Hope Funds for Cancer Research

2008 ANNUAL REPORT
The Mission of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research is to encourage investigation of innovative cancer treatment and detection for the most difficult-to-treat and understudied cancers. The Hope Funds for Cancer Research will support scientific and medical research programs aimed at increasing knowledge relating to both cancer care and prevention. We will support programs we believe have the highest probability of success in addressing unmet medical needs, which we will determine by rigorous scientific and economic analysis.

Message from the Chairmen

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research had an outstanding second year. Since the organization incorporated in late 2006, it has attracted 41 diverse and talented individuals to serve as Trustees and Advisors to help it accomplish its mission. In the last two years, the organization has raised nearly $600,000. Due to conservative financial practices, less than five cents per dollar donated was used to cover overhead.

Even while maintaining fiscal responsibility, the organization effectively performed the programmatic activities essential to its mission. The organization hosted its second Awards Gala weekend that promoted the mission of the Hope Funds by educating the public on advances and achievements in cancer care, and allowed for an exchange of ideas among those working in the field of cancer research and treatment.

Our most exciting accomplishment in 2008 was granting two two-year fellowships. Two Fellows were chosen from a field of 108 young scientists working in the country’s most prestigious research institutions. We are privileged to support two such innovative and important research programs as Dr. Medina’s work in microRNAs as they relate to lung cancers and Dr. Robison’s work on the effects of radiation in pediatric brain cancer patients.

Lastly, we so appreciate all our donors for making the Hope Funds for Cancer Research a priority for their philanthropy. You have demonstrated the compassion to identify with our mission and the courage to support early-stage, highly innovative research. As we look toward our 2009 goals, we do so secure in the knowledge that the Hope Funds mission is soundly underway with respect to a solid grant-making process and that a strong foundation has been laid for our future ambitions and successes.

“You have demonstrated the compassion to identify with our mission”

Sincerely,

John E. Parks
Chairman of the Executive Committee

Leah Rush Cann
Chairman of the Board
Grants

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research funds research for highly innovative projects that challenge the traditional paradigms of understanding the causes, mechanisms, progression, disease markers or risk factors of the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, esophageal, brain, gastric, ovarian cancers, sarcomas and other rare cancers. These cancers are insidiously aggressive illnesses that kill most of their victims within months, even with aggressive chemotherapy. The Trustees of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research believe that funding research that could lead to breakthroughs in these areas and increase life expectancy in these types of cancers is at the core of its mission.

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research considers each of the following criteria, with a strong emphasis on the innovation of the project, in evaluating research candidates: innovation and originality of the project; significance and direct relevance of the research proposal; approach and conceptual framework of the project; qualifications of the postdoctoral researcher and the researcher's mentors; and quality of the overall research environment where the scientist is working.

Using these criteria, the Hope Funds’ Scientific Reviewers selected two Fellows from 108 applications. We are truly privileged to have Pedro Medina and Nathan Robison as the 2008 Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellows.

Pedro Medina, PhD, Yale University

in the laboratory of Frank Slack, PhD

MicroRNAs are small molecules that regulate the expression of genes, i.e., when or where our genes should be read and translated into proteins. As their name indicates, they are very small, made from RNA and not from protein, in contrast to previously discovered expression regulators. Due to their small size and unusual nature, microRNA had not been discovered until only a few years ago. “Recently, these regulators have been seen to play an important role in cancer development, and they have opened a new field to help us to understand cancer biology and improve cancer diagnosis, prognosis and therapy. However, many questions about the microRNAs remain to be unveiled. In our project we will try to shed light on the involvement of microRNAs in cancer,” said Dr. Medina.

Dr. Medina has been a Postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Frank Slack, in the department of Molecular, Cellular & Development Biology at Yale University since May 2007. Prior to joining Dr. Slack’s lab, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Dr.Montserrat Sánchez-Cereceda, in the Lung Cancer Group at Spanish National Cancer Centre (CNIO), Madrid. During 2004, Dr. Medina was a Visiting Researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Hans Clevers at the Netherlands Institute for Development Biology. Dr. Medina received his doctorate and masters degrees from CNIO and his undergraduate degree in Microbiology from Universidad de Granada, Spain.

Nathan Robison, MD, Childrens Hospital, Los Angeles

at the University of Southern California in the laboratory of Shahab Agharzadeh, MD. The standard treatment for medulloblastoma includes radiation to the brain, which can cause severe brain damage in younger children. The goal in this project is to use measurements of gene activity to identify children who can be successfully treated without radiation. Medulloblastoma is the most common malignant brain tumor in children. “Our overall goal is to identify a clinically feasible biologic assay that can identify low-risk medulloblastoma patients who may safely avoid radiation therapy, thus potentially sparing a large number of children the devastating effects of neuroaxis irradiation,” stated Dr. Robison.

Dr. Robison has been a Clinical Fellow in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Childrens Hospital, Los Angeles. He received his medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California and his undergraduate degree from Williams College. Dr. Robison is Board Certified in Pediatrics. In addition to his work at Childrens Hospital, Dr. Robison has done two volunteer tours in Rwanda. Dr. Robinson is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha honor society, the Association of Pathology, Christian Medical Association, American Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, American Association of Cancer Research, and the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation.
THE HOPE FUNDS FOR CANCER RESEARCH identifies Honorees based on their service in the field of cancer research and treatment, significant contributions to advancing cancer care, integrity and character, and how they are regarded by their peers. In addition, candidates in individual categories should have advanced the knowledge of cancer biology, developed a means of prevention, a treatment, a procedure or a diagnostic that has meaningfully and significantly improved patient outcomes as measured by increased life-expectancy and/or improved quality of life; served the needs of cancer patients and their families by providing care and compassion and by bringing attention to the disease; or made exceptional financial contributions that have furthered cancer research, treatment and support of patients and their families.

Craig Mello, PhD, is a professor of molecular medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School as well as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. He was honored for his seminal discoveries relating to “gene silencing,” or RNA interference. Dr. Mello received his BS from Brown University in 1982 and his PhD from Harvard University in 1990. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in the laboratory of Dr. James Pless. Dr. Mello is a 2006 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology. Dr. Mello is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Science.

Malcolm Moore, DPhil, received his Bachelor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Oxford. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed a Prize Fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford. He was a Queen Elizabeth II Visiting Fellow and Senior Research Scientist and Head of the Laboratory of Developmental Biology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, Australia.

Since 1974, he has been a Member at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research and heads the James Ewing Laboratory of Developmental Hematopoiesis. He is perhaps best known for identifying and purifying a human growth factor, G-CSF that stimulates white blood cell production (neutrophil). In collaboration with Amgen, recombinant G-CSF (Neupogen) was developed. This therapy has significantly improved survival in cancer patients.

Robert Bazell, NBC's Chief Science and Health Correspondent, is being honored for patient advocacy by increasing awareness of science and medicine through the media. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1967 with a BA in biochemistry and Phi Beta Kappa honors, he studied biology at the University of Sussex as part of his graduate work before returning to Berkeley to complete his doctoral candidate degree in immunology. Mr. Bazell pursued a dual interest in journalism and science by joining Sience magazine in 1971 and writing for its News and Comment section. In 1976, he began a career in broadcast journalism by joining WNBC in New York as a reporter before moving to NBC News, where he was one of the first network news correspondents to report on the emerging AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s. He continues to cover health and science issues for the network. His reports appear on NBC Nightly News, Today, and Dateline NBC. Mr. Bazell is a recipient of two Emmy Awards for his reports on the human brain, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, the Maggie Award from Planned Parenthood, and the George Foster Peabody Award for his service to broadcast journalism. In addition to his television accomplishments, he is the author of HER-2, the acclaimed account of the making of the first targeted cancer drug.

Gilda's Club was founded in memory of former Saturday Night Live comedian Gilda Radner, who died of ovarian cancer at the age of 43. Gilda's Club Worldwide is being honored for providing, free of charge, a non-residential, homelike environment that enables men, women, and children with cancer, and their families and friends, to come together for emotional and social support and create an affirming and vibrant community. Through support groups, social activities, and educational seminars, Gilda's Club helps people learn how to live with cancer in the company of a community of peers. As cancer becomes a chronic rather than fatal illness, the need for ongoing support to live with this disease continues to increase. Gilda’s Club fulfills this need not only for the person with the disease, but also for family and friends who find they are living with cancer.
On an Extraordinary August Night

the Trustees and Advisors of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research hosted a Gala in one of Newport’s most fabled cottages, Marble House built between 1888 and 1892 for Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, and currently owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County. On this particular evening, Marble House was the site of an Awards Gala where luminaries in the field of cancer research and treatment were presented with the Hope Funds’ highest honor, the Award of Excellence. The Gala was attended by prominent scientists, venture capitalists, policymakers and even a recent Miss Rhode Island. There were ladies in gorgeous gowns and beautiful jewelry and gentlemen in white-tie. Amidst all the glamour ran a very serious tone... Cancer is an insidious, invasive, and incredibly virile disease, which the Hope Funds’ is committed to battling by supporting researchers who are inspired to take risks so that they may have the opportunity to bring hope to others.
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* Denotes corporations and foundations which provide matching gifts.
+ Denotes gifts including in-kind or pro bono services.

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Barbara Weibel
Chris Weibel
Evan Weibel
Kelly Willette
### Statement of Activities

With comparative financial information at December 31, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008 Unrestricted</th>
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<td>Fellowships</td>
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<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$352,959</td>
<td>$177,807</td>
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### Balance Sheet

With comparative financial information at December 31, 2008

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2008</th>
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<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Current Liabilities:</td>
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<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>Undesignated</td>
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<td><strong>Total Unrestricted</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$352,959</td>
<td>$177,807</td>
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Please contact Hope Funds for complete audited financial statements.

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James Bolognini
Stuart Moldaw

from the Trustees of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research
Dr. Judah Folkman

from his friends and family
Christopher Hayes

from Sarah Herrlinger
Edward Herrlinger II
I want to applaud the Hope Fund’s decision to emphasize youth in awarding its grants. The young investigators who choose cancer research are often bold, intrepid scientists—just the kinds of individuals who can forge new paradigms and devise new approaches. Supporting young investigators with the potential for making an impact on the hardest-to-treat cancers is also an excellent decision because early-career grants can strengthen what might become a lifelong commitment to advancing both the understanding of and the therapeutics for an understudied malignancy.

— Sir Paul Nurse in his 2007 acceptance remarks

You are accelerating tremendously, the discoveries that will lead to the next generation of drugs, the next generation of therapy’s that will treat many of the types of cancer that are today untreatable. We can and we will understand these diseases in the next few years because of the powerful tools that we have in our hands.

— Craig Mello in his 2008 acceptance remarks