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**Damon Runyon
Cancer Research
Foundation**

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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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

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

Aaron D. Viny, MD, MS
Medical Oncology

Driven to Pay It Forward

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.

Driven to Save Her Patients

Christine M. Lovly, MD, PhD

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER | NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Christine aims to develop treatment strategies that minimize cancer cells' chances of developing resistance to effective drugs.

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.”

“If you are a cancer patient, you should have access to the best therapies that anybody can give.”

CHRISTINE M. LOVLY, MD, PhD



“With the Damon Runyon funding...you can take quite a bit of risk—and in fact, it’s even expected of you.”

ADAM DE LA ZERDA, PhD

Driven to Innovate

Adam de la Zerda, PhD

STANFORD UNIVERSITY | STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Adam is developing sophisticated imaging technology that will aid in early detection and even removal of cancerous tissue.

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 HARNESS TECHNOLOGY TO SAVE LIVES.**

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.”

Driven to Tackle Big Questions

Elçin Ünal, PhD

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY | BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Elçin is defining the link between aging and cancer.

ELÇIN, 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?” **ELÇIN 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.”

“Damon Runyon funding lets us plunge into new and uncharted territory.”

ELÇIN ÜNAL, PhD

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation

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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.

TWO-YEAR AWARD: \$300,000
with possibility of extension up to an additional \$300,000

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

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

“In Silicon Valley, we have witnessed brilliant young minds with bold ideas change the world.

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.”



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Damon Runyon-Rachleff
Innovation Awards

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

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

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

Roberto Zoncu, PhD
“Dissecting and disabling the glucose-mTORC1 signaling axis in cancer growth” at the University of California, Berkeley

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 resolve the molecular identity of cancer stem cells and guide their pharmacological eradication” at Columbia University, New York

Benjamin L. Martin, PhD and David Q. Matus, PhD*
William Raveis Charitable Fund Innovators
“Cell cycle regulation of cellular behaviors associated with cancer metastasis” at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook

OHIO

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

WISCONSIN

Philip A. Romero, PhD
“Digital circulating tumor cell detection using scalable molecular logic” at 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

ELÇİN ÜNAL, PhD

“Reducing cancer susceptibility by attenuating cellular aging” at the University of California, Berkeley

MARYLAND

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

WASHINGTON

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

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Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Awards

CALIFORNIA

Ami S. Bhatt, MD, PhD

“Applying microbiome-based therapeutics 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 Sadelain, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, and Claudio Anasetti, MD, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa

ILLINOIS

Jaehyuk Choi, MD, PhD

Doris Duke-Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator

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

MASSACHUSETTS

Priscilla K. Brastianos, MD

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

Geoffrey R. Oxnard, MD

Gordon Family Clinical Investigator

“Noninvasive genotyping of cell free plasma DNA (cfDNA) as a tool for guiding personalized lung cancer care” with Pasi A. Janne, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Mark G. Shrime, MD, PhD, MPH*

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

Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD

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

MISSOURI

Vivek K. Arora, MD, PhD

“Defining a targetable oncogenic dyad in bladder cancer” with Lee Ratner, MD, PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

Gavin P. Dunn, MD, PhD*

“Characterizing the immunogenic landscape of glioblastoma” with John DePersio, MD, PhD, and Robert Schreiber, PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

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

Christopher E. Barbieri, MD, PhD

MetLife Foundation Clinical Investigator

“Presurgical trials to target distinct subclasses of localized prostate cancer” with Mark A. Rubin, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York

Adrienne A. Boire, MD, PhD*

“Molecular determinants of leptomeningeal metastasis: a translational approach” with Joan Massagué, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Alex Kentsis, MD, PhD

Richard Lumsden Foundation Clinical Investigator

“Mechanism and function of regulatory signaling in acute myeloid leukemia” with Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, and Ross L. Levine, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Piro Lito, MD, PhD*

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

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

WASHINGTON

Aude G. Chapuis, MD

“To specify the requirements of CD8+ and CD4+ T cells for successful adoptive transfer in solid tumors” with Philip D. Greenberg, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

*Initial Year

Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award Continuation Grants

CALIFORNIA

L. Elizabeth Budde, MD, PhD
“Targeting CD123 using chimeric antigen receptor T cells for treatment of acute myeloid leukemia” with Stephen J. Forman, MD, FACP, City of Hope, Duarte

MASSACHUSETTS

Ann Mullally, MD
“Peptide vaccination to target mutant calreticulin in myeloproliferative neoplasms” with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, and Jerome Ritz, MD, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston

MISSOURI

Stephen T. Oh, MD, PhD*
“Targeting aberrant signaling pathways in myeloproliferative neoplasms” with Daniel C. Link, MD, Washington University, St. Louis

NEW YORK

Joshua Brody, MD*
“Flt3L-primed ‘in situ’ vaccination for low-grade lymphoma - Phase I/II study of intratumoral injection of rhuFlt3L and poly-ICLC with low-dose radiotherapy [NCT01976585]” with Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, and Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York

TENNESSEE

Christine M. Lovly, MD, PhD
“Developing novel therapeutic strategies for ALK-fusion positive lung cancer” with David P. Carbone, MD, PhD, The Ohio State University, Columbus, and Pierre P. Massion, MD, Vanderbilt University, Nashville

TEXAS

Deepak Nijhawan, MD, PhD
“Developing the anti-tumor toxin CD437 into a new cancer therapy” with Steve L. McKnight, PhD, and David Johnson, MD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

* 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.”



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Yale University School of Medicine
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Associate Member and Laboratory Head
Computational Biology Program
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
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University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

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Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics
School of Medicine and Dentistry
Director, University of Rochester Center for RNA Biology
Chair, University of Rochester Graduate Women in Science
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Member, UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center
San Francisco, California

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Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator Professor, Department of Pharmacology The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, Texas

Joseph D. Schonhoft, PhD

Merck Fellow

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

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Christopher J. Cambier, PhD

HHMI Fellow

“*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

Jianjin Shi, PhD*

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

Shaogeng Steven Tang, PhD*

Merck Fellow

“Toward small-molecule inhibitors against human immune checkpoint PD-1” with Peter S. Kim, PhD

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Anupam K. Chakravarty, PhD

HHMI Fellow

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

Keren I. Hilgendorf, PhD

Layton Family Fellow

“Role of ciliary IGF-1/AKT signaling in ciliogenesis, adipogenesis, 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

Layton Family Fellow

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

Yin Liu, PhD

Layton Family Fellow

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

Rohith K. Srivas, PhD

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

Albert G. Tsai, MD, PhD§

“Diagnosis of hematologic malignancies from paucicellular aspirate material using highly multiplexed single cell analysis” 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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Gina V. Caldas, PhD

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

Fuguo Jiang, PhD

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

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

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“Cell non-autonomous communication of ER stress resistance” with Andrew G. Dillin, PhD

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“Interrogating ZAP-70 substrate recognition using high-throughput mutant screening” with John Kuriyan, PhD

Niranjan Srinivas, PhD

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

David W. Taylor, PhD

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Andres 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

HHMI Fellow

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

Brittany Adamson, PhD

HHMI Fellow

“Comprehensive characterization of the integrated networks that regulate protein homeostasis within the mammalian endoplasmic reticulum” with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD

Vladislav Belyy, PhD*

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

Kyle G. Daniels, PhD

“Controlling T cell signaling and fate choice using synthetic receptors” with Wendell Lim, PhD

Qi Hu, PhD

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

Jeffrey A. Hussmann, PhD

Rebecca Ridley Kry Fellow

“Genome-wide measurement of ribosome spacing on individual transcripts” with Carol Gross, PhD

Ankur Jain, PhD

“Formation and function of mRNA processing bodies” with Ronald D. Vale, PhD

Brian J. Laidlaw, PhD

HHMI Fellow

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

Kara L. McKinley, PhD*

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

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“Fate specification of mammary stem cells by cell self-sorting” with Zev J. Gartner, PhD

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

Thomas M. Norman, PhD

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

Erin F. Simonds, PhD

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

Lan Wang, PhD*

“Conferring 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

“Mechanism 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 Ruggero, PhD

Ziyang Zhang, PhD*

HHMI Fellow

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

Xin Zhou, PhD*

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“Engineering ‘Glue’ domains to enable cryo-EM study of small cancer protein structures” with James A. Wells, PhD

CONNECTICUT

YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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“Mechanistic dissection of the Fanconi anemia pathway in coordinating R-loop processing and DNA repair” with Patrick Sung, DPhil, and Gary M. Kupfer, MD

Seyed Fakhreddin Torabi, PhD

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“Evolution of triplex-forming RNAs from random sequences: a search for additional MALAT1-like triplex motifs” with Joan A. Steitz, PhD

ILLINOIS

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John D. Leonard, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

“Self-antigen recognition by regulatory T cells” with Erin J. Adams, PhD, and Peter A. Savage, PhD

Sigrid Nachtergaele, PhD

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“The dynamic N1-methyladenosine methylome in eukaryotic mRNA” with Chuan He, PhD

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Daniel J. Blair, PhD*

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

Sarah Z. Tasker, PhD

HHMI Fellow

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

MARYLAND

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Xintong Dong, PhD*

HHMI Fellow

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

Daniel H. Goldman, PhD

Merck Fellow

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

Vu Quang Nguyen, PhD

“Role of chromatin organization in dynamics of transcription initiation” with Carl Wu, PhD

Hanjing Peng, PhD

“Targeting the proteasome using a hybrid, combinatorial rapafucin library” with Jun O. Liu, PhD

Evan J. Worden, PhD*

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

Boris Zinshteyn, PhD

HHMI Fellow

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

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Danfeng Cai, PhD

“Protein crowding and protein folding landscapes as predictors of healthy and diseased cell states” with Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, PhD

Daniel E. Webster, PhD

Philip O’Bryan Montgomery, Jr., MD, Fellow

“Identification and analysis of lncRNAs regulating diffuse large B cell lymphoma” with Louis M. Staudt, MD, PhD

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Megan L. Insko, MD, PhD*

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

BRIGHAM AND WOMEN’S HOSPITAL

Emma Watson, PhD

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

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Marion Abbe Fellow

“Investigating the role of aneuploidy and haploinsufficiency in driving tumorigenesis” with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE

Dennis L. Buckley, PhD

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“Development of selective bromodomain inhibitors from dual bromodomain-kinase inhibitors for the treatment of neuroblastoma” with Nathanael S. Gray, MD

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

Tikvah K. Hayes, PhD*

David M. Livingston, MD, Fellow

“Systematic genomic and functional analysis of small cell lung cancer” with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD

Neil T. Umbreit, PhD

HHMI Fellow

“Elucidating the mechanism of chromosome bridge resolution” with David S. Pellman, MD

Eric Wang, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

“Enhancing anti-tumor immunity via pharmacological inhibition of kinases” with Nathanael S. Gray, PhD

“Funding from Damon Runyon gives these young scientists the ability to pursue their research with dedication.”



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HARVARD T.H. CHAN
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Caitlin A. Brennan, PhD

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“Mechanisms underlying *Fusobacterium nucleatum*-driven colorectal cancer” with Wendy S. Garrett, MD, PhD

Jeeyun Chung, PhD*

“Unraveling the cellular mechanism of lipid droplet biogenesis” with Tobias C. Walther, PhD, and Robert V. Farese Jr., MD

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Ryan D. Baldrige, PhD

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“Investigating the mechanism of retro-translocation by ERAD” with Tom A. Rapoport, PhD

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“Elucidating the biological functions of polypeptide transfer between animal cells” with Norbert Perrimon, PhD

Anne E. Dodson, PhD*

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

Ivana Gasic, DrSc

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“Molecular elucidation of the interphase microtubule integrity response (MIR)” with Timothy J. Mitchison, PhD

Natasha M. O’Brown, PhD

“Molecular and cellular mechanisms of transcytosis regulation in blood-brain barrier function” with Chenghua Gu, PhD

Sarah J. Pfau, PhD*

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

Deepshika Ramanan, PhD*

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

Nikhil Sharma, PhD

“Neural control of breathing” with Stephen Liberles, PhD

Justin L. Sparks, PhD

“Replicative helicase bypass of bulky DNA adducts?” with Johannes C. Walter, PhD

Benjamin M. Stinson, PhD

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

Hume A. Stroud, PhD

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“Understanding the mechanism and roles of changes in chromatin composition in the brain” with Michael E. Greenberg, PhD

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“Cell sorting in zebrafish neural tube development” with Sean G. Megason, PhD

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“Understanding the developmental programming and function of the enhancers that control activity-regulated transcription in the mammalian cortex” with Michael E. Greenberg, PhD

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Philip B. Abitua, PhD

“Functional characterization of signaling molecules during zebrafish embryogenesis” with Alexander F. Schier, PhD

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“Decoding Polycomb-mediated gene regulation in single cells with single-molecule super resolution imaging and synthetic biology” with Peng Yin, PhD

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“Understanding alanosine biosynthesis to discover new cancer chemotherapeutics” with Emily P. Balskus, PhD

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“Crystal-free crystallography using programmable 3D DNA crystal frameworks” with Peng Yin, PhD

MASSACHUSETTS
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Kai Mao, PhD

“Mechanisms of xenobiotic surveillance and regulation” with Gary B. Ruvkun, PhD

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“Molybdenum cofactor biosynthetic enzymes modulate miRNA biology and development” with Gary B. Ruvkun, PhD

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“Deciphering the role of chromatin remodeling in epigenetic repression by the HUSH complex” with Robert E. Kingston, PhD

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“Investigating the function of HSF1 in tumor evolution” with Tyler E. Jacks, PhD

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

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“Understanding metabolic heterogeneity in pancreatic cancer” with Matthew G. Vander Heiden, MD, PhD

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“Single-cell genomic approaches for tracing the contribution of inflammation to human colon cancer” with Alex K. Shalek, PhD

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“Understanding the roles of extracellular matrix proteins in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma progression” with Richard O. Hynes, PhD

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“Exploiting endogenous mutational processes in cancer to enhance response to immunotherapy” with Tyler E. Jacks, PhD

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“The impact of sex chromosome constitution on immune cell gene expression and function” with David C. Page, MD

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“Identifying new components of mitochondrial one-carbon metabolism” with David M. Sabatini, MD, PhD

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“Investigating the role of aberrant genome structuring in T-ALL” with Richard A. Young, PhD

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“Synthetic food particles for studying human gut microbiota function” with Jeffrey I. Gordon, MD

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

Antony J. Burton, PhD*

“Sculpting chromatin architecture in live cells using protein chemistry” with Tom W. Muir, PhD

NEW YORK

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

J. Brooks Crickard, PhD*

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

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Sudeep Banjade, PhD

HHMI Fellow

“Division of labor in ESCRT-III proteins during polymer assembly and membrane remodeling” with Scott D. Emr, PhD

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“Identifying determinants of latency in brain metastatic breast cancer cells” with Joan Massagué, PhD

Bryan C. King, PhD

Berger Foundation Fellow

“AMPK-induced catabolism of extracellular proteins: a novel survival mechanism for nutrient-deprived cancer cells” with Craig B. Thompson, MD

William Razzell, PhD

HHMI Fellow

“The role of tension in Hippo pathway signaling” with Jennifer A. Zallen, PhD

Aaron D. Viny, MD, MS[§]

William Raveis Charitable Fund Fellow

“Role of the Cohesin complex in oncogenic transformation of AML” with Ross L. Levine, MD

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Lacy J. Barton, PhD

“Mechanisms of directed cell migration in a complex *in vivo* environment” with Ruth Lehmann, PhD

June-Yong Lee, PhD

HHMI Fellow

“Investigation of potential roles of serum amyloid A in peripheral Th17 cell pathogenicity” with Dan R. Littman, MD, PhD

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

Chao Lu, PhD

Kandarian Family Fellow

“Understanding the mechanism of histone H3 mutation in cancer initiation and maintenance” with C. David Allis, PhD

Rand M. Miller, PhD

Illini 4000 Fellow

“Chemistry-based dissection of multidrug resistance efflux pump mechanisms in living cells” with Tarun M. Kapoor, PhD

Shruti Naik, PhD

“Immune and epidermal stem cell cross talk in skin inflammation” with Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD

Alexey A. Soshnev, MD, PhD

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“The study of linker histone H1 in transcriptional regulation and genome organization” with C. David Allis, PhD

Jonathan R. Whicher, PhD

GE Asset Management Fellow

“Structure and mechanism of the voltage-gated potassium channel hEag1” with Roderick MacKinnon, MD

Linghe Xi, PhD

Dale F. and Betty Ann Frey Fellow

“WNT signaling and fate specification of normal versus tumorigenic stem cells” with Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD

TEXAS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

Lindsay B. Case, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

“Regulation of integrin clustering on supported lipid bilayers” with Michael K. Rosen, PhD

Elise C. Jeffery, PhD

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

UTAH

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Alesia N. McKeown, PhD

HHMI Fellow

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

VIRGINIA

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE JANELIA RESEARCH CAMPUS

Albert Tsai, PhD

“Single-molecule imaging of transcription factors binding dynamics in *Drosophila* embryos” with Robert H. Singer, PhD

WASHINGTON

FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER RESEARCH CENTER

Tera C. Levin, PhD

HHMI Fellow

“Master microbial manipulators: how *Wolbachia* subvert *Drosophila* development” with Harmit S. Malik, PhD

Matthew P. Miller, PhD

HHMI Fellow

“Regulation of kinetochore assembly” with Susan Biggins, PhD

Antoine Molaro, PhD

“Evolutionary and functional consequences of genetic conflicts between KRAB-Zinc-Fingers and endogenous retroviruses in primate genomes” with Harmit S. Malik, PhD

Jeremy I. Roop, PhD*

Fayez Sarofim Fellow

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

Alistair B. Russell, PhD

Merck Fellow

“Impact of heterogeneity on the cellular recognition of influenza infection” with Jesse D. Bloom, PhD

Ying Qi Shirleen Soh, PhD

“Mapping paths and mechanisms of virus-host adaptation” with Jesse D. Bloom, PhD

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Ronald J. Hause, PhD

“Function dissection of the effects of variants of uncertain significance in TPMT in response to thiopurine anticancer agents” with Jay A. Shendure, MD, PhD

Yi Yin, PhD

“Global analysis of DNA break repair by single-cell sequencing” with Jay A. Shendure, MD, PhD

*Initial Year

§ Physician-Scientist

“The connections made through my fellowship have been invaluable for fostering collaborations and gaining career development support.”



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Damon Runyon Fellow
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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

Damon Runyon-Sohn Foundation Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Awards

CALIFORNIA

Özlem Aksoy, PhD
“Understanding the role of
translational control in humanized
mouse models for medulloblastoma”
with Davide Ruggero, 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 glioma invasion”
with Michelle L. Monje, MD, PhD,
Stanford University School of
Medicine, Stanford

MARYLAND

Stacy L. Cooper, MD§
“The Cebpa +37kb 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

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

MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Balboni Iniguez, PhD
“Targeting the EWS-FLI oncoprotein
in Ewing sarcoma with CDK12/13
inhibitors” with Kimberly Stegmaier,
MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,
Boston

Mark W. Zimmerman, PhD
“Elucidating the mechanism of
CHD5-mediated tumor suppression
in neuroblastoma” with A. Thomas
Look, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer
Institute, Boston

MICHIGAN

Challice L. Bonifant, MD, PhD§
“Dual-antigen targeting by ENG-T
cells as improved anti-AML therapy”
with Pavan Reddy, MD, University of
Michigan, Ann Arbor

NEW YORK

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

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

Yadira M. Soto-Feliciano, PhD*
“Dissecting the role of Menin in
acute leukemia” with C. David Allis,
PhD, The Rockefeller University,
New York

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Tamara 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 F. Frey Award for Breakthrough Scientists

Lydia Finley, PhD*

*William Raveis 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 Moltke, PhD*

“Initiation of type 2 immune
responses” at the University of
Washington, Seattle, Washington

*Initial Year

Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award Committee

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Division of Cancer Medicine
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Center for Cancer
Immunology Research
The University of Texas
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Houston, Texas

Damon Runyon Physician- Scientist Training Awards

Pavan Bachireddy, MD

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

Giada Bianchi, MD

*Damon Runyon-Celgene
Physician-Scientist*
“Molecular mechanisms of ROBO1
in multiple myeloma pathogenesis”
with Kenneth C. Anderson, MD,
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,
Boston, Massachusetts

Kristopher R. Bosse, MD

“GPC2 as an oncogene and
immunotherapeutic target in high-
risk neuroblastoma” with John M.
Maris, MD, Children’s Hospital of
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Julia C. Carnevale, MD

“Developing new therapeutic
approaches for pancreatic cancer
with homologous recombination
repair defects” with Alan Ashworth,
PhD, University of California, San
Francisco, California

Jennifer L. Caswell-Jin, MD*

“Breast cancer evolution and
resistance in response to HER2-
trageted therapy” with Christina N.
Curtis, PhD, and Allison W. Kurian,
MD, MSc, Stanford University School
of Medicine, Stanford, 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

Christopher J. Gibson, MD*

“Elucidating the connection between
clonal hematopoiesis and lymphoma
in humans” with Benjamin L. Ebert,
MD, DPhil, Dana-Farber Cancer
Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

Carolyn C. Jackson, MD, MPH

“Genetic dissection of pediatric
classic Kaposi sarcoma” with
Jean-Laurent Casanova, MD, PhD,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer
Center, New York, New York

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

Loretta S. Li, MD

“Mechanisms of disease and
resistance in CRLF2-rearranged
B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia”
with David M. Weinstock, MD, Dana-
Farber Cancer Institute, Boston,
Massachusetts

Melody Smith, MD*

“CD19 targeted donor T cells impove
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

“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.”



**CAROLYN C.
JACKSON, MD, MPH**
Damon Runyon
Physician-Scientist
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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.



PETER VAN CAMP
(left) with Nadia's Gift Foundation Innovator Peter J. Turnbaugh, PhD, and Laura Grant Van Camp, at a windy rooftop reception in San Francisco before our *Hamilton* benefit.



The Illini 4000 at the lab of former Fellow and Dale F. Frey Breakthrough Scientist, Michael J. Smanski, PhD, at the University of Minnesota.

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.

AWARD SPONSORS ARE LISTED ON PAGES 32-34.

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

BAY AREA HAMILTON EVENT



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.

DAMON RUNYON ANNUAL BREAKFAST



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.

RUNYON 5K AT YANKEE STADIUM



More than 1,300 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, NBC 4 New York, New York Post, SiriusXM, and the New York Yankees.

RAVEIS RIDE + WALK



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.

DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF INNOVATION AWARDS

This award was established thanks to the vision and generosity of **Debbie and Andy Rachleff**.

Island Outreach Foundation Innovator

Piero D. Dalerba, MD
Columbia University

Nadia's Gift Foundation Innovator

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

William Raveis Charitable Fund Innovators

Jason M. Crawford, PhD
Yale University

Benjamin L. Martin, PhD
Stony Brook University

David Q. Matus, PhD
Stony Brook University

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

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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CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR CONTINUATION GRANT

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

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

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

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Matthew P. Miller, PhD
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University of California, Berkeley

Andrew C. Murley, PhD
University of California, Berkeley

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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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Neil T. Umbreit, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Thomas S. Vierbuchen, PhD
Harvard Medical School

Sungwook Woo, PhD
Harvard University

Swathi Yadlapalli, PhD
University of Michigan

Ziyang Zhang, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Boris Zinshteyn, PhD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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The Rockefeller University

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Harvard Medical School

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Laura Blanton, PhD
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

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Kathrin Leppek, PhD
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*Suzanne and Bob Wright Fellow**

Emma Watson, PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Robert Black Fellows

Corina E. Antal, PhD
Salk Institute

Lindsay B. Case, PhD
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Damon Runyon-Jake Wetchler Award for Pediatric Innovation

This Award is named in honor of Jake Wetchler, who died at age 20 after a heroic fight against two different cancers. He would say, “Don’t let the cancer win,” and we won’t.

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 \$5,000 prize, to **Mark W. Zimmerman, PhD**, a Damon Runyon-Sohn Fellow at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, who studies neuroblastoma.



MARK W. ZIMMERMAN, PhD

Sponsored Awards (continued)

Allison N. Lau, PhD Massachusetts Institute of Technology		David W. Woessner, PhD St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
John D. Leonard, PhD The University of Chicago		Mark W. Zimmerman, PhD Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Seyed F. Torabi, PhD Yale University	DAMON RUNYON-SOHN PEDIATRIC CANCER FELLOWSHIP AWARD This award program was launched in partnership with the generous support of the Sohn Conference Foundation .	<i>Layton Family Fellow of the Damon Runyon-Sohn Foundation Pediatric Cancer Fellowship</i> Zhipeng Lu, PhD Stanford University School of Medicine
Eric S. Wang, PhD Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Damon Runyon-Sohn Foundation Pediatric Cancer Fellows supported by the Sohn Conference Foundation	DAMON RUNYON PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARDS This award was established thanks to the generosity of Damon Runyon Board Members Leon G. Cooperman and Michael L. Gordon .
<i>William Raveis Charitable Fund Fellows</i> Harihar Basnet, PhD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Özlem Aksoy, PhD University of California, San Francisco	<i>Damon Runyon-Celgene Physician-Scientist</i> Giada Bianchi, MD Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
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DAMON RUNYON-DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS <i>Funded by the William Raveis Charitable Fund</i>	Cara A. Rabik, MD, PhD Johns Hopkins University	
Lydia Finley, PhD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Marissa Rashkovan, PhD Columbia University Medical Center	
	Kathryn R. Taylor, PhD Stanford University School of Medicine	
	Ly P. Vu, PhD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	

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 these extraordinarily generous and committed donors.

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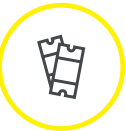
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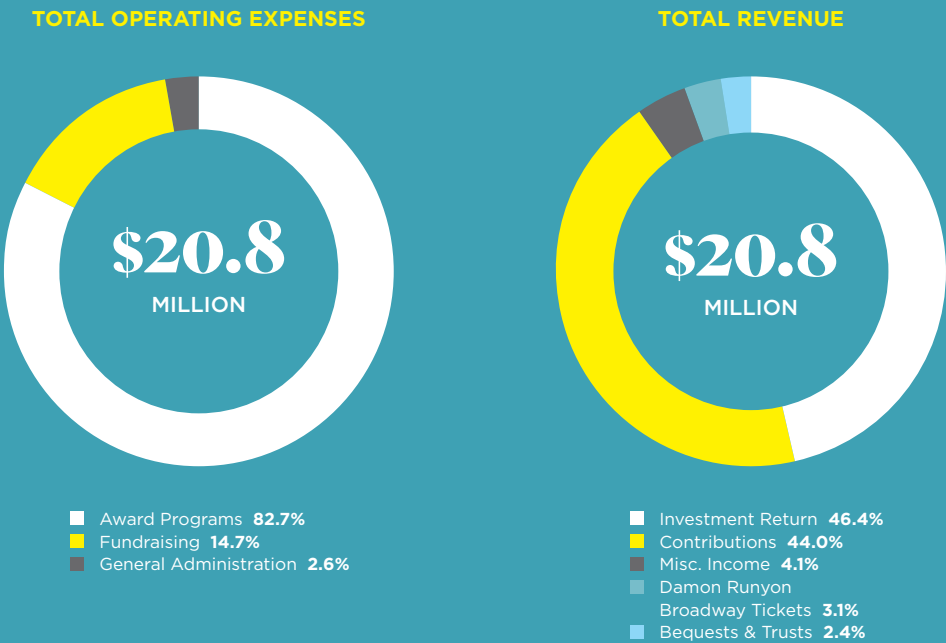
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As in previous years, the financial activities of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation were audited by RMS US LLP. Below is a snapshot of FY2017.

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



Summary of Balance Sheets	2016		2017	
	Total Assets	\$135,646,786	Total Assets	\$142,411,870
	Total Liabilities	\$29,816,543	Total Liabilities	\$30,256,220
	Total Net Assets	\$105,830,243	Total Net Assets	\$112,155,650



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