Our medical pioneers and compassionate caregivers have transformed cancer treatment and saved countless lives worldwide, but millions still die from cancer each year. The Dana-Farber Campaign aims to Defy Cancer by dramatically accelerating our success in:

**Revolutionary Science**

**Extraordinary Care**

**Exceptional Expertise**
Continuing their family’s deep commitment to conquering pancreatic cancer, Judith B. Hale, her son, Robert T. Hale Jr., and his wife, Karen Hale, have pledged an additional $50 million to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. This gift, one of the largest single gifts in the Institute’s history, will support the Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research, founded in 2016 with $15 million from Judith, Robert, and Karen.

This new gift, the largest-ever gift to pancreatic cancer research at Dana-Farber, will enable a wide range of ambitious work in two main areas: early detection and prevention, and precision medicine and biology. Currently a national leader in the field, the Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research will launch teams of scientists to leverage health system data to identify those at highest risk for pancreatic cancer, detect it earlier through new imaging approaches and blood tests, and develop new treatments for pre-invasive and early invasive pancreatic cancers.

The center will also investigate the biology and interplay of pancreatic cancer cells, the immune system, and stromal cells, and develop a series of clinical trials to test new therapies based upon discoveries from these initiatives. “Our intention is to substantially speed the pace of research and new treatments for this terrible disease,” said Judith Hale, a member of the Dana-Farber Board of Trustees. “We are investing in the exceptional talent at Dana-Farber because we are committed to finding a cure. That would be a wonderful honor for my husband and legacy for our family.”

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— JUDITH B. HALE, Institute Trustee

Continuing on page 14
Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to welcome you to this special edition of our Impact newsletter, which celebrates the announcement of The Dana-Farber Campaign. This historic $2 billion campaign is one of the largest ever in the U.S. to be focused solely on cancer. We are bold, ambitious, and, with your help, ready to Defy Cancer.

Throughout this issue, you’ll read about the strategic initiatives that will be advanced by the campaign and the generous donors whose partnership is making these advances possible. On page 1, we are honored to share the news of an extraordinary new gift of $50 million from Institute Trustee Judy Hale and her son and daughter-in-law. This incredible gift supports key priorities of The Dana-Farber Campaign, accelerating efforts to develop new treatments for patients, detect cancer early when it is more easily treated, and even prevent it before it begins. We are so grateful for the commitment of Trustees Michael Eisenson and Monica Chandra, Chair and Vice Chair of The Dana-Farber Campaign, of their Campaign Cabinet, and of our entire Board—including Larry Lucchino, who continues his leadership of the Jimmy Fund as the Chairman. I’m deeply thankful for his continued support of the campaign and of Dana-Farber.

We are also celebrating important partners like Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts & Rhode Island, which recently recognized Dana-Farber with its Community Hero Award in honor of our 33-year partnership, and the Helen Gurley Brown Foundation, which welcomed the newest cohort of Helen Mentors and Fellows and launched a new Trailblazers initiative to advance women in science.

The story of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund is one of passionate dedication and generosity of all our Trustees laid the foundation for The Dana-Farber Campaign, and they continue to lead the way. We are—we are so grateful for the commitment of our community of support, we can prevent, treat, and Defy Cancer at every turn—resulting in more lives saved and accelerating efforts to ultimately defeat cancer. That is why the Institute is proud to announce The Dana-Farber Campaign. With a goal of $2 billion, this is the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the Institute’s history and one of the largest ever in the U.S. focused solely on cancer.

Announced to the Dana-Farber Board of Trustees at their May 10 meeting and to the public during a virtual event on May 17, the announcement of the campaign comes at a crucial time. Scientific progress and key discoveries are making new avenues in cancer medicine possible, yet the need for innovation across cancer research and patient care is critical. Eight million people worldwide still die from cancer each year. One in two men and one in three women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes. To change these numbers, we need to discover new ways to treat every patient with effective precision therapies, advance research to better understand and avoid disease recurrence, and uncover better ways to prevent cancer from starting or advancing. These efforts are only possible with philanthropic support. “With the help of generous donors, we have made great discoveries in cancer and today we know more about this terrible disease than ever before,” said Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, Dana-Farber president and CEO and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. “We are relentlessly determined to take what we are learning, build on it, and defeat this disease, because patients everywhere are depending on us. There is no time to waste. The Dana-Farber Campaign helps us marshal the resources to prevent, treat, and Defy Cancer.”

The Dana-Farber Campaign will accelerate our success against cancer by supporting three strategic priorities:

**Revolutionary Science**

Science at Dana-Farber is rapidly transforming our understanding about how cancer develops and how to treat it. While Institute findings have led to new therapies and protocols saving lives around the world, our work is not done until we have effective options for every patient. Gifts to The Dana-Farber Campaign will support crucial research areas including precision prevention and early detection; data science, including

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**Meet the Chair and Vice Chair of The Dana-Farber Campaign**

Michael Eisenson is Founding Partner and Managing Director of Charlesbank Capital Partners and has served on Dana-Farber’s Board of Trustees since 1991. Monica Chandra is Managing Partner at 3EDGE Asset Management and has been a member of the Board since 2015. We sat down with Michael and Monica to learn about their personal connections to Dana-Farber and what excites them about The Dana-Farber Campaign.

**How did you first come to be involved with Dana-Farber?**

**Michael:** About 30 years ago, I was approached by Dr. David Livingston and Dr. Baruj Benacerraf—who was President of the Institute at that time—to help them attract commercial support for early stage research. That project led to a funding partnership between Dana-Farber and what is now Novartis that continues to this day.

**Monica:** About 15 years ago, I joined a committee supporting the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers. It was a great way to learn about the Institute, stay engaged with the exciting research that was taking place at Dana-Farber, and meet many wonderful doctors.

**What excites you about The Dana-Farber Campaign?**

**Michael:** The Dana-Farber Campaign is a really bold effort to attract resources to the challenge of learning how to diagnose and treat the broadest possible range of cancers, many of which remain highly resistant to treatment or evade early diagnosis.

**Monica:** My mother-in-law lost her battle with cancer a few years ago. Watching that journey was painful but, in some ways, very inspiring. I have witnessed firsthand the amazing care, the groundbreaking research, and the dedication of the Dana-Farber team. The Dana-Farber Campaign will help fund the best minds to conquer this awful disease that can strike any of our loved ones. I know there’s no better cause to give your time and your resources.

**Why did you choose to take on a leadership role in this campaign?**

**Michael:** One of the keys to success for great hospitals and research institutions in the U.S. is the partnership between talented faculty and staff and the volunteers and philanthropists who support them. Serving as Chair of The Dana-Farber Campaign is an important way that I, as a non-medical person, can contribute to that partnership.

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Sincerely,

Melany N. Duval
Senior Vice President and Chief Philanthropist Officer

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**Announcing The Dana-Farber Campaign**

While cancer discoveries and treatments are advancing at an extraordinary pace, there is a critical need to accelerate progress. Many cancers remain difficult to diagnose early and hard to treat. Certain cancers are striking younger people more frequently and eluding detection. Cancer disparities and barriers to equitable care persist. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is committed to overcoming these challenges. We know that together with our community of support, we can prevent, treat, and Defy Cancer at every turn—resulting in more lives saved and accelerating efforts to ultimately defeat cancer. That is why the Institute is proud to announce The Dana-Farber Campaign. With a goal of $2 billion, this is the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the Institute’s history and one of the largest ever in the U.S. focused solely on cancer.

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Institute Trustees Monica Chandra and Michael Eisenson are Vice Chair and Chair, respectively, of The Dana-Farber Campaign.

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**Meeting the Chair and Vice Chair of The Dana-Farber Campaign**

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

**Extraordinary Care**

Total Patient Care started here. While Dr. Sidney Farber revolutionized cancer care globally with chemotherapy, his core philosophy of “Total Patient Care” was equally groundbreaking, and has since been adopted around the world. Most Dana-Farber clinicians also conduct research, providing patients with ready access to more than 1,100 clinical trials and speeding the pathway “from bench to bedside” and back again. Campaign funds will support new clinical trials of promising therapeutics, spark innovations in research-based care, expand access to Dana-Farber’s high-quality care in underserved populations, help address cancer disparities, and more.

**Exceptional Expertise**

Dana-Farber is committed to providing its expert scientists and clinicians with the resources they need to provide world-class care and pursue innovative research. Gifts to the campaign will enable Dana-Farber to continue attracting and retaining the best talent, allow scientists to explore new ideas that could lead to the next cure, and provide clinicians more time with their patients.

Support for the campaign may be in the form of gifts to specific initiatives or to Essential Opportunities that provide flexible funding across the Institute, including the Jimmy Fund, The Defy Cancer Fund, and the Presidential Initiatives Fund.

The Dana-Farber Campaign began its “quiet” phase in October 2017 and 60 percent of the goal has been raised. The Institute anticipates the campaign will last seven years and close at the end of September 2024.

“ Achieving the ambitious goals of The Dana-Farber Campaign will take the deep engagement of our full community of supporters,” said Michael Eisenson, chair of The Dana-Farber Campaign and Institute Trustee.

“With that support, Dana-Farber will lead the work to Defy Cancer and achieve what was once thought impossible.”

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**The Dana-Farber Campaign Cabinet**

**Chair**
Michael Eisenson

**Vice Chair**
Monica Chandra

**Members**
Josh Bekenstein
Jane Brock-Wilson
David Dechman
Laurie H. Glimcher, MD
Phil Gross
Michele Kessler
Jeanie Lavine
Jonathan Lavine
Richard Lubin
Larry Lucchino
James McCann
Karen Linde Packman
Barrett J. Rollins, MD, PhD
Barbara Sadovsky
Jim Sadovsky
Eric Schlager
Buffy Starr
Beth Terrana

As of May 11, 2021

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**Monica:** I strongly believe that leadership can make a transformational difference in institutions. Dr. Glimcher has a bold vision and doing anything we can to support that vision is a great way to give back to an institution I love so much.

**What impact can the donor community have as partners in this campaign?**

**Michael:** Donors have always been an essential part of the story of Dana-Farber—from the earliest days when the Jimmy Fund and the Dana Foundation supported the work led by Dr. Sidney Farber, and continuing today, when philanthropy supports a substantial part of the research activity at the Institute every year.

**Monica:** One of my favorite places at Dana-Farber is the Zebrafish Display. Reading each message on the display is a poignant and powerful reminder of the research activity at the Institute every year.

**Monica:** Sadly, cancer impacts everybody, so supporting this cause helps everyone. There are many renowned hospitals, but what excites me the most about Dana-Farber is our singular focus. Eradicating cancer is our sole mission. Sometimes we think about Dana-Farber as a local institution, but the reach of Dana-Farber is global.

**What motivates your own philanthropic support of Dana-Farber?**

**Michael:** My commitment to invest both time and financial resources started with a personal story. My mother was one of the finest people I have ever known, and my family lost her to cancer when she was only 45. After I began my career and my own family, I determined that I needed to do what I could to help avoid this kind of tragic loss for other families. That led me to Dana-Farber.

**Monica:** The very real hope that someday we will conquer this awful disease.

**What makes Dana-Farber a special place?**

**Both:** The people.

**Michael:** Their talent, their compassion, and the astonishing depth of the bench. I’ve been close to Dana-Farber for 30 years and I’m still struck by this every time I meet a new person on the team and every time I see a person step into the role of someone thought to be irreplaceable. This combination of skill and character just seems to be wonderfully self-reinforcing and regenerating and I think it’s at the heart of what makes Dana-Farber so unique.

**Monica:** Dr. Glimcher has laid out a bold vision for us, for this campaign, and for what she wants the Institute to accomplish. We are fortunate to have the most dedicated doctors, nurses, and staff along with a Board that cares deeply. I think the people at all levels at this Institute truly make this an extraordinary place.

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**Learn more about The Dana-Farber Campaign at defycancer.org**
Lucchino leads the way again with a generous gift to The Dana-Farber Campaign

Cancer touches everyone, so all have a stake in defying it at every turn. Dana-Farber is leading the way in this global effort thanks to the help of a committed community of supporters and dedicated champions like Boston legend, Larry Lucchino. Recently, Lucchino made a gift of $500,000 to The Dana-Farber Campaign, to support capital projects and strategic initiatives through the Presidential Initiatives Fund. His philanthropy underscores the campaign’s cornerstone priorities of supporting revolutionary science, extraordinary care, and exceptional expertise to create better outcomes for patients everywhere.

Lucchino’s generosity was recognized by naming The Imagine Display, a whimsical representation of Dana-Farber’s signature “bench to bedside” research model through the eyes of our youngest patients. Opening in November 2021, The Imagine Display, made possible by the Lucchino Family, offers an array of unique naming opportunities for all donors that will further generate critical funding for cancer research and care at the Institute.

Larry Lucchino has repeatedly risen to the occasion for Dana-Farber and its patients in an array of leadership roles. As president and CEO of the Boston Red Sox from 2002 to 2015, he deepened the Jimmy Fund’s partnership with the team by helping to establish such beloved annual traditions as the WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon and trips to Spring Training for Jimmy Fund Clinic patients and caregivers. In 2016, Lucchino signed on as Chairman of the Jimmy Fund, serving as the lead ambassador and public spokesperson to increase grassroots support for Dana-Farber’s mission.

An Institute Trustee since 2003, Lucchino has been deeply involved in Dana-Farber’s fundraising efforts on many fronts. He served as co-chair of the Institute’s ambitious Mission Possible campaign from 2004 to 2011 and chair of the Trustee Philanthropy Committee from 2014 to 2020. He and wife Stacey rides in the Pan-Mass Challenge, and both are members of the Dana-Farber Society, a special family of forward-thinking supporters who have invested in the Institute’s future through planned giving.

Now, as The Dana-Farber Campaign continues to gain momentum, Lucchino is once again helping to lead the charge through his generous gift and his service as a member of the Campaign Cabinet. A longtime Dana-Farber patient who first came to the Institute for treatment while still living in Washington, D.C., Lucchino has personal knowledge of and gratitude for the Institute’s impact in New England, across the country, and throughout the world. And he believes that the campaign, along with all who support it, empowers Dana-Farber to make an even greater difference. “New ideas can only be generated through new funding, and the campaign allows us to pursue solutions to the problem of cancer in new, better, and different ways.” Lucchino said. “I am proud of what Dana-Farber does in and beyond our community, and I am honored to support it in any way I can.”

Nate Eovaldi named 2021 Jimmy Fund Captain

Boston Red Sox pitcher Nate Eovaldi has been named this year’s Jimmy Fund Captain, to help support and promote the mission of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Every year, a Red Sox player takes on this role to serve as an ambassador to the Jimmy Fund community, attending fundraising events, visiting patients, and building support for cancer care and research at Dana-Farber.

Many of these activities will take place virtually this year to mitigate potential spread of the virus and keep everyone safe. “Since joining the Red Sox in 2018, I have met so many incredible Dana-Farber patients and their families at the WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon,” says Eovaldi. “I’m honored and excited to become more involved. I have long admired the work of the previous Jimmy Fund Captains and look forward to playing a larger role in the special relationship between the Red Sox, Dana-Farber, and the Jimmy Fund.”

Farber Family legacy lives on through generous giving

When it comes to cancer research, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s founder, Sidney Farber, MD, is not the only family member to make an impact. His nephew James Farber serves as trustee of the Anne and Jason Farber Foundation, which has made major contributions to brain cancer research at Dana-Farber over more than 30 years. The foundation was established by Sidney’s brother Jason and his wife, Anne—James’ parents. When James lost his mother to brain cancer in 1982, supporting this research became an even more special way to celebrate the family legacy and improve the lives of brain cancer patients.

The foundation’s latest gift was designated specifically for early phase clinical research in the Center for Neuro-Oncology at Dana-Farber, which offers state-of-the-art treatment for patients with brain tumors, spinal cord tumors, and neurologic complications from cancer. National funding opportunities in brain cancer research have shifted in recent years to focus on phase 2 and phase 3 trials, leaving a gap in funding for early phase trials, which are essential in studying interactions between therapies and tumor cells.

“This gift will greatly help Dana-Farber to leverage its unique drug development expertise, tools, and clinical trial infrastructure to develop innovative treatments,” says Patrick Wen, MD, the center’s director.
Salice Foundation gift broadens patient navigation program

Residents of many Boston communities face significant barriers to accessing affordable and quality health care. With a $1 million gift from the Salice Family Foundation, Dana-Farber is reimagining its patient navigation program to build an Institute-wide program that ensures support across all disease areas for patients with suboptimal access to health care services.

The gift, which is intended to inspire other donors, advances a key strategic priority of the Institute’s comprehensive fundraising campaign by equalizing care and ensuring that everyone who is diagnosed with cancer can access Dana-Farber’s cutting-edge treatments and compassionate care. It also reinforces the Institute’s campaign commitment to deliver resources for a diverse workforce that mirrors Boston’s communities.

“We love that Dana-Farber offers the highest level of cancer care without boundaries. For many people, access to this care is unimaginable and beyond their reach, but with the support, guidance, and direction provided by the patient navigator program more lives will be given hope,” said Susan Salice, president of the Salice Family Foundation.

The Institute’s patient navigation program was created in 2005 to guide medically underserved patients and their families through the complexities of cancer screening and care in a culturally sensitive way. Based on the original model of patient navigation for vulnerable populations, the program builds one-to-one connections with patients from the beginning of their journey transitioning from their community provider to Dana-Farber.

With the Salice Foundation gift, Dana-Farber is launching a pilot patient navigation program, under the leadership of Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH, chief clinical access and equity officer; and Magnolia Contreras, MSW, MBA, vice president of community health, starting with gastrointestinal cancers. Minority communities are disproportionately represented among patients with GI cancers. Black Americans are 20% more likely to develop colon and rectal cancer and about 49% more likely to die from it than most other racial or ethnic groups. Hispanic individuals diagnosed with liver cancer are twice as likely to die as a result of the disease than non-Hispanic whites.

“As a clinician, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that patients of low socioeconomic status and patients of color face, whether it is language, transportation, or education about their treatment options,” said Lathan. “Recent events have catalyzed Dana-Farber’s institutional self-reflection on how we can apply our expertise in cancer care and community outreach to save more lives.”

By year two, Lathan anticipates that the pilot navigator in the GI clinic will be integrated into its clinical operation, and planning will begin to hire two navigators for the thoracic and hematologic oncology centers. The program will then include genitourinary oncology, with a navigator assisting men from vulnerable populations with prostate cancer. Increasing minority patient accrual in clinical trials is a priority for Dana-Farber, and additional navigators will work across the Institute to provide specialized clinical trial navigation for patients participating in research.

Compassion inspires generous gift to lymphoma research and patient assistance

For most of his career, Samuel Fleet has worked in the health insurance industry, and so he always knew of Dana-Farber by reputation. But it wasn’t until he was diagnosed with lymphoma in September 2019 that he experienced firsthand what it is like to be a patient here.

“From the moment you drive in and talk to the valet, all the way through reception, through the nursing staff and clinical staff—they’re just an amazing group of people,” said Fleet.

“It’s a testament to the culture that’s built at Dana-Farber. It’s state-of-the-art and first class.”

Impressed by his care team led by Anu LaCasce, MD, MMSc—especially his nurses, Chisom Ebele, RN, and Barbara Virchick, NP—Fleet and his wife, Debra, knew they wanted to find a meaningful way to express their gratitude, and during their time at the Institute, they were particularly moved by witnessing patients who needed financial assistance.

And so, the Fleets made a gift of $100,000 which will support lymphoma research led by LaCasce, and the Patient and Family Assistance Program under the direction of Deborah Toffert, MSW, LCSW, senior director of Patient Care Services. The gift also provides powerful momentum to The Dana-Farber Campaign, a key priority of which is to increase access to care for the underserved.

“The Fleets’ compassion for our patients has been evident throughout our time together,” said LaCasce. “This meaningful gift strengthens our ability to deliver the most cutting-edge treatments to every patient who comes through our doors.”

The Fleets’ generous gift was inspired in part by their care team, led by Anu LaCasce, MD, MMSc.
Pasquarellos pledge to advance cellular therapies research with $2 million gift

I
nstitute Trustee Ted Pasquarello and his wife, Eileen, recently made a new gift of $2 million in support of cellular therapies research under the direction of Robert Soiffer, MD, vice chair of the department of Medical Oncology and chief of the Division of Hematologic Malignancies.

The Pasquarellos’ involvement with Dana-Farber stretches back to the 1990s, when Ted was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). He underwent treatment overseen by Soiffer, which included a stem cell transplant and a new drug called imatinib—known by the brand name Gleevec—one of the earliest targeted therapies available for CML that was a gamechanger for cancer medicine. Ted, who has been in remission since 2003, points to this experience as a key motivator for funding early stage research that shows long-term promise.

“I was very fortunate to receive one of the earlier drugs, and it has led us to support research that could help somebody in the future,” said Ted. “Our donations always go to where we can make the biggest progress.”

The Pasquarellos’ new commitment provides powerful momentum to The Dana-Farber Campaign through its support of two key cellular therapy studies led by Soiffer and Jerome Ritz, MD, executive director of the Connell and O’Reilly Families Cell Manipulation Core Facility. The first is a research into harnessing natural killer (NK) cells—aggressive immune cells that can attack disease cells at a moment’s notice—to treat many forms of cancer. The second project will leverage a genetic weakness of the common Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) to develop a new class of T cells capable of treating B cell malignancies. This treatment, called CD4 T-cell therapy, aims to prompt a similar immune response as in EBV to potentially eliminate cancer and prevent recurrence.

“Ted and Eileen’s continuous philanthropic support over the years has kickedstarted several early stage projects,” said Soiffer, who also serves as chair of the Executive Committee for Clinical Programs. “Our work in cellular therapies holds tremendous promise for countless patients, and this latest commitment will help accelerate our progress.”

The Pasquarellos have seen their seed funding pay off in other projects, such as the Pasquarello Tissue Bank, which has provided researchers with invaluable patient samples for more than 20 years. The Pasquarellos’ foresight is also evident through their membership in the Dana-Farber Society, which honors those who have left a legacy to the Institute in their will, estate plans, or through other deferred and complex assets.

“When I look back over 23 years now, and I see some of the things that they’ve done and the dedication that they have, I feel grateful,” said Ted. “They eat, sleep, and think constantly about how to help patients. We’re proud to provide the capital to make it happen.”

Gronk and Camille host successful Jimmy Fund Bingo Night

S
ince 2005, Steve and Gail Cobb have dedicated not only their philanthropic support, but also their time to further the research of Dana-Farber’s Constantine Mitsiades, MD, PhD, and his colleagues studying multiple myeloma. Their advocacy for the importance of research into this chronic disease has helped bring awareness and inspire much-needed funding over the years.

Recently, along with ongoing support of clinical research led by Paul Richardson, MD, the couple pledged an additional $200,000 in support of Mitsiades, who is working to improve treatments for multiple myeloma. A portion of this gift will also fund the research of two senior post-doctoral fellows in Mitsiades’s lab: Ryosuke Shirasuki, MD, PhD, and Ricardo De Matos Simoes, PhD. This gift serves as a continuation of one of the Cobb’s earliest gifts in support of a fellowship program at Dana-Farber, and comes at a time when the Institute has pledged to further encourage the next generation of researchers as part of The Dana-Farber Campaign.

“We believe strongly in Dana-Farber’s unique ‘bench to bedside’ model for developing and proving novel therapies, and find it very rewarding to watch brilliant scientists like Drs. Mitsiades and Richardson march the myeloma therapy football down the field,” said Steve Cobb. “While much has been accomplished over the past decade, there is still an incredible amount of work to be done to get across the goal line for treating myeloma and other cancers. We encourage others to get involved and support the Dana Farber team any way you can!”

“The Cobb’s continued faith in us has been very motivating,” said Mitsiades. “This latest commitment will help us continue our work in combating drug resistance and reducing treatment toxicities—all to ensure that our patients have the best possible quality of life during and after treatment.”

Cobbs pledged renewed support for multiple myeloma research

Dana-Farber celebrated another successful Jimmy Fund Bingo Night on March 12, this time hosted by four-time Super Bowl Champion Rob Gronkowski and model and television host Camille Kostek. The virtual, interactive event, sponsored by OOFOS, was livestreamed on the Jimmy Fund Facebook page and provided an opportunity for fans and supporters to interact with Gronk and Camille as they raised money for Dana-Farber’smission. All told, the event attracted more than 16,000 viewers and raised $67,000 for Dana-Farber.

First launched in 2020 amid efforts to offer more virtual events to our community and continuing throughout 2021, Jimmy Fund Bingo Night has raised more than $150,000 since April 2020, and provided hours of family fun for supporters from all over the country who can tune in and play along from home.
Friendship, gratitude, and entrepreneurial spirit motivate lymphoma research endowment

From the moment former Institute Trustee Alan Hirschfield met Arnold Freedman, MD, in 1996, he knew he had found not only his new doctor, but a friend. Alan and his wife, Berte, knew Dana-Farber by reputation, and so when Alan was diagnosed with lymphoma, the couple came to Boston all the way from Jackson, Wyoming. Freedman impressed them so much with his compassion and expertise that they decided that he should oversee Alan’s treatment.

That was the beginning of a long and fruitful friendship between the Hirschfields and Freedman, and a long and fruitful lifetime of involvement with the Institute. In 2002, Alan was invited to join the Board of Trustees, and for many years participated in the Visiting Committee for Hematologic Oncology—now known as Dana-Farber’s Presidential Symposium—which Berte also joined and attends annually to this day.

After Alan passed away, Berte wanted to honor his legacy. She recently established an endowment to support lymphoma research conducted by early career faculty, which will be overseen by her dear friends Freedman and David Weinstock, MD, another colleague who quickly bonded with the Hirschfields. Weinstock is a Lavine Family Chair for Preventative Cancer Therapies at Dana-Farber.

“It means a great deal to me, and I know it would mean a great deal to Alan,” said Berte. “I can’t think of a better way to honor Alan and Arnie than with this gift. I have great confidence knowing Arnie and David will put the funds to the best use—they are both brilliant leaders in the field.”

The fund will be named the Alan J. Hirschfield Lymphoma Endowed Fund until Freedman retires, at which time it will be renamed the Arnold Freedman, MD, Lymphoma Endowed Fund to honor the meaningful friendship between the Hirschfields and Freedman. “I am deeply moved by this gift from Berte,” said Freedman. “Alan was a wonderful friend to me for more than 20 years, and the Hirschfields have been truly valued supporters of the Institute for just as long. This endowment will be an incredibly important resource for the Adult Lymphoma Program for many years to come.”

The fund supports the next generation of lymphoma physician-researchers at the Institute, providing powerful momentum to one of the pillars of The Dana-Farber Campaign: investing in exceptional people. For Berte, an entrepreneur with a particular passion for startups, supporting young physician-scientists was a perfect fit. “Over the years, when family members or close friends have had cancer, I suggest they go to Dana-Farber where I know they will have the best care, for Dana-Farber treats every patient equally,” said Berte. “Their profound understanding of the most current cancer protocols and their humane treatment of patients is unparalleled.”

The 300 Project forges ahead with Bliss gift

With an interdisciplinary approach and philanthropic support, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Bing Center for Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia is taking steps to defy this rare white blood cell cancer through the 300 Project, a tissue bank and sequencing effort. What started with a $260,000 gift from Tim and Ginny Bliss in 2020 has been bolstered with a new commitment of $250,000 to better understand Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia and uncover disease subtypes.

This type of personalized, patient-driven research has become a staple at Dana-Farber and is a priority of The Dana-Farber Campaign, to approach basic science projects through the lens of real-time patient care.

“We are looking at how cancer cells from patients who may not seem connected clinically may be utilizing the same networks through different mechanisms,” explains Zachary Hunter, PhD, one of the project’s leaders. “By analyzing this data, we aim to identify disease subtypes that suggest which drugs might be successful in a particular subgroup of patients.”

“As a discovery project, we have the opportunity to start new research from interesting data, which may lead to new treatment approaches,” Hunter continues. “Although these projects have the most interesting data, it’s difficult to get funding for them. Without the generous support of the Bliss family and the participating 300 patient volunteers, this project wouldn’t be possible.”

Once all data from the 300 Project has been analyzed, the team plans to make it publicly available and to develop simple diagnostic tools for each subtype, bringing personalized medicine to a broader population of patients.
Phill and Liz Gross invest nearly $1.9 million to accelerate innovative new therapies to patients

The cornerstone of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s mission is to ensure that innovative laboratory findings make their way to patient bedside. The process of taking a scientific discovery all the way to the clinic involves costly translational work that isn’t typically funded by traditional research grants. Trustee Phill Gross and his wife, Liz Cochary Gross, PhD, recognized this barrier to patient impact. “Dana-Farber is built on world-class research, but sometimes even the best projects need timely funding to get them to the next stage of development,” said Gross. “My hope is that our philanthropy can shepherd some of these projects to market, where they can make a real difference. We hope others will join us.”

The couple gave a total of $1,895,000 to Dana-Farber’s Pipeline Accelerator, an initiative that aims to launch the Institute’s most promising preclinical discoveries into the translational space—a focus of the Institute’s ambitious comprehensive campaign. The program recently instated a new director, Ramasamy Sakhivel, PhD, MBA.

Under the purview of the Belfer Office for Dana-Farber Innovations led by Lesley Solomon, senior vice president for innovation and chief innovation officer, and supported by Kevin Haigis, PhD, chief scientific officer, this extraordinary gift will support well- vetted projects that have high translational and commercialization potential, but require further preclinical study. To that end, Dana-Farber investigators submit proposals that are reviewed by an internal scientific committee, with finalists presenting their proposal to Dana-Farber’s business development council. Part of the Grosses’ funding will support new staff members to administer the program and guide investigators toward clinical impact.

“We owe Phill and Liz an enormous debt of gratitude. The research they are championing stands to make a real difference in the lives of our patients,” said Haigis.

Over the course of 2020, Pipeline Accelerator grants were awarded to Jennifer Brown, MD, PhD, director of the Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Center; Edward Chouchani, PhD; Michael Eck, MD, PhD; and Wayne Marasco, MD, PhD, all of whom are validating technologies and therapeutics that could have a profound impact on cancer care.

“This gift is an extraordinary investment in the entrepreneurial spirit of our research community,” Solomon explained. “Our investigators’ discoveries often lead to commercial interest from biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies and this funding builds on our history of successfully moving our discoveries into the world.”

As a Trustee and chair of the Trustee Science Committee at Dana-Farber—as well as a health care investor with nearly 40 years’ experience—Phill has an intimate understanding of how strategic funding can catalyze visionary projects. His and Liz’s longstanding commitment to innovative cancer research has been instrumental to navigating unforeseen challenges through the Emergency Response Fund, accelerating life-changing breakthroughs in the lab and clinic, and relentlessly pursuing a cancer-free future.

Costa Family makes a gift to help end childhood cancer

When Joe and Mary Costa were deciding where to give back, the choice was simple. Joe’s father and brother were both treated at Dana-Farber, and he was able to see firsthand the high-quality patient care that the Institute is known for. Though Joe’s father and brother both passed away, the Costas felt a connection to and appreciation for Dana-Farber, and they knew they wanted to do whatever they could to help Dana-Farber reach a world without childhood cancer.

“My wife and I decided to donate to Dana-Farber because we have been very fortunate in having three children and seven grandchildren, and all have been extremely healthy,” said Joe. “Other families have not been that fortunate, and we think it is our obligation to help knowing if we were in their situation, we would have help from them. We are just trying to pay it forward.”

The Costas’ support for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund’s mission comes at a time when the Institute has recently launched The Dana-Farber Campaign to accelerate progress toward a world without cancer—to defy cancer so that no child must manage cancer treatment while managing growing up. “We hope that this donation will help to end childhood cancer. Children especially should have a chance to live the life our family has been able to,” said Joe.
In February 18, more than 200 supporters of the Palm Beach community gathered virtually to participate in Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s premier event “Cocktails and Conversation with Our Doctors.” Graciously chaired by Institute Trustees Phyllis Knock and Judie Schlager, Dana-Farber doctors and researchers discussed the latest cancer discoveries and research advances at the Institute. In addition to the event, the Palm Beach community raised more than $1.6 million through a special appeal to support lifesaving cancer treatments and groundbreaking research discoveries for patients around the world.

The event kicked off with remarks from legendary singer-songwriter and member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame James Taylor and his wife, Kim. At the top of the evening, alongside Kim and their son, Harry, Taylor gave a heartfelt performance of “You Can Close Your Eyes.”

During the conversation portion of the night, Dana-Farber’s physician-scientists elaborated on what excites them about the future of cancer research and care, and how the Palm Beach community continues to contribute to this progress. Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, president and CEO, shared her appreciation for the Palm Beach community and gave an exclusive preview of The Dana-Farber Campaign.

Dana-Farber physician-scientist speakers included Kenneth Anderson, MD, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and LeBow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics, and the Kraft Family Professor of Medicine; Judy Garber, MD, MPH, chief of Cancer Genetics and Prevention and the Susan F. Smith Chair; Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH, chief clinical access and equity officer and associate medical director of the Dana-Farber Network; Robert J. Mayer, MD, faculty vice president for Academic Affairs and the Stephen B. Kay Family Professor of Medicine; Kimnie Ng, MD, MPH, director of Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer Center and director of Clinical Research in the Center for Gastrointestinal Oncology; and Eric P. Winer, MD, chief clinical development officer, senior vice president for Medical Affairs, chief of the Division of Breast Oncology and the Thompson Chair in Breast Cancer Research.

The evening’s vice chairs were Institute Trustee Harvey Berger and his wife, Chrysanthis, Phyllis and Paul Fireman, and Institute Trustee Michele Kessler and her husband, Howard. The co-chairs were Bruce Beal and Frank Cunningham, Dana-Farber Society member Rose Dana and her husband, Institute Trustee and Dana-Farber Society member Charles Dana, Judy and Jim Harpel, Institute Trustee Sandy Kraffoff, Vicki and Arthur Loring, Tom Quick, Institute Trustee Jean Sharf, and Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner. The virtual event was produced by Bryan Rafanelli. The night ended on a bright note as Taylor performed “Shower the People” and attendees sang along. Just before the performance began, Kenneth Anderson, MD, offered a moment of gratitude when he said, “Your heartfelt commitment, kindness, and support of our clinical and research efforts represents the epitome of caring for one another and helping those in need.”

In 2016, Bob and Tracy Corcoran’s 11-year-old son, Timmy, was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma. The family sought treatment at Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic, and after four months of chemotherapy, Timmy was declared cancer-free. Forever grateful for the lifesaving treatment and compassionate care their son received, the Corcorans joined Jimmy’s Team, a special group of loyal donors who commit to automatic, monthly gifts to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, in 2017.

“Hearing that your child has cancer is devastating—in many ways you feel powerless,” said Tracy. “Our family is forever grateful for the care our son received at Dana-Farber—care generous donors ensured was available when we needed it. By joining Jimmy’s Team, we’re doing our part to make sure that same level of care is always available to patients and families like us.”

Jimmy’s Team members support Dana-Farber’s mission with monthly donations of any amount. Recurring gifts may be directed to a research area of the donor’s choosing or unrestricted funding, a strategic priority of The Dana-Farber Campaign, offering flexible support where it is needed most.

“Jimmy’s Team is a way to provide hope and strength to those facing a cancer diagnosis.”

— TRACY CORCORAN

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**Honoring a life through saving others**

When asked to describe his work, Dana-Farber scientist David Hill, PhD, says a word that comes to mind is “serendipity.” A chance conversation in the hallway could lead to a new project, a colleague describing their research over lunch could spark a collaboration—breakthroughs, he says, are built through networks.

In 2019, Hill’s beloved wife, Deborah Allinger, passed away suddenly after an accident. In the aftermath, Hill and his daughter Lydia searched for the right way to honor her legacy. Deborah was an organ donor, and when Hill learned that her liver saved the life of a cancer patient, he thought again of serendipity. He soon after established a fund in her honor to support cancer research at Dana-Farber, under the direction of his colleague, Marc Vidal, PhD, director of the Center for Cancer Systems Biology (CCSB).

“Serendipity comes in a wide range of guises. It’s not the kind of word you’d normally associate with bad events, but the truth is that out of this tragedy people got a chance to extend their lives,” said Hill. “Deb, in her own way, made a contribution to cancer care.”

Dana-Farber’s CCSB explores cancer biology from a systems perspective—in other words, how genes and gene products interact to form complex cellular networks, perturbations of which can lead to cancer. Under Vidal’s leadership, the team will use this funding, which now totals more than $750,000, to advance the Center’s pioneering studies into the fundamental biological interactions that drive cancer.

A significant portion of this funding will support talented CCSB trainees. Supporting and mentoring women in science was a passion of Deborah’s, who mentored young people throughout her career as a mathematician. The first Deborah F. Allinger Fellow is Anupama Yadav, PhD. Investing in early career researchers is also a strategic priority of The Dana-Farber Campaign.

“We were all devastated by the news of Deborah’s tragic accident two years ago. We are dedicated to honor Deborah’s life through the use of this amazingly gracious gift. We will never be able to thank Lydia and Dave enough for their generosity,” said Vidal.

**Asciones support research today, for patients tomorrow**

Mike and Kate Ascione are longtime supporters of Dana-Farber through their involvement with the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC)—for more than 16 years, the family has ridden, volunteered, recruited people to join, and Mike also serves on the PMC Board of Directors.

The family has also experienced firsthand what it means to have a loved one become a patient. Several relatives have been treated here, including two of Kate’s uncles and Mike’s father, Frank. Sadly, Frank lost his battle with stage IV micropapillary bladder cancer.

In honor of the care that their family members received, the Asciones established the Frank Ascione Genitourinary Cancer Research Fund with a $500,000 endowed gift made through the PMC. The gift supports a range of research endeavors, from technological advancements in cancer research—and the power that philanthropy can provide to make it happen.

“In the past year alone, the Lank Center has moved forward on several key advancements, including refinement of an early detection blood test for kidney cancer and a new combination therapy that recently received FDA approval,” said Choueiri. “These breakthroughs were years in the making, and I’m grateful that the Asciones see the value in our work and what it could mean for countless patients in the future.”

Enhancing early detection and expanding treatment options are priorities of The Dana-Farber Campaign.

“The dollars you put toward research matter, and advancements made at Dana-Farber are leveraged around the world,” said Mike. “We are in a race to continue to drive cancer treatment, and Kate and I are grateful to have the opportunity to honor Frank Ascione and advance critical genitourinary research in his name.”

**The Imagine Display**

Add your name, or that of a loved one, to The Imagine Display, made possible by the Lucchino Family. Make a contribution that supports Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission and choose an element in the periodic table, a star in the sky, a Boston landmark, or much more.

To learn more about The Imagine Display and one-of-a-kind naming options, visit ImagineDisplay.org
The Helen Gurley Brown Foundation, established as The Pussycat Foundation in 2010 by longtime Cosmopolitan magazine editor-in-chief Helen Gurley Brown, recently renewed its support for Dana-Farber by funding two programs aimed at empowering women in science with a grant of $2,350,000 for 22 women faculty and fellows.

The first of these programs is The Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Initiative, launched in 2016, which pairs senior women faculty and women fellows for two years, providing an opportunity for early career scientists to benefit from the mentorship of senior scientists who understand the unique challenges faced by women in academic medicine. The new grant supports 10 such partnerships.

In 2020, the foundation expanded its impact with the newly established Helen Trailblazer Awards. This program provides funding to women assistant professors to propel their research and careers to the next level, further cementing their leadership in their respective field. The inaugural recipients, Himisha Beltran, MD, and Kira Bona, MD, MPH, will use the funding to advance their important work in developing new treatments for prostate cancer and identifying novel epigenetic changes driving pediatric cancer disparities, respectively.

“We are delighted to partner once again with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to further our mission of inspiring and mentoring future generations of women leaders,” said Eve Burton, president of the Helen Gurley Brown Foundation. “The newly launched Helen Trailblazer Awards are emblematic of our commitment to empowering women with the resources they need to thrive.”

Beltran is studying the biology of small cell neuroendocrine prostate cancer (NEPC)—an aggressive, late-stage form of prostate cancer that currently has no approved therapies. With this new funding, Beltran aims to explore the use of T cells to target the protein DLL3 expressed on the surface of NEPC cells, and to develop effective combination treatment strategies. Her research will be crucial to developing combination therapies for patients who have developed resistance to treatment.

Bona is studying the biological impact of poverty on pediatric B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Her data over the last decade demonstrates that children with cancer who come from low-income families experience higher rates of relapse and decreased overall survival compared to children from non-low-income families when treated on the same clinical trials. With this funding, Bona will explore whether physiological responses to poverty-associated stress result in cancers that are more resistant to chemotherapy.

“The current approach to disparities research in pediatrics is to consider social and behavioral risk factors as targets for intervention,” said Bona. “This study challenges that paradigm and has the potential to change our approaches to therapy.”

Since 2016, the Helen Gurley Brown Foundation has provided more than $5 million in support of women faculty and fellows at Dana-Farber. Through The Dana-Farber Campaign, the Institute has prioritized faculty development and reducing disparities in health care; donors like the Helen Gurley Brown Foundation ensure success in these areas.

In a year full of challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, Jimmy Fund golfers showed resilience in their ability to adapt and continue raising vital funds for Dana-Farber’s lifesaving mission. And their efforts did not go unnoticed—in March, Jimmy Fund Golf celebrated this incredible community at the first-ever virtual Golf Appreciation Night. Guests were treated to an evening of award presentations and special remarks in recognition of their tremendous dedication—dedication that resulted in more than $4 million raised in 2020.

Speakers included Anne Gross, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, senior vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer, and patient speaker and tournament director Dave Worden, who shared how his experiences as a patient inspired him to start his tournament, the Dave Worden Classic.

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Family’s fundraising contributes to first global symposium for a rare and aggressive carcinoma

Ryan Richards was known among his family and friends for his sense of humor, enthusiasm for life, and willingness to always lend a hand when needed. Ryan was diagnosed with NUT carcinoma, a very rare and aggressive disease, and within months of being diagnosed and shortly after the birth of his daughter, Nora, he passed away at the age of 40. To honor his memory, his brothers Robbie, Michael, wife, Colleen, and a group of Ryan’s close friends founded The Ryan Richards Foundation in 2016.

To date, the foundation has donated more than $1.35 million in support of NUT carcinoma research under the direction of Ryan’s doctor, Geoffrey Shapiro, MD, PhD, senior vice president of Developmental Therapeutics, and helped launch the first International Symposium for NUT Carcinoma which brought together doctors and researchers from around the world to discuss treatment options and patient advocacy for this rare disease.

“I truly believe Dr. Shapiro is the reason Ryan was able to meet Nora,” said Colleen McGrath Richards, Ryan’s wife. “Ryan would help anybody. So in return, we want to help the research at Dana-Farber, so that there are more options for these patients and families.”

The foundation was inspired by Ryan’s doctors and is motivated to continue fundraising on their behalf at annual events on Cape Cod where Ryan grew up and enjoyed summers. These fundraisers include the Falmouth Road Race (one of Ryan’s favorite road races), a bike ride through Cape Cod, and an auction/live music event.

Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation fuels more vital research to mark 25th anniversary

In 1996, Gabrielle Rich Aused’s family created Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for Cancer Research with the mission to accelerate the development of more effective therapies for leukemia, lymphoma, and related disorders. In the 25 years since Gabrielle passed away, the foundation has made progress possible by funding innovative scientific research and efforts to elevate standards of patient care. Dana-Farber has been fortunate to receive many years of support from the foundation, including its latest $225,000 grant toward novel work being led by Sahand Hormoz, PhD. Hormoz, whose focus is in systems biology and cellular dynamics, has been empowered by the foundation to launch a study to better understand how cells transition from one state to another during development, for tissue maintenance, and in cancer progression. The team’s work to reconstruct the genealogical history of blood cancer cells using single-cell sequencing will help answer questions about why the same genetic alteration can result in drastically different forms of disease in different patients. With such critical funding, he and his team have the potential to identify biomarkers or key pathways that could lead to earlier diagnostic methods or new drug targets, essential goals of The Dana-Farber Campaign.

“We are proud that together with Dr. Hormoz, we are honoring Gabrielle’s legacy and loving spirit by making important strides in advancing progress and improving clinical outcomes for cancer patients everywhere,” said Denise Rich, Gabrielle’s mother and Founder, Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation.

A doctor’s legacy advances gynecologic cancer research

Marilyn Seskin, MD, devoted her life to science and medicine. When she was diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer in 2016, she turned to science for answers, committed to doing what she could to ensure other women would not have to face her disease. Though she passed away in 2019, Marilyn’s legacy lives on through the Dr. Marilyn Seskin Fund for Gynecologic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber, under the direction of her doctor, Ursula Maroulakis, MD, chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology.

“Marilyn’s life was a story of perseverance. She believed that science held the answers and that research was the way to find those answers,” said Bob Sugarman, Marilyn’s husband. “She supported research so that, in her own words, no woman would have to suffer the way she did. Seeing her name given to research to conquer the disease that took her from us is her legacy.”

Finding cures for the most intractable forms of cancer is a priority of The Dana-Farber Campaign, and Marilyn’s foresight has provided more than $151,000 to gynecologic cancer research and prevention. Her Trust will also provide ongoing annual support and secures future funding for Marilyn’s fund. To commemorate this special commitment, a research laboratory at the Institute has been named in her honor.

“I’m very grateful to have received this meaningful gift from Marilyn,” said Maroulakis, who is also the Brock-Wilson Family Chair at Dana-Farber. “Funding like this ensures that my team and I have the resources we need to pursue cutting-edge research that will save lives.”

Paying it Forward4Tobi

Tobi Klonecki was warm, magnetic, and full of joy,” remembers Rebecca Linscott, president of the Forward4Tobi Foundation. Before she died in 2013 at age 42, Tobi lived for four years with stage IV metastatic breast cancer (MBC). Tobi made the best of her “new normal” with her children, husband Tom, and loved ones, counting herself lucky for having means and a supportive community. She cherished friendships with fellow MBC patients—her “mets sisters.” Suddently that financial hardship hurt so many, she dreamed of paying forward her good fortune. Her husband and close friends established the 100% volunteer-run Forward4Tobi to fulfill her dream of helping women with breast cancer and their families focus on treatment and living life, by supporting financial assistance for needs like groceries, transportation to appointments, and rent.

In 2020, Forward4Tobi made gifts totaling $200,000 to Dana-Farber. A portion will provide crisis funds for breast cancer patients, especially young mothers like Tobi. Senior director of Patient Care Services, Deborah Toffler, MSW, LCSW, said, “We deeply appreciate these funds, which make a tremendous, timely difference to patients and families experiencing financial distress.”

The rest supports the Presidential Initiatives Fund, a key priority of The Campaign for Dana-Farber, and is recognized with a consultation room in the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care named in loving honor of Tobi. She and Tom found their consultation room a warm and comfortable space that encouraged a human connection with their care team. This meaningful tribute to Tobi honors her wish to ensure others experience the same comfort.
Donor honors her mother through support of groundbreaking tool to aid in early detection of ovarian cancer

For several years, Dipanjan Chowdhury, PhD, chief of the Division of Radiation and Genome Stability at Dana-Farber, has been working to improve early detection tools for ovarian cancer. Often referred to as a “silent” disease, ovarian cancer is typically asymptomatic in its earliest, most treatable stages. As a result, most women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer when it is at an advanced stage, at which point only about a quarter of patients will survive for at least five years.

For Veronica de Piante Vicin, these statistics are personal. Her late mother, Ana Maria Lolla, faced advanced ovarian cancer twice in her lifetime, and the disease unfortunately runs in the family. Her mother was treated overseas, with consultations from the Dana-Farber care team, and during this time, de Piante Vicin resolved herself to helping spare others from the pain of ovarian cancer if she could.

When Ana Maria ultimately passed away in 2014, that desire to help grew stronger. And when de Piante Vicin was introduced to Chowdhury and his research at Dana-Farber, she knew right away that she wanted to get involved. In 2016, she established the Ovarian Cancer Early Detection Fund in honor of Ana Maria Lolla. "Dipanjan is just so passionate. He really believes he is going to get there,” said de Piante Vicin. “He believes he’ll actually get the results that are needed to help so many women.”

Chowdhury and his colleagues discovered a specific set of 14 circulating microRNAs (miRNAs)—a type of molecule that helps cells control the kinds and amounts of proteins they make—in the blood of ovarian cancer patients. Over the last few years, his team has been using this knowledge to develop a highly sensitive blood test that can detect early-stage disease.

"Ovarian cancer detected early is more curable, so the development of accurate and sensitive tests is an enormous priority for high-risk families,” said Chowdhury, who also serves as co-director of the Center for BRCA and Related Genes at Dana-Farber. "We have seen tremendous progress over the last few years, and that's thanks in large part to supporters like Veronica who believe in this work and what it could mean for countless women.”

Early detection is a major priority of The Dana-Farber Campaign, and Chowdhury’s research is the kind of approach that could make that goal a reality. But the faith that de Piante Vicin has in Chowdhury as a person represents what makes Dana-Farber so special to so many: the brilliant, compassionate people behind the mission.

"There’s a positivity about Dipanjan that’s infectious, that’s tangible, and my mother had the same positivity, even throughout treatment,” said de Piante Vicin. “I think she would be immensely proud to know that it’s in her name and that this test could avoid a lot of the pain. She’d be very, very happy.”

Critical investment advances uterine cancer research

The Lewin Fund To Fight Women’s Cancers

As part of Dana-Farber’s ambitious new campaign, the Lewin Fund to Fight Women’s Cancers made a generous $100,000 gift to support uterine serous carcinoma (USC) research under the direction of Joyce Liu, MD, MPH, building on the Fund’s earlier $50,000 gift to support Panos Konstantinopoulos, MD, PhD. Both gifts were made in memory of Mary Lou Ashford.

This hard-to-treat subtype accounts for about 10% of uterine cancers but up to 40% of deaths from the disease. “Even though uterine cancer is the most common gynecologic cancer in the United States, with rising cases annually, it is very underfunded,” said Sharyn Lewin, MD, president and executive director of the Lewin Fund. "This new grant reflects our ongoing commitment to Dana-Farber’s critical gynecologic cancer research.”

"This new grant reflects our ongoing commitment to Dana-Farber’s critical gynecologic cancer research.” — SHARYN LEWIN, MD, president and executive director, The Lewin Fund

Leveraging the Lewin Fund’s most recent gift, Liu aims to better understand how defects in cellular DNA repair mechanisms could be exploited to sensitize cancer cells to treatment. Liu is currently leading a clinical trial of a drug called a WEE1 inhibitor, which helps trigger increased levels of DNA damage in cells, resulting in death of the cancer cells in patients with USC. As part of this effort, Liu and her team are also studying patient samples from the trial, as well as conducting simultaneous explorations in research models, to try and pinpoint biomarkers that could predict how USC cells might respond to WEE1.

"I am deeply grateful for the Lewin Fund’s powerful investment in our efforts to improve outcomes for patients with uterine serous carcinoma, which has the potential to provide new hope to those facing this devastating cancer,” said Liu, associate chief and director of clinical research of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology.

VERONICA DE PIANTE VICIN established a fund to support early detection research in honor of her mother.

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Make-A-Wish honors 33 years of partnership with Dana-Farber

Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island recently presented Dana-Farber Cancer Institute with its 2021 Community Hero Award. The award recognizes an organization or individual providing vital partnership in the Make-A-Wish® mission of creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses, and honors a 33-year partnership between the organization and the Institute.

Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD (above), received the award on April 10 at the Make-A-Wish® Gala: Heroes for Hope, a live virtual event.

“It is an honor to receive this award that recognizes Dana-Farber’s commitment to create the best possible experience for our patients and their families,” said Glimcher. “We are proud to work with community leaders like Make-A-Wish who share our devotion to patients facing cancer. It is inspiring for all of us at Dana-Farber to do our part to bring joy to a patient’s life as they make and fulfill their wish.”

The Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research

The Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer and Hale Family Center for Cancer Research include scientists exploring germline genetics, functional genomics, chemical biology, computational biology, cancer metabolism, immunotherapy, and laboratory model system development, as well as clinicians specializing in medical oncology, radiation oncology, radiology, pathology, gastroenterology, and leadership of clinical trials. This highly collaborative research environment has already had numerous successes, including:

- Contributions to the first approval of a targeted drug for patients with pancreatic cancer.
- Creation of a comprehensive early detection program for patients with inherited risk of pancreatic cancer.
- Discovery of a new gene for inherited pancreatic cancer by studying pancreatic cancer-prone families.
- Detailed genetic studies that contributed to national guidelines which now recommend inherited genetic testing and tumor DNA sequencing for all patients with a new diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.
- Completion of the most comprehensive map of the pancreatic cancer immune microenvironment documented to date.
- Establishment of one of the world’s most advanced clinical trials programs for pancreatic cancer.

Together with Judy established a fund in 2007 to support pancreatic cancer research.

The Hale Family’s commitment to pancreatic cancer research and care has continued across the generations. Judith Hale created the Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer in 2012, and with her son and daughter-in-law, established the current Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research in 2016.

In addition, the Hale’s company, Granite Telecommunications, and its employees have supported research at Dana-Farber and other institutions by providing millions of dollars through corporate philanthropy and popular annual events.

“I am inspired by the Hale’s determination and commitment to the mission we all share,” said Josh Bekenstein, chairman of the Board of Dana-Farber. “They are a model for others of the bold, forward-thinking philanthropy that has meant so much progress for patients throughout Dana-Farber’s history.”

“Weirdly, this extremely generous gift from the Hale Family, we have an incredible opportunity to transform how pancreatic cancer is diagnosed and treated,” said Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, director of the Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research and the Robert T. and Judith B. Hale Chair in Pancreatic Cancer at Dana-Farber. “We share their deep commitment to ending pancreatic cancer, and the entire Hale Center team is exceptionally grateful for—and energized by—their trust and longtime financial support.”

In 1993, Emily Sherwood’s sister, Daryl Layzer, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and sought care at Dana-Farber under Kenneth Anderson, MD, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and Lebow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics and Kraft Family Professor of Medicine. Daryl underwent a bone marrow and stem cell transplant—new and cutting-edge treatments at that time—which was facilitated by Emily being an almost identical genetic match to her sister.

“Through this treatment, Emily was able to see firsthand the incredible care and expertise Anderson and his team provided. “Dr. Anderson has won almost every major accolade in his field, yet he is the most modest, self-effacing, humble person we’ve ever met. He cares about every patient as if he or she were his own family member.”

After Daryl’s passing, Emily and her husband, Ned, created the Daryl Elizabeth Layzer Fellowship under the direction of Anderson. Fellowship programs like these support Dana-Farber’s best and brightest—a core part of the Dana-Farber Campaign. Since the fellowship’s inception, the Sherwoods have continued to support this program, most recently with a $200,000 gift.

“We’ve had the opportunity to meet many brilliant and dedicated scientists in Dr. Anderson’s lab, and it’s gratifying to know that there are so many great minds collaborating on a cure for Multiple Myeloma,” Emily says. “Although Daryl’s life was cut far too short, it’s gratifying to help others live out their lives to the fullest extent possible.”

“Too short” was indeed the case for Daryl, who died from a pancreatic cancer recurrence in 2016. He was just 51 years old.

It was in her brother’s honor that Emily continued to do good work. Being inspired by Daryl, Emily established the Daryl Sherwood Family Fund in 2016, a fund that makes it easier for people to make a gift to Dana-Farber.

Decades of a sister’s support for a cure and treatment

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Ned and Emily Sherwood.

Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, leads the Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

Hale Family continued from page 1
The Charles A. King Trust renews support for fellowships

The Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program, which supports postdoctoral fellows and physician-scientists in nonprofit academic, medical, or research institutions in Massachusetts, recently awarded grants totaling $333,096 to three Dana-Farber fellows. Established in 1936, the Charles A. King Trust, aided by Bank of America and its predecessor Banks, which has served as Corporate Trustee throughout the trust’s history, was created to promote the investigation of human disease and the alleviation of human suffering through improved treatment. The Sara Elizabeth O’Brien Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee, established in 1981 to support blindness and cancer medical research, also funds awards through the King Trust Fellowship Program.

The Dana-Farber awardees are Shengqiong Gu, PhD, the Sara Elizabeth O’Brien Trust Postdoctoral Fellow, who is studying innovative treatments for triple-negative breast cancer; Hannah Uckelmann, PhD, MSc, who is studying the role of the protein menin in the self-renewal of leukemia to reveal new therapeutic targets; and Wen Zhou, PhD, who is researching how the cGAS enzyme—which impacts the body’s immune response to cancer—can be regulated to create new avenues for disease suppression.

“These researchers are crucial to the continued medical advancement in the treatment of cancer.”

— KIMBERLY LEZAK, The Medical Foundation at Health Resources in Action

The Dana-Farber Campaign

Theranostics

Imagine if, with a single scan, we could simultaneously detect a patient’s cancer and target it with drugs that both diagnose and eradicate the tumors. That is the promise of theranostics, an exciting new medical specialty being pioneered at Dana-Farber. Your gift to The Dana-Farber Campaign could advance this radical new approach to finding cancers early and stopping their spread.

join us: defycancer.org

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

SUMMER 2021 | Impact 15
**ALL SUMMER**

**Jimmy Fund Little League**
Presented by Franklin Sports

Join Jimmy Fund Little League in its 35th season. Players extend their baseball season and take to the communities to raise vital funds for patient care research. Visit JimmyFundLittleLeague.org or contact Robert Hendrickson at JimmyFund.LittleLeague@dfci.harvard.edu.

**AUGUST 8-7**

**Pan-Mass Challenge**

Registration is open for the PMC, the nation’s single most successful athletic fundraiser, which donates 100% of every ribbon-raised dollar to Dana-Farber. Routes from 25 to 211 miles, as well as Reimagined options, cater to all levels of cycling ability and fundraising capacity. Sites will fill fast, so register today at PMC.org. Commit— you’ll figure it out!

**AUGUST 15-17**

**ASICS Falmouth Road Race**

Run the Falmouth Road Race with Dana-Farber’s team this summer! Register for the virtual race August 7-14, with the chance of running the iconic 7-mile course in person on August 15. Visit RunDanaFarber.org for the latest race updates and to donate to a runner or contact Kelly Yardley at DFRunners@dfci.harvard.edu.

**AUGUST 14**

**Swim Across America**

**NEW EVENT** for the Boston Harbor Open Water Swim. Castle Island at Pleasure Bay. We welcome swimmers of all ages and skill levels to support quality of the clinical research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. To register or donate, visit SwimAcrossAmerica.org/Boston.

**AUGUST 19-22**

**Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl®**
Presented by Valvoline Instant Oil Change

The nation’s largest all-you-can-eat ice cream festival paused in 2020 to keep ice cream lovers safe. For 2021, we are bringing Boston’s favorite summer tradition right to you! Purchase a Scooper Bowl in a box ice cream kit for pick up from locations around Greater Boston to enjoy at home, and support cancer research and care at Dana-Farber. Visit ScooperBowl.org or contact Jillian Davis at ScooperBowl@dfci.harvard.edu.

**AUGUST 24-25**

**WEEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon**
Presented by Arbella Insurance

We’re all Jimmy! Tune in to WEEI 97.3 FM and New England Sports Network (NESN) on August 24 & 25 to hear stories of hope and inspiration from Dana-Farber patients, families, and clinicians. Help strike out cancer by making a donation during the broadcast, which spans two Boston Red Sox games. Learn more at JimmyFundRadioTelethon.org or contact Briana Lynch-Hostad at JimmyFundRadio@dfci.harvard.edu.

**SEPTEMBER 17-19**

**B.A.A. Half Marathon®**
Run 13.1 miles for the Dana-Farber team in this year’s virtual B.A.A. Half, between September 17 and 19. Register to run, support a runner, or learn more at RunDanaFarber.org or contact Aly Adolph at DFRunners@dfci.harvard.edu.

**OCTOBER 3**

**Boston Marathon®**
**Jimmy Fund Walk: Your Way**
Presented by Hyundai

Take steps to defy cancer in your local community in the annual Jimmy Fund Walk: Your Way— virtually once again in 2021. Register now to learn more at JimmyFundWalk.org or contact Mary Pernon at MaryP@dfci.harvard.edu.

**OCTOBER 8-11**

**Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge**

DFMC team members will cover the Boston Marathon® distance this October, whether running the historic course or in their own neighborhoods. Apply to run, support a runner, or learn more at RunDFMC.org or contact Kelly Wals at DFRunners@dfci.harvard.edu.

**NOW-OCTOBER 15**

**Jimmy Fund Golf Challenge**

Join the Jimmy Fund Golf Challenge and defy cancer with every swing. Fundraise in support of cancer care and research to earn a tee time at the Cape Club of Sharon in Sharon, Mass., on Monday, August 30. Visit JimmyFundGolfChallenge.org or contact Victoria Fox at JimmyFund_Golf@dfci.harvard.edu.
We invite you to be a part of this extraordinary community as we embark on The Dana-Farber Campaign. You can help us in our mission to find effective treatment options for every patient, detect cancer earlier, and prevent cancer from even occurring. Every gift makes a difference. There is no time to waste. defycancer.org
PEOPLE DON'T EXPECT TO DEVELOP CANCER. But when they do, they want to know there is a place with the brightest, most talented, and most compassionate experts to care for them. They want hope. They want a cure. That is why we are announcing The Dana-Farber Campaign. Help us Defy Cancer.

join us

defycancer.org