



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

2019 Hope Funds Honoree William G. Kaelin to Receive Nobel Prize

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

Newport, RI - October 7, 2019 - The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, congratulates its 2019 Award of Excellence recipient William G. Kaelin, M.D., for being awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work in the discovery of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.

The Nobel Committee stated that Dr. Kaelin, along with Sir Peter Radcliffe and Gregg Semenza, established the basis for our understanding of how oxygen levels affect cellular metabolism and physiological function. Their discoveries have also paved the way for promising new strategies to fight anemia, cancer and many other diseases.

"A noted target resulting from these discoveries is HIF (hypoxia-inducible factor)," stated Leah Rush Cann, Hope Funds Trustees, "Applications for increased HIF-expression are to treat anemia. Cancers result from tumors having increased HIF-expression, so drugs that inhibit HIF-expression could have wide ranging impact in cancer treatment."

"We at the Hope Funds for Cancer Research congratulate Dr. William G. Kaelin, Jr. for being named a recipient of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine," stated Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D., Chairman of the Hope Funds Board of Trustees.

The awards were announced earlier today in Stockholm. To view the Nobel release, [Click Here](#)

About William G. Kaelin, 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. Dr. Kaelin was awarded the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Award of Excellence in Basic Science on July 27, 2019 at a White-tie Dinner in Newport, RI.



Dr. Kaelin with his son and daughter at Hope Funds on July 27th (photo: Julie Skarratt)

About the Nobel Prize

The will of the Swedish chemist, engineer and industrialist Alfred Nobel established the five Nobel prizes in 1895. The prizes in Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine were first awarded in 1901. The prizes are widely regarded as the most prestigious awards available in their respective fields. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, the Nobel Prize in Physics; and the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute awards the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

About the Hope Funds Award of Excellence

Hope Funds Award of Excellence Recipients 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. These awards were first presented in 2007, and with today's announcement eight of these Awardees have received the Nobel Prize: Sir Paul Nurse, Ph.D., Craig Mello, Ph.D., Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D., Phillip Sharp, Ph.D., David Baltimore, Ph.D., Paul Greengard, Ph.D., James Allison, Ph.D., and William Kaelin, M.D. Three of these Awardees received the Nobel Prize subsequent to being selected for the Hope Funds Award for Excellence: Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D., James Allison, Ph.D., and William G. Kaelin.

About Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by a group of concerned individuals who have 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

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Hope Funds for Cancer Research, 174 Bellevue Avenue, Suite 208, Newport, RI 02840

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