



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Media Contact: John Archer Wells
media@hope-funds.org
212-769-2170

Hope Funds for Cancer Research 2019 Awards of Excellence Dinner and Gala Set for July 27 in Newport

NEWPORT, RI -- May 25, 2019 -- The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, will hold its 2019 Award of Excellence Dinner on Saturday, July 27th at Rosecliff, the legendary mansion in Newport, Rhode Island. The Chairs for the event are Mr. and Mrs. Ross S. Cann, Drs. Lewis Cantley and Vicki Sato, and Mr. and Mrs. William D. Rueckert.

The Awards Dinner and Gala is held annually by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research to provide support for programmatic activities and to raise funds for postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research. At this event the Hope Funds presents its Awards of Excellence, which recognize outstanding achievements in the fields of basic research, drug development, medicine, patient support and philanthropy. The formal awards dinner will be followed by a Ball.

"This event will highlight a remarkable group of scientists who are making a profound difference in cancer research and treatment," said Gala Co-Chair Leah Rush Cann. "The white-tie dinner, held in one of Newport's grand historic homes, is destined to be an extraordinary evening."

This year's honorees are John C. Byrd, M.D., for Clinical Development, the late Paul Greengard, Ph.D. for Philanthropy, William J. Kaelin, Jr., M.D., for Basic Science, Robert S. Langer, Sc.D. for Basic Science, and Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D., for Medicine.

"The 2019 Honorees epitomize the mission of Hope Funds," stated Dr. Lewis C. Cantley, Chairman of the Board, Hope Funds for Cancer Research. "Their contributions range from fundamental scientific discoveries that identify the underlying biology that needs to be targeted, to developing the agents that address the targets, to increasing recognition of pivotal science that needs funding and sponsorship that would lead to cures of these elusive diseases known as cancers."

About the Honorees

John C. Byrd, M.D.

Dr. Byrd is the D. Warren Brown Chair of Leukemia Research, Distinguished University Professor of Medicine, and Senior Advisor for Cancer Experimental Therapeutics at The Ohio State University. A graduate of Hendrix College in Conway, AR, he earned his medical degree at the University of Arkansas, and later completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and a postdoctoral fellowship at The Johns Hopkins University. His clinical practice focuses on caring for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML). With the goal of eradicating the need for chemotherapy in the treatment of leukemia, Dr. Byrd leads clinical trials on new classes of drugs and novel agents. A Fellow in the American College of Physicians, member of ASCI and AAP, and recipient of many honors, he has published more than 500 scholarly papers on clinical and laboratory investigations into AML and CLL.

Paul Greengard, Ph.D.

Dr. Greengard was the Vincent Astor Professor, head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, and from 1995 until his death in April 2019, was Director of the Fisher Center For Alzheimer's Disease Research at The Rockefeller University. He received his Ph.D. in biophysics from The Johns Hopkins University in 1953. He served as Director of Biochemistry at Geigy (now Novartis) Research Laboratories until 1968, when he was appointed Professor of Pharmacology and Psychiatry at Yale University. In 1983 he moved to The Rockefeller University in his final position. Dr. Greengard was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2000, Dr. Greengard was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Dr. Greengard donated his entire Nobel honorarium to create the Pearl Meister Greenberg Prize, which recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding women scientists. The prize is named in memory of his mother, who died giving birth to him.

William J. Kaelin, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Kaelin is the Sidney Farber Professor of Medicine, in the Department of Medicine at the DanaFarber Cancer Institute and the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He obtained undergraduate and M.D. degrees from Duke University and completed his internal medicine training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he served as chief medical resident. Dr. Kaelin's research seeks to understand how mutations affecting tumor-suppressor genes cause cancer. His laboratory is currently focused on studies of the VHL, RB-1, and p53 tumor suppressor genes. His long-term goal is to lay the foundation for new anticancer therapies based on the biochemical functions of such proteins. For example, his work motivated the successful testing of VEGF inhibitors (7 now FDA approved) and HIF2 inhibitors (currently entering Phase 3 trials) for kidney cancer. A recipient of many honors, including the Canada International Gairdner Award and the Albert Lasker Prize, he is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, American Society of Clinical Investigation, and American College of Physicians.

Robert S. Langer, Sc.D.

Dr. Langer is Institute Professor at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT. He received his bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1970 and his Sc.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1974, both in chemical engineering. He has written more than 1,450 articles and has over 1,350 issued and pending patents worldwide. Dr. Langer has launched over 30 companies and his patents have been licensed to over 350 companies. He is one of the ten most cited individuals and the most cited engineers in history. Dr. Langer has received over 220 major awards around the world and is one of four living people to receive both the U.S. National Medal of Science and the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation. He is also the first engineer to receive the Gairdner Foundation International Award, 87 recipients of which have subsequently received a Nobel Prize.

Antoni Ribas. M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Ribas is Professor of Medicine, professor of Surgery and professor of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Director of the Tumor Immunology Program at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Director of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI) Center at UCLA. Dr. Ribas trained at the University of Barcelona in Spain, and received postdoctoral training at UCLA. Dr. Ribas and his colleagues are conducting studies aimed at understanding how the immune system can be effectively used to treat cancer, focusing on the ability to activate killer immune cells specifically targeted to the cancer. He is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, and the recipient of the AACR Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Award, the AACR-CRI Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology, and a NCI Outstanding Investigator Award, among other honors.

Award of Excellence

Award of Excellence Honorees who receive this award are nominated through a formal process and selected based on their contributions to the field of cancer research and treatment, their integrity and character, and how they are regarded by their peers. Previous recipients of the award (2007 - 2017, by year) are Sir Paul Nurse, Ph.D., Craig Mello, Ph.D., Robert A. Weinberg, Ph.D., James E. Darnell, Jr., M.D., Joan Massagué, Ph.D., Janet Rowley, M.D., Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D., Phillip Sharp, Ph.D., Tyler Jacks, Ph.D., Robert Roeder, Ph.D., Joan Steitz, Ph.D., Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D., Joan Brugge, Ph.D. and David Baltimore, Ph.D. for Basic Science; Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez, M.D., Malcolm A. S. Moore, D.Phil., Brian Druker, M.D., George D. Demetri, M.D., Kenneth C. Anderson, M.D., Joseph Schlessinger, Ph.D., Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., Charles L. Sawyers, M.D., Napoleone Ferrara, M.D., John Mendelsohn, M.D., and James Allison, Ph.D. for Clinical Development; M. Judah Folkman, M.D., John Cameron, M.D., Sir Murray Brennan, M.D., Larry Norton, M.D., Azra Raza, M.D., George Sledge, M.D., Daniel D. Von Hoff, M.D., James Holland, M.D. and George Canellos, M.D. for Medicine; Paula Kim, Robert Bazell, Amy Dockser Marcus, Harold Freeman, Ellen Stovall, and Gary Jobson for Advocacy; Corporate Angel Network, Gilda's Club Worldwide, the Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Fund for Cancer Research, David H. Koch, Donald Listwin, Jan Vilcek, M.D., Ph.D. and Daisy Soros for Philanthropy.

About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The 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 interesting and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, bone and ovarian cancers; and rare leukemias, lymphomas and MDS. The Trustees of Hope Funds 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 its mission. Hope Funds for Cancer Research is an independent and unaffiliated non-profit organization 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

5/25/2019 - 5

- End -