

Hope Funds for Cancer Research

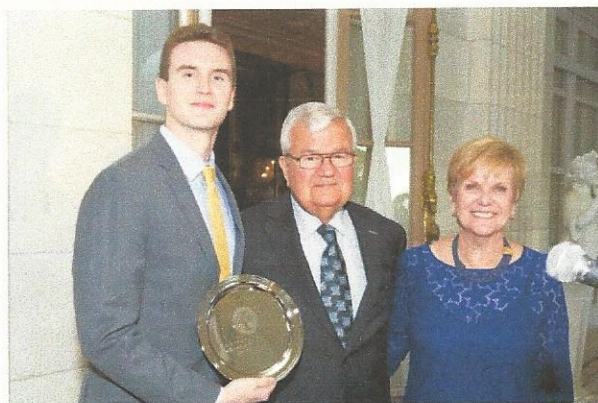
Press Release
Contact: Arden Scura
401-847-3286
For Immediate Release

Hope Funds for Cancer Research First Recipient of the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship

NEWPORT, RI -- August 27, 2015 -- Hope Funds for Cancer Research, an organization dedicated to advancing research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, announced today that Hope Funds Fellow, Brian Abraham, Ph.D. will be the first recipient of its prestigious Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship. Dr. Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez stated, "The Grillo-Marxuach Family established this Fellowship firm in the belief that education is one of the four pillars (religion, family, citizenship and education) fundamental to our society. In cancer research, postdoctoral studies, mentorship and research are important next steps beyond the doctoral degrees our fellows have already earned. These will serve to maximize the high potential for excellence in research of Fellows, such as Dr. Brian Abraham, and lead to significant discoveries that may result in therapeutic advances for the benefit of cancer patients." This Fellowship will fund Dr. Abraham's highly innovative work for the next three years.

About Brian Abraham, Ph.D.

Dr. Brian Abraham at the Whitehead Institute, in the laboratory of Richard Young, Ph.D. is researching mutations that may be the crucial ones that lead to cancer. Cancer is inherently a disease of DNA genes broken by mutation, but not all broken genes make broken proteins. In fact, changing the amount of protein produced from a given gene can be just as detrimental to patients and their cells. Despite knowing that production-regulating DNA has a wealth of mutations in tumor cells, nearly all of the attention from sequencing projects has been paid to protein-altering mutation. His lab has begun to develop a method to find and characterize non-coding,



Brian Abraham, Ph.D. with Antonio Grillo-Lopez, M.D. and his wife Maria Grillo.

protein production-regulating mutations in tumor genomes for a wide range of tumor types. This project rescues data from sequencing experiments that other labs discard to find these mutations, and he has already identified thousands of candidates in nearly 50 tumors. As chemical compounds are developed to target protein production, understanding which cancers rely on production-altering mutations will be essential. This project addresses neuroblastomas, acute lymphoblastic leukemias, small cell lung cancers, triple-negative breast cancers, pancreatic adenocarcinomas and glioblastomas. Dr. Abraham received his B.S. in Medical Informatics and Information Technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. in Bioinformatics from Boston University. Dr. Abraham is one of six members of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research class of 2015 Fellows, for all Fellows [Click Here](#)

About the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship

On March 18, 2015, San Diego residents, Antonio Grillo-Lopez and Maria S. Grillo announced they had made a \$1.5 million gift to Hope Funds for Cancer Research on behalf of the Grillo-Marxuach Family, to endow a cancer research fellowship to be awarded yearly, in perpetuity, by the Hope Funds for Cancer Research. Antonio Grillo-Lopez and his wife Maria stated they had provided the gift to serve to fund cancer research conducted by promising young scientists in the expectation that new



therapies will be found leading to cures for the as yet incurable cancers. At the time, Hope Funds for Cancer Research described the gift to be transformative for the foundation and was the fifth named Fellowship given to the organization, but by far the largest in size.

About Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez, M.D.

Dr. Grillo-Lopez, a hematologist and oncologist, is a pioneer in clinical cancer research. He was a major contributor to the development of the first targeted cancer drug, the antibody Rituxan, which treats non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Dr. Grillo-Lopez is originally from Puerto Rico. After retiring from Idec Pharmaceuticals (now Biogen Idec), he and his family continue to reside in San Diego, CA. He has received numerous awards for his research achievements including the 2007 Hope Funds for Cancer Research Award of Excellence for Clinical Science, the Discovery Health Channel Medical Honors Award for lifetime achievements in clinical cancer research, the Triumph Award given by the Leukemia Society of America, the Evelyn Hoffman Memorial Award of the Lymphoma Research Foundation of America, and others. Notably both Dr. and Mrs. Grillo have survived tumors, Colon Cancer and Meningioma, respectively.

Dr. Grillo-Lopez received the Hope Funds Award of Excellence for Clinical Development in 2007 and has served on the Board of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research since 2008.

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 six 2015 Fellows were selected from a pool of more than 200 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

-END-

08/27/15-14



[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to info@hope-funds.org by media@hope-funds.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Hope Funds for Cancer Research | 174 Bellevue Avenue, Suite 208 | Newport | RI | 02840