Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C), a longtime supporter of Dana-Farber’s cancer research, has announced a $10 million SU2C Dream Team under the direction of Dana-Farber’s Irene Ghobrial, MD, to revitalize the treatment of multiple myeloma.

The SU2C Multiple Myeloma Dream Team will focus on early detection of precursor conditions before they turn into full-blown myeloma, an incurable cancer of plasma cells. Ghobrial, co-principal investigator of the Center for Prevention of Progression of Blood Cancers and director of the Michele and Steven Kirsch Laboratory, will oversee the Dream Team with Ivan Borrello, MD, of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins.

Almost all patients diagnosed with multiple myeloma have had one of two precursor conditions—monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) or smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM)—before their disease progressed into active myeloma. These precursor conditions cause no symptoms and are only detected when a physician orders a blood test for another reason. In addition, they can cause bone destruction and kidney damage.

“We tell people with precursor conditions that we will ‘watch and wait’ until it turns into multiple myeloma, with multiple tumors that can potentially cause organ damage,” says Ghobrial, who is also the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. “Dana-Farber has been

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Richard Smith makes extraordinary $25 million gift to advance the vision of Dana-Farber’s Strategic Plan

Over the course of seven decades, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has grown into a world-renowned hub of groundbreaking research and unparalleled patient care. Throughout most of this history, the family of Institute Trustee Richard A. Smith has been pivotal to this success. Now, with a new leadership gift of $25 million, Smith is providing powerful momentum to the Institute’s next phase of growth, laid out in a Strategic Plan announced earlier this year by Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD.

The Strategic Plan codifies Glimcher’s vision for transforming the field of cancer care through discovery and innovation, and has three components: reimagining the science of cancer, enhancing and expanding access to our excellent patient care, and expediting our progress by investing in talent and resources. Smith’s gift lays the cornerstone for a planned comprehensive capital campaign and makes tremendous strides toward the goal of attracting and supporting top talent by funding the buildout of the eighth floor of the Longwood Center. Home to Dana-Farber programs in basic science, chemical biology, and drug discovery, the Longwood Center features a unique open floorplan that fosters the collaboration across disciplines that is essential to sparking new ideas and accelerating novel treatments for patients.

“The last two decades have been nothing short of revolutionary in cancer research and treatment,” says Glimcher, who is also the Richard Smith makes extraordinary $25 million gift to advance the vision of Dana-Farber’s

Continued on page 11

Dana-Farber researcher to lead $10 million Stand Up To Cancer Multiple Myeloma Dream Team

Irene Ghobrial, MD, leads a Stand Up To Cancer Dream Team that will proactively intervene to stop the progression of multiple myeloma.

Continued on page 8
Dear Friends,

In Dana-Farber’s history, there have been a handful of true visionaries who propelled the Institute forward at watershed moments. Among them are Institute Trustees Richard Smith and his late wife, Susan, who have given generously again and again to ensure that Dana-Farber’s research and patient care remain unparalleled.

Now, with the launch of a new Strategic Plan for the Institute earlier this year and a comprehensive capital campaign on the horizon to support it, Dick Smith has once again led the way. His transformative $25 million gift will provide a strong foundation for Strategic Plan initiatives to expand our campus, attract the best and brightest scientists, and drive drug development. We are honored and inspired by his ongoing leadership, generosity, and confidence in the Institute.

From the earliest discoveries in childhood leukemia in Dr. Sidney Farber’s basement laboratory, Dana-Farber has been at the forefront of advances in hematologic oncology, thanks to the support of longtime partners like Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C). With a powerful $10 million grant, SU2C has named Irene Ghobrial, MD, to co-lead a multi-institution Multiple Myeloma Dream Team that will investigate precursor conditions with the dual goals of stopping progression and developing novel treatments.

Another remarkable gift to support hematological research comes from The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, whose major investment of $1.2 million funds the study of pre-leukemic conditions known as myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). The Taub Foundation hopes that this highly competitive grant will lead to novel treatments for this under-researched disease.

We are grateful for the longstanding support of Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, whose major investment of $1.2 million funds the study of pre-leukemic conditions known as myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). The Taub Foundation hopes that this highly competitive grant will lead to novel treatments for this under-researched disease.

Our researchers are frequently recipients of federal grants, as you will see in the quarterly update at the right, but federal funding is not enough. Over the last 10 years, NIH funding has dropped significantly nationwide—a source of great frustration given the incredible potential we see in the newest areas of research, such as liquid biopsies.

Our generous donors provide critical funds that fill this research funding gap and ensure the delivery of innovative patient care and support programs described in these pages. Thank you for making our lifesaving mission possible.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Paresky
Senior Vice President for Development

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**UPDATE ON FEDERAL FUNDING AT DANA-FARBER**

**Innovation in liquid biopsy technology garners $3 million from NIH**

Dana-Farber radiation oncologist G. Mike Makrigiorgos, PhD, has received two federal grants totaling nearly $3 million for collaborative research aimed at detecting “needle-in-a-haystack” mutations circulating in the blood of cancer patients.

Both grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) support innovative methods to boost the detection of tumor DNA in liquid biopsies, says Makrigiorgos, who is director of Medical Physics and Biophysics. Liquid biopsies are designed to spot small amounts of DNA shed by tumors into the bloodstream, but detection is difficult amidst the large amount of normal DNA in the circulation, Makrigiorgos explains.

One of the NIH grants supports the development of a patent-pending technology developed by the Makrigiorgos lab, known as “nuclease-assisted mutation enrichment using probe-overlap,” or NAME-PRO, that uses an enzyme to eliminate the normal DNA from a blood sample and boost the sequencing signals from mutated DNA shed by tumors. This grant, for $1.56 million over three years, which Makrigiorgos says is aimed at bringing the technology to a stage where it can be tested in clinical trials.

The objective of the second grant, for $1.34 million over three years, is to develop a mutational “fingerprint” of a patient’s tumor that can be used to detect traces of remaining cancer following treatment. The fingerprint will be generated by sequencing a patient’s individual tumor exomes—the DNA in the cancer cells that codes for proteins—to obtain a unique identifying pattern. This fingerprint will be used to detect minimal residual disease in melanoma patients as a way of monitoring the effectiveness of treatment.

“The hypothesis is that highly sensitive detection of minimal residual disease in the blood will uncover potential relapse significantly earlier than is currently possible via medical imaging, thus potentially enabling intervention at an early stage,” says Makrigiorgos. He adds that similar projects applied to breast cancer are also ongoing with Heather Parsons, MD, MPH, a breast oncologist in the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers at Dana-Farber.

Students and companies bring it home in Rally for the Jimmy Fund

It’s a sure sign of spring in Boston when Rally for the Jimmy Fund presented by Chowdaheadz kicks off. Companies and schools ask employees and students to contribute $10 or more and “rally” by wearing Boston Red Sox gear to work or school on Fenway Park Opening Day.

In addition to their own contributions, student and corporate teams enthusiastically raise funds for the Jimmy Fund in their communities, and the top fundraising teams in each category enjoy a visit from a Boston Red Sox player. In 2018, Rally raised more than $630,000 for the Jimmy Fund.

The winning school team, Furnace Brook Middle School in Marshfield, Mass., raised more than $23,000, scoring an exciting visit from popular Boston Red Sox pitcher Joe Kelly. Furnace Brook teachers Laurie Higgins and Barbara Anderson founded the school’s Rally team in 2006, the first year of the program, hoping to one day reach $100,000. When Anderson died of cancer in 2015, the Furnace Brook community redoubled its efforts in her memory, this year topping $150,000 in cumulative funds raised. “Barbara was and always will be one of our main motivations,” says Higgins.

Furnace Brook’s many fundraising vehicles included the sale of “Kindness” t-shirts, bake sales, and an auction. “The kids bring all the spirit,” insists Higgins. “I’m just the cheerleader. Every household in our community has been touched by cancer in some way or another, and I’m humbled by how they step up and show their kindness each year by raising money for the Jimmy Fund.”

The top corporate fundraising team, State Street Corporation, has also participated in Rally since 2006, and this year raised an impressive $36,845. The State Street team’s cumulative giving through Rally for the Jimmy Fund is $427,000, and employees are proud to support high-quality patient care and research at Dana-Farber through their efforts.
Lumaghini Family seeks brighter future for biliary cancer patients

When Marilyn and Lionel Lumaghini reflected on the March 2017 day when they learned of Lionel’s cholangiocarcinoma diagnosis, two words came to mind: shock. Neither Marilyn nor Lionel had ever heard of this rare bile duct cancer. Though Lionel’s stage IV cancer was beyond surgery, Dana-Farber physician-scientist Thomas Abrams, MD, used genomic sequencing to match Lionel with a targeted therapy that significantly improved his quality of life.

Grateful for Lionel’s improved condition and armed with a new understanding of the unique challenges associated with this rare disease, the Lumaghinis created one of the first philanthropic funds dedicated to cholangiocarcinoma research at Dana-Farber with a gift of $100,000. “The Lumaghinis are inspiiting, relentlessly positive people,” said Abrams. “Their tremendous support will push the field in new directions, enabling us to offer new treatments that will improve the outlook of these lethal cancers.”

Lionel’s hope was to help someone else facing a diagnosis of the cancer that took his life in July. Marilyn agreed, saying, “This research may not have saved my husband’s life, but it could save someone else’s down the road.” To bring public awareness to this largely unknown disease, Marilyn and Lionel created a Giving Page on the Jimmy Fund website and Marilyn continues to reach out to friends, family, and even strangers to encourage support, all while sporting her “Just Cure It” T-shirt in the biliary cancer awareness color, kelly green.

Garber and Brown honored for transformative research and leadership

In April, Dana-Farber celebrated two physician-scientists for recent appointments to prestigious faculty roles. Judy Garber, MD, MPH, director of the Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention and founder of the Dana-Farber Cancer Risk and Prevention Clinic, is the first incumbent of the Susan F. Smith Chair at Dana-Farber, endowed by Institute Board of Trustees Chairman Josh Bekenstein and his wife, Anita, to honor Mrs. Smith’s legacy as a visionary benefactor and Institute Trustee. Myles Brown, MD, director of Dana-Farber’s Center for Functional Cancer Epigenetics, is the second incumbent of the Emil Frei III, MD, Professorship in Medicine at Harvard Medical School, established to honor the tremendous scientific achievements of the former Physician-in-Chief of Dana-Farber. Clockwise, from top left: Josh Bekenstein; Laurie H. Glimcher, MD; Myles Brown, MD; and Judy Garber, MD, MPH.
Collaborative gift drives collaborative breast cancer research

Determined to uncover therapies for hard-to-treat breast cancers, four donors have joined forces to establish the Treatment Resistant Breast Cancer Research Fund under the direction of Eric Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Breast Oncology and the Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research.

“As a breast cancer survivor, I know how daunting this diagnosis can be and how difficult it is to find new, effective treatments,” said Kristin Barrett. “I’m thrilled to be part of a group supporting Dr. Winer as he looks for new ways to think outside the box and further research and developments.”

Barrett and her husband, David, a Dana-Farber Trustee, have teamed up with fellow Trustees Jane Jamieson, Beth Terrana, and Amy Reiner to contribute a total of $700,000 toward research for a disease that is still taking the lives of far too many patients.

“While there have been great strides made in the treatment of most breast cancers, we still need to find out why some forms are resistant to treatment and others are prone to recurrence,” said Reiner. “I’m grateful Beth and Jane approached me about contributing to this group gift. Together, we can help make an even bigger impact in the lives of patients.”

The idea of collaborative giving is not new to Jamieson and Terrana, who first teamed up 15 years ago to fund the work of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers. This new gift is a continuation of their efforts to bring together people who are concerned with the same issues, and want to move the needle as far as it can go.

“As just a Dana-Farber physician-researchers are collaborative in their research, donors should consider being collaborative in their giving,” they said. “Pooling resources to support the causes you care about can be extremely beneficial.”

Winer agrees, and is thankful for the foresight of these dedicated women. “Receiving significant gifts, such as the one by Jane, Beth, Amy, and Kristin, is exactly what we need to break down barriers and pioneer successful treatments for complex, difficult-to-treat cancers,” he said.

Francesca Hall Estate creates legacy of patient support

A generous gift of more than $545,000 from the estate of breast cancer patient Francesca “Fran” Hall created a legacy to fuel important patient care initiatives at Dana-Farber. This gift provides unrestricted funding that can be used when and where it is needed most, supports breast cancer patients through the SoulMates program, and establishes the Francesca Hall Fund, which aids the Family Connections program.

Patients with cancer who are parents, especially those with young children living at home, often have concerns about how they will manage through treatment and maintain their role as a parent. Many fear their children will suffer, and feel at a loss for how and what to tell them. Family Connections helps to identify and respond to these needs.

“The Francesca Hall Fund has enabled us to maintain the critical resources of the Family Connections Program, which is entirely dependent on philanthropic support,” said Nancy Borstelmann, PhD, MPH, LICSW, Dana-Farber’s director of social work. “Dana-Farber is committed to offering these important services free of charge, and with this gift, that vision can continue to be realized.”

Hall was a retired commander in the United States Navy and traveled extensively throughout her service. She was a native of Holden, Mass., and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, so she felt comfortable being back in the Boston area and receiving the best possible treatments and care at Dana-Farber, said Meg Wendel, a dear friend.

“Having been a patient herself, I am sure Fran would want to give the emotional and psychological benefits of hope through her gift,” said Wendel. “She would also want it to support the research needed to help families whose lives have been disrupted and displaced by cancer, and to help relieve unwanted stress.”

“Studies have repeatedly reported connections between the emotional health of cancer patients and that of their children. With appropriate support, we can help patients to more effectively assume their critical role as parents, and help their children manage the impact of cancer,” added Borstelmann.

Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl® a sweet success

The 36th annual Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl® spanned two major cities again this year, raising nearly $675,000. Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl presented by Valvoline Instant Oil Change® served up ice cream and fun on Boston’s City Hall Plaza, and Manhattan’s Bryant Park hosted Scooper Bowl New York. Since 1983, the nation’s largest all-you-can-eat ice cream festival has raised nearly $6.3 million for Dana-Farber.

Chairman of the Jimmy Fund Larry Lucchino kicked off the event in Boston. “What better way to welcome summer than with ice cream, frozen yogurt, outdoor music, and an organization dedicated to fighting cancer?” said Lucchino. “As a cancer survivor and former Dana-Farber patient myself, I am honored to lend a hand to help the Scooper Bowl raise critical funds to find cures for cancer.”

The Boston event drew nearly 45,000 ice cream lovers of all ages, including students from 32 Massachusetts schools who raised funds through the Jimmy Fund Scooper Schools program, sponsored this year by Must Be The Milk. Adding even more sweetness to the 2018 event, the new Scoop@Night took place on the evening of June 7. Scoop@Night, presented in partnership with Harpoon and UFO Beers, 90+ Cellars, and Martignetti, brought together the 21+ crowd for a variety of beers and wines, and unlimited ice cream.

The New York City event continued to grow, attracting 10,000 city dwellers looking for cool treats. Inspired by the Boston event, Brooke Biederman and her parents, Dan and Susan Biederman, co-chaired Scooper Bowl New York for the second year in a row.

The continued growth and success of the Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl® is due in large part to the generosity and dedication of partners who contributed their time and tons of delicious treats, including Barts Ice Cream Co., baskin-robbins®, beckons®, Ben & Jerry’s®, Blake’s Creamery, Breyers®, Edy’s®, Friendly’s®, HP Hood®, LaCait, Rosev Dairy Foods, Vice Cream, and Yasso.

The Institute Trustees Beth Terrana, Jane Jamieson, and Amy Reiner, and Kristin Barrett (clockwise from top left), collaborated on a significant gift to advance research into treatment resistant breast cancer.

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LCRF fuels post-doctoral research

The leaders of the Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF) understand the impact of lung cancer—the leading cause of cancer mortality according to the American Cancer Society—on families and communities. This drives LCRF to advance lung cancer treatment through research. LCRF recently made a $150,000 post-doctoral research grant to Alison Taylor, PhD, under the direction of Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD, director of Cancer Genomics and director of the Center for Cancer Genome Discovery.

“We are proud to support Dr. Taylor, the most recent investigator in our decade-long relationship with Dana-Farber,” said Debra Naughton, LMSW, interim executive director, LCRF. “Time and time again, Dana-Farber investigators present creative ideas that push the boundaries of lung cancer research.”

Taylor is studying chromosomes, structures that house strands of DNA inside a cell. Chromosomes can undergo mutations that play a role in cancer. Taylor’s work will shed light on chromosome arm 3p (chromosome 3p) mutations, to learn about the biologic drivers of lung cancer, which will be critical for designing new treatments.

“LCRF has been an amazing partner in advancing lung cancer research, providing over $2 million in support to laboratories at Dana-Farber,” said Meyerson. “We are honored that LCRF is supporting Dr. Taylor, who has made great progress in understanding the role of chromosome abnormalities in the development of lung cancer.”

Support for pediatric research in beloved teen’s memory

Nate Cavallo never seemed to dwell on all he had lost. Happiest when skimboarding and snorkeling at the beach, he had limited mobility after limb-sparing cancer surgery. An avid science student, he was forced to miss months of school. Still, “he took the hand he was dealt, and he played it,” said his father, Jim Cavallo.

Nate loved holidays, “almost as though he knew he wouldn’t have that many,” reflected his mother, Nicole Abair. A few days before he died at age 14 in December 2015, Nate dictated a Christmas shopping list from the hospital.

In their beloved son’s memory, Jim and Nicole established the Nate Cavallo Longitudinal Oncology Communications Curriculum, which teaches newer physicians to better communicate with young patients.

“The research is longer term,” said Jim. “But the quality of your life on this journey seems equally important.”

Generosity of Dana-Farber Society members secures future discovery

In May, the Dana-Farber Society (DFS) gathered at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Boston, for its 28th annual recognition dinner. DFS members, all of whom have chosen to include Dana-Farber in their wills or estate plans, now number more than 1,100 and represent almost all 50 states and three countries.

The evening was a celebration of DFS members’ support of important discovery, and a reminder that their generosity will impact the next wave of cancer research and care advancements at Dana-Farber. Attendees enjoyed a keynote presentation by Atul Gawande, MD, MPH, an acclimated surgeon, writer, and public health researcher and the author of the 2014 New York Times bestseller “Being Mortal.” Gawande spoke about quality of life and dignity in clinical decision-making, and discussed Dana-Farber-led research studies that are improving patient care and driving change nationwide.

Gawande (left) was welcomed by DFS Co-Chairs and Institute Trustees Barbara and Jim Sadowsky.

Rosenblums support Center for CNS Lymphoma

Howard Rosenblum was stunned by his diagnosis of central nervous system (CNS) lymphoma. “It was very much out of the blue,” he says. He was soon under the care of Lakshmi Nayak, MD, director of Dana-Farber’s Center for Central Nervous System Lymphoma.

“I feel fortunate that I was able to find a doctor who is an expert in this type of rare cancer,” says Rosenblum. CNS lymphoma can begin in the brain, or migrate there from somewhere else in the body.

It is challenging to treat, since chemotherapy and radiation often produce nerve damage and other problems.

“Hematologic conditions such as lymphoma require an especially complex level of care when they appear in the brain,” explains Nayak. “Ultimately, we want to change the treatment paradigm for CNS lymphoma.”

Rosenblum responded well to treatment, and was intrigued to learn about the Center for CNS Lymphoma, which combines the expertise of clinicians, surgeons, and pathologists from both hematology and neuro-oncology, as well as molecular and immunologic researchers. He and his wife, Lori, made a generous gift of $100,000 to the center, wanting to support research that would help other patients with this disease have the same positive result.

Nayak is appreciative. “This gift will help support the development of patient-derived models, enabling us to advance our knowledge of precision medicine, biology, and treatment to tackle CNS lymphoma,” she said.
Taub Foundation grants support MDS research

Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) are a family of pre-leukemic disorders in which the bone marrow produces an insufficient supply of healthy blood cells. Two Dana-Farber physician-scientists, Benjamin Ebert, MD, PhD, and R. Coleman Lindsley, MD, PhD, have received grants totaling $1.2 million from The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation to study genetic mutations underlying MDS, which may lead to novel therapies to treat the disease.

Henry Taub, founder of Automatic Payrolls, now called ADP, established the foundation with his wife, Marilyn, in 1967. The Taub Foundation funds, among other areas, medical research on MDS, with assistance from The Medical Foundation, which works with family foundations to manage customized grant programs.

“MDS is an under-researched disease without a known cure,” said Steven Taub, president of The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation. “Working together with Dr. John Kanki at The Medical Foundation, we developed and fund a highly competitive national grant program to attract top scientists to a highly competitive national grant program to attract top scientists to translational MDS research. These Dana-Farber researchers are leaders in the field, and we are proud to support their work.”

Ebert, who is Dana-Farber’s chair of Medical Oncology and the George P. Canellios, MD, and Jean S. Canellios Professor of Medicine, is one of the world’s leading authorities on the biology of MDS. With this grant, he will use cell lines to study how TP53 gene mutations can transform MDS into acute myeloid leukemia and will test candidate therapeutic agents to treat these genetic alterations. Ebert and his colleagues recently found that TP53-mutant myeloid malignancies respond to treatment with decitabine, a standard MDS therapy.

“Given the extraordinarily poor survival of patients with these mutations, we are grateful for the Taub Foundation’s support of this important work, which holds the promise of developing new therapies and improving the prognosis for these patients,” said Ebert.

With his Taub Foundation grant, Lindsley will study how RNA splicing factor mutations contribute to MDS and how they combine with other mutations during disease progression. Splicing is an essential step in gene expression in which the non-coding sequences of a gene are removed and the coding sequences are joined together to increase the functional capacity of the gene and the protein it produces. Mutations in splicing genes occur in up to 50 percent of patients with MDS, making them a potential target for therapy.

Lindsley’s preliminary analysis found that mutations in a common splicing factor gene called U2AF1 are associated with BCR and ASXL1 mutations. BCR is a gene that affects the activity of a protein that helps to control gene expression. ASXL1 is one of the most frequently mutated genes in myeloid malignancies like MDS.

With his colleagues, Lindsley will endeavor to define the functional impact of these mutations, provide new insights into MDS biology, and lay the groundwork for developing novel therapies.

“Taub Foundation grants support MDS research

Team Todd surpasses $1 million in lifetime fundraising

Members and supporters of Team Todd gathered on May 15 to celebrate the incredible accomplishment of surpassing $1 million cumulatively raised through the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Team Todd, led by Janet Schwartz, walks in memory of Schwartz’s late son, Todd, who was treated at Dana-Farber by Loren Walensky, MD, PhD. Team Todd’s fundraising has directly supported Walensky’s groundbreaking research at Dana-Farber since they began walking in 2002. Walensky spoke at the event about how caring for Todd shaped his career as an oncologist and life as a father, and gave updates on the progress he has made in research thanks to the generosity of Team Todd. Attendees then received tours of Walensky’s lab in the Longwood Center to see firsthand how their tireless fundraising efforts have made his research possible.

Above, at the celebration are (from left holding check): Loren Walensky, MD, PhD; Janet Schwartz; Todd Schwartz’s sister, Laura Zaks; Todd’s father, John Schwartz; and members of Walensky’s lab.

Executive Council Breakfast recognizes fellows’ contributions

Each spring, the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers Executive Council hosts a breakfast to raise funds for the Susan F. Smith Center and to highlight the research being conducted to develop new and “smarter” therapies for breast and gynecologic cancers. The Executive Council is a forum of women business and community leaders that has generated funds to support women’s cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber since 2002. This year, the 15th annual breakfast welcomed more than 200 guests to the Mandarin Oriental, Boston in April and raised more than $220,000.

With this year’s theme of “Our Future, Our Fellows,” five physicians who are currently in fellowship training or have transitioned to faculty member for three years. Goel spoke of the time he spent training with Jean Zhao, PhD, and in clinical research with Winer.

The other four physicians—Adrienne Gropper Waks, MD; Annina Farkkila, MD, PhD; Sameer Chopra, MD, PhD; and Ana Garrido-Castro, MD, PhD—also shared the experiences that led to their research fields of interest.

Event Co-Chairs (from left) Janit Greenwood, Institute Trustee Debbie Furt, Barbara Mare, Hazel Darden, and Leesie Kiley.
Investing in the next generation of melanoma treatments

When Karen O’Connor received the diagnosis of metastatic melanoma, her world changed in an instant. “Things were going so well,” she recalls, “and then I discovered I had advanced cancer.” But when she and her husband, Bruce MacGregor, arrived at Dana-Farber, they knew they were in the right place.

Karen credits her oncologist, Rizwan Haq, MD, PhD, for giving her “the hope to keep going.” She relates that Haq, who specializes in precision medicine for metastatic melanoma, addressed the gravity of her diagnosis with kindness and compassion, and his calm demeanor gave her confidence.

To create more effective personalized therapies, Haq studies why some individuals respond to treatment and others develop resistance. During a visit to Haq’s lab, Karen and Bruce relished witnessing his work firsthand. “I’d read about this research in journals, and now I was seeing advances happen before my eyes,” she said.

Grateful that her disease has responded to immunotherapy, Karen envisions a future where all cancer patients can benefit from treatments like hers. With a generous gift of $100,000, Karen and Bruce have established the O’Connor-MacGregor Fund for Melanoma Research, which will support Haq’s innovative work. This gift also provides early momentum to the Institute’s planned comprehensive capital campaign. “I wanted to be a part of this breakthrough research,” Karen explains, “and I hope I can inspire others to give as well.”

Grant from Gilead Sciences fuels HIV research

Patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are living longer than ever thanks to therapies that hold the virus in check. However, treated patients still experience numerous ill effects, and any disruption in treatment causes the virus to re-emerge, leading to disease progression. To address these challenges, scientists must develop new strategies to treat and ultimately eradicate HIV infection.

In pursuit of this goal, the biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences, Inc., has awarded Dana-Farber researcher Joseph Sodroski, MD, $450,000 to explore the therapeutic potential of novel compounds that encourage the immune system to eliminate HIV-infected cells.

Sodroski’s research focuses on HIV proteins that enable the virus to enter human cells and cause disease. Recently, he discovered that certain compounds make HIV-infected cells more vulnerable to disease-fighting immune cells in the laboratory. The Gilead Sciences award will allow him to determine whether the compounds can stimulate the immune system to fight HIV in a more-ancient biological setting.

“By funding these proof-of-concept experiments, Gilead is setting the stage for potential clinical trials of these compounds in patients with HIV,” said Sodroski. “Gilead has long been committed to addressing the needs of individuals living with HIV,” said Gilead’s Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Amy Flood.

“Independent research programs like that of Dr. Sodroski contribute to the collective steps we can take to help end this devastating epidemic.”

Fantasy Day hosts inaugural Executive Home Run Derby

Baseball fans hit a home run for the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute on June 2 at the 27th annual John Hancock Fenway Fantasy Day, surpassing $8 million in cumulative fundraising since 1992. The one-of-a-kind event offers the opportunity to play on the field at America’s most beloved ballpark by fundraising, purchasing an individual or corporate hospitality package, or sponsoring a patient to participate. This year, generous supporters raised more than $300,000 for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber.

New this year was the Executive Home Run Derby, led by Barbara Goose, chief marketing officer of John Hancock. Participants included executives from Bain & Company, Digitas, ELEMENT Productions, Heat + Deloitte Digital, John Hancock, NIC + ZOE, PerkinElmer, Virtual, Inc., Waters Corporation, WZK/CBS Boston, and Wunderman. Corporate groups from Colwen Hotels and WSP also took the field, along with members of Team Russo, the largest Fantasy Day team, which raised nearly $70,000.

Thanks to generous event supporters, Fantasy Day packages were purchased for 28 adult and pediatric Dana-Farber patients, who were escorted on a behind-the-scenes tour of Fenway Park before heading out to bat. Despite some afternoon showers, nothing could dampen the smiles on participants’ faces.

Meyerhardt installed as first Douglas Gray Woodruff Chair

Jeffrey Meyerhardt, MD, MPH, clinical director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center, co-director of the Center for Colon and Rectal Cancer, and deputy clinical research officer, was named the first incumbent of the Douglas Gray Woodruff Chair in Colorectal Cancer Research at Dana-Farber at a celebration last May. The chair, the first at Dana-Farber in the area of colorectal cancer, was endowed by Gretchen Woodruff and her family with a generous gift in honor of her late husband, who was treated at Dana-Farber for colon cancer in 1998.

The chair recognizes Meyerhardt’s extraordinary contributions to the treatment of colorectal cancer, including research that has resulted in national clinical trials and new therapies.

From left: Ben, Meggie, and Gretchen Woodruff with Jeffrey Meyerhardt, MD, MPH.
Stand Up To Cancer continued from page 1

Throughout the body, we want to change that.*

Under Ghobrial’s leadership, the Dream Team will conduct what is believed to be the first large-scale population survey in the United States for precursor conditions of multiple myeloma. Blood samples from approximately 50,000 people, recruited through a multi-pronged outreach strategy, will be analyzed to find what is expected to be about 3,000 who have the precursor conditions.

The research team will follow those with precursor conditions and will use the samples to discover biomarkers that will help clinicians predict who has a high risk of progressing to overt multiple myeloma. The team will also work to develop new therapies to prevent these conditions from evolving into multiple myeloma.

In a 2016 phase 2 clinical trial, Ghobrial initiated an immunotherapy-based drug combination to define whether early therapeutic interventions can prevent progression of high-risk SMM to full-blown myeloma.

“This Dream Team’s work has the promise of significantly changing the way we approach multiple myeloma,” said Ghobrial, “and is extraordinary,” said Eric Winer, MD, chief of Pediatric Oncology and the Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research. “Her tireless fundraising supports our efforts to find new treatments for metastatic breast cancer.” ■

Team Jack Foundation leads the fight against pediatric brain tumors

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In an annual meeting of the American Society for Pediatric Neurology, Dana-Farber is studying the drug’s efficacy and tolerability. The clinical trial will study the drug’s efficacy and leverage a novel blood test to detect tumor cell DNA, allowing the team to profile tumors for future targeted therapies and monitor response without the need for surgery, transforming care.

“The Team Jack Foundation is thrilled to be able to help fund research for the most common form of pediatric brain cancer,” said Brianna Hoffman, board co-chair of the foundation. “We are grateful that researchers at Dana-Farber are working tirelessly to find better treatments for these kids.” ■

In keeping with its mission to raise money for impactful pediatric brain cancer research and create national awareness for the disease, the Team Jack Foundation made a $300,000 grant to Dana-Farber to support a pediatric brain tumor clinical trial for low-grade gliomas. Because of their location, low-grade gliomas generally cannot be removed completely via surgery, and there are few existing therapeutic options that target the mutations present in these tumors. Under the direction of Pratiti (Mimi) Bandopadhayay, MD, PhD; Karen Wright, MD, MS; and Scott Armstrong, MD, PhD, chair of Pediatric Oncology and the David G. Nathan, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Dana-Farber is studying new treatment options for these young patients.

The Dana-Farber team discovered that the drug TAK-580 targets the KIAA1549-BRAF mutation, found in most low-grade gliomas, indicating that the therapy might work against tumors harboring these alterations. Intriguingly, TAK-580 might also attack other abnormalities within the tumor, meaning it could even work against tumors without either the V600E or KIAA1549-BRAF mutation. The clinical trial will study the drug’s efficacy and leverage a novel blood test to detect tumor cell DNA, allowing the team to profile tumors for future targeted therapies and monitor response without the need for surgery, transforming care.

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Music Heals the Soul advances integrative care at Dana-Farber

More than 260 music-loving supporters gathered on May 1 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston, for Music Heals the Soul, an annual concert and dinner to benefit the Leonard P. Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies and Healthy Living at Dana-Farber. The event, in its 11th year, raised $250,000 for the Zakim Center, which provides services such as acupuncture, massage, integrative nutrition, and yoga to improve quality of life for cancer patients. Attendees enjoyed a performance by Erich Bergen, star of Clint Eastwood’s remake of “Jersey Boys” and the hit CBS series “Madam Secretary.” In addition to singing hits like “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You,” Bergen shared his moving story of being treated for testicular cancer.

Premier New England chefs also joined the cause, with delicious food provided by Jody Adams of Trade, Evan Deluty of Stella, Jared O’Donnell of SRV, Colin Lynch of Bar Mezzana, and Michael Lombardi and Kevin O’Donnell of SRV. Since Music Heals the Soul began in 2008, it has raised more than $2.3 million for Dana-Farber’s Zakim Center, vital funds that have helped countless patients improve their wellbeing during often difficult treatment. In 2017, thanks in large part to philanthropic support, the Zakim Center opened a greatly expanded state-of-the-art treatment space within Dana-Farber’s Longwood Campus, giving patients a serene space to ease stress, anxiety, and pain.

Hutker Family supports pancreatic cancer research team to honor loved one

After years of supporting Dana-Farber through events, Mark and Carla Hutker’s connection to the Institute became more personal when Mark’s father, Larry, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Mark knew Dana-Farber would offer excellent care, and his father began treatment with great optimism and toughness. Larry’s treatments were successful and he was soon sent home to return to his normal life. Tragically, Larry unexpectedly passed away in January due to unrelated health complications. To honor Larry’s memory and the care he received, Mark and Carla made a generous gift to establish the Hutker Family Fund.

“This throughout this difficult experience, our family was so impressed by the amazing science and extraordinary care at Dana-Farber,” said Mark. “It was comforting to see how my father’s doctors worked together and took the time to explain every step of treatment. We knew we wanted to give back.”

The Hutker Family Fund supports pancreatic cancer research led by the team who cared for Larry: Joseph Mancias, MD, PhD, Douglas Robinson, MD, PhD, and Jiping Wang, MD, PhD. Leveraging this gift, they aim to better understand the immune environment in pancreatic cancer, pinpoint the mechanisms of treatment resistance, and develop new therapeutic approaches.

“The Hutker Family’s gift is a deeply meaningful way to further Larry’s legacy,” said Mancias. “This disease is complex, but Mark and Carla are helping us advance diverse research projects with the shared goal of improving outcomes for patients.”

Stegmaier receives Casty Family Award for mentorship

Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, vice chair for Pediatric Oncology Research and the Ted Williams Chair at Dana-Farber, received the Casty Family Achievement in Mentoring Award at a celebration in May. Ron Casty and his late wife, Ronni, endowed the award in 2012 to highlight the critical role of mentorship in developing and retaining top-notch faculty at Dana-Farber.

Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, described Stegmaier, who is also co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancy Program, as “a brilliant scientist and deeply compassionate clinician.” Noting her many contributions to pediatric oncology, including multiple clinical trials which resulted from her laboratory’s research, Glimcher and Chief Scientific Officer Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, praised Stegmaier’s generosity and commitment to mentoring the next generation of pediatric cancer researchers.

Above, at the celebration (from left): Dr. Rollins, Dr. Stegmaier, Ron Casty, and Dr. Glimcher.

Applebee’s is a good neighbor to the Jimmy Fund

Since 2015, national restaurant chain Applebee’s Neighborhood Grill + Bar has been a multifaceted partner of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund.

Applebee’s had a record-setting year for their fundraising with nearly $105,000 raised for cancer care and research in 2017. The restaurant supports the WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon presented by Arbella Insurance Foundation through a cause marketing campaign that ran from April through May. Participating restaurants throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire asked their customers to donate $1 or $5 to the Jimmy Fund in exchange for an in-store pinup. Some restaurants held extra events to support the initiative including paint nights, car washes, and more. Additionally, Applebee’s holds an annual golf tournament at the Blissful Meadows Golf Club in Uxbridge, Mass., which attracted nearly 145 participants.

“Applebee’s is dedicated to helping cancer patients fight their battles one contribution at a time,” says Lori Prunier, marketing coordinator at Apple American Group, the largest Applebee’s franchisee in the country. “Each restaurant stays engaged in its neighborhood through participation in community events, donations, sponsorships, and fundraisers to help local organizations grow and flourish.”

Applebee’s and its customers provide vital, flexible funding that can be used when and where it is needed most, and they are committed to growing this critical support in 2018.

Applebee’s leaders (from left) Herve Lapulume, Lori Prunier, and Kevin Sokolowski present a check for funds raised in 2017.
Tom and Jane Deubler drive ovarian cancer research

L
ike many Dana-Farber supporters, Tom and Jane Deubler were moved to give generously by their determination to fight cancer and by their gratitude for the care they received at the Institute. Thus inspired, the Deublers recently made a $100,000 gift to support ovarian cancer research led by Jane’s oncologist Joyce Liu, MD, MPH, director of clinical research for the Gynecologic Oncology Program at the Dana-Farber’s Gene Display, while Tom’s colleagues at North Easton Savings Bank named another gene in the family’s honor. According to Tom, Jane has displayed a fighting spirit from their very first visit, asking to begin chemotherapy that same day. Her determination has been matched by Liu, an expert clinician and recognized leader in the development of novel treatments for ovarian cancer. Fired by the Deublers’ philanthropy, Liu is conducting a study to see how an innovative “triplet therapy” combination of three drugs can enhance the immune response against this disease.

Jane and Tom gratefully laud the Institute community for the tremendous care they received. “Everyone at Dana-Farber was absolutely incredible in terms of level of expertise and genuine interest in the patient,” said Tom. “We cannot overstate how great the care was, and we are truly honored to support their work.”

One Mission hits $1 million milestone

W
hen Shushi Guo was diagnosed with stomach cancer, he sought medical treatment in his home country of China. However, despite undergoing surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy, his disease progressed. Instead of losing hope, he and his family vigorously sought another option. After learning of Hope Noah, a health company that helps Chinese citizens find treatment available in China. “Treating Guo was one of the best decisions I have ever made,” said Guo. Over the course of his six-month hospitalization, Haseotes learned the fear and loneliness that accompany a child’s cancer journey. “The things that bring families joy—fun meals and holiday celebrations—were completely lacking, making the long journey even harder,” she recalls. The experience inspired her to do whatever it takes to bring that joy and comfort into the clinic.

To that end, she and her husband, Ari, founded One Mission, a charity dedicated to brightening the path through treatment. The Haseotes’ compassion has been driven by tenacity. Over the years, One Mission has expanded its fundraising, and its array of events. With their most recent gift of $170,000, the organization topped a $1 million milestone in total giving to Dana-Farber. “We are deeply grateful to One Mission for their support,” said Lisa Scherber, director of Patient and Family Programs. “One Mission funds Child Activities Specialist Amanda Dean, holiday parties, and the Summer Festival, all of which help make the Jimmy Fund Clinic such a warm community. Parking passes for families of new patients, and during the holidays, ease financial stress.”

One Mission’s consistent giving underscores the Haseotes’ commitment to sustainability: “The journey is long and hard,” Ashley said. “You need moments of happiness all along the way to recharge and keep going.”

Investing in the future of care for stomach cancer

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Loyal supporters recognized at President’s Circle events

At the 12th annual President’s Circle Appreciation Night at Fenway Park in April, members were treated to a reception with ballpark fare before watching the Boston Red Sox play Tampa Bay. The evening featured remarks by (from left) Dana-Farber Chief of Staff Richard Stone, MD; Chief of Staff Emeritus Stephen Sallan, MD; and WEEI Red Sox Radio Network broadcaster Joe Castiglione. In May, President’s Circle members were invited to learn about the programs offered at Dana-Farber’s newly expanded Leonard P. Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies and Healthy Living from the center’s director, Jennifer Ligibel, MD. After her remarks, Ligibel answered questions and guests enjoyed a tour of the Zakim Center’s beautiful new space.
at the epicenter of that discovery and innovation, and Dick Smith’s gift will allow us to strengthen and expand the reach of our talented, passionate scientists."

Dick Smith, who is a past Board Chairman and President of the Institute, shares this vision. "I hope this gift will make a difference for patients by advancing groundbreaking science and medicine," he said. "Over more than 50 years of involvement with Dana-Farber, I have seen firsthand the amazing strides in cancer treatment brought about by brilliant researchers and clinicians. I am very pleased to support Laurie Glimcher’s vision for taking this lifesaving work to the next level."

Dana-Farber’s Strategic Plan identifies key priorities for the next five to seven years, including a focus on cancer genomics, which allows scientists to target the unique genetic mutations of each cancer, and immunotherapy, which harnesses the power of the immune system to fight cancer. "We are pioneers in both these areas, but we have seen just the tip of the iceberg of what’s possible," according to Glimcher. Advancing the field will require the kind of collaborative research and complex analysis that the newly designed space in the Longwood Center will enable.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Josh Bekenstein noted the importance of Smith’s support for the Strategic Plan, saying, "Once again, Dick Smith is out in front with a leadership gift at a crucial juncture in the Institute’s growth. As at so many times in the past, Dick’s deep and unflagging commitment to advancing Dana-Farber’s mission will be a strong driver of philanthropic support."

"Dick Smith and his family are an inspiration to us all," said Dana-Farber President Emeritus David G. Nathan, MD. "There is no question that their generosity over three generations has saved many lives."

Glimcher’s vision for the Institute preserves the unique 50-50 collaboration of clinical care and scientific discovery for which Dana-Farber is famous. Smith’s extraordinary gift will help to ensure that scientific discovery leads to new treatment options, and new possibilities, for patients all over the world. Says Glimcher, "The Smith Family’s legacy of generosity and leadership at Dana-Farber will bring new hope to patients for many years to come."

### PLANNED COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT INSTITUTE’S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Scientific advances over the past decade—many spurred by philanthropic support—have created what Dana-Farber President and CEO Laute H. Glimcher, MD, and Institute leaders view as an historic opportunity to accelerate progress in cancer research and care. The Institute’s new Strategic Plan reflects a conviction that Dana-Farber is uniquely suited to achieve an ambitious goal: Transform the field of cancer care through discovery and innovation. The plan centers around three major components—reimagining the science of cancer, enhancing and expanding access to our excellent patient care, and expediting our progress by investing in talent and resources—all of which set the stage for unprecedented change.

The Institute’s planned seven-year comprehensive capital campaign will support many critical needs of the Strategic Plan, including immuno-oncology, drug development, prevention and early detection, digital cancer care, improved patient experience, clinical expansion, epigenetics, genome discovery, and much more. This funding will ensure that Dana-Farber is the organization to achieve a transformation defined by novel treatments and research approaches, reimagined models of patient care, and, ultimately, more survivors.
Olympic swimmers Erik Vendt (left) and Klete Keller shared their Olympic medals with patients at Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic, including Maddie, 5, in July. Vendt and Keller were in town to participate in Swim Across America’s Boston Harbor Islands Swim to raise vital funds for the David B. Perini, Jr. Quality of Life Clinic at Dana-Farber.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information on all Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber events and programs, go to JimmyFund.org or Dana-Farber.org

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**OCTOBER 11**

**QVC presents FFANY Shoes on Sale**

The Fashion Footwear Association of New York and Katy Perry have teamed up for this gala and charitable shoe sale at New York City’s Ziegfield Ballroom to support Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancer, or shop during QVC’s live broadcast. Visit [FFANY.org](http://www.FFANY.org) or contact Raquel Morales at 617-582-7916 or RMorales2@dfci.harvard.edu.

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**OCTOBER 26**

**Celebrating Young and Strong**

The fifth annual event to benefit the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancer’s Young and Strong Program at Dana-Farber will be a wonderfully joyful night, celebrating survivorship, recognizing the courageous women still battling breast cancer every day, and honoring those lost to the disease. Enjoy dinner and dancing with the Marsels. Visit [CelebratingYoungAndStrong.com](http://www.CelebratingYoungAndStrong.com) or contact Katherine Bahnawy at Katherine_Bahnawy@dfci.harvard.edu or 617-632-3863.

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**NOW–DECEMBER 15**

**Kick for Dana-Farber**

Score big with your soccer team by raising funds to support Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission. Participating teams are entered to win an on-field Rally Tunnel experience with the New England Revolution at a 2018 home game as well as other great prizes. Visit [KickForDanaFarber.org](http://www.KickForDanaFarber.org) or contact Maryann Zschau at 617-632-5461 or Maryann_Zschau@dfci.harvard.edu.

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**NOW–DECEMBER 31**

**Dana-Farber Holiday Cards & Gifts**

Presented by Amica Insurance

Embrace a holiday tradition that’s full of hope. Purchase cards and gifts to spread cheer while making a difference in the fight against cancer. View the complete collection and order online at [Dana-FarberHoliday.org](http://www.Dana-FarberHoliday.org), or shop at these participating retailers: The Paper Stone, Stop & Shop, ‘47 Brand, Long’s Jewelers Burlington, The Crafty Yankee, Terra zza, Cooper Jewelers, The Christmas Dove, and the Friends’ Corner Gift Shop at Dana-Farber.

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**OCTOBER 15**

**Sunrise to Sunset Jimmy Fund Golf Tournament**

Join Red Sox legend Jim Lonborg for our third annual, 36-hole golf fundraiser on The International’s premier courses, The Oaks and The Pines. Visit [SunriseToSunsetGolf.org](http://www.SunriseToSunsetGolf.org) or contact Victoria Fox at 617-632-6603 or [Victoria_Fox@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:Victoria_Fox@dfci.harvard.edu).

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**OCTOBER 20**

**Dana-Farber’s UnMask Cancer**

Presented by The Herb Chambers Companies

We will transport you to the rainforest for an exotic evening of live entertainment, dinner by the bite, and fabulous cocktails all to benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund. Visit [UnMaskCancer.org](http://www.UnMaskCancer.org) or contact Raquel Morales at 617-582-7916 or RMorales2@dfci.harvard.edu.

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**NOW–DECEMBER 1**

**Cheer for Dana-Farber**

Empower cheerleading squads to conquer cancer through fundraising. Top fundraising squads win the chance to perform prior to a New England Patriots home game or participate in a cheer clinic with New England Patriots Cheerleaders. Visit [CheerForDanaFarber.org](http://www.CheerForDanaFarber.org) or contact Maryann Zschau at 617-632-5461 or [Maryann_Zschau@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:Maryann_Zschau@dfci.harvard.edu).