Marcotte underscores invaluable significance of research alongside care with $30 million gift

Albert A. Marcotte, PhD, has always believed that investments accumulated over a lifetime should be used for a greater good. He recognized the potential in Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s mission, one defined by an equal commitment to excellence in both research and patient care. In realizing the significance of this unique mission, Marcotte magnanimously made a gift of $30 million, an incredible statement underlining his confidence in Dana-Farber’s signature 50-50 balance between cutting-edge science and highly compassionate care.

**MOVING FROM COPING TO CURES**

“This magnificent gift from the Albert A. and Christine J. Marcotte Trust will support Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Capital Projects Campaign to expand research and clinical space and to advance strategic cancer research initiatives under way at the Institute. Marcotte’s considerable investment creates the Marcotte Center for Cancer Research, with recognition of his gift displayed in the Charles A. Dana building.

The Marcotte Center for Cancer Research is wholly dedicated to cancer research and mirrors Dana-Farber’s patient care center, the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, located directly across the street. This deliberate positioning tangibly reflects the Institute’s unique and balanced commitment to research and patient care—a commitment that enables an extraordinary level of collaboration between Dana-Farber scientists and clinicians, and speeds the translation of laboratory discoveries into lifesaving treatments for patients.

“We are entering a new era where advances in cancer research will move treatments from coping to cures,” said Marcotte. “By recognizing unique differences in various cancers, future research will develop new paradigms that lead to earlier detection, targeted treatments, and increased survival rates. With its broad spectrum of strategic research initiatives, Dana-Farber is uniquely positioned to make significant advances in cancer research and patient care.”

**RESEARCH AS A FOUNDATION**

Marcotte earned his PhD from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he taught for more than two decades in the Senior Executive Program. At MIT, he pioneered the development and use of simulation-based education for upper-level managers. His research laid the foundation for improving management decision making by utilizing computer-based systems to support executive decision making processes.

In 1979, Marcotte founded Advanced Management Systems, a firm dedicated to improving the performance of service organizations, of which he remains president. In the late ’70s little was known about managing service organizations. Recognizing the need for a new quantitative methodology, he developed the underlying theory, concepts, tools, and techniques for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of service operation.

These fundamentals have enabled Marcotte to truly grasp the significance of advances in cancer research and the role new discoveries play in moving treatments from the laboratory bench to the patient’s bedside, resulting in better outcomes for patients.

**INSPIRED TO INSPIRE OTHERS**

Further, Marcotte’s gift underscores the critical need for sustained funding for Dana-Farber to remain at the forefront of cancer research. His fervent hope is that this gift will foster greater awareness of the need for continued support and inspire others who believe that cancer research can lead to improved cancer care.

And already this hope has come to fruition. Inspired by Marcotte’s incredible generosity, Dana-Farber’s Chairman of the Board of Trustees Josh Bekenstein and his wife, Anita, have also made a substantial commitment to the Capital Projects Campaign (see story on page 3).

**A SHARED MISSION**

“Our goal is to bring the latest basic and clinical research advances from the lab to the clinic as soon as possible,” said Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. “Dr. Marcotte’s transformational gift will help speed that process and help bring the benefits of cancer research to more people sooner. We are grateful for his support and for his dedication to our shared mission of advancing cancer research and patient care.”

Marcotte prides himself on being a passionate advocate of Dana-Farber’s equal commitment to research and care. His visionary gift, made with an eye to advancing promising scientific discoveries, propels Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission, and aims to bring new hope to cancer patients and their families in the future.

“We are entering a new era where advances in cancer research will move treatments from coping to cures.”

—Albert A. Marcotte, PhD
Dear Friends,

Every day, the Institute is driven by a “spirit of inquiry”—a mindset that prioritizes collaboration and innovation in order to stay at the forefront of cancer medicine and discovery. I am delighted to say that this spirit is as abundant among dedicated Institute supporters as it is within our laboratories and clinics—and when it catches fire and spreads, the Institute is exponentially fortified in its mission to conquer cancer.

In this issue of Impact, we are honored to highlight a magnificent $50 million gift from Albert A. Marcomte, PhD, to advance our Capital Projects Campaign and strategic research initiatives. A fervent believer in our signature 50-50 balance of research and patient care, Marcomte is truly leading the way to a new era for the Institute. We are immensely grateful for his confidence in Dana-Farber’s ability to foster an environment where collaboration spurs further innovation. This visionary commitment will take our campus expansion and revitalization efforts to the next level, providing the infrastructure necessary to drive the latest scientific and clinical breakthroughs. Without question, Marcomte’s astoundingly foresighted gift will make an immeasurable difference in the lives of our patients and their families.

Building on this wonderful momentum is Institute Trustee Josh Bekenstein and his wife, Anita, and Institute Trustee Jonathan Lavine and his wife, Jeannie, with their spectacular gifts also supporting our Capital Projects Campaign. The Lavine gift named the dining pavilion in theYawkey Center for Cancer Care and was featured in the Fall 2013 issue of Impact. In this issue of Impact you can read how the Bekensteins were inspired by Marcomte’s philanthropy to make a gift that will further underscore Dana-Farber’s stature as the “place to go” for exceptional research and care. It is sincerely heartening to have the extraordinary dedication of such devoted Institute leaders.

We extend our deep gratitude to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, which recently awarded grants totaling more than $2.16 million to 14 physician-scientists at Dana-Farber. In its last gift, topping off 20 years of tremendous generosity, moves the foundation’s cumulative giving past the $14.5 million mark. These are no small words to sufficiently convey our gratitude for the foundation’s loyal encouragement, fueling the cutting-edge research of our talented investigator focused on women’s cancers.

Finally, it is a privilege to thank the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) for its unwavering partnership. The PMC, presented Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund with a record-breaking $39 million, and remains a true powerhouse behind our lifesaving mission. As illustrated above, amazing things can be achieved when the “spirit of inquiry” manifests within the Dana-Farber community. Our incredible supporters remain a constant source of inspiration as we work tirelessly toward a brighter future for so many. On behalf of all of us at the Institute, thank you again for your wonderful partnership in bolstering our fight against cancer.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Paresky
Senior Vice President for Development

Philanthropy’s pivotal role in attracting the NCI’s most prestigious grants

Collaboration is intrinsic to the way Dana-Farber researchers work. Tangible evidence that this environment supports and rewards collaboration is the large number of highly sought-after Specialized Projects of Research Excellence (SPORE) grants successfully won by Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC), the largest Comprehensive Cancer Center designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), in 2013—in brain cancer, breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer, and sarcoma. This remarkable achievement accounts for more than a third of all SPORE grants awarded by the NCI in 2013. SPORE requires research projects reach a human endpoint within five years. Dana-Farber’s ability to facilitate this objective through a strategic investment in sophisticated infrastructure for scientific discovery is one factor that has made DF/HCC so successful in obtaining SPORE grants. Dana-Farber has specialized facilities, such as donor-supported core laboratories and tissue banks, that scientists need to realize their research vision, move basic research findings to patients, and fulfill the NCI’s requirement that grant recipients demonstrate an institutional commitment to translational research.

Dana-Farber’s success in obtaining SPORE grants is also a credit to philanthropists who have the foresight and vision to fund innovative pilot projects aimed at new ways to combat cancer. Dana-Farber’s SPORE grants leverage the findings from early phase research accelerated by donor support, which form a critical component of the design of projects selected by the NCI.

Furthermore, investigators working on SPORE grants must have a proven scientific track record. Even as federal funding for other types of grants continues to decline, the generosity of donors helps the Institute stay competitive in the marketplace to recruit and retain world-class faculty members whose contributions span multiple fields of cancer research.

From a SPORE principal investigator’s perspective, the appeal of this type of grant is that it “presents an opportunity to change the natural history of the disease in patients today as well as to prepare the next generation of translational researchers,” says Kraft Family Professor of Medicine Kenneth Anderson, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and Lebow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics at Dana-Farber.

Ultimately, philanthropic support has enabled the Institute to acquire an unrivaled combination of resources and expertise needed to attract SPORE grants, and truly serves as a cornerstone in our mission to foster innovative cancer research and deliver expert, compassionate care.

Dana-Farber’s success in obtaining SPORE grants is also a credit to philanthropists who have the foresight and vision to fund innovative pilot projects aimed at new ways to combat cancer.
Marcotte gift inspires other significant gifts

Just as Albert A. Marcotte, PhD, had hoped, his transformative $30 million gift to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Capital Projects Campaign has inspired additional generosity. Moved by Marcotte’s considerable investment, several Trustees and other donors have recently stepped forward, including the Institute’s Chairman of the Board of Trustees Josh Bekenstein and his wife, Anita.

“Al’s passion for the Institute and the positive and lasting impact of his gift, along with his strong advocacy for Dana-Farber’s equal commitment to research and patient care, is truly infectious—so much so, that he inspired us to contribute,” said Bekenstein. “Anita and I wanted to step up in a significant way in response to Al’s commitment. Together, and with the help of other Trustees and generous donors, we can help Dana-Farber do more great research and save more lives.”

Dana-Farber launched the three-year Capital Projects Campaign in 2013 to revitalize and expand the heart of its campus. The Institute identified a need of $130 million and a $50 million bond was issued, leaving Dana-Farber with $80 million to secure. To date, the Capital Projects Campaign has reached $60 million of its $80 million campaign goal.

“Dana-Farber’s mission to advance cancer research and care hinges on its ability to attract and retain the world’s best and brightest talent,” said Institute President and CEO Edward J. Benz Jr., MD. “One of the most effective ways to accomplish this is to provide state-of-the-art facilities where cancer medicine, discovery, and delivery can flourish. These generous contributions from our friends and Trustees, led by Al Marcotte, will create advanced research and care environments where our physician-scientists can quickly translate laboratory discoveries into lifesaving treatments for cancer patients.”

The Capital Projects Campaign is being used to develop state-of-the-art laboratory space needed to grow Dana-Farber’s cancer biology and chemistry efforts in the new Longwood Center. The Campaign is also supporting the expansion of the Jimmy Fund Clinic by 40 percent and additional office space for pediatric clinicians, as well as supporting a revitalization of the Charles A. Dana Building, the cornerstone of the main campus. Campaign funds will also go toward building out the Institute’s Molecular Cancer Imaging Facility, which houses the only cyclotron in Massachusetts dedicated solely to cancer research. These enhancements will significantly advance Dana-Farber physician-scientists’ ability to accelerate drug discovery and delivery to patients.

“These facilities are absolutely essential to keeping Dana-Farber at the forefront of cancer science and medicine,” added Bekenstein. “Anita and I, along with Al Marcotte, Jonathan and Jeannie Lavine, and other Trustees and donors, are very excited by the great potential for this Campaign to bring us one step closer to conquering cancer.”

Bekenstein has served as Dana-Farber’s Chairman of the Board of Trustees since 2011. He also co-chaired Dana-Farber’s successful $1 billion Mission Possible Campaign, which—among many achievements—led to construction of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, a state-of-the-art adult clinical care facility with more than 100 exam rooms.

To learn more about the Capital Projects Campaign, please contact Liz Delucia at 617-632-6573 or at elizabeth_delucia@dfci.harvard.edu.

Together, and with the help of other Trustees and generous donors, we can help Dana-Farber do more great research and save more lives.”

—Josh Bekenstein, Chairman, Dana-Farber Board of Trustees
The Breast Cancer Research Foundation recently awarded grants totaling more than $2.16 million to 14 physician-scientists at Dana-Farber, exceeding a remarkable $14.5 million in nearly 20 years of dedicated support. The grants will fund several innovative research projects that are focused on breast and gynecologic cancers.

“BCRF’s unwavering and generous funding enables our experts to learn more about the underlying biology of various cancers,” said J. Dirk Iglehart, MD, director of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers. “With this knowledge, we are in a better position to advance clinical discoveries and improve patient care—not just at Dana-Farber, but for all women affected by cancer.”

Iglehart is one of the recipients of a BCRF grant, as is his colleague Myles Brown, MD, director of the Center for Functional Cancer Epigenetics. Brown and his team of researchers are currently exploring the role played by male hormones, androgens, in breast cancer.

“We’ve recently discovered that, in some types of breast cancer, androgens can either stimulate or slow down tumor growth,” said Brown. “By further investigating how this occurs, we can more rapidly identify new approaches and methods of breast cancer treatments.”

BCRF funding will also support Dana-Farber research on various forms of cancer that affect the female reproductive system. For example, Ursula Matulonis, MD, medical director of Gynecologic Oncology at the Susan F. Smith Center, is working with fellow researchers to test whether ovarian cancers with higher mutation burdens respond better to certain treatments than others.

“We are impressed with the range of innovative research being done by Dana-Farber physician-scientists to advance breast and gynecologic cancer treatments. There is great potential for these projects to develop into novel treatments for women fighting cancer.”

—Peg Mastrianni, deputy director at BCRF

Last August, 5,533 cyclists from around the world rode across the Commonwealth in the 34th annual Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) and raised a record-breaking $39 million—100 percent of which supports adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund.

The PMC is the most successful athletic fundraising event in the nation and since its 1980 inception, it has raised an astonishing $414 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund.

At a brunch celebration held Nov. 3 at Legal Harborside on the Boston waterfront, PMC Founder and Executive Director and Institute Trustee Billy Starr (center front) presented a ceremonial check to Dana-Farber President and CEO Edward J. Benz Jr., MD (third from right). Also pictured are (from left) Dana-Farber’s Lee Nadler, MD; New Balance President and CEO Rob DeMartini; Dana-Farber Board of Trustees Chairman and PMC Trustee Josh Bekenstein; PMC Board of Trustees Chairman Todd Langton; Legal Seafoods Owner and Institute Trustee Roger Berkowitz; and WCVB-TV President and General Manager Bill Fine.

More than 600 PMC cyclists, volunteers, and supporters were in attendance.

Young leukemia patient is heart of Team ARI

Whether it is walking 26.2 miles to support the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai, running 13.1 miles in the B.A.A. Half Marathon® presented by Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, or supporting the 3-year-old team darling, Ari Goldwasser, as he is treated for T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), Team ARI is determined to find a cure.

Team ARI raised more than $215,000 in 2013 through multiple events to support the lifesaving mission of Dana-Farber. New to the Jimmy Fund Walk, Team ARI boasted 69 members, became the top fundraising team, and featured the top individual fundraiser on their roster—young Ari. Diagnosed in 2012, Ari is still in the midst of a demanding cancer treatment plan at Dana-Farber, including chemotherapy and radiation. Ari’s gleaming smile and resiliency have motivated those around him, including family, friends, and 18 runners who ran the 2013 B.A.A. Half Marathon in his honor.

Team ARI feels especially connected to Ari’s lead doctor, Lewis Silverman, MD, director of the Hematologic Malignancy Center, and has chosen to direct the funds they have raised to support Silverman’s critical work. “We are 100 percent convinced that Ari is alive today, and has the best odds of winning his battle, because of the doctors and researchers at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,” said Ari’s mother, Julie Sue Goldwasser.

Silverman’s work primarily focuses on conducting clinical trials for children with ALL. “With all they are going through, it is amazing to me that Ari’s family found the time and energy to organize this fundraising effort,” said Silverman. “The money raised by Team ARI will make a big difference in helping us to develop new, more effective therapies for childhood leukemia. I’m so impressed and grateful.”

Proudly representing Team ARI, Matt and Julie Sue Goldwasser, joined by 3-year-old son and Dana-Farber patient, Ari, and his younger sister, Alison.
The Ambrose Monell Foundation continues to fuel unrestricted research

The Ambrose Monell Foundation has continued its legacy of generous support for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute with a grant of $225,000 to fund cancer research and patient care.

The foundation, led by President George Rowe Jr., provides significant unrestricted support for cancer research at leading institutions around the country, including Dana-Farber, providing these institutions with the invaluable ability to direct funds to the areas of greatest need and opportunity, such as basic research.

“The Ambrose Monell Foundation supports Dana-Farber because of its outstanding mission devoted to cancer research and patient care,” said George Rowe Jr. “The foundation provides unrestricted funding, because in the fight against cancer, Dana-Farber knows where the funding will have the greatest impact.”

Undesignated funds are vitally important because they can be directed where and when they are needed most. As the Institute's initiatives for patient care, research, and outreach continue to grow, this funding becomes more essential to Dana-Farber's mission to conquer cancer.

“We are incredibly thankful for the Ambrose Monell Foundation’s longtime support,” said Institute President and CEO Edward J. Benz Jr., MD. “Philanthropic gifts such as theirs are the backbone of Dana-Farber, providing flexible support that helps fortify our most pressing initiatives.”

Stading-Younger Cancer Research Foundation drives innovative, early-career research

Philanthropy can be pivotal for the development of early-career physician-scientists, particularly when they are undertaking a completely new line of research. The Stading-Younger Cancer Research Foundation recently made a $200,000 gift supporting Geoffrey Oxnard, MD, to advance a first-of-its-kind technology for detecting cancer DNA in the blood stream.

With this generous support, Oxnard, who is a researcher in the Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology, will develop a potentially transformative diagnostic platform. The idea for such a test was inspired by Oxnard's work in lung cancer, where targeted treatment is based on the specific genetic subtype of each tumor. Obtaining a sample of a patient's tumor to test for mutations that are treatable by targeted therapy requires a biopsy, which must then be tested in a pathology laboratory. Oxnard is working on developing a test that could obtain tumor DNA from a blood sample, streamlining the testing process.

“I am extremely grateful for this support,” said Oxnard. “Philanthropy plays a vital role in helping early-career researchers like me conduct the preliminary investigations that build a foundation for future funding.”

This type of research, though innovative, is often ineligible for federal funding until the scientific foundation for the project has been established. Philanthropy, like that provided by the Stading-Younger Cancer Research Foundation, can provide the support needed to bring promising studies like this forward.

During the past 10 years, the Ambrose Monell Foundation has provided Dana-Farber with nearly $1.5 million in unrestricted funding.

Dr. Farber and “Jimmy” find their way to the Smith Building

At a ceremony in October, longtime Dana-Farber Cancer Institute supporter James “Jim” Vinick unveiled a pair of bronze statues to commemorate his gift of $1.5 million to Dana-Farber. Created by Brian Hanlon, the works of art feature Dana-Farber founder Dr. Sidney Farber and his patient, Einar “Jimmy” Gustafson, and are located on the sidewalk outside the Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Research Laboratories.

The Vinick family, of Longmeadow, Mass., has a long personal history with Dana-Farber. Vinick’s son, Jeffrey, and daughter, Beth, were both pediatric patients at Dana-Farber. Jeffrey passed away, and approximately $10 million dollars has been raised through Jimmy Fund Golf in his honor. Beth was successfully treated for a brain tumor when she was 12 and now, 33 years later, is raising her 15-year-old twins.

Jim Vinick said, “I wanted to recognize Dr. Farber for his accomplishments, as well as Einar, a boy who was an anonymous person until much later in life.”

Goal of $100K gift: Decoding cancer

Service and giving back to the community was always emphasized by J.W. Craig’s mother. After she lost her battle with breast cancer in 2001, Craig and his sister, Andrea Alley, wanted to remember their mother in a way that continued this important family tradition. Through volunteering and giving to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Craig learned about the promise translational research holds for all types of cancers. To sustain this vital research, Craig has made a gift of $100,000 to create the JoAnn Herzog Craig Fund for Basic Science and Personalized Medicine. He and his sister will organize events to raise awareness and continue to grow their fund.

“A decade ago when my mother was treated, doctors didn’t know about the links between cancers,” Craig said. “It makes me smile to know doctors are making advancements.”

Chief Scientific Officer Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, will oversee the fund. “Bringing the power of basic research to bear on personalizing cancer therapy will change how patients are treated. J.W.’s generous gift provides important support for this effort and we are all deeply grateful,” Rollins said.

By identifying gene mutations thought to have a role in cancer growth, scientists can create targeted, less toxic treatments, an advancement important to Craig. “These discoveries give an improved quality of life back to patients,” Craig said. This fact alone would have fulfilled his mother’s wish to make a difference—for all patients.

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission.
IWMF paves the way to targeted therapies for Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia

The International Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia Foundation (IWMF) now provides support for basic scientific research to institutions that will further the knowledge of the cause, diagnosis, treatment, and possible cures for Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia. Recently, the foundation awarded Dana-Farber’s Bing Center for Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia with a series of grants totaling $725,000 to support the work of the center’s Director, Steven Treon, MD, PhD; Ruben Carrasco, MD, PhD; and Irene Ghobrial, MD. Carrasco’s grant was funded by the Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia Foundation Canada and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

“The talented and dedicated researchers at Dana-Farber have made significant progress in the battle against Waldenström’s,” said Carl Harrington, president of IWMF. “We are grateful for their efforts and are pleased to be able to support their ongoing research, consistent with our mission of advancing the search for a cure.”

Since 2002, the IWMF has awarded more than $3.5 million to support Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia researchers at Dana-Farber.

Grant from the National Palliative Care Research Center funds study examining poverty’s impact on pediatric cancer care

W ith the support of a $154,000 grant from the National Palliative Care Research Center (NPCRC), Kira Bona, MD, MPH, pediatric hematologist/oncologist at Dana-Farber, will examine the effect that poverty may have on the well-being of pediatric cancer patients during treatment. The study aims to design a tool to identify families who may be at risk for negative health outcomes due to challenges with housing, food supply, or utilities, and then develop strategies to improve their care.

“It is known that poverty is correlated with negative health outcomes in pediatric primary care and chronic diseases, but it is not known how poverty impacts outcomes in children with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses,” said NPCRC Director R. Sean Morrison, MD.

“Dr. Bona’s research will lay the groundwork for future collaborative trials to examine the impact of family material hardship on pediatric oncology outcomes, and subsequent efforts to design interventions to improve care for a broader population of pediatric patients.”

—NPCRC Director R. Sean Morrison, MD

The NPCRC promotes research into palliative care—specialized medical care to ease the symptoms, pain, and stress for patients with serious illnesses—to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

“Dr. Bona’s research will lay the groundwork for future collaborative trials to examine the impact of family material hardship on pediatric oncology outcomes, and subsequent efforts to design interventions to improve care for a broader population of pediatric patients,” Morrison added.

“Examining social determinants and their influence on pediatric oncology care falls outside the typical research areas of investigation,” Bona said. “Therefore, I’m grateful for NPCRC’s support and holistic approach to comprehensive patient care so we can improve outcomes for patients and their families.”

Impact is available online at JimmyFund.org/Impact
Anna Fuller Fund provides vital support to promising research

Established in 1932 through the bequest of businessman Egebert Chaplain Fuller in honor of his wife, who died of cancer in 1918, the Anna Fuller Fund was one of the first private funds in the U.S. to support cancer research. Fuller envisioned the fund as a means to alleviate the suffering caused by cancer.

Jim Parker, vice president of Wells Fargo Private Bank and fund co-trustee, said that the Anna Fuller Fund awards investigators grants for promising research that demonstrates viability and clinical application.

“The Anna Fuller Fund frequently supports the offshoots of more mainstream research that may hold considerable promise, but so often goes unfunded,” said Parker.

The fund has awarded a total of $400,000 to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute physician-scientists. In 2012, the fund awarded $100,000 each to Dana-Farber investigators Adam Bass, MD, and Dipanjana Chowdhury, PhD, and in 2013, it confirmed its commitment by awarding $100,000 each to Dana-Farber’s Matthew Freedman, MD, and Catherine Wu, MD.

Bass said the fund’s generous support has enabled him and his team of researchers to advance their work on the genomic profiling of esophageal and stomach cancer in pursuit of novel therapeutic targets.

“The grant has provided valuable seed money and served to advance our translational work,” said Bass. “This support was immensely helpful to us as a new lab, doing new research.”

The Mikey Czech Foundation funds critical research for children with DIPG

James Michael “Mikey” Czech was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), a debilitating and ultimately fatal pediatric brain tumor, when he was just 11 years old. In celebration of his life, his parents, Steve and Jennifer, created The Mikey Czech Foundation and pledged to establish a world-leading translational research laboratory in an effort to eliminate the disease.

Mark Kieran, MD, PhD, director of the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Center at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, was one of the experts who helped to advise them through their ordeal. Kieran’s expertise, combined with Dana-Farber’s state-of-the-art research facilities and world-class neuro-oncologists, was a key factor that influenced the initial $500,000 gift from The Mikey Czech Foundation in support of DIPG research.

“Mark was the only one who had a proactive approach, to try and prevent recurrence of the tumor, rather than just reacting,” said Steve Czech, chairman and co-founder of the foundation.

DIPG tumors are among the most aggressive and deadly forms of brain tumors in children. They affect the cranial nerves, and as they grow, tumors cause physical deterioration accompanied by excruciating pain. Neurosurgeons have traditionally considered these tumors too risky to biopsy because of their location in the brain stem.

“Little progress has been made in the treatment of DIPG during the past 50 years and the outcome for these children remains dismal,” said Kieran. “The Mikey Czech Foundation has been an integral part of supporting a new national clinical trial for the biopsy of patients with newly diagnosed DIPG and the early identification of potential treatments, allowing us to individualize the treatment of a child’s tumor based on the unique abnormalities of their disease.”

Steve and Jennifer Czech are committed to continuing Mikey’s legacy through the foundation. They have received numerous accolades as a result of their efforts, including the “2013 Light The Fire Award,” from Moffly Media, which celebrates those who have gone above and beyond in the name of philanthropy and volunteerism.

“ Whatever matters in life is not what you have, but what you do with what you have,” said Czech. “We are fortunate to have the resources to bring awareness to DIPG, not just to benefit pediatric patients at Dana-Farber, but for all who suffer from this deadly form of brain cancer.”

Support from The Anna Fuller Fund has enabled Adam Bass, MD, and his team of researchers to advance their work on the genomic profiling of esophageal and stomach cancer.

“The Anna Fuller Fund frequently supports the offshoots of more mainstream research that may hold considerable promise, but so often goes unfunded.”

—Jim Parker, Co-trustee, Anna Fuller Fund
Stemline Therapeutics establishes fund to advance multiple myeloma research

Stemline Therapeutics, a clinical-stage public biopharmaceutical company developing novel oncology therapeutics, has established the Stemline Therapeutics Multiple Myeloma Research Fund dedicated to supporting innovative research at Dana-Farber in multiple myeloma. The work supported by this fund will include the evaluation of novel therapeutics in new treatment paradigms for the disease.

Recent Dana-Farber research led by Kenneth C. Anderson, MD, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and the Lebow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics, and Dharminder Chauhan, JD, PhD, led to critical discoveries regarding the biology of multiple myeloma and, in particular, how the microenvironment within the bone marrow plays a role in the progression and resistance of myeloma to conventional therapies. Stemline recognized the significance of this ground-breaking work and has provided a gift of $100,000 to establish the fund under Anderson’s direction in support of ongoing cutting-edge research at Dana-Farber.

“Dr. Anderson’s and Dr. Chauhan’s seminal work demonstrated that plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs), immune cells in the blood, are critical to the growth and survival of neighboring multiple myeloma cells in the bone marrow,” said Stemline’s Vice President of Research and Development, Chris Brooks, PhD. “Dana-Farber researchers are currently exploring ways to therapeutically target both pDCs and multiple myeloma cells, and Stemline is pleased to commit its resources to those efforts.”

“This generous support will help us to target those cells in the bone marrow that promote tumor cell growth, paving the way for a new treatment paradigm to overcome drug resistance and improve patient outcome in myeloma,” said Anderson.

Bringing cancer care to Africa

When Christine Brown read about the opening of the Butaro Cancer Center of Excellence in Rwanda, she decided to help tackle the striking disparity in cancer care in the developing world.

The center, a joint initiative between Dana-Farber and Partners In Health, opened in 2012. Before that time, a cancer diagnosis in Rwanda was virtually a death sentence. Today, hundreds of patients are being treated in Butaro for pediatric leukemia, breast cancer, lymphoma, and other cancers. Physicians and nurses from Dana-Farber have provided ongoing support and training to local clinicians so the cancer center will ultimately be self-sustaining.

After a successful career in management at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Brown was introduced to Larry Shulman, MD, Dana-Farber’s chief of staff and director of the Center for Global Cancer Medicine, by Vin O’Reilly, a mentor of Brown’s and former chairman of the Dana-Farber Board of Trustees. Shulman and Brown recognized a perfect match between Brown’s management skills and the clinical expertise of the rest of the team. Brown volunteered to join the team as program manager. After trips to Rwanda and Dana-Farber’s site in Haiti, she expanded her commitment and made a generous gift to establish the Christine A. Brown Fund for Global Cancer Medicine.

“Chris’ great managerial skills and financial support, and most of all her devotion to this program, have made an incredible difference in our ability to deliver compassionate cancer care,” said Shulman. “A 4-year-old girl with cancer now has a chance for life that she would otherwise not have had. That really is an act of grace.”

Caroline Cronk’s legacy lives on through Hope for Caroline

When 5-year-old Caroline Cronk was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), friends, neighbors, and even strangers rallied around the Cronk family. After one friend started a Facebook page to gather support, Caroline’s parents, Rachael and Kevin, founded Hope for Caroline, and through enthusiastic and creative fundraising recently gave $100,000 to support DIPG research being conducted by Dana-Farber’s Mark Kieran, MD, PhD, director of the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Center. Their efforts inspired additional gifts from individual donors, events including A Concert for Calle, and two Pan-Mass Challenge teams, bringing Hope for Caroline’s cumulative giving to nearly $400,000.

“When Caroline was diagnosed, we evaluated treatment options nationwide and were convinced that Dr. Kieran’s cutting-edge work offered the most potential for a breakthrough,” said Kevin. “While our efforts could not save Caroline, we remain optimistic that his work will eventually bring hope where it is so desperately needed.”

With a survivor rate less than 2 percent, brain cancers like DIPG are particularly challenging to treat because they are protected by a barrier that restricts movement of molecules between the bloodstream and fluid surrounding the brain. However, Kieran’s team is now working with a currently available drug—one that targets a mutation present in 15 percent of DIPG cases—that can cross this barrier.

“With support from Hope for Caroline, we have recently identified a number of genetic changes driving DIPG,” said Kieran. “We are zeroing in on those that have the most potential for therapeutic targeting.” Caroline fought her cancer with inspiring faith, strength, courage, and hope. Her legacy will live on through Hope for Caroline.
Donor support fuels discovery in pulmonary carcinoid tumor research

Technological advances have led to a tremendous amount of new information about the genetic mutations that drive many of the most common types of cancer. However, conducting research on rare cancers remains difficult due to limited funding and resources. Pulmonary carcinoid tumors, which affect only 1 to 2 percent of all lung cancer patients, is challenging to study for this reason. Much remains to be learned about its underlying biology and which treatments may be best.

With a generous anonymous gift of $200,000, Dana-Farber’s Chief Clinical Research Officer, Bruce Johnson, MD, Lowe Center Director Pas Jänne, MD, PhD, and Dana-Farber Fellow Curtis Chang, MD, are spearheading research into pulmonary carcinoid tumors at Dana-Farber’s Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology.

“With this support, we are conducting much needed research to contribute to the body of knowledge about this rare cancer, and we hope our findings will ultimately have a positive impact on pulmonary carcinoid tumor patients,” said Johnson.

Systematic drug screens, whereby thousands of existing drugs are tested on specific forms of cancer in a lab, are an important way of investigating potential new therapies. Johnson, Jänne, and Chong have screened 2,000 existing drugs on a pulmonary carcinoid cell line, and identified a compound—and thus a target—that may form the basis for future therapies.

Thanks to this generous donor, the researchers will perform additional studies to determine if this target is driving cancer development, while also amassing the scientific evidence that will support efforts to gain FDA approval for new therapies based on this target for pulmonary carcinoid tumors.

Research bequest creates meaningful legacy for Victoria DeMoulpied

A $280,000 bequest from the estate of the late Victoria DeMoulpied to Dana-Farber’s Basic Research Fund will further the cutting-edge work of Institute physician-scientists and create a lasting legacy for DeMoulpied, a longtime supporter of Dana-Farber and member of the Dana-Farber Society.

“Vicky” loved gardening, traveling, antiques, and history, especially her family’s historical ties to the Pennsylvania Dutch. She was also philanthropically active and gave to Dana-Farber for decades. Vicky was deeply affected by cancer: she was a uterine cancer survivor, and she lost her parents, her husband, a nephew, and a daughter of Vicky’s late best friend.

trustee of Vicky’s estate and the beneficiary of her bequest, Shannon Lowe, worked closely with Dana-Farber’s development team to develop a bequest agreement.

Research bequest creates meaningful legacy for Victoria DeMoulpied

On Oct. 13, more than 650 Dana-Farber runners donned brightly colored singlets, laced up their running shoes, and raced to help conquer cancer in the 13th annual B.A.A. Half Marathon® presented by Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund.

The 13.1-mile course is an out-and-back route that runs along Boston’s renowned Emerald Necklace park system. The race begins and ends at White Stadium in Franklin Park, one of the oldest parks in America. Following an emotional spring in the Boston running community, this year’s race was especially significant to Boston runners.

Dana-Farber’s 2013 B.A.A. Half Marathon team rallied to raise more than $560,000 to support Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission. To date, the team has raised more than $4 million for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund.

Above: The Dana-Farber team before the start of the 2013 race.

Guided by a mother’s vision, One Mission makes families’ lives easier

When Ashley Haseotes’ son Nicholas was 7 months old, he was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. Near the end of his six-month hospitalization, Haseotes shaved the remaining clumps of hair from her son’s head—and wept to see his baldness.

“You feel that the whole world is moving ahead and moving around you, while you’re at a standstill,” said Haseotes. “And you wonder, ‘Doesn’t anyone care?’”

In that moment, Haseotes found the inspiration for The Kid’s Cancer Buzz-Off, a fundraiser in which participants shave their heads to show how much they do care. The Buzz-Off is the biggest fundraiser organized by One Mission, the foundation that Haseotes and her husband, Ari, started to enhance the lives of pediatric cancer patients and their families.

Easing the burden of cancer is an important goal for Haseotes. During Nicholas’ treatment, Haseotes learned that most families, even those who had been well-off, struggled to make ends meet. With a gift of $217,000 raised through many events, One Mission makes day-to-day life better for families in the Jimmy Fund Clinic by supporting a child-activities specialist, holiday parties, the Summer Festival, and 10 parking passes for each new patient.

“We are incredibly grateful to One Mission for funding activities specialist Kate Casack who provides so much comfort to our patients every day,” said Lisa Scherber, director of Patient and Family Programs in the Jimmy Fund Clinic. “And parking passes made possible by One Mission make every visit a little easier.”

Through her philanthropy, Haseotes has learned how much people do care, an experience that has been deeply rewarding.
Donor Ribbon Cuttings at the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care

Naming a space at Dana-Farber can serve as a very meaningful way of recognizing loved ones, while providing critical momentum behind our fight against cancer. Dana-Farber celebrates generous supporters who named spaces within the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care.

Ruth Moorman and Sheldon Simon continue support for Dana-Farber with recent gift

Ruth Moorman and her husband, Sheldon Simon, have been engaged in what they call “the battle to cure gynecological cancers” for more than 10 years. They recently continued their support of Dana-Farber with a gift of $250,000 to the Mildred Moorman Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, named in honor of Moorman’s mother.

Mildred Moorman, a patient of Ursula Marulionis, MD, medical director of Gynecologic Oncology, passed away after a battle with ovarian cancer in 2011. The fund supports basic, translational, and clinical research with a goal of advancing treatment of women’s cancers.

“The funding made possible by Ruth and Sheldon gives our group the ability to explore new ideas in ovarian cancer,” Marulionis said. “It is our hope that we will then leverage those ideas into larger foundation and National Cancer Institute grants.”

The couple’s commitment to Dana-Farber’s mission to conquer cancer and their interest in the Institute’s success is multifaceted. In addition to naming their research fund, Moorman and Simon sit on the Institute’s Visiting Committee for Basic Sciences, and Moorman is a member of the Visiting Committee for the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers. Simon is also a co-founder of the Men’s Collaborative to Cure Women’s Cancers, an unprecedented partnership providing a vehicle for men to come together as a unified force to support cutting-edge research in breast and gynecologic cancers. The Men’s Collaborative has raised nearly $470,000 since its inception in 2009, and hosts a fundraising golf tournament each May.

Moorman and Simon are encouraged by recent breakthroughs from Dana-Farber labs and by Marulionis’ work.

“In the past few years there has been such dramatic transformation in cancer research at Dana-Farber,” Simon said. “It’s making a really significant difference in outcomes for cancer patients.”

Heerwagen Family supports lung cancer research

Mutations in the gene KRAS drive some of the most common lung cancers, yet there is no targeted therapy due to the complexity of this gene and its interactions in cells. To enable research on KRAS at Dana-Farber, John and Georgette Heerwagen have established the Heerwagen Family Fund for Lung Cancer Research with a gift supporting David Jackman, MD.

“Being touched by lung cancer has been eye-opening,” said Georgette. “We wanted to support research to make sure that the work can continue and make real progress.” Jackman is working with David Barbie, MD, a colleague at Dana-Farber’s Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology, to study KRAS and the other genes and proteins with which it interacts in cancer cells. Jackman and Barbie are working to generate the data needed to develop a clinical trial.

“I am truly grateful for this support, which will enable us to further explore how KRAS mutations drive cancer cells and, hopefully, to develop and test new targeted therapies,” said Jackman.

The Heerwagens wanted to make this gift to support Jackman due to his dual roles as a physician and scientist, a hallmark of Dana-Farber’s equal balance between research and patient care.

“With Dr. Jackman, we were not only impressed with his credentials and research, but with the thoughtful way he addressed all of our questions,” said John.
A special gift, with a message of hope

Dana-Farber’s innovative multiple myeloma program has received additional research support through a generous new pledge of $100,000 made by Martha Lindsay in memory of her husband, Bob Lindsay. The Robert and Martha Lindsay Family Fund for Multiple Myeloma was established by the Lindseys in 2008, with an initial gift of $100,000 to further the work of Kenneth Anderson, MD, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and LeBow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The fund has been a powerful resource for Anderson, who has made great strides in treatment programs for this rare form of blood cancer.

“We had complete trust in Dana-Farber and in the care that Bob received, and were very grateful to Ken and his staff for their kindness and attentiveness,” said Martha. “Ken gave us hope. In between lively conversations about the local sports teams, Ken kept us apprised of promising new treatments, and in doing so, helped us remain optimistic and resilient in the face of the incredible challenges that come with this terrible disease. Bob believed Ken’s research improved his quality of life, and wanted to ensure the same for others.”

“Bob is our hero and the inspiration for all that we do,” said Anderson. “This kind gift allows us to identify new targets for novel treatments, fast forward their clinical development, and improve patient outcomes. These funds assure a better life for myeloma patients and their families in the future.”

Beta Sigma Phi sisters continue to make a difference

E stablished in 1931 by Walter W. Ross, Beta Sigma Phi is a non-academic sorority that has grown into the largest “friendship organization” in the world. Hundreds of chapters have been formed, linking women of different cultures, ages, and professional backgrounds, and bringing Beta Sigma Phi’s worldwide membership to over 125,000 women.

With a commitment to philanthropy, Beta Sigma Phi’s sisters vote on which charitable organizations to support, and have established an International Endowment Fund from which they direct gifts. Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund have benefited from Beta Sigma Phi’s collective support and endowments since the 1950s. Most recently, Beta Sigma Phi made a generous endowment gift of $167,000, designating the funds to the women’s cancers research efforts of Judy Garber, MD, MPH, and Donald Kufe, MD.

Laura Ross Wingfield, president of Beta Sigma Phi’s International Executive Council, and her Beta Sigma Phi sisters are very passionate about supporting the work of Dana-Farber researchers, specifically Garber and Kufe. “They’re always so animated when they talk about their research,” Wingfield said. “The core of Beta Sigma Phi is friendship, learning, and coming together to make our communities better, and we want to give these doctors what they need to find a cure for women’s cancers, for all cancers.”

Garber’s work focuses on genetic testing and monitoring cancer risks, and she feels honored to receive this gift: “The funding from Beta Sigma Phi is vital to my work, and I am motivated by their ongoing passion and commitment,” she said. “They have supported Dr. Kufe and me for many years, and we are always humbled by their dedication to making a difference.”

Kufe concentrates on finding effective therapies for patients, and also considers this support essential: “My team and I are able to uncover better ways to treat our patients because of the generosity of Beta Sigma Phi,” he said.

A special gift, with a message of hope

Children’s Leukemia Research Association grant powers research into new leukemia targets

A study generously funded by a $100,000 gift from the Children’s Leukemia Research Association (CLRA) and led by Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, pediatric hematologist/oncologist at Dana-Farber, aims to identify new therapeutic targets in pediatric acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). CLRA has sponsored research efforts toward finding the causes of and cures for leukemia since 1965, and is a longtime supporter of Dana-Farber researchers.

“Our organization hopes to get closer to a cure and to improve the success rate for treatment,” CLRA President Anthony Pasqua said. His daughter, Susan, is an AML survivor who was given a less than 1 percent chance of survival when she was diagnosed in 1980 at age 5.

“Dr. Stegmaier’s impressive research into targeted, specific treatment for one patient may have more success than a broad-brush approach for all patients,” Pasqua added.

The goal of Stegmaier’s research is to confirm two proteins as targets in pediatric leukemia treatment: MTHFD2 in AML and EHMT2 in T-cell ALL. By directing treatment at specific cancer-fueling proteins, the hope is that patients may experience fewer side effects with faster results because healthy cells will not be damaged.

“Grants from organizations such as CLRA are a lifeline for academic laboratories during this time of federal budget cuts,” Stegmaier said. “CLRA’s funding supports the critical mission of advancing our understanding of childhood leukemia and improving treatments for children afflicted with these diseases.”

Impact
WINTER 2014
For more information on all Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber events, go to jimmyfund.org or dana-farber.org.