



New Therapy for Brain Metastasis Developed by Hope Funds Fellow Valiente and Research Team

For Immediate Release
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Newport, RI - July 12, 2018 - A team led by Dr. Manuel Valiente, a 2010 Hope Funds for Cancer Research fellow, has released its findings of a successful new therapy for the treatment of brain metastasis.

The study, published in *Nature Medicine*, shows that the administration of the compound silibinin in patients with brain metastasis reduces lesions without causing any adverse effects.

The preliminary trial provides proof of concept that the compound could be a new effective and safe alternative treatment.

"We have demonstrated that we can successfully treat brain metastasis," stated Dr. Valiente in a press release. "This treatment could also be valid for any type of brain metastasis, regardless of the primary tumor that generated it." The full press release can be read by clicking [here](#).

Dr. Valiente is Principal Investigator of the Valiente Lab's Brain Metastasis Group, which develops research projects on brain metastases at CNIO, the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncológicas in Madrid, Spain. His team's research studies cancer cells that metastasize to the brain

In 2017, Dr. Valiente was named a recipient of the Young Investigator Award by the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA), the largest private funder of melanoma research, for work on brain metastasis.

"We are excited and proud to learn of this important study by Dr. Valiente and his team," said Leah Rush Cann, Chair of the Executive Committee for the Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

The originators of Hope Funds aimed to fund outstanding post-doctoral researchers as the most productive and cost effective way of supporting important research in the most challenging and understudied cancers.

"The Hope Funds fellowships have become a critical bridge for these outstanding scientists to remain focused on research at a time when research is extremely scarce," said Ms. Cann. "The fellowships not only support three years of research, but, as demonstrated by Manuel Valiente and others, also help facilitate a lifetime of making discoveries."



Manuel Valiente, Ph.D, D.V.M. has a degree in Veterinary Medicine (1998-2003, Zaragoza) awarded with the Extraordinary Licensure Award and 2nd Spanish National Licensure Award. With an interest in the Central Nervous System and following a research internship, he pursued a PhD in Neuroscience (Institute of Neuroscience, 2005-2009). In the laboratory of Oscar Marín, he developed several projects to understand the principles that govern migration of neuronal precursors needed to establish functional circuits in the adult. His doctoral work produced seven publications in leading journals in the field and was awarded the Extraordinary Doctoral Award. To expand his scientific training while maintaining the nervous system as the main focus of his research, Dr. Valiente joined the laboratory of Joan Massagué (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, 2010-2014) where he was interested on finding critical mediators of brain metastases during the colonization of this organ. His previous experience in techniques used in Neuroscience and knowledge of brain biology enabled him to develop new approaches to answer this question. The most significant contributions during this period were the discovery of the molecular bases of the high inefficiency in the metastatic colonization of the brain and the identification of a cell adhesion molecule critical for vascular co-option. In 2015 Manuel established the Brain

Metastasis Group at the CNIO where he leads a team of scientists whose goal is to discover critical aspects of the biology of brain metastasis that can be directed toward the development of new therapeutic opportunities.

About Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by a group of concerned 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, and ovarian cancers, and rare lymphomas, leukemias and MDS. 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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