



## Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
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### Hope Funds Announces Selection of 2018 Postdoctoral Fellows

NEWPORT, RI -- January 11, 2019 -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, announced its selection of this year's recipients for its Hope Funds Postdoctoral Fellowships, reflecting the organization's strong commitment to promoting scientific innovation.

"This class of Hope Funds Fellows represents the very best of talented young cancer researchers," said Leah Rush Cann, Executive Committee Chair, Hope Funds Board of Trustees. "Their work will have a positive impact on our ability to understand and treat the most difficult and deadliest cancers."

Applications for the fellowships came from the most prestigious research institutions and were reviewed by a global scientific study session comprised of key-opinion-leader scientists working in oncology. From more than two hundred applications, Hope Funds selected its three 2018 Fellows: Mary Jane Tsang Mui Ching, Ph.D., the Whitehead Institute at MIT; Sharon M. Louie, Ph.D., Boston Children's Hospital; and Yaara Oren, Ph.D., the Broad Institute and Harvard Medical School. Each Fellow will receive approximately \$160,000 over three years to fund their research.

#### About the 2018 Fellows

**Mary Jane Tsang Mui Ching, Ph.D.**, is in the laboratory of Iain Cheeseman, Ph.D. at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. Her work seeks to understand the molecular determinants that underlie differences in patient response to allow for more effective, patient-specific choices for difficult-to-treat cancers such as ovarian and lung cancers. She received her B.A. in Chemical-Biological Engineering and Biology from MIT and her Ph.D. in Biological and Biomedical Sciences from Harvard. *Dr. Tsang Mui Ching is the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Sakonnet Fellow.*

**Sharon M. Louie, Ph.D.**, is in the laboratory of Carla F. Kim, Ph.D. at Boston Children's Hospital. Her research seeks to identify potential therapeutic targets that are likely overlooked during whole tumor analyses to potentially reduce lung cancer recurrence and metastases, which account for the majority of lung cancer patient mortality. She received her B.A. in Molecular Toxicology and her Ph.D. in Metabolic Biology from the University of California, Berkeley. *Dr. Louie is the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellow.*

**Yaara Oren, Ph.D.**, is in the laboratories of Aviv Regev, Ph.D. and Joan Brugge, Ph.D. at The Broad Institute and Harvard Medical School. Her work seeks to uncover and understand the factors that contribute to the re-emergence of ovarian cancer that is still responsive to chemotherapy, by using a new method that allows her to trace how individual single cells respond to multiple rounds of chemotherapy. She received her B.A. and Ph.D. from Tel-Aviv University.

More information about the 2018 Hope Funds Fellows may be found by [clicking here](#).

### **About the Hope Funds Fellowships**

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research supports research for highly innovative projects that challenge the traditional paradigms associated with understanding the causes, mechanisms, progression, disease markers, or risk factors of the most difficult-to-treat cancers. Hope Funds believes it is important to emphasize creative approaches to research and award grants to young scientists based on the following criteria: project innovation and originality; the significance and direct relevance of the research proposal; the project's approach and conceptual framework; the researcher's qualifications and those of his or her mentors; and the quality of the researcher's overall working environment. To learn about all Hope Funds Fellows visit: [2017 Fellows](#), [2016 Fellows](#), [2015 Fellows](#), [2014 Fellows](#), [2013 Fellows](#), [2012 Fellows](#), [2011 Fellows](#), [2010 Fellows](#), [2009 Fellows](#), [2008 Fellows](#).

The Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship is funded by Antonio Grillo-Lopez and his wife Maria Marxuach Grillo. The Grillo-Marxuach Family are longtime supporters of Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

The Sakonnet Fellowship is funded anonymously by a generous donor to Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

### **About the 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, please visit [www.hope-funds.org](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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