



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

### Announces Newly Published Research in the Journal *Nature* from Postdoctoral Fellow

For Immediate Release  
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**Newport, RI - May 30, 2013** - A landmark study was published today in the journal *Nature*, from one of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research postdoctoral fellows, Dr. Jurre Kamphorst in Dr. Joshua Rabinowitz laboratory at Princeton University. The study identified new implications for Ras oncogenes in cancer metabolism.

"Dr. Kamphorst's, and his collaborators', novel finding of a way to target cancer metabolism in pancreatic cancer is very exciting," says Charles V. Baltic III, a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Trustee. "We are honored to be supporting this work."

The new research published in the May 30, 2013 issue of the journal *Nature*, identified macropinocytosis as an immortality mechanism in cancer cells, and the possibility of exploiting this process, which could lead to the design of anticancer therapies.

[To View Nature Article, Click Here](#)

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

Jurre is at Princeton University, in the laboratory of Joshua Rabinowitz, Ph.D. 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 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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