



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

Hope Funds Alumna Bluma Lesch Named SAC CoChair

For Immediate Release

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Newport, RI - March 10, 2020 - The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, congratulates Dr. Bluma (Bibi) Lesch, Assistant Professor of Genetics at Yale School of Medicine, as the newly-named Co-Chair of its Scientific Advisory Council.

Dr. Lesch, a 2013 Hope Funds Fellow while a postdoctoral fellow at the Whitehead Institute at MIT, joins Professor Bryan R.G. Williams, distinguished researcher and international authority on innate immunity and cancer biology, as co-chair of the SAC

"We are delighted that Dr. Lesch is continuing her relationship with Hope Funds by assuming this important role," stated Leah Rush Cann, Executive Committee Chair, Hope Funds Board of Trustees.

Dr. Lesch's scientific career focuses on mechanisms of transcriptional regulation in the context of evolution, development, and disease. Currently, her lab focuses on better understanding the rules and mechanisms of gene regulatory evolution, using a combination of experimental and computational techniques, and defining the role of epigenetic information in the paternal germ line on gene expression, development, and phenotype in the next generation. A combination of molecular biology, mouse genetics, and comparative evolutionary genomics to address these questions.

Dr. Lesch has served on the Hope Funds SAC since 2015.



About Bluma Lesch, MD, PhD

Dr. Lesch works on the genetics and epigenetics of reproduction and development, with a special interest in the evolution of epigenetic and chromatin states in mammals. Understanding the evolution of gene regulation in gametes requires integrating information across a wide range of biological scales, from the regulation of molecules to the development of individuals to the evolution of species. Dr. Lesch's work brings together these divergent approaches to thinking about biology. She earned her BS from Yale University in 2003. She obtained her PhD in 2010 from Rockefeller University, where her doctoral advisor was Cori Bargmann PhD, and her MD in 2011 from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the

Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, MA, in the lab of David Page, MD from 2011-2017, where she was awarded an NIH Kirschstein postdoctoral fellowship. She received a Burroughs Wellcome Career Award for Medical Scientists in 2015, and returned to New Haven to join the Yale faculty in 2017.

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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