



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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

Hope Funds Annual Awards Gala Caps Weekend of Events in Newport

NEWPORT, RI -- July 31, 2019 -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, held its 2019 Award of Excellence Gala, held at Rosecliff in Newport, Rhode Island, on Saturday, July 27th at Rosecliff, raising funds for two full three-year postdoctoral fellowships.

The Awards Dinner and Gala is held annually by Hope Funds to provide support for programmatic activities and to raise funds for postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research. At the white tie dinner, distinguished honorees were presented with the Hope Funds Awards of Excellence, which recognize outstanding achievements in the fields of basic research, drug development, medicine, patient support and philanthropy.

The Chairs for the event, which drew 140 guests, were Mr. and Mrs. Ross S. Cann, Drs. Lewis Cantley and Vicki Sato, and Mr. and Mrs. William D. Rueckert.

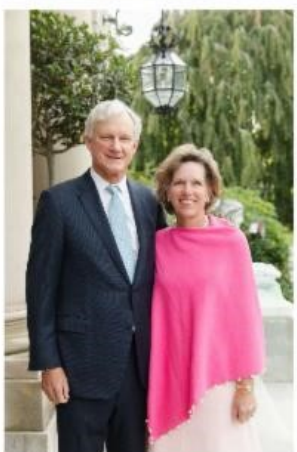
"Honoring these luminaries in the presence of our postdoctoral researchers and donors was truly the highlight of the weekend," said Gala Co-Chair Leah Rush Cann. "It was a magical evening with those who made what-was-a-good-idea-in-2006 turn into the reality that Hope Funds is today."



Honorees presented with the Hope Funds Award of Excellence were John C. Byrd, M.D., for Clinical Development, William G. Kaelin, Jr., M.D., for Basic Science, Robert S. Langer, Sc.D. for Basic Science, Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D., for Medicine, and the late Paul Greengard, Ph.D. for Philanthropy. Also in attendance were Past Honorees, the Hope Funds postdoctoral Fellows and many of their Mentors. To view photos: [Click here](#)

The Gala followed two days of Hope Funds-sponsored events in Newport.

The weekend began on Friday, July 26th at The Elms, with the annual Fellows Dinner which recognized the graduating Hope Funds Fellows and welcomed new Fellows into the fold.



The event was attended by members of the Board of Trustees, Hope Funds Alumni and Scientific Advisory Board members, in support of the organization's programmatic activities and postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research. The Chairs for the event were Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Gillson, Dr. & Mrs. Adrian Hobden, and Mr. & Mrs. Gary A. Jobson. To view photos: [Click here](#)

On Saturday, Hope Fund's Annual Women in Science Luncheon at the International Tennis Hall of Fame.



The event focused on the progress and challenges faced by women researchers, and featured a discussion with leading figures in the field of life sciences research, with proceeds funding postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research. The discussion addressed the importance of basic science discoveries for developing revolutionary treatments, the value of keeping young scientists in the field, and the progress women have made in this area. Members of the Luncheon Committee: Patricia F. Bilden, Leah Rush Cann, Drs. Lewis C. Cantley & Vicki Sato, Elizabeth Dankowski, Diana B. Douglas, Laura Gillson, Charles B. Holmes, Anne Hogg, Jessica Jalbert, Gary Jobson, Carla Kim, Elsa Beyer Krall, Bluma Lesch, Sarah Rodgers McNeil, Diana Pearson, Brooke Richter, Patricia Stensrud, and Johanna Withers. To view photos: [Click here](#)

To view photos visit Julie Skarratt's Blog: [Click Here](#)

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. (Posthumous)

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 Greengard 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 G. Kaelin, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Kaelin is the Sidney Farber Professor of Medicine, in the Department of Medicine at the Dana-Farber 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

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 the 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

07/31/2019 - 9

- End -

ÃfÂ,Ã,Â

ÃfÂ,Ã,Â