



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release  
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For Immediate Release

### Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces Green-Burgess Fellowship

**NEWPORT, RI -- January 22, 2014** -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, an organization dedicated to advancing research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, announced today that Mitchell Burgess and Robin Green have created a Named-Fellowship for a Hope Funds Fellow, Leni Jacob, Ph.D., who is working in Joan Massague's laboratory at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Dr. Jacob will be the Green-Burgess Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellow.

"The mission and sole purpose of Hope Funds for Cancer Research is to support young scientists and clinical fellows. Their work is vitally important, and we are privileged to have Mitchell Burgess and Robin Green provide the financial support needed to fund Dr. Jacob's three-year Fellowship," stated Malcolm A.S. Moore, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Jacob was one of three postdoctoral Fellows, selected in 2013 by an international scientific study session comprised of key-opinion-leader scientists working in oncology, from a field of more than two hundred applications.

#### About the Fellow

**Leni Jacob, Ph.D.**, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, is in the laboratory of Joan Massague, Ph.D. Dr. Jacob's project aims to study the most difficult-to-treat subset of cancer cells from most cancer types, cancer cells that have spread, or metastasized, to other organs. Metastatic disease is the greatest impediment to the therapeutic care of cancer patients and accounts for more than 90% of cancer-related deaths. Even following the successful treatment of localized primary cancers, including those of the breast, lung, prostate, kidney, and thyroid, the risk for developing metastatic lesions remains substantial. Cancer cells that leave the primary tumor, or disseminated tumor cells (DTCs), can often lay dormant at distant organ sites for months or years, resistant to current therapies, before developing into overt metastatic tumors. Disseminated tumor cells likely employ potent molecular programs to persist at distant organ sites despite the stresses incurred from cancer therapies and adapting to an unfamiliar cellular environment. Very little is known about DTC biology because few tools and experimental models exist to study them. Through this project Dr. Jacob is generating experimental model systems of latent cancer and will use these tools to reveal and dissect the genes and molecular pathways that promote DTC survival. Uncovering the molecular mechanisms on which DTCs rely will provide targets for the design of novel cancer therapeutics that have the potential to cut rates of cancer relapse.

#### About the Donors

**Mitchell Burgess and Robin Green**, the husband-and-wife team have written and produced such widely-acclaimed modern television shows as Northern Exposure and The Sopranos, for which they have won multiple Emmys, Golden Globes and Peabody Awards. More recently they created

the police drama Blue Bloods, now completing its fourth season on CBS. They are recipients of a University of Iowa's 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award, and sponsor a fellowship for students at the university's famed Writers Workshop. They are excited now for the opportunity to sponsor a Hope Funds fellowship for cancer research, feeling their contributions will impact not only the Green-Burgess Fellow, but also scientific progress in her field of research.

#### About the Hope Funds Fellowships

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research supports research for highly innovative projects that challenge the traditional paradigms associated with understanding the causes, mechanisms, progression, disease markers, or risk factors of the most difficult-to-treat cancers. The Hope Funds believes it is important to emphasize creative approaches to research and award grants to young scientists based on the following criteria: project innovation and originality; the significance and direct relevance of the research proposal; the project's approach and conceptual framework; the researcher's qualifications and those of his or her mentors; and the quality of the researcher's overall working environment. To learn about all Hope Funds Fellows visit: [www.hope-funds.org](http://www.hope-funds.org), under Grants.

#### Naming opportunities for Fellowships

A naming opportunity is not just a vehicle to donate to the Hope Funds; it is an opportunity to encourage a highly-dedicated group of talented cancer researchers with your, or a loved-one's, name. To view current research naming opportunities, visit: <http://www.hope-funds.org/giving/> and scroll down to Naming Opportunities

#### About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by individuals with experience in science, medicine, intellectual property law, investment banking, philanthropy, sociology and the arts, who wanted to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical and investment approach to awarding research grants. A strong emphasis is placed on identifying innovative and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, ovary cancers, rare leukemias and lymphomas, and MDS. The Trustees of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research believe that funding innovative research that can lead to medical breakthroughs and increased life expectancy is at the core of its mission. 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](http://www.hope-funds.org)

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

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