

Hope Funds for Cancer Research

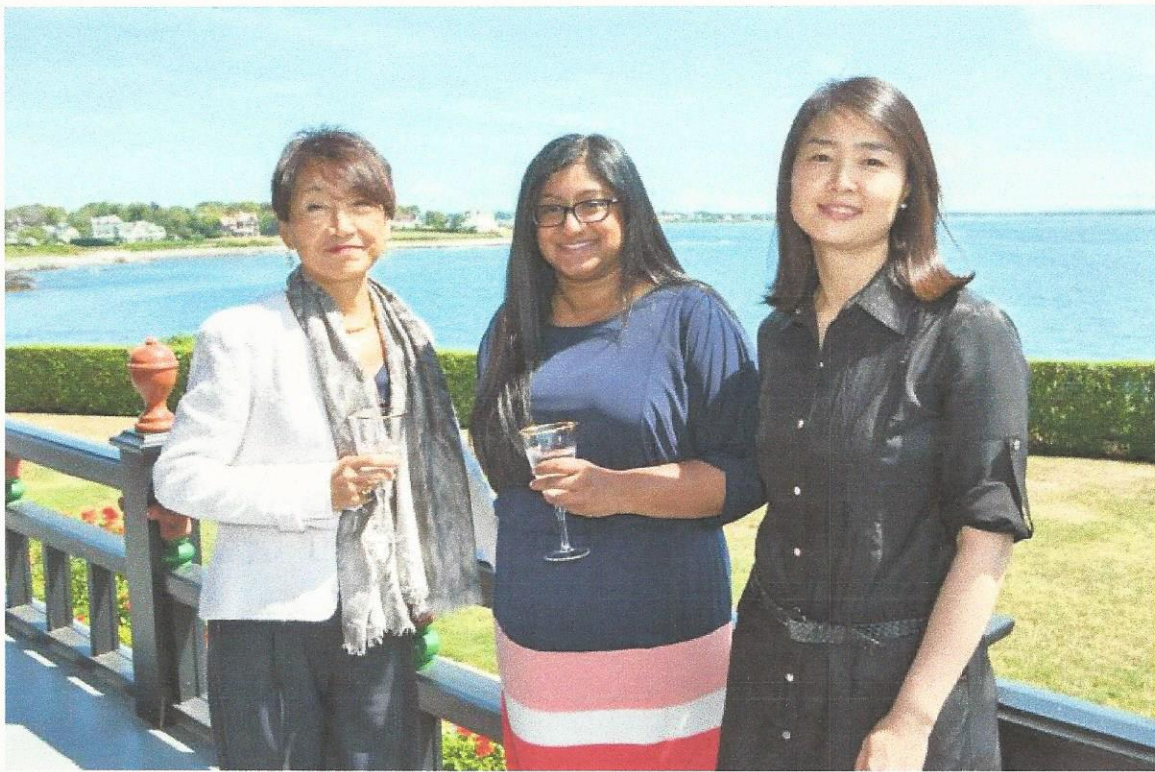
Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Hope Funds for Cancer Research Panel Discussion & Luncheon Highlights Progress and Challenges of Women Researchers

NEWPORT, RI -- August 12, 2015 -- The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, an organization dedicated to advancing innovative research for difficult-to-treat cancers, held a panel discussion on issues relating to women scientists on August 7th at the Chinese Tea House at Marble House in Newport, RI. The discussion was for the lay public and featured leading women in the field of life sciences research. The panel discussion was followed by a summer luncheon. The event was attended by philanthropists and physicians and raised funds towards a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer research.



Guests arriving at the Tea House



Panelists: Drs. Vicki Sato, Leni Jacob and Joo-Hyeon Lee

The three panelists, moderated by Hope Funds Trustee, Leah Rush Cann, addressed the importance basic science discoveries for developing revolutionary treatments, the importance of keeping young scientists in the field, and the progress women have made in this field. The panelists were Dr. Vicki Sato from Harvard University, and two Hope Funds Postdoctoral Fellows, Dr. Leni Jacob from Dr. Frank Slack's laboratory at Beth Israel Deaconess and Dr. Joo-Hyeon Lee from Dr. Carla Kim's laboratory at Children's Hospital Boston. The audience was astonished to learn that that cancer researchers are currently facing an unprecedented scarcity of funding. The discussion did end on a hopeful note, that science may be starting to become more prevalent in the national dialogue after a long quiet period, and that while women have not yet gained parity with men in this field, they are making notable progress.



Lunch in the Tea House

The day began with refreshments on the Tea House lawn and terraces overlooking the ocean and was capped off with a lovely summer luncheon in the Tea House, where guests had the opportunity to further discuss their ideas with the Hope Funds Postdoctoral Fellows.



Committee Members Teal Aroy and Kate Brierley Swiader with Eileen Marcuvitz

The Trustees of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research are especially grateful to the following Patrons for their support the event:

Marie Bennett, Patricia Bilden, M.D., Julia Bordon-Spillane, Kate Brierley Swiader, Paul & Sandy Edgerly, Mitchell Burgess & Robin Green, Elizabeth Kahane, Virginia Decker Keith, Ashley Jacobs, Eileen Marcuvitz, Patricia McGrath, Sarah Rodgers, Helene van Beuren, and Robin Grace Warren.

To view additional photos of this event, please see [2015 Ladies Lecture & Luncheon](#) on the Recent Events tab of our website.

Panelists

Vicki L. Sato, Ph.D.

Dr. Sato is the Professor of Management Practice at Harvard Business School and a Professor of the Practice in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at Harvard University. She earned her A.B. in Biology from Radcliffe College and her A.M. and Ph.D. in Biology from Harvard University. She did her postdoctoral work at University of California, Berkeley and Stanford Medical Center. Initially, she returned to Harvard as a Professor in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. Dr. Sato was VP of Research and a member of the Scientific Board at Biogen Inc. from 1984 to 1992. She then joined Vertex Pharmaceuticals as the Chief Scientific Officer and ultimately served as its President from 2000 to 2005. During her tenure, the drugs Avonex, Tysabri, and Telaprevir were developed. After retirement, she joined the faculty at Harvard where she is researching innovation and productivity in biotechnology and pharmaceutical research and development. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Bristol Myers Squibb, PerkinElmer, Inc., Galapagos NV, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc. She was also a founding member of the Scientific Board of the Broad Institute. She also acts as an advisor to Atlas Venture.

Leni Jacob, Ph.D.

Dr. Jacob is in the laboratory of Frank Slack, Ph.D at Beth Israel Deaconess/Harvard. Prior to joining Dr. Slack's lab, she was at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, in the laboratory of Joan Massague, Ph.D. Her project aims to study the most difficult-to-treat subset of cancer cells from most cancer types, cancer cells that have spread, or metastasized, to other organs. Metastatic disease is the greatest impediment to the therapeutic care of cancer patients and accounts for more than 90% of cancer-related deaths. Cancer cells that leave the primary tumor, or disseminated tumor cells (DTCs), can often lay dormant at distant organ sites for months or years, resistant to current therapies, before developing into overt metastatic tumors.

Dr. Jacob is the Hope Funds for Cancer Research Green-Burgess Fellow

Joo-Hyeon Lee, Ph.D.

Dr. Lee is currently in the laboratory of Carla Kim, Ph.D. at Children's Hospital Boston, and has accepted a faculty appointment at Cambridge University, starting later this year. Lung cancer is estimated to cause 160,000 deaths in the United States each year, a number that has remained unchanged after decades of cancer research. As a disease, cancer involves not only the tumor cells themselves, but also their surroundings, referred to as microenvironments. Dr. Lee is working to bring new technological approaches to lung cancer research by working to understand the role of the microenvironment and the molecules that regulate lung tumor growth. This work will accelerate the discovery of novel therapeutic strategies for lung cancer patients.

Dr. Lee published her findings on this research in the January 30, 2014 issue of the Journal *Cell*.

About the Chinese Tea House at Marble House

Marble House, built between 1888 and 1892 at a reported cost of \$11 million or (\$260 million in current dollars), was a 39th birthday present to Alva Vanderbilt from her husband William K. Vanderbilt. When Alva took up the cause of women's suffrage, in 1912 she had the "Chinese Teahouse" designed by Hunt & Hunt, sons of William Morris Hunt who had designed the main residence nearly twenty years earlier. Alva used the Teahouse as a stage for suffrage rallies until 1917. At the start of World War I, the Teahouse was boarded up and was not reopened to the

public until 1982. In 1920, Alva's dream of universal Women's voting rights in the United States became a reality nationally. In 1932 the house and grounds were sold to the Prince family and then in 1963 to the Preservation Society of Newport County, which continues to own and manage it. In 2005, the property (including the Teahouse) became a National Historic Landmark, the highest rank possible for individual structures. On September 2, 1982 for the reopening, The New York Times reported, "As the teahouse glows in stained and lacquered shades of jade green and red in the afternoon light, a United States Navy band is to play, with Deputy Secretary of State Walter J. Stoessel Jr. and Claiborne Pell, the senior United States Senator from Rhode Island, in attendance. A uniformed squadron of the Newport Artillery Company will aim its cannon to sea and fire 19 times from the lawn of Marble House, the Vanderbilt mansion built for \$11 million in 1892. His Excellency Chai Zemin, the Chinese Ambassador, is to cut a ribbon opening the teahouse to the public. And a troupe of balloons will float off on the ocean breeze. Thus is an extraordinary restoration of a singular little building to come to its official end. It is thought to be the only structure of its kind east of San Francisco. Almost \$500,000 and a year and a half of work by craftsmen in 15 specialties has gone into the restoration by the Preservation Society of Newport County." Hope Funds for Cancer Research believes this is a most appropriate location for a discussion on the role of women scientists and is grateful to the Preservation Society of Newport County for its use.

About the Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The 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. 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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