



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces 2014 Postdoctoral Fellows

NEWPORT, RI -- July 3, 2014 -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, an organization dedicated to advancing research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, announced today it has selected this year's recipients for its Hope Funds Postdoctoral Fellowships. The Hope Funds Fellowships reflect the organization's strong commitment to promoting scientific innovation.

"The new cadre of 2014 Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellows represent the very best of young talented cancer researchers in the USA and internationally. The strong support and mentoring program provided by Hope Funds will ensure the success of their respective research projects that will have a positive impact on our ability to tackle understudied cancers," states Professor Bryan Williams, Ph.D., co-Chairman of the the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Scientific Advisory Council.

Applications for the fellowships came from the most prestigious research institutions and were reviewed by a global scientific study session comprised of key-opinion-leader scientists working in oncology. From more than two hundred applications, the Hope Funds selected its six 2014 Fellows: Andrew J. Aguirre, M.D., Ph.D., at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, who is targeting pancreatic cancer; Frances Byrne, Ph.D., at University of Virginia and University of New South Wales, who is investigating selectively killing cancer cells; Peter Ly, Ph.D., at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at UC San Diego, who is studying genomic rearrangements in cancer; Wilhelm Palm, Ph.D. at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, who is exploring the relationship between K-Ras and mTORC1; Tuomas Tammela, M.D., Ph.D. at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT, who is working in non-small cell lung cancer; and Johanna B. Withers, Ph.D. at Yale University, who is examining causes of Kaposi's Sarcoma and effusive lymphomas. Each Fellow will receive \$150,000 over three years to fund their research.

About the Fellows

Dr. Andrew J. Aguirre is researching the identification and validation of novel synthetic lethal targets in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. His research will be conducted at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. Aguirre studied at University of Michigan, receiving a bachelor degree in science in the year 2000 and then continued on to Harvard Medical School where he received his M.D. and Ph.D. in the final year of 2007. [For more information on this project, Click Here](#)

Dr. Frances Byrne is studying the effects of reversing Warburg metabolism to treat cancer at the

University of Virginia and University of New South Wales within Dr. Kyle Hoehn's laboratory. Byrne completed her bachelor of biotechnology degree at the Flinders University of South Australia in 2004. Then continued to complete her doctorate degree in philosophy at the University of New South Wales in Australia, in 2012. [For more information on this project, Click Here](#)

Dr. Peter Ly is researching the mechanisms of localized and complex genomic rearrangements at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and the University of San Diego in Don Cleveland's laboratory. Ly completed his B.A. in biology and chemistry at Baylor University in 2008. He then continued on to complete his Ph.D. at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 2012. [For more information on this project, Click Here](#)

Dr. Wilhelm Palm is investigating the effects of K-Ras-driven protein uptake and its role in signaling and metabolism at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Craig Thompson's laboratory. Palm completed his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in biochemistry at the Technical University of Munich in 2005 and 2007. He then continued to complete his Ph.D. in biology at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in 2011. [For more information on this project, Click Here](#)

Dr. Tuomas Tammela is conducting his research project in tracking cellular heterogeneity and cell-cell interactions in cancer, at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT, within Tyler Jack's laboratory. Tammela completed his M.D. and Ph.D. at the University of Helsinki in 2008. [For more information on this project, Click Here](#)

Dr. Johanna Withers is researching the circumvention of rapid nuclear decay by a long non-coding RNA at Yale University, in Dr. Joan Steitz's laboratory. Withers received her B.Sc. in molecular biology in the year 2005 at McMaster University and her Ph.D. in cellular, molecular, and developmental biology and biophysics in the year 2012 at Johns Hopkins University. [For more information on this project, Click Here](#)

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. 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: [2014 Fellows](#), [2013 Fellows](#), [2012 Fellows](#), [2011 Fellows](#), [2010 Fellows](#), [2009 Fellows](#), [2008 Fellows](#)

About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

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 the core of its mission. 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

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

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