40th Pan-Mass Challenge raises $63 million, surpassing $717 million for Dana-Farber

When it comes to fundraising events, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is in a league of its own. This past August, celebrating its 40th ride, the iconic Massachusetts bike-a-thon sped past its $700 million all-time fundraising milestone for Dana-Farber, singlehandedly helping change the landscape of cancer care and treatment.

Raising a total of $63 million in 2019, the PMC has given $717 million since its start in 1980, and continues its run as the nation’s most successful athletic fundraising event. Year after year, the event climbs past its previous fundraising records, all to support the lifesaving work at Dana-Farber.

On August 3 and 4, more than 6,800 riders from 47 states and 8 countries took off on routes ranging from 25 to 192 miles, the longest running from Sturbridge, Mass., to Provincetown. More than 4,000 dedicated volunteers supported cyclists at many stops along the routes, with thousands of spectators cheering the riders on.

One hundred percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, thanks to the generous support of presenting sponsors the Red Sox Foundation and New Balance. Media sponsor WBZ-TV 4 and nearly 200 corporations provide $7 million in essential funds, products, and services each year.

PMC Executive Director Billy Starr founded the event 40 years ago and says that the magnitude and impact of the event, as well as the commitment of the riders, never fails to “wow” him. “I cannot think of a better way to commemorate our milestone 40th ride than with our largest gift ever to Dana-Farber,” said Starr, who is also an Institute Trustee. “I’m incredibly proud of the role the PMC has played in furthering advancements in cancer research and treatment over the last four decades. I continue to be humbled by the drive and commitment our entire community of riders, volunteers, sponsors, and donors demonstrates each year as we raise the fundraising bar.”

The PMC’s longstanding legacy now spans the entirety of many riders’ lives. Reilly Harring and her family have been involved with the PMC for as long as she can remember. From PMC Kids Ride participant, to volunteer, to now adult rider, Harring spoke at the 2019 PMC Opening Ceremonies and explained her family’s strong connection to the PMC, beginning with her maternal grandmother being treated at Dana-Farber.

Harring’s mother, Heidi, began riding in the event to honor her own mother, before being diagnosed herself with advanced stage colon cancer in 2005. Although still in treatment, Heidi rode the PMC that summer, between radiation appointments on Friday and Monday of PMC Weekend. Since then, the PMC has become an integral part of every August for Reilly Harring, her two sisters and their parents. “The PMC is the highlight of my family’s summer, knowing that we are, as a family, closer by the mile to finding the cures for cancer,” said Harring in her Opening Ceremonies address.

Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, and her husband, Gregory Petsko, D.Phil., rode in the PMC for the fourth time this year. “PMC weekend is truly like no other,” said Glimcher. “The strength, hard work, and commitment of the riders and volunteers is palpable, and their passion is leading to lifesaving breakthroughs in cancer research and care. We couldn’t be more grateful for the PMC’s partnership and commitment to our mission.”

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been the top ranked cancer hospital in New England by U.S. News and World Report for 19 consecutive years, and is ranked in the top 5 nationally for both adult and pediatric cancer programs.
Dear Friends,

Nobel. The word inspires awe and wonder and excitement. People everywhere know that word represents the pinnacle of human achievement in our time. So the Dana-Farber community was thrilled to awaken on October 7 to the news that Institute researcher William G. Kaelin Jr., MD, had won the 2019 Nobel Prize in Medicine. Kaelin, who is the Sidney Farber, MD, Professor of Medicine, shares the prize with two fellow scientists, for their basic research into how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability, part of the underlying biology that fuels cancer growth. Basic research such as this is not eligible for federal grants in its early stages. Philanthropy brings such science to a point at which other grants can be garnered. We celebrate this momentous achievement with the entire Dana-Farber community who so generously supports Institute faculty and caregivers.

A huge contributor to basic research, and to research and care across the Institute, is the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), the iconic bike-a-thon that attracts committed riders from around the world each August. I jumped into this year’s PMC with both feet, volunteering with my husband, Trey, on Saturday and riding from Wellesley to Foxborough on Sunday. It is easy to see why the PMC is the most successful athletic fundraiser in the nation, by a wide margin. The event inspires a powerful determination in everyone involved, that this year resulted in the PMC raising an astonishing $63 million, for a total of $717 million since 1980. We are honored and humbled by the PMC’s 40 years of unflagging support and its tremendous impact on our work and our patients—which you can learn more about in a special section on page 8.

Another iconic partner that has been associated with the Institute since our earliest days is the American Cancer Society (ACS), which celebrated more than 70 years of giving to Dana-Farber in September. Shoulder-to-shoulder with Dr. Sidney Farber in the late 1940s and onward to the present day, the ACS has provided a steady stream of funding that now totals nearly $50 million for innovative projects that have advanced discovery across a wide range of cancers, providing hope to patients everywhere. With the utmost respect for such history, and the confidence that we are poised to make great leaps forward, Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund took a fresh look at how we present ourselves to the world. After a year-long exploration detailed in the story at right, we launched a new visual identity system with a more modern, vibrant look that better represents our cutting-edge expertise and our positive, passionate community.

And thanks to this generous community, through gifts large and small, we raised an incredible $323.4 million in the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30—the highest level of philanthropic support ever raised in a single year for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. The impact of your generosity is detailed in these pages, and in the 2019 Honor Roll of Donors that will be posted online in January.

On behalf of the families and friends whose lives have been and will be touched by cancer, thank you, from all of us at Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, and best wishes for the coming holiday season.

Sincerely,

Melany N. Duval
Senior Vice President, Chief Philanthropy Officer

I n late September, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund unveiled new visual identities for the first time in more than 20 years. The contemporary logos, which share a vibrant blue and marigold palette, were purposefully designed to visually connect and emphasize the inseparable relationship between the philanthropy arm of the organization and the Institute it supports.

“T his new look embraces both our more than 70-year heritage and our exciting future,” said Josh Bekenstein, Chairman of the Dana-Farber Board of Trustees. “The new Dana-Farber and Jimmy Fund logos celebrate our historic legacy, symbolize what we are today, and point to our next chapter of discovery and hope.”

“T he new Dana-Farber logo has been dubbed “the Lens.” Its iconography implies looking through a microscope, in which the overlap of a stylized D and F are visible. This signifies the intersection of two key components of Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission: providing compassionate care today while pursuing tomorrow’s cures through innovative, world-class cancer research.

“Our new look is one piece of a broader effort to prepare for the next generation of progress at Dana-Farber,” said Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, President and CEO of Dana-Farber. “The new logo is vivid, refreshing, and looks to a promising future of new therapies for people with cancer everywhere. It highlights our deep commitment to science and clinical care that characterizes and distinguishes Dana-Farber and guides all that we do.”

The Jimmy Fund has aligned its brand to Dana-Farber in a way that is clearer than ever before. The new Jimmy Fund logo reflects the shapes, colors, size, and typography of the Dana-Farber logo while maintaining the spirit of “Jimmy,” the baseball-loving pediatric patient of Dr. Sidney Farber who inspired a movement more than 70 years ago. Jimmy’s baseball cap is a nod to its origin on a radio program in 1948 asking the public to provide Jimmy and his fellow patients in the cancer ward with a television to watch the Boston Braves. This evolved into a longstanding partnership with the Boston Red Sox, the oldest and most successful charity relationship in all professional sports.

“The Jimmy Fund has been part of the fabric of our community and a household name in Boston for nearly 75 years,” says Larry Lucchino, Chairman of the Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber Trustee, Principal Owner and Chairman of the Pawtucket Red Sox, and Boston Red Sox President/CEO Emeritus. “Now, it has a contemporary new look, coordinated with Dana-Farber’s new look, while maintaining a strong link to the generations who have grown up with the Jimmy Fund.”

The new, modern Jimmy Fund logo retains its beloved history while also offering a warm welcome to its next generation of supporters. The refreshed visual identity provides universal appeal to all those facing cancer—young and young at heart—who are hopeful and look ahead to a world without cancer. The Dana-Farber and Jimmy Fund logo changes will be fully integrated over the next couple of years.

**New NCI Outstanding Investigator Awards put Dana-Farber on top**

In an era of scarce federal funding for cancer research, Dana-Farber is the top recipient of National Cancer Institute (NCI) Outstanding Investigator Awards. In September, six Dana-Farber researchers were named Outstanding Investigators by the NCI, giving the Institute a total of 15, the most of any single institution.

The R35 Outstanding Investigator Awards, established in 2014, provide extended grant support to investigators with outstanding records of productivity in cancer research. The newest Dana-Farber recipients are James DeCaprio, MD, Michael Eck, MD, PhD; Anthony Letair, MD, PhD; David Livingston, MD, the Charles A. Dana Chair in Human Cancer Genetics; Thomas Roberts, PhD, co-chair of the Department of Cancer Biology; and David Weinstein, MD, a Claudia Adams Barr Program investigator. The awards provide up to $600,000 in direct costs per year for seven years, “allowing substantial time for funded investigators to take greater risks and be more adventurous in their research,” according to the NCI.

Dana-Farber researchers currently funded by the awards include Pasi Jänne, MD, PhD, director of the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology and the Robert and Renée Belfer Center for Applied Cancer Science; William Kaelin, MD, the Sidney Farber, MD, Professor of Medicine; Thomas Look, MD; Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD; Shuji Ogino, MD, PhD; Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD; Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancy Program and the Ted Williams Chair; Loren Walensky, MD, PhD, principal investigator in the Linde Family Program in Cancer Chemical Biology and a Claudia Adams Barr Program investigator; and Jean Zhao, PhD.
William Hahn, MD, PhD, named William Rosenberg Professor of Medicine

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute recently celebrated the appointment of William Hahn, MD, PhD, as the second incumbent of the William Rosenberg Professorship in Medicine. Renowned for discoveries that have informed the current molecular understanding of cancer, Hahn has made key contributions to understanding the interactions that cause malignant transformation. The tools, models, and approaches Hahn developed are used worldwide, forming the foundation for numerous translational studies and clinical trials. Hahn also provides exceptional care as a medical oncologist specializing in genitourinary cancers, and serves as chief research strategy officer and chief of the Division of Molecular and Cellular Oncology at Dana-Farber. The professorship was established in 1986 by Dana-Farber Trustee Ann Rosenberg and her late husband, William Rosenberg, to support research and teaching in cancer medicine. Above at the celebration: Hahn (center) and his family with President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD (far left), Dana-Farber Trustee Ann Rosenberg (second from right), and Dana-Farber Board of Trustees Chairman Josh Bekenstein.

After more than 70 years, American Cancer Society continues to spark innovation at Dana-Farber

The late 1940s brought unprecedented hope to cancer research—the American Cancer Society (ACS) launched its groundbreaking cancer research program and cancer signals awareness campaign, and Sidney Farber, MD, the founder of what became Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, successfully achieved the first remission in pediatric leukemia. Farber’s affiliation with ACS continued over the years as he was active on several of the organization’s volunteer committees. More than 70 years later, this relationship has been essential to the novel investigations spearheaded by clinicians and researchers across the Institute. With ACS grants totaling nearly $1.8 million awarded to five researchers in the last year, ACS’s lifetime total support of Dana-Farber has reached nearly $50 million. One of the recipients is Baohun Zhang, MD, PhD, who is investigating the use of CD4+ T cells to combat B-cell lymphoma and leukemia. Current immunotherapies are effective in only a fraction of B-cell malignancies, and Zhang’s research aims to not only guide treatment plans for this type of lymphoma and leukemia, but also provide a solid foundation for using CD4+ T-cell therapy against other treatment-resistant cancers. Another recipient is Andrew Hong, MD, who is studying renal medullary carcinoma (RMC), a devastating form of kidney cancer that primarily affects patients of African descent with sickle cell trait. In collaboration with patient advocacy groups, Hong has developed patient-derived models to understand the effects of the tumor suppressor gene SMARCB1 in RMC and other pediatric cancers. ACS’s funding will allow him to potentially identify new therapies and develop an online resource for patients, clinicians, and researchers to understand the effects of different SMARCB1 mutations. Continuing on a theme of patient advocacy, Michael Hassett, MD, MPH, is seeking an answer for why cancer recurrence rates are so much higher in underserved communities, and what can be done to intervene. With ACS funding, Hassett and his team will use their findings to improve outcomes and reduce disparities for vulnerable patient populations. ACS also supports the work of Rachel Pozzar, PhD, RN, who is conducting a study into ovarian cancer patient-provider communication and its relationship to health outcomes such as quality of life and receipt of evidence-based treatment. Isaac Klein, MD, PhD, another recipient of ACS funding, is also focused on ovarian cancer; his project involves mapping the landscape of regulatory “super enhancers” in high grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC). Super enhancers are known to mark genes of other forms of cancer, and Klein aims to translate this research into treatments for HGSOC, which currently has few identified therapeutic targets. “We fund a wide range of projects at Dana-Farber to make the biggest impact possible on research and care,” said William C. Phelps, PhD, senior vice president, extramural research, for the American Cancer Society. “From the very beginning, our partnership has resulted in discovery after discovery, and we look forward to seeing the results these unique projects will undoubtedly bring to people facing cancer.”

William G. Kaelin Jr., MD, wins 2019 Nobel Prize for Medicine

In the wee hours of Monday, October 7, William G. Kaelin Jr., MD, received an exciting call. Not yet sure whether he was awake or dreaming, Kaelin learned he had just been awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Medicine. “It was just surreal,” Kaelin said. “I had this sort of out-of-body feeling of great appreciation and being so thrilled to share this with all the people who have meant so much to me.” Kaelin, the Sidney Farber, MD, Professor of Medicine at Dana-Farber, was awarded this top honor jointly with Sir Peter Ratcliffe of the University of Oxford, and Dr. Gregg Semenza of Johns Hopkins University, for discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to changes in oxygen availability. At Dana-Farber, Kaelin discovered that the VHL protein plays a key role in the cell’s response to oxygen levels by regulating levels of another protein called HIF, which can trigger the production of blood vessels. Cancer cells can commandeering this system to create new blood vessels that fuel their growth. The collective findings by Kaelin and his co-awardees could lead to new therapies that target these mechanisms in several diseases. “These findings are already being used to develop exciting new treatments for cardiovascular disease and cancer,” said Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD. “We’re all incredibly proud of Dr. Kaelin—and hopeful for the promise this means for patients here and everywhere.”

Thank you for supporting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund!

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission

LATE FALL 2019 | Impact 3
A family’s gift honors a legacy and supports the campaign

Dana-Farber Trustees Laura Sen and John O’Connor are deeply committed to the Institute and its mission to bring an end to cancer. Laura joined the board in 2011, John in 1998, and both serve on a Presidential Visiting Committee. Laura is formerly CEO of BJ’s Wholesale Club, a company with a long history of engagement with and giving to Dana-Farber, and John was a Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for 24 years.

A convergence of factors made this the right time for Laura and John, together with Laura’s children, Kathryn Egan Doebler and Sean Egan, and John’s children, Meghan Lawrence, Gretchen Menezes, and Michelle Haley, to make a generous gift totaling $1.5 million to Dana-Farber.

First, it was important for Laura and her children to honor and recognize the 10th anniversary of the passing of E. Michael Egan, Laura’s first husband who died of melanoma. Michael loved the city of Boston where he was raised and, starting in the mid-1970s, he spent seven years as a researcher in the lab of Don Kufe, MD, at Dana-Farber, which helped launch his career in biotechnology. “Michael was immensely dedicated to cancer research, having worked tirelessly here at the Institute and then moving to industry to advance treatments for cancer patients,” said Kufe. “His contributions to the field were substantial and emblematic of his commitment to discovery and cures.”

A $1 million fund will support the work of F. Stephen Hodi, MD, director of the Melanoma Center and the Center for Precision Immunology, and the Sharon Crowley Martin Chair in Melanoma at Dana-Farber. “The vitality of our research relies on the generosity of partners like Laura and John,” said Hodi. “I feel privileged to be entrusted with this special gift in Michael’s honor, which will help us develop combination immunotherapies and test a vaccine that may strengthen the ability of the immune system to attack melanoma.”

In addition, Laura and John are inspired by the vision that Dana-Farber’s President and CEO Laurie H. Glomcher, MD, has laid out for the Institute’s future and wanted to do their part to accelerate the remarkable research taking place here. As such, the remaining $500,000 of their gift is unrestricted support.

“As Dana-Farber Trustees, Laura and I understand the importance of unrestricted giving to the advancement of science,” said John. “It helps pay for things like basic research, which is hard to fund by other means, yet is a foundation on which all other research rests.”

Finally, Laura and John wanted to express their support for the Institute’s comprehensive campaign, currently in the quiet phase, and this gift provides powerful momentum toward the campaign’s goals. “John, our children, and I have the utmost respect and admiration for the Institute,” said Laura. “I have referred many people to Dana-Farber and I am very proud when they inevitably share glowing reviews of the personalized care they receive. Dana-Farber treats the whole person—not just their disease—and is such a special place because of that.”

Progress is built by partnership with the Children’s Leukemia Research Association

The Children’s Leukemia Research Association (CLRA) recently awarded a $100,000 grant to Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancy Program and the Ted Williams Chair at Dana-Farber. The CLRA is a longstanding supporter, having awarded more than $660,000 to pediatric leukemia research at the Institute over the last 15 years.

“For years, the CLRA has recognized the extraordinary talent and expertise at Dana-Farber,” said Anthony Pasqua, president of the CLRA. “Dr. Stegmaier and her team are making a tremendous impact on cancer medicine, and we are proud to contribute to their success.”

With the generous support of the CLRA over the years, Stegmaier and her team have made significant strides into understanding the biology of leukemia, always with an eye toward translating the research into the clinic to directly benefit patients. Stegmaier’s research has led to the launch of multiple clinical trials testing SYK inhibitors in patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), and to the identification of other new possible therapeutic targets in this disease.

“Understanding the biological underpinnings of AML is crucial to developing new therapies,” said Stegmaier. “We couldn’t do this research without the support of our generous donors.”

“Fifty years ago, a child diagnosed with leukemia might live six months,” said Pasqua. “Today, the prognosis is far better, but we are not done yet. There is still so much left to do, and the CLRA will continue supporting the search for a cure.”

With generous ongoing support from the CLRA, Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, is conducting cutting-edge research into therapeutics for leukemia patients.
I 10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission because they bring significant insights to the progression of multiple myeloma. Scientists to protect and dedicate 75 percent of their time to clinical research. "Physician-scientists are crucial to the clinical research field because they bring significant insights from their direct interactions with patients from the bedside to the bench," said Betsy Myers, PhD, program director for medical research at DDCE. "We are proud to support and protect the time devoted to research by these exceptional, Dana-Farber physician-scientists as they balance their clinical obligations with research work, ultimately giving them greater opportunities to make vital contributions to the field." Bianchi will explore the role that allocation of the small protein ubiquitin plays in the development and treatment of multiple myeloma, which evolves from the common, premalignant condition known as monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, or MGUS. Bianchi seeks to understand how ubiquitin may play a role in the transformation of normal plasma cells into MGUS with the overarching goal of developing novel therapeutic strategies to halt the progression of multiple myeloma.

The V Foundation invests in powerful research aimed at supporting breast cancer survivors

The V Foundation recently made a grant of $600,000 to Ann Partridge, MD, MPH, founder and director of Dana-Farber’s Program for Young Women with Breast Cancer and director of the Adult Survivorship Program, who is exploring if and how certain changes in blood cells can increase an individual’s risk of developing cancer, heart disease, and more. These changes in blood cells, which are referred to as “clonal hematopoiesis,” can be uncovered using sophisticated genetic tests. Specifically, Partridge and her team are studying clonal hematopoiesis in women who were treated for breast cancer when they were young. By testing blood samples in a group of these young women and following them over time, the investigators hope to better understand how clonal hematopoiesis affects cancer recurrence and other risk factors. Partridge noted, “I am honored to have received such an important grant from the V Foundation. The foundation’s tremendous investment will help make a real difference in how we care for cancer survivors, and I am honored by their belief in this important research.”

Carole Wegner, PhD, HCLD, the foundation’s senior vice president of research and grants administration, added, “We are delighted to support this important survivorship research at Dana-Farber. As patient survivorship increases in response to new treatments, we need to also work to fund research that helps these cancer patients not only survive, but actually thrive post-treatment.”

“We are delighted to support this important survivorship research at Dana-Farber.”

— CAROLE WEGNER, V Foundation

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Advancing “what next” for lung cancer research

Georgette and John Heerwagen are no strangers to cancer. Like many families, cancer has affected loved ones, relatives, and friends. When Georgette was diagnosed with lung cancer, her doctors caught it early enough for her to be treated. But when her surgeon told her, “You are cured,” the Heerwagens were hesitant.

“We were left with all of the hows, whys, what ifs, and what nexts that hung heavily over our family,” said Georgette. “I was so fortunate, but not everyone is. And that is something we wanted to address.”

And so “what next” was finding a way to help other people. Georgette’s surgeon recommended they reach out to the thoracic oncology team at Dana-Farber to learn more. Inspired by the research taking place at the Institute, the Heerwagens soon established the Heerwagen Family Fund for Lung Cancer Research in support of David Jackman, MD, whose work in collaboration with David Barbie, MD, struck a particular chord.

“Dr. Jackman and Dr. Barbie could not be more committed to compassionate patient care and cutting-edge research,” said John. “It’s very rewarding to us to support their efforts.”

The Heerwagens recently decided to continue their giving with a generous new commitment to the family fund, which will fuel further research into targeted therapies.

“They are the reasons why we are passionate about extending our giving in support of lung cancer research.”

Donaghue Foundation funds digital health initiative

The late Ethel Donaghue founded the Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation with the purpose of funding novel research that improves health and healthcare delivery. It was this commitment to translational science that led the Donaghue Foundation to fund the work of Dana-Farber’s Nadine McCleary, MD, MPH.

With a $440,000 grant from the foundation, McCleary is developing and implementing electronic tools to better monitor at-home oral cancer-directed therapies (OCDTs). The use of OCDTs has increased substantially in recent years, leaving patients responsible for their own drug administration and monitoring, which in turn increases the risk for noncompliance and adverse side effects. McCleary aims to alleviate this risk by expanding Dana-Farber’s electronic Patient-Reported Outcomes system (ePRO) to patients taking OCDTs. Through an app on their internet-enabled devices, patients will be able to report any symptoms, questions, and concerns pertaining to their medication directly to their care team. The study leverages the growing evidence demonstrated by Dana-Farber’s Deborah Schrag, MD, MPH, chief of the Division of Population Sciences; Michael Hassett, MD, MPH; and others that systematic reporting of treatment-related symptoms by patients improves treatment duration and survival, and results in fewer hospitalizations.

“The Donaghue Foundation chooses actionable projects that put the research to work to improve health,” said Lynne Garner, MD, executive director and trustee of the Donaghue Foundation. “Dr. McCleary’s project provides a clear and immediate benefit to patients—precisely what Ethel Donaghue envisioned when she founded our organization.”

Dana-Farber scientist receives highly sought-after Whitney Fellowship

A Helen Hay Whitney Foundation Fellowship has been awarded to Kathleen Xie, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Dana-Farber laboratory of David Pollman, MD, the Margaret M. Dyson Professor of Pediatric Oncology. The award, one of the most competitive in the life sciences, counts many Nobel Prize winners among its alumni.

Xie, who is fascinated with the study of natural variation, has made major contributions to our understanding of repeated genetic evolution in fish that have adapted to freshwater environments from marine ancestors.

With her $175,000 fellowship, Xie is now studying how changes in genomic regulation due to variation in the shape of a cell’s nucleus can give rise to cancer.

Abnormally shaped nuclei in a cell are often diagnostic markers of cancer. To discover why, Xie is using a technique developed in Pollman’s laboratory that combines live cell imaging with sequencing to identify defects in transcription and impact on DNA damage associated with the nucleus’ shape—research that may reveal nuclear structure as a new target for therapies.

“The Whitney Foundation invests in the careers of incredibly talented young people—in their minds and in their creativity,” said Robert Weinberger, the foundation’s administrative director. “Whitney Fellows like Kathleen have had a major impact on biomedical research.”

“I am grateful to be named a Whitney Fellow,” said Xie. “This support emboldens me to advance my research in exciting and exploratory areas.”

Do you have a Donor-Advised Fund?

Recommend a grant from your donor-advised fund to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, and support our shared mission to conquer cancer.

Please visit Dana-Farber.org/DAF or contact Dana-Farber’s Philanthropy Office at 617-632-6099.
The Mark Foundation funds emerging leaders, innovative research at Dana-Farber

Established in 2017 by international investor and philanthropist Alex Knaster in memory of his father, Mark, who succumbed to cancer in 2014, The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research funds an international portfolio of innovative research to accelerate cures for cancer. Recently, the foundation awarded five grants totaling more than $3.5 million to support Dana-Farber’s Sara Buhrlage, PhD; Eric Fischer, PhD; William Hahn, MD, PhD; Cigall Kadoch, PhD; and Andrew Lane, MD, PhD.

Fischer, Kadoch, and Lane received The Mark Foundation’s Emerging Leader Awards, which support early career investigators conducting high-impact cancer research.

Fischer is developing novel agents known as degraders that tag specific proteins for destruction by the cell’s protein disposal system. With The Mark Foundation funds, he will engineer degraders to eliminate cancer-promoting proteins that cannot be targeted by conventional drug design strategies, paving the way for the development of a new class of cancer therapies.

Kadoch is working to uncover specific protein interactions that promote malignancy by changing which genes are affected by chromatin regulatory complexes. Agents designed to disrupt these interactions may impede the expression of cancer-promoting genes and could serve as prototypes for innovative cancer treatments.

Lane aims to learn why men are more likely to develop cancer and have poorer clinical outcomes compared to women by exploring how cancer biology differs between the sexes. His work may yield important insights that could lead to more effective treatment strategies for both men and women.

The Mark Foundation awarded Accelerating Scientific Platforms and Innovative Research (ASPIRE) Awards to Buhrlage and Hahn. These grants support proof-of-concept experiments for cancer research projects that are relatively risky but have the potential to yield great rewards.

In collaboration with Dana-Farber’s Jarrod Marto, PhD, Buhrlage is designing small molecules to inhibit enzymes that help stabilize cancer-promoting proteins within the cell. Such agents have great therapeutic potential and may work against proteins that would be difficult to target directly.

The goal of Hahn’s project is to measure the functional impact of every possible genetic alteration affecting the structure of key proteins involved in cancer development. This information will enable researchers to better interpret the genetic profiles of patients’ tumors, ultimately resulting in more personalized cancer care.

“These grants from The Mark Foundation will allow us to pursue research that would be difficult to fund through more traditional mechanisms,” said Hahn. Dana-Farber’s chief research strategy officer, chief of the Division of Molecular and Cellular Oncology, and the William Rosenberg Professor of Medicine. “We thank the foundation for its vision and generosity.”

“Dana-Farber is a world leader in breakthrough cancer research, and we are confident the investigators we support will advance the field substantially,” said Michele Cleary, PhD, CEO of The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research. “We look forward to the results of our partnership with Dana-Farber and the transformative benefits for patients that, together, we are striving to accelerate.”

Hope for families with inherited cancer syndrome

David Sweet has Lynch syndrome. As does his brother. So did his other brother, his father, and his grandmother. Lynch syndrome is a predisposition for several cancers that can be passed down through generations and, to an undiagnosed family, could appear to be an unlucky family history of cancer. Fortunately, physicians can now test for known genetic mutations associated with the syndrome to help family members monitor their health for signs of cancer.

This is the role of Dana-Farber’s Lynch Syndrome Center—the only multidisciplinary center in the world dedicated to the prevention, treatment, and study of Lynch syndrome-related cancers—under the leadership of founder Sapna Syngal, MD, MPH, and director Matthew Yurgelun, MD.

Inspired by their family’s history with the Lynch syndrome, David and JoEllen Sweet became early supporters of the new center with a gift of $250,000 to establish The Sweet Family Fund. The Sweet family has dedicated their first year of support in memory of David’s brother Terry, who recently died from colon cancer.

“Terry’s diagnosis and death made the possible outcomes of Lynch syndrome very real for us,” said David. “He was very diligent about his health, but sometimes things go wrong.”

“While our family has suffered a terrible loss from Lynch syndrome, we are also a family that’s living a full life with it,” said JoEllen. “We want to raise awareness that Lynch syndrome may be life-changing, but with periodic checkups and proactive treatment, it does not need to be life-ending.”

David and JoEllen Sweet (left) made a gift to support the new Lynch Syndrome Center in memory of David’s brother Terry (right, with his wife Megan), who died from colon cancer.
“Commit you’ll figure it out.” The rallying cry of the Pan-Mass Challenge conveys the powerful determination of everyone involved with the iconic charity bike-a-thon, which marked its 40th year in August. The most successful athletic fundraiser in the country and Dana-Farber’s largest single contributor, the PMC has grown to amazing heights during a remarkable ride that keeps on rolling. Thanks to the commitment of more than 119,000 riders, 72,000 volunteers, more than 200 sponsors, and countless supporters, the event has raised $717 million since 1980: an astonishing figure that has redefined “what a bike was meant to do.”

As the PMC has grown over the years, so too has its impact on cancer research and care at Dana-Farber. PMC supporters can take pride in knowing that money raised by the ride has played a role in nearly every major breakthrough at the Institute since 1980—pivotal advances that have a direct impact on patients everywhere.

For example, basic research by Gordon Freeman, PhD, in 2000 revealed how the protein PD-1 allows cancer cells to evade detection by the immune system. This landmark discovery helped launch a new field of immunotherapy research, and resulted in the 2014 FDA approval of the first PD-1 inhibitor drug for cancer. PD-1 inhibitors have revolutionized cancer medicine and extended the lives of patients like Barry, pictured below with Dr. Freeman. Bold, early stage research such as this is not eligible for federal grants, so support from the PMC makes a truly lifesaving difference.

The Pan-Mass Challenge celebrates 40 years of bringing cures for cancer ‘closer by the mile’ to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund

**IMPACT**

**Clinical Trials**
1980 — <300
2019 — 1,200+

**Outpatient Visits and Infusions**
1980 — <2,000
2019 — 523,000+

**Cancer Survivors**
1980 — <5 million
2019 — 16.9 million

**COMMITMENT**

**PMC Riders**
1980 — 36
2019 — 6,803

**PMC Volunteers**
1980 — 10
2019 — 4,000

**Rider-Raised**
1980 — $10,200
2019 — $63 million

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE PAN-MASS CHALLENGE

1980
Billy Starr and friends bike across Massachusetts and raise $10,200 for cancer research and care at Dana-Farber in the first PMC.

1984
PMC becomes the Jimmy Fund’s largest fundraising event, raising $195,000.

1989
The 10th PMC passes the $1 million mark, raising $1.2 million in a single year.

1990
PMC becomes the most successful athletic fundraiser in the country.

1997
Dana-Farber dedicates the Bridge connecting the Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Laboratories to the Charles A. Dana Building as the Pan-Mass Challenge Bridge to Progress.

2000
The 21st PMC surpasses the $10 million milestone, raising $12.5 million in a single year.
The Pan-Mass Challenge celebrates 40 years of bringing cures for cancer ‘closer by the mile’ to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund.

Profile—Dana-Farber’s flagship precision medicine initiative and one of the largest and most comprehensive genomic databases in the world—offers another telling example. Funded entirely through philanthropy, including PMC support, Profile has analyzed the tumors of more than 30,000 patients since 2011, generating clinically actionable data for more than 70 percent of them. This includes one Nebraska woman who had undergone numerous treatments and surgeries for metastatic endometrial cancer that had spread throughout her abdomen. When she came to Dana-Farber, Profile’s analysis of her tumor revealed a specific mutation that could be targeted with an immunotherapy drug, resulting in dramatic reduction of all her lesions; and her condition continues to improve.

PMC resources have also elevated Dana-Farber’s burgeoning drug development enterprise at the Longwood Center. A dynamic hub for creative, collaborative science, the Longwood Center houses the Institute’s vaunted programs in cancer chemistry and biology under one roof, giving Dana-Farber the unique ability to manufacture and test prototype drugs right here on campus. This has significantly expanded our ability to offer the newest experimental treatments to patients through clinical trials, which have grown from fewer than 300 in 1980 to more than 1,200 today.

Progress against cancer depends upon having the best people in place, and the PMC has been a decisive factor in empowering Dana-Farber to recruit and retain world-renowned physician-scientists. PMC support has

The 28th PMC speeds past

Continued on page 14

 PMC LIFETIME FUNDRAISING

$10,000,000+
Josh Bekenstein (T) 27-year rider

$5,000,000+
Michael Frazee (T) 37-year rider

$1,000,000+
Charles Lanier 39 year rider
Patrick Byrne 12 year rider

$2,000,000+
David Follow 33 year rider

$1,000,000+
Aviva Abraham 19 year rider
Golden Clarke 23 year rider
Peter Galiano 11 year rider

Alan Farnon 36 year rider
Robert Granoff 34 year rider
David Libinman 36 year rider
Michaelo Minetanas 31 year rider
Waronin Anther 34 year rider
David Murphy 35 year rider

Lee Naidek, MD (F) 20 year rider
George Noble 15 year rider
Grauhm Petar 20 year rider
James Ruppert 12 year rider
David Rogers 14 year rider

Steven Segal 30 year rider
Bob Sibby 30 year rider
Moaeru Shinngeynov 25 year rider
Bille Star (T) 40 year rider

Linda Sterling 20 year rider
Beth Tenan (T) 12 year rider

T DFCI Trustee F DFCI/Faculty - Deceased

1. Billy Starr, PMC Founder and Executive Director, and a Dana-Farber Trustee.
2. Cancer patients and survivors ride and volunteer for the PMC as Living Proof of its impact. 3. Dana-Farber Trustee Chairman Josh Bekenstein, the PMC’s top Lifet ime Fundraiser and a PMC Board member.
4. Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, is a four-time PMC rider.
5. Launched in 2015, PMC Kids Rides in 33 towns raised a total of $1 million in 2019.
6. The Winter Cycle spinning event at Fenway Park kicks off fundraising for PMC each January. 7. In 2015, the PMC surpassed an astonishing $500 million in lifetime fundraising. 8. PMC funds basic research like that of Gordon Freeman, PhD (right), whose discovery in 2000 led to a 2014 immunotherapy that has saved the lives of patients like Barry (left).

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission.

2001
PMC creates the Pedal Partners program, matching riders and teams with patients in Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic, for mutual inspiration.

2005
PMC launches Kids Rides, giving riders age 2 to 15 the chance to have fun and fight cancer.

2006
The 28th PMC raises past $25 million, raising $39 million in a single year.

2011
Dana-Farber dedicates the PMC Outdoor Pavilion at its new Yawkey Center for Cancer Care.

2015
PMC achieves an astonishing $500 million in total funds raised since 1980!

2016
PMC debuts an indoor spinni ng event, now known as Winter Cycle and held each January at Fenway Park.

2019
In the 28th PMC more than 10,000 riders and volunteers help to raise $83 million, bringing the PMC’s lifetime total to $717 million!

Thank you, Pan-Mass Challenge, for 40 incredible years!
Parker Institute expands immunotherapy research at Dana-Farber

Five Dana-Farber investigators have received more than $2.65 million from the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy to pursue promising research on how the immune system can be harnessed to fight cancer. Each of the five researchers is also a Parker Institute scientist.

“Dana-Farber’s powerhouse investigators have made seminal contributions to immunotherapy,” said Parker Institute President and CEO Jeffrey Bluestone, PhD. “This group of talented investigators brings a high level of excellence to the field and adds immense value to our network and research agenda. We look forward to continuing our work with Dana-Farber to break barriers and evolve immunotherapy research so patients don’t have to fear cancer.”

From developing personalized cancer vaccines to testing drugs called checkpoint inhibitors that help to prevent cancer cells from evading immune system detection, Dana-Farber has a long history of making discoveries about the immune system and cancer.

Catherine Wu, MD, chief of the Division of Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapies, received an award to study whether a personalized cancer vaccine, combined with the checkpoint inhibitor nivolumab, can spur an immune response in epithelial ovarian cancer, a disease that has not responded well to checkpoint blockade. The vaccine is made with proteins produced by DNA mutations in a patient’s cancer cells.

With his award, Kai Wucherpfennig, MD, PhD, chair of Cancer Immunology and Virology and director of the Center for Cancer Immunotherapy Research, is examining which tumor cell pathways confer resistance to cancer-killing T cells. Targeting such pathways with novel drugs may sensitize resistant tumors to checkpoint blockade.

F. Stephen Hodi, MD, director of the Melanoma Center and the Center for Immuno-Oncology, and the Sharon Crowley Martin Chair in Melanoma at Dana-Farber, is using his award to determine if patients with metastatic melanoma respond better to a single checkpoint inhibitor or a combination of these drugs based on the percentage of a certain type of immune cell in their tumor. Philip Kranzusch, PhD, is uncovering the mechanisms behind signaling pathways that are critical for anti-tumor immunity and how they may be manipulated as novel therapeutic targets.

With her award, Elizabeth Mittendorf, MD, PhD, director of the Breast Immuno-Oncology Program, is targeting ESR1 mutations with a vaccine therapy for patients with treatment-resistant estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer. These mutations harbor epitopes—parts of molecules that an antibody can recognize and bind to—that can be targeted by vaccination, thus eliminating the mutant gene and restoring sensitivity to endocrine therapy.

“We are proud to be working in collaboration with the Parker Institute and colleagues around the country to bring more effective immunotherapies to the patients who need them most,” said Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD.
Marxuach Family establishes fund for medulloblastoma research

When Martin Marxuach and his family first came to Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic from Puerto Rico, they were enthusiastic and hopeful at the thought of being in one of the top pediatric cancer centers in the country. His 14-year-old daughter, Isabel, had been diagnosed with medulloblastoma in August 2017 and they looked to Dana-Farber for her path to recovery.

After working with Isabel’s oncologist, Jessica Clymer, MD, for 10 long months, Martin felt inspired to express his gratitude for the research and care that saved his daughter’s life. “I have no doubt Dana-Farber is one of the reasons that my daughter is on her way to full recovery.”

The family established the Isabel V. Marxuach Fund for Medulloblastoma Research to support the work being done by Clymer and Mimi Bandopadhayay, MBBS, PhD. “It’s important to maintain the research going forward and to keep looking for the answers that will make a better world for all of us!” Martin said.

The fund supports research to better understand the fundamental biology driving growth and resistance in medulloblastoma tumors, while also developing more precise treatment strategies to benefit children facing the disease. Bandopadhayay’s research is focused on identifying new targets in medulloblastoma to both improve patient outcomes and reduce treatment, and toxicity. Clymer emphasizes the importance of translating Bandopadhayay’s findings to clinical trials.

Oncopeptides

Scientific discoveries are achieved through collaboration—collaboration between colleagues, supporters, and patients. For more than 70 years, Dana-Farber’s bench-to-bedside approach has brought discovery after discovery directly to patient care. Nowhere is this approach better demonstrated than in the many phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials being conducted within, and driven by, the Institute.

Early phase clinical trials offer an opportunity for new therapeutics to reach patients, especially for difficult-to-treat diseases like multiple myeloma. There is currently no cure for multiple myeloma, and existing treatments are geared toward alleviating symptoms and improving quality of life. The physician-scientists at Dana-Farber are working tirelessly to change that, and donors and collaborators have proven crucial to pushing that mission forward.

With renewed philanthropic support from Oncopeptides AB—a pharmaceutical company that develops innovative cancer treatments—early phase clinical trials testing novel therapies for multiple myeloma are now underway at Dana-Farber.

This incredibly valuable support from our philanthropic partners enables our team to speed the translation of successful therapeutic agents into clinical trials, which are the primary mechanism to assess safety, dose, and efficacy of new treatments,” said Paul Richardson, MD, the clinical program leader and director of clinical research in the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and the R.J. Corman Professor of Medicine. “Early phase clinical trials are an absolutely crucial step toward the approval of any novel therapeutic and key in improving outcomes for our patients.”

Over the past 16 years, Dana-Farber clinical trials have helped many multiple myeloma patients live up to four times longer than they did prior to 2003.

Arbella employees pay it forward at Dana-Farber

In celebration of World Kindness Day this November, Arbella Insurance Group employees embodied the company’s slogan “Here. For Good.” by spreading joy to patients at Dana-Farber’s Longwood Campus. For the second year, Arbella employees visited the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care on World Kindness Day to distribute pre-loaded Dana-Farber Care Cards to patients. Care Cards can be used to pay for things like parking, food, and gifts from Friends’ Place, alleviating a bit of the burden placed on cancer patients and their families during treatment.

The Official Auto Insurance Partner of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund since 2015, Arbella Insurance Group gave $250,000 in 2019 to support cancer research and patient care at the Institute. Arbella is a sponsor of events including the Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl® presented by Valvoline Instant Oil Change®, John Hancock Fenway Fantasy Day, Jimmy Fund Golf presented by Mohegan Sun, and the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Its philanthropic arm, Arbella Insurance Foundation, is presenting sponsor of the annual WEIIE/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon, and encourages Arbella employees and independent agents to support the Institute through matching gift programs.

Arbella staff also host a celebration each October, called Pink Day, to raise funds for Dana-Farber’s Blum Family Resource Center Van and Mammography Van, which provide screening services and resources to underserved communities throughout Massachusetts.

The Gene Display

Make your mark on cancer

Name a gene in the Gene Display, located in Dana-Farber’s Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. This unique opportunity allows you to honor a family member, friend, physician, or caregiver with a lasting tribute that also fuels groundbreaking research and patient care. Genes can be named individually or as a group with a gift of $5,000, payable over one or two years.

Name a gene today. Please contact the Annual Giving Office at 617-582-8830 | Gene_Display@dfci.harvard.edu Learn more at NameAGene.org

THE GENE DISPLAY
IN THE ROBERT J. TOMSICHI FAMILY GALLERY

Arbella employees celebrate World Kindness Day each year with Dana-Farber patients, including Barbara Rivel, pictured here with Elizabeth Pentikis (left) and Kimberly O’Connell of Arbella.
PCRF invests in cutting-edge research to improve outcomes in childhood cancer

Since 1982, the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation (PCRF) has invested in innovative research that aims to eliminate childhood cancer. In 2019, the foundation awarded $410,000 in grants to two Dana-Farber investigators. Brian Crompton, MD, received the Translational Research Grant. Ting Tao, PhD, was awarded the Emerging Research Grant. Both are working to improve survival in aggressive pediatric cancers.

Crompton developed a blood test to track patient responses to therapy, an undertaking that could allow for therapeutic modifications to improve outcomes for individuals with refractory disease. With PCRF funding, Crompton aims to validate this assay in blood samples collected from patients undergoing therapy for Ewing sarcoma. His findings could significantly change treatment approaches for patients with the most aggressive form of this disease.

With his PCRF grant, Tao is working to understand the mechanisms of how cancerous neuroblastoma cells can turn into noncancerous ganglioneuroma cells. Using zebrafish models, he will investigate novel mechanisms that indicate how activation of the enzyme AKT inhibits the malignant transformation of aggressive neuroblastoma. These studies could illuminate novel pathways driving neuroblastoma, revealing new targets for improved therapy of high-risk neuroblastoma.

“For over 38 years, the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation has worked strategically and diligently to combat childhood cancer. We exclusively target cutting-edge research, such as the breakthrough studies led by Dr. Crompton and Dr. Tao,” said Jeri Wilson, executive director, PCRF. “PCRF believes collaborations with top institutions and investigators demonstrate the best hope for a cure.”

Shah Family mapping a path to new blood cancer treatments

When he was diagnosed with MGUS, a precursor blood condition which can progress to malignant Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia, Dhiren Shah turned to a physician friend for advice and was introduced to Steven Treon, MD, PhD, and Jorge Castillo, MD, in Dana-Farber’s Bing Center for Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia. Dhiren and his family traveled from Texas to Boston to meet with Treon and Castillo, who are experts in Waldenström’s and MGUS.

The Shah Family pledged $100,000 to establish the Shah Family Fund, which will significantly boost the Bing Center’s efforts to complete a comprehensive genomic roadmap for Waldenström’s. “The exceptional care they received coupled with their confidence in Treon, Castillo, and the Bing Center team, motivated the family’s generosity.”

“We believe the greatest breakthroughs in oncology will come in the next decade,” Dhiren said. “Dana-Farber is a pioneering institution and Drs. Treon and Castillo are shaping the future of care for patients with Waldenström’s and MGUS.”

“By understanding what genetic forces are driving precursor conditions and blood cancers, we can better treat patients,” said Treon, director of the Bing Center. “The Shahs’ investment will help us identify new targets for which we can develop new drugs.”

“We hope our gift and our family’s history of philanthropy inspires not only our daughter, Lori, to continue her philanthropic work, but also others to become involved with Dana-Farber,” said Dhiren’s wife, Sushma. “Our gift is a drop in the bucket, but collective efforts will help ensure cutting-edge treatments are available for patients.”

Applebee’s continues to do good in the neighborhood

Applebee’s Neighborhood Grill & Bar is committed to “Being a Good Neighbor” and making a positive impact in the communities the restaurant serves. As part of this philosophy, Applebee’s has been a proud corporate partner of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund for the past five years, raising vital funds for cancer care and research that total $437,000 cumulatively.

In 2019, funds were raised through a combination of events. In the spring, customers at Applebee’s locations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were invited to give $1 or $5 to the Jimmy Fund in exchange for an in-store pinup showcasing their support. Restaurants further boosted fundraising totals with vendor campaigns and on-site raffles. In June, the fifth annual New England South Applebee’s Golf Tournament was held at Bluford Meadows Golf Club in Uxbridge, Mass. Applebee’s also made a guest appearance at the 2019 WEEI/ NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-T elethon presented by Arbella Insurance Foundation in August, making a gift and inspiring listeners to contribute to Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission.

“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.”

START A GOLF TOURNAMENT TO CONQUER CANCER

JimmyFundGolf.org 866-521-GOLF

GET ON THE RIGHT COURSE TO FIGHT CANCER®
Commitment to Boston community and family inspired estate gift

Joseph “Joe” Massik had a love affair with his hometown, Boston. Through his work, he renovated beautiful old Boston buildings to preserve their original character while meeting modern standards, saving many from being torn down. It was through his daily life, though, that he explored his true passions. He loved walking around the city, attending the symphony, swimming at the University Club, reading at Boston Athenaeum, and making gifts to local charities. Perhaps one of the greatest of Joe’s gifts was his legacy gift of more than $2.7 million to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Before Joe passed away, he arranged for Dana-Farber to receive a sizeable bequest from his trust. “Joe had a strong sense of connection to the Boston community and its institutions, and also a strong awareness of his responsibility to help others,” said Joe’s niece Ellen Gilman. “And, I know that he valued good medical care and research.”

While Joe felt a personal responsibility to help others, his family inspired his contribution to the advancement of cancer treatment. Many of his family members pursued medical careers, including his late brother, Dr. Paul Massik. Additionally, his nephew, Andrew Massik, fundraised for Dana-Farber by participating in the Pan-Mass Challenge, the annual bike-a-thon that crosses Massachusetts and raises money for the Institute.

Joe was also influenced to leave an estate gift to one of the nation’s top-ranked cancer hospitals because he lost several people he loved to the disease. Among them were his father, a close cousin, his sister-in-law, and a niece. These were major tragedies for his small, tight-knit family. Joe’s niece Jody Staehelin said, “Uncle Joe felt that there has been a lot of cancer in our family, and he wanted to support research in that area.”

Ellen continued, saying, “I’m sure that Joe was hoping that his legacy might make a difference, that perhaps a discovery or a treatment would happen that wouldn’t have happened without it.” Joe’s estate gift was a flexible way for him to give to a mission with great personal meaning, while also reaching his financial goals during his lifetime. Further, Joe was welcomed into the Dana-Farber Society, a special community of people who have provided for the future of Dana-Farber with a gift in their long-term plans.

By preparing this generous gift, Joe leaves an impactful legacy in honor of the family and the city he loved. The unrestricted funds from his bequest will sustain Dana-Farber’s overall mission, empowering leading-edge work across laboratories and clinics. As patient care, research, and outreach initiatives continue to grow, so do the needs for flexible funding. Joe’s remarkable gift will make a powerful difference in the fight against cancer and propel the research and treatment needed to cure patients worldwide.

“I’m sure that Joe was hoping that his legacy might make a difference, that perhaps a discovery or a treatment would happen that wouldn’t have happened without it.”

— Ellen Gilman, Joseph Massik’s niece

The late Joseph Massik, above (right) with his nephew Andrew Massik, honored his loved ones and his beloved city of Boston with a tremendous unrestricted bequest of more than $2.7 million to Dana-Farber.

Pacesetters honored at Fenway

The Fenway Pacesetter Exclusive Event, held in July at Fenway Park welcomed 176 participants and their guests from the 2019 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk which took place Sunday, September 22 and aims to raise $9 million. Pictures above: Steve Shamoian (center), Team Captain of In Memory of Mary, and his family.

Elevate your philanthropy before the end of the tax year and support Dana-Farber’s mission to conquer cancer through these tax-efficient ways of giving.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Maximize your impact on the fight against cancer—your fund sponsor handles all record-keeping, disbursements, and tax receipts.

STOCK OR SECURITIES

Support a lifecasting mission and avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation of your stock.

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT

Make a tax-free gift to Dana-Farber directly from your individual retirement account (IRA). This is called a qualified charitable distribution.

Please visit Dana-Farber.org/TaxEfficientGifts or contact Dana-Farber’s Philanthropy Office at 617-632-6099.
Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo show ‘grand slam’ support

Over the past 10 years, Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo Grilled Sandwiches have raised more than $1.3 million in support of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund through their Grand Slam Savings for a Great Cause promotion. This summer, 146 locations across New England raised over $100,000 by offering customers a coupon sheet in exchange for a $1 contribution. The coupons provided discounts from Valvoline Instant Oil Change, Chowdahheadz, Franklin Sports, OOFOS, Arbella Insurance, Water Country, and Extra Innings. Papa Gino’s also contributes $2 from every purchase of its $29.99 Jimmy Fund Meal.

To help promote Dana-Farber’s mission, a ‘patient partner’ is featured on the coupon sheet each year. This year’s partner was Kayleigh, age 8, who is currently being treated at Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic for acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo’s steadfast commitment is clear. “We are incredibly proud to support the Jimmy Fund, an organization that shares our New England roots and has improved the lives of millions of people across the country,” said Bill Van Epps, CEO of Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo’s parent company, New England Authentic Eats. “Our team members are extremely passionate about this cause, and it is their enthusiasm that has led to record-breaking results. As a part of the local New England community, we are committed to supporting the Jimmy Fund in the same way that it supports those in need.”

Pan-Mass Challenge celebrates 40 years continued from page 9

shaped the Dana-Farber/Partners Cancer Care Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program, helping it become the largest and most successful hematology-oncology training program in the nation. PMC riders and teams have also funded numerous individual fellowships at the Institute, and established the PMC Chair in 2005.

Such a sunny outlook was not yet in the forecast on that foggy September morning four decades ago, when a young Billy Starr embarked with friends on a two-day, 220-mile trek from Springfield to Provincetown to raise money for cancer research and care and to honor his mother, Betty, who passed away from melanoma shortly after he graduated college. The group of 36 cyclists in red T-shirts and cut-offs carried road maps, calculated mileage by looking at transportation signs, made many mistakes, and laughed at most of them. In the end, they proudly made a $120,200 gift to Dana-Farber, and ceremoniously threw Starr into Provincetown Harbor to celebrate their triumphant finish.

Noting the group’s challenges during their first ride, long before cell phones were a mainstay, Starr said, “I may have gotten the group lost, but I knew I’d found my way, and that I was onto something big.” He was right.

Since the inaugural event, the PMC has hit a higher gear each year, reaching new records in 2019 of 6,803 riders and $63 million raised. In addition, the number of riders and volunteers who are cancer patients or survivors has more than doubled since 2014, reaching a high of 960 this year. Aptly known as “Living Proof,” this inspiring community powerfully demonstrates the tremendous progress against cancer made possible by PMC funding.

Looking in the rearview mirror at the PMC’s 40 years of excellence, Starr reflected on the event’s evolution—powered by the commitment of thousands of “everyday heroes”—into a signature celebration of life and a central catalyst for progress against cancer. He said, “From a modest start, I detected the makings of an event of immense camaraderie and major consequence, and I can say now with great pride that the PMC is every bit of that today.”

Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, a four-year PMC rider, echoes the magnifying power of the PMC. “Dana-Farber’s impact on cancer medicine here and across the globe has significantly broadened and deepened because of the PMC’s unparalleled support,” Glimcher said. “We are truly grateful to be working in tandem with this committed community as we accelerate together toward our shared goal.”

Anna Fuller Fund extends impact across generations

Since 2012, the Anna Fuller Fund has helped Dana-Farber researchers to pioneer groundbreaking discoveries and rapidly bring more effective therapies to patients. Recently, R. Coleman Lindsley, MD, PhD, received a $156,250 grant to build on his previous research on myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), a bone marrow stem cell disease that causes bone marrow failure and a high risk for development of acute leukemia.

“We’ve made significant progress already, identifying clinical and genetic factors in MDS patients that determine outcomes after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation,” said Lindsley.

“The support from the Anna Fuller Fund plays a vital role in taking this important work to a higher level.”

The fund was established in 1932 through the bequest of businessman Elbert Chaplain Fuller to honor his wife, who succumbed to cancer in 1918. One of the first private funds in the U.S. to specifically support cancer research, the fund has a dedicated advisory committee, including a scientific advisor, to keep pace with current research and make high-impact grants.

“The co-trustees are honored to be able to carry out Mr. Fuller’s intentions through administration of the Anna Fuller Fund,” said William Donahue, senior vice president and senior fiduciary advisor specialist representing Wells Fargo Private Bank as co-trustee.

“The Anna Fuller Fund is dedicated to supporting researchers who are exploring new and innovative directions to alleviate suffering from cancer, for which Mr. Fuller had a great passion.”

Since its inception, the Anna Fuller Fund has supported groundbreaking research and more than $3.5 million in the U.S. to specifically support cancer research. The Anna Fuller Fund extends its impact across generations.
Antenberg family honors wife, mother, grandmother in lasting tribute

This past summer, the Antenberg family gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of Leni Antenberg in the newly named Leni Antenberg Breakout Area located in the Longwood Center at Dana-Farber. The celebration was truly a family affair, the room filled with loved ones supporting Bruce Antenberg as he gave a moving tribute to his wife.

“It’s the love of family that’s as important as anything in terms of patient outcomes,” said Leni’s doctor, Paul Richardson, MD, the clinical program leader and director of clinical research in the Jerome Lipitor Multiple Myeloma Center, and the R.J. Corman Professor of Medicine.

“Dana-Farber is first and foremost dedicated to our patients and their families.”

The Antenberg family’s generosity not only pays tribute to Leni, but also supports the lifesaving research and care at Dana-Farber that gives patients and families what they need most: more time together. At left: Bruce Antenberg (second from left in both photos) surrounded by his family.

Annual Update on the Faculty Research Fund

S
ince its founding in 1947, a hallmark of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s research agenda has been an unwavering commitment to bold scientific discovery in service to our patients and their families. However, federal funds and industry investment are often not available for early, exploratory research or for treatment of rare diseases. While many generous donors have made gifts without restriction to help advance this kind of research, there is so much more work to be done.

In order to elevate the Institute’s ambitious pursuit of promising research and investigations across all cancers, Dana-Farber established the Faculty Research Fund in 2013. Ten percent of all restricted gifts is allocated to the Faculty Research Fund for innovative research to deliver new treatments. Contributions have accrued to $29.8 million for the Faculty Research Fund since its inception.

In fiscal year 2019, support totaling $5.9 million for the Faculty Research Fund was applied to new faculty recruits, faculty support and professional advancement, and programmatic research. In prior years, the Faculty Research Fund has enabled the construction and growth of the Longwood Center as a dynamic catalyst for the Institute’s most promising and visionary investigations through new labs and leading-edge tools.

Dana-Farber has also used the Faculty Research Fund to create and enhance basic and applied cancer science programs while building on advancements in areas such as immunotherapy, genomics, and leukemia.

In short, Faculty Research Fund allocations are essential to sustaining the discovery science and world-class talent that characterize Dana-Farber’s drive toward a cancer-free future.
In August, Dana-Farber was awarded Magnet® status by the American Nurses Credentialing Center for the fourth consecutive time. This prestigious designation recognizes excellence in nursing practice and health care delivery and has been awarded to only 8 percent of hospitals in the U.S. Celebrating the Magnet announcement above are (from left): Kathleen Fiel, BSN, RN, OCN; Chief Medical Officer Craig Bunnell; President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD; Senior Vice President, Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer Aneese Grosse, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN; Angela Creta, DNP, RN, CNL, NEBC; Maura Dacey, RN; and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer James Terwilliger.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOW–DECEMBER
Holiday Patient Assistance Program
Help brighten the holidays for patients in financial need. Your contribution helps to put a holiday meal on the table, buy gas to visit family, or purchase gifts for loved ones. Visit JimmyFund.org/HolidayGiving or contact Hannah McCoy at 617-632-8247 or Holiday_Assistance@dfci.harvard.edu.

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 or shop at these participating retailers: Shop & Shop, Long’s Jewelers, The Crafty Yankee, Terrazza, The Christmas Dove, and the Friends’ Corner Gift Shop at Dana-Farber.

JANUARY 24
Chefs for Jimmy
Sample fare from Western New England’s finest chefs at Chez Josef in Agawam, Mass., at the 30th annual Chefs for Jimmy benefiting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. For tickets or to learn more visit JimmyFund.org/Chefs-for-Jimmy or contact Jillian Davis at 617-632-5391 or Jillian_Davis@dfci.harvard.edu.

JANUARY 25
PMC Winter Cycle
The PMC Winter Cycle at Fenway Park is a “rural spoke in the wheel” of PMC fundraising! Join this opening event that sends 100% of all rider-raised dollars directly to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Register to ride, volunteer, or make a gift at WinterCycle.org.

FEBRUARY 6
Palm Beach Pre-Celebration Dinner
Join us for an intimate dinner with Dana-Farber’s pioneering physician-scientists to kick off the Palm Beach Discovery Celebration weekend, at the home of our Event Chairs, Institute Trustee Michele Kessler and her husband, Howard. Contact Karen Martins at 561-833-2080 or Karen_Martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

FEBRUARY 7
Palm Beach Breakfast with the Doctors
Discuss the latest breakthroughs in cancer research and patient care with Dana-Farber’s expert physician-scientists at the Palm Beach Country Club, hosted by Event Chairs Bruce Beal and Vicki and Arthur Loring. Contact Karen Martins at 561-833-2080 or Karen_Martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

FEBRUARY 8
Palm Beach Discovery Celebration
Join us for the premier event of our Palm Beach season: the 29th annual Discovery Celebration at The Breakers. The event is hosted by Event Chair and Institute Trustee Phyllis Knock and Event Co-Chairs: Institute Trustee Charles Dana and his wife, Rossa, Tom Quick, Elaine Schuster, and Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner. Vicki and Arthur Loring are the Honorary Chairs, and Institute Trustees Sandra Krakoff is Special Projects Chair. Contact Karen Martins at 561-833-2080 or Karen_Martins@dfci.harvard.edu.

NOW–APRIL
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 pre-season game or participate in a cheer clinic with New England Patriots Cheerleaders. Visit CheerForDanaFarber.org or contact Sarah Eldredge at 617-582-8387 or Cheer@dfci.harvard.edu.

NOW–MAY
Kick for Dana-Farber
Presented by WeGotSoccer
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 at a New England Revolution home game as well as other great prizes provided by presenting sponsor WeGotSoccer. Visit KickForDanaFarber.org or contact Jonathan Clark at 617-632-5391 or KickForDanaFarber@dfci.harvard.edu.

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 or shop at these participating retailers: Shop & Shop, Long’s Jewelers, The Crafty Yankee, Terrazza, The Christmas Dove, and the Friends’ Corner Gift Shop at Dana-Farber.

NOW–DECEMBER
Holiday Patient Assistance Program
Help brighten the holidays for patients in financial need. Your contribution helps to put a holiday meal on the table, buy gas to visit family, or purchase gifts for loved ones. Visit JimmyFund.org/HolidayGiving or contact Hannah McCoy at 617-632-8247 or Holiday_Assistance@dfci.harvard.edu.