



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

### Announces Newly Published Research in the journal *Cell* from Postdoctoral Fellow

For Immediate Release  
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**Newport, RI - February 27, 2014** - A paper was published today in the journal *Cell*, from one of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research postdoctoral fellows, Dr. Manuel Valiente in Dr. Joan Massague's laboratory at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The study discusses the role of anti-PA serpins in a unifying mechanism for the initiation of brain metastasis in lung and breast cancers.

"Dr. Valiente's findings reveal two critical requisites for brain metastasis," says David Garrett, a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Trustee. "We are honored to have been supporting this breakthrough work for the last three years."

The new research published in the February 27, 2014 issue of the journal *Cell*, discusses a mechanism by which breast and lung cancers metastasize to the brain. Brain metastasis is a leading cause of death in these cancers.

To View *Cell* Article, [Click Here](#)

#### About Manuel Valiente, Ph.D.

Dr. Valiente is a postdoctoral Fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, in the laboratory of Joan Massague, Ph.D. Brain metastasis affect between 10 to 30% of patients diagnosed with solid tumors. Development of therapeutic approaches have improved the control of extracranial systemic disease; however, the specific nature of the central nervous system, with a very restricted permeability of brain capillaries, is leading to a concurrent increase in the rate of patients affected by brain metastasis. The occurrence of a brain metastasis is accompanied with a dismal prognosis and poor survival rates. Using experimental mouse models, Drs. Valiente and Massague have discovered that a number of genes are specifically expressed on human cancer cell lines from breast and lung adenocarcinomas that preferentially metastasize in the brain. They used this opportunity to evaluate which of these genes play fundamental roles in the establishment of brain metastasis. Identification of these genes and the processes in which they are involved will help these researchers directly target the ability of cancer cells to invade the brain from the initial events of the metastatic disease. This will create new opportunities to improve the design of therapeutic drugs that can treat metastatic brain disease.

#### 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 for Cancer Research: Advancing Innovative Research in Understudied Cancers*

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