



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

### Hope Funds Announces Newly Published Research from Postdoctoral Fellow

For Immediate Release  
Media Contact:  
Joclyn Schaap  
401-847-3286  
[media@hope-funds.org](mailto:media@hope-funds.org)

**Newport, RI - March 14, 2011 -**

Newly published research, in the journal *Cancer Cell*, from one of the Hope Funds postdoctoral fellows, Dr. Eric Sawey in Dr. Scott Powers laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, identifies a promising new approach that may improve the treatment of liver cancer.

"Dr. Sawey's work has focused on the possibility of predicting patient-response to a given therapy in liver cancer", says David Garrett, a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Trustee. "We are excited to be supporting work in this understudied area."

The new research published online on March 14, 2011 in the journal *Cancer Cell*, showed promise for a personalized-medicine approach to treating liver cancer. In this work, Dr. Sawey focused his efforts on genes that are amplified, or present in excess number, in hepatocellular carcinoma. Eighteen tumor promoting genes were identified. One particular gene amplified in 15% of liver cancers, fibroblast growth factor 19 (*FGF19*), was found to be a significant promoter of tumor formation and growth. Dr. Sawey and his collaborators found that they could inhibit tumor development and growth by blocking *FGF19* when amplified with a blocking antibody. Therefore, they have demonstrated a possible targeted cancer therapy in conjunction with a biomarker, genetic amplification of *FGF19*, which should predict which patients are most likely to respond to the therapy.

[To view \*Cancer Cell\*, click here](#)

#### **About Eric Sawey, Ph.D.**

Dr. Sawey has been a Postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Scott Powers, Ph.D. at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory since June 2008. Dr. Sawey received his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY in May 2008. His dissertation topic was *Matrix Metalloproteinase-7 Controls Pancreatic Acinar Cell Transdifferentiation by Activating the Notch Signaling Pathway*. He received his undergraduate degree in Pharmaceutical Science from University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. Eric Sawey has been funded by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research since July 2009.

#### **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: Advancing Innovation in Understudied Cancers*

[To visit our website, click here](#)



03/14/11 - 2

[Forward email](#)



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

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