



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

Announces Newly Published Research in the journal *Cell* from Postdoctoral Fellow

For Immediate Release
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Newport, RI - March 31, 2014 - A paper was published on January 30, 2014 in the journal *Cell*, from one of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research postdoctoral fellows, Dr. Joo-Hyeon Lee in Dr. Carla Kim's laboratory at Children's Hospital Boston. The findings elucidate a pathway that may be a critical target in lung cancer.

"Dr. Lee's findings have defined a signaling pathway that specifies lung stem cell differentiation into multi epithelial lineages; this work reveals that manipulation of the microenvironment can direct the lineage-specific differentiation of lung stem cells, an important proof of principle for therapeutic development for lung diseases," says David Garrett, a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Trustee. "We are excited to be supporting this work."

The research published in the January 30, 2014 issue of the journal *Cell*, identifies molecules, such as TSP1, that could be used to specify alveolar epithelial differentiation from adult multipotent stem cells.

Cell Article, [To view this article, click here](#)

About Joo-Hyeon Lee, Ph.D.

Dr. Lee is at Children's Hospital Boston, in the laboratory of Carla Kim, Ph.D. Lung cancer is estimated to cause 160,000 deaths in the United States each year, a number that has remained unchanged after decades of cancer research. As a disease, cancer involves not only the tumor cells themselves, but also their surroundings, referred to as microenvironments. While this concept is accepted, many cancer researchers do not consider the tumor microenvironment idea in their experimental approaches. Dr. Lee is working to bring new technological approaches to lung cancer research by working to understand the role of the microenvironment and the molecules that regulate lung tumor growth. Using new techniques she previously developed, her work will help to determine which of the many mutations identified in human cancers are truly important therapeutic targets. This work will accelerate the discovery of novel therapeutic strategies for lung cancer patients.

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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