



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

### Announces Newly Published Research in the journal *Nature Genetics* from Postdoctoral Alumni Fellow

For Immediate Release  
Media Contact:  
Arden Scura  
401-847-3286  
[media@hope-funds.org](mailto:media@hope-funds.org)

**Newport, RI - October 19, 2015** - In a paper published today in the journal *Nature Genetics*, Hope Funds Alumni Fellow Gina DeNicola, Ph.D., working in the laboratory of Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D., at Weill Cornell Medical School in New York City finds the regulation of serine biosynthesis by NRF2 in lung cancer. This discovery were partially funded by the Hope Fund for Cancer Research.

Lung cancer is a dreaded disease, because it is mostly untreatable. In this very important, new work Dr. DeNicola and her colleagues reveal a novel mechanism by which lung cancer cells feed and survive - and it points to a new vulnerability in lung cancer that can be exploited to kill lung cancer cells. "By disrupting this newly discovered cancer feeding mode, the work of Dr. DeNicola and her colleagues sets the stage for potential therapeutics to treat this deadly disease," stated Frank Slack, Ph.D., Hope Funds Trustee and Scientific Advisor.

The research published on-line in the October 19, 2015 issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*, describes this novel work.

To View this Article, [Click Here](#).

#### About Gina DeNicola, Ph.D.

Gina DeNicola is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Lewis Cantley at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. DeNicola obtained a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Pennsylvania State University and a doctoral degree in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Pennsylvania. During her graduate years in the lab of Dr. David Tuveson, Dr. DeNicola identified and characterized the regulation of the NRF2 transcription factor by the oncogene K-RAS in mouse models of pancreatic cancer and human tumor samples. Dr. DeNicola's postdoctoral research is focused on understanding the regulation of non-small cell lung cancer metabolism by NRF2 and identifying metabolic targets for cancer treatment. Dr. DeNicola is the recipient of the 2014 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Pathway to Leadership Award. Gina was a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellow from July 2012 - June 2014. She currently serves on the Hope Funds for Cancer Research's Council of Advisors.

Dr. DeNicola is the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Malcolm A.S. Moore Fellow.



Dr. Gina DeNicola with Dr. Lewis C. Cantley at a recent Hope Funds for Cancer Research lecture and dinner. *Photo courtesy of Julie Skarratt.*

#### **About Hope Funds for Cancer Research**

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by individuals with experience in oncology, intellectual property law, investment banking, philanthropy, sociology, and the arts to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical, and investment approach to funding to the most interesting and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat 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 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 <http://www.hope-funds.org> or call 401-847-3286.

*Hope Funds for Cancer Research: Advancing Innovative Research in Understudied Cancers*

[To visit our website, click here](#)



-END-

10/19/15 - 18

[Forward email](#)



10/19/2015

News from Hope Funds - Nature Genetics

This email was sent to info@hope-funds.org by [media@hope-funds.org](mailto:media@hope-funds.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Hope Funds for Cancer Research | 174 Bellevue Avenue, Suite 208 | Newport | RI | 02840