



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

### Announces Fellow's Appointment at the Beatson Institute along with \$1.8 million in funding from Cancer Research UK

For Immediate Release  
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**Newport, RI - August 15, 2014** - In January, Hope Funds Fellow, Dr. Jurre Kamphorst received a faculty appointment at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research in Glasgow Scotland, and recently was awarded a Career Development Fellowship by Cancer Research UK (CRUK). The funding will start in December 2014 and will be for six years with the total amount of support being \$1.8 million. "I have no doubt that the funding I received from the Hope Funds for cancer Research from 2011- 2013 has made a difference for me in being able to secure a very competitive faculty position at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research," stated Dr. Kamphorst upon receiving this appointment.

Dr. Kamphorst is investigating the alternative fuel sources pancreatic cancer cells can tap into, such as proteins and fats, and how they use them. His research may lead to new approaches to cut off pancreatic cancer's fuel supply and stop it from growing. "The outlook for patients with pancreatic cancer is still poor, so we urgently need research like this to develop new, more effective treatments, stated David Garrett, a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Trustee.

#### **About Jurre Kamphorst, Ph.D.**

Dr. Kamphorst joined the laboratory of Joshua Rabinowitz, M.D., Ph.D. at Princeton University in 2009, as a postdoctoral Fellow, after having received his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry and systems biology from Leiden/Amsterdam Center for Drug Research, Leiden, The Netherlands. In January 2014, Dr. Kamphorst started a faculty appointment at the prestigious Beatson Institute for Cancer Research in Glasgow.

Jurre received a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellowship in 2011. His project explored how tumor cells make specific metabolic adaptations to supply the energy and building blocks for their rapid growth. Research in recent years established that one function of oncogenes is to induce these metabolic adaptations. Interfering with cancer cell metabolism is one of the oldest pharmacological approaches to cancer therapy, but is currently limited to the areas of folate and nucleic acid metabolism (e.g., methotrexate and 5-fluorouracil). Recently, Drs. Jurre Kamphorst and Joshua Rabinowitz found, using state-of-the-art mass spectrometry, that the Ras oncogene reprograms fatty acid metabolism. They will now have the opportunity to further investigate the nature and ramifications of this reprogramming, aiming towards finding novel therapeutic

approaches that selectively inhibit Ras-driven tumor growth. A particular focus will be on the devastating Ras-driven disease, pancreatic cancer.

### **About the Beatson Institute**

The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research is an internationally known teaching center, which incorporates the academic units of Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Neuro-Oncology, Hematology and Palliative Care of the University of Glasgow, the fourth oldest university in the English speaking world (founded 1451). Beatson is Scotland's largest cancer center, and the second largest in the UK. Each year, the center sees more than 8,000 new patients, delivers more than 15,000 courses of chemotherapy and administers over 6,500 courses of radiotherapy. Its equipment is amongst the best in Europe with 11 linear accelerators and a PET-CT. The center has an international reputation in the field of cancer research and is equipped with a state-of-the-art clinical research unit, a clinical trials unit and an analytical services unit. The center is a top recruiter in many clinical trials and contributes in many cancer research networks and cooperative oncology groups such as the NCRI (as a coordinating center; CACTUS), SCRN (Scottish Cancer Research Network), NTRAC (National Translational Cancer Research), EORTC (European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer) and ACCOG (Anglo Celtic Oncology Group). The foundations for the Beatson Institute were laid at the end of the 19th century when, in 1890, a new cancer hospital was opened in Glasgow. Sir George Thomas Beatson - a surgeon of considerable talent - soon became head of the institution and in 1912 established a research department.

In 1967 - under the directorship of Dr. John Paul - the department became the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research and moved to its present location at the Garscube Estate in 1976. Prof John Wyke became Director in 1987 and worked to develop links between the Beatson Institute and the University of Glasgow - in particular with the departments of Medical and Radiation Oncology. Prof Karen Vousden was appointed as Director at the end of 2002.

As one of Cancer Research UK's core-funded institutes, Beatson carries out a program of world-class science directed at understanding key aspects of cancer cell behavior, and try to translate these discoveries into new therapies and diagnostic/prognostic tools to help cancer patients. The Institute benefits from close interactions with the University of Glasgow, including strong links with the University's Institute of Cancer Sciences.

### **About the Cancer Research UK**

Cancer Research UK is a cancer research and awareness charity in the United Kingdom, formed on February 4, 2002 by the merger of The Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. It is the world's largest independent cancer research charity and conducts research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Research activities are carried out in institutes, universities and hospitals across the UK, both by the charity's own employees and by its grant-funded researchers. It also provides information about cancer and runs campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the disease and influencing public policy.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) was founded in 1902 as the Cancer Research Fund, changing its name to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund two years later. The charity grew over the next twenty years to become one of the world's leading cancer research charities. Its flagship laboratories at Lincoln's Inn Fields and Clare Hall are now known as the Cancer Research UK London Research Institute.

The British Empire Cancer Campaign (BECC) was founded in 1923, and initially drew a hostile response from ICRF and the Medical Research Council, who considered it a rival. "The Campaign",

as it was colloquially known, became a very successful and powerful grant-giving body. In 1970, the charity was renamed The Cancer Research Campaign (CRC).

In 2002 the two charities merged to form Cancer Research UK, the largest private research organization in the world dedicated to fighting cancer.

The charity funds the work of over 4,000 researchers, doctors and nurses throughout the UK, supports over 200 clinical trials and studies cancer and cancer risk in over a million people in the UK. Around 40% of the charity's research expenditure goes on basic laboratory research relevant to all types of cancer into the molecular basis of cancer. The research is intended to improve understanding of how cancer develops and spreads and thus provide a foundation for other research. The rest of its funding is used to support research into over 100 specific cancer types, focusing on key areas such as drug discovery and development; prevention, early detection and imaging; surgery and radiotherapy; and cancers where survival rates are still low, such as esophageal, lung and pancreatic cancers.

The prostate cancer drug abiraterone was discovered in the Cancer Research UK Centre for Cancer Therapeutics at the Institute of Cancer Research in London.

#### **About Hope Funds for Cancer Research**

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by a group of concerned individuals who have experience in oncology, intellectual property law, investment banking, philanthropy, sociology, and the arts to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical, and investment approach to granting money to 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. 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 research that could lead to breakthroughs in these areas and increase life expectancy in these types of cancers is at the core of our 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 <http://www.hope-funds.org> or call 401-847-3286.

*Hope Funds for Cancer Research: Advancing Innovative Research in Understudied Cancers*

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