



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

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

NEWPORT, RI -- November 10, 2014 -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, a charitable organization dedicated to advancing innovative research in the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced a Program Event and Dinner will be held in New York City on Wednesday, December 10th at the Harold Pratt House.

The organization holds programmatic events to increase awareness of cancer research breakthroughs, and to raise funds for cancer research. "Hope Funds for Cancer Research supports innovative research in cancers that are hardest to treat," 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 Hope Funds Fellow Bluma Lesch, M.D., Ph.D. from the Whitehead Institute at MIT; Chairman of the Board Malcolm A.S. Moore, D.Phil. from Sloan-Kettering Institute; author and physician Siddhartha Mukherjee, M.D., Ph.D. from Columbia University; Trustee Andrew Robertson from BBDO Worldwide; and Trustee Frank Slack from Harvard University.

About the Panelists

Bluma Lesch, M.D., Ph.D. Whitehead Institute at MIT

Bluma Lesch is a Hope Funds postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. David Page at the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She received a B.S. in molecular biology from Yale University, and completed her Ph.D. at Rockefeller University and her M.D. at Weill Cornell Medical College. She is examining the effects of epigenetic states in the germ line on inheritance of disease susceptibility. She recently demonstrated that a specific chromatin state that is frequently perturbed in cancer, known as poised (or bivalent) chromatin, is maintained in mammalian germ cells and is associated with many tumor suppressor genes. She is now exploring whether perturbation of this state leads to increased cancer susceptibility across generations.

Malcolm A.S. Moore, DPhil Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute

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, that 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. Malcolm is the Hope Funds Award of Excellence Honoree for Clinical Development in 2008.

Siddhartha Mukherjee, M.D., Ph.D.
Columbia University

Siddhartha Mukherjee is a hematologist oncology physician-scientist. Dr. Mukherjee is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University and a staff cancer physician at Columbia University Medical Center. His laboratory seeks to understand the biology of blood development, with a special interest in understanding malignant and pre-malignant blood diseases such as Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) and Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). Dr. Mukherjee's stated goal is to develop novel therapeutic strategies against MDS and AML, or to therapeutically affect the biology of normal blood-forming stem cells. His book *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in general non-fiction. This work is currently being turned into a PBS mini-series, the *History of Cancer*, by filmmaker, Ken Burns. Dr. Mukherjee is a Rhodes Scholar; he graduated from Stanford University, University of Oxford, and Harvard Medical School. He lives in New York with his wife and daughters.

Andrew J. Robertson
BBDO Worldwide

Andrew Robertson is President of BBDO Worldwide Inc and has been its Chief Executive Officer since 2004. Mr. Robertson moved to New York to take the job of President and CEO of BBDO North America, three years later he was chosen as successor to aging BBDO Worldwide CEO Allen Rosenshine, making Robertson, at 44, the youngest-ever CEO of the global agency. He now oversees BBDO Worldwide's 16,000 employees in 287 offices in 77 countries. Mr. Robertson was subsequently elected to the Worldwide Board of Directors of BBDO. Andrew was born in Zimbabwe and raised in South Africa and England and started his advertising career at Ogilvy & Mather as a Media Planner. He switched to Account Management and was appointed to the Board of Ogilvy & Mather in 1986. In 1989, he joined J. Walter Thompson as a member of the Management Group and began to head the largest of their five business groups. In November 1990, Andrew was appointed Chief Executive of WCRS. Andrew has his degree in Economics from City of London University. He lives in Connecticut with his wife and children.

Frank Slack, Ph.D.**Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center**

Dr. Slack is a Professor at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Institute for RNA Medicine (iRM) at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Prior to moving to Harvard this year, Dr. Slack was a Professor at Yale University starting in 1999. He was a postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Medical School from 1994-1999, and received his Ph.D. from Tufts Medical School, and his B.Sc. from University of Cape Town. His lab has pioneered various aspects of the microRNA field and its implications in cell development, cancer and aging. Dr. Slack is a co-discoverer of the second known microRNA, let-7, and the co-discoverers of the first known human microRNA. His lab discovered that human let-7 is a critical determinant of lung cancer and that it regulates the important oncogene, RAS. This provided the first mechanism for a microRNA-role in cancer, and helped propel microRNAs in to the spotlight as potential causes and cures for cancer. While a post doc in the Slack Lab, Hope Funds Fellow Pedro Medina discovered that cancers become addicted to microRNA oncogenes, setting the stage for targeting microRNAs as cancer therapeutics.

About the Event

This benefit-evening will start with a Reception in Franklin Hall, which will be followed by the Panel Discussion in the Rockefeller Ballroom. At the conclusion of the 45 minute Panel Discussion, there will be a short question and answer period, followed by a Dinner in the Library. Guests will have the opportunity to spend additional time with the Panelists during the Dinner. 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 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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