



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

**Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Hope Funds for Cancer Research Announces 2014 Program & Dinner

NEWPORT, RI -- July 15, 2014 --Hope Funds for Cancer Research, a charitable organization dedicated to advancing innovative research in the most difficult-to-treat cancers, today announced its 2014 Program Event and Dinner will be held in Newport, Rhode Island on Sunday, August 10th at Rosecliff. Chairs for the event are Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Aroy, Leah A. Hartman, Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Van Schaack. The Honorary Chairs are Dr. & Mrs. David Keefe, Drs. Alessandro Papa & Gwyneth Granton, Dr. & Mrs. Orest Zaklynsky

The organization holds programmatic events to increase awareness of cancer research breakthroughs, and to raise funds for cancer research. "Hope Funds for Cancer Research supports innovative research in cancers that are hardest to treat," stated Executive Committee Chair Leah Rush Cann, "and does this by funding young research scientists at pivotal moments in their careers."

This Panel Discussion on Innovative Cancer Treatment will include former NBC Chief Science Correspondent & Adjunct Professor at Yale University, Robert Bazell; Professor of Biology at Weill Cornell Medical College, Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D.; and three young scientists funded by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research, Gina DeNicola, Ph.D. from Weill Cornell Medical College; Bluma Lesch, M.D., Ph.D. from the Whitehead Institute at MIT; and Xiaoxing Wang, Ph.D. from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

About the Panelists

Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital

Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D., is Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Cantley graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1971. He obtained a Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from Cornell University in 1975 and did postdoctoral training at Harvard University. Prior to taking the position at Weill Cornell, he taught and did research in biochemistry, physiology and cancer biology in Boston, most recently at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School. His laboratory discovered the PI 3-Kinase pathway that plays a critical role in insulin signaling and in cancers. Dr. Cantley is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and has received a number of awards for his research, including the 2005 Pezcoller Foundation-AACR International Award for Cancer Research, the 2009 Rolf Luft Award for Diabetes and Endocrinology Research and the 2013 Breakthrough in Life Sciences Prize.

Dr. Cantley is the Mentor of Hope Funds Fellow, Gina DeNicola, Ph.D.

Robert Bazell

Former NBC Chief Science and Health Correspondent

Adjunct Professor at Yale University

Mr. Bazell graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1967 with a B.A. in biochemistry and Phi Beta Kappa honors, he studied biology at the University of Sussex as part of

his graduate work before returning to Berkeley to complete his doctoral candidate degree in immunology. Mr. Bazell pursued a dual interest in journalism and science by joining Science magazine in 1971 and writing for its News and Comment section. In 1976, he began a career in broadcast journalism by joining WNBC in New York as a reporter before moving to NBC News, where he was one of the first network news correspondents to report on the emerging AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s. He continued to cover health and science issues for the network until his retirement last summer. His reports appeared on NBC Nightly News, Today, and Dateline NBC. Mr. Bazell is a recipient of two Emmy Awards for his reports on the human brain, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, the Maggie Award from Planned Parenthood, and the George Foster Peabody Award for his service to broadcast journalism. In addition to his television accomplishments, he is the author of *HER-2*, the acclaimed account of the making of the first targeted cancer drug.

Mr. Bazell was the 2008 recipient of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Award of Excellence in Advocacy, [click here to hear Mr. Bazell's Remarks](#).

Gina DeNicola, Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medical College

Gina DeNicola is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Lewis Cantley at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. DeNicola obtained a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Pennsylvania State University and a doctoral degree in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Pennsylvania. During her graduate years in the lab of Dr. David Tuveson, Dr. DeNicola identified and characterized the regulation of the NRF2 transcription factor by the oncogene K-RAS in mouse models of pancreatic cancer and human tumor samples. Dr. DeNicola's postdoctoral research is focused on understanding the regulation of non-small cell lung cancer metabolism by NRF2 and identifying metabolic targets for cancer treatment. Dr. DeNicola is the recipient of the 2014 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Pathway to Leadership Award.

Gina was a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellow from July 2012 - June 2014.

Bluma Lesch, M.D., Ph.D.
Whitehead Institute at MIT

Bluma Lesch is a Hope Funds postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. David Page at the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She received a B.S. in molecular biology from Yale University, and completed her Ph.D. at Rockefeller University and her M.D. at Weill Cornell Medical College. She is examining the effects of epigenetic states in the germ line on inheritance of disease susceptibility. She recently demonstrated that a specific chromatin state that is frequently perturbed in cancer, known as poised (or bivalent) chromatin, is maintained in mammalian germ cells and is associated with many tumor suppressor genes. She is now exploring whether perturbation of this state leads to increased cancer susceptibility across generations.

Xiaoxing Wang, Ph.D.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and The Broad Institute

Dr. Wang is a postdoctoral research fellow in Dr. William Hahn's laboratory in Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Boston. Her research interest is colon cancer. She especially focuses on discovering novel oncogenes and oncogenic mechanisms using functional genomic tools. Dr. Wang received her doctorate at New York University School of Medicine in 2008. She was a Hope Funds for Cancer Research Fellow from 2009 - 2010. In 2010 she received a prestigious United States Department of Defense Fellowship. Xiaoxing currently serves on the Hope Funds Council of Advisors and the Programs Committee.

About the Event

This informal, benefit-evening will start with a Reception on the Rosecliff Terrace, which will be followed by the Panel Discussion in the Salon. At the conclusion of the 45 minute Panel Discussion, there will be a short question and answer period, followed by a Dinner in the Rosecliff Ball Room. Guests will have the opportunity to spend additional time with the Panelists at the conclusion of Dinner. Hope Funds for Cancer Research holds this event annually. Past events have

been held in Boston, New York and Newport. For more information on this year's event [Click here to visit Event webpage](#)

About the 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 interesting and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, 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. 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.

Advancing innovative research in understudied cancers

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

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