



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

Announces Fellow's Appointment at the German Consortium for Translational Cancer Research (DKTK) and the publication of her research in *Nature Method*.

For Immediate Release
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Newport, RI - December 5, 2016 - After working for four years at Stanford Medical School as a post-doctoral fellow in the genetics laboratory of Monte Winslow, Ph.D., Barbara Grüner has received an appointment at the German Consortium for Translational Cancer Research (DKTK) at its partner site Essen/ West German Cancer Center starting in January 2017.

Dr. Gruner's most recent research, funded by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research, was recently published in *Nature Methods*. The article, entitled "An in vivo multiplexed small-molecule screening platform", adds to the body of research available to scientists throughout the world. *Nature Methods* is one of the most prestigious and selective scientific publications and the selection of Dr. Grüner's article for publication is both noteworthy and exciting for her, her laboratory and for the Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

"We are delighted to learn of Dr Barbara Grüner's receipt of a faculty appointment at the German Cancer Consortium at its partner site in Essen, Germany," said Leah Rush Cann, Chair of the Executive Committee for the Hope Funds for Cancer Research. "We are also extremely pleased and proud to report the publication of the research she has been doing with support from the Hope Funds for Cancer Research in *Nature Methods*. This is one of the most prestigious, peer reviewed scientific publications in the world and, through it, Dr. Grüner's research makes an important addition to the body of knowledge available to researchers everywhere and, by extension, to all humanity."

Dr. Grüner's work has developed new technological approaches to testing many drugs all at the same time in the same mouse. Her project will not only directly identify new drugs that can target cancer metastasis but will also improve the understanding of this very important process. Additionally, this platform and approach can be used in the future to test additional new drugs across different cancer types in a time and cost efficient manner. Her research will contribute to the understanding of this fatal process and enhance the ability to block cancer metastasis and therefore improve patient outcomes. This research has particular relevance to pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas.

About Barbara M. Grüner, Ph.D.

Barbara M Grüner, Ph.D., has been working and researching at Stanford University, in the laboratory of Monte Winslow, Ph.D. where she has been studying Pancreatic cancer, which is a highly lethal disease, mainly due to its ability to spread to other parts of the body and form secondary tumors through a process called metastasis. Despite

the tremendous importance of this process, the mechanisms that drive metastasis remain poorly understood. Large drug screens have been performed on cancer cell lines grown in the laboratory, but cell lines do not resemble the complex situation in a cancer patient. Therefore, when performing drug screens to find inhibitors of complex processes like metastasis has remained difficult. On the other hand, testing thousands of drugs individually in mouse models of metastatic cancer is both time and cost prohibitive. To overcome this problem, Dr. Grüner has developed a platform allowing her to test many drugs all at the same time in the same mouse. Her project will not only directly identify new drugs that can target cancer metastasis but will also improve our understanding of this very important process. Additionally, this platform can be used in the future to test additional new drugs across different cancer types in a time and cost efficient manner. This project will contribute to our understanding of this fatal process and enhance our ability to block cancer metastasis and therefore improve patient outcomes. The project addresses pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas.



Dr. Barbara Grüner, Ph.D.

Dr. Grüner received her Masters in Molecular Medicine from Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen, Nuremberg, Germany and her Ph.D, from Technical University Munich.

The results of Dr. Grüner's work were published in the journal *Nature Methods* in October 2016. [Click here to view paper.](#)

About the German Consortium for Translational Cancer Research (DKTK)

The aim of the German Consortium for Translational Cancer Research (DKTK), in which the DKFZ is the primary center, is to augment nationwide cancer research by transferring to the consortium the collaboration between cancer researchers and physicians established at the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT), explained Professor Otmar D Wiestler, the chief coordinator of DKTK and Chairman of the Management Board of DKFZ.

Commenting on the new consortium, Germany's Federal Minister of Education and Research Professor Annette Schavan pointed out that, by having the best researchers from 20 institutions cooperating on an interdisciplinary basis, the consortium opens up possibilities to develop new ideas and achieve real innovations in cancer treatments. Nobel Prize winner Professor Harald zur Hausen, who outlined the long route from discovering that papillomaviruses cause cancer to having a vaccination against cervical cancer, emphasized the obligation of cancer researchers to continuously consider whether their results may be a starting point for new approaches in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. More than 160 scientists and physicians with their working groups at DKTK's eight locations will be committed to this 'translational' approach.

The partnership of the German Cancer Research Center with seven university hospitals has evolved from a joint initiative by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), German Cancer Aid (Deutsche Krebshilfe) and the German Cancer Research Center (Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, DKFZ). The consortium is intended to help to translate current research results even more quickly into patient care. A translational center will be established at each of the partnering sites, as a joint project of DKFZ and the respective university hospital.

About Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by a group of concerned individuals who have 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 granting money to 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, and rare lymphomas, leukemias 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 research that could lead to breakthroughs in these areas and increase life expectancy in these types of cancers is at the core of our 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

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