



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
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### Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces the Creation of the James D. Watson Award

**NEWPORT, RI -- January 21, 2014 --** The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced the creation of the James D. Watson Award, with the Nobel laureate Dr. James Watson being the first recipient. This award is being created by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research to honor James Watson for his unprecedented contributions to field of biology and cancer research and will only be awarded to scientists who make comparable seminal discoveries. The award will be presented at the organization's annual awards dinner on April 24, 2014, being held at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

The James D. Watson Award is being established to recognize discoveries that fundamentally change science and our understanding of life; the types of discoveries made by Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, and James Watson. "While we are hopeful that the James D. Watson Award will be given out again in the foreseeable future, we are realistic that the types of discoveries made by Jim Watson are once-in-a-100-years events." stated Dr. Malcolm A.S. Moore, Chairman of the Board of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

#### **About James Dewey Watson, Ph.D.**

James Dewey Watson is best known as a co-discoverer of the structure of DNA in 1953 with Francis Crick. He was awarded the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with Crick and Maurice Wilkins, University College London. The publication of the double helix structure of DNA can be regarded as a turning point in science: human understanding of life was fundamentally changed and the modern era of biology began.

Dr. Watson received his B.S. from the University of Chicago and his Ph.D. from Indiana University with Dr. Salvador Luria as his advisor. He did postdoctoral research with the biochemist Dr. Herman Kalckar in Copenhagen. From 1952 to 1956, Dr. Watson worked at the University of Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory in England, where he first met his future collaborator and friend Francis Crick. In late February 1953, Watson and Crick deduced the double helix structure of DNA and its alphabet of bases represented by the letters ATGC which spell out the code of life and is always paired in a way to pass on genetic information faithfully with every cell division. Near the end of their paper Watson and Crick concluded, with what is regarded as the most famous understatement in science, "It has not escaped our attention that the specific pairing we have postulated immediately suggests a possible copying mechanism for the genetic material." In fact most scientists regard the elucidation of the double helix as one of the most important research achievements ever, a discovery that will be remembered along with the work of Newton, Darwin and Einstein.

Dr. Watson's illustrious career only began with the double helix. From 1956 to 1976, he was on the faculty of the Harvard University Biology Department, promoting research in molecular biology. From 1968 Dr. Watson served as director of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. At CSHL, he shifted his research emphasis to the study of cancer, along with making CSHL a world leading

research center in molecular biology. In 1994, he started as president and served for 10 years. He was then appointed chancellor, serving until 2007, and is currently chancellor emeritus. Between 1988 and 1992, Dr. Watson played a leading roll in obtaining public support for the National Institutes of Health, helping to establish the Human Genome Project and he served as the project's first director.

For more information on James Watson [Click Here](#).

#### **James D. Watson Award**

On December 13, 2013 at a Board Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Corporation, the Hope Funds for Cancer Research approved the establishment of the James D. Watson Award for Extraordinary Achievement in Life Sciences. It was resolved that the award would be named for the first recipient, James D. Watson, Ph.D.

In a future release, the Hope Funds for Cancer Research will disclose details regarding the endowment of the award.

The award will be presented on April 24, 2014, at a white-tie dinner held at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in the Great Hall and at The Temple of Dendur in The Sackler Wing. The annual dinner is a focal point for the Hope Funds' charitable mission and brings together the organization's supporters and constituencies to recognize and honor distinguished luminaries in oncology. Proceeds from the event will fund postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research. Visit [Upcoming Events](#) for more information.

#### **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 innovative and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, renal 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. 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) or call 401-847-3286.

*Hope Funds for Cancer Research: Advancing innovative research in understudied cancers*



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

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