



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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Life Trustee Dr. Antonio Grillo-Lopez Featured in Hope Funds Video

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NEWPORT, RI -- December 27, 2018 -- Dr. Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez, former Chief Medical Officer of IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation (now Biogen), discusses cancer clinical research and drug development in a video released by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

The video, produced by television journalist Gary Jobson, a Hope Funds Life Trustee, may be viewed [here](#).

Dr. Grillo-Lopez, a 2007 Hope Funds Award of Excellence recipient and a Life Trustee, is known internationally for his medical research and development of products in the fields of oncology, immunology, cardiology, neurology and infectious disease.

In 2014, Dr. Grillo-Lopez and his wife Maria Grillo established a named fellowship, the Grillo-Marxuach Fellowship, at Hope Funds. Dr. Brian Abraham was the first recipient of this named award.

"The Hope Funds is delighted to share this conversation with Dr. Grillo-Lopez, who has been a staunch supporter of Hope Funds for more than a decade," said Leah Rush Cann, Chair of the Executive Committee. "We are privileged to have honored Dr. Grillo-Lopez for his extraordinary contribution to the field of lymphoma treatment."

Antonio J. Grillo-López, MD, DSc (hc)

At IDEC Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Antonio J. Grillo-López led clinical development of IDEC-C2B8 (Rituxan®, MabThera), the first antibody approved for the treatment of cancer, approved in 1997 by the FDA for the treatment of patients with low-grade or follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. At IDEC, he also supervised the development of Zevalin, the first radioimmunotherapy approved for the treatment of cancer. He has been instrumental in the clinical development of over 25 anticancer agents including: Rituxan, Zevalin, trimetrexate, deoxycoformycin, amsacrine, amsalog, brequinar, tiazofurin, deazaguanine, diaziquone, ametantrone, fostriecin, selenazole, BTPI, acridinecarboxamide, LAK/IL2, Specifid, Melimmune, and



the anthrapyrazoles. For his medical work he was awarded the Leukemia Society of America Triumph Award, the Cure for Lymphoma Foundation Trailblazer Award and the Peter McCuen Cancer Research Excellence Award from the University of California. In 2004 he received the first Discovery Health Channel Medical Honors Award for lifetime achievements in clinical cancer research. Prior to his groundbreaking work at IDEC, he was Executive Medical Director for International Clinical Research and Development at DuPont Merck for five years; Vice President, Clinical Therapeutics and Director, Clinical Oncology Research at Parke Davis (Warner Lambert) for seven years; and was Associate Professor of Medicine in the Department of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Grillo-López trained as a hematologist and oncologist at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, San Juan, where he received his medical degree and later founded the Puerto Rico Society of Hematology and the Latin American Society of Hematology. Dr. Grillo-López has authored over 400 publications, primarily in the fields of hematology and oncology, including co-authorship of the current international response criteria for lymphoma. In 2003 he was named "Distinguished Alumnus" of the University of Puerto Rico during its Centennial celebrations. Dr. Grillo-López was awarded an honorary doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa in Scientific Research) by his alma mater, the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in 2013.



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical, and investment approach to making grants for the most innovative and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, renal and ovarian cancers, as well as rare leukemias, lymphomas 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 young, innovative researchers will lead to breakthroughs in these areas and increase life expectancy for those with these types of cancers. 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 or call 401-847-3286.

Hope Funds for Cancer Research: Advancing innovative research in understudied cancers



Hope Funds for Cancer Research is an independent and unaffiliated non-profit organization

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