


ANNUAL REPORT 2024

DAMON RUNYON
CANCER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



**WHAT WILL
AI MEAN
FOR CANCER
RESEARCH?**

With the rise of single-cell sequencing and high-resolution imaging, the completion of The Cancer Genome Atlas, and increasingly large biobanks of patient tissue samples, the past decade has generated an unimaginable amount of data about cancer. On their own, these data are just numbers and letters—but the patterns they contain are revealing. What features are shared among blood cells that develop into leukemia? Which slow-growing lymphomas are most likely to become aggressive? Which brain tumors will respond to a given therapy, and which will resist treatment?

THE
ANSWERS
MAY
BE
HIDDEN
IN
PLAIN
SIGHT.

We've all heard a lot about the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to save or replace humanity, depending on whom you ask. On one point, we can agree: there are many things that humans can do better than machines, but when tasked with finding a pattern, computers excel. And as biologists have been amassing data, computer science has been advancing in parallel.

“NOWADAYS, WE’RE NOT LIMITED BY COMPUTATIONAL POWER,” SAYS DAMON RUNYON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW TAL EINAIV, PhD, “BUT BY OUR CREATIVITY IN HOW WE APPLY IT TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS.”

Our scientists are exceptionally creative. In this report, you will learn how Damon Runyon scientists are currently applying the tools of artificial intelligence to advance the detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer. As you will see, whether by detecting ovarian cancer before it spreads or predicting a given patient’s response to immunotherapy, these tools are already improving cancer care.

**GIVEN ENOUGH DATA,
COMPUTERS ARE
SPECTACULAR AT
EXTRAPOLATING
FROM THE PAST TO
MAKE PREDICTIONS
ABOUT THE FUTURE.**

Most of us encounter such predictions every day—which word we will type next, which new song we might like, what the weather tomorrow will be.

These predictions may not always impact our choices.

BUT HOW MIGHT WE RESPOND IF A COMPUTER COULD PREDICT OUR RISK OF DEVELOPING CANCER?

**This is what Damon Runyon
Clinical Investigator
Lachelle D. Weeks, MD, PhD,
aims to find out.**



LACHELLE D. WEEKS, MD, PhD
Damon Runyon-Timmerman Traverse
Clinical Investigator
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

In her lab at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Dr. Weeks is building a computerized model that can predict a patient's risk of developing acute myeloid leukemia based on images of their blood cells. She hopes this type of screening will one day become routine for patients who, due to their age or family history, may be at high risk.

“Traditionally, when folks are diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, we know because they come into the emergency room in crisis, with bleeding, or severe infection, or abnormally high or low blood counts,” Dr. Weeks says. “That is the first time that most patients even hear the diagnosis said aloud.”

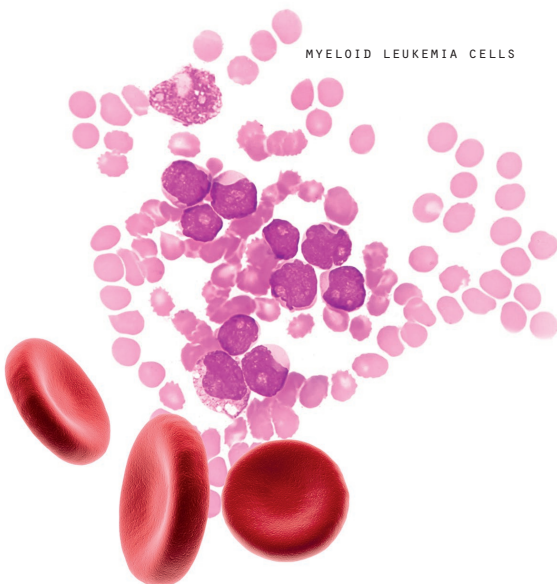
Roughly 15% of adults over the age of 65 have a condition known as clonal hematopoiesis (CH), meaning they harbor mutations in their blood that are associated with blood cancer, but they do not yet have cancer. Most of these individuals will never develop cancer. It remains unclear what distinguishes the minority who do.

Right now, Dr. Weeks' team is in data collection mode. Every patient who comes into the clinic and consents to the protocol has a blood sample drawn and put through a high-resolution imaging tool called Cellavision. (The Weeks lab is also collecting samples from community

sites and MD Anderson Cancer Center to ensure a diverse dataset.) Provided with thousands of images of blood cells, the computer's task is to detect patterns among patients who develop leukemia—features too small to see under a microscope, like minute changes in cell size or nuclear shape.

“About 60 million adults in the U.S. are considered at-risk because of this precursor condition,” Dr. Weeks explains. “I envision this algorithmic approach as a way to shrink that number and really hone in on the highest-risk individuals.”

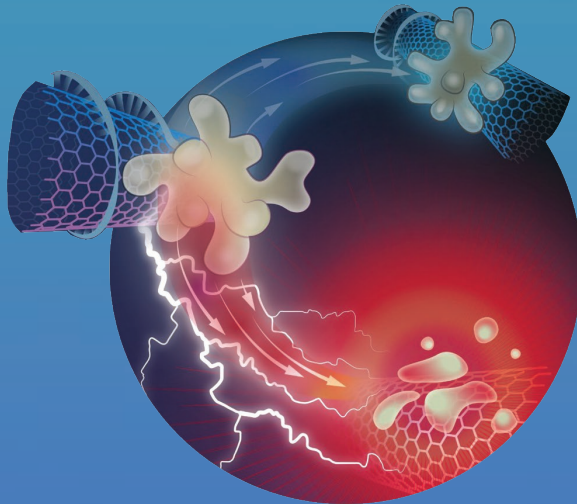
Knowing your risk level not only enables earlier cancer detection, but may one day qualify you for a preventative intervention. At Washington University, **Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Kelly Bolton, MD, PhD**, is currently enrolling CH patients in clinical trials of two drugs, enasidenib and ivosidenib, that target specific blood cell mutations. If successful, they would be the first genetically targeted preventative therapies for cancer.



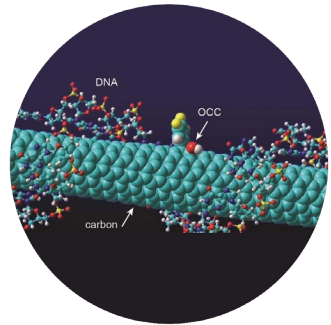
“A lot of the most cutting-edge science is funded at the foundation level,” says Dr. Weeks. “To get NIH grants, you have to be working on something that already exists. For labs like mine, where we are working on something that isn’t here yet—that is, a screening for blood cancer—Damon Runyon funding is critical for survival and progress.”

EARLY DETECTION OF A TUMOR IS OFTEN THE REASON CANCER TREATMENT WORKS.

But some tumors, like ovarian cancer, show few early signs, allowing the cancer to spread significantly before it is caught. In cases where our best approach right now is to “wait and see,” artificial intelligence may be the first to raise a red flag.



**“THIS MAY SOUND LIKE
SCIENCE FICTION,
BUT WE’RE WORKING
TO MAKE IT REALITY,”**



**says former Damon Runyon Fellow
Daniel A. Heller, PhD, of Memorial
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.**



DANIEL A. HELLER, PhD

Head of Cancer Nanomedicine Laboratory
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

The Heller lab has developed an implantable sensor that can detect proteins associated with ovarian cancer and send a signal to a device worn outside the body. The sensor is designed to be implanted in the uterus or the fallopian tubes, where the concentration of these proteins is highest, and attached to antibodies that bind the proteins

of interest. If bound, the sensor, trained by a machine-learning algorithm to recognize the cancer’s molecular “fingerprint,” sends a signal to the wearable device.

The Heller lab has already demonstrated that their sensor can detect ovarian cancer in mice and is now conducting their first tests in human uteri removed

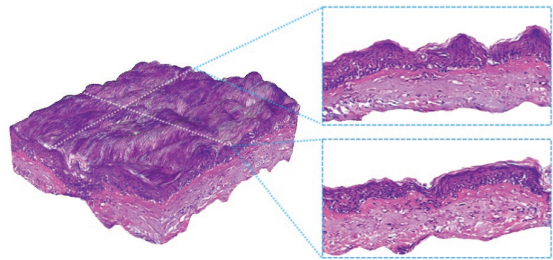
during surgery. If successful, the sensor could serve as a rapid screening tool for patients with higher genetic risk of ovarian cancer. It would also benefit patients undergoing cancer treatment, enabling them to monitor disease progression without frequent trips to the doctor or anxious waiting periods between scans.

“Right now, it’s hard to tell if a patient has an aggressive cancer or if it’s safe to wait a while before another scan,” Dr. Heller says. “If you could see a change in biomarker levels in hours or days, it could give physicians an earlier warning.”

Meanwhile, at Stanford University, Damon Runyon scientists **Kavita Y. Sarin, MD, PhD**, and **Adam de la Zerda, PhD**, are using AI to tackle the opposite problem: cancers that are plainly visible but hard to distinguish from benign growths. Aiming to spare patients the dermatologist’s scalpel, the pair recently unveiled a “virtual biopsy” tool to diagnose skin cancer.

The imaging device sends light waves into the skin with a laser and, based on how the light waves bounce off the cells, creates a high-resolution, three-dimensional reconstruction of the tissue. (This is also how ophthalmologists scan the back of the eye.)

NONINVASIVE VIRTUAL BIOPSY



The team then used AI to convert these scans into images that resemble traditional pathology slides, making them readable by doctors trained in standard diagnostic protocols. The goal is to enable clinicians to incorporate the tool into their practice, reducing unnecessary biopsies.

A physician herself, Dr. Sarin is particularly excited about how AI will enhance her ability to deliver personalized patient care.

Image: Winetraub Y, Van Vleck A, Yuan E, Terem I, Zhao J, Yu C, Chan W, Do H, Shevidi S, Mao M, Yu J, Hong M, Blankenberg E, Rieger Ke, Chu S, Aasi S, Sarin Ky, De La Zerda A. Noninvasive Virtual Biopsy Using Micro-Registered Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) In Human Subjects. *Sci Adv.* 2024 Apr 12.



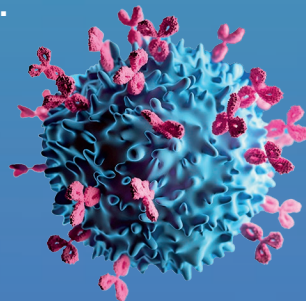
KAVITA Y. SARIN, MD, PhD
Damon Runyon-D.G. 'Mitch' Mitchell
Clinical Investigator
Stanford University

“Each scientist brings a unique perspective on how to leverage its potential,” says Dr. Sarin. “By funding a wide range of scientists, and encouraging creativity and exploration, Damon Runyon fosters breakthrough applications that might not emerge from industry-driven AI efforts, which often prioritize profitability.”

In today's cancer treatment landscape, immunotherapies are increasingly offered as a less toxic alternative to chemotherapy and radiation.

**UNFORTUNATELY,
IMMUNOTHERAPIES
DO NOT WORK FOR
ALL PATIENTS,
AND IT IS HARD TO
PREDICT WHO WILL
BENEFIT FROM THEM.**

Hard for humans, that is.



ELIEZER M. VAN ALLEN, MD
Chief of the Division of Population Sciences
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



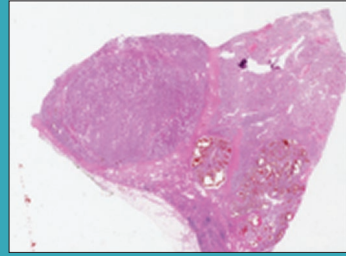
At Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, former Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD, and his team have employed an AI-based tool to help answer the question:

“WHAT DOES A KIDNEY TUMOR THAT RESPONDS TO IMMUNOTHERAPY LOOK LIKE?”

Pathologists routinely assess tumor samples on pathology slides to identify key disease features, including how tumor cells deviate from normal cells. Dr. Van Allen’s team initially trained their AI tool to do just this, but soon found it capable of much more—of measuring, for instance, *variation* in disease features across tumor samples.

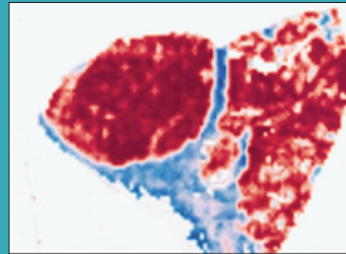
Encouraged, the team expanded their deep learning model to quantify tumor microheterogeneity, which measures the extent to which cancer cells vary across a sample, and immune infiltration, or how deeply immune cells have penetrated the tumor. Although these measures can be manually determined by pathologists, they are prohibitively time-consuming for routine use.

To explore the predictive potential of these measurements, the researchers applied their tool to pathology slides from kidney cancer patients receiving immunotherapy as part of a clinical trial.

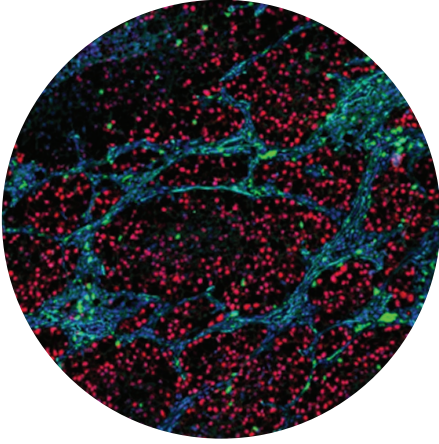


TUMOR HETEROGENEITY

The tool found that higher levels of tumor microheterogeneity and deeper immune infiltration were associated with better outcomes.



“These signals are hiding in plain sight,” says Dr. Van Allen. “They are just hard for pathologists to practically measure on individual slides. With AI, we have a scalable way to potentially squeeze a lot more information out of these slides.”



IMMUNE INFILTRATION

A patient may soon be able to have their tumor scanned by this tool to determine if they are a good candidate for immunotherapy. This is one example among many—in the Van Allen lab alone—of how AI might be used to inform cancer treatment decisions.

At MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Damon Runyon scientists **Xiuning Le, MD, PhD, John V. Heymach, MD, PhD,** and **Natalie Vokes, MD,** have developed a model that analyzes chest CT scans to predict how a patient with lung cancer will respond to immune checkpoint inhibitors. This model, they found, predicted survival better than conventional risk factors, such as smoking status, or tissue irregularities seen under a microscope. They are now working on a model to predict how lung tumors will respond to tyrosine kinase inhibitors, a common targeted therapy.

But it will still be a while, Dr. Van Allen clarified, before clinicians use such models to “pick which drugs for which patients.”

“The more imminent technologies in that domain are diagnostics,” he says. “Determining what kind of cancer, and what stage it has reached—those kinds of models are moving more quickly.”

EVEN AS WE MARVEL AT THE POTENTIAL OF THESE TOOLS TO REVOLUTIONIZE CANCER CARE, IT MUST BE SAID THAT THEIR UTILITY GOES ONLY AS FAR AS THE THOUGHTFULNESS OF THEIR CREATORS.

“It’s easy to train a model—any computer science student can do it,” says **Damon Runyon Quantitative Biology Fellow Jakob Wirbel, PhD**, at Stanford University, “It’s hard to know if your model is good and if you can actually learn something from it. For this, we need researchers at the intersection of computer science and biology, who can make sense of the methods and understand the biological implications.”


“Damon Runyon is right at the forefront with the Quantitative Biology Fellowship—to my knowledge the only one of its kind—intentionally recruiting super talented computer scientists, physicists, and mathematicians, and steering them to cancer research questions,” says Dr. Van Allen.

“Or take Dr. Weeks,” he continued, referring to his colleague featured on page 3. “She’s coming at this from a different angle, as a physician-scientist with an innovative idea, and with Damon Runyon support she’s able to use this technology to pursue the questions she cares about.”

Since 1946, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation has been at the vanguard of cancer research technology, from the first method of growing human cells in culture to the first genome editing tools. Now, our scientists are becoming leaders in the era of artificial intelligence, showing us how these tools can be used responsibly for the benefit of cancer patients.

“AI may help scientists be more efficient. But to generate biological knowledge and therapeutic outcomes, we will always still need human researchers,” says Dr. Wirbel.

Thank you for supporting the humans behind the computers.



100% OF YOUR DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO BRAVE AND BOLD CANCER RESEARCH.

Since its founding in 1946, in partnership with donors across the nation, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation has invested nearly \$450 million and funded nearly 4,000 scientists.

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Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology
Medical College of Wisconsin
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Arun Radhakrishnan, PhD

Professor
Department of Molecular Genetics
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

Rajat Rohatgi, MD, PhD

Professor of Biochemistry
and Medicine (Oncology)
Stanford University
School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Carla Rothlin, PhD

Dorys McConnell Duberg
Professor of Immunobiology
and Pharmacology
Co-leader Cancer Immunology
Program
Yale Cancer Center
Yale School of Medicine
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Jared Rutter, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Investigator
Dee Glen and Ida Smith
Endowed Chair for
Cancer Research
Distinguished Professor
of Biochemistry
University of Utah Health
School of Medicine
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Agnel Sfeir, PhD

Paine Webber Chair in
Cancer Genetics
Member, Molecular Biology
Program
Sloan Kettering Institute
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

David R. Sherwood, PhD

Jerry G. and Patricia Crawford
Hubbard Professor and
Associate Chair of Biology
Department of Biology
Duke University
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

FELLOWSHIP AWARD

CALIFORNIA

California Institute of Technology

Bo Gu, PhD

Fraternal Order of Eagles Fellow

Understanding and engineering combinatorial gene regulation in mammalian cells with Michael B. Elowitz, PhD

Georgia R. Squyres, PhD

National Mah Jongg League Fellow

Spatiotemporal regulation of eDNA release in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms with Dianne K. Newman, PhD

Gladstone Institutes

Ronghui Zhu, PhD

Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

Mapping and modeling the human CD4+ T cell differentiation gene regulatory network with Alexander Marson, MD, PhD (Gladstone Institutes), and Jonathan K. Pritchard, PhD (Stanford University)

Salk Institute

Wen Mai Wong, PhD

Kenneth G. and Elaine A. Langone Fellow

Modulation of neuronal circuitry using sonogenetics with Sreekanth H. Chalasani, PhD

Stanford University

Felix C. Boos, PhD

Inter-organ communication of protein homeostasis stress responses in vertebrate aging with Anne Brunet, PhD

Laura Crowley, PhD*

HHMI Fellow

Identifying fibroblast stem cells in organ maintenance, repair, and cancer with Mark A. Krasnow, MD, PhD

Lauren E. Cote, PhD

Constructing one continuous digestive tract, cell by cell with Jessica L. Feldman, PhD

Brendan Floyd, PhD*

HHMI Fellow

Systematic characterization of lysosomal-targeting protein degradation with Carolyn R. Bertozzi, PhD

Lucia Ichino, PhD

HHMI Fellow

Mechanisms underlying cis-regulatory rewiring and chromatin reorganization during epithelial to mesenchymal transition with Joanna K. Wysocka, PhD

Seungsoo Kim, PhD

Transcription factor cooperation shaping TWIST1 multifunctionality across craniofacial development and cancer metastasis with Joanna K. Wysocka, PhD

Conor J. McClune, PhD

Resolving plant biosynthesis of therapeutic compounds by systematic perturbation, measurement, and metabolic phenotyping at single-cell scale with Elizabeth S. Sattely, PhD, and Polly M. Fordyce, PhD

David S. Roberts, PhD*

Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

Defining the molecular landscape and native interactome of the Siglecsialoglycan axis in disease with Carolyn R. Bertozzi, PhD

Xianfeng Zeng, PhD*

Microbiome-cancer connection: From understanding to rational design with defined communities with Michael A. Fischbach, PhD

Stanford University
School of Medicine

Layla J. Barkal, MD, PhD*§

Using commensal skin bacteria for potent, antigen-specific T cell therapy with Michael A. Fischbach, PhD

Debadrita Bhattacharya, PhD

Robert Black Fellow

Investigating molecular and cellular mechanisms of intra-tumoral heterogeneity in small-cell lung cancer with Julien Sage, PhD

Simon Sretenovic, PhD*

Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

High-throughput precision genome editing for dissecting complex traits in yeast and human cell lines with Lars M. Steinmetz, PhD

Xiaowei Yan, PhD

Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

Spatial organization and inheritance regulation of oncogenic extrachromosomal DNA (ecDNA) with Howard Y. Chang, MD, PhD

University of California, Berkeley

R. Camille Brewer, PhD*

HHMI Fellow

Defining how early-life microbial encounters sculpt the B cell repertoire and shape vaccine responses with Gregory M. Barton, PhD

Ben F. Brian, PhD

HHMI Fellow

Mechanisms and consequences of microbiota-directed immune responses with Gregory M. Barton, PhD

Gabriel Cavin-Meza, PhD
Merck Fellow

Leveraging polyploid *Xenopus* to probe spindle adaptation to increases in genome size with Rebecca Heald, PhD

Timothy J. Eisen, PhD
David Ryland Fellow

Mechanistic dissection of Tec kinases in immune-cell signaling with Jay Groves, PhD (University of California, Berkeley), and John Kuriyan, PhD (Vanderbilt University)

Yoshiki Sakai, PhD*
Rhee Family Fellow

How do tumors evade cell extrusion? with David Bilder, PhD

Joshua B. Sheetz, PhD
HHMI Fellow

Mitochondrial ubiquitylation mechanisms to exploit metabolic vulnerabilities in cancer with Michael Rape, PhD

Akanksha Thawani, PhD
Merck Fellow

Targeted genetic supplementation by harnessing transposable elements with Eva Nogales, PhD, and Kathleen Collins, PhD

[University of California, Los Angeles](#)

Yajing Gao, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow

Characterize the role of non-vesicular cholesterol transport in CD8+ T cell function with Peter Tontonoz, MD, PhD

[University of California, San Diego](#)

Jinchun Wu, PhD*
Marion Abbe Fellow

Identifying cytoplasmic nucleases that shatter micronucleated chromosomes with Don W. Cleveland, PhD

[University of California, San Francisco](#)

Sagar Bhattacharya, PhD*
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

De novo design of protease-activated anticancer proteins with William F. DeGrado, PhD

Fangyu Liu, PhD

Discovery of novel ligands that treat metabolic disorders with Brian K. Shoichet, PhD

Tadashi Manabe, MD, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

Characterization of oncogenic kinase signaling by membrane-less cytoplasmic protein granules with Trever G. Bivona, MD, PhD

Fanglue Peng, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

Humanize CXCL13 expression in mouse to understand lymphoid neogenesis in cancer with Jason G. Cyster, PhD

Erron W. Titus, MD, PhD[§]
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

Engineered cellular fusogens for novel immune effector functions with Matthew F. Krummel, PhD

Shaohua Zhang, PhD*
Timmerman Traverse Fellow

Preventing tumor evasion of CAR T killing: engineering adhesion molecules to enhance cell immunotherapy with Wendell A. Lim, PhD

Qinheng Zheng, PhD
Connie and Bob Lurie Fellow

Drugging K-Ras(G12D) with targeted covalent inhibitors with Kevan M. Shokat, PhD

COLORADO

[University of Colorado Boulder](#)

Edward M. C. Courvan, PhD
HHMI Fellow

Functional analysis of post-transcriptional RNA regulation in hypoxic macrophages with Roy R. Parker, PhD

Nicole M. Hoitsma, PhD
HHMI Fellow

Chromatin remodeler SMARCAD1 in DNA repair with Karolin Luger, PhD

Dylan M. Parker, PhD
HHMI Fellow

Stress granule regulators and their roles in cancer progression with Roy R. Parker, PhD

CONNECTICUT

[Yale University](#)

Hui (Vivian) Chiu, PhD
HHMI Fellow

The neuroimmune basis of fatigue with Ruslan Medzhitov, PhD

Jung-Shen Benny Tai, PhD

From form to function: Cell shape, cell ordering, and gene regulation in bacterial biofilm with Jing Yan, PhD (Yale University), and Christopher Waters, PhD (Michigan State University)

DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD CONTINUED

ILLINOIS

Northwestern University

John Devany, PhD*
Bakewell Foundation Fellow
Engineering next-generation T cell therapies by learning from cancer mutations with Jaehyuk Choi, MD, PhD

MARYLAND

National Institutes of Health

Claudia A. Rivera Cifuentes, PhD
Lorraine W. Egan Fellow
Endogenous retroviruses modulation of intestinal immune homeostasis and tumor development with Yasmine Belkaid, PhD (Institut Pasteur), and Michail Lionakis, MD, ScD (National Institutes of Health)

The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Marco A. Catipovic, PhD
In vitro reconstitution of ribosome collision dependent signaling with Rachel Green, PhD

Cayla E. Jewett, PhD
Merck Fellow
Mechanisms of centriole number control in multiciliated cells with Andrew J. Holland, PhD

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Children's Hospital

Shreoshi Sengupta, PhD*
Deborah J. Coleman Fellow
Decoding cell-cell interactions aiding angiogenesis and immune evasion in early-stage lung cancer with Carla F. Kim, PhD

Boston University

Heidi E. Klumpe, PhD
Merck Fellow
The design principles of stable aggregation with Ahmad S. Khalil, PhD, and Mary Dunlop, PhD

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Xiphias Ge Zhu, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Charting the tumor antigen landscape of breast cancer with Stephen J. Elledge, PhD

Jordan B. Jastrab MD, PhD*§
Robert Black Fellow
Molecular mechanisms of inflammasome activation by intraphagosomal bacteria with Jonathan C. Kagan, PhD

Broad Institute

Chaiheon Lee, PhD*
Suzanne and Bob Wright Fellow
Development of haptenizing chimeras for neoantigen generation with Amit Choudhary, PhD

Wendy Xueyi Wang, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Dissecting the molecular identity and contents of neuronal synapses using spatially resolved RNA sequencing with Xiao Wang, PhD (Broad Institute), and Jia Liu, PhD (Harvard University)

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Kheewoong Baek, PhD*
Expansion of the glueable and degradable targets of IMiD-CRBN with Eric S. Fischer, PhD

Anders B. Dohlman, PhD
Meghan E. Raveis Fellow
Identifying the genomic basis for *Fusobacterium nucleatum*'s colonization of colorectal cancers with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD

Archana Krishnamoorthy, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Mechanisms of chromosome fragmentation generating chromothripsis with David S. Pellman, MD (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute), and Johannes Walter, PhD (Harvard Medical School)

David M. Walter, PhD
Identifying the selective mechanism behind U2AF1 mutations in lung adenocarcinoma with Matthew L. Meyerson, MD, PhD

Harvard Medical School

Hannah A. Grunwald, PhD
Lallage Feazel Wall Fellow
Unraveling the role of molecular capacitors that obscure cryptic genetic variants in fish with Clifford J. Tabin, PhD

Xin Gu, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Characterization of a novel pathway regulating the protein degradation of immediate-early genes with Michael E. Greenberg, PhD

Brooke D. Huisman, PhD*
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Elucidating the lineage relationships of thymic mimetic cells with Diane Mathis, PhD, and Christophe Benoist, MD, PhD

Manuel Osorio Valeriano, PhD
Philip O'Bryan Montgomery, Jr., MD, Fellow

Molecular and structural basis of gene expression regulation by the nucleosome remodeling and deacetylase (NuRD) complex in human cancer with Lucas Farnung, PhD, and Danesh Moazed, PhD

Rocío D. M. Saavedra-Peña, PhD*
HHMI Fellow

Probing sensory pathways in gut mechanosensation with Stephen D. Liberles, PhD

James C. Taggart, PhD*

Mechanistic interrogation of robustness and vulnerability in a bacterial essential gene network with Allon M. Klein, PhD, and Johan Paulsson, PhD

[Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#)

Madi Y. Cissé, PhD
Merck Fellow

Integration on oncogenic signaling and nutrient sensing by mTOR in tumors with Brendan D. Manning, PhD

[Harvard University](#)

Alon Chappleboim, PhD

Uncovering signaling mechanisms in somitogenesis through high-throughput genetic screens in robust human organoids with Sharad Ramanathan, PhD

Rongxin Fang, PhD

Genome-scale imaging of enhancer-promoter interactions in cancer at single cell resolution with Xiaowei Zhuang, PhD

[Massachusetts General Hospital](#)

Charles H. Adelman, PhD

Systematic exploration of the organellar and cellular requirements of pigmentation with David E. Fisher, MD, PhD

Stefan Niekamp, PhD

Understanding the switch: Competition between chromatin remodeler and polycomb repressive complexes with Robert E. Kingston, PhD

Sangwoo Park, PhD*
Merck Fellow

Engineering novel CAR T cells targeting cancer glyocalyx barrier with Marcela V. Maus, MD, PhD

[Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)

Fangtao Chi, PhD

Understanding how ketone body metabolites influence intestinal stemness, immune responses and tumorigenesis with Ömer H. Yilmaz, MD, PhD

Isabella Fraschilla, PhD
Merck Fellow

Examining bacteria as a source of tumor antigens with Tyler E. Jacks, PhD

J. Scott P. McCain, PhD

Estimating growth rates and fluxes using gene expression: Theory and applications with Gene-Wei Li, PhD

Senén D. Mendoza, PhD
HHMI Fellow

Discovery and characterization of bacterial immunity against RNA phages with Michael T. Laub, PhD

Expéry O. Omollo, PhD*
Robert A. Swanson Family Fellow

Elucidating what determines the strength of bacterial transcription terminators with Gene-Wei Li, PhD

Ian J. Roney, PhD*
HHMI Fellow

Discovery and characterization of bacteriophage effectors of bacterial immune systems with Michael T. Laub, PhD

Patrick J. Woida, PhD

Functional dissection of the bacterial-host interface during cell-to-cell spread with Rebecca Lamason, PhD

[Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research](#)

Henry R. Kilgore, PhD

Subcellular pharmacokinetics with Richard A. Young, PhD

Ryan Y. Muller, PhD
HHMI Fellow

Elucidating PABPC1 sequence preferences and determining how these preferences shape gene regulation with David P. Bartel, PhD

Pu Zheng, PhD
Fayez Sarofim Fellow

An integrated imaging- and sequencing-based spatial-omic method to study tumor evolution with Jonathan S. Weissman, PhD

DAMON RUNYON FELLOWSHIP AWARD CONTINUED

MICHIGAN

Van Andel Institute

McLane Watson, PhD

Understanding CD8 T cell epigenetic changes fueled by S-adenosylmethionine metabolism for improved adoptive cell therapy with Russell G. Jones, PhD

MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota

Nicholas N. Jarjour, PhD

Antigen-independent proliferation of tissue-resident memory T cells and therapeutic applications with Stephen C. Jameson, PhD

NEW JERSEY

Princeton University

Grace E. Johnson, PhD HHMI Fellow

Defining quorum-sensing signaling patterns and their effects on gene expression and morphology in *V. cholerae* biofilms at the single-cell and community levels with Bonnie L. Bassler, PhD

Aaron E. Lin, PhD

Walter Isaacson Fellow

Contact tracing within an organism: developing a genome editing platform to record the history of virus-infected and transformed cells with Alexander Ploss, PhD, and Brittany Adamson, PhD

Titus Sengupta, PhD

Rebecca Ridley Kry Fellow

Investigating bacterial small RNA-mediated regulation of host behavior with Coleen T. Murphy, PhD

Cheng Yang, PhD*

Chemoproteomic platforms for deciphering and drugging redox regulation between methionine and methionine sulfoxide in pancreatic cancer with Christopher J. Chang, PhD

Juner Zhang, PhD

The role of histone H2A.Z monoamination in transcription regulation with Tom W. Muir, PhD

NEW YORK

Columbia University

Mingjian Du, PhD HHMI Fellow

The gut-brain axis mediating overnutrition with Charles S. Zuker, PhD

James Swann, VetMB, DPhil

Emergency myelopoiesis pathways as common drivers of clonal dominance and disease progression in acute myeloid leukemia with Emmanuelle Passegué, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Rico C. Ardy, PhD Robert Black Fellow

An atlas of fibroblast cell states in health and disease through functional genomics with Thomas Norman, PhD

Antonio Cuevas-Navarro, PhD* Berger Foundation Fellow

Elucidating mechanisms that reverse the detrimental effect of RAS mutations in cancer with Piro Lito, MD, PhD

Michael V. Gormally, MD, PhD* Dennis and Marsha Dammerman Fellow

Immunologic targeting of “undruggable” TP53 hotspot mutations through T cell receptor gene therapy with Christopher A. Klebanoff, MD, and Michael F. Berger, PhD

Tamar Kavlashvili, PhD* Timmerman Traverse Fellow

Developing tools to mechanistically investigate the mtDNA ‘common deletion’ with Agnel Sfeir, PhD

Nalin Ratnayeke, PhD* HHMI Fellow

Dissecting heterogeneous cellular responses to oncogenic KRAS inhibition in pancreatic adenocarcinoma with Scott W. Lowe, PhD

Pu Zhang, PhD*

Understanding the role of R-loops in cancer at the single cell level with Omar Abdel-Wahab, MD

Zeda Zhang, PhD HHMI Fellow

Decode the senescent cell surface *in vivo* and develop cell therapies for senescence-related diseases with Scott W. Lowe, PhD

The Rockefeller University

Catherine A. Freije, PhD
Berger Foundation Fellow
Investigating the role of fitness and host pressure in shaping hepatitis B diversity with Charles M. Rice, PhD

Wenzhi Song, PhD*
HHMI Fellow
Neuroimmune: cancer stem cell interactions in the tumor microenvironment with Elaine V. Fuchs, PhD

NORTH CAROLINA

Duke University

Elizabeth R. Hughes, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
Mechanisms of microbial modulation of cancer immunotherapy with Raphael H. Valdivia, PhD

PENNSYLVANIA

University of Pennsylvania

Nicholas P. Lesner, PhD
Hepatic urea cycle function in NASH-induced HCC progression with M. Celeste Simon, PhD

Rebecca S. Moore, PhD
HHMI Fellow
Investigation of the role of peripheral secreted molecules on sleep and circadian rhythms with Amita Sehgal, PhD

Christopher Noetzel, PhD
How do eukaryotic cells count cell cycles? Intrinsic regulation of quantized asexual replication cycles and commitment to sexual differentiation in the protozoan parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum* with Boris Striepen, PhD

Catherine Triandafillou, PhD
National Mah Jongg League Fellow
Intrinsic and extrinsic drivers of heterogeneous drug resistance in cancer with Arjun Raj, PhD

TENNESSEE

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Sarah L. Price, PhD*
Merck Fellow
Targeting *Clostridioides difficile* biofilm dynamics to combat recurrent infections with Eric P. Skaar, PhD

WASHINGTON

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Ching-Ho Chang, PhD
Genetic conflicts shape protamine evolution with Harmit S. Malik, PhD

Edie I. Crosse, PhD
Illini 4000 Fellow
Precision therapeutics for hematologic malignancies with splicing factor mutations with Robert Bradley, PhD

Grant A. King, PhD
HHMI Fellow
How do host cells engage with extrachromosomal DNA? with Harmit S. Malik, PhD

Siqi Li, PhD
The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow
Deciphering clonal competition between oncogenic mutant and normal cells and its effect on cancer initiation with Slobodan Beronja, PhD

University of Washington

Wei (Will) Chen, PhD
Decoding the transcription code: *de novo* protein design for precise gene regulation with David Baker, PhD

Jean-Benoît Lalanne, PhD
At-scale dissection of developmental enhancers with single-cell reporters with Jay A. Shendure, MD, PhD

Erik Van Dis, PhD
Robert Black Fellow
Investigating innate immune activation in the autoimmune pancreas with Daniel B. Stetson, PhD

CANADA

University of Calgary

Marie R. Siwicki, PhD
Dale F. and Betty Ann Frey Fellow
Investigating neutrophil functional heterogeneity in wound healing and cancer with Paul Kubers, PhD

*Initial Year

§Physician-Scientists

DAMON RUNYON

QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Todd R. Golub, MD

Director and Founding Core
Institute Member
Broad Institute of MIT
and Harvard
Charles A. Dana Investigator
in Human Cancer Genetics
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Professor of Pediatrics
Harvard Medical School
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Gaudenz Danuser, PhD

Patrick E. Haggerty
Distinguished Chair in
Basic Biomedical Science
Lyda Hill Department of
Bioinformatics and
Department of Cell Biology
CPRIT Scholar in Cancer
Research
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

Anshul Kundaje, PhD

Associate Professor of
Genetics and
Computer Science
Stanford University
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

Han Liang, PhD, FAAS

AAAS Fellow
Barnhart Family Distinguished
Professor in Targeted Therapies
Professor and Deputy Chair,
Department of Bioinformatics
and Computational Biology
Professor, Department of
Systems Biology
University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Dana Pe'er, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Investigator
Chair, Computational and
Systems Biology Program
Alan and Sandra Gerry
Endowed Chair
Sloan Kettering Institute
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Amoolya Singh, PhD

Chief Technology Officer
Delfi Diagnostics
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Cole Trapnell, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Genome
Sciences
University of Washington
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Caroline Uhler, PhD

Professor
Department of Electrical
Engineering and
Computer Science
Institute for Data, Systems,
and Society
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology
Core Institute Member
Co-Director, Eric and
Wendy Schmidt Center
Broad Institute of MIT
and Harvard
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Chief, Division of Population
Sciences
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Member
Broad Institute of MIT
and Harvard
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

DAMON RUNYON

QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARD

CALIFORNIA

[Stanford University](#)

Jakob Wirbel, PhD*

Microbial genome variation in hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation patients with Ami Bhatt, MD, PhD, and Mike Bassik, PhD

[University of California, San Francisco](#)

Youngmu (Nick) Shin, PhD

Exploring phase condensation as a general mechanism for organizing cell-cell communication assemblies with Wendell A. Lim, PhD (University of California, San Francisco), and Rohit V. Pappu, PhD (Washington University in St. Louis)

MASSACHUSETTS

[Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](#)

Ahmed Roman, PhD*

Leslie Cohen Seidman

Quantitative Biology Fellow

Signal bottleneck theory for dissecting gene interactions in pancreatic cancer with Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD, and Andrew J. Aguirre, MD, PhD

NEW JERSEY

[Princeton University](#)

Cong Ma, PhD

Modeling spatial organization and interactions among genetic and epigenetic states across cancer types with Benjamin Raphael, PhD (Princeton University), and Li Ding, PhD (Washington University in St. Louis)

Jeremy A. Owen, PhD*

The biophysics of substrate recognition in chromatin remodeling with Tom W. Muir, PhD, and Ned S. Wingreen, PhD

Carolina Trenado-Yuste, PhD

Screening migratory modes and drug delivery schedules in 3D spheroids of triple-negative breast cancer cells with Celeste M. Nelson, PhD, and Ned S. Wingreen, PhD

NEW YORK

[Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)

Sukrit Singh, PhD

Physics-driven prediction of drug-resistant clinical mutations to improve precision oncology with John D. Chodera, PhD (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center), and Markus A. Seeliger, PhD (Stony Brook University)

[New York Genome Center](#)

Isabella N. Grabski, PhD*

Kenneth G. Langone

Quantitative Biology Fellow

A probabilistic framework for deconvolving causal mechanisms of cancer therapeutics with David A. Knowles, PhD, and Rahul Satija, PhD

WASHINGTON

[Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

Yapeng Su, PhD

Quantitative analysis to elucidate spatial-temporal heterogeneity of therapeutic T cell dysfunction mechanisms in the context of adoptive cell therapy against pancreatic cancer with Philip D. Greenberg, MD, and Raphael Gottardo, PhD

[University of Washington](#)

Nicholas C. Lammers, PhD

A computational platform for predicting whole-embryo morphologies from single-cell transcriptomes with Cole Trapnell, PhD, and David Kimelman, PhD

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON

DALE F. FREY AWARD FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTISTS

Zibo Chen, PhD

Protein-based molecular programming for cancer immunotherapy at Westlake University, Hangzhou, China

Rachel S. Greenberg, PhD

The function of interoceptive circuits in reproduction and cancer at Harvard Medical School, Boston

Mark R. Sullivan, PhD

Identifying determinants of pathogenesis and drug resistance in opportunistic lung infection at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston

Junhong Choi, PhD

Uncovering cell-fate decision via molecular recording at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Jingchuan Luo, PhD

Decoding the role of localized translation in normal physiology and cancer metastasis at Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge

Julia Su Zhou Li, PhD

Uncovering the link between repetitive DNA, genomic instability, and tumor viruses at Boston Children's Hospital, Boston

DAMON RUNYON

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD COMMITTEE

CHAIR

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD

Sidney Farber Professor of Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

David P. Carbone, MD, PhD

Barbara J. Bonner Chair in Lung Cancer Research
Director, James Thoracic Center
Professor, Division of Medical Oncology
Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Ohio State University
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Lucy A. Godley, MD, PhD

Jeffrey and Marianne Silver Family Professor of Oncology
Director, Silver Family Blood Cancer Institute
Clinical Director of Cancer Genetics
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center
Division of Hematology/Oncology
Northwestern University
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Nada Jabado, MD, PhD

Professor, Pediatrics and Human Genetics
McGill University
Physician, Division of Hematology and Oncology
Montreal Children's Hospital
MONTREAL, CANADA

David R. Piwnica-Worms, MD, PhD

Professor and Chair, Cancer Systems Imaging
Executive Director, Quantitative Imaging Analysis Core
Gerald Dewey Dodd, Jr., Endowed Distinguished Chair in Diagnostic Imaging
Division of Diagnostic Imaging
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Jean Y. Tang, MD, PhD

Professor of Dermatology
Member, Stanford Cancer Institute
Stanford University School of Medicine
REDWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Matthew G. Vander Heiden, MD, PhD

Director, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT
Lester Wolfe (1919) Professor of Molecular Biology
Professor of Biology
Member, MIT Center for Precision Cancer Medicine
Member, Ludwig Center at MIT
Member, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

DAMON RUNYON

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST TRAINING AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Caitlin F. Bell, MD

Smooth muscle cell plasticity in the tumor microenvironment: another parallel between atherosclerosis and cancer with Nicholas J. Leeper, MD, and Irving L. Weissman, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

MASSACHUSETTS

Wallace A. Bourgeois, MD

Characterizing mechanisms of resistance to Menin inhibitors in KMT2A-rearranged and NPM1-mutant AML with Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Albert E. Kim, MD

William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, Physician-Scientist
Using liquid biopsy and MRI to non-invasively identify therapeutic targets for brain metastases with Elizabeth R. Gerstner, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

(Peter) Geon Kim, MD

Elucidating the mechanisms of inflammation in clonal hematopoiesis with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Vignesh Shanmugam, MD*

Uncovering microenvironmental dependencies in follicular lymphoma with Todd R. Golub, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

Mounica Vallurupalli, MD David M. Livingston, MD, Physician-Scientist

Defining the mechanistic implications of SF3B1 mutations in MDS with Todd R. Golub, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Nina Weichert-Leahey, MD

Elucidating the role of KAT6A and KAT6B in the epigenetic reprogramming of neuroblastoma to enforce neuronal differentiation with A. Thomas Look, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Rebecca L. Zon, MD*

**The Mark Foundation
for Cancer Research
Physician-Scientist**
Defining the mechanism of thrombosis in patients with multiple myeloma with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

NEW YORK

Nicole M. Cruz, MD The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Physician-Scientist

Understanding the role of KMT2D in MLL-AF9 acute myeloid leukemia with Robert G. Roeder, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

Xiaoli Mi, MD*

Origin and evolution of long-lived CAR T cells in patients with hematologic malignancies with Omar Abdel-Wahab, MD, and Dan A. Landau, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Mira A. Patel, MD

Molecular mechanisms of human APOE-mediated myeloid cell modulation in cancer with Sohail F. Tavazoie, MD, PhD, The Rockefeller University, New York

PENNSYLVANIA

Rahul Bhansali, MD*

Investigating chromatin architectural dynamics mediated by LDB1 in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia with Gerd A. Blobel, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**Initial Year*

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Ralph J. DeBerardinis, MD, PhD

Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Investigator
Professor, Children's Research
Institute
Chief, Division of Pediatric
Genetics and Metabolism
Director, Genetic and Metabolic
Disease Program
Sowell Family Scholar in
Medical Research
Joel B. Steinberg, MD
Distinguished Chair in Pediatrics
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

VICE CHAIR

Mignon L. Loh, MD

Chief, Division of Pediatric
Hematology, Oncology,
Bone Marrow Transplant,
and Cellular Therapies
Seattle Children's Hospital
Director, Ben Towne Center for
Childhood Cancer Research
Seattle Children's Research
Institute
Professor of Pediatrics,
Hematology-Oncology
University of Washington
Head, Pediatric Oncology
Section
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Scott A. Armstrong, MD, PhD

Senior Vice President for
Drug Discovery and
Chief Research Strategy Officer
President, Dana-Farber/
Boston Children's Cancer
and Blood Disorders Center
Chair, Department of
Pediatric Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Associate Chief, Division of
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Boston Children's Hospital
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Harvard Medical School
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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H.O. West and J.R. Wike Chair
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Fox Chase Cancer Center
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Associate Director,
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Chief, Division of Neuro-Oncology
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University of Michigan
Rogel Cancer Center
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Co-Director, Skip Viragh
Center for Pancreas Cancer
Ian T. MacMillan Professorship
in Clinical Pancreatic
Cancer Research
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive
Cancer Center
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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Translational Research
Memorial Hospital
Laurence Joseph Dineen Chair
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Department of Medicine
Memorial Sloan Kettering
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Deputy Director, Alvin J.
Siteman Cancer Center
Washington University
School of Medicine
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Dean for Cancer Research,
Icahn School of Medicine
at Mount Sinai
Ward-Coleman Chair in
Cancer Research
Director, Mount Sinai
Cancer Center and
Mount Sinai Health System
Professor and Chair,
Oncological Sciences
Icahn School of Medicine
at Mount Sinai
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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Interim Chair, Department of
Medical Oncology
Founder and Director,
Program for Young Women
with Breast Cancer
Director, Adult Survivorship
Program
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Breast Cancer Research
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School
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Katerina Politi, PhD

Joseph A. and Lucille K. Madri
Professor of Pathology
Co-Leader, Cancer Signaling
Networks Research Program
Scientific Director, Center
for Thoracic Cancers
Yale Cancer Center and
Yale School of Medicine
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Breast Cancer Research
Hematology and Medical
Oncology
Associate Director for
Clinical Services
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Weill Cornell Medicine
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FASCO, FAACR**

Meyer Director
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Pediatric Oncology Research
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Steven M. Corsello, MD*

**Leslie Cohen Seidman
Clinical Investigator**

Targeting intrinsic immune signaling in pancreatic cancer with small molecule therapeutics with Nathanael S. Gray, PhD, and Ronald Levy, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford

Daniel J. Delitto, MD, PhD

Pathogen sensing in fibroblasts restrains antitumor immunity in pancreatic cancer with Michael T. Longaker, MD, DSc, Stanford University, Stanford

Melody Smith, MD

Regulatory mechanisms of the intestinal microbiome on chimeric antigen receptor T cells with Robert S. Negrin, MD, Stanford University, Stanford

MARYLAND

Fyza Y. Shaikh, MD, PhD

Defining microbiome stability and longitudinal shifts as biomarkers of tumor response to immune checkpoint inhibitors across multiple malignancies with Cynthia L. Sears, MD, and Drew M. Pardoll, MD, PhD, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Sylvan C. Baca, MD, PhD

Epigenetic drivers of resistance to novel therapies for bladder and kidney cancer with Toni K. Choueiri, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Megan Insko, MD, PhD*

Targeting cancer-associated aberrant RNA to treat metastatic melanoma with F. Stephen Hodi, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Erin M. Parry, MD, PhD*

Defining follicular lymphoma transformation: molecular basis, detection and therapeutic vulnerabilities with Margaret A. Shipp, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

Lachelle D. Weeks, MD, PhD*
**Timmerman Traverse
Clinical Investigator**

Predicting leukemia risk from peripheral blood smears with Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

MICHIGAN

John R. Prensner, MD, PhD*

**Ben and Catherine Ivy
Foundation Clinical Investigator**

Targeting TRIM29 to reverse immune checkpoint inhibitor resistance in bladder cancer with Joshi J. Alumkal, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

MISSOURI

Mary Mullen, MD*

COP55 as a novel therapeutic target in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer with Dineo Khabele, MD, and Nima Mosammaparast, MD, PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

**Nathan Singh, MD
Bakewell Foundation
Clinical Investigator**

Tailored cellular engineering to overcome costimulation-driven CAR T cell dysfunction with John F. DiPersio, MD, PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

NEW YORK

Andrew L. Ji, MD

Dissecting spatial crosstalk in squamous cell carcinoma arising in organ transplant recipients with Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York

Santosh A. Vardhana, MD, PhD Gordon Family Clinical Investigator

Overcoming metabolic suppression of anti-tumor immunity in gastric cancer with Charles L. Sawyers, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Aaron D. Viny, MD

Damon Runyon-Doris Duke Clinical Investigator

Epigenetic coupling of DNA methylation and chromatin structure on leukemic transformation and therapeutic response with Emmanuelle Passegué, PhD, and Joseph G. Jurcic, MD, Columbia University, New York

PENNSYLVANIA

Benjamin A. Nacev, MD, PhD

Understanding and targeting chromatin reorganization in ATRX deficient sarcomas with Jeremy N. Rich, MD, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

TEXAS

Pavan Bachireddy, MD

Immune evasive circuits that define MRD progression in myelodysplastic syndrome with Jeffrey J. Molldrem, MD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

Xiuning Le, MD, PhD

Structure- and lineage-based classification and targeting of resistance in EGFR-mutant NSCLC with John V. Heymach, MD, PhD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON

CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR CONTINUATION GRANTS

CALIFORNIA

David Y. Oh, MD, PhD

Co-receptors modulating anti-tumor activity of human cytotoxic CD4+ effector cells with Lawrence Fong, MD (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center), University of California, San Francisco

MICHIGAN

Phillip L. Palmos, MD, PhD

Targeting TRIM29 to reverse immune checkpoint inhibitor resistance in bladder cancer with Joshi J. Alumkal, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

MISSOURI

Kelly L. Bolton, MD, PhD

The use of enasidenib in IDH2-mutated clonal cytopenia of undetermined significance with Matthew J. Walter, MD, and Eytan M. Stein, MD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis

PENNSYLVANIA

Alexander C. Huang, MD

Shared antigen and neoantigen-specific T cells in checkpoint blockade efficacy and toxicity with Gerald P. Linette, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

INNOVATION AWARD COMMITTEE

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Sloan Kettering Institute
Professor, Gerstner Sloan
Kettering Graduate School
Professor, Weill Cornell Graduate
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Cancer Center
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Harvard Medical School
Margaret M. Dyson Professor
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Bay Area Site Head
AbbVie, Inc.
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and Molecular Genetics
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University of California,
Los Angeles
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Robert K. and Helen K. Summy
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Stanford University
School of Medicine
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF

INNOVATION AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Ziyang Zhang, PhD*

Small molecule activators of GTP hydrolysis for mutant Ras-driven cancer at University of California, Berkeley

FLORIDA

Alex M. Jaeger, PhD*

William Raveis Charitable Fund Innovator

Engineering approaches to exploit MHC-II antigen presentation in cancer at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa

MASSACHUSETTS

Lucas Farnung, PhD

Understanding the mechanistic basis of gene expression regulation by MLL complexes in cancers at Harvard Medical School, Boston

Ryan A. Flynn, MD, PhD

Tools to target novel cell surface ligands in cancer at Boston Children's Hospital, Boston

Max Jan, MD, PhD

Programming next-generation NK cell therapies using targeted protein degradation at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Humsa S. Venkatesh, PhD*

Identifying and disrupting the bioelectric circuits driving brain cancer at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

NEW YORK

Daniel J. Puleston, PhD*

Bakewell Foundation Innovator

A new platform to study cancer biology and therapy in humans at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York

Elvin Wagenblast, PhD

Untangling the evolutionary dependency of childhood leukemia at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York

PENNSYLVANIA

Fange Liu, PhD

Y chromosome proteins in sex bias of cancers in non-reproductive organs at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Sydney M. Shaffer, MD, PhD*

Bakewell Foundation Innovator

Spatially resolved cellular competition in oncogenesis at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**Initial Year*

DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF

INNOVATION AWARD STAGE 2 FUNDING

CALIFORNIA

Danielle Grotjahn, PhD

Nadia's Gift Foundation Innovator

Uncovering structural mechanisms of mitochondrial fragmentation in cancer by cellular cryo-electron tomography at Scripps Research, La Jolla

CONNECTICUT

Luisa F. Escobar-Hoyos, PhD

Understanding RNA splicing in tumor-cell adaptation and anti-tumor immunity at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven

Mandar D. Muzumdar, MD

Targeting endocrine-exocrine signaling in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma progression at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven

MARYLAND

Jamie B. Spangler, PhD*

Engineered multispecific down-regulating antibodies to advance cancer immunotherapy at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Nora Kory, PhD*

Targeting mitochondrial transporters in cancer at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston

Srinivas R. Viswanathan, MD, PhD*

X marks the spot: exploring how X-chromosome alterations drive sex differences in cancer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

**Initial Year*

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Lila Acheson Wallace Chair
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Cancer Center
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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Drug Discovery and
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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Associate Chief, Division of
Hematology/Oncology
Boston Children's Hospital
David G. Nathan Professor
of Pediatrics
Harvard Medical School
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus
Chief, Pediatric Hematology/
Oncology/Bone Marrow
Transplant
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Chair in Pediatric Oncology
Children's Hospital Colorado
Center for Cancer and
Blood Disorders
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Associate Member
Director, Molecular
Oncology Division
Department of Oncology
St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Tara O. Henderson, MD, MPH

Arthur and Marian Edelstein
Professor of Pediatrics
Professor of Medicine
Director, Childhood Adolescent
and Young Adult Survivorship
Center
Co-Leader, Comprehensive
Cancer Center Prevention
and Control Program
Chief, Section of Pediatric
Cancer and Blood Diseases,
Chicagoland Children's Health
Alliance
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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Director, Stanford Center
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Laboratory for Cell and Gene
Medicine at Stanford
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McDonnell III Professor
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Director, McDonnell Pediatric
Cancer Center
Division of Pediatric
Hematology and Oncology
Washington University
School of Medicine
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARD

CALIFORNIA

Stanford University

Mohammad Balood, PhD*

Development and evaluation of T cell receptor (TCR)-based immunotherapy to target pediatric Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia with Tanja A. Gruber, MD, PhD

University of California,
San Francisco

Philip T. Pauerstein, MD, PhD*§

Enhancing immune synapse formation with synthetic adhesion to overcome chimeric antigen receptor-T cell resistance in pediatric B cell malignancies with Wendell A. Lim, PhD

MASSACHUSETTS

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

April A. Apfelbaum, PhD*

Investigation of receptor tyrosine kinase-independent mechanisms of FGFR1-mediated oncogenesis in pediatric gliomas with Pratiti Bandopadhyay, MBBS, PhD, and Keith Lignon, MD, PhD

Costanza Lo Cascio, PhD*

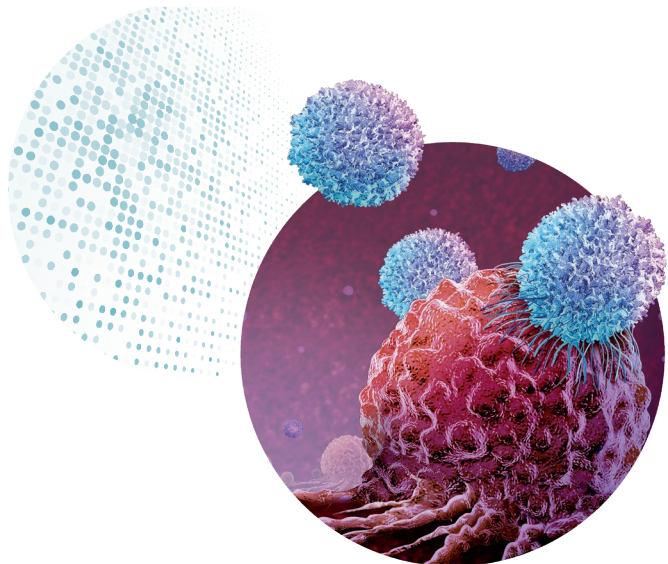
Investigating the neuronal regulation of radioresistance in diffuse midline gliomas with Mariella G. Filbin, MD, PhD

James J. Morrow, MD, PhD*§

Application of single-cell approaches to investigate the developmental origin and early transformation steps of osteosarcoma with Bradley E. Bernstein, MD, PhD

**Initial Year*

§Physician-Scientists



DAMON RUNYON

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Molecular and Systems
Physiology Laboratory
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Salk Institute for
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Freeman Hrabowski Scholar
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Assistant Professor of Stem Cell
and Regenerative Biology
Stem Cell and Regenerative
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Henry Ross Perot
Distinguished Professor
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Rolf Haberecht and
Ute Schwarz Haberecht Dean
Graduate School of
Biomedical Sciences
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center
DALLAS, TEXAS

DAMON RUNYON

SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE (SPARK) AWARD

Sangita Chakraborty

with Lydia Finley, PhD at
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center, New York

Katelyn B. King

with Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD
at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,
Boston

Jayati Mondal

with Andrew Wolfe, PhD
at City University of New York
Hunter College, New York

Carli J. Newman

with Christina M. Termini, PhD
at Fred Hutchinson Cancer
Center, Seattle

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Your support this year enabled us to invest over **\$22.5 million** in exceptional young scientists working across research disciplines to better prevent, diagnose, and treat all forms of cancer.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

**A conversation with
Damon Runyon supporter
David G. Schwartz**



For David G. Schwartz, supporting Damon Runyon through the Broadway Tickets service is a family tradition. Begun by his grandfather and now carried on by his daughter Stefanie, the tradition combines their love of theater and faith in the lifesaving promise of cancer research.

How did your family first learn about our Broadway Tickets service?

As far back as I can remember, my family has supported Damon Runyon through the theater program as well as individual donations. My grandfather, Harry A. Schwartz, learned about the Foundation through his brother, Samuel Schwartz. I remember my parents driving my sister and me into the city to see Broadway shows. I believe I was 13 years old when I saw *Zero Mostel in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

What appeals to your family about Damon Runyon's mission?

All the money donated goes to scientific studies to eradicate cancer—it's a clear and worthwhile mission.

What is your favorite show you've seen through the Broadway Tickets service?

Hamilton.

As longtime donors, you've been able to attend Damon Runyon events over the years and meet some of our Awardees. What has stood out to you from those experiences?

Meeting and greeting Damon Runyon scientists is a true learning experience. Their enthusiasm and commitment to working day and night to discover potential causes and cures for cancer would inspire anyone.

What would you say to prospective donors or anyone who's considering becoming a Damon Runyon theater customer?

I would highly recommend the Broadway Tickets program to anyone with an appreciation for theater and a desire to further the mission of finding cures for cancer. Donors have the satisfaction of getting to see the finest Broadway has to offer while at the same time helping humanity with a tax-deductible donation.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your longtime partnership with Damon Runyon?

Working with Marialice [the Director of the Broadway Tickets service] for so many years has been a joy! I consider her part of my family of friends.

2024 EVENTS



ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Damon Runyon’s Annual Breakfast was held at the Metropolitan Club in New York on June 12 and raised more than \$1.5 million to support our scientists. Emeritus Board Member Ken Langone, Chairman of Invemed Associates and Co-Founder of The Home Depot, was honored for his longstanding support of Damon Runyon and his shared commitment to investing in bold ideas with the potential to have transformational impact. Guests also heard research updates from Damon Runyon scientists Lydia Finley, PhD, and Rabi Upadhyay, MD, while Isabella Grabski, PhD, was named the Foundation’s first Kenneth G. Langone Quantitative Biology Fellow in Mr. Langone’s honor.



CULTIVATION EVENTS

Throughout the year, Damon Runyon hosted several regional events across the country to highlight the work of our awardees for supporters in South Florida, the Hamptons, the Bay Area, and beyond. From our winter movie screening in Boca Raton to cocktails and conversation on an August evening in Sag Harbor to an inspiring discussion with a Nobel laureate and a final dress rehearsal at the San Francisco Opera this fall, these unique events provided an opportunity for donors and prospective donors to hear directly from Damon Runyon scientists pursuing innovative research with the potential to improve treatment, diagnosis, and prevention of all cancers.



TIMMERMAN TRAVERSE

Through a new partnership with the Timmerman Traverse, an adventurous initiative that brings leaders and investors in biotech together to scale extraordinary physical—and philanthropic—heights, Biotech journalist, entrepreneur, and mountaineer Luke Timmerman led a team of 20 scientific luminaries who hiked to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the African continent’s highest peak, in February. Prior to the expedition, the team trained for hiking at more than 19,000 feet above sea level, enlisted the support of friends and colleagues, and together raised nearly \$1.2 million to benefit Damon Runyon’s brave and bold cancer researchers.



WILLIAM RAVEIS CHARITABLE FUND EVENTS

The William Raveis Charitable Fund, the philanthropic arm of William Raveis Real Estate, hosts fundraising events throughout the year in support of Damon Runyon, primarily in Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts. Since 2015, WRCF has raised more than \$4 million for cancer research and sponsored over 20 Damon Runyon scientists. We are incredibly grateful to the Raveis family and the entire Raveis community for their continued support of Damon Runyon scientists.

SPONSORED AWARDS

We thank our individual, foundation, and corporate sponsors who have partnered with us to launch or provide continuing support for specific award programs.

DAMON RUNYON-RACHLEFF INNOVATION AWARDS

This award was established thanks to the vision and generosity of Debbie and Andy Rachleff.

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Daniel J. Puleston, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Sydney M. Shaffer, MD, PhD
University of Pennsylvania

NADIA'S GIFT FOUNDATION INNOVATOR

Danielle Grotjahn, PhD
Scripps Research

WILLIAM RAVEIS CHARITABLE FUND INNOVATOR

Alex M. Jaeger, PhD
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute

DAMON RUNYON CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

This award was initially established in partnership with Eli Lilly and Company. In addition, it is supported by Accelerating Cancer Cures, a collaboration between Damon Runyon and leading biopharmaceutical companies.

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Washington University

BEN AND CATHERINE IVY FOUNDATION CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

John R. Prensner, MD, PhD
University of Michigan

GORDON FAMILY CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Santosh A. Vardhana, MD, PhD
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LESLIE COHEN SEIDMAN CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Steven M. Corsello, MD
Stanford University School of Medicine

TIMMERMAN TRAVERSE CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR

Lachelle D. Weeks, MD, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

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The following awards are funded by donors who have generously endowed an award in perpetuity or sponsored an individual Fellow.

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Princeton University

Grant A. King, PhD

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Archana Krishnamoorthy, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

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Massachusetts Institute
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University of Pennsylvania

Ryan Y. Muller, PhD

Whitehead Institute for
Biomedical Research

Dylan M. Parker, PhD

University of Colorado Boulder

Nalin Ratnayeke, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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Massachusetts Institute
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Rocío D. M. Saavedra-Peña, PhD

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Joshua B. Sheetz, PhD

University of California, Berkeley

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The Rockefeller University

Zeda Zhang, PhD

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This award supports those Fellows who have greatly exceeded Damon Runyon's highest expectations with an additional investment. It was established in honor of late former Damon Runyon Board Chair Dale F. Frey.

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This award was established thanks to the generosity of Damon Runyon Emeritus Board Members Leon G. Cooperman and Michael L. Gordon.

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DAMON RUNYON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

The following awards are funded by donors who generously sponsor an individual Quantitative Biology Fellow.

KENNETH G. LANGONE
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Isabella N. Grabski, PhD
New York Genome Center

LESLIE COHEN SEIDMAN
QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY FELLOW

Ahmed Roman, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

DAMON RUNYON-JAKE WETCHLER AWARD FOR PEDIATRIC INNOVATION

This \$10,000 award is named in honor of Jake Wetchler, who died at age 20 after a heroic fight against two different cancers.

Yapeng Su, PhD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer
Research Center

DAMON RUNYON

ACCELERATING CANCER CURES

Accelerating Cancer Cures is supported by leading biopharmaceutical companies committed to finding new cures for cancer. Thank you to Genentech, Merck, AbbVie, Amgen, and Novartis for partnering with us to support the Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award.



In conjunction with this initiative, the Accelerating Cancer Cures Research Symposium brings together our translational researchers with industry leaders to foster communication and collaboration to help speed progress against cancer.

The 2024 Accelerating Cancer Cures Research Symposium was held on Thursday, March 7, at the AbbVie campus in South San Francisco. We thank AbbVie and all our ACC partners for their support and commitment to the next generation of clinical investigators.

BROADWAY PREMIER CIRCLE

The Broadway Premier Circle is a group of loyal Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets customers who have made a special donation in support of cancer research. The Premier Circle offers members priority access to tickets and other benefits.

Sharman and David Altshuler, MD
Barbara Lieb Baumstein
Isabel and Steven Berg
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Mary Ann Frenzel

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WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE

damonrunyon.org/donate



PHONE

1.877.7CANCER or 1.877.722.6237
9 am–5 pm ET, Monday to Friday



MAIL

One Exchange Plaza, 55 Broadway, Suite 302
New York, NY 10006



ESTATE PLANNING

Visit our website for more information:
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DAMON RUNYON BROADWAY TICKETS

Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets offers Broadway’s best seats and the opportunity to support cutting-edge cancer research at the same time. Orchestra seats are available for even the most popular shows.

Join our **Premier Circle** to enjoy benefits like priority access to tickets before they go on sale each month, and more.

Our **Gift Certificates** are perfect for holiday gifts, as well as birthdays, anniversaries, or any occasion—a fun night and a meaningful gift.

Call us for tickets at 212.455.0550 between 9 am–5 pm ET, Monday to Friday. Purchase tickets online at damonrunyon.org/broadway

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2024

As in previous years, the financial activities of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation were audited by RMS US LLP. Below is a snapshot of FY2024.

For our complete audited financial statements, please visit our website at damonrunyon.org

TOTAL REVENUE



- 30.5% ● Investment Return
- 49.9% ● Contributions
- 6.3% ● Misc. Income
- 13.0% ● Bequests & Trusts
- 0.3% ● Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES



- 86.6% ● Programs
- 8.8% ● Fundraising
- 4.6% ● General Administration

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS

	2023	2024
Total Assets	\$147,680,687	\$160,511,709
Total Liabilities	\$32,920,972	\$35,205,374
Total Net Assets	\$114,759,715	\$125,306,335



100% OF YOUR DONATION FUNDS BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS.

We pay our low overhead with revenue from Damon Runyon Broadway Tickets and our endowment.

**100% OF YOUR DONATION
FUNDS BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS.**

DAMON RUNYON
CANCER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Funding brave and bold.