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Novel approaches to targeting zinc-finger domain of the transcription repressor BCL11A with Stuart Orr, MD

Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Kunitoshi Chiba, PhD
William Raveis Charitable Fund Fellow
The role of a tumor suppressor gene ASXL1 in immune evasion during tumorigenesis with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

Broad Institute
Matthew H. Bakalar, PhD
Predicting the interactions of T cell receptors with peptido-MHC complexes with Nir Hacohen, PhD

Veronika Shoba, PhD*
Phosphorylation-inducing chimeric small molecules with Amir Choudhary, PhD, and Stuart L. Schreiber, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Phillip A. Dumesic, MD, PhD
Identification of muscle-secreted factors responsible for local and systemic effects of exercise with Bruce M. Spiegelman, PhD

Tikhv K. Hayes, PhD
David M. Livingston, MD, Fellow
Systematic genomic and functional analysis of small cell lung cancer with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD

Whitney L. Johnson, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Using organoid cancer models to identify genome catastrophe mechanisms with David S. Pelman, MD

Jasper E. Neggers, PhD
Validation of VPS4A as a synthetic lethal target in cancers with VPS4B loss on chromosome 18q with Andrew J. Aguirre, MD, PhD, and Todd R. Golub, MD

Howard Medical School
Amelia N. Chang, PhD
The role of activity-regulated gene expression in human brain evolution with Michael E. Greenberg, PhD

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

Erin E. Duffy, PhD*
Activity-dependent changes in RNA stability as a mechanism for synaptic plasticity with Michael E. Greenberg, PhD

Yuan Gao, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Mechanism of protein import into peroxisomes with Tom A. Rapoport, PhD

Pragya Goel, PhD*
Dale F. and Betty Ann Frey Fellow
Signaling structure for neuromodulatory coding in the vertebrate striatum with Pascal Kaeser, MD

Rachel S. Greenberg, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Developing functional diversity in interoceptive circuits with Stephen Liberties, PhD

Zhijian Ji, PhD
Function of the Cdc48 ATPase in protein degradation with Tom A. Rapoport, PhD

Lucy Liu, PhD
The fat-brain axis: Identifying the roles of adipokine signaling in nervous system function with Norbert Perrimon, PhD

Nagarajan Nandagopal, PhD
Philip O’Bryan Montgomery, Jr., MD, Fellow
Signal integration by bHLH networks underlying host subversion during Rickettsia infection with Rebecca Lamas, PhD, and Michael Laub, PhD

John McGinn, PhD*
Dissecting the genetic networks underlying host subversion during Rickettsia infection with Rebecca Lamas, PhD, and Michael Laub, PhD

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

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Jeeyun Chung, PhD
Unraveling the cellular mechanism of lipid droplet biogenesis with Tobias C. Walther, PhD, and Robert V. Farese Jr., MD

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

Deepshika Ramanan, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Identifying functions of regulatory T cell subsets in intestinal inflammation and colorectal cancer with Christophe Benoist, MD, PhD

Jonathan G. Van Vranken, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Systematic identification of metabolite-protein interactions in human cells with Steven Gygi, PhD

Chuchu Zhang, PhD
Molecular dissection of Area Postrema and its role in nausea with Stephen D. Liberles, PhD

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

Thomas R. LaBar, PhD
Elucidating the mechanisms of cellular evolution with experimental evolution with Andrew W. Murray, PhD

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

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

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

Evan C. Lien, PhD
Impact of diet on tumor metabolism and progression with Matthew G. Vander Heiden, MD, PhD

Jon McGinn, PhD*
Dissecting the genetic networks underlying host subversion during Rickettsia infection with Rebecca Lamas, PhD, and Michael Laub, PhD

Sharanya Sivanand, PhD
Understanding metabolic heterogeneity in primary and metastatic tumors with Matthew G. Vander Heiden, MD, PhD

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research
Laura V. Blanton, PhD
Lallage Fazel Wall Fellow
The impact of sex chromosome constitution on immune cell gene expression and function with David C. Page, MD

“CANCER PATIENTS NEED INVESTIGATORS TO TAKE THESE RISKS—THEY CANNOT WAIT FOR THE CURES TO BECOME OBVIOUS.”

CHRISTIN E. BURD, PhD
Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovator ‘16-19
The Ohio State University

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

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

Courtney Ellison, PhD*
The role of type IV pili in Pseudomonas aeruginosa biofilm formation with Joshua Shaevitz, PhD, and Zemer Gitai, PhD
The Rockefeller University

New York

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
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

KaiXian Liu, PhD*
The studies of double-strand break proteins in germline genome transmission with Scott N. Keene, PhD, and Shixin Liu, PhD
University of Washington

Ryan H. Moyer, MD, PhD*
Robert Black Fellow
Identifying the key drivers and mechanisms underlying metastatic liver colonization in colorectal cancer with Sahoh Tavazoie, MD, PhD
Princeton University

Jose Reyes, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Dynamics and impact of genetic and non-genetic diversification driven by loss of p53 with Scott Lowe, PhD, and Dana Pe’er, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Sophia C. Tintori, PhD
Mechanisms of radiation tolerance in Caenorhabditis from Chernobyl with Matthew Rockman, PhD
New York University

Nicholas M. Adams, PhD*
Marion Abbe Fellow
Elucidating how pDC genome organization regulates IFN production in cancer with Boris Reisz, PhD
The Rockefeller University

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
Columbia University

The Rockefeller University

Aleksey Chudnovskiy, PhD
Defining dendritic cell-T cell interaction history within the tumor microenvironment using enzymatic labeling with Gabriel D. Victorica, PhD

Stefan K. Kaufmann

Anita Gola, PhD*
A spatially patterned stem cell and immune cell barrier at the skin surface with Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD
The University of Chicago

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

Juhee Pae, PhD
Berger Foundation Fellow
Mechanisms of germinal center B Cell proliferation with Gabriel Rockman, PhD

University of Pennsylvania

Yunsik Kang, PhD
Molecular mechanisms regulating phagocytosis of neurons with Marc R. Freeman, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

University of Pennsylvania

Benjamin A. Aragon, PhD
The role of type IV pili in Pseudomonas aeruginosa biofilm formation with Joshua Shaevitz, PhD, and Zemer Gitai, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

The Rockefeller University

Yasir Khan, PhD
Proteomics to bridge protein organization with Ofer Rog, PhD, and Erik Jorgensen, PhD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

University of Washington

Junhong Choi, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
The sequence-function landscape of antibody affinity maturation with Jesse D. Bloom, PhD, and Frederick Matsen, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

The Rockefeller University

Utah

University of Utah School of Medicine

Lexy von Diezmann, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow

State changes of a liquid-like compartment monitor the role of eosinophils in cancer progression with Ofer Rog, PhD, and Erik Jorgensen, PhD

Washington

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

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

University of Washington

University of Pittsburgh

Abigail E. Overacre-Delgoffe, PhD
Microbiome control of the tumor microenvironment: harnessing immunosuppression and exhaustion with Timothy W. Hand, PhD, and Olivia Finn, PhD

University of Pittsburgh

Canada

University of Calgary

Ysbrant Nusse, PhD*
Defining the role of eosiinophil in liver injury and repair with Paul Kubes, PhD

*Initial Year

§ Physician-Scientists
Aviv Regev, PhD
Executive Vice President and Head, Research and Early Development
Genentech, Inc.
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Andrea Califano, PhD
Chair, Systems Biology
Irving Cancer Research Center
Columbia University
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Anshul Kundaje, PhD
Assistant Professor, Genetics and Computer Science
Stanford University
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

X. Shirley Liu, PhD
Professor, Data Science
Director, Center for Functional Cancer Epigenetics
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Harvard University
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lior Pachter, PhD
Bren Professor of Computational Biology
Departments of Biology and Computing/Mathematical Sciences
California Institute of Technology
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Dana Pe’er, PhD
Chair, Computational and Systems Biology Program
Scientific Director, Metastasis and Tumor Ecosystems Center
Sloan Kettering Institute
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Caroline Uhler, PhD
Henry L. and Grace Doherty Associate Professor
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Institute for Data, Systems and Society
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Ad Hoc Member
Todd H. Golub, MD
Director, Cancer Program
Chief Scientific Officer
The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Hang Xu, PhD*
Investigating the dynamics of chromosomal instability in cancer with Christina N. Curtis, PhD, and Calvin Kuo, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Denis Schapiro, PhD*
Single cell pharmacodynamics and spatial signatures of drug response in the intact tumor microenvironment with Aviv Regev, PhD, and Peter K. Sorger, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston

Collin Tokheim, PhD*
Computationally identifying oncogenic substrates of the ubiquitin-proteasome system in human cancers with X. Shirley Liu, PhD, and Eric S. Fischer, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Shou-Wen Wang, PhD*
Inferring cell fate choice from clonal and transcriptomic data, with application to hematopoiesis with Allon M. Klein, PhD, and Fernando Camargo, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston

Siting Gan, PhD*
In situ single-cell dissection of the tumor-microenvironment interplay mediating brain metastasis with Joan Massagué, PhD, and Dana Pe’er, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

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Siting Gan, PhD*
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“I BUILT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FOUNDATION, SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND OTHER AWARDEES, WHICH I FORESEE BEING LONG-LASTING AND LEADING TO FRUITFUL AND FEARLESS COLLABORATIONS.”

GIADA BIANCHI, MD
Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist '16-'19
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School

California

Hang Xu, PhD*
Investigating the dynamics of chromosomal instability in cancer with Christina N. Curtis, PhD, and Calvin Kuo, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Massachusetts

Denis Schapiro, PhD*
Single cell pharmacodynamics and spatial signatures of drug response in the intact tumor microenvironment with Aviv Regev, PhD, and Peter K. Sorger, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Boston

Collin Tokheim, PhD*
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Siting Gan, PhD*
In situ single-cell dissection of the tumor-microenvironment interplay mediating brain metastasis with Joan Massagué, PhD, and Dana Pe’er, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Oregon

Jeremy Copperman, PhD*
Whole-cell modeling for the prediction and control of micro-environmentally regulated proliferative and migratory variability with Daniel M. Zucker, PhD, and Joe W. Gray, PhD, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland

Texas

Runmin Wei, PhD*
Integrating single cell genomic and spatial information to delineate tumor heterogeneity and microenvironment interactions in inflammatory breast cancer with Nicholas E. Navin, PhD, and Ken Chen, PhD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

Vermont

Vitor Mori, PhD*
EBUS-TBNI of cisplatin optimization in heterogeneous lung tumors with Jason H.T. Bates, PhD, DSc, and C. Matthew Kinsey, MD, University of Vermont, Burlington

Washington

Tal Einav, PhD*
Quantifying a polyclonal immune repertoire’s ability to bind influenza with Jesse D. Bloom, PhD, and Jonathan W. Yewdell, MD, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

*Initial Year
“I AM THANKFUL TO ALL THE BRILLIANT STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES I HAVE WORKED WITH AND THE AMAZING SUPPORT, LIKE THE DAMON RUNYON, I HAVE RECEIVED THROUGHOUT MY CAREER. IT MOTIVATES ME TO PAY IT FORWARD.”

PARDIS C. SABETI, MD, DPhil
Damon Runyon Fellow ’04–’06
Harvard University and the Broad Institute
DAMON RUNYON

DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS

Lindsay B. Case, PhD*
Regulation of integrin clustering on supported lipid bilayers at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

Ivana Gasic, Dr.Sc.*
CRIS Cancer Foundation Breakthrough Scientist Molecular elucidation of the interphase Microtubule Integrity Response (MIR) at University of Geneva, Geneva

Iva A. Tchasovnikarova, PhD*
CRIS Cancer Foundation Breakthrough Scientist Fluorogenetic interrogation of chromatin position effects at The Gurdon Institute at the University of Cambridge, Cambridge

Yi Yin, PhD*
Global analysis of DNA break repair by single-cell sequencing at University of California, Los Angeles

*Initial Year

DAMON RUNYON

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD COMMITTEE

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

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Co-Director, Center for Clinical Cancer Genetics
Hospira Foundation Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics
Section of Hematology and Oncology
The University of Chicago Medicine
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Peter S. Nelson, MD
Member, Divisions of Human Biology, Clinical Research and Public Health Sciences
Endowed Chair for Prostate Cancer Research
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Professor, Division of Medical Oncology
Adjunct Professor, Genome Sciences and Pathology
University of Washington School of Medicine
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

DAMON RUNYON

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD

California
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

Andrew L. Ji, MD*
Cancer cell-extrinsic and intrinsic control of tumor progression and intratumoral heterogeneity with Paul A. Khavari, MD, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Maryland
Jonathan G. Dudley, MD*
Gordon Family Physician-Scientist
Earlier detection of cancer in body cavity fluids through aneuploidy analysis after cell enrichment and partitioning with Bert Vogelstein, MD, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore

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

Massachusetts
Elisa A. Aquilanti, MD*
The Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation Physician-Scientist
Targeting telomerase in glioblastoma with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

“DAMON RUNYON’S MODEL OF SUPPORTING OUTSTANDING YOUNG SCIENTISTS ACROSS DIVERSE FIELDS OF STUDY IS INCREDIBLY SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE YOU CAN’T TELL WHERE THE NEXT BIG IDEA OR OPPORTUNITY WILL ORIGINATE.”

THOMAS M. NORMAN, PHD
Damon Runyon Fellow ’15–’18
Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Breakthrough Scientist ’20–’22
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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Christopher J. Gibson, MD
The biology and clinical implications of clonal hematopoiesis in cancer patients 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

Harshadb Singh, MBBS
Cellular origins of Barrett’s esophagus and its role in development of adenocarcinoma with Ramesh A. Shividani, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

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

Natalie Vokes, MD*
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist Dissecting tumor intrinsic and immune drivers of resistance to therapy in non-small cell lung cancer with Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

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
The biology and clinical implications of clonal hematopoiesis in cancer patients with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Natalie Vokes, MD*
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist Dissecting tumor intrinsic and immune drivers of resistance to therapy in non-small cell lung cancer with Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

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

Ohio
Jonathan E. Shaog, MD
Harnessing clinical data to identify new prostate cancer therapeutics with Christopher E. Barbieri, MD, PhD, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland

*Initial Year

Charles L. Sawyers, MD
Chair, Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Chair, Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Karla V. Ballman, PhD
Chief, Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology Professor, Healthcare Policy and Research Weill Cornell Medicine NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD
Director, Immunology and Infectious Disease Service, Immunology and Infectious Disease Service, Mount Sinai NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Daniel F. Hayes, MD, FACP, FASCO
Stuart B. Padnos Professor of Breast Cancer Research Clinical Director, Breast Oncology Program University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Andrew L. Kung, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair, Pediatrics Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

Massachusetts
Matthew D. Heilmann, 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

North Carolina
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

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

Texas
Todd A. Aguilara, MD, PhD
Immunologic responses to short course radiotherapy in rectal adenocarcinoma and the impact of CD40 agonist immunotherapy with Robert D. Timmerman, MD, and Yang-Xin Fu, MD, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

"SIMPLY PUT, MY DAMON RUNYON AWARD HAS SET MY CAREER ON A PATH FOR SUCCESS AS AN ACADEMIC PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST."

DAVID M. KURTZ, MD, PhD
Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist ’16-'19
Stanford University

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD CONTINUATION GRANT

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

Missouri
Vivek K. Arora, MD, PhD
Defining a targetable oncogenic dyad in bladder cancer with Lee Ratner, MD, PhD, Washington University, Saint Louis

New York
Vinoth Balachandran, MD*
Recombinant interleukin-33 immunotherapy for pancreatic cancer with Steven D. Leach, MD, and Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, 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

Piro Lito, MD, PhD*
Modeling responses to targeted ERK signaling inhibition at the single-cell level with Neal X. Rosen, MD, PhD, and Charles M. Rudin, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

*Initial Year

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

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

*Initial Year

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

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

*Initial Year
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Damon Runyon-Rachleff Institute
38

Ivan P. Maillard, MD, PhD
Vice Chief for Research, Division of Hematology and Oncology Professor of Medicine, Abramson Cancer Center University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Stephen T. Smale, PhD
Vice Dean for Research, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Distinguished Professor, Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics Sherie L. and Donald G. Morrison Chair, Molecular Immunology University of California, Los Angeles LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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

Founding Member
Ronald Levy, MD
Robert K. and Helen K. Summy Professor Stanford University School of Medicine STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

INNOVATION AWARD

MASSACHUSETTS
Liron Bar-Peled, PhD*
Identification of redox vulnerabilities in genetically defined cancers at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

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

Brian B. Liu, PhD*
Identifying allosteric mechanisms regulating DNA methyltransferase enzymes at Harvard University, Cambridge

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

BRIAN W. LIAU, PHD

Decoding and reprogramming tumor-infiltrating T cells by pMHC-targeted lentiviruses at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

Massachusetts
Liron Bar-Peled, PhD*
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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. Schuermann, 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
Michael E. Pacold, MD, PhD*
Tracing molecular oxygen in pancreatic cancer at NYU Langone Health, New York

Elli Papaemmanuil, PhD*
Biological and clinical implications of allelic imbalances in clonal hematopoiesis and subsequent risk of therapy related leukemia at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

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

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

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

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

Amalia Lukambio, 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

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

Utah
Gregory S. Ducker, PhD, and Kimberly J. Evason, MD, PhD*
Targeting phosphatidylcholine metabolism in liver cancer using zebrafish at Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City

*Initial Year

INNOVATION AWARD STAGE 2 FUNDING

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Initial Year

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Your support this year enabled us to invest nearly $20 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 $394 million and funded 3,826 young scientists.

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/spo

Award sponsors are listed on pages 42–44.

DAMON RUNYON 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. This year we’d like to extend special thanks to our Premier Circle members for their ongoing support of our efforts to end cancer. We rely on the proceeds from Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets to fund our brilliant scientists, and their loyalty has been crucial as we wait for Broadway’s reopening.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DAMON RUNYON BROADWAY TICKETS AND PURCHASE GIFT CERTIFICATES, PLEASE VISIT DAMONRUNYON.ORG/BROADWAY.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

VIRTUAL RUNYON 5K

Between August 24 and October 4, 2020, more than 450 participants walked, ran, hiked, or biked a 5K along a course of their choice – including many Damon Runyon scientists across the nation who participated for the first time with friends, family, and labmates. The Virtual Runyon 5K raised more than $60,000 for cancer research.

MOULIN ROUGE! THEATER BENEFIT

In November 2019, Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets supporters enjoyed a reception and conversation with Damon Runyon scientists before taking in a performance of the Tony-nominated musical Moulin Rouge! Our Theater Benefits provide an opportunity for donors to experience an intimate evening with fellow patrons while learning more about the work Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets supports.

RAVEIS RIDE + WALK

The William Raveis Charitable Fund hosted the fifth annual Raveis Ride + Walk in September 2019, raising $450,000 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 $2.5 million for Damon Runyon since 2015.

GOING VIRTUAL

Since March, we’ve been grateful for the opportunity to connect with our community virtually through a series of webinars, symposia, and celebrations. The Damon Runyon Fellows’ Retreat and Accelerating Cancer Cures symposia were both held virtually this fall, and in lieu of our Annual Breakfast, typically held in the spring, Damon Runyon donors and friends gathered online for A Virtual Toast to Science in early December. We hope to resume in-person events in 2021.
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 INNOVATOR
STAGE 2 FUNDING

Rushika M. Perera, 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.

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Zhejian Ji, PhD
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Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

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Yale School of Medicine

Jiao Sima, PhD
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Ryan H. Moy, MD, PhD
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University of Calgary

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Brigham and Women’s Hospital

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DAMON RUNYON-DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS
CUO CANCER FOUNDATION BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS
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University of Geneva

Iva A. Chasovnikarova, PhD
The Gurdon Institute at the University of Cambridge

DAMON RUNYON-SOHN PEDIATRIC CANCER FELLOWSHIP AWARD
This award program was launched in partnership with the generous support of the Sohn Conference Foundation, CANDY AND WILLIAM RAVEIS FELLOW
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**Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award**

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

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The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**John R. Ferrarone, MD**
Weill Cornell Medicine

**Natalie Vokes, MD**
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

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**Lillian M. Guenther, MD**
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**In perpetuity**

---

**Damon Runyon-Jake Wetchler Award for Pediatric Innovation**

This $5,000 award is named in honor of Jake Wetchler, who died at age 20 after a heroic fight against two different cancers.

**Marissa Rashkovan, PhD**
Columbia University Medical Center

---

**The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation acknowledges the generosity of the many donors who supported our brilliant researchers through gifts to the Foundation from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Individuals whose lifetime giving is $100,000 or more are listed in **bold**, and those whose lifetime giving exceeds $1 million are listed in **blue**. We are especially grateful to these extraordinarily generous and committed donors.**

---

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*Our donor lists are checked carefully. However, if you have any corrections or questions, please call us at 877.722.6237. The pledge amount is listed in the year the pledge is made. In subsequent years, pledge payments are listed.*
“I LOVE HOW DAMON RUNYON BRINGS SOME OF THE SMARTEST MINDS TO THE TABLE TO ATTRACT TALENTED SCIENTISTS, VET THEIR IDEAS, AND STAY INVOLVED AS MENTORS AFTER AWARDS ARE GRANTED.”

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JUDY SWANSON
Damon Runyon Board Member
ACCELERATING CANCER CURES

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

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.

“NO SINGLE ELEMENT OF PHARMA, ACADEMIA, SMALL BIOTECH, FUNDERS, VENTURE CAPITAL, OR THE NIH IS SUFFICIENT TO DO THE DIFFICULT JOB OF UNDERSTANDING THE BIOLOGY, FINDING THE TARGETS, MAKING THE MOLECULES, AND THEN DEVELOPING THEM CLINICALLY. IT TAKES ALL COMPONENTS OF THE BIOMEDICAL ECOSYSTEM. ONE OF THE GREAT STRENGTHS OF DAMON RUNYON IS ITS ROLE IN FORGING CONNECTIONS WITH REALLY SMART SCIENTISTS AT A FORMATIVE PART OF THEIR CAREERS. IT WILL TAKE A DENSE SET OF THESE CONNECTIONS TO BRIDGE THE GAP FROM THE POTENTIAL THAT SCIENCE CAN BRING TO THE ACTUAL DELIVERABLES OF WHAT WE ALL WANT, WHICH IS BETTER MEDICINES FOR PATIENTS.”

NICK HAINING, BM, BCH
Vice President, Discovery Oncology
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The Broadway Premier Circle is a group of loyal Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets customers who have made a special donation in support of cancer research. The Premier Circle offers members priority access to tickets and other benefits.

Discovery Society members are valued supporters who have provided for the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation through future planned gifts. These donations provide a vital source of support and fuel future breakthroughs against cancer.

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

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

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2020

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 FY2020.

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

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

$24 MILLION

$24 MILLION

TOTAL REVENUE

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$115,018,044</td>
<td>$112,585,245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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