



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Hope Funds Announces Selection of 2019 Postdoctoral Fellows

NEWPORT, RI -- June 17, 2019 -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, announced the selection of this year's recipients for its Hope Funds Postdoctoral Fellowships, reflecting the organization's strong commitment to promoting scientific innovation.

"Hope Funds is privileged to have the opportunity to fund these extraordinary young cancer researchers," said Leah Rush Cann, Executive Committee Chair, Hope Funds Board of Trustees. "They are making important contributions as they devise new approaches to understanding the 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 a hundred applications, Hope Funds selected its three 2019 Fellows: Alessandra Dall'Agnese, Ph.D., the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at MIT; Matthew E. Griffin, Ph.D., the Laboratory of Chemical Biology and Microbial Pathogenesis at The Rockefeller University; and Mateusz Legut, Ph.D., New York Genome Center.

Each Fellow will receive approximately \$160,000 over three years to fund their research.

About the 2019 Fellows

Alessandra Dall'Agnese, Ph.D., is at the Whitehead Institute at MIT in the laboratory of Richard Young, Ph.D. Her research aims to identify the unstructured parts of proteins relevant to hard-to-treat cancers and find drugs that would target them to impede the formation of transcriptional components of cancer-driving genes. She received her B.Sc. in Biotechnology from the University of Udine in Italy, M.Sc. in Functional Genomics from University of Trieste, Italy, and Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute in La Jolla, CA.

Matthew E. Griffith, Ph.D., is at The Rockefeller University in the laboratory of Howard Hang. His work aims to improve the effectiveness of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) by better understanding the causal relationships between individual microbial species in the gut and drug efficacy and providing novel strategies to broadly improve ICI efficacy against many cancers. He received his B.S. in Biological Chemistry from Tulane University, New Orleans and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from California Institute of Technology, Pasadena CA

Mateusz Legut, Ph.D., is in the laboratory of Dr. Neville Sanjana, Ph.D. at the New York Genome Center, which he joined because of his interest in applying functional genomics to study interactions of the immune system with cancer. His current work involves using genome engineering to develop first-in-kind effective immunotherapies for pancreatic cancer. He received his B.Sc. in Biotechnology from University of Wroclaw in Poland, and his Ph.D. in Cancer Immunology from Cardiff University School of Medicine in Wales, UK.

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: [2018 Fellows](#), [2017 Fellows](#), [2016 Fellows](#), [2015 Fellows](#), [2014 Fellows](#), [2013 Fellows](#), [2012 Fellows](#), [2011 Fellows](#), [2010](#)

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 or call 401-847-3286.

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

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