



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

**Press Release**  
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**For Immediate Release**

### Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces Genentech Foundation Fellowship

**NEWPORT, RI -- January 22, 2015** -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, an organization dedicated to advancing research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, announced today that the Genentech Foundation has created a Named-Fellowship for a Hope Funds Fellow, Wilhelm Palm, Ph.D., who is working in Craig Thompson's laboratory at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Dr. Palm will be the Genentech Foundation 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 honored to have the Genentech Foundation provide the financial support needed to fund Dr. Palm's three-year Fellowship," stated Malcolm A.S. Moore, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Palm was one of six postdoctoral Fellows, selected in 2014 by an international scientific study session comprised of leading scientists working in oncology, from a field of nearly two hundred applications.

#### About the Fellow

Wilhelm Palm, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, in the laboratory of Craig Thompson, M.D., and his work observes that cancer cells require large amounts of nutrients to support their uncontrolled growth. While many oncogenes promote internalization of glucose and glutamine, it is a poorly understood feature of the Ras oncogenes to promote cellular eating of macromolecules. Dr. Palm is investigating the ability of cells carrying Ras mutations to fuel their metabolism by consuming proteins present in plasma and lymph constitute omnipotent source of essential amino acids for Ras-transformed cells, which allows them to grow during nutrient-starvation conditions that are lethal to many other types of cancer. In the future, he will elucidate molecular mechanisms trans-scavenging extracellular proteins increases the metabolic resilience of Ras-transformed cells, which will be particularly important in the nutrient-poor microenvironment frequently observed in humans. This could open therapeutic awareness to treat Ras-driven cancers by limiting their access to nutrients or by selectively accumulating toxins in cancer cells.

Wilhelm received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in biochemistry from Technical University of Munich, completed his Masters Thesis at The Rockefeller University with Titia de Lange, and his Ph.D. from the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics. He has been a post doc in Dr. Thompson's lab at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center since 2013.

#### About the Genentech Foundation

The Genentech Foundation is a U.S.-based, private charitable foundation. It was established in 2002 by Genentech, a leading biotechnology company that discovers, develops, manufactures and commercializes biotherapeutics for significant unmet medical needs. The Foundation provides financial support to qualified nonprofit U.S.-based charitable organizations.



Genentech is committed to being a strong corporate citizen, and the Genentech Foundation is one of the most important ways in which the company gives back to its communities. Launched in 2002, the Foundation is charged with identifying and supporting select organizations whose missions and outreach align with its areas of focus.

Founded more than 35 years ago, Genentech is a leading biotechnology company that discovers, develops, manufactures and commercializes medicines to treat patients with serious or life-threatening medical conditions. The company, a member of the Roche Group, has headquarters in South San Francisco, California. For additional information about the company, please visit [www.gene.com](http://www.gene.com)

#### **About the Hope Funds Fellowships**

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. Hope Funds for Cancer Research 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. The six 2014 Fellows were selected from a pool of 184 highly qualified applications. 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 to donate to the Hope Funds and is an opportunity to encourage a highly-dedicated, talented cancer researcher with your 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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