



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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Hope Funds Announces 2017 Award of Excellence Recipients

NEWPORT, RI -- October 2, 2017 -- The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, will honor three outstanding individuals with its 2017 Award of Excellence honorees in the areas of basic science, clinical development and medicine. The recipients will be recognized at the organization's annual awards dinner on October 14, 2017 at The Elms in Newport, Rhode Island.

The Award of Excellence honors those who have made outstanding contributions to basic, clinical, and medical research in cancer or conducted prominent advocacy and philanthropy on behalf of cancer research. This year's honorees are James P. Allison, Ph.D. for Clinical Development, David Baltimore, Ph.D. for Basic Science, and George P. Canellos, M.D. for Medicine.

"The 2017 honorees were nominated and selected based on their extraordinary contributions to the field of cancer research and treatment, which has extended and improved so many patients' lives," stated Leah Rush Cann, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Hope Funds for Cancer Research Board of Trustees.

Honorees

James P. Allison

Dr. Allison (B.S., Ph.D., The University of Texas, Austin) is Chairman of Immunology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX and serves as Director of CRI's Scientific Advisory Council. For the past 30 years he has been studying T cells and was one of the first to identify the T cell receptor in the early 1980s. He then showed that a molecule known as CD28 functions as the T cell's 'gas pedal', and subsequently discovered the T cell's 'brakes'. This discovery opened up an entire new perspective in cancer treatment. This new treatment approach is called checkpoint blockade which uses antibodies to block the action of the 'braking' molecule and enabling more powerful anti-cancer response. In 2013, Science magazine cited Dr. Allison's work and declared cancer immunotherapy the "breakthrough of the year."

David Baltimore

Dr. Baltimore (B.A., Swarthmore College; Ph.D., Rockefeller University) is the President Emeritus and Robert Andrews Millikan Professor of Biology at the California Institute of Technology. Prior to this position, he was the American Cancer Society Professor of Microbiology and a Professor of Biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA. In 1975, Dr. Baltimore was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with Renato Dulbecco and Howard Martin Temin "for their discoveries concerning the interaction between tumour viruses and the genetic material of the cell". He is well known for his work in discovering that viruses with genomes consisting of RNA can also be inserted into the DNA of a host cell through an enzyme called reverse transcriptase. This discovery led to the modification of the rule that genetic information could only be transferred in one direction. He has received numerous awards, including the **U.S. National Medal of Science** in 1999.

George P. Canellos

Dr. Canellos (M.D., Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons) is a senior physician at DFCl and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. He was a clinical associate at the National Cancer Institute and a research fellow at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London. Additionally, he was the chief of DFCl's Division of Medical Oncology and medical director for Dana-Farber/Partners CancerCare from 1975 to 1995. He is known for his work with Dr. Vincent T. DeVita in developing the combination chemotherapy CMF for breast cancer therapy, and in developing the four-drug combination known as MOPP which increased the cure rate of Hodgkin's disease patients to 70 percent. A past Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Oncology, he is also former President of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Award of Excellence

Honorees who receive this award are nominated through a formal process and selected based on their contributions to the field of cancer research and treatment, their integrity and character, and how they are regarded by their peers. Previous recipients of the award (2007 - 2016, by year) are Sir Paul Nurse, Ph.D., Craig Mello, Ph.D., Robert A. Weinberg, Ph.D., James E. Darnell, Jr., M.D., Joan Massagué, Ph.D., Janet Rowley, M.D., Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D., Phillip Sharp, Ph.D., Tyler Jacks, Ph.D., Robert Roeder, Ph.D. and Joan Steitz, Ph.D. for Basic Science; Antonio J. Grillo-Lopez, M.D., Malcolm A. S. Moore, D.Phil., Brian Druker, M.D., George D. Demetri, M.D., Kenneth C. Anderson, M.D., Joseph Schlessinger, Ph.D., Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D., Charles L. Sawyers, M.D. and Napoleone Ferrara, M.D. for Clinical Development; M. Judah Folkman, M.D., John Cameron, M.D., Sir Murray Brennan, M.D., Larry Norton, M.D., Azra Raza, M.D., George Sledge, M.D., Daniel D. Von Hoff, M.D. and James Holland, M.D. for Medicine; Paula Kim, Robert Bazell, Amy Dockser Marcus, Harold Freeman, Ellen Stovall, and Gary Jobson for Advocacy; Corporate Angel Network, Gilda's Club Worldwide, the Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Fund for Cancer Research, David H. Koch, Donald Listwin, and Jan Vilcek, M.D., Ph.D. for Philanthropy; and Joan Brugge, Ph.D. and Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D. for Basic Science; John Mendelsohn, M.D. for Clinical Development; and Daisy M. Soros for Philanthropy.

The 2017 awards will be presented on October 14, 2017, during a white-tie dinner at the legendary Newport, Rhode Island mansion, The Elms. The annual dinner is a focal point for the Hope Funds' charitable mission and brings together the organization's supporters and constituencies to recognize and honor distinguished luminaries in oncology. Proceeds from the event will fund postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research.

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



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

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