



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
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### Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces 2013 Program & Dinner

**NEWPORT, RI -- July 8, 2013** --Hope Funds for Cancer Research, a charitable organization dedicated to advancing innovative research in the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced its 2013 Program Event and Dinner will be held in Newport, Rhode Island on Sunday, August 4th at Rosecliff. Chairs for the event are Mr. & Mrs. Charles V. Baltic III, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bazell, and Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Van Schaack. The Honorary Chairs are Mr. David B. Ford & Ms. Pamela L. Fielder.

The organization holds programmatic events to increase awareness of cancer research breakthroughs, and to raise funds for cancer research. "Hope Funds for Cancer Research is a unique organization that funds research in malignancies that are hardest to treat and where basic research is essential," stated Executive Committee Chair Leah Rush Cann, "and does this by funding young research scientists at pivotal moments in their careers."

This Panel Discussion on Innovative Cancer Treatment will include former NBC Chief Science Correspondent & Adjunct Professor at Yale University, Robert Bazell; Professor of Biology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute and Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Malcolm A.S. Moore, DPhil; and three young scientists being funded by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research, Elsa Beyer, Ph.D. from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Jordan Krall, Ph.D. from the Whitehead Institute at MIT; and Thales Papagiannakopoulos, Ph.D. from the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT.

#### *About the Panelists*

##### **Malcolm A.S. Moore, DPhil** **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**

Dr. Moore 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, which stimulates white blood cell production (neutrophils). In collaboration with Amgen, recombinant G-CSF (Neupogen) was developed. This therapy has significantly improved survival in cancer patients.

Dr. Moore was the 2008 recipient of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Award of Excellence in Clinical Development, please [click here to hear Dr. Moore's Remarks](#). In December 2012, Dr. Moore was elected as the third Chairman of the Board of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

##### **Robert Bazell** **Former NBC Chief Science and Health Correspondent** **Adjunct Professor at Yale University**

Mr. Bazell graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1967 with a B.A. 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 Science 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 until his retirement this summer. His reports appeared 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.

Mr. Bazell was the 2008 recipient of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Award of Excellence in Advocacy, [click here to hear Mr. Bazell's Remarks](#).

**Elsa Beyer, Ph.D.**

**Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and The Broad Institute**

Dr. Beyer is a postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of William Hahn, M.D., Ph.D. While tumors are generally classified by the tissue in which they arise, for instance breast versus lung, advances in cancer genomics have increasingly allowed for the identification of the specific genetic alterations in a given tumor. The success of some targeted therapies have further argued for classifying tumors by mutation status and choosing treatment strategies accordingly. Rather than focusing on cancers in a particular tissue, Elsa's project centers on cancers with inappropriate activation of the STAT3 protein. Because STAT3 itself has been difficult to target therapeutically, the study aims to identify other weaknesses in these cancers that may be more "druggable" targets. This study will involve several hundred cancer lines from different tissue types, allowing us to determine how common STAT3 activation is different types of cancer and to identify novel drug targets in these tumors.

**Jordan Krall, Ph.D.**

**The Whitehead Institute at MIT**

Dr. Krall is a postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Robert Weinberg, Ph.D. Most cancer-related deaths are due to the metastasis of primary tumors from non-vital to vital organs. These metastases are usually difficult to treat due to their invasiveness and heterogeneity. A recent study has demonstrated that certain aggressively growing tumors can generate a systemic tumor-supporting environment that promotes the growth of weakly growing tumors and the outgrowth of micrometastases in the lungs. Drs. Krall and Weinberg proposed research that aims to investigate the mechanism of this systemic tumor promotion in a manner that addresses the basic biology and reveals new therapeutic approaches that can reduce the outgrowth of metastases in vital organs. The innovation of this project lies in its focus on systemic properties that promote tumor metastasis. Rather than focus on properties of isolated cancer cells or the interactions between tumors and the surrounding healthy cells, this study investigates how tumors can alter the function of the organism as a whole in ways that promote the metastasis of the primary tumor to distant sites. In particular this research focuses on how tumors alter the function of normal cells in the bone marrow and how the bone marrow cells subsequently promote the outgrowth of disseminated tumor cells into full-blown metastases. The focus on normal cells in the progression of cancer offers the opportunity to discover drug targets in cells that are much more stable than cancer cells themselves.

**Thales Papagiannakopoulos, Ph.D.**

**David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT**

Dr. Papagiannakopoulos is in the laboratory of Tyler Jacks, Ph.D. Thales' research focuses on lung cancer, which is the leading cause of deaths worldwide. The Jacks laboratory has established an autochthonous mouse model of human lung adenoma and adenocarcinoma. In these genetically engineered mice, lung tumors are induced in by activation of oncogenic mutant KrasG12D and

deletion of tumor suppressor p53, two genetic lesions that commonly occur in human lung cancer. These mouse model tumors mimic human lung adenocarcinoma tumors in their progression showing similarities both at the molecular and histological level. Using this well-defined lung cancer mouse model Dr. Papagiannakopoulos will determine whether circadian rhythm disruption contributes to lung tumor initiation and progression. Circadian Rhythms are highly conserved daily oscillations that align physiological functions with the day/night cycles. Disruption of circadian rhythms is a major consequence of a modern lifestyle. Loss of circadian clock synchrony is associated with the range of diseases, including cancer. Epidemiological studies have revealed that the risk for many types of cancer is significantly higher in industrialized societies, particularly among shift-workers. In 2010, the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer published an assessment on carcinogenicity of shift-work, which concluded: "shift-work that involves circadian disruption is probably carcinogenic to humans." This raises many concerns, since the United States alone, it is estimated that 20% of the work force is subjected to shifting work schedules. Dr. Papagiannakopoulos' studies aim to uncover the functional importance and provide molecular insight into circadian rhythm disruption in lung tumor initiation and progression.

#### About the Event

This informal, benefit-evening will start with a Reception on the Rosecliff Terrace, which will be followed by the Panel Discussion in the Salon. At the conclusion of the 45 minute Panel Discussion, there will be a short question and answer period, followed by a Dinner in the Rosecliff Ball Room. Guests will have the opportunity to spend additional time with the Panelists at the conclusion of Dinner. Hope Funds for Cancer Research holds this event annually. Past events have been held in Boston, New York and Newport. For more information on this year's event [Click here to visit Event webpage](#)

#### About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

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, as well as rare leukemias, lymphomas and MDS. 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. 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](http://www.hope-funds.org) or call 401-847-3286.

*Advancing innovative research in understudied cancers*

*Hope Funds for Cancer Research is an independent and unaffiliated non-profit organization*

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