In Memory of

New drugs that inhibit metastasis

Experimental compounds to identify resistance markers

$5,000 $2,500 $1,000 $500

Inhibit the spread of cancer biology assays to test if treatments target and precision medicine

Lifestylechannel

Think Tank Forum on Translational Cancer Research & Investments in Oncology

Many world-leading translational cancer researchers discussed three areas: Immunotherapy, Precision Medicine, and Investment in Oncology Start-ups. This forum helps our research community remain at the cutting edge of science where breakthroughs become new drugs and technologies to best detect and treat cancer.

Luncheon & Fireside Chat on Women’s Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Mentorship in Life Sciences

Women leaders discussed this timely topic; NFCR now provides extensive opportunities for coaching, networking, and financial resources for female-led oncology start-ups. We celebrated the innovative achievements from our tailored program to help underfunded women entrepreneurs in oncology.

Dinner & Award Ceremony for Szent-Györgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research

Dr. Susan Horwitz, supported by NFCR donors for over 20 years, received the 2020 Szent-Györgyi Prize. She pioneered how Taxol and other anti-tumor drugs from natural sources work, benefiting over 1 million breast, ovarian, lung, and pancreatic cancer patients.

Dr. Tak Mak and Dr. Mark Davis, discoverers of the structure of T-cell receptors - a critical part of contemporary immunotherapy, received the 2021 Prize. Their efforts bring increased clinical benefits to patients with blood cancer and solid tumors.

NFCR is proud to recognize prominent scientists who are pioneers in “translating” their early discoveries made in the lab into effective treatments through preclinical studies. Translational research propels groundbreaking cancer therapies closer and faster to patients’ bedside.

On October 30, NFCR held a hybrid event, allowing for in-person and virtual audience engagement. The day consisted of three events to celebrate progress in translational research and entrepreneurship.

TRIUMPHS IN TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Together, we can make the triumph of science possible. Together, we will leave no cancer behind. Together, we can provide hope to the millions of people diagnosed with cancer each year. Your continued partnership in our mission is critically needed to fund high-risk, high-reward research that will save lives.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Gifts with Immediate Impact

Cash gifts can be made by check, credit card, or via a donor advised fund (DAF).

Honor & Memorial Giving: Donate via mail or online to memorialize or pay tribute to a loved one. Visit nfcr.org/memorial

Monthly Giving: Join us as a Champion for a Cure with your monthly sustaining gift. It is quick and easy to sign up. Visit nfcr.org/monthly

Stock gifts (long-term securities, including stocks and bonds) can offer significant tax benefits.

Charitable IRA Rollers can be made directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to NFCR. Donors must be at least 70 ½ years old. Charitable IRAs may provide tax benefits. Check with your attorney on the benefits of your contribution.

Corporate Matching Gifts: If your company has a matching gift program, you can enhance the impact of your gift. Check with your HR Department for guidelines and gift matching forms.

Create a Legacy

Charitable Gift Annuities are gifts that provide guaranteed income to a donor for life (and/or life of a spouse) with a portion eligible for tax deduction.

Wills or Living Trusts are popular because they are easy to arrange and may be changed at any time you choose. A provision or amendment prepared by your attorney is all that is necessary.

Thank you for your support

National Foundation for Cancer Research a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charity (Tax ID: 04-2531031) 5515 Security Lane, Suite 1105, Rockville, MD 20852

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IN MEMORY OF A PASSIONATE SUPPORTER

As we prepared the below highlight of the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund for its loyal support of NFCR, we sadly learned of the passing of their Executive Director.

In her memory, and that of too many others, our scientists continue to race in the marathon to beat this terrible disease.

"As a metastatic breast cancer patient undergoing treatment, I intimately know that patients and research are in a marathon. The record speed in the development of the COVID-19 vaccine came from the groundwork of past research. Other diseases demand similar critical attention and research. We have supported NFCR since 1999. We appreciate that their national position promotes a thoughtful continuum where feedback loops from across the country to inform research, coordination, and collaboration. NFCR help break down the silos that stifle research."—Erika Cornelisen, Executive Director, The Alvin H. Baum Fund

Joel Friedman, President, The Alvin H. Baum Fund

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

The Power of Your Donation

$250 Supplies 1 case of lab dishes to grow cancer cells to identify the abnormal genes

$500 Allows 1 antibody test to determine if cancer cells have a drug resistance marker

$1,000 Performs genome-wide analysis in 1 tumor sample to develop targeted and precision medicine

$2,500 Tests effectiveness of new immunotherapy in cancer cells

$5,000 Conducts molecular biology assays to test if treatments inhibit the spread of cancer

$10,000 Purchases 5,000 experimental compounds to identify new drugs that inhibit metastasis

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Detect, Treat & Monitor Metastatic Cancer
Since 2008, NFCR supporters helped Paul Fisher, M.Ph., Ph.D. develop IL/24 gene immunotherapy to treat many types of metastatic or spreading cancer. With genetic engineering of a package of genes together with IL/24, the therapy can:
• Detect cancer when combined with genes that direct it to only cancer cells.
• Treat cancer by causing cells to commit suicide (not healthy cells!)
• Monitor treatment effects with an added imaging gene that medial scans detect the shrinking tumors.
This therapy and other versions sensitize cancer cells to immunotherapy, chemotheraphy, and radiation.
IL/24 gene therapy is advancing through pre-clinical research with NFCR’s AIM-HI Translational funding. InterLekin Combinatorial Therapies, Inc. will first bring IL/24 gene therapy to clinical trials to treat fatal brain cancer, giving patients fresh hope.

Inhibiting Cancer’s Blood Vessels to Halt Cancer
Xiang-Lei Yang, Ph.D. and her team discovered a new piece to the puzzle of how blood vessel formation is regulated that may significantly impact cancer treatment. Previously, Dr. Yang identified a protein-building enzyme, SerRS, that inhibits the formation of tumor blood vessels - starving cancer of oxygen needed for its growth. Her team has now identified proteins in breast cancer that silence SerRS so new blood vessels could sprout and tumors can flourish.

Development of approaches to keep SerRS active in cancer cells could become a new effective anti-cancer therapy.

Precision Medicine for Uterine Cancer Patients
Wei Zhang, Ph.D. used cutting-edge technologies on 547 uterine cancer (or endometrial) samples to learn why a subset of patients with advanced cancer have a favorable response to chemotherapy and greater survival. His team discovered how specific mutations in the IK gene in some samples sensitize the cancer to chemotherapy. These results may guide stratification of future patients and their prognosis and help replace “one size fits all” therapies—in precision medicine based on a tumor’s unique genetic profile.

Benefits of Tumor Microenvironment Research
Rakesh Jain, Ph.D. advanced his renowned research on the environment around tumors and our immune system.
• Demonstrated exercise in breast cancer brings cancer-killing immune cells into tumors, reseensitizing cancer to immunotherapy!
• Applied a model for cancer therapy based on inflammation and the immune system — to make COVID-19 treatments more effective.
These findings have significant implications for improving treatment efficacy and patient survival.

Restoring Precious Vision in Cancer Patients
Some cancers produce antibodies that reach and damage the retina, causing blindness in patients. Gene therapy pioneers Jean Bennett, M.D., Ph.D. (shown top) and Katherine Nubla, M.D., Ph.D., are combining gene and cell replacement therapy to reverse the damage in the retina. Pilot transplantation of healthy retinal cells into disease models shows that cells survive the method. Genes will now be added for complete cell functioning.

Your support gives many cancer patients hope they may see again.

Advancing Women Leaders & Entrepreneurs in Oncology
2021 Semi-Finalists: (top row, l to r) Maria Varela | Stacy Blain, Ph.D. | Amanda Schalk, Ph.D. | Johanna Holliday, M.D. | Annelise Soulier, Ph.D. (bottom row, l to r) Carly Sindeliehr, Ph.D. | Amanda Gutch, Ph.D. | Izabella Tzworowska, Ph.D. | Martina Ross, Ph.D. | Rojin Sacha-Fainaro, Ph.D.

The AIM-HI Accelerator Fund was established in 2019 with a grant from NFCR. It is a non-profit organization assisting translation of cancer drug discoveries by investing in early-stage oncology companies, including ones associated with NFCR-affiliated scientists.
One shared highlight of the two organizations in 2021 is the 2nd annual AIM-HI Women’s Venture Competition. The Selection Committee screen applications from 57 start-up companies and 10 semi-finalists advanced to the virtual competition on August 2, 2021.
The winner will be announced this fall. These entrepreneurs are translating the most promising new therapies for melanoma and lung, breast, pancreatic cancers, to name a few, to patients’ bedside.

“...I am proud to say that I have done my part to expand the reach of medicine by supporting the Young Fellows Program,” says Luisia.

NFCR is honored to have Luisia’s support and commitment to the Young Fellows Program. Together - we can train the next generation of physician-scientists who can save lives.

Young Fellows Program
Lusia Gaspanyan owns Amenity Health services and Valley Village Hospice in the Los Angeles area. She sees first-hand how patients suffer from illness and incurable diseases. To make a difference in the future of the cancer community, she found NFCR’s Young Fellows Program in her needs.
NFCR and Lusia believe young scientists are the essence of the future of the cancer community, she found.

Together – we can save lives. Thank you, Safeway Foundation, for being our loyal partner in Research for a Cure.
To learn more about the Center and NFCR-supported clinical trials, please visit NFCR.org/patient-hub