



PRESS RELEASE
December 7, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Kelly Willette

media@hope-funds.org

401-847-3286

Hope Funds for Cancer Research

www.hope-funds.org

Promising cancer therapy revealed in a study supported by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

NEWPORT, RI -- December 7, 2009 -- A new study published today in the journal *Oncogene* and partially funded by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research shows shrinkage of lung tumors by a microRNA in preclinical experiments. Lung cancer is a major cause of cancer deaths in the US, and existing therapies fail to treat this disease successfully in the overwhelming majority of cases.

Two years ago the Hope Funds started providing funding to Dr. Pedro Medina in Dr. Frank Slack's laboratory at Yale University to support the experimental use of microRNAs as a potential therapy for lung cancer. MicroRNAs are a newly discovered class of natural molecules that have been shown to play roles in lung cancer progression and response to therapy. Recently there has been a rush to apply knowledge of these molecules into clinical applications for better treatment of cancer patients. In the current work, research from Dr. Slack's laboratory, demonstrated for the first time that application of a microRNA can shrink pre-existing tumors in mice induced to get lung cancer. "These results are extremely promising, and definitely encourage us to take the next steps towards applying microRNAs to treat human cancers". But Slack cautions that this is really just the first step towards a human therapeutic, e.g. additional studies into toxicity and efficacy in larger animals needs to be performed as well as optimizing the molecules for best effect, before human trials can begin. The Slack laboratory is continuing to collaborate with oncologist, Dr. Joanne Weidhaas at Yale University School of Medicine and with scientists at Mirna Therapeutics test these ideas. "We are grateful to the Hope Funds for having the foresight to support this novel therapeutic avenue that we hope one day will lead to saving the lives of lung cancer patients", says Slack.

According to the American Cancer Society, in 2008, lung cancer was expected to make up 15% of all new cancers diagnoses, but 29% of all cancer deaths. Since current therapies fail in these cases there is a desperate need to identify new therapies based on a better understanding of the disease. The mission of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research is to encourage investigation of innovative cancer treatment and detection for the most difficult-to-treat and understudied cancers, lung cancer being one of these.

About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by individuals with experience in science, medicine, intellectual property law, investment banking, philanthropy, sociology and the arts, who wanted to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical and investment approach to awarding research grants. A strong emphasis is placed on identifying innovative 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 highly progressive illnesses that kill most of their victims within months, despite aggressive chemotherapy. The Trustees of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research believe that funding innovative research that can lead to medical breakthroughs and increased life expectancy is at the core of its 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 www.hope-funds.org.

END

12/07/09 - 8

###

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to naughjo@verizon.net by media@hope-funds.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Hope Funds for Cancer Research | 226 Bellevue Avenue, Suite 6 | Newport | RI | 02840