



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

Hope Funds Announces Named Fellowship Recipients

For Immediate Release

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NEWPORT, RI – June 5, 2024 -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, has announced that Jonathan Lee, Ph.D., is the recipient of the Chiles Family Research Fellowship and that Adrienne Vancura, Ph.D. is the recipient of the Parks Fellowship for 2024.

"Hope Funds is deeply grateful to Nancy Parks, and to the Chiles family, for this generous support," said Prof. Bryan R.G. Williams, Chair, Hope Funds Board of Trustees.

"Postdoctoral studies, research and mentorship are important steps beyond the doctoral degrees our Hope Funds Fellows have achieved," said Prof. Williams. "These aspects help augment the potential for excellence in research of Fellows, such as Drs. Lee and Vancura, and lead to important work."

About Jonathan D. Lee, Ph.D.

Dr. Lee is a current postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Frank Slack, Ph.D. at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard University. He works to develop new tools and technologies to characterize the sets of transcription factors and regulatory RNAs dysregulated in difficult-to-treat cancers, with a current focus on acute myeloid leukemia. He received his A.B. and A.M. in Chemistry, S.M. in Applied Mathematics, and Ph.D. in Biology and Biomedical Science at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.

About the Chiles Family Fellowship

Col. John H. Chiles, M.D. and his wife Mary Chiles are continuing the support of naming young researchers that was first started by the Chiles family by John's late sister, Dr. Lucylee Chiles (1941-2013). Both Lucylee and John ("Jack") Chiles are dedicated members of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Council of Advisors. Lucylee was stricken with ovarian cancer in 2004, she knew personally the vital importance of promoting research in lesser studied cancers. Having benefited from that research, she became a champion in funding the best and brightest minds in oncologic research, and in her estate established this named Fellowship at Hope Funds. Jack, a physician himself, has continued the tradition, recognizing the importance of scientific research and innovation in the armamentarium for treating cancer.

About Adrienne Vancura, Ph.D.

Dr. Vancura is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Richard A. Young, Ph.D., at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at MIT. She is currently working on transcription factors which harbor novel RNA binding domains, and how these interactions govern the structure of genomes. Her goal is to be an independent investigator exploring

RNA molecules and their versatile functions within a cell. Dr. Vancura received her B.S. and Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Bern, and her M.S. in Biochemistry and Cancer Biology at the University of Amsterdam.

About the Parks Hope Funds for Cancer Research 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 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.

About 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 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

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