To accelerate breakthroughs, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation provides today’s best young scientists with funding to pursue innovative cancer research.

Our goal is to foster the talent capable of revolutionizing the prevention, detection, and treatment of all forms of cancer.

Because Damon Runyon’s focus is on breakthroughs against cancer, we spend a great deal of time seeking to identify the essential characteristics of breakthrough scientists.

There is no doubt that they must be exceptionally brilliant. That’s obvious. They also need to have creative ideas and the ability to see potential that others fail to recognize. They need to question everything, challenge dogma and be willing to go against the grain. All of these traits are crucial.

But above all, breakthrough scientists must be Driven. They must have an intense, relentless passion for their research—24/7.

Scientific research is hard. Experiments run on their own clock and often fail. Even the experiments that succeed need to be repeated and refined to confirm the findings. Then it is on to the next experiment. One must be singularly driven to pursue answers that will change the world.

In this annual report, we feature four of our recent award recipients, each with a different motivation that drives their research. All of the over 3,600 scientists who we have funded over the past 71 years have their own unique motivations. But they all have this in common: 

They are Driven.

LORRAINE W. EGAN
President and Chief Executive Officer
Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
"I owe a debt of thanks to my doctors...my only hope is that I can pay it forward with the opportunity that has been given to me."

AARON D. VINY, MD, MS

MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER | NEW YORK, NEW YORK

After overcoming his own cancer diagnosis in college, Aaron is hunting for genetic mutations that trigger acute myeloid leukemia.

“SOMETIMES FATE is suggestive, and sometimes it’s a firm push. In my case it was the latter,” reflects Aaron.

“When I was a junior in college I was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and I took a hiatus from college to be treated at the Cleveland Clinic.”

This life experience led Aaron to choose a career as an oncologist and cancer researcher. He is completing his training as a Damon Runyon Fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. HE IS DRIVEN TO FIND NEW WAYS TO CURE LEUKEMIA.

“After an initial remission, the cancer reappeared in my spinal fluid. My brother was a perfect bone marrow match, and the resulting bone marrow transplant provided a new immune system that was able to identify, attack and kill the remaining leukemia cells. This past July, I celebrated 14 years of being cancer-free.”

Using the latest technologies, Aaron is hunting for genetic mutations that cause acute myeloid leukemia to occur. Once he identifies potential genetic defects, as he has done recently with mutated genes in a complex called Cohesin, he will determine if targeting these genetic defects can stop the deadly progression to blood cancer.

Reflecting on the treatment he received as a cancer patient, Aaron feels a strong obligation to use his scientific expertise to help patients. “I owe a debt of thanks to my doctors in Cleveland and the scientists who came before me. My only hope is that I can pay it forward with the opportunity that has been given to me.”

Science gave Aaron two gifts of life. His daughter Lilah turned two years old this past summer, and she is the “product of post-cancer fertility assistance,” added Aaron.

“Her journey into this world actually started 14 years ago despite her just turning two years old. It’s been exciting to see her grow, and to know that my darkest day, the day I started chemotherapy, is now forever linked with one of the brightest days of my life, the day my daughter was born.”

Two great reasons to pay it forward.
“If you are a cancer patient, you should have access to the best therapies that anybody can give.”

CHRISTINE M. LOVLY, MD, PhD

FOR CHRISTINE, a Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, her patients and her research are inextricably linked. Everything she does in the lab is for her patients. Not just future patients, but the ones she sees right now.

Christine is an expert in lung cancer and is focusing on why patients often relapse after initially responding to treatment, a difficult obstacle in saving lives. “The goal of my research is to understand how we can make the initial treatment with the drug better and last longer, and if the tumor becomes resistant to the drug, how do we actually overcome resistance? We want to make sure we have a Plan A, Plan B, Plan C, and Plan D to stay ahead of the tumor so it never has a chance to relapse.”

THAT CHRISTINE IS DRIVEN TO SAVE HER PATIENTS is exemplified by a story she tells about a recent patient: a 33-year-old father of three diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. Genomic testing of his tumor revealed a mutation that had never before been identified in cancer patients. While he was being treated with standard chemotherapy, Christine reached out to the research community and discovered that other cancer patients with different types of cancers also had this identical mutation.

Christine teamed up with other scientists to help build a new computational model of the effects of this mutation, grew her patient’s tumor in the lab so that it could be tested with different drugs, and identified an existing drug that attacked these cells. After proving that she had identified a new target for this drug, she was able to treat her patient with it, and his tumor shrank by more than 50%. While Christine’s efforts were ultimately too late to save his life, she is determined to make sure she applies this knowledge to help other patients.

As part of this commitment, Christine helped launch the website My Cancer Genome, which provides information about genetic mutations identified in cancers and treatment options to oncologists across the globe. She says, “I don’t care if you live in New York City…or Nashville…or rural Alaska. If you are a cancer patient, you should have access to the best therapies that anybody can give—anywhere in the country and anywhere in the world.”
“With the Damon Runyon funding...you can take quite a bit of risk—and in fact, it’s even expected of you.”

ADAM started out as a graduate student at Stanford University as an engineer pursuing a PhD in quantum physics. “I had no intention of going into biology or medicine,” he admits. “But a few months after I arrived, a very good friend of mine passed away from brain cancer. He was my age and suffered for almost a year. When that happened, it changed all of my priorities. I was ready to quit the PhD program and go to medical school. I felt that being an engineer, there was no way I could ever help someone with cancer.

“But then I started talking to a bunch of people here and got to see first-hand how engineers and physicists like me can be helpful in the fight against cancer. When I discovered that, I discovered a new passion, a new life commitment for myself. And I never looked back.”

ADAM is driven to innovate.

Adam is now pushing the boundaries of imaging technology. “In my lab we’re now developing all sorts of medical imaging tools with the intent of looking into the human body and trying to identify features indicative of disease. We are using them in a whole host of different applications, from the early detection of cancer to helping surgeons identify and remove tumors while leaving healthy tissue intact. We hope to see this technology go into human studies in the near future.”

Adam exemplifies Damon Runyon’s focus on finding creative, out-of-the-box thinkers and encouraging them to take risks on new ideas. He received two Damon Runyon Awards, a Damon Runyon Fellowship and the Dale F. Frey Award for Breakthrough Scientists.

“I knew I wanted to do something in cancer but I don’t come from the world of biology. Damon Runyon believes in the individual rather than the particular work they are proposing to do. It’s more about the individuals and believing in their potential to do great things. And that right there had a huge, huge impact on me,” added Adam.

“With the Damon Runyon funding you don’t have to play it safe, you can take quite a bit of risk—and in fact, it’s even expected of you, and that’s great. Damon Runyon has made it possible to do everything we’re doing in the lab right now.”
“Damon Runyon funding lets us plunge into new and uncharted territory.”

ELÇİN ÜNAL, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY | BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA
ELÇİN IS DEFINING THE LINK BETWEEN AGING AND CANCER.

Driven to Tackle Big Questions

ELÇİN, a Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovator at the University of California, Berkeley, wants to understand why cancer is most common in older individuals.

“The primary cause of most cancers is not cigarette smoking or a person’s diet or occupation. Aging is the primary or main carcinogen, but we really don’t know how it happens.”

Elçin studies a developmental process called gametogenesis, which resets the aging process, asking questions like: “The progeny (offspring) of a 20-year-old man and a 70-year-old man are similar. Why?” She also discovered that a certain transcription factor (a protein that regulates genes) involved in gametogenesis can make old yeast cells younger, removing damage and extending their lifespan, raising another interesting question: “Can we use the rejuvenation processes of gametogenesis to reverse aging in mammals?”

ELÇİN IS DRIVEN TO SOLVE THIS PUZZLE.

At the time that Elçin was selected for a Damon Runyon Innovation Award, the selection committee acknowledged that her ideas were novel and daring. She is grateful that they gave her the freedom to pursue this work. “It’s hard to imagine what my career would be like without the Damon Runyon funding. It would be more safe and maybe less interesting, and certainly less risky,” says Elçin. “At this stage of my career as a new assistant professor, I’m starting my lab with fresh ideas and energy. To be able to get funding from Damon Runyon now lets us plunge into new and uncharted territory.”

She is also grateful that Damon Runyon supports research asking hard fundamental questions. “My research is basic science—I don’t do a lot of translational research. I think the fact that Damon Runyon actually values this type of research is quite fantastic because it recognizes that a lot of the interesting biology comes from basic science. I like that they are very balanced in terms of what they fund and what they look for from the investigators. It’s a nice mix of basic and translational research funding, which I think is important for getting the most synergy leading to progress against cancer and other diseases.”
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Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD
Head, Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development
Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
The Rockefeller University
New York, New York

Damon Runyon Award Programs

IN FY2017, DAMON RUNYON AWARDED $17 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS TO 63 EXCEPTIONAL SCIENTISTS IN 9 STATES.

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.
FOUR-YEAR AWARD: $231,000
with possibility of extension up to an additional $300,000

Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award
Supports early career physician-scientists conducting patient-oriented research. The goal of this innovative program is to increase the number of physicians capable of moving seamlessly between the laboratory and the patient's bedside in search of breakthrough treatments.
THREE-YEAR AWARD: $450,000
plus up to $100,000 for medical school loan repayment; with possibility of extension up to an additional $300,000

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

Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Award for Breakthrough Scientists
Supports a select few Damon Runyon Fellows who have greatly exceeded the Foundation’s highest expectations. This additional investment in these exceptional individuals catapults their research careers and their impact on cancer.
TWO-YEAR AWARD: $100,000

Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award
Supports and encourages outstanding recent medical school graduates to pursue cancer research careers by providing them with the opportunity for a protected research training experience under the mentorship of a highly qualified and gifted mentor.
FOUR-YEAR AWARD: $460,000
plus up to $100,000 for medical school loan repayment

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Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
William Raveis Real Estate
Southport, Connecticut

Ms. Karen D. Seitz
Founder and Managing Director
Fusion Partners
New York, New York
Damon Runyon makes this happen for cancer research. It identifies top emerging talent and encourages their high-risk, high-reward ideas. The payoff has been generations of game-changers.”

**Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award Committee**

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Division of Oncology
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California

**Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Awards**

**CALIFORNIA**
Scott J. Dixon, PhD
“Exploring the role of a toxic endogenous glycolytic metabolite in tumor suppression and chemotherapy action” at Stanford University, Stanford

Bushika M. Perera, PhD*
“Mechanisms of cellular transformation at the signal organelle level” at the University of California, San Francisco

Peter J. Turnbaugh, PhD
Nadieh Gift Foundation Innovator
“The gut microbiome: an unexpected contributor to cancer drug resistance” at the University of California, San Francisco

**CONNECTICUT**
Jason M. Crawford, PhD
William Raveis Charitable Fund Innovator
“Elucidating the bacterial determinants of colorectal cancer” at Yale University, New Haven

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

**NEW YORK**
Piero D. Dalerba, MD
Island Outreach Foundation Innovator
“Using single-cell genomics to dissect and disable the glucose-mTORC1 signaling axis in cancer growth” at the University of California, Berkeley

**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 the University of Wisconsin, Madison

*Initial Year

**Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award Stage 2 Funding**

**CALIFORNIA**
Nicholas T. Ingolia, PhD
“cis-regulatory code for the translational control of gene expression” at the University of California, Berkeley

Guillem Pratx, PhD
“Adding a new dimension to flow cytometry: radionuclide-activated cell sorting” at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

**WASHINGTON**
Brian H. Shirts, MD, PhD
“Participatory genetics for defining genotype-phenotype associations of rare cancer variants” at the University of Washington, Seattle

**MARYLAND**
Christopher M. Jewell, PhD
“Harnessing intra-lymph node controlled release to study and enhance tumor immunity” at the University of Maryland, College Park
Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Awards

**CALIFORNIA**

Ami S. Bhatt, MD, PhD  
"Applying microbe-based therapies in cancer patients" with Linda Boxer, MD, PhD, and Michael Snyder, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

**FLORIDA**

Marco L. Davila, MD, PhD  
“The development and clinical translation of an armored CAR-T cell therapy for immune-resistant B cell malignancies” with Michel Saudan, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Houston, Texas

**ILLINOIS**

Jaehyuk Choi, MD, PhD  
“Identification of genetic basis of altered T cell receptor signaling in cutaneous T cell lymphoma” with Stephen D. Miller, MD, and John D. Crispino, PhD, Northwestern University, Chicago

**MASSACHUSETTS**

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

**NEW YORK**

Vinod P. Balachandran, MD  
“Defining the evolutionary dynamics and antigen potential of neoantigens for human pancreatic cancer immunotherapy” with Steven D. Leach, MD, and Jedd M. Wolchok, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

**NEW ENGLAND**

Christopher E. Barbieri, MD, PhD  
“Preliminary trials to target distinct subclones of localized prostate cancer” with Mark A. Rubin, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York

Alex Kentsis, MD, PhD  
“Mechanisms and function of regulatory signaling in acute myeloid leukemia” with Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, and Charles M. Rudin, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

**WASHINGTON**

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 Estrin, PhD, MS, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York

**WATSON**

Ande G. Chausiis, MD  
“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

S. Gail Eckhardt, MD  
“Applying new targeted treatments of CD8+ and CD4+ T cells for successful adoptive transfer in solid tumors” with Philip B. Greenberg, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

*Initial Year*
I am in awe that Damon Runyon has produced so many outstanding scientists...whose discoveries have contributed to the founding of dozens of biotech companies and ultimately life-saving medications.
Damon Runyon Fellowship Awards

C A L I F O R N I A

GLADSTONE INSTITUTES

Casey A. Gifford, PhD

“Dissecting the role of pioneering factors in cancer progression” with Deepak Srivastava, MD

SALK INSTITUTE

Corina E. Antal, PhD

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

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Joseph D. Schoenhoff, PhD

“Probing the relation between sequence, aggregation and proteotoxicity in cardiac amyloidoses caused by free antibody light chains” with Jeffery W. Kelly, PhD

Christopher J. Cambier, PhD

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

Ryan A. Flynn, MD, PhD

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

Jianjun Shi, PhD

“Biochemical and genetic dissection of axon degeneration” with Mare Tessler-Lavigne, PhD, and Ben A. Barres, MD, PhD

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Anupam K. Chakravarty, PhD

“Investigating the phenomenon of epigenetic inheritance mediated by non-amyloid protein aggregates” with Daniel F. Jarosz, PhD

Keren I. Hilgendorf, PhD

“Role of ciliary IGF-1/akt signaling in ciliogenesis, adiogenesis, and tissue regeneration” with Peter K. Jackson, PhD

Victoria Hung, PhD

“Defining the post-translational landscape of ribosomes in control of gene regulation and cell fate” with Maria Barna, PhD

Kathrin Leppek, PhD

“Mechanistic characterization of 5’UTR RNA elements that confer translational specificity to shape vertebrate embryonic development” with Maria Barna, PhD

Yin Liu, PhD

“Sensing lung tumors by pulmonary sensory neurons” with Mark A. Krasnow, MD, PhD

Bohith K. Srevas, PhD

“Longitudinal profiling of host-microbiome interactions in obese patients during drastic weight loss” with Michael P. Snyder, PhD

Albert G. Tsai, MD, PhD

“Design of hematologic malignancies from previous cell phenotypic and molecular plasticity” with Sean C. Bendall, PhD

Leeat Yankielowicz-Keren, PhD

“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

Gina V. Coddas, PhD

“Analysis of CSR: function in C. elegans embryonic cell division” with Abby F. Dernburg, PhD

Fuguo Jiang, PhD

“Molecular mechanisms of guide RNA: target dsRNA binding and PAM recognition by CRISPR-Cas9” with Jennifer A. Doubrava, PhD

Mandy M. Muller, PhD

“Widespread RNA destruction and selective preservation during viral infection” with Britt Glaunsinger, PhD

Andrew C. Murley, PhD*

“Controlling T cell signaling and fate choice using synthetic receptors” with Peter Walter, PhD

Kyle G. Daniels, PhD

“Design of inhibitors of cancer-associated mutant GNAS” with Keegan M. Shokat, PhD

Neel H. Shah, PhD

“Interrogating ZAP-70 substrate processing bodies” with Ronald D. Vale, PhD

Niranjana Srinivas, PhD

“Mutual repression, bistability, and switch-like decisions during development” with Herman G. Garcia, PhD, and Adam P. Arkin, PhD

David W. Taylor, PhD

“Structures of the RNA-targeting CRISPR-Cas complex Cmr” with Eva Nagales, PhD

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Andrew E. Leschziner, PhD

“Understanding the mechanisms of SWI/SNF-mediated chromatin remodeling and its misregulation in cancer” with Richard W. Baker, PhD

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Magdalena E. Potok, PhD

“The relationship between epigenetic gene silencing, nuclear architecture, and genome stability” with Steven C. Jacobsen, PhD

Brittany Adamson, PhD

“Genome editing via an engineered RNA-guided nuclease to create cancer genetic models” with James A. Wells, PhD

THOMAS M. NORMAN, PhD

“Ideating the stochastic determinants of drug resistance” with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD

ERIN F. SIMONDES, PhD

“Single-cell analysis and targeting of signaling networks in glioblastoma tumor-initiating cells” with William A. Weiss, MD, PhD

Lan Wang, PhD

“Confering organelle-specificity to tail-anchored proteins” with Peter Walter, PhD

Andrew L. Wolfe, PhD

“The therapeutic potential and biological effects of targeting oncogenic KRAS” with Frank McCormick, PhD

Jiaxi Wu, PhD

“Mechanisms of dendritic cell missing-self recognition and migration to activate CD4 T cell responses” with Jason G. Cyster, PhD

Yichen Xu, PhD

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

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The connections made through my fellowship have been invaluable for fostering collaborations and gaining career development support.
The award is support. The length of critically of support, best of the its prestige unique because oncology.

other disciplines trainees from also helps draw with cancer. It impact children as aspirations to young scientists Award allows Fellowship Runyon-Sohn

The Damon Runyon-Sohn Cancer Center Memorial Sloan Kettering Award Committee Chair

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James M. Olson, MD, PhD
Member Division of Clinical Research Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Seattle, Washington

Martine F. Roussel, PhD
Member and Endowed Chair at the Molecular Oncogenesis Co-Director, Cancer Center Signal Transduction Program Department of Tumor Cell Biology and Genetics (Adjunct Professor, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center) St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Memphis, Tennessee

CALIFORNIA

Özlem Aksyö, PhD
“Understanding the role of translational control in humanized mouse models for medulloblastoma” with Davide Ruggiero, PhD, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco

Zhipeng Lu, PhD
Layton Family Fellow of the Damon Runyon-Sohn Foundation Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award “Elucidating the role of dynamic RNA structures in cancer” with Howard Y. Chang, MD, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Kathryn R. Taylor, PhD*
“The effect of neuronal activity on pediatric gliona invasion” with Michelle L. Monge, MD, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

MARYLAND

Stacy L. Cooper, MD
“The Cebpα-γ enhancer is a critical target of transformation in acute myeloid leukemia” with Alan D. Friedman, MD, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

Michael A. Koldobskiy, MD, PhD
“DNA methylation stochasticity in pediatric pre-B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia” with Andrew P. Feinberg, MD, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

NEW YORK

Cara A. Rabik, MD, PhD*
“Determination of the role of WT1 in hematopoiesis and leukemogenesis” with Patrick A. Brown, MD, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

Marissa Rashkovan, PhD*
“Targeting metabolic vulnerabilities in AML” 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

Ly P. Vu, PhD
“Uncovering the role of RNA-binding protein Syncrip in acute myeloid leukemia (AML)” with Michael G. Khara, PhD, and Ross L. Levine, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Pennsylvania

Tamar P. Miller, MD
“Improving adverse event reporting on cooperative oncology group trials” with Richard Aplenc, MD, PhD, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia

TENNESSEE

David W. Woessner, PhD
“Discovery of new driver alterations in childhood ALL” with Charles G. Mullighan, MBBS, MD, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis

*Initial Year

Physician-Scientist
Damon Runyon-Dale E. Frey Award for Breakthrough Scientists

Lydia Finley, PhD*  
William Rasch Charitable Fund Scientist  
“Regulation of cancer cell growth and survival by the propionate catabolic pathway” at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

Jens C. Schmidt, PhD*  
“Single molecule analysis of telomerase recruitment to telomeres” currently at University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

Jakob von Mollte, PhD*  
“Initiation of type II immune responses” at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington  
*Initial Year

Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Awards

Pavan Bachireddy, MD  
“Correlation of tumor and T cell heterogeneity following immunotherapy” with Catherine J. Wu, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

Giada Bianchi, MD  
“Molecular mechanisms of RORCs in multiple myeloma pathogenesis” with Kenneth C. Anderson, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

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

Jennifer L. Caswell-Jin, MD*  
“Breast cancer evolution and resistance in homologous recombination repair defects” with Alan Ashworth, PhD, University of California, San Francisco, California

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

Jennifer L. Caswell-Jin, MD*  
“Breast cancer evolution and resistance in homologous recombination repair defects” with Alan Ashworth, PhD, University of California, San Francisco, California

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, New York

Sakiko Suzuki, MD*  
“AON-directed alternative splicing as a novel therapy for leukemia” with Glen D. Raffel, MD, PhD, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts

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Damon Runyon-Carolina Cancer Research Foundation

J. Wu, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

As a pediatrician by training, I was not interested in research at all when I first started medical school. But during my fellowship at the bedside of children, I realized that we can talk all we want about curing cancer, but without research, we’re never going to find those cures.

Those kids motivated my interest in the lab, and Damon Runyon made it possible for me to actually become a physician-scientist.”
Thank You to Our Donors

Your support this year enabled us to fund $17 million of research by the next generation of leading cancer researchers exploring bold new ideas. Since our founding in 1946, in partnership with donors across the nation, Damon Runyon has invested nearly $336 million and funded more than 3,620 young scientists.

Award Sponsors

We are grateful to our individual, foundation and corporate sponsors who have partnered with us to launch new programs or are funding one or more of our scientists. Donors are able to choose scientists to fund based on location, institution, research focus or cancer type, and the award can be named in recognition of their gift.

Donor Spotlight

Thank you to the Illini 4000, a student-run organization that has raised more than $250,000 for Damon Runyon since 2011 through their annual cross-country bike rides. Along their journey from New York to San Francisco, riders meet with Damon Runyon scientists to learn more about the research they are helping to fund.

“Being part of the Illini 4000 was an amazing experience. It inspired me to get more involved with Damon Runyon and contribute to its important mission.”

ELIZABETH BERGER
Damon Runyon staff member and 2015 rider

Events

In May, Damon Runyon hosted a benefit performance of the hit musical Hamilton in San Francisco, raising nearly $1 million. Prior to the show, members of our Bay Area Committee hosted a VIP reception where guests had the opportunity to meet Damon Runyon scientists conducting innovative research at Stanford University, the University of California, San Francisco, and the University of California, Berkeley.

Our Annual Breakfast, which commemorated our 70th Anniversary, was held in New York in June and raised more than $1.1 million. Craig B. Thompson, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, spoke about the progress made in cancer research over the past 70 years. Marin Mazzie, three-time Tony Award nominated Broadway actress and cancer survivor, celebrated our long-standing partnership with Broadway theaters.

More than 1,500 runners and walkers helped raise over $400,000 by participating in the Damon Runyon 5K at Yankee Stadium in August 2016. The eighth annual Runyon 5K was presented by MetLife Foundation, with additional support from Poland Spring, Cabot Creamery, Good Leaf Smoothies, SkinnyPop, Utz, Aromaflage, 24 Hour Fitness, New York City Football Club, NBC4 New York, New York Post, SiriusXM, and the New York Yankees.

The second annual William Raveis Ride + Walk benefiting Damon Runyon took place in October 2016. More than 600 people participated and volunteered in this fun family event, which included bike rides and a 5K walk. These events have raised more than $1 million for cancer research.
Sponsored Awards

We are fortunate to have individual, foundation, and corporate sponsors who have partnered with us to launch or provide continuing support for specific award programs. We thank them for their vision.

Sudeep Banjade, PhD
Cornell University
Brian J. Beliveau, PhD
Harvard University
Andrew A. Bridges, PhD
Princeton University
Christopher J. Cambier, PhD
Stanford University
Anupam K. Chakravarty, PhD
Stanford University School of Medicine
Xintong Dong, PhD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Casey A. Gifford, PhD
Gladstone Institutes
Alexander M. Jaeger, PhD
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Nora Kory, PhD
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research
Brian J. Laidlaw, PhD
University of California, San Francisco
Tina Y. Lee, PhD
New York University School of Medicine
Tera C. Levin, PhD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Alexia M. Sosnoff, MD, PhD
The Rockefeller University
Hume A. Stroud, PhD
Harvard Medical School
Sarah Z. Tasker, PhD
University of Illinois
Neil T. Umbreit, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Thomas S. Vierbuchen, PhD
Harvard Medical School
Sungwook Woo, PhD
Harvard University
Swathi Vudipalli, PhD
University of Michigan
Ziyang Zhang, PhD
University of California, San Francisco
Boris Zinshtein, PhD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Sponsored Awards (continued)

Sigrid Nachttaegele, PhD
The University of Chicago
Jose M. Ordoñez-Montanes, PhD
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Magdalena E. Potok, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles
William Razzell, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Alexey A. Soshnev, MD, PhD
The Rockefeller University

Kathrin Leppke, PhD
Stanford University School of Medicine
Yin Liu, PhD
Stanford University School of Medicine
Timothy D. Martin, PhD
 Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Dennis L. Buckley, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Ivana Gasic, Dr.Sc.
Harvard Medical School
Daniel H. Goldman, PhD
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Fuguo Jiang, PhD
University of California, Berkeley

The award recognizes one Damon Runyon Fellow each year whose research is most likely to have an impact on childhood cancer. It is supported by Jean Singer and Jonathan Wetchler, Jake’s parents, and the foundation they established in his honor.

In September 2016 we provided the first award, a $45,000 prize, to Mar W. Zimmerman, PhD, a Damon Runyon-Sohn Fellow at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, who studies neuroblastoma.
Accelerating Cancer Cures

Thank you to Eli Lilly and Company, Celgene, Genentech, Gilead, Merck, and Novartis for partnering with us to support the Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award and for helping to foster communication and collaboration between our scientists and the biopharmaceutical industry.

Our Contributors

The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation acknowledges the generosity and support of the many donors who supported our brilliant researchers through gifts to the Foundation from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Those whose individual lifetime giving is $100,000 or more are in bold, and those whose lifetime giving exceeds $1 million are in blue. We are especially grateful to those extraordinarily generous and committed donors.

1,000,000+
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Merk & Company, Inc.

500,000 TO 999,999
William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation
Leon & Toby Cooperman Foundation
Mr. Michael L. Gordon
Damon Runyon-Sohn Foundation
William Raveis Charitable Fund

100,000 TO 499,999
Anonymous (3)
Trey and David Breine
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MetLife
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25,000 TO 49,999
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The Illini 4000 for Cancer

10,000 TO 24,999
Almar Foundation
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Our contributors list is checked carefully. However, if you have any corrections or questions, please call us at 877.722.6237. The full pledge amount is listed in the year the pledge is made. In subsequent years, actual pledge payments are listed.

* Our donor lists are checked carefully. However, if you have any corrections or questions, please call us at 877.722.6237. The full pledge amount is listed in the year the pledge is made. In subsequent years, actual pledge payments are listed.
**Broadway Premier Circle**

The Broadway Premier Circle is a group of loyal Damon Runyon Broadway Ticket customers who have made a special donation in support of cancer research. The Premier Circle offers members priority access to tickets and other benefits.

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Mr. Jay Zises

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

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Ms. Ellen Wiss  
Dr. Janet M. Wirda  
Mr. Benjamin J. Winter  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wolf  
Mr. Jay Zises
Ways to Give

ONLINE
www.damonrunyon.org/donate

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

MAIL
Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
One Exchange Plaza, 55 Broadway, Suite 302, New York, NY 10006

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

DAMON RUNYON BROADWAY TICKETS
• Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets offers Broadway’s best seats and the opportunity to support cutting-edge cancer research at the same time. Orchestra seats are available for even the most popular shows.
• Join our Premier Circle to enjoy benefits like priority access to tickets before they go on sale each month, and more.
• 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 and more at 212.455.0550 between 9 am and 5 pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Learn more at www.damonrunyon.org/Broadway

Financial Summary
Fiscal Year 2017

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 FY2017:
For our complete audited financial statements, please visit our website at WWW.DAMONRUNYON.ORG

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES
$20.8 MILLION

TOTAL REVENUE
$20.8 MILLION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Award Programs</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>General Administration</td>
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<td>Investment Return</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Misc. Income</td>
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<td>Damon Runyon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broadway Tickets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests &amp; Trusts</td>
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Summary of Balance Sheets

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<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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Our overhead is paid from our endowment and Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets, allowing 100% of your donation to support cancer research.
100% of Your Donation Goes to Brilliant Scientists.

We pay our low overhead from Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets and our endowment. For more information, visit: [WWW.DAMONRUNYON.ORG/GET-INVOLVED](http://WWW.DAMONRUNYON.ORG/GET-INVOLVED)