From data to knowledge to better care: The Center for C.A.R.E. is established with a $30 million anonymous gift

One day a doctor may be able to enter information about a patient’s cancer genetics and lifestyle factors into a computer and find the precise cure for their disease. That day is closer thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor to Dana-Farber whose $30 million gift has established the Center for C.A.R.E. (Cancer Analytics & Research Exploration).

This extraordinary gift will support the important work of Dana-Farber’s Department of Data Science to improve patient outcomes through data-driven approaches, better understand the biology of cancer, test the efficacy of treatments, and extract actionable knowledge from complex datasets. Additionally, this gift provides powerful momentum toward the Institute’s comprehensive campaign, currently in the quiet phase.

“Today, on many fronts, we are closer to cures for cancer than ever before,” said Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber. “Across the Institute, we are deeply grateful for this anonymous donor’s vision and superb generosity that I am confident will lead to dramatically improved outcomes for patients and help us achieve a world without cancer.”

This transformative gift is the largest to data science in Dana-Farber’s history. Of the gift, $20 million will be directed to support state-of-the-art lab space within the Longwood Center, improve outcomes for patients, and accelerate solutions to complex problems. Five million will establish a current-use fund, the Fund for Junior Data Science Research Investigators and Post-Doctoral Fellows, under the direction of Rafael Irizarry, PhD, chair of the Department of Data Science, to enable recruitment, training, and support for the next generation of data science experts. The additional $5 million will be used to establish an endowed fund, the Endowment for the Knowledge Systems Group, under the direction of Ethan Cerami, PhD, director of the Knowledge Systems Group, to provide funding in perpetuity for innovative projects and sophisticated platforms that point clinicians and their patients to treatments offering the best possible outcomes.

“I feel tremendous gratitude and excitement to be building a team of expert biostatisticians, computational biologists, and knowledge systems engineers under the auspices of the new Center for C.A.R.E.,” said Irizarry. “Thanks to this donor’s gift, our data scientists will solidify their global leadership in developing and using powerful computational algorithms, tools, and systems that can analyze voluminous and complex data to benefit patients,” said Cerami. The anonymous donor was inspired to establish the Center for C.A.R.E. because they wanted to help patients live longer and better lives. “I know what it is to lose someone to cancer and feel helpless and overwhelmed. That is why I wanted to make this gift so that people everywhere can get the right intervention to treat their specific cancer.”

— ANONYMOUS DONOR

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been the top ranked cancer hospital in New England by U.S. News and World Report for 20 consecutive years, and is the only cancer center in the country ranked in the top 6 for both adult and pediatric cancer programs.
Dear Friends,

As we set forward on a new fiscal year, I’ve been thinking a lot about Dana-Farber’s legacy, which has been rooted in philanthropy from our very founding, when Dr. Sidney Farber partnered with leaders of the Variety Club of New England to form the Jimmy Fund. Many members of the families associated with this historic effort are integral to our work today.

One such person, whose father was a Founding Trustee and who himself would go on to become our longest-serving Trustee, was Dick Smith. We were all deeply saddened at Dick’s passing in September. His legacy of generosity and leadership lives on through his extraordinary stewardship of and commitment to Dana-Farber along with his wife, Sue, and through the ongoing dedication of his family. In August, we also lost Trustee Sumner Redstone, whose family has likewise supported the Institute for more than 70 years—from his father’s integral role in the launch of the Jimmy Fund to the continued Board and philanthropic participation by his daughter and grandchildren.

In their honor and in honor of all those we’ve lost this year, I know we will continue to press forward and take great care of the many patients that continue to rely on us. This community is truly unstoppable.

In fact, thanks to your generosity, nearly 194,000 donors strong—from incredible multimillion-dollar gifts from a new generation of Trustees, to the collective power of our grassroots community—we raised $314.7 million in the fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30. This is truly remarkable, especially given the many challenges 2020 brought our way. The enormous impact of your generosity is detailed in these pages, and in the 2020 Honor Roll of Donors that will be posted online in January.

These funds further the Institute’s legacy of leadership in cancer research and care, which continues to garner international recognition. Newsweek recently named Dana-Farber as the #1 cancer center in the world—an exceptional honor that reflects our dedication to changing the future of cancer medicine. We will carry that momentum with us as we look to the new year ahead.

On behalf of the entire Dana-Farber community, thank you for your incredible support during this historic year and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Melany N. Duval
Senior Vice President, Chief Philanthropy Officer

Smith and Fialkow Families team up to support multiple myeloma research

Dana and Robert Smith, and Nina and David Fialkow, are lifelong friends with a history of going the extra mile to help bring an end to cancer. Through their work on the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) board, they have seen how a community can come together in common purpose to progress against the goal of eradicating cancer.

Recently, the Smiths made a gift of $2.5 million to establish The Advanced Clinical Trials Fund in Multiple Myeloma at Dana-Farber. This fund supports early phase clinical trials in multiple myeloma led by Paul Richardson, MD, clinical program leader and director of clinical research for the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and the R.J. Corman Professor of Medicine. The Fialkows made an additional gift of $1 million to the fund in honor of Dana, who is a patient of Richardson. Both gifts were made through the PMC and provide powerful momentum towards the Institute’s comprehensive campaign, currently in the quiet phase.

“The generosity of the Smiths and Fialkows helps drive a world-class clinical research program that has produced 10 of the 12 new drugs leading to FDA approvals for 28 new multiple myeloma indications since 2003. This includes bortezomib, which has become a mainstream multiple myeloma therapy globally. As a result of these advances, patients are now living 3 to 4 times longer, with overall prognosis improving from 2 to 3 years in the past to now 10 to 12 years and beyond. Treatment resistance and toxicity still pose very pressing challenges, so there remains an urgent need for better therapies and high-quality clinical trials to ensure their rapid development, safety, and efficacy.

The investment made by the Smiths and Fialkows is crucial to sustaining this effort because individual philanthropy fills gaps in industry and government funding and provides the resources and flexibility to test and accelerate the most promising novel therapies to patients. “What Dana, Rob, Nina, and David are doing is giving us the ability to move important new treatments forward as quickly as possible,” said Richardson. “Their philanthropy is fundamental to our progress, and we are profoundly grateful for their true partnership in our mission, which is especially meaningful as it is so personal.”

For the Smiths and Fialkows, their longtime support of Dana-Farber through the PMC took on new meaning when Dana became a patient of Richardson and his team. Dana comments, “Dana Farber is known for its caring, patient-first, approach to cancer care. Dr. Richardson and his extraordinary team of supporting clinicians and nurses are examples of Dana Farber’s very best—kind, patient, focused, available and understanding of the challenges of being a patient taking on this difficult cancer. They always go the extra mile to assure that you feel the personal engagement in your cancer journey.”

The Smiths established The Advanced Clinical Trials Fund for Multiple Myeloma at Dana-Farber to highlight the importance of trials to driving the field forward. They were thrilled when their dear friends the Fialkows supported the effort, David, who preceded Rob as board chair for the PMC, emphasized that everyone who is affected by cancer in some way, and so all share in the mission to eradicate it. Fialkow said, “We’re all in this together, and everyone who’s living better and longer with cancer because of the transformational work that Dana-Farber does is a testament to the importance of this effort.”

Thank you to our donors!

The fiscal year that began on Oct. 1, 2019, took an abrupt turn in March 2020, when a novel coronavirus, dubbed COVID-19, reached pandemic proportions and put daily life on hold. Along with immediate and dramatic changes at the Institute to ensure the safety of our patients and staff and the continuity of their care, which continues to garner international recognition. Newsweek recently named Dana-Farber as the #1 cancer center in the world—an exceptional honor that reflects our dedication to changing the future of cancer medicine. We will carry that momentum with us as we look to the new year ahead.

On behalf of the entire Dana-Farber community, thank you for your incredible support during this historic year and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

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Senior Vice President, Chief Philanthropy Officer

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**FY20 FUNDRAISING RESULTS**

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**SOURCES OF REVENUE**

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In Memoriam: The Legacy of Richard A. Smith 1924–2020

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Jimmy Fund community mourns the passing of Richard A. Smith, whose association with Dana-Farber began with the Institute’s founding and who became its longest-serving Trustee and—with his late wife, Susan, and their children—its largest donor. Smith died Sept. 9 at the age of 95.

Smith inherited his admiration of, and commitment to, Dana-Farber from his father, Philip, a founding Trustee of the Institute and member of the Variety Club of New England, which helped establish the Jimmy Fund in 1948. Joining the Institute’s Board of Trustees in 1962, Smith remained a Trustee until his death. During this nearly 60-year tenure he was the Institute’s president from 1973 to 1978 and chairman of the board from 1979 to 1982, and later served as vice chair of the board, member of the Executive Committee, vice chair of the Trustee Science Committee, and member of the Trustee Philanthropy Committee.

“I am deeply saddened by the loss of Dick Smith,” said Laurie H. Glomcher, MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. “Dick was at the heart of our growth throughout the Institute’s history. The generosity of Dick and the Smith family has spanned decades. Dick was unwavering in his dedication to our mission, and he was motivated by the progress he saw here. He will be greatly missed. On behalf of everyone at Dana-Farber, we extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.”

“Dick’s exceptional legacy will inspire excellence in cancer care and research for generations to come. He remained steadfast in his leadership, and we will honor him best by continuing our efforts to be the best cancer research institution in the world,” said Josh Bekenstein, chairman of the Dana-Farber Board of Trustees.

Philanthropic Legacy

Known for the acumen with which he conducted both his business and philanthropic interests, Smith’s support, with his late wife, Susan, and the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation, is visible in physical structures as well as clinical and research programs across the Institute. These include the Richard and Susan Smith Professorship at Harvard Medical School in 1985 are (from left) Emil Frei III, MD, Dana-Farber President Baruj Benacerraf, MD, Susan Smith, HMS Dean Daniel Tosteson, MD, and Richard Smith. (Emil “Tom” Frei III, MD, (left) physician-in-chief from 1972 to 1980, worked closely with Smith (right) during a period of substantial growth at the Institute.)

Richard Smith and his wife, Susan, were longtime Trustees and benefactors whose visionary generosity is reflected in physical structures as well as clinical and research programs across the Institute. (Richard Smith and Susan Smith Berylson, have continued the family’s involvement with Dana-Farber into a third generation. Amy serves as the Institute’s Emergency Response Fund earlier this year. Richard and Susan’s children, Debra Knez, Robert Smith, and Amy Smith Berylson, have continued the family’s involvement with Dana-Farber into a third generation. Amy serves as continued on page 15

Richard Smith’s dedication to Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission was motivated by the progress he saw during his nearly 60 years serving the Institute and its community.

of the board, member of the Executive Committee, vice chair of the Trustee Science Committee, and member of the Trustee Philanthropy Committee.  

“I am deeply saddened by the loss of Dick Smith,” said Laurie H. Glomcher, MD, president and CEO of Dana-Farber and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. “Dick was at the heart of our growth throughout the Institute’s history. The generosity of Dick and the Smith Foundation, is visible in physical structures as well as in clinical and research programs across the Institute. These include the Richard and Susan Smith Professorship at Harvard Medical School in 1985. The Institute is reserved for Dana-Farber’s sitting president; the hiring and training of patient navigators to guide at-risk patients through the cancer-care process at Dana-Farber; and the Smith Young Investigator Awards for up-and-coming scientists. The Smiths’ leadership gift to the Institute’s capital campaign in 1993 was recognized with the naming of the Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Research Laboratories. In 2006, their gift of $50 million to the Mission Possible campaign—the largest individual gift in the Institute’s history—launched the construction of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. Richard Smith’s continued generosity includes a $25 million gift in 2018 to lay the foundation for the Institute’s comprehensive campaign, currently in the quiet phase, and a $1 million gift to the Institute’s Emergency Response Fund earlier this year. Richard and Susan’s children, Debra Knez, Robert Smith, and Amy Smith Berylson, have continued the family’s involvement with Dana-Farber into a third generation. Amy serves as

continued on page 15

Thank you for supporting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund!
**Heroes’ during COVID-19**

**Donors come together to support breakthrough COVID-19 research**

A s the COVID-19 pandemic continues to alter life around the globe, scientists at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute have been applying their knowledge in cancer research to developing methods of treating the virus. One of these research teams is led by Steven Treon, MD, PhD, director of the Bing Center for Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia at Dana-Farber, who discovered a correlation between the cancer drugibrutinib and a reduction in the severity of symptoms from COVID-19. For a doctor on the front lines during a global pandemic, this observation was encouraging.

Ibrutinib is an oral drug used to treat several B-cell malignancies and chronic graft-versus-host disease. When some of Treon's patients developed COVID-19, he noted that five who were taking a standard dose of ibrutinib had no symptoms, did not need to be hospitalized, and—most importantly—were steadily improving. A sixth patient who was on a lower dose of the drug experienced worsening of breathing problems, and initially was taken off of ibrutinib. After being hospitalized and put on a ventilator, his care team started him on a standard dose of ibrutinib, and his health rapidly improved; he was taken off ventilator and discharged home within a few days after re-starting ibrutinib at the full dose.

“These experiences gave us the inspiration to do prospective randomized trials of ibrutinib and a similar drug, zanubrutinib, in COVID-19 patients in respiratory distress,” said Treon. “This could be an important development when you consider that most admissions to hospitals for COVID-19 are because of breathing problems, and many of these patients require mechanical ventilation.”

The Dana-Farber team—which includes Jorge Castillo, MD, clinical director of the Bing Center; Francisco Marry, MD; and Robert Soiffer, MD, chief of the Division of Hematologic-Malignancies and co-chief of Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapies—will collaborate with centers across the country on the clinical trial.

Recognizing the potential of this work, and the need for further studies to prove its efficacy as a viable COVID-19 treatment, several donors in the Dana-Farber community quickly stepped up to provide funding. “We have experienced firsthand the efficient and brilliant work of Dr. Treon and his team with regard to Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia. There is no bigger challenge right now than solving the COVID-19 problem, and we are honored to be able to contribute to this work,” said Jonathan and Mary Onszag, who provided a lead gift to fuel the next stage of Treon's research and to provide powerful momentum to the Institute's comprehensive campaign, currently in the quiet phase. Robert and Laura Bailey, Robert Bauman, Timothy and Virginia Bliss, and Maurice and Christine Duca bolstered the effort with additional gifts.

“Dana-Farber has been a leader in developing BTK-inhibitors like ibrutinib for patients with various blood cancers. What we learned from these studies was rapidly re-purposed for use in COVID-19 patients in respiratory distress because of similar pathways that the coronavirus and cancer exploit,” said Treon. “The support of these amazing and generous donors allowed us to exploit this knowledge and get two clinical trials up and running in record time.”

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**Arbella helps recognize ‘Unsung Heroes’ during COVID-19**

A long-time partner of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, Arbella Insurance Group’s support has been as strong as ever in 2020. With Arbella’s help, the Jimmy Fund recognized Unsung Heroes of Dana-Farber on social media throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting frontline staff who ensured patients had access to lifesaving treatments during unprecedented times.

Unsung Heroes featured staff like the Interpreter Services team, whose work changed dramatically in a matter of hours in March. With the transition to telemedicine, interpreters began working through phone or video conferencing, to ensure patients with limited English proficiency still had access to life-saving treatments during unprecedented times.

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ShaunZomGaming gives back through Jimmy Fund Let’s Game™

Shaun Callaghan had never hosted a charity event before, so when he decided to use his Twitch channel to hold a fundraiser for Jimmy Fund Let’s GameSM, he was nervous. The event was in honor of his sister, who had recently been diagnosed with cancer, and he feared they’d fall short of their goal. But on the day of the event, the charity stream rapidly exceeded his highest expectations.

In 2019, when his older sister was diagnosed with leiomysosarcoma—a rare form of soft tissue sarcoma—a feeling of helplessness washed over the family. During her initial oncology appointment, the mother of two young children was told that there was nothing to be done. Then the family sought a second opinion at Dana-Farber, and their conversation with Susanne George, MD, director of Clinical Research for the Sarcoma Center, had an entirely different tone. “The message was, ‘we aren’t giving up on you,’” says Callaghan. "Suddenly our whole mindset changed, and we had a brand-new outlook.”

Inspired by that meeting, Callaghan wanted to do something to help. He hosts an active variety show on the Twitch streaming platform under the handle ShaunZomGaming, so he collaborated with the Jimmy Fund Let’s Game event team, collected items for an opportunity drawing, and came up with fun ways to celebrate fundraising milestones.

The hardest part was finding the right way to open up to his followers about what his family was going through. But once he took the plunge, he was met with overwhelming support: he surpassed his goal of $5,000 in the first 90 minutes and ultimately raised more than $42,000, helping the Let’s Game program to surpass $100,000 in its first year.

Callaghan hopes his success inspires other players to hold similar events, and he plans to host more in the future. For him, it’s a way to use his unique talents to give back and provide hope for other patients, as Dana-Farber did for his family. He says, “Coming here changed our lives and gave us something to believe in.”

Carney Family renews commitment to breast cancer immuno-oncology research

Eric P. Winer, MD, will continue to lead the breast cancer immuno-oncology program with support from the Carney Family.

Since 2004, the Carney Family has played a pivotal role in the development of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s breast oncology program. Following the loss of Virginia Czerny, a beloved family member, to metastatic breast cancer, the Carney Family Charitable Foundation began a steadfast partnership with Eric P. Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Women’s Cancers and the Breast Oncology Center in the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and the Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research at Dana-Farber.

In 2016, the Carney Family established the Carney Family Charitable Foundation for Breast Cancer Immuno-Oncology with a $1 million gift that laid the groundwork for Dana-Farber’s comprehensive immuno-oncology program in breast cancer. As a result of the program’s immense success, the Carney Family Charitable Foundation, led by Patrick and Lillian Carney, trustees, and Kate Carney Larisa, executive director, renewed its commitment to breast cancer immuno-oncology research with an additional gift of $500,000 in 2020. Additionally, the Carney Family Foundation also provided a $100,000 gift to Dana-Farber’s Emergency Response Fund, which addresses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Institute. “When we first launched the Carney Family Charitable Foundation Fund for Breast Cancer Immuno-Oncology, we wanted to further the understanding of breast cancer and immunotherapy as a possible cure for the disease,” said Larisa. “Over the past four years, the successes in immuno-oncology research have surpassed our expectations. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Dana-Farber and are excited to see the program grow.”

Since the program launch, Winer and his team have enrolled 560 patients in 21 immunotherapy clinical trials. Research successes have led Dana-Farber faculty to present data on the first clinical trial exploring combination immunotherapy with chemotherapy in ER-positive disease at the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Oncology as well as play a vital role in a study of triple-negative breast cancer, which led to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the first immunotherapy for breast cancer. ■
Trustee Dozier Gardner and family honor more than four decades of service with $5 million gift for research

When M. Dozier Gardner joined the Board of Trustees in 1978, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute was still known as the Sidney Farber Cancer Center and many treatments that are commonplace today were scarcely imaginable. Gardner’s four-plus decades of service to and leadership at Dana-Farber ushered in the modern era in cancer medicine and included his chairmanship of the Board from 1981 to 1985; membership on several Board committees; co-chairmanship, together with his wife, Margaret (“Sandy”), of the Dana-Farber Society from 1998 to 2009; and dozens of philanthropic gifts supporting the Trustee Annual Fund, the Mission Possible campaign, the Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, Chair, the Capital Projects Campaign, and many other important priorities. This year, Gardner and his family added another magnificent and generous act to that impressive list when they made a $5 million gift to establish the Dozier Gardner Family Fund at Dana-Farber to support the Institute’s top research priorities under the direction of Dana-Farber President and CEO Laute H. Glimcher, MD.

“At this moment of inflection in cancer research, Dozier and Sandy’s investment will supercharge our efforts to find cures and for that I am deeply grateful,” said Glimcher, who is also the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. “To make meaningful headway against this disease there is no substitute for research,” said Gardner. “Research is the true driver of progress, and no institution is better equipped to lead the way than Dana-Farber.” Gardner’s respect for the Institute and its faculty and staff, and his desire to leave a substantial legacy, were motivating factors for what he describes as his family’s “ultimate gift.” The gift came to fruition thanks to smart financial planning using a combination of assets including the early estate plans. Through bequests, charitable trusts, charitable gifts annuities, life insurance, retirement plan designations, or other gift arrangements, DFS members share in the goal to end the scourge of cancer. As longtime members and Co-Chairs from 1998 to 2009, Dozier and Sandy Gardner are proud that their new gift will leave a lasting legacy to help conquer cancer.

Sandy and Dozier Gardner said they made their gift to Dana-Farber to support the Institute’s top research priorities under the direction of Dana-Farber President and CEO Laute H. Glimcher, MD. Thanks to the generosity of donors like Dozier and Sandy Gardner, President Glimcher directs monies from this fund to areas of greatest priority at Dana-Farber to advance our mission. This type of flexible funding is critical to achieving rapid, sustainable progress as it helps our faculty adapt to changing circumstances, enables leadership to encourage strategic risk-taking, helps address immediate challenges and opportunities in faculty recruitment and retention, and supports our overall effectiveness.

Dana-Farber Society

Celebrating its 30th year in 2020, the Dana-Farber Society (DFS) is a special group of forward-thinking individuals who have invested in the future of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund’s lifesaving mission through a planned gift and/or a provision in their estate plans. Through bequests, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, retirement plan designations, or other gift arrangements, DFS members share in the goal of greater Boston community in countless ways,” said Dana-Farber’s President Emeritus Edward J. Benz Jr., MD. “He and Sandy have been true friends to Dana-Farber.”

Presidential Initiatives Fund

The Presidential Initiatives Fund is overseen by Dana-Farber’s President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD. Thanks to the generosity of donors like Dozier and Sandy Gardner, President Glimcher directs monies from this fund to areas of greatest priority at Dana-Farber to advance our mission. This type of flexible funding is critical to achieving rapid, sustainable progress as it helps our faculty adapt to changing circumstances, enables leadership to encourage strategic risk-taking, helps address immediate challenges and opportunities in faculty recruitment and retention, and supports our overall effectiveness.
In 2020, Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge runners set out to run a Boston Marathon like no other. Between Sept. 5 and Sept. 14, team members ran 26.2 miles in their communities, representing the Boston Marathon throughout New England, across the U.S., and even around the globe. The original date of the 124th Boston Marathon, Monday, April 20, was first postponed to Sept. 14 amidst the outbreak of COVID-19. Then the famous event went virtual out of consideration for the safety of all involved.

After the B.A.A. announced its decision to go virtual for 2020, the DFMC team members had their own decision to make: Would they sign up for the virtual race knowing they must run 26.2 miles solo and on a route of their own design?

For many, that answer was yes. Although the event’s format changed, DFMC’s mission remained the same: providing essential funds for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, fueling discoveries at Dana-Farber that lead to lifesaving treatments for patients everywhere. DFMC members know that 100% of the money they raise supports the program, resulting in more than $100 million in funding for basic science since 1990.

Cancer survivor and DFMC 2020 team member Jennifer Cavanaugh is familiar with the unexpected. In June 2018, Cavanaugh received a life-changing diagnosis of stage II HER2-positive/hormone-negative breast cancer, a specific subtype that was incurable 10 years prior. Thanks to the cutting-edge research made possible by initiatives like the Claudia Adams Barr Program, the prognosis has improved.

“I was first introduced to DFMC about seven years ago by my dear and best friend Lindsay Mullaney, who’s run twice for the team and year after year works with her family to raise funds,” said Cavanaugh. “To me, my run was a way to close the chapter of my life that cancer took over and turn it into something good—a way to honor those who we have loved and lost, those who have bravely battled the disease, and those who continue to fight daily.”

Along with Cavanaugh, many other DFMC members decided to run this year despite the switch to a virtual experience. Dick Correa is a 2020 DFMC runner now in his 18th season on the team. “A friend’s wife was undergoing a bone marrow transplant at Dana-Farber in 2000,” said Correa. “He heard about DFMC and, knowing that I had run a few marathons years before, told me that I had to run for Dana-Farber in support of Kay. It was such a powerful and emotional experience that I decided to run the next year. Two became three, and then five, 10, 15, and now 18 for DFMC.

I expect that I will continue to run for DFMC as long as I can do so in memory of friends and family who have passed away from cancer.”

Many DFMC runners have made running the Boston Marathon for Dana-Farber a family tradition. Sarah Nixon, a DFMC runner for an incredible 25 years, hopes to pass on the baton within her family for years to come. “My oldest daughter, Kallie, ran with the team in 2018, and it is my hope that the other two children will follow suit,” said Nixon.

The passion of DFMC runners endures. No matter the obstacles, they run to help Dana-Farber reach the ultimate finish line: a world without cancer.
Jimmy Fund events in the virtual world

The global COVID-19 pandemic changed nearly every aspect of normal life around the world in 2020. But because cancer did not stop, neither did the Jimmy Fund’s grassroots community. With safety requirements limiting in-person activities, loyal Jimmy Fund supporters sprang to action and got creative to continue raising critical funds for the Institute.

Because cancer patients are an at-risk population for COVID-19, Dana-Farber has taken considerable additional precautions to keep patients safe during these challenging times. To help meet these unanticipated costs, the generosity of donors has been more important than ever to our lifesaving mission.

Here is just a sampling of the many fundraising events designed by our dedicated supporters to raise critical funds in these socially distant times. Creativity and passion for the cause shone brightly in all of these events, showcasing the power of grassroots events and their impact on the work of Dana-Farber.

**Arlington’s Got Talent**
The Scoops Club at Arlington High School in Arlington, Mass., normally welcomes summer with an all-you-can-eat ice cream fundraiser for the Jimmy Fund, Scoopermania. The club changed gears this year, hosting Arlington’s Got Talent, a virtual talent show where all town residents were invited to show off their special skills while connecting with their community and supporting cancer care and research.

**Local Country Comes Together**
On Aug. 1, 12 local Boston country rock bands and artists joined forces for Local Country Comes Together, a virtual concert to support Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Hosted by NBC 10’s Audrey Asisto and WKLB Country 102.5’s Carolyn Kruse, the online music festival also included artist interviews and a silent auction. The event was generously sponsored by Six String Grill & Stage, New England Subaru, Route 1 Grill House, and Tufts Health Plan. The fun night was put on by the Country Women Cancer Fund and Whiskey-6 Band featuring Samantha Rae.

**Normandy Farms**
Normandy Farms, a family camping resort in Foxboro, Mass., has been an active supporter of the Jimmy Fund for 37 years, raising money by hosting activities for vacationers. They got creative this year to ensure social distancing, with activities like the fan favorite, “skunking.” For a $20 donation, guests could “skunk” another family, who would wake up in the morning to their camping area covered in comical decorative skunks.

**Terry Brennan virtual concerts**
A local musician based out of Dennisport, Mass., Terry Brennan has been an incredible Jimmy Fund supporter for over a decade, holding concerts to support the efforts of Dana-Farber each year. Brennan did not miss a beat when event restrictions were put in place, moving his show online. Holding weekly virtual concerts, Brennan raised vital funds via online donations.

**We’re here to help you go virtual!**
As a dedicated supporter of our mission to conquer cancer, you know that funds need to be raised now more than ever, because a cancer diagnosis cannot be put on hold—even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although your golf tournament, restaurant night, yard sale, or karaoke fundraiser may now be on hold because of social distancing, the Jimmy Fund team is here to help you take your fundraising online and make your event virtual!

We posted resources and how-to guides on the Jimmy Fund Blog to help you bring your event fundraising online and continue supporting our patients and physician-scientists: blog.jimmyfund.org/2020/04/were-here-to-help-you-fundraise-in-new-ways/

We gathered the top tips to help you go virtual with your event, and we’re here to help! Please contact the Jimmy Fund team at JimmyFundEvents@dfci.harvard.edu or 617-632-3198 for help and additional ideas.

Thank you for your support!
With the country and world changing drastically amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jimmy Fund launched virtual events to help community members get involved from home. A new series, Jimmy Fund Bingo Night, offered viewers a safe and interactive opportunity for family fun while supporting the Jimmy Fund.

Each Bingo Night was streamed live on the Jimmy Fund’s Facebook page, making it easy to watch and play along. Participants made a donation of $10 or more to receive three Bingo cards, sent via email before the event.

Celebrity hosts, including former Red Sox first baseman and then Jimmy Fund Captain Mitch Moreland and his wife, Susannah; Boston 25 News’ Tom Leyden; Dale Arnold of WEEI and NESN; and Ben & Jerry's co-founder Jerry Greenfield and his colleague Sean Greenwood called bingo numbers, answered viewer questions, shared fun stories, and highlighted the Jimmy Fund’s mission.

“Hosting Bingo Night with my colleague Sean was a great opportunity to connect with the Jimmy Fund Community,” said Jerry Greenfield. “As a long-time Jimmy Fund supporter myself, seeing so many people come together for Dana-Farber, particularly during these challenging times, was quite special.”

With an average of 500 players at each Bingo Night, and many more tuning in to watch the fun, the series proved to be an engaging way to rally support during unprecedented times. The popularity of the event inspired some Jimmy Fund supporters to host their own virtual Bingo Night for friends and family. (See sidebar on page 8 to learn how.) ■

Taste the Cure raises $355,000 for breast cancer research

Taste the Cure is a wine tasting event that raises vital funds for breast cancer programs at Dana-Farber. For its fifth year in 2020, challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, event mastermind Sandy Cassanelli didn’t miss a beat by rallying her Glastonbury, Conn., community to support a virtual event that raised more than $355,000 with a silent auction and local sponsorship.

After achieving remission from an early stage breast cancer diagnosis in 2013, Cassanelli developed metastatic breast cancer in 2015. That’s when she decided to establish the Breast Friends Fund that supports metastatic breast cancer research led by Dr. Emily Winer, MD, chief of the Division of Breast Oncology in the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers at Dana-Farber. Since then, Taste the Cure has cumulatively raised more than $515,000 for breast cancer research at Dana-Farber through the fund.

“Taste the Cure is a way for me to own my cancer journey, feel empowered, and have fun,” said Cassanelli. “Given the current pandemic, I was thrilled to find a socially distant way to come together as a community and support Dr. Winer’s metastatic breast cancer research.”

“Because of the funds raised by Taste the Cure, we can further develop groundbreaking therapies for breast cancer,” said Winer, who is also the Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research at Dana-Farber. ■

Music Heals the Soul celebrates the Zakim Center’s 20th year

Music Heals the Soul commemorated 20 years of the Leonard P. Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies and Healthy Living at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute by raising more than $185,000. The annual gala is known for its star-studded musical performances, food tastings, silent and live auctions, and integrative therapy demonstrations. The August event, subtitled “Home Edition,” was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hosted by Regis College Vice President and breast cancer advocate Kelley Tuthill, the virtual program featured a special musical performance by Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress and singer Kristin Chenoweth and a cooking demonstration by Emmy-award-winning chef, author, health advocate, and TV star Sara Moulton. Special guests included Broadway, film, and TV star Erich Bergen, former Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim, and Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart.

The Zakim Center is dedicated to caring for the mind, body, and spirit of cancer patients to enhance their quality of life through integrative therapies such as acupuncture and massage, and healthy living programs such as exercise and nutrition counseling. Since April, the Zakim Center staff has pivoted to offer classes virtually reaching more than 4,800 patients, allowing these modalities to be accessed by patients while in their home environment.

“We are thrilled with the fundraising success of Music Heals the Soul’s first virtual event,” said Joyce Zakim, Music Heals the Soul event co-chair. “The funds we have raised will enable our practitioners to continue their compassionate work through many virtual programs and services.” ■

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission.
With a gift of $1 million, Stephen and Joan Clark once again reinforced their longstanding commitment to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and to improving treatment and outcomes for gastrointestinal cancer patients everywhere. This gift also provides powerful momentum toward the Institute’s comprehensive campaign, currently in the quiet phase, and pushes their total giving to Dana-Farber to more than $5 million.

The Clarks have a long history of philanthropic support for causes in their community through their family foundation, a trend they hope their children and grandchildren will carry on long after they are gone. Dana-Farber became a priority recipient of the Clark Family’s giving after their son was diagnosed with a rare and incurable form of gastrointestinal cancer. Though their son died of his disease in 2009, Stephen and Joan knew they made the right choice in seeking treatment at Dana-Farber’s Gastrointestinal Cancer Center (GCC).

“We searched for the very best gastrointestinal cancer care in the country and arrived at Dana-Farber for Dr. Charles Fuchs and Dr. Robert Mayer,” said Stephen. “Their knowledge and experience were acutely aware of the devastating statistics and complexities associated with gastrointestinal cancers. According to the National Cancer Institute, nearly 30% of all cancer deaths annually are attributed to gastrointestinal cancers and three of the top five diseases associated with cancer death originate in the gastrointestinal tract. And, like their son’s disease, many gastrointestinal cancers do not present with symptoms until they reach a late and hard-to-treat stage. Hoping to spare other families from the loss they endured, the Clarks have remained steadfast in their support of the GCC, now under the direction of Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, who is also director of the Hale Family Research Center and the Robert T. and Judith B. Hale Chair in Pancreatic Cancer at Dana-Farber. Just as they trusted Fuchs and Mayer with their son’s care, the Clarks trust that Wolpin will use their gift to make a difference in the lives of gastrointestinal cancer patients now and for years to come.

“Our team is extremely fortunate to have Stephen and Joan’s continued partnership and generous support,” said Wolpin. “With their help, we are changing the way gastrointestinal cancers are diagnosed and treated. In fact, several important new therapies for gastrointestinal cancers have been identified in the laboratory or led into clinical testing by GCC investigators.”

“Joan and I have witnessed how our own and others’ philanthropy enables vital advancements in cancer research and patient care,” said Stephen. “Philanthropy can be unpredictable, and when giving dips there is a marked impact on the GCC’s ability to conquer this disease. We hope all who are able will join us in this grand endeavor to eradicate gastrointestinal cancer.”

Clark Family continues tradition of support with the goal of eradicating gastrointestinal cancer

Pancratic Cancer Collective awards $4 million “New Therapies Challenge” grant

Recent research has yielded progress toward better understanding the drivers of pancreatic cancer, an aggressive malignancy that currently has limited treatment options. Experts at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute are working diligently to turn this progress into new, effective therapies with the generous support of our partners.

The Pancreatic Cancer Collective—a strategic partnership of the Lustgarten Foundation and Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C)—has awarded a $4 million “New Therapies Challenge” grant to an expert group of Institute investigators. Led by Alan D’Andrea, MD, director of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and director of the Center for DNA Damage and Repair, the multidisciplinary team is exploring novel ways to treat this difficult disease.

D’Andrea and his collaborators are evaluating three classes of drugs collectively referred to as “DNA repair targeted therapies,” which prevent cancer cells from fixing their damaged DNA, stopping them from growing. The $4 million grant builds on a $1 million award received by the researchers in 2019, which funded early lab testing of the potential therapies. The team’s promising preliminary data suggested combining traditional chemotherapy drugs with DNA repair targeted therapies could be an effective method for treating pancreatic cancer. With this second round of funding, the team of researchers will extend their laboratory work to a series of clinical trials to test if the combinations they identified will better treat patients with pancreatic cancer. In a study called POLAR, the researchers are exploring the anti-cancer activity of combining two drugs that inhibit DNA repair. Additionally, the investigators are conducting three clinical trials combining a DNA repair targeted therapy with traditional chemotherapy. The most promising combinations will then undergo further evaluation in larger trials.

“This vital funding from the Pancreatic Cancer Collective gives us the opportunity to carefully assess innovative therapeutic strategies for treating pancreatic cancer and may one day lead to new options that are urgently needed in the clinic,” said D’Andrea. “We are incredibly grateful for this significant support.”

Other members of the research team include James Cleary, MD, PhD, the co-leader of the grant; Geoffrey Shapiro, MD, PhD, clinical director of the Center for DNA Damage and Repair and senior vice president, developmental therapeutics; Andrew Aguiire, MD, PhD; and Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center and of the Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Cancer Research Laboratory in the Hale Family Research Center. Wolpin is also the Robert T. and Judith B. Hale Chair in Pancreatic Cancer at Dana-Farber.

“Stand Up To Cancer is focused on developing the most promising cancer treatments faster,” said SU2C CEO Sung Poblite, PhD, RN. “Through the Pancreatic Cancer Collective, and our partnership with the Lustgarten Foundation, we are excited to support this exceptional team at Dana-Farber working toward the day when all pancreatic cancer patients become long-term survivors.”

“The Lustgarten Foundation was created to cure pancreatic cancer and to provide hope to people affected by the disease,” added Kerri Kaplan, foundation president and CEO. “We believe innovative approaches like those of Dr. D’Andrea and his team at Dana-Farber will accelerate the pace for discovering new and better treatments and, ultimately, a cure. We’re proud to support this project and the momentum the New Therapies Challenge grants have created.”
D esmoid tumor, also known as aggressive fibromatosis, is a rare type of sarcoma that originates in the body’s connective tissue. This diagnosis can be frightening for patients and their families, as it is most common in adolescents and young adults, a population often facing poor treatment outcomes. Like many rare diseases, there is limited information on desmoid tumor available given the small number of cases diagnosed each year—about 900 to 1,500, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. New research and clinical trials are desperately needed to advance treatment options for desmoid tumor and other sarcomas, which can be very aggressive and grow into nearby structures and organs causing significant pain or disfigurement.

With a gift of $1 million to establish the Chen-Huang Fund for Desmoid Tumor Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Winston Chen and Phyllis Huang of Silicon Valley hope to transform the research opportunities into desmoid tumor. “The market size of rare diseases is small, so research into these areas is underfunded,” said Chen. “One of our interests is to support underfunded areas and we focused on desmoid tumor because of the exceptional work of Dr. Janeway and her team.” The Chen and Huang gift will enable a team of physician-scientists led by Katherine Janeway, MD, MMSc, Dana-Farber’s director of clinical genomics, to advance an understanding of desmoid tumor’s unique vulnerabilities, thus enabling the identification of new, targeted treatments that will inform clinical studies for patients. Importantly, findings from research into desmoid tumor have the potential to offer insights into other types of sarcoma.

“We are incredibly grateful to Mr. Chen and Ms. Huang for their gift to support our research into desmoid tumor,” said Janeway. “This contribution could be potentially lifesaving, as it will help catapult significant efforts to identify genetic targets driving desmoid tumor mutations, matching potential targets with existing or novel agents, and ultimately introducing customized therapies into the clinic.”

In 2006, only weeks after Richard Stefanacci was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, his family created Go4theGoal Foundation with the mission to improve the lives of children diagnosed with cancer. In the years since Richard passed away, Go4theGoal has made an indelible impact on treatment possibilities and care standards through grants toward unique hospital programs, novel research, and financial support for pediatric patient families. Dana-Farber has been fortunate to benefit from their generosity in the past, and recently received further encouragement through a $100,000 grant toward Ewing sarcoma research under the direction of Allison O’Neill, MD, clinical director of the Solid Tumor Center in the Department of pediatric oncology.

O’Neill was empowered by a previous Go4theGoal grant to launch a study focused on leveraging the immune system to fight against this rare and aggressive form of bone cancer. With such critical early funding, she and her team have successfully uncovered three antibodies with the potential to bind to a signature protein found in Ewing sarcoma cells, potentially helping the immune system engage with and cause the death of those cells. Go4theGoal’s support will enable continued testing of the efficacy of this promising therapy, and the launch of phase 1 trials.

Go4theGoal Board Chairman Dr. Andrew E. Mulberg said, “Dr. O’Neill’s research is translating basic science methodology to putative therapeutic development opportunities in pediatric cancer. We are honored to be able to fund Dr. O’Neill with continued support from Go4theGoal.”

With generous support from the Chen-Huang Fund for Desmoid Tumor Research, Katherine Janeway, MD, MMSc, will oversee innovative research into this rare sarcoma.

This gift from Chen and Huang follows a recent $5 million contribution to Dana-Farber to establish the Chen-Huang Center for EGFR Mutant Lung Cancers and further the Institute’s groundbreaking research in EGFR-driven lung cancers. When asked why they made this additional gift to Dana-Farber, Chen said, “The more we learn about what is going on at Dana-Farber, the more we are impressed by the world-class scientists and physicians at the organization. Dana-Farber is a unique place and we appreciate the opportunity to work together in this area.”

Go4theGoal funds innovations for pediatric bone cancer

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CLRA continues steadfast support for pediatric leukemia research

T he Children’s Leukemia Research Association (CLRA) awarded $100,000 to support the work of Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancy Program and the Ted Williams Chair at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. For over 15 years, the CLRA has supported Dana-Farber’s research focused on understanding leukemia and developing treatments that directly benefit patients. This most recent contribution will allow Stegmaier to continue her work studying new therapeutic targets in patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

The CLRA was founded to support research into the causes and cures for leukemia, the most common form of cancer in children. “There have been great advancements in research and treatment development for leukemia,” says Anthony Pasqua, president of the CLRA. “For example, the cure rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) was 40% and today it is more than 90%. We hope this grant will help to develop the same progress for AML.”

Stegmaier’s research studies new candidate drug targets for patients with AML using both cutting-edge genetic and chemical biology approaches. “Our work is not complete until the cure rate for children with cancer is 100%,” says Stegmaier. “The support of the CLRA is invaluable in our ability to achieve this mission.”

Get involved, have fun, and beat cancer – visit JimmyFund.org
**Conquer Cancer awards 13 new grants to advance careers**

**CONQUER CANCER®
THE ASCO FOUNDATION**

Conquer Cancer®, the ASCO Foundation recently awarded a total of $1.1 million in grants to 13 Dana-Farber Cancer Institute researchers, spanning seven different disease areas. This tremendous investment builds on the foundation’s previous support of Dana-Farber and underscores the foundation’s unwavering commitment to conquering cancer worldwide.

“Conquer Cancer is proud to recognize this group of talented clinical cancer researchers,” said Thomas G. Roberts Jr., MD, FASCO, chair of the Conquer Cancer Board of Directors. “From supporting research projects that rarely see funding to providing that first, vital research grant to a young scientist, Conquer Cancer is cultivating the next generation of breakthroughs for every cancer, every patient, everywhere.”

Three of the designated grants were Career Development Awards, which are given to researchers who have received a faculty appointment but are in need of funding to establish an independent, patient-focused clinical cancer research program. To further propel their promising work, Michael Cheng, MD, Rizwan Haq, MD, PhD, and Adrienne Waks, MD, will each receive one-year grants to further advance the quality of their research in clinical oncology.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) created Conquer Cancer to help globally eradicate cancer by funding breakthrough research and broadly sharing cutting-edge knowledge. They have since awarded more than $135 million in funding through nearly 2,200 grants and awards in support of clinical and translational cancer research conducted by gifted physician-scientists at every stage of their careers. This includes many of the best and brightest investigators who have developed their careers at Dana-Farber.


**Gift from Howard Cox expands impact of rising star**

Dana-Farber Trustee Howard Cox recently committed $400,000 in support of the Presidential Initiatives Fund, enabling President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, to direct resources to areas of greatest priority at Dana-Farber, including recruiting and retaining talented faculty.

Cox’s generous gift will support the work of Nilay Sethi, MD, PhD, a recently recruited rising star in gastrointestinal oncology at Dana-Farber. In 2018, Sethi and colleagues performed a comparative molecular analysis of cancers that arise from the lower esophageal, stomach, and colorectum, revealing critical mechanisms that fuel these deadly cancers. In 2020, he shared these findings, which not only uncovered sequential events in cancer progression, but also yielded new therapeutic vulnerabilities. The Sethi lab is now focused on evaluating these therapeutic agents in preclinical studies, with the goal of developing methods to not just treat cancer but to prevent it in the first place.

“I support the Presidential Initiatives Fund because it gives Dr. Glimcher the flexibility to direct the money to areas that will have the biggest impact. And she knows best,” said Cox. “Dr. Sethi’s work clearly has the potential, and this funding helps provide the resources he needs to make that impact.”

“It is imperative that we attract, retain, and nurture top and diverse talent to further our mission,” said Glimcher. “Generous support from our Trustees and community enables us to accelerate scientific discovery through our talented team of physician-scientists. I am grateful to Howard Cox for his confidence in me and investing in us once again.”

**Haq named 2020 Harrington Scholar-Innovator**

Harrington Discovery Institute

University Hospitals | Cleveland, Ohio

The Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals in Cleveland—part of The Harrington Project for Discovery & Development—is an international initiative that helps translate scientific discoveries into medicines that benefit society. As part of their focus on expediting the delivery of effective therapies to patients, the prestigious Harrington Scholar-Innovator grant program provides essential funding to the nation’s most innovative physician-scientists.

As one of this year’s Harrington Scholar-Innovators, Dana-Farber’s Rizwan Haq, MD, PhD, will leverage his $100,000 grant to develop a small molecule drug that targets cancers with dysregulated KEAP1 signaling. In lung cancer, KEAP1 mutations are found in more than 25 percent of patients. Despite its prevalence, there are currently no approved compounds that effectively target this mutation—and Haq aims to fill this gap. After screening a large number of compounds in the lab, he discovered a specific drug molecule that targets cancers that have KEAP1 mutations.

With his award, Haq will further test this molecule in the lab and work to enhance its function and efficacy, with the goal of developing a version that can be studied in clinical trials.

“We are continually impressed by the large number of qualified physicians who apply for our awards each year from Dana-Farber” said Nancy Daly, MS, MPH, Conquer Cancer’s chief executive officer. “Our goal is to grow the next generation of cancer researchers who can improve treatments for patients everywhere, and we are confident that our investment in the exceptional talent at Dana-Farber will greatly help our cause.”

In addition to bolstering career development, Conquer Cancer also supports important work in areas that are not often funded by other organizations. This year’s awards were announced at the 2020 ASCO Virtual Scientific Program, titled “Unite & Conquer: Accelerating Progress Together,” held May 29-31.
Cancer diagnosis and treatment is a challenging experience for anyone, but for patients with developmental disabilities, it can be particularly difficult to navigate. A broad range of special needs can complicate routine cancer care procedures such as scans, blood draws, exam visits, and infusions, causing undue stress for patients and their families and challenges for staff who lack the specialized training to care for this population.

Dana-Farber is establishing a pilot program to address the specific needs of adult patients with developmental disabilities with a gift from the C.J.L. Charitable Foundation. Under the direction of Nancy Borstelmann, PhD, MPH, LICSW, the Lurie Fund for Patients with Developmental Disabilities in the Cancer Care System will support the appointment of a clinical social worker to create a collaborative and consistent care model for these patients across the Institute. “We are grateful for the opportunity to develop the nation’s first program for adult cancer patients with developmental disabilities, which will support patients and their caregivers before their first appointment and throughout their cancer journey,” said Borstelmann, who is the senior director of social work in the Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care. “These patients are our family members, friends, and neighbors who equally deserve the most sensitive, compassionate care,” said Cathy Lurie, founder and trustee of the C.J.L. Charitable Foundation. “I hope this gift will enable Dana-Farber to become a leader in the care of this patient population and a model for other cancer centers, nationally.”

A gift from the C.J.L. Charitable Foundation will establish a pilot program to address the specific needs of adult patients with developmental disabilities, under the direction of Nancy Borstelmann, PhD, MPH, LICSW.

Bernheimers support creative approach to cancer care

Facing illness is more than just grappling with physical symptoms, as Rosalind “Roz” Bernheimer knows well. Diagnosed in 2003 with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), Roz has been coming to Dana-Farber regularly to manage her disease. She and her husband, Wally, credit the Institute’s unique approach to patient care as the reason they feel comfortable at every appointment.

For several years, the couple has given annually to the Creative Arts Program within the Leonard P. Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies and Healthy Living, which helps patients and families express themselves through art, music, and writing. Creative arts have been shown to help reduce the emotional burden of cancer and improve quality of life. “We love the hands-on aspect of the program, using art in a way that comforts,” said Roz. “Dana-Farber’s care goes beyond just the patient experience—this program gives the families comfort, too.”

“That’s a key element,” said Wally. “Dana-Farber is committed to the whole experience. That’s what inspired us and made us feel that this is an organization worth supporting.” In addition to their annual support, the Bernheimers wanted to create a lasting legacy to ensure that the Creative Arts Program will be available to patients and families for many years to come. To that end, the couple has committed to a substantial bequest that will create an endowment for the program.

“Forward-thinking gifts like these ensure the Zakim Center continues to help patients thrive during and after treatment,” said Jennifer Ligibel, MD, director of the Zakim Center. “We’re very grateful to the Bernheimers for their visionary support.”

Advancing survivorship as a model in cancer treatment

Diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma at 21, Catherine Goff’s medical journey has been a testament to the complexities that arise with treating cancer. In many cases, treating cancer is not simply a “one and done” experience. Cancer survivors often have an increased risk for other cancers and diseases, and Goff’s doctors at Dana-Farber described the need to monitor her health for new diseases as “not a matter of if, but when.”

As a result of radiation treatment for her Hodgkin lymphoma, Goff developed heart issues and had to undergo surgery. Two years after surgery, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Two years after that, thyroid cancer. It is Dana-Farber that Goff credits for being able to live a life not constantly under stress and fear of new disease emerging. “I don’t need to worry about these things because they are. I know if anything is going to happen it’s going to get caught early.”

Goff continues to have support to the Adult Survivorship Program led by Ann Partridge, MD, MPH, with her invaluable insight and a second gift of $250,000. Both Goff and Partridge—who is also the founder and director of the Program for Young Women with Breast Cancer at Dana-Farber’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and vice chair of Medical Oncology—hope that one day the Survivorship Program will become a “user-manual” for all treatment centers and that all who are managing the long-term and late effects of cancer treatment have the same community of care Goff received at Dana-Farber.

Advancing care planning and palliative care at Dana-Farber are giving parents of seriously ill children the opportunity to develop goals of care with their clinicians. This puts considerations for the patient’s comfort and quality of life on equal footing with treatment of the disease.

A recent grant of $284,760 from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations is helping to make this happen, with plans to disseminate this practice widely across other institutions. With previous support from the foundations, Joanne Wolfe, MD, MPH, division chief of the Pediatric Palliative Care Service, in close collaboration with Danielle DeCourcy, MD, MPH, at Boston Children’s Hospital, created the Pediatric Serious Illness Communication Program, a set of tools to support conversations for advance care planning. With the foundations’ current funding, they are now developing a curriculum to teach these communications skills using the guide and will pilot the program.

“The unique thing about this strategy is that it’s meant to be straightforward, not cumbersome or expensive,” said Wolfe. “We want as many clinicians as possible to have basic skills in this area to improve the well-being of seriously ill children and families.”

Palliative care was once an unrecognized and unknown area but has emerged as crucially important over the last 25 years. “The Foundations are committed to care for the seriously ill,” said Michael Murray, PhD, president of the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations. “We are encouraged by Dr. Wolfe’s collaborative research, which is helping to ensure that no matter the underlying illness or outcome, patients and families emerge from their journeys strong and resilient.”

Arthur Vining Davis Foundations help ensure caring and curing are dual priorities
Anonymous donor pledges support for research that saved her life

A n anonymous donor recently gave $100,000 through the PlaceHolder Foundation to support melanoma research at Dana-Farber under the direction of Elizabeth Buchbinder, MD.

The donor came to Buchbinder in the fall of 2015 for a second opinion after being diagnosed with metastatic melanoma that had spread to her lungs. The timing was remarkable: a new combination immunotherapy had just received FDA approval for use in metastatic melanoma, thanks in part to research being conducted at Dana-Farber. Buchbinder was able to offer hope.

The generous gift will support Buchbinder’s further research into immunotherapies for melanoma, including methods of predicting and mitigating potential toxicities associated with this still fairly new treatment.

“When I hear that people have been diagnosed with cancer, and it’s a serious one, I always make sure that I say ‘get yourself to the right place,’” said the donor. “You need to be where the people are up on the latest and greatest. And Dana-Farber is one of those places.”

“It’s gratifying to receive gifts like these,” said Buchbinder. “The prognosis for metastatic melanoma has improved drastically over the years, and we are hopeful that we can continue to improve our treatment options to reach many more patients.”

“Donors contributed to the research that saved my life,” said the donor. “I wanted to do what I could to keep it going.”

Tasgal family pays it forward

N orman and Carol Tasgal were inspired to support gastrointestinal cancer research after Norman successfully overcame his own battle with small bowel cancer. Their generous gift of $100,000 will support key research in gastrointestinal cancers under the supervision of Thomas Abrams, MD.

Norman is an avid cyclist and former Pan-Mass Challenge rider for Team Perry, named after the late son-in-law of Norman’s good friend Bernard “Buddy” Gitlin. The money raised by Team Perry supported Dana-Farber’s Gastrointestinal Cancer Center where Norman was treated many years later.

Norman paid his full gift in under one year to equip Abrams with immediate funding to bolster progress against these difficult to treat diseases. “I am very grateful to Dr. Abrams and his team for their compassionate and exceptional care over the years,” Norman said. “I have great faith in Dr. Abrams and I know that he will use my gift to help many patients to come.”

Norman is grateful for each day, as he is in remission, and spends his time bike riding, visiting family, and taking trips to Montreal, Canada, where he holds a dual citizenship.

“This extraordinary gift from Norman and Carol will not only help me further my research, but it will ensure that I can continue to give my patients the most compassionate and thorough care possible,” said Abrams.

“I am humbled and inspired by their generosity and continued trust in my work at Dana-Farber.”

Karyopharm fund drives innovation in multiple myeloma

Karyopharm Therapeutics has given $300,000 to support early stage multiple myeloma clinical research led by Paul Richardson, MD, clinical program leader and director of clinical research at Dana-Farber’s Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center.

The Karyopharm Therapeutics Inc. Early Phase Clinical Trials Fund will enable Richardson and his colleagues to conduct first-in-human, investigator-initiated studies of novel multiple myeloma treatments.

Over the past 20 years, Richardson and his colleagues have spearheaded clinical trials that helped garner FDA approval for more than two dozen new multiple myeloma indications involving 12 novel drugs. Thanks to these advances, patients with this rare blood cancer now live three to four times longer than they did two decades ago. However, over time, patients inevitably develop resistance to the drugs, driving the need for new treatments.

“Trials supported by this fund will help us learn how to overcome drug resistance and optimize treatment for our patients,” said Richardson, who is also the R. J. Corman Professor of Medicine. “We are extremely grateful for Karyopharm’s generosity and vision in supporting this crucial research.”

“We are very pleased to support this innovative research initiative,” said Sharon Shacham, PhD, MBA, founder, president, and chief scientific officer of Karyopharm. “For decades, Dana-Farber has played a critical role in advancing the standard of care for patients with multiple myeloma. We hope that this new Early Phase Clinical Trials Fund will lead to important medical advances for future generations of patients.”

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—SHARON SHACHAM, PHD, MBA, founder, president, and chief scientific officer, Karyopharm Therapeutics, Inc.
Dana-Farber is a global leader in groundbreaking cancer science, as it has been since 1947 when founder, Dr. Sidney Farber, introduced the first research program in chemotherapy. The Institute’s ongoing scientific excellence is supported by the Faculty Research Fund (FRF). The FRF makes strategic, institution-wide investments across different types of cancers—from early-stage, exploratory research to new technology and state-of-the-art infrastructure. Ten percent of all restricted gifts is allocated to the FRF, which has resulted in more than $37.2 million for research priorities since its establishment in 2013.

During fiscal year 2020, $7.4 million from the FRF was directed toward initiatives such as faculty recruitment and retention, ensuring that Dana-Farber continues to attract and mobilize its exceptional people to drive new discoveries in our labs and clinics. Additionally, the FRF bolstered the Institute’s Division of Hematologic Malignancies by providing funding to expand its scientific and clinical capabilities and to propel a broad spectrum of innovative investigations in leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood cancers and disorders. FRF resources also supported Dana-Farber’s Center for Immuno-Oncology, furthering efforts to better understand how the immune system interacts with cancer cells, increase the number of clinical trials, and expand and enhance immunotherapy treatment strategies.

The FRF serves as a catalyst for the Institute’s lifesaving mission by strengthening our robust research enterprise and world-class talent in ways that transcend single departments, accelerate advances across all cancers, and benefit patients everywhere.

**Visionary Leadership**

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OUR FRONTLINE HEROES—Throughout the pandemic, Dana-Farber has continued to provide our patients with lifesaving treatments in a safe environment, thanks to the unflagging dedication of frontline heroes like (top row, from left) Saba Tabassum, Dennis Sheehan, Amanda Dean, Neil Gilbert; and (bottom row, from left) Alejandro Gomez Catano, Carrie Williams, Zhouwei Zhang, and Huiyun Liu—and thanks to the passionate support of you, our generous donors. Thank you!

DECEMBER 1
GivingTuesday
Support Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund on GivingTuesday by making a gift and tuning in to WEEI’s GivingTuesday to benefit the Jimmy Fund presented by Arbella Insurance. Dana-Farber patients will share stories of hope and inspiration on WEEI 93.7 FM or at WEEI.com. Visit WEEIGivingTuesday.org or JimmyFund.org/GivingTuesday to make a donation.

NOW–DECEMBER 31
Holiday Patient Assistance
Help brighten the holidays for patients in financial need. Your contribution helps to put a holiday meal on the table or purchase gifts for loved ones. Visit JimmyFund.org/HolidayGiving or contact Hannah McCoy at Holiday_Assistance@dfci.harvard.edu.

NOW–DECEMBER 31
Dana-Farber Holiday Cards
Presented by Amica Insurance
Embrace a holiday tradition that’s full of hope. Purchase cards to spread cheer while making a difference in the fight against cancer. View the complete collection and order online at Dana-FarberHoliday.org.

NOW–DECEMBER 31
Grand Slam Savings for a Great Cause
Give $1 at online checkout or order a Jimmy Fund Meal Deal to support the Jimmy Fund via Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo restaurants throughout New England. Contact Mike O’Brien at MichaelT_Obrien@dfci.harvard.edu.

JANUARY 30
PMC Winter Cycle
The PMC Winter Cycle at Fenway Park is a virtual “spoke in the wheel” of PMC fundraising. Join this stationary cycling event that sends 100% of all rider-raised dollars directly to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Visit WinterCycle.org.

FEBRUARY 18
Cocktails and Conversation With Our Doctors
Celebrating 30 years in Palm Beach!
Mark your calendar for this informative virtual event with expert physician-scientists from the #3 cancer center in the world, according to Newsweek—our own Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Chairs – Trustee Phyllis Krock and Trustee Judie Schlager with her husband, Larry. Contact Karen Martin at 952-853-2080 or Karen_Martin@dfci.harvard.edu.

YEAR ROUND
Jimmy Fund Let’s Game
No matter your location, no matter your game, you can make a difference in the lives of cancer patients. Host your own livestream, play in a scheduled tournament, or tune in to one of our Twitch events. Visit JimmyFundLetsGame.org or contact Kenneth Chamberlain at JimmyFund_LetsGame@dfci.harvard.edu.

YEAR ROUND
Run Any Race
Run any race and set your own fundraising goals! Every dollar raised supports Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. For more information, contact Bridget Doughtery at DFRunners@dfci.harvard.edu or visit RunDanaFarber.org.