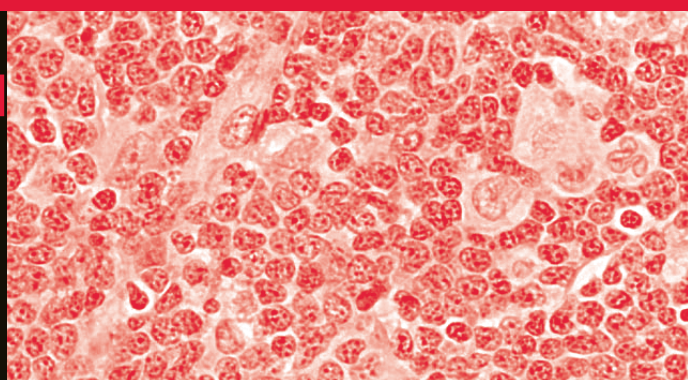


RESEARCH Report



Foundation Awards \$1.62 Million in Lymphoma Research and Training Grants



2016 Clinical Investigator Career Development Award recipient Jonathon Cohen, MD, MS, of Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University, with Chief Executive Officer Meghan Gutierrez during a Lymphoma Research Foundation scientific meeting.

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) recently announced its 2016 grant class. Comprised of twelve grants totaling \$1.62 million, the 2016 class includes grantees in the Foundation's Young Investigator Grants program as well as the Follicular Lymphoma Pathways grant, designed to support senior investigators researching issues specific to the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of follicular lymphoma.

"We are confident that the research portfolio that we are able to put forth

today will have an incredible impact and yield direct results for lymphoma patients," said Dr. Leo I. Gordon, Chair of the LRF Scientific Advisory Board. "The aggressive research agenda that the Lymphoma Research Foundation has set forth is indicative of their continued drive to lead the way for young researchers, putting the LRF squarely at the forefront of lymphoma and CLL research."

This year's grantees represent ten institutions in ten states. Two Clinical Investigator Career Development Award

(CDA) recipients, Jonathon Cohen, MD of Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University, and Matthew McKinney, MD of Duke University Medical Center, each received a three year, \$225,000 award. Dr. McKinney is the first CDA recipient from Duke University, while Dr. Cohen is the second LRF Scholar to follow participation in the Lymphoma Clinical Research Mentoring Program (LCRMP) with a successful CDA application.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant recipients include Pilar Dominguez Rodriguez, PhD of Weill Cornell Medicine, and David Quach, PhD of Baylor University School of Medicine, each receiving a two-year, \$105,000 award. The Young Investigator grantees also include six participants in the Lymphoma Clinical Research Mentoring Program, known as LRF Scholars. The 2016 Scholars – Lapo Alinari, MD, PhD, of The Ohio State University, Connie Batlevi, MD, PhD of

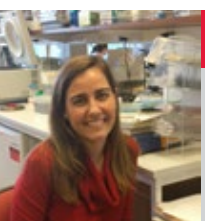
[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

"The research portfolio that we put forth today will have an incredible promise for impact and yield direct results for lymphoma patients."

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE: Profiles of the Foundation's 2016 Grantees

Page 4

The Foundation's 2016 grantees, including Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant recipient Pilar Dominguez Rodriguez, PhD of Weill Cornell Medicine (pictured, left), discuss their research projects and commitment to the study and investigation of lymphoma.





Dear LRF Friends and Supporters,

I am pleased to bring you this edition of *Research Report*, highlighting our most recent class of grantees. Supporting innovative lymphoma research is central to the Foundation's mission, and as several of our new grantees note in their profiles, receiving a Lymphoma Research Foundation grant provides crucial early-stage funding for promising avenues of research and the development of early career scientists and clinical researchers. We hope you enjoy learning more about these researchers and their projects, beginning on page four.

Our third class of LRF Scholars, participants in our Lymphoma Clinical Research Mentoring Program (LCRMP), recently attended the LCRMP Workshop in Scottsdale, Arizona. This workshop is gaining a reputation as an invaluable resource for early career clinical researchers in lymphoma, one which develops relationships that extend far beyond the Scholars' participation in the LCRMP. More about the Workshop can be found on page eight.

The promising scientific research featured in this edition of *Research Report* would not be possible without your donations and support for lymphoma research. Thank you for your part in helping the Foundation fund innovative research and support those affected by this disease.

Sincerely,



Meghan Gutierrez
Chief Executive Officer

New Grantees

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Natalie Galanina, MD, of The University of Chicago, Alex Herrera, MD of Beckman Research Institute, City of Hope, Peter Riedell, MD, of Washington University in Saint Louis, and Gita Thanarajasingam, MD, of Mayo Clinic – attended the week-long LCRMP Workshop in March. (For more on the Workshop, see page 8.)

The Follicular Lymphoma Pathways Grant is designed to support high-quality research studies capable of furthering the understanding of follicular lymphoma and/or its diagnosis and treatment. 2016 recipients of three year grants totaling \$450,000 were Leandro Cerchietti, MD, of Weill Cornell Medicine, and Hans-Guido Wendel, MD, PhD, of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Wendel is a recipient of a 2012 FL Pathways grant for a different project.

"We have never been more hopeful that the research actualized through these grants will have a direct impact on the patients, caregivers, and loved ones served by the Lymphoma Research Foundation," said Meghan Gutierrez, Chief Executive Officer of the Lymphoma Research Foundation. "Each year, we continue to explore the most promising avenues of research as we strive to lead the way in innovative science for the benefit of the lymphoma community. This year our focus on young investigators is complemented by the projects from established investigators seeking to better understand the biology of lymphoma, representing a continued commitment to our mission of eradicating the disease."

Profiles of the new grantees begin on page 4. Individual profiles of the LRF Scholars can be found at lymphoma.org/LCRMP.

Lymphoma Research Foundation Efforts Paved the Way for National Cancer Moonshot Initiative

In his State of the Union address in January 2016, President Obama called on Vice President Biden to lead a national “Moonshot” initiative focused on accelerating the development of new therapies for cancer. As supporters of the Lymphoma Research Foundation know, the past decade has seen researchers develop a better understanding of the biological mechanisms contributing to the development of cancer cells, and a corresponding rise in new types of therapies, including immunotherapies and novel targeted agents. The National Cancer Moonshot seeks to build upon those discoveries and accelerate the development of new cancer detection and treatments with a multiphase initiative that includes:

- Almost \$200 million in funding for new cancer activities at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in fiscal year 2016;
- A proposed \$755 million for cancer-related research activities at the NIH and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the 2017 budget;
- An increase in cancer research investments for both the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs; and
- The Cancer Moonshot Task Force, led by Vice President Biden, to focus on optimizing Federal investments, targeted incentives, private sector efforts from industry and philanthropy, patient engagement initiatives, and other mechanisms to support research and improve treatment and patient care.

Lymphoma Research Foundation leadership and scientific advisors have been quick to express support for the initiative and its potential to help lymphoma patients. Andrew M. Evens, DO, MSc, the Director of Tufts Cancer Center and a member of the Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board, was invited to meet with Vice President Biden at his Naval Observatory residence last December. “I was honored to be a member of a multidisciplinary group of health care experts convened by Dr. Patrick Soon-

Genomic Analysis 71%

Immunotherapy 27%

Combination Therapy 18%

Detection 18%

Prevention and Vaccine 4%

Of **82** grants awarded by the Lymphoma Research Foundation between 2011 and 2016,

94% focused on at least one of the research priority areas identified by the National Cancer Moonshot

Shiong. This was one of a series of private meetings to help inform the Vice President on cancer care in preparation for the announcement of the Cancer Moonshot initiative,” Dr. Evens noted. In addition, the priority areas identified for additional research support by the Department of Health and Human Services focus on several areas in which a majority of the Foundation’s recent grantees have been actively researching, including prevention and cancer vaccine development, early cancer detection, cancer immunotherapy and combination therapy.

In a letter to the Vice President, Meghan Gutierrez, Lymphoma Research Foundation’s Chief Executive Officer, noted how many of the goals of the Task Force are already part of the Foundation’s mission. “The Lymphoma Research Foundation is a leader in its strategy for leveraging its funds to achieve major research and development advances, its patient educational efforts that focus on lymphoma subtypes and facilitate personalized treatment decision-making, and its site-specific research initiatives that accelerate therapy development,” she noted. “In short, the Lymphoma Research Foundation has succeeded in eliminating silos that thwart development of new lymphoma treatments or that slow improvements in care.”



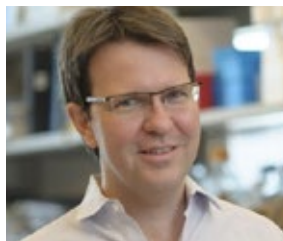
Leandro Cerchietti, MD
*Weill Cornell Medical Center
Pathways Grant*

Predicting FL Transformation Without Biopsy

In follicular lymphoma (FL), the disease can remain as a slow growing tumor or transform into a much more aggressive disease, where current treatment options are much more limited. Researchers have been working to better understand the mechanisms behind FL's transformation, in hopes not only of developing better therapies, but anticipating which patients are at risk for transformation. Dr. Cerchietti and his colleagues have determined in prior research that by investigating certain products FL cells release into a patient's blood they could anticipate the chance of FL transformation without the need to take a biopsy, which can be both invasive and costly. Additionally, the researchers discovered that FL cells require nutrients for continued maintenance and that the types of nutrients used varies from patient to patient. "This creates a sort of metabolic 'signature' that is nearly unique for each FL patient," Dr. Cerchietti explains. In his FL Pathways grant project, Dr. Cerchietti plans to build on this research to identify distinct types of FL based on these metabolic signatures, as well as identify ways in which inhibiting this metabolic process could be developed as a targeted therapy. "We believe that treatments based on this concept will have the advantage of low-toxicity and quick translation to patients in need," he says. "It will be particularly helpful to identify subsets of patients while also developing the tools to treat them."

Dr. Cerchietti received his MD from The Salvador University (USAL) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before completing a fellowship in Medical Oncology and additional studies in Biostatistics at the University of Buenos Aires. After beginning his career as a clinician, he moved to a full time laboratory position, completing postdoctoral work at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Weill Cornell Medical College, where he is now Assistant Professor of Medicine and the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Research Scholar. "The idea of contributing to create a next generation of treatments is what motivates me to pursue translational research [moving laboratory discoveries towards the clinic]," Dr. Cerchietti says.

Dr. Cerchietti acknowledges that receiving funding from the Lymphoma Research Foundation is a key step in continuing to develop his research into FL's metabolic process. "The Foundation's support will be absolutely instrumental in our efforts to impact how FL patients are diagnosed and treated. We will have the capacity to extend our studies to a bigger population and to implement new chemotherapy-free clinical trials."



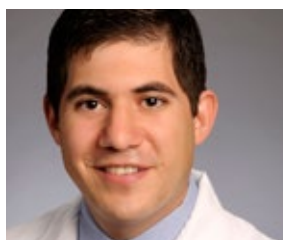
Hans-Guido Wendel, MD
*Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
Pathways Grant*

Understanding a Potential New Pathway for FL Therapies

Although a number of genetic mutations common to follicular lymphomas (FL) are being investigated for their potential as targeted therapies, Dr. Wendel and his colleagues have identified one particularly common mutation that has yet to be fully explored. The herpes virus entry mediator (HVEM), also known as TNFRSF14, is mutated or deleted in the majority of follicular lymphomas, indicating that lymphoma cells cannot tolerate the normal function of HVEM. For his Follicular Lymphoma Pathways grant, Dr. Wendel is investigating both how the loss of HVEM affects FL development and whether restoring the HVEM receptor is a potential avenue for new therapies. "This is a new anti-cancer strategy and cell intrinsic tumor suppressors such as HVEM/TNFRSF14 are not typically considered as therapeutic targets," notes Dr. Wendel. "The reasoning is that restoring the receptor will restore, at least in part, the growth inhibitory cell-to-cell signals."

Dr. Wendel, who received a 2012 Follicular Lymphoma Pathways grant for a separate project, received his MD from the University of Aachen in Germany, where he also completed a Dr. med. in Experimental Oncology before postdoctoral study in Cancer Genetics at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. He currently holds dual appointments as an Associate Member at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Associate Professor at Weill Cornell Medical College. His interest in the genetics of lymphoma arose from his experience treating lymphoma patients in Germany in the late 90s and early 2000s. "At the time we only had standard chemotherapy for these patients and the side effects and short-lived responses were frustrating," Dr. Wendel says. "Based on this experience I wondered if the genetics of lymphoma may point to more effective and less toxic therapies. The HVEM project is one example of this and delivering HVEM directly targets a mechanism that malignant lymphoma cells have inactivated, whereas normal tissues are unaffected by HVEM."

Dr. Wendel notes that the Lymphoma Research Foundation's grant programs have allowed him to explore new areas of research, where government funding is often lacking. "This is the kind of high risk/high gain project that federal agencies shy away from. The Foundation's support is a major boon in testing and advancing this new strategy and we could not do it without you."



Jonathon Cohen, MD
Winship Cancer Center
at Emory University
CDA

Developing Personalized Risk Assessments in MCL

Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) can be an indolent, slow-growing lymphoma or a much more aggressive disease, but researchers have yet to fully understand why this variation occurs. Dr. Cohen has assembled a consortium of ten research centers across the United States to collect clinical, pathological, and therapy-related data for newly-diagnosed MCL patients. He hopes to use this data to develop a comprehensive assessment of prognostic markers for MCL, allowing researchers to develop clinical trials that address the needs of patients who are at risk for poorer outcomes. Dr. Cohen will also be PI on his own clinical trial, a multi-center study of ibrutinib (Imbruvica) and oral proteasome inhibitor ixazomib (Ninlaro) in MCL, which prior research suggests may help overcome the resistance to ibrutinib that develops in some MCL patients. "My ultimate goal is to be able to provide patients with a personalized assessment of their risk and use this assessment to identify the most appropriate therapy," Dr. Cohen says.

Dr. Cohen's interest in lymphoma research began when he lost a high school friend to Hodgkin lymphoma. After receiving his MD from the University of Florida, Dr. Cohen moved to Ohio State University for his residency and fellowship, also completing an MS in Medical Science, before moving to his current position as an Assistant Professor at Emory University. In 2014, Dr. Cohen was part of the inaugural Lymphoma Clinical Research Mentoring Program (LCRMP), LRF's mentoring and training workshop for early career clinical researchers, and is the second alum of the LCRMP to receive a Clinical Investigator Career Development Award (CDA). He hopes to see his career progress to make substantive contributions to the understanding of the management of lymphoma and, "more importantly, would like to be serving as a mentor for junior colleagues through my continued involvement with LRF."

Dr. Cohen credits his participation in the LCRMP with "truly jump-starting" his career in lymphoma, and adds that participating in the Foundation's scientific workshops has also been beneficial to his progress. "The support from the CDA will provide me the protected time to successfully complete my proposed project, but more than the funds provided, the continued relationship with LRF will allow me to remain a part of the lymphoma community and to interact with the national leaders in the management and research of lymphoma," he says. "Without question, LRF has been the organization most responsible for my progress as a new faculty member conducting clinical research in lymphoma."



Matthew McKinney, MD
Duke University Medical Center
CDA

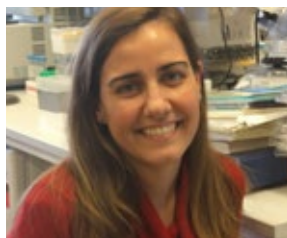
Investigating a New Combination Therapy for DLBCL

Dr. McKinney's Clinical Investigator Career Development Award (CDA) project studies a combination of two novel agents that may help diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) patients who don't respond to standard chemotherapy/immunotherapy or bone marrow transplantation. In this group of patients, an increase in molecules called Janus kinases (JAK) and STATs is believed to contribute to lymphoma cell growth. "We found that a combination of ruxolitinib (a JAK inhibitor) and panobinostat (an HDAC inhibitor) could more effectively shut down the effect of JAK or STAT molecules in cancer cells than any other method we tried," Dr. McKinney says. Although the initial trial will test the therapy in relapsed/refractory DLBCL, researchers hope this combination may be effective in other lymphomas. "Additionally, we will be performing laboratory studies on tumor biopsies and blood samples from patients enrolled on this study to understand if there are ways to pick which patients may respond best to this combination," he adds.

Dr. McKinney credits his CDA with boosting his development as an independent researcher. "The project funded by this grant will allow me to expand my ongoing research work in a new direction with the goal of translating advances in lymphoma biology into the clinic, all with the aim of developing a platform for improved and more precise care for lymphoma patients," he notes. "This goal would otherwise be impossible or very difficult to achieve without the support of the Lymphoma Research Foundation."

Dr. McKinney became fascinated with lymphoma after a medical school research project. "This was during a time of exciting new technologies, such as the human genome project and gene expression microarrays that could better distinguish between cancers," he notes. "This has certainly stoked my interest in using evolving scientific tools and technologies to provide better care." Now an Instructor at Duke University Medical Center, where he completed his MD and fellowship, Dr. McKinney believes lymphoma researchers are on the verge of more developments. "In the coming years, I think we are all set to come up with new lymphoma treatments that will totally change our outlook on diseases that we now see as invariably fatal."

Sadly, Dr. McKinney lost his mother last year to cancer that became refractory to all existing treatments. "I am constantly reminded at a personal level of our need to better understand why cancers develop and spread and how to stop that process," he says. "I am committed to research in lymphoma because I think we have many of the tools and knowledge needed to improve the lives of patients."



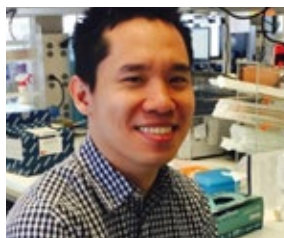
Pilar Dominguez Rodriguez, PhD
*Weill Cornell Medicine
Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant*

Identifying New Potential Targets for DLBCL Therapies

In recent years, researchers have begun looking at the impact of aberrant epigenetic changes in lymphomas, alterations to normal gene activity that occur independent of changes to a cell's DNA sequence. A common epigenetic change in many cancers occurs in a process called DNA methylation, which cells commonly use to regulate the production of certain genes. In diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), the deregulation of DNA methylation is a known contributor to DLBCL cell growth, however, researchers remain unclear as to what mechanisms cause the methylation process itself to stop working correctly. Dr. Dominguez Rodriguez and her colleagues have identified a particular gene, Ten eleven translocation 2 (TET2), which is involved in DNA methylation and frequently mutated in DLBCL cells. In her Fellowship project, Dr. Dominguez Rodriguez seeks to determine whether or not TET2 has a relationship to DNA methylation in B-cells, as well as to identify how a damaged TET2 protein affects the development of DLBCL cells. "We hope that the results of this work will reveal novel mechanisms of B-cell lymphomagenesis, helping to identify new targets and epigenetic therapies to treat DLBCL patients," she says.

Dr. Dominguez Rodriguez received her PhD in molecular biology from the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid in Spain where she did postdoctoral work in immunology before joining Weill Cornell Medicine as a Postdoctoral Associate in cancer biology. She developed her interest in lymphoma research during her first postdoctoral work, "since I could apply my background in immunology to a more translational-oriented science that could help to improve the treatment for lymphoma diagnosed patients." She credits her mentors at Cornell, Ari Melnick (an LRF Scientific Advisory Board member), and Rita Shakhovich with inspiring her dedication to lymphoma research through their own commitments.

Dr. Dominguez Rodriguez notes that receiving a Postdoctoral Fellowship grant will allow her to pursue her interest in TET2's role in DLBCL, adding "Also, this prestigious fellowship will be essential to pursue my long-term goal of becoming an independent researcher." As her career progresses, Dr. Dominguez Rodriguez plans to continue to pursue research into the epigenetics of hematological malignancies. "This exciting approach to study the origin of lymphomas could be of great importance to discover new therapeutic targets and design new treatments for lymphomas and other types of blood cancers."



David Hon Quach, PhD
*Baylor University Medical Center
Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant*

Making CAR T-cell Immunotherapy More Accessible

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell immunotherapies are a promising branch of treatment for a variety of lymphomas. CAR T-cells are generally created by extracting a patient's own T-cell immune cells, altering them to specifically target cancerous cells, and reintroducing them to the patient, effectively inducing their immune system to eradicate the cancer. Though shown to be effective in clinical trials, the process of preparing T-cells for each individual patient can be complicated and costly. Dr. Quach and his colleagues are developing "off-the-shelf" CAR T-cells, with T-cells from healthy human donors that can be administered to any patient. To prevent the patients' immune systems from rejecting the donor cells, they have developed a Chimeric HLA Accessory Receptor (CHAR), which targets a receptor found on HLA (human leukocyte antigen) molecules, a major surface protein in immune cells, preventing patient T-cells from attacking the donor cells. Dr. Quach's Postdoctoral Fellowship project builds on this progress by identifying the CHAR design that will work best with CD19 CAR donor cells and testing this CHAR/CAR combo in a preclinical *in vivo* setting. "This will make immunotherapy more feasible as a standard of care treatment and make the promise of immunotherapy accessible to many more patients," Dr. Quach notes.

Currently a Postdoctoral Associate in immunotherapy at Baylor University School of Medicine, Dr. Quach received his PhD in neuroscience from Northwestern University. "While in graduate school I became very interested and excited about the field of immunotherapy," Dr. Quach notes. "I decided to change fields and was given the opportunity to join the lab of Dr. Cliona Rooney at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Rooney asked me to tackle this problem [of donor CAR T-cell rejection] and find a way to prevent rejection so that one immune cell product can be used for many different patients." Dr. Quach notes that the Foundation's grant is his first postdoctoral research grant and provides key support. "The LRF fellowship will allow me to continue my research to further develop my project and test its feasibility especially in preclinical models, which will be necessary if we wish to translate this research to the clinic," he says.

Dr. Quach advises patients with lymphoma to remain optimistic. "We are in a time of groundbreaking research. Pioneering treatments continue to be assessed in clinical trials and will not only provide benefits to those in the future but have had dramatic effects on patients actively in the trials. Therefore, I hope they remain encouraged that they will have the available weapons to defeat lymphoma."

Foundation Hosts Congressional Briefing on AYA Lymphomas



(L to R) Ellen Walker of The Paul Foundation, Kara Kelly, MD of Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Ann LaCasce, MD of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Rep. Lee Zeldin (R NY-01) and Rep. Lois Capps (D CA-24)

The Lymphoma Research Foundation's Erase Lymphoma Initiative hosted a successful briefing on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 for members of Congress and U.S. federal policy makers. The briefing entitled, "Tackling Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Lymphoma" and was held in collaboration with Representative Lois Capps (D CA-24) and Representative Lee Zeldin (R NY-01). The briefing was designed to educate policy leaders on the complex issues faced by young patients, caregivers, physicians, and scientists pursuing new treatment options, with each group being represented on the panel.

Panel members included:

- Representative Lee Zeldin;
- Representative Lois Capps;
- Ellen M. Walker, Chair of the Board, The Paul Foundation;
- Meghan Gutierrez, CEO, Lymphoma Research Foundation;
- Ann S. LaCasce MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, LRF Scientific Advisory Board Member;
- Kara Kelly, MD, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, LRF Scientific Advisory Board Member; and
- Justine Staniszewski, Lymphoma Research Foundation Ambassador.

Dr. Kelly and Dr. LaCasce, who work with AYA patients from pediatric and adult oncology, respectively, spoke of the inherent difficulties in treating patients who may progress from pediatric

to adult standard therapies during their treatment, and of the lack of research data available on how AYA patients' response to standard therapies may differ from older or younger patient populations. Ms. Walker, who founded The Paul Foundation to advocate for AYA lymphoma patients after losing her son to anaplastic large cell lymphoma, and Ms. Staniszewski, a Hodgkin lymphoma survivor, discussed the difficulties AYA patients face in obtaining a timely diagnosis and navigating the healthcare system.

Congressman Lee Zeldin (NY-01) said, "Hosting a Special Congressional Briefing with the Lymphoma Research Foundation to help raise awareness to the unique needs of the adolescents and young adults (AYA) lymphoma population is an essential and timely cause. In Congress, one of my highest priorities will always be funding research to provide the resources necessary to discover the next generation of treatment and deliver lifesaving or life improving cures."

The briefing was organized through the public policy and advocacy arm of the Erase Lymphoma Initiative, which seeks to bring awareness to the concerns of AYA lymphoma through patient education, research funding and scientific programs, and advocacy efforts. In 2015, the Initiative awarded its first AYA-focused research grant, and hosted both scientific and patient education symposia focused on AYA lymphomas during the North American Educational Forum on Lymphoma in September 2015.

The Lymphoma Research Foundation's Commitment to Research



40,000

research hours funded
each year for early career
lymphoma scientists



\$56 million

in research grants awarded



342

grants awarded



93 institutions

in **29** states

and **6** countries

have research funded by LRF

Foundation Workshop Provides Critical Career and Research Mentoring to LRF Scholars



2016 LRF Scholars (L to R): Connie Batlevi, MD, PhD of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Gita Thanarajasingam, MD, of Mayo Clinic, Natalie Galanina, MD of The University of Chicago, Alex Herrera, MD, of Beckman Research Institute, City of Hope, Lapo Alinari, MD, PhD of The Ohio State University, and Peter Riedell, MD of Washington University in Saint Louis

In March, the Lymphoma Clinical Research Mentoring Program (LCRMP) convened for the 2016 LCRMP Workshop in Scottsdale, Arizona. Now in its third year, the LCRMP is the Lymphoma Research Foundation's education and mentoring program for fellows and junior faculty with a focus in clinical research in the field of non-Hodgkin and Hodgkin lymphoma. Program participants, called LRF Scholars, attend and participate in the intensive introductory workshop, with additional follow-up programming over the subsequent two years, intended to enhance the ability of the LRF Scholars to successfully design and administer clinical research studies, successfully apply for future grant funding, and develop the professional skills to succeed as an independent researcher. Scholars also receive a grant of \$10,000 total to support professional development expenses such as travel to conferences, tuition, and equipment.

In 2016, six early career clinical researchers were named LRF Scholars: Lapo Alinari, MD of The Ohio State University, Connie

Batlevi, MD, PhD of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Natalie Galanina, MD of The University of Chicago, Alex Herrera, MD, of Beckman Research Institute, City of Hope, Peter Riedell, MD of Washington University in Saint Louis, and Gita Thanarajasingam, MD, of Mayo Clinic. Four of this year's Scholars – Drs. Galanina, Herrera, Riedell, and Thanarajasingam – are the first Scholars from their respective institutions; in fact, the 20 Scholars who have been through the program over its first three years represent 17 different institutions across the United States and Canada, indicating the broad reach of the program even in its early years.

The LCRMP Workshop is the centerpiece of the mentoring program, bringing LRF Scholars together with a faculty composed of expert clinical researchers, statisticians, and pathologists specializing in lymphoma. The Scholars present a proposed clinical research project to the faculty at the beginning of the workshop, then work with faculty in daily small group sessions to receive feedback on the practical design of their projects as well

as the underlying science. The Scholars conclude the program by presenting revised versions of their projects along with aims for their career development plan, a crucial component of many early career grants.

The program also features faculty presentations on a variety of topics, including tips on building a multidisciplinary team for implementing a clinical protocol writing trial protocols, working effectively within the National Cancer Institute Cooperative

Group structure and/or in partnership with the pharmaceutical industry, and navigating conflict of interest issues. Other presentations feature career development advice for successful grant applications, academic publications, and maintaining work-life balance.

The LCRMP Co-Chairs, Christopher Flowers, MD of Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University and Ann LaCasce, MD of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, also pay close attention to the composition of each Scholar's small group. Each group includes a biostatistician with expertise in the design and conduct of lymphoma clinical studies, as well as senior investigators whose expertise will be particularly applicable to the Scholars' individual research interests. This year, each Scholar was asked to identify an LCRMP faculty member as their external mentor to continue to advise them throughout the program. For example, Dr. Thanarajasingam, whose project has a significant epidemiological component, selected Lindsay Morton, PhD, of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute.

"[Dr. Morton] intuitively understood my vision ... and was able to help me not only improve the proposed project, but define a path to achieving my research goals in this early phase in my career," Dr. Thanarajasingam said, adding that Dr. Flowers also became an important mentor during the workshop. "I feel particularly fortunate that I have gained two committed mentors outside of my institution, in addition to the many distinguished faculty I met at the LCRMP."

"The heart of the LCRMP Workshop is the opportunity for Scholars to work closely with a broad range of faculty from the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board and beyond," Dr. Flowers noted. "We have already seen previous LCRMP classes grow the relationships they formed during the Workshop into significant research collaborations and hope to see similar developments from the 2016 class."

As part of the LCRMP curriculum, LRF Scholars attend two follow-up meetings in the two years following the workshop, participating in various development activities including observing an LRF grant review meeting. In the immediate future, the Scholars will return to their home institutions to implement their revised protocols.

"This was such an amazing experience to cultivate friendships and learn from the experience of so many seasoned mentors," said LRF Scholar Connie Batlevi. "By far, this is one of the best work trips ever."

Individual profiles of the 2016 Scholars and their research projects may be found at lymphoma.org/LCRMP. To be added to the grant announcement email for the 2017 LCRMP program, email researchgrants@lymphoma.org.



LCRMP Faculty Amy Stark, MS, of The Ohio State University and Kerry Savage, MD of British Columbia Cancer Agency with LRF Scholar Lapo Alinari, MD, PhD of The Ohio State University

Lymphoma Clinical Research Mentoring Program 2016 Workshop Faculty

Co-Chairs

Christopher R. Flowers, MD, MS, Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University
Anne S. LaCasce, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Faculty

Jeremy Abramson, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center
Kristie A. Blum, MD, The Ohio State University
Catherine Diefenbach, MD, New York University
Amylou Dueck, PhD, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale
Kieron Dunleavy, MD, National Cancer Institute
Susan Geyer, PhD, University of South Florida
Lindsay Morton, PhD, National Cancer Institute
Kerry Savage, MD, British Columbia Cancer Agency
Amy Stark, MS, The Ohio State University
Thomas E. Witzig, MD, Mayo Clinic

Visiting Faculty

Sandeep Dave, MD, MS, Duke University
Jonathan W. Friedberg, MD, MMSc, University of Rochester
Brad S. Kahl, MD, Washington University in Saint Louis
John P. Leonard, MD, Weill Cornell Medical College
Sonali Smith, MD, The University of Chicago

Lymphoma Research Foundation Thanks Scientific Advisory Board Member Dr. Randy Gascoyne

The Lymphoma Research Foundation relies upon the service of its world-renowned Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and scientific advisors to guide its programmatic efforts through their expertise in lymphoma research and treatment. For more than a decade, Randy Gascoyne, MD FRCPC, of the British Columbia Cancer Agency, has been a key advisor to the Foundation's efforts in funding innovative research and educating both patients and professionals. As Dr. Gascoyne prepares to retire in July 2016, the Foundation is proud to honor his years of service to the lymphoma community.

Dr. Gascoyne's involvement with the Lymphoma Research Foundation dates back to the early days of the Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL) Initiative in 2003, as a recipient of one of the first MCL-focused grants awarded by the Foundation. He joined the MCL Consortium in 2006 and was elected to the Scientific Advisory Board in 2007. His research focus on the biology of lymphoid neoplasms, particularly the pathogenesis of follicular, mantle cell, and diffuse large B-cell lymphomas, has been invaluable to the SAB's research portfolio – both in fulfilling his SAB duties evaluating and recommending the most innovative research for funding, and through his own research. In addition to his MCL grant, Dr. Gascoyne received a grant to conduct follicular lymphoma research in 2007, and has also mentored two Foundation grantees, 2007 Postdoctoral Fellowship grantee Christian Steidl, and 2015 Adolescent/Young Adult Lymphoma Correlative Grant recipient David Scott.

Dr. Gascoyne has spent his tenure on the SAB contributing to a number of the Foundation's programs. In 2014, he delivered the keynote lecture to the Mantle Cell Lymphoma Workshop, the MCL Consortium's flagship scientific program, and was elected to the Executive Committee of the Consortium later that year. In 2015, Dr. Gascoyne served as faculty for the second Lymphoma Clinical Research Mentoring Program Workshop, providing an invaluable background in pathology and career development issues for the young clinical researchers attending.

"Randy has been a hugely valued member of the Scientific Advisory Board and the MCL Consortium," said SAB Chair Leo Gordon, MD, FACP of Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. "He has been a leader in lymphoma research on an international level and it has been a privilege to know him as a friend and colleague. His work has been seminal and has advanced our understanding of the biology of



Among his many contributions to LRF, Dr. Gascoyne delivered the keynote at the 2014 MCL Scientific Workshop.

lymphoma. Importantly, he has been a collaborator with many on the SAB and with investigators around the world. We will miss his intellect, his humor, and his stories."

Dr. Gascoyne has spent his entire medical career in British Columbia, where lymphoid cancers are the fourth most common cancer. He received his MD from the University of British Columbia and joined the staff of the British Columbia Cancer Agency (BCCA) in 1987, where he is currently Research Director of the Centre for Lymphoid Cancers, a Distinguished Scientist of the BC Cancer Research Centre, and Clinical Professor of Pathology at the University of British Columbia. He has represented BCCA and his home country internationally, as a member of the International Lymphoma Study Group and the longtime lymphoma pathology co-chair for the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), part of the National Institute of Health's Cooperative Groups in the United States. In addition, he has served as co-chair of the Lunenburg Lymphoma Biomarker Consortium (LLBC), an international group studying the application of biomarker analyses to clinical practice in lymphoma.

"Dr. Gascoyne's contributions to the Lymphoma Research Foundation and the greater lymphoma community are too numerous to name," said Foundation Chief Executive Officer Meghan Gutierrez. "His work will continue to have far-reaching effect and meaningful impact on the lives of those touched by this disease. We are grateful for the time and expertise he has lent to the Scientific Advisory Board and the Foundation programs he has led for more than a decade."

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

The Lymphoma Research Foundation's volunteer Scientific Advisory Board, comprised of 45 world-renowned lymphoma experts, guides the Foundation's research activities, seeking out the most innovative and promising lymphoma research projects for support.

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About the Research Report

Research Report is a publication of the Lymphoma Research Foundation, providing the latest updates on our grantees and their progress, as well as on the work of the Foundation. The Lymphoma Research Foundation is the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted to funding innovative lymphoma research and serving the lymphoma community through a comprehensive series of education programs, outreach initiatives, and patient services.

Donor Spotlight

Ryan Adkins of Seattle, Washington Ryan Adkins of Seattle, Washington was inspired to start Kilometers for Cancer (K4C), a 10k/5k run & walk in 2013, just three years after his father was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL). Since its inception K4C has hosted 500 participants and volunteers while raising over \$4,000 for lymphoma research. The Kilometers for Cancer team, including Sarah Watkins and other dedicated volunteers are part of Team LRF, which helps independent fundraisers seeking to support lymphoma research. "I chose LRF due to its attention to my project and the positive response from its staff ... [the LRF] values our members, community and shares our goal of eradicating the big C," Ryan says. Over 150 runners participated in the 2015 K4C, held last September in Kenmore, Washington. "Every year, after the race wraps up and life continues as normal, we realize we are putting on more than just an event, we are building awareness by promoting healthy activity and honesty around the topic of cancer."

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◀ Scan using your
smartphone to read our
Research Reports online.

Moonshot Initiative

LRF's programmatic efforts mirror many of the Presidential initiative's goals for advancing cancer research.

Details on Page 3.

SAVE THE DATE

2016 PATIENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Lymphoma Research Foundation is committed to providing members of the lymphoma community with accurate, up-to-date information about the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. LRF's in-person educational conferences include the National Educational Forum, Regional Lymphoma Workshops and local Ask the Doctor Programs.

Lymphoma Workshops

Pennsylvania - Saturday, May 7, 2016 [Registration Now Open](#)

New England - Saturday, May 21, 2016 [Registration Now Open](#)

Texas - Saturday, November 12, 2016 [Registration Coming Soon](#)

North American Educational Forum on Lymphoma

Chicago - Palmer House Hilton, October 28-30, 2016

**Register online at lymphoma.org/patienteducation
or call the LRF Helpline at (800) 500-9976.**