



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces Results of Historic Convening and a new Prize Competition for Collaborations

NEWPORT, RI -- May 4, 2016 -- The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, an organization dedicated to advancing innovative research for difficult-to-treat cancers, announced today that its historic scientific convening on cancer research, held on April 26-27, 2016 in New York City, has led to a collaboration competition. Participants in the convening, including two Nobel Laureates in Medicine or Physiology, two Lasker Awardees, and two Breakthrough Prize winners, along with the primary contributors to the drugs Neupogen, Rituxan, and the 7-plus-3 therapy for acute myeloid leukemia, developed the idea for this significant new collaboration competition as a key outcome of their discussion on the advantages and limitations of collaborating in life sciences research.

"This was an incredible Convening; one of the most interactive meetings I have ever attended and included so many of the worlds leaders in the field," stated Malcolm A.S. Moore, Chairman of the Hope Funds Board of Trustees.

The event was made possible with educational grants from Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen Oncology, New Link Genetics, and Jonathan & Nanci Lewis and sponsorship from A4 Architecture and J. McLaughlin.

Scientific Convening Participants

Imre Bartos, Columbia University
Lewis C. Cantley, Weill Cornell Medical School
Donald Cleveland, UC San Diego
Gina DeNicola, Weill Cornell Medical School
Harold Freeman, Institute for Patient Navigation
Antonio Grillo-Lopez, Idec Pharmaceuticals retired
William C. Hahn, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
James Holland, Mt. Sinai Medical School
Tyler Jacks, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, MIT
Leni Jacob, Beth Israel Deaconess
Jurre Kamphorst, Beatson Institute, Scotland
Bluma Lesch, Whitehead Institute at MIT
Joan Massague, Sloan-Kettering Institute
Craig Mello, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Malcolm A.S. Moore, Sloan-Kettering Institute
Larry Norton, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Thales Papagiannakopoulos, NYU Medical School
David Page, Whitehead Institute at MIT
Robert Roeder, Rockefeller University
Joan Steitz, Yale University
Sohail Tavazoie, Rockefeller University
Craig Thompson, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
James D. Watson, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Robert Weinberg, Whitehead Institute at MIT
Monte Winslow, Stanford University

Bryan R.G. Williams, Hudson Institute, Melbourne Australia
Richard Young, Whitehead Institute at MIT

The Collaboration Competition

The Hope Funds Emerging Ideas Competition is being defined as follows:

Collaborative Contest will be by invitation that is extended to all participants in the Scientific Convening Collaboration Workshop, Hope Funds Scientific Advisory Council Members, Hope Funds Fellows (both current and alumni)

Collaborative Groups can include people who are currently collaborating, but the project must be completely new

Collaborative Groups must include at least one senior investigator (PI) and one junior investigator (postdoctoral fellow); cannot be composed of only a fellow and their mentor, but can include a fellow and mentor as long as there are others involved

Collaborative Contest will take place during a face to face meeting on an annual basis, as a part of the Hope Funds Gala weekend, as an oral presentation

Hope Funds Emerging Ideas Competition Prize will be determined by a Peer-group attending the presentations, in addition to the Hope Funds Scientific Advisory Council and members of the Board of Trustees who are attending the presentations

About the Convening

The way in which cancer researchers deal with data is rapidly changing as the speed and power of biologic research has shattered previously defined limits. Computers and new technologies can now capture extremes in the complexity of biological life, making it increasingly necessary to approach data collection, storage and interpretation differently. Collaboration is crucial for data gathering and data interpretation, and how it is done will determine how soon we can improve outcomes for cancer patients. Hope Funds has been intimately involved in some of these developments. At this Convening, participants explored cutting-edge science with the potential to accelerate the rate of providing new treatments to people with difficult-to-treat cancers. Scientists explored novel ways of addressing and improving translating extensive findings into usable information, a field called Big Data. Hope Funds for Cancer Research believes we are at a critical junction in cancer research that requires increased scientific collaboration, which was a central focus at this Convening.

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, 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 or call 401-847-3286.

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

