



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release
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For Immediate Release

Hope Funds Announces Recipient of Newly-Created Parks Fellowship

NEWPORT, RI - December 9, 2019 -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, announced today that Hope Funds Fellow Alessandra Dall'Agnese, a postdoctoral fellow at the Whitehead Institute at MIT, will be the recipient of its newly-created Parks Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellowship.

The Fellowship has been established "to support furthering scientific understanding of the underlying causes of cancers, and for the support and encouragement at the most talented young researchers in this field," said longtime Hope Funds supporter Nancy Bostick Parks in conveying the gift.

Mrs. Parks has a particular interest in Dr. Dall'Agnese's research due to its potential application to the sorts of hard-to-treat cancers which afflicted her late husband and sister.

"In cancer research, postdoctoral studies and ongoing research are important next steps beyond the doctoral degrees our fellows have already earned," said Dr. Lewis Cantley, Chairman, Hope Funds Board of Trustees.

"Fellowships such as the one generously established by Nancy Parks serve to maximize the high potential for excellence in research of fellows like Dr. Alessandra Dall'Agnese, and lead to significant discoveries that may result in therapeutic advances for the benefit of cancer patients," said Dr. Cantley.

This Fellowship will fund Dr. Dall'Agnese's highly innovative work for the next three years.

About Alessandra Dall'Agnese, PhD

Alessandra Dall'Agnese, PhD, is at the Whitehead Institute at MIT in the laboratory of Richard Young, PhD. 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. Her project focuses on ovarian cancer and as time permits, extend these studies to other difficult-to-treat cancers such as pancreatic and small cell lung cancer. For years drug discovery focused on developing drugs that target structured points of proteins that repeat the expression of genes relevant to cancer. This strategy has been very useful to treat multiple types of cancers in patients but not difficult-to-treat cancers. There is therefore the urgent need to develop novel strategies to treat difficult-to-treat cancer. Alessandra's lab recently discovered that also unstructured parts of proteins play major



roles since they allow for the compartmentalization of the transcriptional opponents at genes important for cell identity. This project is innovative as it aims at identifying the unstructured parts of proteins relevant to hard-to-treat cancer and find drugs that would target them to impede the formation of transcriptional components of cancer-driving genes.

About the Parks Fellowship

The Parks Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellowship was established to support furthering scientific understanding of the underlying causes of cancers; and for the support and encouragement at the most talented young researchers in this field. Improved prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer is an important philanthropic pursuit of the Parks family. The Fellowship was established by Nancy Bostick Parks to honor her late husband, The Reverend Doctor Robert Ray Parks, and her late sister, Mary Stuart Auman. Mrs. Parks, who resides in New York City, is the widow of Rev. Dr. Parks, 15th Rector of Trinity Church, Wall Street in New York. A longtime supporter of Hope Funds for Cancer Research, where her son John Parks is a founding trustee, Mrs. Parks was inducted in 2018 into the organization's Order of Hope.



About the Hope Funds Fellowships

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 for Cancer Research 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. The three 2019 Fellows were selected from a pool of more than 100 highly qualified applications. To learn about all Hope Funds Fellows visit: www.hope-funds.org, under Grants.

Naming Opportunities for Fellowships

A naming opportunity to donate to the Hope Funds and is an opportunity to encourage a highly-dedicated, talented cancer researcher with your name. To view current research naming opportunities, visit: <http://www.hope-funds.org/giving/> and scroll down to Naming Opportunities.

About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by individuals with experience in science, medicine, intellectual property law, investment banking, philanthropy, sociology and the arts, who wanted to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical and investment approach to awarding research grants. A strong emphasis is placed on identifying innovative and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, ovary cancers, rare leukemias and lymphomas, and MDS. The Trustees of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research believe that funding innovative research that can lead to medical breakthroughs and increased life expectancy is at the core of its 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 www.hope-funds.org

Hope Funds for Cancer Research is an independent and unaffiliated non-profit organization

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