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DANA-FARBER
CANCER INSTITUTE

The
Jimmy Fund®

Volume 12 • Issue 2

DFMC marks 20 years of going the distance to stop cancer in its tracks

At the 113th Boston Marathon® April 20, the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC) crossed a significant mile marker: celebrating two decades of setting the pace in the fight against cancer.

Since the DFMC's inception, thousands of runners have tackled the famous course on behalf of Dana-Farber, raising more than \$40 million for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at DFCI.

Established by Institute Trustees J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver in honor of Delores' mother, the Barr Program supports Institute scientists exploring the basic mysteries of cancer.

The Weavers, who traveled from Jacksonville, Fla., to cheer on the team on race day, have contributed more than \$3.7 million to the DFMC, including \$250,000 toward the 2009 team goal of \$4.85 million.

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The 2009 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team gathers in Hopkinton, Mass., prior to the race's start.



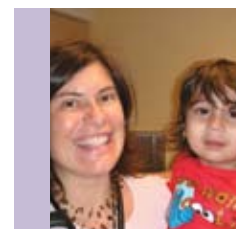
3
Loyal
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Walking
Wonders



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Charitable
Chefs



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Powerful
Profile



9
Dedicated
Doctor

A smashing success: Palm Beach community gives back to Dana-Farber

The Palm Beach community once again demonstrated its commitment to conquering cancer through its participation in a series of events benefiting Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The culmination of the 2009 fundraising season took place at the 18th annual Discovery Ball, where an impressive \$2.2 million was raised for cancer research and patient care, bringing the event's cumulative fundraising to more than \$20 million.

"Our loyal friends in Palm Beach have done so much to advance Dana-Farber's lifesaving mission," said Institute President and CEO Edward J. Benz Jr., MD. "On behalf of our team of scientists and caregivers, I thank them for their continued dedication and support."

The Palm Beach season officially began Jan. 14 with a Kick-off Party held at The Breakers Hotel. This evening, hosted by Chairs Tom Quick and Institute Trustee Phyllis Krock, featured a dinner buffet and informal fashion presentation underwritten by Giorgio Armani of Palm Beach.

On Feb. 19, the ball festivities officially began with the Palm Beach Pre-Ball Dinner, hosted and underwritten by the Palandjian Family and held in the Circle Ballroom at The Breakers. This casual event offered donors at the bronze level of \$6,000 or more an opportunity to pay tribute to the Institute's most honored cancer experts while enjoying fine cuisine.

The eighth annual Breakfast with the Doctors, held Feb. 20 at the Palm Beach Country Club, was hosted and underwritten by Institute Trustee Judie Schlager, her husband, Larry, and Vicki and Arthur Loring. The symposium offered audience members the chance to hear DFCI physician-scientists discuss the latest advances in cancer research and treatment.

The Discovery Ball was held the next evening at The Breakers, hosted by

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Discovery Ball Honorary Chairs and Grand Benefactors Michele Kessler (left, center), an Institute Trustee, and her husband, Howard (left), celebrate a successful fundraising season with Nathalie Fernandez and Patrick Park, vice chair and Major Donor Dinner chair.

MISSION POSSIBLE

The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer

Dear Friends,

We at Dana-Farber are so grateful that our donors are demonstrating a firm commitment to conquer cancer in its many forms, despite these challenging economic times. You know firsthand the importance of our lifesaving mission and our relentless determination to find cures and save lives. We look to you, our loyal supporters, to continue to help us as we strive to meet our fundraising goal this year. Nothing can stop our momentum with you by our side.



In this issue of *Impact*, we are proud to recognize those donors whose ongoing partnership is helping us win the fight against cancer.

We are delighted to thank all of our Palm Beach supporters who celebrated a terrific \$2.2 million fundraising season with the 18th annual Discovery Ball at The Breakers Hotel Feb. 21. Honorary chairs, Institute Trustee Michele Kessler and her husband, Howard, and Vice Chair Patrick Park created a wonderful evening to raise vital funding for cancer research and patient care at the Institute.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, and we are so pleased to thank the more than 560 runners who supported our mission while tackling the challenging 26.2-mile race. With an impressive fundraising goal of \$4.85 million, these runners crossed the finish line to raise valuable funds for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber.

We also recognize the Breast Cancer Research Foundation for its generous grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million to support numerous Dana-Farber scientists. These funds, which will help advance breast cancer research and create novel treatment options, will offer hope to those currently battling the disease, as well as future generations of breast cancer patients.

Looking ahead, much of our grassroots fundraising takes place through events in the coming summer months. We have already begun to see many event participants getting involved and we know that we will be successful thanks to your generosity and partnership. We thank you for your steadfast dedication and for your help in making our mission possible.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Paresky
Senior Vice President for Development

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For more information, contact:

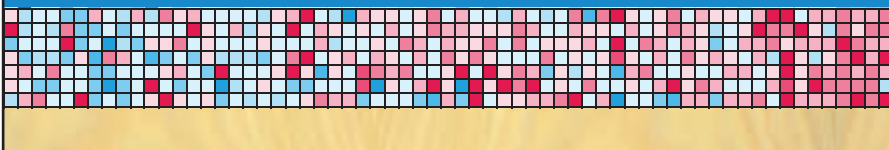
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The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer

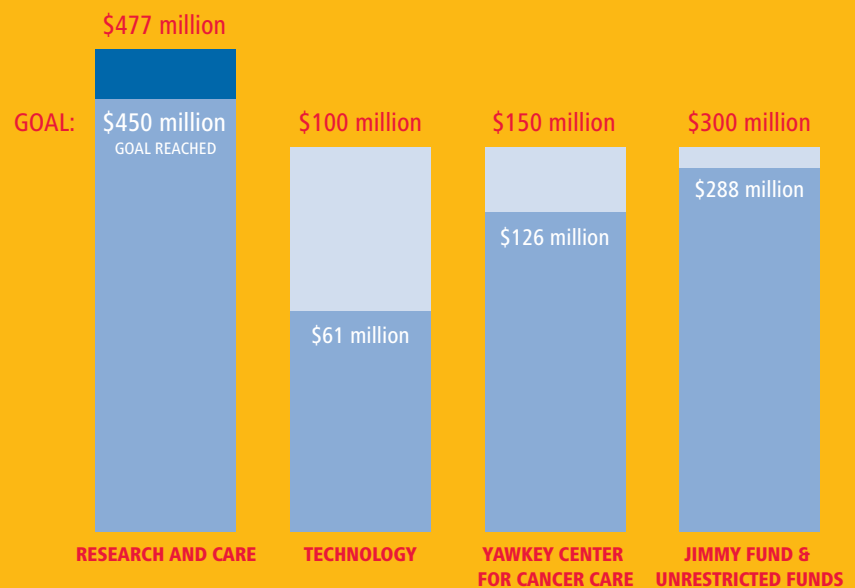
Mission Possible: The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer was launched to secure the resources critical to uncovering the genetic and molecular roots of cancer and turn those discoveries into lifesaving, personalized treatments. With a goal of \$1 billion, it stands as the largest and most ambitious campaign in Dana-Farber's history.

Dana-Farber is thrilled to announce that, thanks to you, our loyal community of supporters, we are moving ever closer to meeting that \$1 billion goal. As of April 30, more than \$964 million has been raised, and this outpouring of support can be attributed to a number of sources:

- To date, more than 1.65 million gifts have been made in support of the campaign.
- More than 99 percent of the Institute's board of trustees have made a gift during the campaign.
- 96 percent of Dana-Farber's senior faculty made a campaign-specific gift, totaling \$1 million, prior to the campaign's kickoff.

The funds raised through your generosity directly support four critical areas: Research and Care, the new Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, Technology, and Jimmy Fund and Unrestricted Funds.

The table below illustrates the individual goal for each of these campaign priorities, as well as their status as of April 30.



*An additional \$13 million raised has yet to be designated

To learn how you can support the campaign, please contact Berenice Ronthal, associate vice president, Individual Giving and Campaign, at 617-632-3051 or berenice_ronthal@dfci.harvard.edu.

Impact SPRING 2009

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This issue covers gifts received and finalized through the winter and spring of 2009.

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute provides expert, compassionate care

to children and adults and is home to groundbreaking cancer

discoveries. Since its founding in 1948, the Jimmy Fund has raised

millions of dollars through thousands of community efforts to

advance Dana-Farber's lifesaving mission.

Breast Cancer Research Foundation grants support many facets of research

Established in 1993 by Evelyn Lauder, daughter-in-law of cosmetics legend Estee Lauder, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) provides funds for research advancing the treatment and prevention of breast cancer, as well as the quality of life of those affected by the disease.

Recently, the BCRF awarded \$35 million to 166 researchers in 10 different countries, including \$1.39 million in grants given to several physician-scientists at Dana-Farber.

“We feel a multi-faceted approach to treatment, prevention, and quality of life for patients will allow us to see a cure for breast cancer in our lifetimes,” said Peg Mastrianni, deputy director of BCRF. “We are thrilled to be supporting so many promising projects and scientists at Dana-Farber.”

COVERING THE BASES

In keeping with their mission to support the best and brightest ideas in breast cancer treatment and research, BCRF has funded six research projects at Dana-Farber aimed at furthering our understanding of breast cancer in order to develop more targeted treatments. Among those are clinical trials conducted by Nancy Lin, MD, and Judy Garber, MD, MPH, director of the Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Risk and Prevention Clinic.

Lin will focus her research efforts on brain metastases in patients with breast cancer and evaluate the combination of chemotherapy with bevacizumab, a targeted drug that blocks blood vessel growth.

Garber will further both her clinical trials on the effect of platinum on breast cancer tumors as well as research into tumor formation in carriers of the *BRCA1* gene mutation.



Additionally, BCRF's grant will help Ursula Matulonis, MD, medical director of the Gynecologic Oncology Center, and Zhigang Wang, MD, in collaboration with Ross Berkowitz, MD, director of the Gynecologic Oncology Program at the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center and

William H. Baker Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, in their research into the genetic similarities between certain forms of breast and ovarian cancer.

Concurrently, William Kaelin Jr., MD, of Medical Oncology, will use this support to further his studies into EglN2, an enzyme that may play a role in breast cancer, which could possibly lead to the creation of drugs targeting this enzyme.

BRCF is also aiding David Livingston, MD, chair of DFCI's Executive Committee for Research and deputy director of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, in his investigation into proteins in basal-like breast cancer cells to find specialized treatments for this form of the disease.

Finally, Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD, of Medical Oncology, will be able to continue her research on the diversity of cells within tumors and the clinical relevance of this, possibly leading to breakthroughs in tumor resistance to treatment and recurrence.

“Funding from the BCRF is crucial to maintain the innovative research that may be against the paradigm accepted by many people,” said Polyak. “This is extremely helpful because traditional funding such as government grants is very difficult to obtain.” ■

Family answers the question ‘Why us?’ with new sense of purpose

At age 2, Wyatt Kilhefner underwent surgery to have doctors remove a tumor the size of a baseball from his brain. Due to its placement, five percent of the mass could not be excised. Thankfully, Wyatt's tumor has been stable



Left to right: Jerry, Wyatt, and Jessica Kilhefner continue their fight against PLGAs, which account for one-third of all pediatric brain tumors and have seen little change in treatment regimens for 25 years.

for nearly five years, but the danger of recurrence remains. Thus, his parents, Jerry and Jessica Kilhefner, continue searching for a cure by supporting DFCI's Pediatric Low-Grade Astrocytoma (PLGA) Program. Most recently, the couple gave \$100,000 to bolster efforts led by Charles Stiles, PhD, co-chair of the Department of Cancer Biology, and Mark Kieran, MD, PhD, director of Pediatric Medical Neuro-Oncology, through the couple's “Why Not Me?” Fund.

“When Wyatt was diagnosed, our first thought was ‘Why us?’ We really struggled with the situation,” said Jessica Kilhefner. “Then we realized: It's not ‘Why me?’ it's ‘Why not me?’ We are fortunate, educated people with financial resources and a large network of supportive friends, family, and colleagues. If people like us who are in a position to help don't do so, nothing is ever going to change for these kids.”

The Kilhefners were drawn to Dana-Farber because of Stiles and Kieran's interest in attacking the under-researched PLGAs. Their program seeks to uncover the genetic mutations that fuel the disease and test novel therapies that could potentially lead to clinical trials.

“Because recurrence is common in PLGAs, the repeated cycles of treatment with radiation and cytotoxic drugs are devastating to the overall health of growing children,” said Kieran. “Finding a better approach—such as identifying molecular targets that can be affected with personalized therapies—is critical for these patients.” ■

Grateful for golfers



More than 150 members of the Jimmy Fund Golf community converged on The International in Bolton, Mass., for the annual Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night Feb. 5. During the festive evening, tournament directors and volunteers celebrated Jimmy Fund Golf's record-setting \$7.1 million fundraising season, welcomed 14 new tournaments, and recognized the top tournaments of 2008.

Among those honored were the winners of the Ken Coleman Extra Mile Award, which is given to volunteers who emulate the late sportscaster's hard work and devotion to the Jimmy Fund. This year's award recipients were Bob Fine (right), director of the Bill Costello Memorial Golf Tournament, and retired Wrentham Chief of Police Joe Collamati Jr. (center) and Braintree Chief of Police Paul Frazier, the co-directors of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association Annual Ralph Lepore Jimmy Fund Golf Tournament.

The evening also featured a guest lecture by DFCI Chief Scientific Officer Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, who spoke about new developments in cancer research at Dana-Farber made possible with support from Jimmy Fund Golf, now in its 27th year.



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Palm Beach *continued from page 1*

Honorary Chairs, Institute Trustee Michele Kessler and her husband, Howard, and Vice Chair Patrick Park. Graff served as the ball's Grand Corporate Benefactor.

"In this difficult economic environment, we were so fortunate to have so many respond with not only their generous gifts, but also their valued presence," said Michele Kessler, who also thanked Institute supporter Ellen Jaffe for her hard work and vision in helping to plan the event. "Each person has taken a stand in the fight against cancer, and for this we are extremely grateful."

GRAND PLATINUM BENEFACTOR

Patrick M. Park

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KICK-OFF PARTY UNDERWRITER

Giorgio Armani

Nearly 350 guests filled the Venetian Ballroom to dine, dance, and participate in live and silent auctions, with items up for bid including the chance to throw out the first pitch at the Sept. 16 Boston Red Sox vs. Los Angeles Angels game at Boston's Fenway Park, along with four tickets to the park's EMC² Club, contributed by the Kesslers. Tom Quick served as auctioneer of two unique items: a pair of yellow and white diamond heart-shape earrings contributed by Graff and six flight hours on a private plane donated by Bombardier Flexjet.

For the 12th consecutive year, a portion of the proceeds from the ball benefited the Pediatric Oncology Support Team (POST) at St. Mary's Development Medical Center in Palm Beach, which supports young cancer patients and their families within the five-county region.

On March 3, the season's chairs, sponsors, and major donors of the silver level of \$10,000 and above gathered together at the Major Donor Dinner, hosted by Patrick Park at his home, to celebrate their community's good works and successful fundraising in 2009. ■



Phyllis and Paul Fireman served as Grand Benefactors of the 18th annual Discovery Ball.



Jim Harpel showed his support for the Discovery Ball by participating as a Grand Benefactor.



The Palandjian family, including (left to right) Minou, Institute Trustee Peter, Sheila, Tracy, and Leon Palandjian, hosted and underwrote the 2009 Pre-Ball Dinner.



Favor Sponsors Susie and Skippy Weingeroff contributed to the success of the Discovery Ball.



Auction Co-chair and Institute Trustee Sandra Krakoff is a perennial Palm Beach supporter.



Kick-off Party Co-chairs Phyllis Krock, an Institute trustee, and Tom Quick are loyal DFCI supporters.



Institute Trustee Donald Dwares and his wife, Bonnie, who served as Dinner chairs, enjoy the Discovery Ball festivities.



Left to right: Jim Pappas, Howard Kessler, and Institute Trustee George Cloutier served as the season's Tribute Book co-chairs.



Institute Trustee Judie Schlager (left, center) and her husband, Larry (left), and Vicki and Arthur Loring hosted the annual Breakfast with the Doctors event.



Auction Co-chairs Nancy (left) and Don Carter visit with Diana Salandra of Grand Corporate Benefactor Graff.

Trustee's gift underscores importance of advancing technology

As president and CEO of Quality Beverage, LP, in Taunton, Mass., T. Conrad Wetterau leads a beverage distributor that has been championing Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund for more than 25 years. He and his organization remain motivated by knowing that they are giving back to the community by aiding cancer patients.

"Dana-Farber is an organization that is close to our hearts at Quality Beverage, as well as our family and the community," said Wetterau, whose dedication to DFCI led him to become an Institute trustee in 2006. "We are thrilled to further honor its lifesaving mission."

As such, he and his wife, Marguerite, recently gave \$200,000 to DFCI, with the request that it be applied to the Institute's most pressing needs—which include technology initiatives. The Wetterau Family Cancer Research and Technology Fund will provide Institute physician-scientists with the crucial resources needed to access the cutting-edge scientific tools that will speed the process of translating scientific breakthroughs into new therapies and diagnostics for patients. This gift also supports *Mission Possible: The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer*.

"Technology is what has allowed us to make all of the recent spectacular advances in cancer research," said Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, DFCI's chief scientific officer. "Technology defines 'the doable.' The Wetteraus understand this, and their generous gift will enable us to leverage the tremendous power of technology for the benefit of our patients." ■



Institute Trustee T. Conrad Wetterau and his wife, Marguerite, requested that their gift be applied to the Institute's most pressing needs.

One patient's battle helps others with rare blood cancer

When Jørgen G. Heje of Norway was diagnosed with Waldenström's macroglobulinemia, a rare, incurable cancer that creates a thickening of the blood, his search to secure the best treatment led him to Irene



Dana-Farber's Irene Ghobrial, MD (left), and Stacey Chuma, RN (far right), are on the road to conquering Waldenström's macroglobulinemia, thanks to donors like Jørgen G. and Tone Heje.

Ghobrial, MD, at Dana-Farber's Kirsch Laboratory for Waldenström's in the Bing Center for Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia. Heje and his wife, Tone, were so impressed by the work of Ghobrial and her international team of researchers that they resolved to help others battle this cancer.

With a gift of \$210,000, the couple has established the Heje Family Fellowship in Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia, which will support the work of a promising investigator at the Institute's Bing Center.

"Cancer is one of humanity's greatest enemies, and we all have to do our part to fight it," said Heje. "Some great philanthropists have led the way in supporting Dana-Farber and its Bing Center, and I feel privileged to be part of that tradition."

According to Ghobrial, who will direct the Heje Fellow, the investigator will focus his or her work on develop-

ing novel treatments for newly diagnosed patients with Waldenström's before they become symptomatic.

"The new discoveries in our lab are leading us toward more customized therapeutics," said Ghobrial. "Thanks to the continued generosity of friends like Jørgen and Tone, we can build upon our work and help so many around the world who are living with this disease." ■

Steps to success



The Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk commemorated 20 years of success during its annual Extra Mile Brunch, held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place in Boston March 29. The event celebrated the 2008 walkers' collective accomplishment of raising \$6 million, and honored the integral role that the individuals, Pacesetters (walkers who individually raised \$1,000 or more), sponsors, and top team captains played in reaching this achievement.

During the festivities, Institute President and CEO Edward J. Benz Jr., MD (center), thanked those walkers who participated in all 20 Walks since the event's inception in 1989, including (left to right): Dick Gellis, Susan Curry, Christopher Carroll, Arnold Butter, Michael Gold, and Louis Goldberg.



BOSTON MARATHON JIMMY FUND WALK
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

CONQUER CANCER

DFMC continued from page 1



Institute Trustees J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver are propelling cancer cures through their support of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge.

“For the past two decades, DFMC runners, volunteers, and supporters have joined forces to fuel groundbreaking discoveries,” said Delores Barr Weaver. “It is an inspiring tradition that Wayne and I have been proud to support, as we believe that basic cancer research will hasten the elimination of this terrible disease. Then—and only then—will I rest easy.”

That mission was also paramount for the DFMC team members on the marathon course. For some, the 26.2-mile commitment was especially personal.

RUNNING TO REMEMBER

Cathy Troisi ran her first DFMC in 1995 to honor a friend who had lost his battle with melanoma. Tragically, her reasons for continuing to compete hit closer to home when her own daughter, Kimberly, was diagnosed with colon cancer and succumbed to the disease in 2007 at age 37.

Troisi now runs for Kimberly and her children, with the goal of one day protecting others from the incredible loss her own family has endured.

“No matter how difficult it is to run those 26.2 miles, it does not compare to the challenges cancer patients face,” said Troisi, who has raised more than \$86,000 for the DFMC in the past 15 years. “As long as I am able, I will be there for Dana-Farber.”

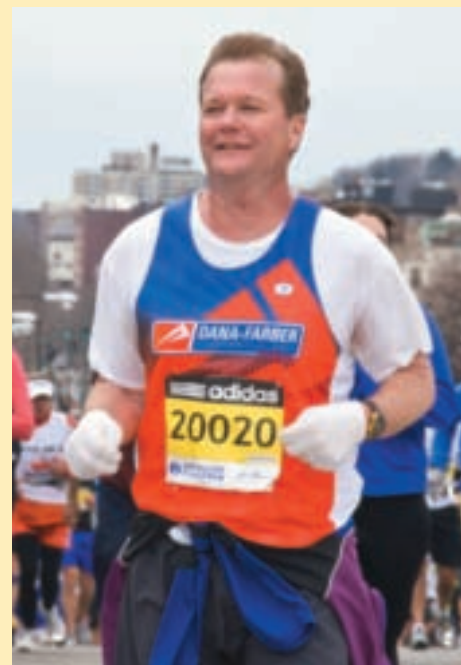
THE VETERAN

When Brian Herr joined the inaugural DFMC in 1990, there were only 19 members on the team. In 2009, there were 562, and Herr was proud to be counted among them.

The only runner who has



Knowing that her efforts reach far beyond race day fueled Cathy Troisi along the Boston Marathon® course.



Brian Herr hopes that he can one day hang up his running shoes because the mysteries of cancer will have been solved.

participated in all 20 DFMC seasons, Herr sees each race as an opportunity to make a significant contribution to cancer research through his love of running. He served as the DFMC board chair for several years, and his steadfast commitment has resulted in more than \$135,000 raised for the Barr Program. The team has also helped shape his life, even introducing him to his wife, Mary Murphy.

“DFMC’s 20th year is a celebration of the thousands of people who have made their way along the Boston Marathon route on behalf of Dana-Farber and all of the people who have been helped as a result of our team’s efforts,” remarked Herr. ■

National Brain Tumor Society gift fosters development of new treatment

Of the more than 10,000 children who were estimated to be diagnosed with cancer in 2008, greater than 20 percent were found to have brain or spinal cord tumors.



Committed to changing the odds for these pediatric patients, the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) recently awarded Dana-Farber’s Mark Kieran, MD, PhD, director of Pediatric Medical Neuro-Oncology at DFCI, more than \$295,000 for his research in low-grade gliomas (LGGs)—the most common brain tumors in children.

“Dr. Kieran’s initiative for refractory low-grade gliomas in children reflects our commitment to advancing pediatric brain tumor research toward the development of effective therapies with minimal adverse effects,” said David Hurwitz, PhD, the Richard B. Ross chief scientific officer at the National Brain Tumor Society.

This award was made possible through the Low-Grade Glioma Initiative, a unique fundraising effort by families who connected through NBTS to find support following the devastating news of a brain tumor diagnosis for a child in their family.

Though some children with LGGs can be cured effectively with chemotherapy alone, others face recurrences of their cancer and need repeated treatment. To treat these patients better, Kieran and his colleagues have identified that a previously discovered pathway in a cell, called mTOR, is activated in certain forms of LGGs. Through a multi-institutional clinical trial, Kieran and his team are now testing a new oral mTOR inhibitor, RAD001, which has been shown to successfully inhibit the pathway and is also well-tolerated in patients.

“Less toxic, more targeted therapies are very much needed for children with this disease,” said Kieran. “This clinical trial would not be possible without support from the National Brain Tumor Society.” ■

Cooking up success in the fight against cancer



Throng of hungry supporters dined on tasty small plates and dessert treats expertly prepared by more than 50 of New England’s top culinary experts, restaurateurs, and caterers, while sipping an assortment of wines, beers, and beverages, all generously donated to the 11th annual Chefs Cooking for Hope, held March 5 and hosted by the Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Chefs Cooking for Hope Co-chairs (from left) Nikki Lank Bialow, Lesley Prowda, Terri Tsagaris, and Nanci Gelb welcomed 400 eager attendees to the expansive rotunda of downtown Boston’s 125 High Street, as well as Honorary Chef Tom Berry (center) of Temple Bar in Cambridge, Mass., who prepared grilled rock shrimp with quinoa tabouli.

Special guests WHDH 7NEWS anchor Frances Rivera and Dan Andelman of television’s “Phantom Gourmet” also joined in the gastronomical festivities. Ticket sales, in addition to a silent auction and raffle, which included a baseball bat signed by Boston Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka, raised more than \$50,000 to benefit cancer research and care at Dana-Farber.

The V Foundation champions critical breast cancer research

Founded by legendary college basketball coach and ESPN broadcaster Jim Valvano in 1993, The V Foundation for Cancer Research seeks to assist talented scientists in their quests to find cures for cancer. To date, this mission has raised upwards of \$80 million and funded more than 300 research projects nationwide.

Recently, the foundation awarded a \$600,000 grant to Judy Garber, MD, MPH, director of the Friends of Dana-Farber Cancer Risk and Prevention Clinic, and Daniel Silver, MD, PhD, of Dana-Farber's Women's Cancers Program, to conduct clinical trials and groundbreaking research into the biology of basal-like breast cancer.

"The V Foundation is excited to have awarded a grant to this talented team of investigators at Dana-Farber," said The V Foundation CEO Nick Valvano. "We are hopeful that their work will provide a new and more effective therapy to combat this deadly type of breast cancer."

"Our goal is to answer basic biologic questions about basal-like breast cancer, so that we can develop the most effective therapies for a disease that has been especially hard to treat."

— Judy Garber, MD

The gift was made in honor of Robin Roberts, a former sports commentator for ESPN and now co-anchor on ABC's "Good Morning America." Roberts is among approximately 30,000 women each year who learn that they have this most aggressive



type of cancer—also known as "triple-negative" breast cancer. A disproportionate percentage are younger women and women of African-American descent.

Silver and Garber will be building on many years of research by David Livingston, MD, chair of DFCI's Executive Committee for Research, as well as recent discoveries. In his laboratory, Silver determined that DNA-damaging drugs, such as cisplatin, appear to be effective in treating basal-like breast tumors. This finding led Garber to design the first-ever preoperative trial of cisplatin for patients whose disease is in its early stages, followed by a second trial where patients are treated with a combination of cisplatin and Avastin®, which inhibits blood vessel formation. Early results for many women in both trials have been promising, but the tumors of a subset remain unaffected.

"This extraordinary grant from The V Foundation gives us the resources to identify markers in the tumor that predict exactly which women will benefit from cisplatin," explained Garber. "Working in collaboration with Dana-Farber's clinical breast pathologist Andrea Richardson, MD, PhD, our goal is to answer basic biologic questions about basal-like breast cancer, so that we can develop the most effective therapies for a disease that has been especially hard to treat." ■

Marking five years of partnership and progress



Proving that a group of dedicated women can make a difference in the future of breast and gynecologic cancers, nearly 200 business and community leaders gathered to celebrate five years of progress at the sixth annual DFCI Women's Cancers Program (WCP) Executive Council Breakfast April 6 at the Four Seasons Hotel Boston.

In their presentation, "Overcoming Breast Cancer: The Roadmap to Success," Eric Winer, MD, director of Dana-Farber's Breast Oncology Center; DFCI's Ian Krop, MD, PhD; and Thomas Roberts, PhD, illustrated how discoveries made possible by support from the WCP Executive Council have made a significant impact on developing novel therapeutics for breast cancer.

To date, the WCP Executive Council has raised more than \$6 million to fund investigations into breast and gynecologic cancers, and has no plans to stop there. Founding Co-chair Tracey E. Flaherty (left), Founding Co-chairs and Institute Trustees Jane Jamieson (center) and Beth Terrana (right), Honorary Chair and Institute Trustee Susan F. Smith, and all of the Executive Council members have vowed to continue their mission to change the course of women's cancers.

Salah honors compassionate doctor with gift for lung cancer research

Lung cancer is rarely detected early, in large part because patients often do not experience symptoms or they are masked by common health problems, such as persistent allergies. Consequently, the majority of newly diagnosed lung cancer cases are late-stage, meaning the cancer has metastasized, or spread, to other parts of the body.

Hoping to bolster promising research in this area, James Salah recently made a gift to support the work of Leena Gandhi, MD, PhD, in the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology at DFCI. Salah's gift establishes the Beatrice Salah Fund for Lung Cancer Research, named in memory of his wife.

"Dr. Gandhi's dedication to her patients is remarkable," said Salah. "She is truly a gifted and compassionate oncologist, and I am very proud to support her research against this disease."

Salah's generosity fuels Gandhi's search for proteins in patients' blood and urine that could predict disease progression. Her innovative research may lead to noninvasive screening tests that could help physicians identify lung cancer patients at greater risk for metastasis, so they can be treated and monitored accordingly.

"Jim Salah's wonderful gift comes at a critical time in cancer research," said Gandhi, also a member of the Early Drug Development Center at DFCI. "His support helps bring us closer to creating more effective treatments and potentially earlier detection methods for patients." ■



James Salah is honoring his late wife with a gift to support lung cancer research led by Leena Gandhi, MD, PhD (above).

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Komen hopes to improve outcomes for breast cancer patients

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is committed to empowering and improving the lives of women with breast cancer. Recently, the world's largest grassroots network of cancer survivors and activists awarded \$500,000 to Eric Winer, MD, chair of the Division of Women's Cancers, director of the Breast Oncology Center at Dana-Farber, and Komen's chief scientific advisor, to accelerate his work in studying treatment disparities and expanding clinical trials of promising preoperative therapies.

"As we develop more effective treatments, better access to care becomes increasingly important."

— Eric Winer, MD

"Dr. Winer is a phenomenal, internationally known clinician and researcher," said Diana Rowden, vice president of Health Sciences for Komen for the Cure, who works closely with Winer to identify new scientific opportunities and craft educational messages. "We believe it is very important to fund his work, specifically in the critical area of identifying disparities, which Komen has been supporting extensively for years."

ACHIEVING EQUAL CARE

Studies led by DFCI and others have revealed racial disparities in care among women with breast cancer, and most concerning is the discovery that African-American

women are less likely than Caucasian women to receive the latest treatments.

"Until you can clearly quantify the issues that bring about these disparities, it's hard to develop effective interventions," remarked Rowden.

Using a multitude of data sources, such as administrative records, focus groups, and surveys of patients and physicians, Winer's team is working to identify the specific factors that contribute to these harmful inequalities.

Komen for the Cure's support will also expand Dana-Farber's clinical trials of the latest preoperative therapies for patients. In addition to potentially improving long-term health, these trials provide a key opportunity to obtain tumor samples, which enable researchers to better understand the genetic underpinnings of breast cancer and tumor response to drugs.

"As we develop more effective treatments, better access to care becomes increasingly important," said Winer. "I'm honored to have the support of Komen for the Cure, which speeds up our efforts to ensure that the best therapies are made available to all patients, and, at the same time, lead new trials of the most promising treatments." ■



With support from Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Eric Winer, MD, is studying racial disparities in breast cancer care and leading clinical trials of the latest preoperative therapies.

Prokopis family looks to ease patients' financial stress

To get up every day and face a life that includes a cancer diagnosis is challenge enough for any one of us," said Mick Prokopis. "But add to that the stress of limited financial resources—no one should have to agonize over that, too."



Mick and Mary Prokopis hope their gift will encourage others to contribute to Dana-Farber's Patient Assistance Fund.

In 2005, the Prokopis family chose to help these patients by establishing the Prokopis Family Patient Assistance Fund, which is administered by Dana-Farber's Office of Patient and Family Assistance (OPFA). Keenly aware of how current economic conditions are making it even more difficult for patients to juggle undergoing cancer treatment with managing daily living expenses, Mick and Mary Prokopis recently contributed an additional \$150,000 to the fund.

"We have sat in waiting rooms and infusion areas at Dana-Farber, first with our daughter, now a 14-year Hodgkin lymphoma survivor, and more recently with my wife, Mary, who is being treated for multiple myeloma," said Mick

Prokopis. "We could not fail to hear, see, and feel the struggles of other patients."

OPFA eased financial stress for more than 2,000 patients last year, providing immediate assistance for expenses such as groceries, gasoline, utility bills, housing costs, and child care.

"We see patients and their families who have had to reduce the hours they work or take unpaid leave," explained Deborah Hoffman, MSW, LCSW, administrator of OPFA. "Mick and Mary Prokopis have an extraordinary ability to empathize with the difficulties some of our families face, and we are deeply appreciative of their generosity." ■

President's Circle donors have a ball at Fenway Park



On April 8, 164 donors from Dana-Farber's President's Circle donor group were thanked for their generosity with an invitation to watch the Boston Red Sox take on the Tampa Bay Rays at Fenway Park. During the appreciation night for donors of \$10,000 or more, attendees enjoyed Fenway fare, prizes, and a speaking program featuring Institute President and CEO Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, and DFCI Chief of Staff Stephen E. Sallan, MD (above), both of whom detailed the advances Dana-Farber is making in the fight against cancer. Later, Boston Red Sox broadcaster Joe Castiglione shared his thoughts and expectations for the 2009 baseball season.

President's Circle members were inspired to give their annual gifts to Dana-Farber by personal stories such as that of Nicole Allman (pictured here, with Sallan at the event), a former DFCI pediatric patient diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and now a 23-year survivor. Hoping to create more success stories like this, the President's Circle donors contributed more than \$5.6 million to DFCI in 2008.

To learn more about joining the President's Circle, contact Kimberly Goff at 617-632-3949 or kimberly_goff@dfci.harvard.edu.

TUNE IN...

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For Yousef: Shobokshi family fights back against pediatric solid tumors

After Hassan and Sondos Shobokshi's 4-month-old son, Yousef, was diagnosed with a solid tumor in his right kidney in 2004, the family began searching for the best treatment they could find. Within a few days, the Shobokshis were traveling thousands of miles from their home in Saudi Arabia to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston for their son's surgery.

For almost a year, the Shobokshis lived by the Institute, watching Yousef recover from a stage three rhabdoid tumor. They marveled in their son's ability to battle such a rare form of cancer and credit much of Yousef's positive reaction to his treatment to his physician, Katherine Janeway, MD.

Before they even had time to recover from Yousef's ordeal, the Shobokshis' niece was diagnosed with a neuroblastoma—a rare type of malignant solid tumor—in 2007 and also traveled to DFCI for treatment. Resolving to help other children worldwide battle cancer, the Shobokshis and Sondos' father, Abdulaziz Zaidan, gave \$500,000 to establish the Pediatric Solid Tumor Program at Dana-Farber.

"Our family is forever grateful to Dana-Farber, and we are trying to do whatever we can to help," said Hassan Shobokshi. "We were touched by the dedication we witnessed and experienced from all the surgeons, doctors, and nurses, especially Dr. Janeway, whom we consider as part of our family. Her picture is in our living room with all our family photos."

As cure rates for most solid tumors in children have lagged behind the success rates of other pediatric cancers in recent years, the family's gift to create a comprehensive pediatric solid tumor program at Dana-Farber is especially significant. Led by its Scientific Director Charles Roberts, MD, PhD, and Clinical Director Holcombe Grier, MD, the program aims to improve cure rates by utilizing contemporary tools to uncover vulnerabilities in solid tumors. The team



Yousef Shobokshi, a Dana-Farber patient, visits with his primary physician Katherine Janeway, MD, during a check-up following his successful treatment for a rhabdoid tumor.

also hopes to develop effective therapies to improve the quality of life for both relapsed and newly diagnosed patients.

"This program is designed to bring about a coordinated, collaborative research-driven assault on these deadly cancers," said Roberts. "Our goal is to achieve a success similar to that which we've accomplished for children with leukemia." ■

Kurlats add momentum to neuroendocrine cancer research

Gitta and Saul Kurlat are passionate advocates of Dana-Farber's research into rare cancers. Recently, the couple made a gift of \$200,000 toward their previously established fund, the Gitta and Saul Kurlat Fund for



Gitta and Saul Kurlat believe DFCI and Matthew Kulke, MD, are on a path to eradicate neuroendocrine cancers.

Neuroendocrine Research, to propel innovative studies led by Matthew Kulke, MD, of DFCI's Gastrointestinal Cancer Center and a leader in neuroendocrine cancer research and care.

"Saul and I like to make philanthropic investments in which the potential payback is likely to be very high," explained Gitta Kurlat. "By investing in research for rare diseases, such as neuroendocrine carcinoma, we are achieving that goal."

Neuroendocrine tumors arise in hormone-making cells and are typically resistant to chemotherapy. Due to its rarity, the cancer receives relatively low levels of research funding, making philanthropy essential for progress. The Kurlats' past support has helped Kulke's team discover several genes that drive tumor growth and drug resistance in certain patients, and this latest gift fuels his efforts to translate these genetic discoveries into tomorrow's therapies.

"We hope our contribution will assist Dr. Kulke to speed up his efforts—especially at a time when it is difficult to obtain research grants in general, and for rare cancer research in particular," added Kurlat.

"The gracious support of Gitta and Saul Kurlat has helped provide resources that allow our team to delve deep into the genetics of neuroendocrine tumors," said Kulke, whose comprehensive clinical program has made Dana-Farber a leading international referral center for patients with this malignancy. "Their recent gift helps accelerate our quest to turn these findings into new therapies to improve the lives of patients." ■

Leading by example

Confirming that even a down economy provides no obstacle for fundraising success, members of the Dana-Farber Leadership Council (DFLC) gathered April 1 at the Institute's Smith Family Room for the group's Spring Business Meeting to celebrate their 2008 fundraising accomplishments.

During the meeting, DFCL Co-chairs Jeff Goldstein (left) and Russell Norris (right) presented Dana-Farber's Chief Financial Officer Dorothy Puhly with a check for more than \$446,000, raised through the DFCL's Leadership Council Annual Fund, its Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk team, and its Jimmy Fund Golf tournament. Puhly later gave an update on the financial state of the Institute, while DFCI's Chief Medical Officer Lawrence Shulman, MD, talked about Dana-Farber's commitment to patient care and new satellite locations. Following the discussion, DFCL members toured the Institute.

The DFCL is an all-volunteer group of more than 100 Boston-area business professionals and community leaders working to advance Dana-Farber's lifesaving work in research and patient care through advocacy, financial support, and leadership.

To learn more about joining this group, contact Rachel Pearson at 617-582-8097 or by e-mail at rachel_pearson@dfci.harvard.edu.



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Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia visits with Maddie Dillon, a Jimmy Fund Clinic patient, during this year's clinic visit to the Sox' spring training in Ft. Myers, Fla.

JULY

JUNE/ JULY Jimmy Fund/Variety Children's Charity Theatre Collections

Check out this summer's hottest flicks at participating National Amusements theaters and contribute your spare change to fight cancer. Celebrating its 60th year, the program is the Jimmy Fund's longest-running annual fundraiser. To volunteer or for more information, contact Kimberly Chisholm at 617-632-5091 or kimberly_chisholm@dfci.harvard.edu.

17,18 Swim Across America

Dive into the Boston Harbor Island Swim July 17 for a 22-mile, relay-style event assisting Dana-Farber's David B. Perini, Jr. Quality of Life Clinic. On July 18, join swimmers age 12 and above and participate in the half-mile recreational or one-mile competitive swim at Nantasket Beach. For more information, contact Dana Kelly at 866-5-PERINI or visit jimmyfund.org/swim.



18 Jimmy Fund Fantasy Day



Experience legendary Fenway Park like never before and play like your Red Sox heroes, with limited on-field packages now available for purchase. If you can't play, bring friends and family for a day of activities, contests, and tours of the park. Contact Amy Powers at 617-632-3613 or visit jimmyfundfantasyday.org for ticket packages and detailed event information.

JULY/ AUGUST Jimmy Fund Little League

Help more than 5,000 Little League baseball and softball players take a swing at cancer as they compete in local tournaments throughout New England. To support a team or player, or for more information on how to get involved with the program, contact Jenna Godin-Conz at 888-546-6938 or visit jimmyfund.org/littleleague.

JULY 27 - OCTOBER 12 A Chance for KidsSM

Give \$1 to the Jimmy Fund at participating Burger King restaurants and Olympia Sports stores and help fight pediatric cancers. Every participant will receive a scratch card guaranteed to win a prize, including a TNT Vacations trip to Aruba, American Airlines tickets, Six Flags tickets, professional sports tickets, and more. For more information, contact Mike DeGuglielmo at 617-632-5420 or michael_deguglielmo@dfci.harvard.edu.

AUGUST

1,2 Pan-Massachusetts Challenge (PMC)

Gear up for the 30th year of the nation's largest and most successful athletic fundraising event. More than 5,500 cyclists from 36 states and eight countries team up for this annual bike-a-thon benefiting research and treatment at Dana-Farber. The PMC is designed for all ability levels, and distances range from the original 190-mile Sturbridge-to-Provincetown route to the 47-mile Wellesley-to-Wellesley loop. To learn more about registering or to support a rider, call 800-WE-CYCLE or visit pmc.org.

6,7 Joe Cronin Memorial Fishing Tournament

Cast a line in the 16th annual bluefish tournament at Nauticus Marina in Osterville, Mass., and help the Jimmy Fund reel in funds for cancer research and care. For more information, contact Kimberly Chisholm at 617-632-5091 or kimberly_chisholm@dfci.harvard.edu.



27,28 WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon

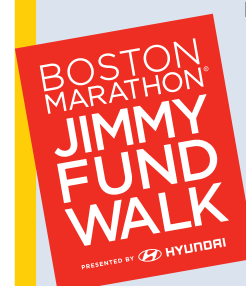
Tune in to WEEI Sports Radio Network or New England Sports Network (NESN) and make a gift to help Dana-Farber conquer cancer. Broadcast live from Fenway Park during two Boston Red Sox home games, the 36-hour fundraising event includes interviews with doctors, patients, and celebrities. For details and volunteer information, contact Caitlin Fink at 877-738-1234 or jimmyfundradiotelethon@dfci.harvard.edu.



SEPTEMBER

13 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai

Lace up your sneakers and join thousands of walkers along the Boston Marathon® route to raise funds for those who face the challenges of cancer. Participants can choose from five distances—Boston 3-mile, Boston College 5-mile, Wellesley 13.1-mile, Hopkinton-to-Wellesley 13.1-mile, or Hopkinton-to-Boston 26.2-mile. Register today at JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-JF-1-WALK.



For more information on all Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber events, go to jimmyfund.org or dana-farber.org.