



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**
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Hope Funds for Cancer Research 10th Annual Awards of Excellence Dinner and Gala Results

NEWPORT, RI -- June 14, 2016 -- The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced its 2016 Award of Excellence Gala, held in Newport, Rhode Island on Saturday, June 11th at The Elms, raised funding for two full 3-year postdoctoral fellowships. The Chairs for the event were Mr. and Mrs. Ross S. Cann, Dr. & Mrs. Malcolm A.S. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Rueckert, and Prof. Bryan R.G. Williams & Ms. Lynda Power.

The Awards Dinner and Gala is held annually by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research to provide support for programmatic activities and to raise funds for postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research. At this event the Hope Funds presents its Awards of Excellence, which recognize outstanding achievements in the fields of basic research, drug development, medicine, patient support and philanthropy. The formal awards dinner for 120 guests was followed by a Ball.

"Honoring these luminaries in the presence of our postdoctoral researchers and donors was truly the highlight of our 10th Anniversary year," said Gala Co-Chair Leah Rush Cann. "It was a magical evening with those who made what-was-a-good-idea-in-2006 turn into the reality that Hope Funds is today."

Honorees presented with the Hope Funds Award of Excellence were Joan Brugge, Ph.D. and Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D. for Basic Science; John Mendelsohn, M.D. for Clinical Development; and Daisy M. Soros for Philanthropy. Past Honorees attending the Awards Dinner and Ball were: Gary Jobson and Dr. Malcolm A.S. Moore. The Hope Funds postdoctoral Fellows and many of their Mentors were also in attendance.

To view photos visit Julie Skarratt's Blog: [Click Here](#)

About the Honorees

Joan Brugge, Ph.D. for Basic Science

Dr. Brugge is the Louise Foote Pfeiffer Professor of Cell Biology and the Director of the Ludwig Center at Harvard Medical School, where she also served as the Chair of the Department of Cell Biology from 2004 to 2014. Joan Brugge is a cell biologist specializing in cancer. She is well known for her explorations into the Rous sarcoma virus, extracellular matrix adhesion, and epithelial tumor progression in breast cancer. Brugge originally intended on pursuing a career as a mathematics instructor. While she was attending Northwestern University as an undergraduate student, her sister developed a brain tumor. This event sparked a newfound passion for biology and specifically cancer research. She received her undergraduate degree in biology from Northwestern University, her Ph.D. from Baylor College of Medicine and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado. Dr. Brugge is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D. for Basic Science

Dr. Cantley is currently Meyer Director and Professor of Cancer Biology at the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell School of Medicine in New York City. He was formerly a professor in the Departments of Systems Biology and Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and the

Director of Cancer Research at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1985 Cantley and colleagues made the seminal discovery of the existence of phosphoinositide-3-kinase (PI3K). He received his undergraduate degree summa cum laude in chemistry from Wesleyan College and his Ph.D. from Cornell University. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University in the laboratory of Guido Guidotti, where he discovered that an impurity in commercial preparations of ATP, vanadate, acts as a transition state analog for phosphate hydrolysis. In 1978 Cantley became assistant professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Harvard, being promoted to associate professor in 1981. In 1985 he became a full professor in physiology at Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Cantley received the Life Science Breakthrough Prize in 2013.

John Mendelsohn, M.D. for Clinical Development

Dr. Mendelsohn is the past president of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He is an internationally recognized leader in cancer research. He and his collaborators produced monoclonal antibody 225, commercially known as Erbitux, against the receptor for epidermal growth factor, which was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treatment of colon cancer in 2004 and for head and neck cancer in 2006. Dr. Mendelsohn received his undergraduate degree in sciences magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1958. He was the first undergraduate student of James D. Watson. After spending a year in Scotland as a Fulbright Scholar in biochemistry, Mendelsohn received his medical degree cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1963. From 1970 to 1985 at the University of California, San Diego, Mendelsohn was founding director of a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center, which he led until he moved to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Daisy M. Soros for Philanthropy

Mrs. Soros is the chairman of the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, a fellowship program that supports two years of graduate studies for 30 New Americans each year. She was married to the late Paul Soros, founder of Soros Associates. Mrs. Soros grew up in Hungary. After graduating the Lutheran Gymnasium, she got her diploma from École hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland. She came to the United States as a graduate student at Columbia University. She later attended the New York School of Interior Design, and NYU's School of Social Work, and worked extensively as a counselor to terminally ill patients and their families. Mrs. Soros is a member of the Board of Overseers of Weill Cornell Medical College. In an effort to promote the mission and ideals of academic medicine, she founded the popular Information Please luncheon lecture series. She also serves on the Steering Committee for the Medical College's Discoveries that Make a Difference Campaign and is founder of the Dean's Council. In 1997, Paul and Daisy Soros established the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. She also serves on the boards of The Society of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, The Foreign Policy Association, The American Austrian Foundation, the New York Philharmonic and is an honorary trustee of International House New York.

Award of Excellence

Honorees who receive this award are suggested through a formal nomination process and selected based on their contributions to the field of cancer research and treatment, their integrity and character, and how their peers regard them. Previous recipients of the award (2007 - 2015, by year) are Sir Paul Nurse, Ph.D., Craig Mello, Ph.D., Robert A. Weinberg, Ph.D., James E. Darnell, Jr., M.D., Joan Massagué, Ph.D., Janet Rowley, M.D., Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D., Phillip Sharp, Ph.D., Tyler Jacks, Ph.D., Robert Roeder, Ph.D. and Joan Steitz, Ph.D. for Basic Science; Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez, M.D., Malcolm A. S. Moore, D.Phil., Brian Druker, M.D., George D. Demetri, M.D., Kenneth C. Anderson, M.D., Joseph Schlessinger, Ph.D., Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., Charles L. Sawyers, M.D. and Napoleone Ferrara, M.D. for Clinical Development; M. Judah Folkman, M.D., John Cameron, M.D., Sir Murray Brennan, M.D., Larry Norton, M.D., Azra Raza, M.D., George Sledge, M.D., Daniel D. Von Hoff, M.D. and James Holland, M.D. for Medicine; Paula Kim, Robert Bazell, Amy Dockser Marcus, Harold Freeman, Ellen Stovall, and Gary Jobson for Advocacy; and Corporate Angel Network, Gilda's Club Worldwide, the Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Fund for Cancer Research, David H. Koch, Donald Listwin, and Jan Vilcek, M.D., Ph.D. for Philanthropy.

About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The 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, bone and ovarian cancers; and rare

leukemias, lymphomas and MDS. The Trustees of the Hope Funds 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 its mission. Hope Funds for Cancer Research is an independent and unaffiliated non-profit organization 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.

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



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