FUNDING BRAVE AND BOLD THE NEXT 75 YEARS
WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF CANCER RESEARCH LOOK LIKE?
Twenty years ago, phrases like “living drug” and “cancer vaccine” belonged in science fiction. Now, they belong in the pages of *Nature*.

Since the early 2000s, the study of the human immune system has undergone a Cambrian explosion, sparked by the availability of gene sequencing tools and computational power that make large-scale, high-resolution datasets possible. In the fields of virology, immunology, and gut microbiome research, the observations of previous generations are coalescing and sharpening at an astonishing rate, ushering in a new wave of therapeutic strategies for cancer patients.

These breakthroughs do not belong to a far-off future. In our lifetimes, we may be able to use cutting-edge vaccine technology to train the immune system against currently intractable cancers, dissolve solid tumors with CAR T therapies, and optimize the gut microbiome to prevent cancer and improve treatment outcomes.

At the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, we support scientists at the forefront of these fields, just as we supported their mentors who blazed the trail twenty years ago and their predecessors before that.

We may not know exactly what the future will bring—but we fund those who will shape it.
The history of cancer research is intertwined with the history of virology. Ludwik Gross, MD, a Damon Runyon Grantee from 1951 to 1952, was the first scientist to demonstrate that viruses can cause cancer in laboratory mice.

“You don’t always know what the impact of something will be when you’re doing it.”

We now know that multiple viruses are linked to cancer, including Epstein Barr virus, discovered as a cause of lymphoma by George Klein, MD, PhD (Damon Runyon Fellow, 1974-76); human papillomavirus, first conclusively linked to head and neck cancers by Maura L. Gillison, MD, PhD (Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator, 2000-05); and Kaposi’s sarcoma-related herpesvirus, investigated as a cancer driver by Mandy M. Muller, PhD (Damon Runyon Fellow, 2014-17).

The FDA approval, in 2020, of the HPV vaccine for the prevention of head and neck cancers marked a milestone in the twinned trajectories of virology and cancer research. “The brilliance of the HPV story is that HPV was identified as causing cervical cancer in the early 1980s, and by the early 2000s, there were already preventative vaccines entering clinical trials,” Dr. Gillison said, adding, “You don’t always know what the impact of something will be when you’re doing it.”

Indeed, thanks to this deep understanding of viral behavior, Damon Runyon scientists have now identified numerous ways to harness the immune system’s anti-viral responses against cancer. Dmitriy Zamarin, MD, PhD (Damon Runyon Fellow, 2013-16), and Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD (Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator, 2003-08), for example, are genetically engineering existing viruses to induce tumor-fighting processes within the
“WE HAVE DISCOVERED A LONG LIST OF ANTIVIRAL DEFENSE SYSTEMS, FAR LARGER THAN EXPECTED.”

- Senén D. Mendoza, PhD
Damon Runyon-HHMI Fellow
immune system. In 2018, the pair showed that injecting a modified version of Newcastle Disease Virus into a tumor triggers a powerful, widespread immune response that kills cancer cells not only in the tumor, but also outside the virus-infected region.

“Nowadays, you can do one thousand experiments at the speed that you used to be able to do one.”

“I study one of the oldest and newest areas of oncology at the same time,” Dr. Zamarin has said of his research. “I’m characterizing the immune response induced by these viruses, and also using some of the newer genetic engineering tools to develop novel therapeutics.”

Meanwhile, current Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Vinod P. Balachandran, MD, is working to design a vaccine for pancreatic cancer using the mRNA technology that made Covid-19 vaccines possible. For years, his team has searched for the neoantigens—molecules on the surface of cancer cells and viruses that trigger an immune reaction—that are present in pancreatic cancer survivors, as these are the ones that have elicited a sufficient immune defense.

“We now have more evidence that the immune system recognizes neoantigens in pancreatic cancer and that we are on the right track in picking these neoantigens,” Dr. Balachandran says. “This could be useful for personalized vaccines for pancreatic cancer, which urgently needs better treatments, and other cancers as well.”

Having observed these novel classes of cancer therapy emerge from virus research of decades past, some of the newest Damon Runyon Awardees are using cutting-edge research methods to further our understanding of viruses and the immune system. Damon Runyon Fellow Senén D. Mendoza, PhD, for example, is studying bacterial defenses against...
viruses, as many cellular defenses are now known to be shared between mammals and bacteria.

In the past decade, Dr. Mendoza explains, “there has been an explosion of interest in bacteria and how they interact with the viruses that infect them.” But these studies have mainly focused on DNA-based viruses, and most human pathogenic viruses are based in RNA. By identifying the genes that help bacteria fight RNA-based viruses, Dr. Mendoza hopes to uncover counterparts in the human genome. “If we can discover a new part of the immune system that’s able to counteract an oncogenic virus, that would be a very attractive candidate for a drug design.”

As decades of collaboration between virologists and cancer researchers show, this kind of alliance is crucial for medical breakthroughs.

Likewise, Damon Runyon Quantitative Biology Fellow Tal Einav, PhD, has developed a mathematical model to predict how a known antibody will react to a new pathogen, such as a virus or cancer cell, based on existing data. This approach can be used to anticipate the body’s immune response and identify how a patient’s antibody repertoire might be bolstered to better combat an oncogenic virus or cancer.

“Nowadays, you can do one thousand experiments at the speed that you used to be able to do one,” he says. “My goal is, for every one thousand, to extrapolate to a million or a billion different experiments. So everybody works together—not only to do experiments faster, but also to understand them better.”

As decades of collaboration between virologists and cancer researchers show, this kind of alliance is crucial for medical breakthroughs. “No dataset should exist in isolation,” Dr. Einav concludes. “By leveraging the experiments everyone before us has done, we not only expand our own datasets but expand everyone else’s in return.”
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Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy, in which a patient’s own immune cells are genetically engineered to target and kill their tumor cells, has revolutionized the field of cancer immunotherapy.

Most excitingly, those first patients have been declared “cured” of leukemia after a decade in remission.

Since the first patients received CAR T cells in 2011, research efforts aimed at better understanding T cell function and developing novel CAR T therapies have skyrocketed. In the past five years, seven new CAR T therapies have received FDA approval, and many more are in the pipeline. Most excitedly, those first patients have been declared “cured” of leukemia after a decade in remission.

For Marcela V. Maus, MD, PhD (Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovator, 2017-20),
the rise of CAR T therapies has paralleled her own research trajectory. “When I was a [postdoctoral] fellow,” she recalls, “CARs were starting to have these incredible responses and generate a lot of excitement in our field, which was very niche. A lot of empty rooms, very tiny groups of people. And then it all kind of exploded in 2011 and 2012.”

A trainee of CAR T pioneers such as Renier J. Brentjens, MD, PhD (Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator, 2006-11), Dr. Maus is now a leader of the “F1 generation” working to design CAR T cells that can treat solid cancers as well as leukemias. In 2015, the Maus lab demonstrated for the first time that CAR T cells could safely cross the blood-brain barrier to reach brain tumors. When these T cells alone proved insufficient, her lab began engineering a new kind of CAR T cell, one that could target multiple cancer antigens and survive in the immunosuppressive environment of the tumor. This project, funded by Damon Runyon, remains ongoing—the team is now working to open
a clinical trial based on promising results published in 2019.

“I’m very optimistic that we’re going to get a win in a solid tumor,” Dr. Maus says. “There’s such motivation, enthusiasm, rigor, and drive to get this figured out. And I think the T cell will cooperate with us. It will take some iteration, but we’re going to crack that nut.”

“It is a gift to be a part of the clinical and basic research Cambrian explosion of cellular therapeutics that have already begun to transform cancer therapy and medicine as a whole.”

In addition to the challenge posed by solid tumors, however, other hurdles remain. Nearly two-thirds of patients receiving CAR T therapy for blood cancer eventually experience relapse, and up to 80% of patients experience serious side effects. Further, because of the cost and time frame for developing these custom-made therapies, CAR T cells remain out of reach for many patients, even those who might otherwise be good candidates.

This is where the newest cohort of Damon Runyon scientists comes in. Many of our current awardees are carrying forward the work of their trailblazing mentors, working to develop next-generation CAR T therapies that are safer, less costly, and effective for more patients. Dr. Maus’ own mentee, Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Mark B. Leick, MD, stands at the forefront of these efforts. He is designing CAR T cells that target a gene overexpressed in leukemia cells but not in normal cells, making this therapy less toxic than previous versions.
“It is a gift to be a part of the clinical and basic research Cambrian explosion of cellular therapeutics that have already begun to transform cancer therapy and medicine as a whole,” Dr. Leick says. “Advances in molecular biology, sequencing, and computational biology have allowed rapid turnaround of high-quality clinical trial data that are informing, in real time, the development of next generation CAR T cells on a timescale that would have been unimaginable 30 years ago.”

Among those leveraging vast datasets to improve CAR T cell design is Damon Runyon Quantitative Biology Fellow Yapeng Su, PhD, who studies mechanisms of treatment resistance in pancreatic cancer. Big data could also reduce the cost of CAR T therapy, Dr. Su explains, by identifying the fraction of T cells doing the “heavy lifting”; producing just these T cells would require less time and fewer resources.

“We have so many technologies now... to give patients’ T cells different superpowers.”

From where he stands at the intersection of computational science and cell biology, Dr. Su is

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excited to see what the next 10 years bring. “We have so many technologies now—between CRISPR, protein engineering, synthetic biology, and data science—to give patients’ T cells different superpowers. We’re hopeful those superpowers will be enough to dissolve the hardest-to-treat tumors.”

Dr. Maus notes the high degree of overlap between CAR T innovators and Damon Runyon Awardees. “Damon Runyon has been in it from the beginning, when it was very difficult to get traction on this kind of research,” she recalls. “And that funding was transformative. There are now seven FDA-approved CAR T cells, thousands of publications, and hundreds or even thousands of clinical trials listed. I don’t think any of it would have happened without the steadfast commitment of the Foundation. I mean, the fact that you’re funding Mark—it’s almost like you’re funding the F2, the next generation, right?”
“WE’RE HOPEING TO ENGINEER GUT MICROBES AS AN ADDITIONAL WAY OF TREATING CANCER.”

- Elizabeth R. Hughes, PhD
Damon Runyon-Robert Black Fellow
While the study of the gut microbiome—the vast collection of bacteria and other microorganisms that live in the digestive tract—dates back to the 1800s, only recently have we gained the tools to explore our intestinal worlds on a cellular level. Advances in live cell microscopy and genetic sequencing since the early 2000s have revealed a complex interplay between gut bacteria and the rest of the body, including, most significantly for cancer research, the immune system.

Damon Runyon Awardees have steadily uncovered more links between the gut microbiome and cancer treatment response.

Raphael H. Valdivia, PhD (Damon Runyon Fellow, 1998-2001), was instrumental in developing these new approaches to study the microbiome. Dr. Valdivia was the first to develop, optimize, and use fluorescent proteins to identify and track virulence factors, the molecules that bacterial pathogens use to colonize the host from within the cell. His innovative methods paved the way for further investigation of how bacteria interact with human cells in ways that are both helpful and harmful.

In the years since, Damon Runyon Awardees have steadily uncovered more links between the gut microbiome and cancer treatment response.

In her lab, Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Melody Smith, MD, is investigating how “good” gut bacteria improve patients’ response to CAR T therapy, a type of immunotherapy that involves genetically engineering immune

Left: Microscopic view of gut microbiome
cells. Her team has found that antibiotic use prior to cancer treatment results in worse survival rates, while the presence of certain gut bacteria in patient stool samples is associated with better outcomes. These findings point to specific clinical interventions, such as adjusted antibiotic use or fecal transplants, that may improve the effectiveness of CAR T therapy and decrease its harmful side effects.

The idea that specific gut bacteria might enhance anti-tumor immunity suggests a new approach to treating colon cancer.

Likewise, Abigail E. Overacre-Delgoffe, PhD (Damon Runyon Fellow, 2019-22), and her lab are exploring therapeutic strategies to modify the gut microbiome of patients whose cancers do not respond to immunotherapy. Recently, her team found that infecting mice with the bacterium *Helicobacter hepaticus*, rather than sickening the mice, actually shrank their colon tumors and lengthened their lifespans. The idea that specific gut bacteria might enhance anti-tumor immunity suggests a new potential approach to treating therapy-resistant colon cancer.

Clinical interventions such as fecal transplants may increase the effectiveness of CAR T therapy.

Back in Dr. Valdivia’s lab, Damon Runyon Fellow Elizabeth R. Hughes, PhD, is also studying how a specific gut bacterium, *Akkermansia muciniphila*, improves response to immunotherapies. The presence of this bacterium in patient samples has been shown to correlate with better treatment outcomes, but it is not yet clear why. Dr. Hughes aims to
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discover how *A. muciniphila* bolsters immune response and to design microbe-based therapeutics for use in combination with immunotherapy.

“We have learned just how integral the gut microbiome is to cancer and response to immune-based therapies.”

“These two fields have advanced in parallel,” she explains. “The first immune checkpoint inhibitor was approved by the FDA about a decade ago, and while we knew gut microbes were important for nutrition, it’s only in the past few decades that we’ve learned they’re also important for immunity. So you can see how we’ve now arrived at the point where we’re realizing that the gut microbiome has a big impact on cancer treatment.”

Cancer treatment, it should be noted, also impacts the gut microbiome. As Peter J. Turnbaugh, PhD (Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovator, 2016-20) recently showed, certain chemotherapy drugs inhibit the growth of intestinal bacteria, raising questions about the consequences of this disruption on both the drug’s efficacy and gastrointestinal function.

But if the exponential progress of the past 20 years is any indication, the future of gut microbiome research is looking bright.

“We have learned just how integral the gut microbiome is to cancer and response to immune-based therapies,” says Dr. Overacre-Delgoffe. “My hope is that we can dig deeper and understand how the gut microbiome and the immune system collaborate to fight cancer, and ultimately that we can welcome a new wave of therapies for cancer patients.”
n 1946 when the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation was established, the treatments that would become the gold standard of cancer care—chemotherapy, radiation, precise surgical interventions—were not yet a reality.

Damon Runyon’s focused and strategic funding quickly transformed the options available to treat cancer, offering patients hope.

In the following years, continued funding yielded more discoveries, a better understanding of how cancer hijacks cellular processes, and more refined therapies and treatment approaches. Thanks to Damon Runyon scientists, cancer patients of the early 2000s had much better prognoses than the cancer patients of the 1970s, who in turn had far more options than the patients of the early 1940s.

Patients in the 2030s may benefit from cancer vaccines, gut microbes engineered to boost anti-tumor immunity, and new generations of the CAR T-cell therapies that have already revolutionized cancer care. Even a decade ago, any one of these might have sounded impossible. Now, we are knocking at the door.

Imagine the discoveries that will prove transformative for patients of the 2040s, 2050s, and beyond. We will not be satisfied until every cancer diagnosis is a survivable one.

Thank you for everything your support has made possible in these past 75 years, and everything it will make possible in the future.
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Sidney Altman, PhD, a molecular biologist at Yale, shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Thomas R. Cech, PhD, for their discovery that RNA molecules are able to catalyze chemical reactions within the cell. The purported existence of these protein-like “ribozymes” stirred much controversy in the scientific community at the time, as RNA molecules were then understood to be solely carriers of genetic information. For many years, Dr. Altman had difficulty getting invited to conferences or publishing his work. Eventually, supporting evidence emerged from other labs. Ribozymes are now a major research focus in the field of molecular biology.

Dr. Altman received a Damon Runyon Fellowship in 1967, which allowed him to pursue a research career at Harvard under the mentorship of noted geneticist Matthew Meselson, PhD. He went on to serve on the Foundation’s Board of Directors from 1990 to 1996. An out-of-the-box thinker and a steadfast supporter of young scientists, Dr. Altman embodied the Damon Runyon mission all his life.
In fiscal year 2022, we awarded nearly **$17.2 million** in new grants to **58 exceptional scientists**, and provided an additional **$1.6 million** in stipend increases, extension funding for pandemic-related research delays, and other support.

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**DAMON RUNYON PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD**
Supports and encourages outstanding recent medical school graduates to pursue cancer research careers by funding a protected research training experience under the guidance of a highly qualified and gifted mentor.

**FOUR-YEAR AWARD:** $460,000
plus up to $100,000 for medical school loan repayment

**DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD**
Supports early career physician-scientists conducting patient-oriented research. This innovative program aims to increase the number of physicians who can seamlessly move between the laboratory and the patient’s bedside in search of breakthrough treatments.

**THREE-YEAR AWARD:** $600,000
plus up to $100,000 for medical school loan repayment and the possibility of an additional $400,000 extension over two years

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

**TWO-YEAR AWARD:** $400,000
with the possibility of an additional $400,000 extension over two years
FELLOWSHIP AWARD COMMITTEE

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Nuffield Department of Medicine
Ludwig Cancer Research
University of Oxford
OXFORD, UNITED KINGDOM

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Department of Molecular Biology
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center
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Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine
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Department of Molecular and Cell Biology
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Developmental Neurobiology
Comprehensive Cancer Center
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
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Departments of Chemistry and Microbial Pathogenesis
Director and Member of the Institute of Biomolecular Design and Discovery
Yale University
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Department of Pathology
University of Utah Health School of Medicine
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

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Scripps Research
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Associate Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
University of Colorado School of Medicine
AURORA, COLORADO

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Marian R. Neutra, PhD Professor of Pediatrics
Harvard Medical School
Director of Basic Research and Shwachman Chair in Gastroenterology
Boston Children’s Hospital
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Katrin Karbstein, PhD
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Faculty Scholar
Professor, Department of Integrative Structural and Computational Biology
Scripps Research
JUPITER, FLORIDA

Martin McMahon, PhD
Cumming-Presidential Chair of Cancer Biology
Professor, Department of Dermatology
Senior Director for Preclinical Translation
Huntsman Cancer Institute
University of Utah Health School of Medicine
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Alfonso Mondragón, PhD
Ethel and John Lindgren Professor
Director of the Structural Biology Facility
Department of Molecular Biosciences
Northwestern University
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Akinyemi I. Ojesina, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Medical College of Wisconsin
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Emmanuelle Passegué, PhD
Alumni Professor, Genetics and Development
Director, Columbia Stem Cell Initiative
Columbia University
Irving Medical Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Rajat Rohatgi, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Medicine (Oncology)
Stanford University School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Carla Rothlin, PhD
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Faculty Scholar
Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of Immunobiology and Professor of Pharmacology
Yale Cancer Center
Yale School of Medicine
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
Jared Rutter, PhD
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
Dee Glen and Ida Smith Endowed Chair for Cancer Research
Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry
University of Utah Health School of Medicine
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Susan R. Schwab, PhD
Associate Professor, Pathology
Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine
New York University
Grossman School of Medicine
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Agnel Sfeir, PhD
Member, Molecular Biology Program
Sloan Kettering Institute
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

David R. Sherwood, PhD
Jerry G. and Patricia Crawford Professor and Professor of Biology
Co-Director Regeneration Next Initiative
Department of Biology
Duke University
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Nancy A. Speck, PhD
Investigator, Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute
Member, Abramson Cancer Center
Member, Institute for Regenerative Medicine
Co-Leader, Hematologic Malignancies Program
Abramson Cancer Center
Professor and Chair, Cell and Developmental Biology
University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Aaron F. Straight, PhD
Professor and Chair, Biochemistry
Stanford University
School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Jessica Tyler, PhD
Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Protein structure, Viral LTag,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship Award</th>
<th>University/Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>California Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zibo Chen, PhD</td>
<td>Combinatorial signal classification with a protein-based synthetic neural network with Michael B. Elowitz, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bo Gu, PhD</td>
<td>Fraternal Order of Eagles Fellow Understanding and engineering combinatorial gene regulation in mammalian cells with Michael B. Elowitz, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia R. Squyres, PhD</td>
<td>National Mah Jongg League Fellow Spatiotemporal regulation of eDNA release in <em>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</em> biofilms with Dianne K. Newman, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Su Zhou Li, PhD</td>
<td>Spatial regulation of the inheritance of genomic abnormalities in cancer cells with Don W. Cleveland, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hokyoung K. Chung, PhD</td>
<td>Next generation adoptive cell therapy: SMARTER T cells for enhanced and durable anti-tumor immunity with Susan M. Kaech, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas H. Mann, PhD</td>
<td>Calcium signaling and the molecular clock of T cell exhaustion with Susan M. Kaech, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wen Mai Wong, PhD*</td>
<td>Modulation of neuronal circuitry using sonogenetics with Sreekanth H. Chalasani, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>Debadrita Bhattacharya, PhD* Robert Black Fellow Investigating molecular and cellular mechanisms of intra-tumoral heterogeneity in small-cell lung cancer with Julien Sage, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felix C. Boos, PhD*</td>
<td>Inter-organ communication of protein homeostasis stress responses in vertebrate aging with Anne Brunet, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yiming Chen, PhD</td>
<td>Optical interrogation of neuro-peptide and peptide hormones with Karl Deisseroth, MD, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren E. Cote, PhD</td>
<td>Constructing one continuous digestive tract, cell by cell with Jessica L. Feldman, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuo Han, PhD</td>
<td>Fayezy Sarofim Fellow Spatiotemporally precise manipulation of Hedgehog signaling for tissue regeneration and repair with Philip A. Beachy, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina L. Hueschen, PhD</td>
<td>Molecular basis and regulation of apicomplexan parasite motility with Alex Dunn, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seungsoo Kim, PhD</td>
<td>HHMI Fellow Transcription factor cooperation shaping TWIST1 multifunctionality across craniofacial development and cancer metastasis with Joanna K. Wysocka, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Lashkaripour, PhD*</td>
<td>High-throughput biomimetic screening of T cell activation in large sequence landscapes with Polly M. Fordyce, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conor J. McClune, PhD</td>
<td>HHMI Fellow Resolving plant biosynthesis of therapeutic compounds by systematic perturbation, measurement, and metabolic phenotyping at single-cell scale with Elizabeth S. Sattely, PhD, and Polly M. Fordyce, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen N. McLaughlin, PhD</td>
<td>HHMI Fellow Cell surface mechanisms of neural circuit assembly with Liqun Luo, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiaowei Yan, PhD*</td>
<td>Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow Spatial organization and inheritance regulation of oncogenic extrachromosomal DNA (ecDNA) with Howard Y. Chang, MD, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hakxin Li, PhD</td>
<td>The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow Cysteine-modification screening to identify functional and druggable sites in cancer dependencies with Benjamin F. Cravatt, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yunxiao Zhang, PhD</td>
<td>Merck Fellow Sensory innervation of the pancreas with Ardem Patapoutian, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>Mapping targets for cancer therapeutics via methionine-selective warheads with Christopher J. Chang, PhD, and Daniel K. Nomura, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven W. M. Crossley, PhD</td>
<td>AGBT-Elaine R. Mardis Fellow Mechanistic dissection of Tec kinases in immune-cell signaling with John Kuriyan, PhD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD CONTINUED

Katy Ong, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Long-range tumor-host signaling mechanisms driving paraneoplastic syndromes with David Bilder, PhD

Jiao Sima, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Cellular mechanisms linking sleep disturbance and cancer development with Yang Dan, PhD

Akanksha Thawani, PhD
Merck Fellow
Targeted genetic supplementation by harnessing transposable elements with Eva Nogales, PhD, and Kathleen Collins, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles

Yajing Gao, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Characterize the role of non-vesicular cholesterol transport in CD8+ T cell function with Peter Tontonoz, MD, PhD

University of California, San Diego

Digvijay Singh, PhD
Cryo-electron tomography of phase-separated compartments and nuclear pore complexes involved in gene regulation with Elizabeth Villa, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

Keelan Z. Gulley, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Chemical probing of mutant p53 with Kevan M. Shokat, PhD

Benjamin G. H. Guthrie, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Fluoropyrimidine bioactivation and metabolism by the gut microbiome with Peter J. Turnbaugh, PhD

Fangyu Liu, PhD
Discovery of novel ligands that treat metabolic disorders with Brian K. Shoichet, PhD

Tadashi Manabe, MD, PhD*
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Characterization of oncogenic kinase signaling by membraneless cytoplasmic protein granules with Trever G. Bivona, MD, PhD

Tristan Wold Owens, PhD
Suzanne and Bob Wright Fellow
Molecular mechanisms of heat shock transcription factor 1 in cancer with David A. Agard, PhD

Cristina Puchades, PhD
Deciphering the molecular basis for modulation of TMEM16A activity with Yifan Cheng, PhD, and Lily Jan, PhD

Sukrit Silas, PhD
Discovery and characterization of virally-encoded proteins of unknown function with Joseph Bondy-Denomy, PhD, and Carol A. Gross, PhD

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

Erron W. Titus, MD, PhD*
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Engineered cellular fusogens for novel immune effector functions with Matthew F. Krummel, PhD

Kouki Touhara, PhD
Robert A. Swanson Family Fellow
Investigating chemical signaling between gut enteroendocrine cells and intrinsic primary afferent neurons with David J. Julius, PhD

Qinheng Zheng, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow
Drugging K-Ras(G12D) with targeted covalent inhibitors with Kevan M. Shokat, PhD

COLORADO
University of Colorado Boulder
Edward M. C. Courvan, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Functional analysis of post-transcriptional RNA regulation in hypoxic macrophages with Roy R. Parker, PhD

Dylan M. Parker, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Stress granule regulators and their roles in cancer progression with Roy R. Parker, PhD

CONNECTICUT
Yale University
Elizabeth J. Culp, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Mechanisms and consequences of microbial transformation of dietary xenobiotics in cancer risk with Andrew L. Goodman, PhD

Jung-Shen Tai, PhD
From form to function: Cell shape, cell ordering, and gene regulation in bacterial biofilm with Jing Yan, PhD (Yale University), and Christopher Waters, PhD (Michigan State University)

MARYLAND
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Marco A. Catipovic, PhD
HHMI Fellow
The role of ribosome biogenesis in recycling damaged ribosomes with Rachel Green, PhD

Cayla E. Jewett, PhD*
Merck Fellow
Mechanisms of centriole number control in multiciliated cells with Andrew J. Holland, PhD
MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Children’s Hospital

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

Aaron L. Moye, PhD
Role of Lgr6-expressing mesenchymal cells in lung cancer initiation and progression with Carla F. Kim, PhD

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

Ge Zheng, PhD
Novel approaches to targeting zinc-finger domain of the transcription repressor BCL11A with Stuart H. Orkin, MD

Boston University

Heidi E. Klumpe, PhD*
Merck Fellow
The design principles of stable aggregation with Ahmad S. Khalil, PhD, and Mary Dunlop, PhD

Kunitoshi Chiba, PhD
Elucidating tissue specificity of cancer with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

Ge Zhu, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Charting the tumor antigen landscape of breast cancer with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

Broad Institute

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

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Parker L. Sulkowski, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Investigation of histone secretion in cancer with William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD

David M. Walter, PhD
Identifying the selective mechanism behind U2AF1 mutations in lung adenocarcinoma with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD

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

Harvard Medical School

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

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

Pragya Goel, PhD
Molecular and structural basis of gene expression regulation by the nucleosome remodeling and deacetylase (NuRD) complex in human cancer with Lucas Farnung, PhD, and Danesh Moazed, PhD

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

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Madi Y. Cissé, PhD
Merck Fellow
Integration on oncogenic signaling and nutrient sensing by mTOR in tumors with Brendan D. Manning, PhD

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

Xin Gu, PhD*
Characterization of a novel pathway regulating the protein degradation of immediate-early genes with Michael E. Greenberg, PhD

Manuel Osorio Valeriano, PhD*
Philip O’Bryan Montgomery, Jr., MD, Fellow
Molecular and structural basis of gene expression regulation by the nucleosome remodeling and deacetylase (NuRD) complex in human cancer with Lucas Farnung, PhD, and Danesh Moazed, PhD

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Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Madi Y. Cissé, PhD
Merck Fellow
Integration on oncogenic signaling and nutrient sensing by mTOR in tumors with Brendan D. Manning, PhD

Mark R. Sullivan, PhD
Merck Fellow
Identifying requirements for lung infection by opportunistic pathogens with Eric J. Rubin, MD, PhD
“It’s significant that Damon Runyon funds research outside of the normal therapeutic and molecular ways that people look at cancer. Because cancer is so much more than the tumor—it affects every organ system, everything you do on a daily basis.”

REBECCA S. MOORE, PhD
DAMON RUNYON-HHMI FELLOW
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Alexandra Nguyen, PhD
Defining the cell type specific cell division requirements in acute myeloid leukemias with Iain M. Cheeseman, PhD

Ngoc-Han Tran, PhD*
Endoplasmic reticulum dynamics and inheritance in germ cells specification with Ruth Lehmann, PhD

MINNESOTA
University of Minnesota
Nicholas N. Jarjour, PhD
Antigen-independent proliferation of tissue-resident memory T cells and therapeutic applications with Stephen C. Jameson, PhD

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

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

Nir Hananya, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
The roles of histone ADP-ribosylation in DNA damage response with Tom W. Muir, PhD

Grace E. Johnson, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Defining quorum-sensing signaling patterns and their effects on gene expression and morphology in V. cholerae biofilms at the single-cell and community levels with Bonnie L. Bassler, PhD

Aaron E. Lin, PhD
Walter Isaacson Fellow
Contact tracing within an organism: developing a genome editing platform to record the history of virus-infected and transformed cells with Alexander Ploss, PhD, and Brittany Adamson, PhD

Titas Sengupta, PhD*
Rebecca Ridley Kry Fellow
Investigating bacterial small RNA-mediated regulation of host behavior with Coleen T. Murphy, PhD

NEW YORK
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Rico C. Ardy, PhD*
Robert Black Fellow
An atlas of fibroblast cell states in health and disease through functional genomics with Thomas Norman, PhD

Kaixian Liu, PhD
The studies of double-strand break proteins in germline genome transmission with Scott N. Keeney, PhD, and Shixiu Liu, PhD

José Reyes, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Dynamics and impact of genetic and non-genetic diversification driven by loss of p53 with Scott W. Lowe, PhD, and Dana Pe’er, PhD

Zeda Zhang, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Decode the senescent cell surface in vivo and develop cell therapies for senescence-related diseases with Scott W. Lowe, PhD

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

NEW YORK
Grossman School of Medicine
Nicholas M. Adams, PhD
Marion Abbe Fellow
Elucidating how pDC genome organization regulates IFN production in cancer with Boris Reizis, PhD

The Rockefeller University
Alain R. Bonny, PhD
Kenneth C. Frazier Fellow
The spatiotemporal coordination between inflammation and tissue repair with Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD

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

Catherine A. Freije, PhD
Berger Foundation Fellow
Investigating the role of fitness and host pressure in shaping hepatitis B diversity with Charles M. Rice, PhD

Anita Gola, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
A spatially patterned stem cell and immune cell barrier at the skin surface with Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD

Juhee Pae, PhD
Berger Foundation Fellow
Mechanisms of germinal center B Cell proliferation with Gabriel D. Victora, PhD
DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD CONTINUED

**TEXAS**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Gabriel Muhire Gihana, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Cell morphological modulation of oncogenic Ras signaling with Gaudenz Danuser, PhD

**TEXAS**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Gabriel Muhire Gihana, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Cell morphological modulation of oncogenic Ras signaling with Gaudenz Danuser, PhD

**Gokhan Unlu, PhD**
Targeting cancer nutrient limitations using dietary interventions with Kivanç Birsoy, PhD

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

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Duke University

Elizabeth R. Hughes, PhD*
Robert Black Fellow
Mechanisms of microbial modulation of cancer immunotherapy with Raphael H. Valdivia, PhD

**UTAH**

University of Utah

Lexy von Diezmann, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
State changes of a liquid-like compartment monitor crossover recombination with Ofer Rog, PhD, and Erik M. Jorgensen, PhD

**Pennsylvania**

University of Pennsylvania

Rebecca S. Moore, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Investigation of the role of peripheral secreted molecules on sleep and circadian rhythms with Amita Sehgal, PhD

**University of Pittsburgh**

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

**University of Washington**

Junhong Choi, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Uncovering cellular development in cancer through precise genome editing with Jay A. Shendure, MD, PhD

**Jean-Benoit Lalanne, PhD**
At-scale dissection of developmental enhancers with single-cell reporters with Jay A. Shendure, MD, PhD

**CANADA**

McGill University

Janice M. Reimer, PhD
Merck Fellow
Regulation of dynein by Lis1 with Andres E. Leschziner, PhD, and Martin Schmeing, PhD

**University of Calgary**

Ysbrand Nusse, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
Defining the role of eosinophils in liver injury and repair with Paul Kubes, PhD

*Initial Year
§Physician-Scientists
As of 2021, Damon Runyon no longer offers new awards through the Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award program. We remain committed to funding pediatric cancer research through our other award programs.

**CALIFORNIA**

**Zulekha A. Qadeer, PhD**
Targeting TGFβ pathway dependencies in Group 3 Medulloblastoma with William A. Weiss, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

**Peng Wu, MD, PhD**
Understanding and modulating aberrant differentiation in hepatoblastoma with Roeland Nusse, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

**TENNESSEE**

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

**Anand G. Patel, MD, PhD**
Targeting the developmental architecture of rhabdomyosarcoma with Michael A. Dyer, PhD, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis

**WASHINGTON**

**Kiara C. Eldred, PhD**
Dissecting the mechanisms of tumorigenesis in the human retina with Thomas A. Reh, PhD, University of Washington, Seattle

“**It’s a tremendous privilege to be a physician-scientist. It gives me an opportunity to bring my patients’ problems and challenges to the lab and spend the necessary time and resources to try to address their suffering.**”

**ANAND G. PATEL, MD, PhD**
DAMON RUNYON-SOHN FELLOW
ST. JUDE CHILDREN’S RESEARCH HOSPITAL
“I think young scientists are really in the most creative stage of our careers—our ideas are really bold, but these are the ideas that can potentially solve some of the questions that people have been thinking about for decades.”

YAPENG SU, PhD
QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW
FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD

CALIFORNIA
Haripriya Vaidehi Narayanan, PhD
Developing a mechanistic multiscale framework relating signaling and spatiotemporal dynamics in B-cell affinity maturation and lymphomagenesis with Alexander Hoffmann, PhD, and Roy Wollman, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

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

MASSACHUSETTS
Collin Tokheim, PhD
Computationally identifying oncogenic substrates of the ubiquitin-proteasome system in human cancers with Rafael A. Irizarry, PhD, and Eric S. Fischer, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

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

NEW JERSEY
Cong Ma, PhD*
Modeling spatial organization and interactions among genetic and epigenetic states across cancer types with Benjamin Raphael, PhD, Princeton University, Princeton, and Li Ding, PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

NEW YORK
Tin Yi Chu, PhD
William Raveis Charitable Fund Quantitative Biology Fellow
Statistical modeling of cell-cell interactions in normal intestine, inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer using single cell and spatial transcriptomics with Dana Pe’er, PhD, and Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

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

Sukrit Singh, PhD*
Physics-driven prediction of drug-resistant clinical mutations to improve precision oncology with John D. Chodera, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Markus A. Seeliger, PhD, Stony Brook University, New York

El Esther Wershof, PhD
William Raveis Charitable Fund Quantitative Biology Fellow
Three-dimensional spatiotemporal organization of the gut tube in early organogenesis with Dana Pe’er, PhD, and Anna-Katerina Hadjantonakis, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

OREGON
Jeremy Copperman, PhD
Whole-cell modeling for the prediction and control of micro-environmentally regulated proliferative and migratory variability with Daniel M. Zuckerman, PhD, and Laura M. Heiser, PhD, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland

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

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

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

Yapeng Su, PhD*
Quantitative analysis to elucidate spatial-temporal heterogeneity of therapeutic T cell dysfunction mechanisms in the context of adoptive cell therapy against pancreatic cancer with Philip D. Greenberg, MD, and Raphael Gottardo, PhD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle

*Initial Year
"Being named a Dale Frey Breakthrough Scientist is a huge honor. This award, and the recognition it brings, will allow me to take risks in the first few years [of my lab] that I otherwise wouldn’t have—including expanding into new approaches for me, like single molecule biophysics and functional genomics."

ALLISON L. DIDYCHUK, PhD
THE RHEE FAMILY BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTIST
YALE UNIVERSITY
DAMON RUNYON

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST
TRAINING AWARD COMMITTEE

CHAIR

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD
Sidney Farber Professor of Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
and Harvard Medical School
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Investigator
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

David P. Carbone, MD, PhD
Barbara J. Bonner Chair
in Lung Cancer Research
Director, James Thoracic Center
Professor, Division of
Medical Oncology
Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Ohio State University
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Lucy A. Godley, MD, PhD
Co-Director, Center for
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CALIFORNIA

Caitlin F. Bell, MD
Smooth muscle cell plasticity in the tumor microenvironment: another parallel between atherosclerosis and cancer with Nicholas J. Leeper, MD, and Irving L. Weissman, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

MARYLAND

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

MASSACHUSETTS

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

Wallace A. Bourgeois, MD*
Targeting JMJD1C and IKZF1 as therapeutic opportunities in KMT2A-rearranged leukemia with Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Albert E. Kim, MD
William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, Physician-Scientist
Using liquid biopsy and MRI to non-invasively identify therapeutic targets for brain metastases with Priscilla K. Brastianos, MD, and Elizabeth R. Gerstner, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

(Peter) Geon Kim, MD
Elucidating the mechanisms of inflammation in clonal hematopoiesis with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Mark B. Leick, MD*
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist
Engineering novel CAR T cells for AML: translating lessons from correlative studies and other diseases with Marcela V. Maus, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

NEW YORK

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

Mira A. Patel, MD*
Molecular mechanisms of human APOE-mediated myeloid cell modulation in cancer with Sohail F. Tavaozie, MD, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

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

OHIO

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Dennis J. Hsu, MD
Metabolic determinants of codon usage bias in colorectal cancer with Jeremy N. Rich, MD, and Lin Zhang, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

Max M. Wattenberg, MD
Epigenetic reprogramming of dendritic cells for cancer immunotherapy with Gregory L. Beatty, MD, PhD, and Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

TEXAS

Natalie Vokes, MD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist
Dissecting tumor intrinsic and immune drivers of resistance to therapy in non-small cell lung cancer with John V. Heymach, MD, PhD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

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Daniel J. Delitto, MD, PhD*
Pathogen sensing in fibroblasts
restrains antitumor immunity in
pancreatic cancer with Michael T.
Longaker, MD, DSc, Stanford
University, Stanford

Anusha Kalbasi, MD
IL13Ra2 Chimeric Antigen
Receptor (CAR) T cells for
metastatic melanoma with Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD, and
Christine Brown, PhD, University
of California, Los Angeles

David Y. Oh, MD, PhD
Co-receptors modulating anti-
tumor activity of human
cytotoxic CD4+ effector cells with
Lawrence Fong, MD, University
of California, San Francisco

Melody Smith, MD*
Regulatory mechanisms of the
intestinal microbiome on chimeric
antigen receptor T cells with
Robert S. Negrin, MD,
Stanford University, Stanford

MASSACHUSETTS
Birgit Knoechel, MD, PhD
Mechanisms of CD8+ T-cell
dysfunction and its therapeutic
targeting in T-ALL with Kimberly
Stegmaier, MD, and Catherine J.
Wu, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer
Institute, Boston

MICHIGAN
Phillip L. Palmbos, MD, PhD
Targeting TRIM29 to reverse
immune checkpoint inhibitor
resistance in bladder cancer with
Joshi J. Alumkal, MD, University
of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Daniel R. Wahl, MD, PhD
Targeting metabolic interactions in
the glioblastoma microenvironment
to overcome therapy resistance
with Theodore S. Lawrence, MD,
PhD, and Maria G. Castro, PhD,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

MISSOURI
Kelly L. Bolton, MD, PhD
The use of enasidenib in IDH2-
mutated clonal cytopenia of
undetermined significance with
Matthew J. Walter, MD, and Eytan M.
Stein, MD, Washington University
School of Medicine, St. Louis

Nathan Singh, MD*
Bakewell Foundation
Clinical Investigator
Tailored cellular engineering to
overcome costimulation-driven
CAR T cell dysfunction with John F.
DiPersio, MD, PhD, Washington
University, St. Louis

DAMON RUNYON

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD

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## DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD CONTINUED

### NEW YORK

Aaron D. Viny, MD*
Damon Runyon-Doris Duke Clinical Investigator
Epigenetic coupling of DNA methylation and chromatin structure on leukemic transformation and therapeutic response with Emmanuelle Passegué, PhD, and Joseph G. Jurcic, MD, Columbia University, New York

### NORTH CAROLINA

Yvonne M. Mowery, MD, PhD
Evaluating and targeting pathways of treatment resistance in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma with David G. Kirsch, MD, PhD, Duke University, Durham

### PENNSYLVANIA

Alexander C. Huang, MD
Damon Runyon-Doris Duke Clinical Investigator
Shared antigen and neoantigen-specific T cells in checkpoint blockade efficacy and toxicity with Gerald P. Linette, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

### TEXAS

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

### PENNSYLVANIA

Xiuning Le, MD, PhD*
Structure- and lineage-based classification and targeting of resistance in EGFR-mutant NSCLC with John V. Heymach, MD, PhD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

Sangeetha M. Reddy, MD
Katelyn Shea Butts Memorial Research Award/William Raveis Charitable Fund Clinical Investigator
Multi-modality approach to enhancing antigen presentation in breast cancers with Zhijian (James) Chen, PhD, and Hans Hammers, MD, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

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## DAMON RUNYON

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Collin M. Blakely, MD, PhD
Mechanisms of incomplete response and primary resistance to the 3rd generation EGFR inhibitor osimertinib in lung cancer with Trever G. Bivona, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Kavita Y. Sarin, MD, PhD*
D.G. “Mitch” Mitchell Clinical Investigator
Genetic contributions and novel therapies for individuals with frequent basal cell cancer with Jean Y. Tang, MD, PhD, and Anthony E. Oro, MD, PhD, Stanford University, Stanford

Catherine C. Smith, MD
Richard Lumsden Foundation Clinical Investigator
RNA Polymerase II as therapeutic target in AML with RAS activation with Neil P. Shah, MD, PhD, and Kevin M. Shannon, MD, University of California, San Francisco

### MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew G. Oser, MD, PhD*
Dissecting and therapeutically exploiting synthetic lethality between NOTCH and TRIM28 to drive anti-tumor immunity in SCLC with William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

### PENNSYLVANIA

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

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CALIFORNIA
Danielle Grotjahn, PhD
Nadia’s Gift Foundation Innovator
Uncovering structural mechanisms of mitochondrial fragmentation in cancer by cellular cryoelectron tomography at Scripps Research, La Jolla

COLORADO
Sabrina L. Spencer, PhD
Causes and consequences of rapid cancer cell adaptation to MAPK pathway inhibitors at University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder

CONNECTICUT
Luisa F. Escobar-Hoyos, PhD
William Raveis Charitable Fund Innovator
Understanding RNA splicing in tumor-cell adaptation and anti-tumor immunity at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven

ILLINOIS
Joshua A. Weinstein, PhD
A novel DNA microscopy platform for rapid discovery of immunogenic tumor neoantigens at The University of Chicago, Chicago

MARYLAND
Jamie B. Spangler, PhD*
Engineered multispecific down-regulating antibodies to advance cancer immunotherapy at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS
Nora Kory, PhD*
Targeting mitochondrial transporters in cancer at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston

Mandar D. Muzumdar, MD
Targeting endocrine-exocrine signaling in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma progression at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven

Srinivas R. Viswanathan, MD, PhD*
X marks the spot: exploring how X-chromosome alterations drive sex differences in cancer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

NEW YORK
Santosha A. Vardhana, MD, PhD, and Ekaterina V. Vinogradova, PhD*
Investigating and targeting T cell exhaustion in solid tumors at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center/The Rockefeller University, New York

Pennsylvania
Chengcheng Jin, PhD*
Investigating neuro-immune interaction in lung cancer at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

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

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

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

NEW YORK
Michael E. Pacold, MD, PhD*
Tracing molecular oxygen in pancreatic cancer at NYU Langone Health, New York

Elli Papaemmanuil, PhD*
Leveraging multi-modal genome profiling approaches to study disease initiation, progression, and response to therapy in TP53 mutated myeloid neoplasms at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

TEXAS
Xiaochun Li, PhD
Investigation of Hedgehog and Wnt signaling mechanisms at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

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Your support this year enabled us to invest nearly $18.8 million in exceptional young scientists working across research disciplines to better prevent, diagnose, and treat all forms of cancer. Since our founding in 1946, in partnership with donors across the nation, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation has invested over $430 million and funded nearly 3,950 scientists.

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

Award sponsors are listed on pages 50 – 52.

DAMON RUNYON BROADWAY TICKETS

Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets offers premium seats to all of Broadway’s hit shows. We are grateful to the Shubert Organization, Nederlanders Productions, Jujamcyn Theaters, and Disney Theatrical Productions for making this program possible. This year we would like to extend special thanks to our Premier Circle members for their ongoing support of our efforts to end cancer. We rely on the proceeds from Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets to fund our brilliant scientists, and thank our donors for their loyalty.

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2022 EVENTS

75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER
Damon Runyon celebrated 75 years of funding cancer research at Gotham Hall in New York on June 1. The event raised nearly $1 million to support our scientists and honored Walter Isaacson, author and Professor of History at Tulane University, for his illustrious career chronicling scientific innovation. Former Damon Runyon Fellow and current Board Member Elaine Fuchs, PhD, the Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development at The Rockefeller University, was the event’s featured scientific speaker.

RAVEIS RIDE + WALK
The William Raveis Charitable Fund hosted its eighth annual Raveis Ride + Walk on September 18 at Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk, Connecticut. Since 2015, the Ride + Walk has raised over $3.5 million for Damon Runyon scientists. We are grateful to the entire Raveis community for their partnership and support.

RUNYON 5K AT YANKEE STADIUM
On September 29, Damon Runyon was thrilled to host the Runyon 5K in person at Yankee Stadium for the first time in three years. Nearly 800 participants experienced the unique course under the lights on a beautiful fall evening and helped contribute to over $295,000 raised in support of innovative cancer research. The 2022 Runyon 5K was presented by MetLife Foundation, with additional support from Impossible Foods, Captain Lawrence Brewing Company, LMNT, RIND Snacks, Dot’s Pretzels, New York Post, SiriusXM, and the Boogie Down Bronx Runners.

ANNUAL FELLOWS’ RETREAT
Every September, our first- and third-year Fellows gather to present their research, offer each other feedback, and learn from accomplished senior scientists. We were delighted to gather in person again this year in Southbridge, Massachusetts, where discussions ranged in topic from genetically engineered gut bacteria to strategies for a successful postdoc career. Among the Retreat’s many highlights was the presentation of the Damon Runyon-Jake Wetchler Award for Pediatric Innovation to Sohn Fellow Anand G. Patel, MD, PhD, of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
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We thank our individual, foundation, and corporate sponsors who have partnered with us to launch or provide continuing support for specific award programs.

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DAMON RUNYON-JAKE WETCHLER AWARD FOR PEDIATRIC INNOVATION
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Anand G. Patel, MD, PhD
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In conjunction with this initiative, the Accelerating Cancer Cures Research Symposium brings together our translational researchers with industry leaders to foster communication and collaboration to help speed progress against cancer. The Accelerating Cancer Cures Research Symposium was held on May 19, 2022 at Merck’s headquarters in South San Francisco. The agenda featured scientific presentations from current Damon Runyon Clinical Investigators and Physician-Scientists, a keynote, and a roundtable discussion among scientists from Merck, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Stanford University, Amgen, and Gilead.
The Broadway Premier Circle is a group of loyal Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets customers who have made a special donation in support of cancer research. The Premier Circle offers members priority access to tickets and other benefits.

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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 FY2022.

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

**SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$143,018,485</td>
<td>$111,641,431</td>
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