



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

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Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces 2011 Award of Excellence Recipients

NEWPORT, RI -- January 31, 2011 --The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced its 2011 Award of Excellence honorees, who will be recognized at the organization's annual awards gala on June 9th in New York City.

The Award of Excellence honors those who have made outstanding contributions to basic, clinical, and medical cancer research or conducted prominent advocacy and philanthropy on behalf of cancer research. This year's honorees are Joan Massagué, Ph.D., for Basic Science; Kenneth C. Anderson, M.D., for Clinical Development; Larry Norton, M.D., for Medicine; Ellen Stovall for Advocacy; and Donald J. Listwin, founder of the Canary Foundation, for Philanthropy.

"These honorees were selected for this award based on their profound contributions to the war on cancer," stated Leah Rush Cann, chairman of the Hope Funds Board of Trustees.

About the Honorees

Joan Massagué, Ph.D.

Dr. Massagué holds the Alfred P. Sloan Chair in the Cancer Biology and Genetics Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and is also a professor at the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. His research is in the areas of cell division and cancer metastasis, with a focus on signaling mechanisms that are essential for normal tissue growth and development, but which are altered in many cancers. Most notably, he investigated TGF- β (transforming growth factor beta), a protein involved in immune response and in cell division during embryonic development. By decoding the entire TGF- β signaling pathway, he discovered important principles about how external signals arrest cell proliferation, a process that leads to tumor formation. Building on this work, Dr. Massagué also identified mechanisms that control breast cancer metastasis.

After obtaining his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Barcelona, Dr. Massagué worked as a research fellow at Brown University, then joined the biochemistry department at the University of Massachusetts. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the European Molecular Biology Organization, and Spain's Royal National Academy of Medicine.

One of the 50 most often cited researchers over the past 20 years, Dr. Massagué has authored or co-authored 250 scientific articles and received more than 25 awards, including Spain's national prize for research awarded in 1993 by King Juan Carlos I, the 2002 Howard Taylor Ricketts Award, and the 2004 Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research (with Judah Folkman, Tony Hunter, Bert Vogelstein, and Robert Weinberg). In 2006, he was awarded the Creu de Sant Jordi (St. George's Cross) of Catalonia.

Kenneth C. Anderson, M.D.

Dr. Anderson is the Kraft Family Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and director of both the LeBow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics and the Jerome Lipper Center for Multiple Myeloma at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He is a Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Research Scientist and an American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professor.

For the past 30 years, Dr. Anderson's laboratory and clinical research has focused on multiple myeloma, including that development of laboratory and animal models of the tumor in its microenvironment, which resulted in the identification of novel targets and the validation of targeted therapies. His team led preclinical and clinical studies of the proteasome inhibitor bortezomib and the immunomodulatory drug lenalidomide, both of which received rapid FDA approval for the treatment of myeloma and are now markedly improving patient outcomes. Dr. Anderson's work has transformed myeloma therapy, offering great promise even for patients with other hematologic malignancies and solid tumors.

A graduate of Johns Hopkins Medical School, Dr. Anderson trained in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, then completed hematology, medical oncology, and tumor immunology training at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. His awards include the 2003 Waldenström's Award, the 2005 Robert A. Kyle Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2007 Joseph H. Burchenal Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Research, and the 2008 William Dameshek Prize. He was elected into the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars in 2009 and, in 2010, to the Institute of Medicine of the U.S. National Academies and the U.K.'s Royal College of Pathologists.

Larry Norton, M.D.

Dr. Norton is a professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. At Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, he is deputy physician-in-chief for Breast Cancer Programs, medical director of the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center, and holds the Norna S. Sarofim Chair in Clinical Oncology.

Dr. Norton's research applies the biology of cancer and the mathematics of tumor causation and growth to the development of novel approaches to better diagnose, prevent, and treat the disease. His "Norton-Simon Hypothesis" (derived with Dr. Richard Simon) has led to more effective and less toxic cancer therapies, as well as to other major discoveries, including the molecular identification of aberrant genes that predispose people to cancer and the development of drugs, such as monoclonal antibodies that target growth factor receptors and anti-cancer immunotherapy. He is currently working with Dr. Joan Massagué on a novel hypothesis linking cancer metastasis with cancer growth.

After receiving his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, Dr. Norton trained in internal medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and later served as a clinical associate and investigator at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). From 1977 to 1988, he was a faculty member of the Mount Sinai Medical Center. Former positions include chair of the Breast Committee of the NCI's Cancer and Leukemia Group B, president of the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations, and president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. In 1999, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve on the NCI's National Cancer Advisory Board.

Dr. Norton's awards include the 1999 NCI's Director's Award, the 2004 Karnofsky Medal, the 2004 Brinker Award, the 2006 Rose Award, and the 2008 McGuire Lectureship from the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

Ellen Stovall

A three-time survivor of Hodgkins disease, Ms. Stovall has been advocating for more than 30 years to improve cancer care in the United States. She is currently the senior health policy advisor for the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS), which conducts evidence-based advocacy for systemic changes at the federal level in how the United States researches, regulates, finances, and delivers high-quality cancer care.

Ms. Stovall is also a member of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) National Cancer Policy Forum, established in May 2005 to succeed the National Cancer Policy Board (NCPB). The forum allows government, industry, academic, and survivor advocacy representatives to meet and privately discuss public policy issues that arise in the prevention, control, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. Prior to the establishment of the forum, she was vice-chair of the National Cancer Policy Board's Committee on Cancer Survivorship and co-edited the IOM report *From Cancer Patient to Cancer Survivor: Lost in Transition*, which addresses issues faced by adult cancer survivors.

Ms. Stovall is frequently called upon to advise U.S. presidential administration and congressional members on a variety of cancer-related policy issues; in particular, the improvement of access to quality cancer care. She serves on the boards of directors of the National Committee for Quality Assurance and The Leapfrog Group. She is on the steering committee of the National Quality Forum to establish consensus around cancer care quality measures and sits on several advisory panels, working groups, and committees of the National Cancer Institute, the American Association for Cancer Research, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. In 1992, President Bill Clinton appointed Ms. Stovall to a six-year term on the NCI's National Cancer Advisory Board.

Donald J. Listwin

A 25-year veteran executive of the technology industry, Mr. Listwin is the founder and chairman of the Canary Foundation, the nation's only nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to early detection of cancer, a research area receiving less than 15 percent of funding despite the knowledge that early detection and intervention are far more effective than late-stage treatment of cancer.

Mr. Listwin's motivation is his family, which has been deeply affected by cancer. His father is a colon cancer survivor, and his mother died from ovarian cancer. Her death prompted him to become involved in finding a cure, including pledging millions of dollars to early detection research at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the Stanford Medical School, the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and other leading cancer institutions.

In 2004, Mr. Listwin's philanthropic efforts became full time with his launch of the Canary Foundation, which funds teams of leading cancer researchers who are collaborating to translate research on early detection into clinical applications. By delivering the first effective test for early detection, the foundation aims to spur a dramatic increase in NCI and venture capital funding that will allow tests based on this research to reach patients sooner and save millions of lives. The hope is that cancer screening will one day be as universal as cholesterol testing, leading to the early detection and elimination of most cancers.

Mr. Listwin holds a degree in electrical engineering and an honorary doctorate of law from the University of Saskatchewan. He serves on the boards of directors for several organizations, including the Donald A. Adam Comprehensive Research Center in Melanoma at the Moffitt Cancer Center, Stratos Biosciences, and the Listwin Family Foundation. He is an advisory board member for both the Center for Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence and the Early Neoplasia Detection Center, at Stanford, and is a board of trustees member for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Additional information is available at [2011 Honorees](#)

Award of Excellence

Honorees who receive this award are suggested through a formal nomination process and selected based on their contributions to the field of cancer research and treatment, their integrity and character, and how their peers regard them. Previous recipients of the award are Sir Paul Nurse, Craig Mello, Ph.D., Robert A. Weinberg, Ph.D., and James E. Darnell, Jr., M.D., for Basic Science; Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez, M.D., Malcolm A. S. Moore, D.Phil., Brian Druker, M.D., and George D. Demetri, M.D., for Clinical Development; M. Judah Folkman, M.D., John Cameron, M.D., and Murray Brennan, M.D., for Medicine; Paula Kim, Robert Bazell, Amy Dockser

Marcus, and Harold Freeman for Advocacy; and Corporate Angel Network, Gilda's Club Worldwide, and the Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Fund for Cancer Research, for Philanthropy.

The awards will be presented on June 9, 2011, at a white-tie dinner held at a private New York City club. The annual gala is a focal point for the Hope Funds charitable mission and brings together the organization's supporters and constituencies to recognize and honor distinguished luminaries in oncology. Proceeds from the event will fund postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research. Visit [Upcoming Events](#) for more information.

About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical, and investment approach to making grants for the most interesting and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, and ovarian 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 young, innovative researchers will lead to breakthroughs in these areas and increase life expectancy for those with these types of cancers. The Hope Funds for Cancer Research is a 509 (a)(1) charity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service's code.

For additional information about the organization, please visit www.hope-funds.org or call 401-847-3286.



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