



## Peter Ly, PhD, Joins the Faculty of UT Southwestern Medical Center, Publishes in *Nature Genetics*

**For Immediate Release**  
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Newport, RI - March 18, 2019 - Peter Ly, PhD, former Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellow, has joined the faculty of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and a CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research.

"We are greatly pleased to learn of Dr. Peter Ly's appointment at UT Southwestern and the launching of his laboratory there," said Leah Rush Cann, Chair of the Executive Committee, the Hope Funds for Cancer Research.

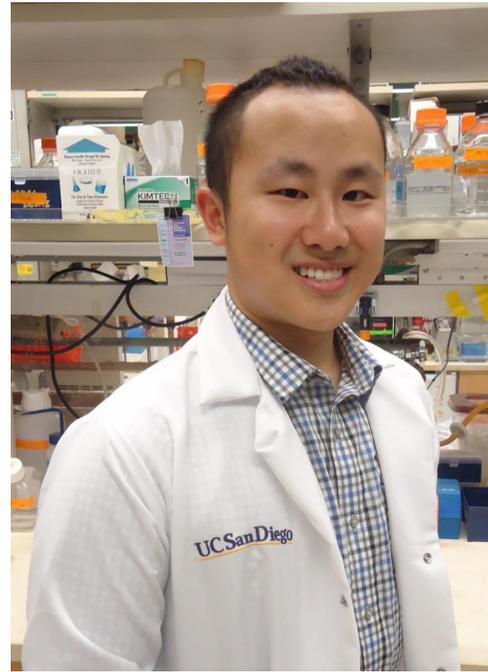
Dr. Ly's latest paper, which describes how cancers acquire chromosomal alterations, has been published in the March issue of *Nature Genetics*. Dr. Ly is first author and co-corresponding author on the article, which describes research supported in part by Hope Funds. An overview of the article can be found by clicking [here](#).

Dr. Ly's research group is broadly interested in the cellular mechanisms of genomic instability and their biological consequences in human health and disease, particularly in the context of cancer development. Major areas of investigation include how defects in mitotic cell division, chromosome segregation, centromere regulation, and DNA repair pathways shape the chaotic mutational landscape of cancer genomes. The laboratory is currently focused on exploring how mitotic errors trigger structural genomic rearrangements, which can span a spectrum of complexity that ranges from simple deletions and chromosomal translocations to catastrophic forms of chromothripsis.

### **About Peter Ly, PhD**

Peter Ly received his BA in Biology from Baylor University and earned his PhD in Cancer Biology from UT Southwestern Medical Center, where he studied under the mentorship of Drs. Jerry Shay and Woodring Wright to identify the consequences of

numerical chromosomal aberrations. In 2013, he pursued postdoctoral training with Dr. Don Cleveland at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and University of California San Diego. During his postdoctoral fellowship, Dr. Ly devised strategies to reconstruct the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying a complex spectrum of structural genomic rearrangements in human somatic cells. He was named a Fellow of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research in 2013 and was the recipient of the NIH Pathway to Independence Award from the National Cancer Institute. In 2019, he was recruited to UT Southwestern Medical Center as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology. He was awarded a Recruitment of First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Award from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT).



He is also a member of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and participates in graduate education through the Cancer Biology and Genetics, Development, and Disease Ph.D. training programs at UT Southwestern. He has been an active member of the American Society for Cell Biology since 2013.

#### **About UT Southwestern Medical Center**

UT Southwestern is an academic medical center, world renowned for its research, regarded among the best in the country for medical education and for clinical and scientific training, and nationally recognized for the quality of clinical care that its faculty provides to patients at UT Southwestern University Hospitals & Clinics and affiliated institutions. The Medical Center has three degree-granting institutions: UT Southwestern Medical School, UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and UT Southwestern School of Health Professions.

#### **About *Nature Genetics***

*Nature Genetics* is a monthly journal publishing the very highest quality research in genetics. It encompasses genetic and functional genomic studies on human and plant traits and on other model organisms. Current emphasis is on the genetic basis for common and complex diseases and on the functional mechanism, architecture and evolution of gene networks, studied by experimental perturbation.

#### **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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