



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

### Announces Fellow's Appointment at NYU School of Medicine

For Immediate Release  
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**Newport, RI - September 28, 2015** - After working for five years at the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT with the pioneer for the use of gene-targeting technology in mice to study cancer-associated genes, Tyler Jacks, Ph.D., our Fellow Thales Papagiannakopoulos has received an appointment as an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and the Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU School of Medicine.

"Through highly innovative research, Thales and his colleague's in the Jacks laboratory have made significant steps towards identifying causes of human lung cancer, and we look forward to Dr. Papiangiannkopoulos' continued success in this field as a faculty member at NYU School of Medicine," stated Adrian Hobden, Ph.D., a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Trustee.

Prior to his postdoctoral fellowship at MIT, Thales received his doctorate from University of California, Santa Barbara, and his Bachelors in Science with Honors from the University of Sussex in the UK.

#### About Thales Papagiannakopoulos, Ph.D.

Dr. Papagiannakopoulos is a member of the Hope Funds 2012 class of Fellows. While a Hope Funds Fellow, Thales was at the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT, in the laboratory of Tyler Jacks, Ph.D. His research focuses on lung cancer, which is a leading cause of deaths worldwide. The Jacks laboratory has established an autochthonous mouse model of human lung adenoma and adenocarcinoma. In these genetically engineered mice, lung tumors are induced in by activation of oncogenic mutant KrasG12D and deletion of tumor suppressor p53, two genetic lesions that commonly occur in human lung cancer. These mouse model tumors mimic human lung adenocarcinoma tumors in their progression showing similarities both at the molecular and histological level. Using this well-defined lung cancer mouse model Dr. Papagiannakopoulos' work investigated whether circadian rhythm disruption contributes to lung tumor initiation and progression. Circadian Rhythms are highly conserved daily oscillations that align physiological functions with the day/night cycles. Disruption of circadian rhythms is a major consequence of a modern lifestyle. Loss of circadian clock synchrony is associated with the range of diseases, including cancer. Epidemiological studies have revealed that the risk for many types of cancer is significantly higher in industrialized societies, particularly among shift-workers. In 2010, the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer published an assessment on carcinogenicity of shift-work, which concluded: "shift-work that involves circadian disruption is probably carcinogenic to humans." This raises many concerns, since the United States alone, it is estimated that 20% of the work force is subjected to shifting work schedules. Dr. Papagiannakopoulos' studies aim to uncover the functional importance and provide molecular insight into circadian rhythm disruption in lung tumor initiation and progression. Dr. Papagiannakopoulos published his findings in the October 22, 2014 issue of the journal *Nature*, [Click Here](#).

### About Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by individuals with 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, rare leukemias and lymphomas, 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 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 <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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