



Brian J. Abraham, PhD, Joins the Faculty of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis

For Immediate Release
Media Contact:
John Wells
212-769-2170
media@hope-funds.org

Newport, RI - January 22, 2019 - Brian J. Abraham, PhD, former Hope Funds for Cancer Research Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellow, has joined the faculty of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as an Assistant Member. Dr. Abraham launched his laboratory in the Computational Biology Department at St. Jude in January 2019.

"We are delighted to learn of Dr. Brian Abraham's appointment at St. Jude and the start of his laboratory there," said Leah Rush Cann, Chair of the Executive Committee for the Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

Dr. Abraham investigates how the various types of cells in a person's body interpret the same DNA they contain to carry out different, characteristic tasks. The same mechanisms that drive cellular specialization are often altered or abused in diseased cells, especially in cancers. He conducts computational genomics and statistical analyses using datasets from DNA sequencing applications to increase understanding of the mechanisms that underpin the genetic regulation of cell identity, including those that drive cancer cell identity. His work has contributed to the development of a promising new class of anti-tumor small molecule that attacks tumor cell transcription.

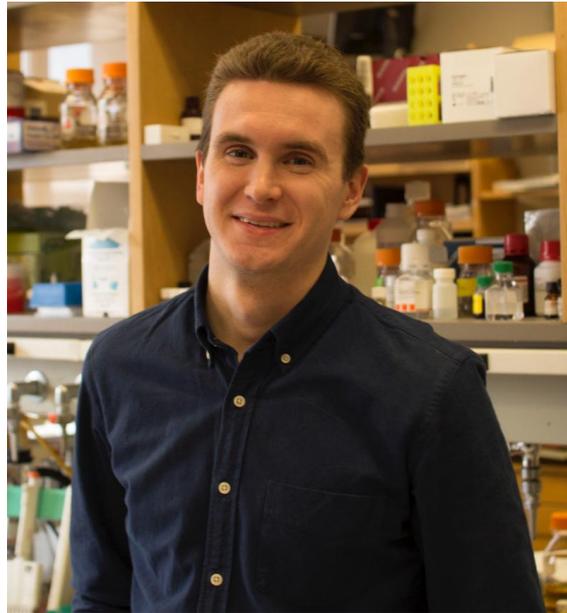
"Holding the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship helped put me on the path to my new, independent position at St. Jude," said Dr. Abraham. "I'm deeply grateful for the support of the Hope Funds community and am looking forward to advancing the mission of St. Jude through my research."

About Brian J. Abraham, PhD

Dr. Abraham joined the St. Jude faculty after completing post-doctoral research in the laboratory of Richard A. Young, PhD, at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. As a computational biologist in the Young Lab, Dr. Abraham was an

integral member of many different teams investigating the transcriptional mechanisms underlying mammalian cell identity in health and disease.

Dr. Abraham's expertise lay in finding answers to biological questions by writing computer code that distills key takeaways from datasets generated by labmates or the research community. While a member of the Young Lab, Abraham held the Hope Funds Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship from 2015-2018. Dr. Abraham holds bachelor of science degrees in medical informatics and information technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He is a graduate of Clarence Senior High School in Clarence, NY.



Dr. Abraham has contributed to over 40 published academic papers in journals such as Nature, Science, and Cell as well as first-author papers in Nature Communications and BMC Genomics. In addition to sharing his research with the academic community, Dr. Abraham promotes science communication and outreach to all audiences and has been featured at American Scientist, NOVA Science Cafe, the Cambridge Science Festival, the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), and LabTV.

Dr. Abraham is a member of the American Society for Human Genetics, ISSCR, and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). He serves on the AACR Associate Member Council helping to provide training and leadership opportunities for scientists-in-training.

About St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats, and cures childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. It is the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted solely to children. Treatments developed at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent since the hospital opened more than 50 years ago. St. Jude freely shares the breakthroughs it makes, and every child saved at St. Jude means doctors and scientists worldwide can use that knowledge to save thousands more children. Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing and food - because all a family should worry about is helping their child live. To learn more, visit stjude.org or follow St. Jude on social media @stjuderesearch.

About The Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship

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.

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

To visit our website, click [here](#).

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1/22/19 - 3

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