



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

Hope Funds Announces Newly Published Research from Postdoctoral Fellow

For Immediate Release
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Newport, RI - August 11, 2010 - Newly published research, in the journal *Nature*, from one of the Hope Funds postdoctoral fellows, Dr. Pedro Medina in Dr. Frank Slack's laboratory at Yale University has described a potentially powerful novel route towards cancer therapy.

"Dr. Medina's work has focused on the possibility of targeting microRNAs as a therapy for human cancer", says Dr. Slack. MicroRNA-21 is almost ubiquitously over-expressed in human cancer, and the possibility existed that microRNA-21 was an oncogene. The new research published online on August 8th 2010 in the journal *Nature*, showed that mice over-expressing microRNA-21 develop an aggressive disease reminiscent of pre-B cell-lymphoma.

Remarkably, when the diseased mice had the expression of microRNA-21 terminated, the tumors completely regressed. The tumors thus show evidence of microRNA-21 dependence. The phenomenon of dependence is an important facet of recent successes in targeted cancer therapies, where small molecule drugs inhibit an oncogene required for maintenance of a tumor, leading to tumor regression. "These studies support efforts to target oncogenic microRNAs as an anticancer therapy" says Slack. "And we are grateful to the Hope Funds for Cancer Research for their support in funding Dr. Medina's efforts in this novel area".

About Pedro Medina, Ph.D.

Dr. Medina has been a Postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Frank Slack, in the department of Molecular, Cellular & Development Biology at Yale University since May 2007. Prior to joining Dr. Slack's lab, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Montserrat Sanchez-Cespedes, in the Lung Cancer Group at Spanish National Cancer Centre (CNIO), Madrid. During 2004, Dr. Medina was a Visiting Researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Hans Clevers at the Netherlands Institute for Development Biology. Dr. Medina received his doctorate and masters degrees from Spanish National Cancer Centre (CNIO) and his undergraduate degree in Microbiology from Universidad de Granada, Spain. Dr. Medina has been funded by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research since 2008.

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.

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