A Publication for Friends of the Lymphoma Research Foundation

FALL 2024

Pulse

From Personal Loss to Professional Passion:

A Researcher's Dedication to Transforming Patients' Lives

Dr. Tycel Phillips' early experiences, including the influence of his grandmother and personal family losses, guided him toward a career in cancer treatment, inspiring his dedication for lymphoma research and care.

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Lymphoma Research Foundation

Pulse

A Publication for Friends of the Lymphoma Research Foundation

Pulse is a publication of the Lymphoma Research Foundation, providing the latest updates on the Foundation and its focus on lymphoma research, awareness, and education.

The Lymphoma Research Foundation is devoted to funding innovative lymphoma research and serving the lymphoma community through a comprehensive series of education programs, outreach initiatives, and patient services.

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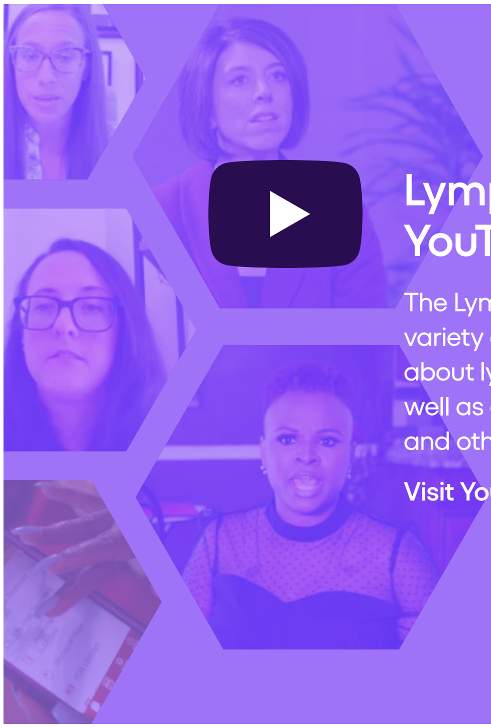

Lymphoma Research Foundation's YouTube Channel

The Lymphoma Research Foundation's YouTube channel offers a wide variety of educational videos to help the lymphoma community learn about lymphoma. These videos provide disease-specific information as well as education regarding diagnosis, treatment options, clinical trials, and other resources for people dealing with a lymphoma diagnosis.

Visit YouTube.com/c/LymphomaResearch to watch and subscribe.

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2024 Blood Cancer Awareness Month

For over a decade, the Lymphoma Research Foundation has led the way in celebrating Blood Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) during September. Fourteen years later, we’re still committed to raising awareness and sharing education – not just during BCAM, but all year round.

Thank you to our generous supporters for making our 2024 BCAM campaign a success and for celebrating our community of many voices and many stories.

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From the CEO

The Lymphoma Research Foundation's mission to eradicate lymphoma is only realized through the strength of our community: the expertise of our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) leaders, who expertly guide the Foundation's groundbreaking research portfolio, the steadfast commitment and bold voices of our supporters, who power the work that we do, and the dedication and vision of our grantees, who are moving us closer to a world without this disease.

In this issue of Pulse, we highlight some of those working to make this world possible. We profile Dr. Tycel Phillips, who was drawn to oncology after losing his mother and his grandmother to cancer. Now, as an associate professor at City of Hope and a member of the Foundation's Mantle Cell Lymphoma Consortium (MCLC) Executive Committee, he is making strides in developing better treatment options that are easier on patients with this rare subtype of lymphoma.

We are also pleased to introduce you to the newest members of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board: Alex Herrera, MD (City of Hope), Kami Maddocks, MD (The Ohio State University), Todd Fehniger, MD, PhD (Washington University in St. Louis), Gilles Salles, MD, PhD (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center), and Sharon Castellino, MD, MSc (Emory School of Medicine). Together with their fellow SAB members, these accomplished professionals will steer the Foundation's course as we move the field of lymphoma research forward.

With the season of giving upon us, this issue also highlights the impact one individual can make, as we honor the legacy of Errol M. Cook, who served the Foundation as Chair and member of the Board of Directors and who remained a committed supporter of the Foundation until his passing in December 2022. In recognition of his life and the countless contributions he made to the Foundation, his loved ones have established the Errol M. Cook Memorial Scholarship as part of the Foundation's Lymphoma Scientific Research Mentoring Program, creating a way to support the future of lymphoma research for years to come.

Finally, we are spotlighting dedicated lymphoma care partner Alex Wald, who threw himself into supporting his wife, Ali, when she was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma in 2015. Alex credits the information that he received from the Lymphoma Research Foundation as invaluable during Ali's treatment — so invaluable that he is now giving back to others who are on similar journeys by volunteering with the Foundation's Lymphoma Support Network.

With the new year on the horizon, I know that a brighter future for those touched by this disease is approaching as well. Thank you for your continued support and commitment and your shared belief in our vision of a world without lymphoma.

Sincerely yours,

Meghan Gutierrez
Chief Executive Officer

Philanthropy in Action

Lymphoma Giving Day Raises Over $30,000

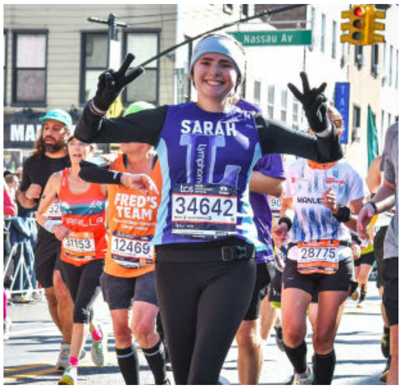
Each year on September 15, the lymphoma community rallies together on Lymphoma Giving Day around our shared mission to eradicate this disease. This year's Lymphoma Giving Day saw more donors than ever joining together to support patients, survivors, and care partners, raising over $30,000 and contributing 30% more than in 2023.

2024 Annual Gala Honored Noted Philanthropist Steve Prince and Global Oncology Company BeiGene

The Lymphoma Research Foundation raised more than $1.3M for lymphoma research and support at their 2024 Annual Gala on Thursday, September 25, at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York City. This year's event bestowed the Distinguished Leadership Award to noted philanthropist, past Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors, and current director emeritus Steven "Steve" Prince. BeiGene received the Corporate Leadership Award in recognition of pursuing improved patient outcomes and supporting the Foundation's research initiatives and educational programs.

Foundation Marathon Runners Raise Over $30,000

Each year, some of our speediest supporters challenge themselves for a good cause by participating in an endurance event while raising funds for the Lymphoma Research Foundation. This fall, runners representing the Foundation participated in races across the country, raising over $32,000 to power the future of lymphoma research. Running in the Disneyland Halloween Half Marathon Weekend from September 5 through September 8, the Chicago Marathon on October 13, and the Disney Wine & Dine Half Marathon Weekend on October 31 through November 4, this team of care partners, healthcare professionals, and those running in honor or memory of loved ones touched by this disease made a major impact with every mile.



TCS New York City Marathon Raises Over $80,000

Each year, upward of 55,000 runners race through 26.2 miles of New York City's streets for the TCS New York City Marathon. This year's race, held on Sunday, November 3, included 12 runners participating to power the Foundation's lifesaving mission, raising over $83,000 in support of lymphoma research. This year's team included care partners, doctors, first-time marathoners, survivors, and those running for loved ones who have been touched by lymphoma, like Sarah Gross, who ran in honor of her mother who was also a New York City Marathon runner, Jared Lake, who ran in memory of his grandfather, and Robert and Ava Flutie, a father/daughter duo who ran this year's race together after Robert was diagnosed with lymphoma while training for the 2008 marathon.

Fundraising has never been easier.

Whatever your passion, we provide the tools you need to raise funds on your own or with a group. Visit **lymphoma.org/waystohelp** to learn more and start raising funds today.

A Donor's Legacy Creates a Brighter Tomorrow

Errol M. Cook, alongside his devoted wife, Gladys, served the Foundation as a Chair and member of the Board of Directors and supporter for more than 20 years. He worked closely with the Foundation's leadership and Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members to ensure that the Foundation advanced the best science and funded cutting-edge cancer research.

As one of the first recipients of a stem cell transplant, Errol knew that today's investment in research could turn into tomorrow's treatments for patients. The Foundation funded tens of millions of dollars in biomedical research during his dual tenures as Chair of the Board of Directors, using his vast professional experience as a global leader in accounting and private equity. Errol dedicated himself to the Foundation with unwavering commitment and determination until his passing in December 2022.

> "I am grateful to our family and friends who helped make this possible and am proud to see Errol's spirit continue to make a difference.

"Errol was a visionary, and his passion for our community and steadfast dedication played a crucial role in advancing our mission," said Meghan Gutierrez, CEO of the Lymphoma Research Foundation. "Errol's contributions will have a lasting impact on the Foundation, and his legacy continues to inspire us."

In memory and recognition of Errol's life and his countless contributions to the Foundation, his family and friends joined together to make an investment in the next generation of lymphoma researchers, and the Foundation established the Errol M. Cook Memorial Scholar. As part of the Foundation's Lymphoma Scientific Research Mentoring Program (LSRMP), a first-of-its-kind education and mentoring program for early-career scientists who wish to focus their careers on lymphoma research, the Cook Scholar will provide critical support to scientists and emerging leaders in the field of cancer research. This investment in early-career scientists preserves and grows a pipeline of lymphoma research for decades to come, with the Foundation fueling the research that one day will lead to a cure.

"My husband believed deeply in the power of compassion and giving back. Having a Scholar established in his memory is a testament to his enduring legacy and passion for helping others," said Gladys Cook. "I am grateful to our family and friends who helped make this possible and am proud to see Errol's spirit continue to make a difference."

Through the generosity of more than 100 donors, funds have been raised to support and establish the Errol M. Cook Memorial Scholar grant program. Andrew Jallouk, MD, PhD, of Vanderbilt University, was named the inaugural Errol M. Cook Memorial Scholar in 2023. His Foundation research project is aimed at studying immune rejections to chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy and strategies to prevent it from happening. "In so doing, I hope that my project will help to reduce cost and improve accessibility to life-saving CAR T-cell treatments for patients with lymphoma," explains Dr. Jallouk.

The second Errol M. Cook Memorial Scholar was given to Jordan Goldstein, MD, of Stanford University in 2024. Using circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) as a marker of residual disease, Dr. Goldstein is evaluating the efficacy and safety of CAR T after first-line chemoimmunotherapy in patients with persistent disease who are more likely to relapse.

The Lymphoma Research Foundation continues to raise gifts in Errol's memory, and the family hopes it can continue to grow over time.

Errol M. Cook Memorial Scholars

Jordan Goldstein, MD

Stanford University

Read more about Dr. Goldstein's project at lymphoma.org/jordangoldstein.

Andrew Jallouk, MD, PhD

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Read more about Dr. Jallouk's project at lymphoma.org/andrewjallouk.

Many Ways to Support the Lymphoma Research Foundation

No matter how you give, you'll make an impact

By bringing together the promise of science and the power of people, a future without lymphoma is within our reach. Generosity from patients, friends, families, communities, and businesses fuels the mission of the Lymphoma Research Foundation. Your gift — no matter the size — will be used immediately to advance research, improve patient care, and offer hope to those affected by this disease.

With so many flexible giving options available, donors can contribute to the Foundation in a manner that aligns with their personal, financial, and philanthropic goals. Whether you're an experienced philanthropist or a first-time donor, you too can help us accelerate the search for a cure.

Take a look at some of the many ways you can make a meaningful impact:

One-Time or Monthly Donations

We make giving easy! Whether you make a one-time donation or commit to a monthly gift, your gifts help accelerate the search for a cure and support lymphoma patients, survivors, and their loved ones when they need it most. Visit **lymphoma.org/donate** to make a gift with ease.

Gifts of Stock

Gifts of appreciated stock are a smart and tax-savvy way to further the Foundation's mission. When you donate appreciated securities or mutual funds in support of our mission, you can reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the securities' fair market value at the time of the transfer. Visit **lymphoma.org/stocktransfer** for detailed instructions on making your gift of stock.

In-Kind Contributions

In-kind contributions play a vital role in supporting the Foundation. Non-monetary donations, such as goods, services, or expertise, provide essential support without the financial cost. Whether it's office supplies, professional services like legal or marketing assistance, event space, or even transportation, in-kind contributions help reduce operational expenses and allow us to focus more on our mission.

Peer-to-Peer Fundraising

Turn your passions and creative ideas into successful fundraising events for lymphoma research. You can sign up for one of our many endurance events, join us for a signature Lymphoma Walk or Lymphoma Research Ride, start your own fundraiser — and much more. There is something for everyone and many ways to be inspired. Visit **lymphoma.org/waystohelp** to join an existing event, plan your own event, and find inspiration and resources for making your fundraiser a success.

Gifts of Cryptocurrency

One impactful option that can save you on taxes: using cryptocurrency to support our mission. If you own Bitcoin or another digital currency, chances are it is worth a lot more than what you paid for it. Many investors have a very low-cost basis and should evaluate the tax implications before cashing in. Visit **lymphoma.org/givecrypto** to find out how you can turn your cryptocurrency into support for lymphoma research.

Estate Gifts

Want to make a difference on the Foundation and the lymphoma community without affecting cash flow in your lifetime? A gift through your will or living trust is a simple and flexible way for you to ensure your legacy of support. Making a gift through your will or living trust is as easy as asking your estate planning attorney to include the following suggested wording:

“I give to Lymphoma Research Foundation, a nonprofit corporation currently located at Wall Street Plaza, 88 Pine St., Suite 2400, New York, NY 10005, or its successor thereto, ___________ [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted charitable use and purpose.”

Visit **lymphoma.mylegacygift.org** for more information.

Volunteering

Whether it’s supporting a patient or care partner over the phone, participating in local fundraising events, joining our Ambassador Program, or advocating for policy change, our volunteers make a difference every day. Visit **lymphoma.org/volunteer** to learn how you can get involved.

Donor-Advised Funds

A donor-advised fund (DAF), is like a charitable savings account and gives you the flexibility to recommend how much and how often money is granted to the Lymphoma Research Foundation and other qualified charities. You can recommend a grant or recurring grants to make an immediate impact or use your fund as a tool for future charitable gifts. Visit **lymphoma.org/DAF** to make a DAF gift today.

Corporate Sponsorships

The Lymphoma Research Foundation's corporate partners save lives every day by powering the research breakthroughs that cure blood cancers and directly supporting cancer patients in need. When you partner with the Foundation, you create opportunities for greater employee collaboration, professional marketing, and consumer engagement, all while helping to create a world without cancer. Visit **lymphoma.org/Partnership** to learn how your company can make a meaningful difference in the lives of your employees, customers, and the cancer community.

Charitable Remainder Trust

If you have built a sizable estate and are looking for ways to receive reliable payments, consider a charitable remainder trust. This type of trust provides you or other named individuals with income each year for life, or a period not exceeding 20 years, from assets you give to the trust you create. At the end of the trust term, the balance in the trust goes to the Lymphoma Research Foundation. Visit **lymphoma.mylegacygift.org/charitable-remainder-trusts** for more information.

Whether you become a volunteer, create a fundraiser, attend an event, or become a sponsor, when you get involved with the Lymphoma Research Foundation, you can help make a difference in the lives of all those touched by this blood cancer.

Visit lymphoma.org/waystohelp to join our community and help us accelerate the search for a cure.

FROM THE FIELD

From Personal Loss to Professional Passion

A Researcher's Dedication to Transforming Patients' Lives

When Tycel Phillips, MD, of City of Hope, was a young child growing up in Chicago, his grandmother gave him an anatomy book as a gift. And with that one gesture, a seed was planted.

"My grandmother may have had some preordained plan for me to go into medicine," Dr. Phillips jested. "But needless to say, that's not exactly why I chose my career path. As a child, I was always interested in reading and science."

In high school, Dr. Phillips was uncertain about what career path he wanted to pursue, but when his grandmother passed away from pancreatic cancer in December of his senior year, it ignited his passion to go into the medical field.

Years later, while in medical school, Dr. Phillips learned that his mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer, a fact that she had not disclosed to the family for some time. Witnessing her difficult treatment journey further impacted his focus on cancer treatment.

"Seeing my mother go through cancer treatment made me want to study cancer therapy — to find better ways to treat cancer than relying heavily on chemotherapy," said Dr. Phillips. "I saw my mother get weaker and weaker with every round of chemotherapy, and I saw the side effects she experienced while she continued to work and put on a strong face for the rest of us. To this day, my mother's memory and the lessons I learned from her cancer journey continue to motivate and guide my work to improve the lives of cancer patients and their families."

After his mother's passing, Dr. Phillips gravitated toward studying hematological cancers, such as lymphoma, where he felt he could make a meaningful impact. He earned his medical degree from Rush University, followed by a residency in internal medicine at the John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County in Chicago. Dr. Phillips then completed his fellowship in oncology/hematology at the University Hospitals in Cleveland and was the clinical associate professor at the University of Michigan. He currently serves as an associate professor in the Division of Lymphoma, Department of Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation at City of Hope in Southern California.

Finding a Clinical Focus

Through his mentorship under experienced hematology clinicians, Dr. Phillips grew more fascinated by the complexities of lymphoma and the potential for targeted therapies to revolutionize cancer treatment.

“I have to credit the doctors who showed me their enthusiasm for their work with lymphoma patients and allowed me to see patients in their clinics,” said Dr. Phillips. “Many people haven’t even heard of lymphoma because it doesn’t get the same publicity that other cancers tend to receive. As I learned more about the disease, I became more and more intrigued with the multiple subtypes.”

Participating in the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Vail Workshop also proved pivotal to Dr. Phillips’ early career. The intensive workshop helped him develop the skills to formulate clinical questions and clinical trial design protocols, which he then applied to his lymphoma research. From there, he decided to focus his research on mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) after realizing how little research had been done on this rare lymphoma subtype.

“When I first came in contact with mantle cell lymphoma, I was struck by the simple fact that there was just so much we still didn’t know,” said Dr. Phillips. “I’m dedicated to learning as much as possible about mantle cell lymphoma to speed up the pace of breakthroughs and improve patient outcomes. We know quite a bit more about some of the other lymphomas and have established standards of care for them, but we’re still trying to standardize frontline care for mantle cell lymphoma, which keeps me going.”

A Day in the Life of a Clinical Researcher

Today, Dr. Phillips lives in Pasadena, California, with his wife, Aja, and their five children ranging in age from 4 to 21 years old, which makes for a busy and active family life when outside of the hospital.

“With five children, our days are nonstop busy, but we wouldn’t have it any other way,” said Dr. Phillips.

Splitting his time between the lab and seeing patients, on a typical day, Dr. Phillips and his wife share responsibility for getting their five children ready and out the door to their respective schools. Once the kids are off, he makes his way to the office, mentally preparing for the day during his commute. If it’s a clinic day, he hits the ground running, seeing a steady stream of patients, answering their questions, and documenting their care.

One day a week, he has a block of time dedicated to research meetings, which involve discussing data from studies. He also completes administrative tasks and catches up on patient emails in between meetings. Once the day is over, Dr. Phillips heads home, where he and Aja divide and conquer, getting the kids off to activities and fed, getting homework completed, and getting them ready for bed, before they get to spend some quiet time together.

“It’s a busy schedule for sure, but I enjoy the balance of patient care and my research,” said Dr. Phillips. “And once the kids are off to bed, it’s time to recharge and get ready to do it all over again the next day.”

> “I’m dedicated to learning as much as possible about mantle cell lymphoma to speed up the pace of breakthroughs and improve patient outcomes

Getting Involved With the Lymphoma Research Foundation

In February 2024, Dr. Phillips was elected to the Lymphoma Research Foundation's Mantle Cell Lymphoma Consortium (MCLC) Executive Committee, where he makes recommendations regarding MCL research priorities and patient care.

The Mantle Cell Lymphoma Consortium Executive Committee helps to guide the MCLC by identifying gaps in research and patient care for this understudied patient population. The consortium brings together international experts to discuss the latest research findings and foster collaboration within the mantle cell lymphoma research community, with the ultimate goal of improving diagnosis and treatment for this disease.

"I first started working with the Foundation by attending one of their biennial mantle cell lymphoma research meetings," said Dr. Phillips. "I'm particularly impressed by the foundation's focus on supporting young investigators because that funding can be critical for early-career researchers like me. By providing research funding, the Foundation helps nurture the next generation of lymphoma experts and ensures the continuity of high-quality research in the field."

Being involved with the Consortium's Executive Committee enables Dr. Phillips to collaborate more closely with the Foundation — an experience he has found extremely rewarding.

"The Lymphoma Research Foundation is solely dedicated to advancing lymphoma research and supporting those affected by the disease, which makes it unique," said Dr. Phillips.

"The Lymphoma Research Foundation is solely dedicated to advancing lymphoma research and supporting those affected by the disease, which makes it unique," said Dr. Phillips. "That singular focus has enabled the Foundation to make significant contributions to improving patient outcomes, and I am thrilled to be a part of their community."

Dr. Phillips champions the organization and even encourages other young investigators to seek funding from the Foundation. Recognizing that it is harder for clinical researchers in the field to get funding, Dr. Phillips empowers his peers to apply for the Foundation's grants to further their critical work.

"Any young investigator, whether they're in a clinical lab or not, should apply for these grants because they provide a stepping stone for even larger grants later in your career as we continue to learn more about lymphoma," said Dr. Phillips. "I encourage young investigators to apply and persevere because the reward is worth it when you get the time to pursue projects that you think are important."

Turning Research Into Improved Care

The insights and knowledge derived from Dr. Phillips' research has directly translated into better, more personalized care for his mantle cell lymphoma patients. By understanding the nuances of MCL, resistance mechanisms, and the efficacy of novel therapies, he's able to make better informed treatment decisions and provide his patients with more effective care.

"Being a clinical researcher, my research is my patients, and my patients are my research. There is no separation — everything sort of flows into one," said Dr. Phillips. "I'm always thinking of my patients and planning ahead — based on what I know about the disease. Each patient will in some ways have different outcomes — reactions that will help to inform me whether each patient will respond or not respond to certain treatments and compare results."

One development in the treatment of MCL is the use of targeted therapies, such as BTK inhibitors and bispecific antibodies, that have shown promising results in MCL patients. These novel therapies could add more effective and less toxic treatment options to traditional chemotherapy-based approaches. These treatments will hopefully help reduce the use of chemo-immunotherapy, especially in frontline regimens, which will help standardize care that is currently heavily influenced by the age of the patients across MCL patient populations.

"We're working toward getting to a true standard treatment option that can be uniformly applied across the board, including internationally. This is hopefully something we can achieve in the near future," said Dr. Phillips. "The research currently in process will hopefully fundamentally allow us to cure more patients and reduce toxicity. We are getting close to achieving what we consider to be 'functional cures,' where you may not fully get rid of the cancer, but at the same time, that cancer is manageable and isn't going to be what kills you."

Despite being a relatively rare subtype of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, MCL is a particularly challenging disease that has, until recently, been associated with poor prognosis and limited treatment options. However, through Dr. Phillips' research and the research of his colleagues, he's seen several advances that give him hope for the future.

Emerging Philanthropists Gala

On November 8th, 2024, New York's leading young philanthropists united to celebrate the latest advancements made in lymphoma research, patient care, and the dedicated individuals and institutions who help make this possible. **Over $190,000 was raised** to support the Foundation's mission at the event, featuring music by Stevie Guttman, gourmet bites and cocktails from local partners, a silent auction, and much more!

Thank you to presenting sponsor: **Johnson&Johnson**

Where Are They Now?

John Pagel, MD

John Pagel, MD, PhD, is the Senior Vice President Clinical Development, Global Head, Hematology at Eli Lilly and Company.

When did you become interested in the study of medicine? In lymphoma specifically?

When I was a kid, I was interested in two things: sports and science! Some of my earliest memories were of dissecting bugs in my parents' garage — I was highly fascinated with how biology worked. Once I realized that a career as a professional baseball player would not pan out, I decided that I should maybe take a path toward science. I went to graduate school for the love of science and got a PhD before going to medical school, where I desired the human component for research. While in medical school, my mother was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. This motivated me to pursue a career in oncology. Subsequently, I was drawn to lymphoma because I was interested in technologies that could be developed in hematologic malignancies that could be translated broadly across all cancers — perhaps even to breast cancer.

At what point in your career did you receive funding from the Lymphoma Research Foundation? What kind of grant(s) did you receive?

I received a Career Development Award from the Foundation when I was a junior investigator trying to make my way forward in my career. It was the first real accolade I was able to put on my resume, and it helped me stay dedicated, focused, and interested in what I was doing. This award was really the kick-start to my career in lymphoma-related research.

> The Foundation recognized my project as a novel idea worth pursuing, and without the funds provided to me by them, I am not sure that I would have ever been able to dedicate my whole career to lymphoma-related research.

What scientific project did you pursue as part of your research grant(s)?

One thing that often happens in cancer research, that is important to remember, is that when you apply for major funding, usually from federal government entities such as the National Institute of Health (NIH), those grant applications often need to be based on years of prior research. This usually signifies that the project is worth pursuing further, and in fact, in many ways, it might already show clear promise.

However, that's not always how research is done, and early projects need support for biologically driven yet still unproven exploration. At the time, I was interested in the idea and use of targeted delivery of radiation and how we could find better ways to deliver radiolabeled antibodies so that we could get more of the radiation delivered to the lymphoma cell and less of it delivered to normal organs. We came up with a two-step concept called "pre-targeting" where we could decouple the antibody from the radionuclide. This would allow us to deliver the antibody to the patient to target the lymphoma cell and then use the radionuclide later to find the antibody that's already localized to the lymphoma. Overall, this approach allowed for the delivery of much higher doses of lymphoma-sensitive radiation than could be delivered with external beam radiotherapy or even standard one-step radiolabeled antibody therapy.

How has the treatment landscape for lymphoma/chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) changed since you first started conducting your research?

It's been an incredible opportunity to see how things have changed. Not long ago, all we had to treat all our lymphoma patients was cytotoxic chemotherapy, and it was common in those days to inflict significant morbidity to patients. Now, with novel non-chemotherapy regimens, we have reduced toxicities and dramatically increased rates of cure for lymphoma patients. Obviously, to be part of something so humanly valuable and revolutionary has personally been immensely rewarding.

Was the support and grant funding you received from the Foundation vital to advancing/dedicating your career to studying lymphoma?

The Foundation support was an integral part of my career development that had a domino effect on the rest of my career. It gave me an opportunity to start my own research lab and receive subsequent awards to continue my research. The Foundation recognized my project as a novel idea worth pursuing, and without the funds provided to me by them, I am not sure that I would have ever been able to dedicate my whole career to lymphoma-related research.

Why is there such a great need for lymphoma/CLL research? Why is a greater investment needed?

The progress we have made for patients is truly a testament to why research is so important. Without support for research, as well as critical patient advocacy that organizations like the Lymphoma Research Foundation does, we would not have made those progressive strides. These strides have been dramatic, but we still have a long way to go. We need to cure everyone, and that is why supporting research continues to be important. We need to foster and develop innovative ideas and invest in the careers of the investigators who are doing the work.

How has your involvement with the Foundation evolved since being a grantee, and how has the Foundation shaped your role in industry?

I have had a long relationship with the Foundation and am grateful to bear witness to the difference it makes in the lives of patients, their loved ones, and the scientific community. I have been lucky enough to be involved in many of their programs and initiatives, including opportunities to directly connect with patients and provide education and support. Now that I'm in an industry position at Eli Lilly and Company, I am still active and involved with the work that the Foundation does and can support them in new ways, such as helping to fund and support their research and education resources as well as support services.

Why is the Foundation's mission and focus on lymphoma-specific research and programming important? Put another way: How would the lymphoma community be impacted if there was no Lymphoma Research Foundation?

Lymphoma research investigators need support, direction, and encouragement to navigate the often difficult times in their career development. Specifically, it is incredibly important to support investigators who are doing work that can take years to develop to get something from the bench to the bedside. Without organizations like the Lymphoma Research Foundation, I do not think we can offer that level of support and make the strides that we make in curing patients. Additionally, without the Foundation, patient advocacy in the lymphoma space would be sparse and devastating for patients without those kinds of resources. It is always scary and overwhelming to get diagnosed with lymphoma, and having a resource like the Foundation is critical to navigating the lymphoma journey. Being aligned with the Foundation as a key patient advocate translates to the best care that patients will receive.

What priorities are you currently pursuing that you would like to share with our readers?

We are deeply focused on developing medicines that improve patients' lives. We do so by focusing on the biological conviction of a target, pathway, or biochemical feature of a malignant cell that would allow us to develop a medicine. It is an arduous process in many ways, but the strides that are being made collectively will continue to be groundbreaking.

What is the most exciting thing happening in lymphoma research right now? What are you most excited about in the field of lymphoma research in general? Why?

I think the most exciting thing happening in lymphoma research continues to be the development of novel targeted therapies. A good example is the continued development of targeted bispecific antibodies that allow for control of disease without chemotherapy. Patients may still relapse, but they will continue to have increased opportunities to change this disease's natural history. Clearly, we have many strides still to make, but it has been a rewarding experience to be part of, and I know we will continue to move lymphoma therapies in a positive direction.

> **Without organizations like the Lymphoma Research Foundation, I do not think we can offer that level of support and make the strides that we make in curing patients.**

Lymphoma Rounds Series

Free CME Program for Professionals

Lymphoma Rounds provides a series of accredited CME activities that provide a forum for healthcare professionals to meet regularly and address issues specific to the diagnosis and treatment of lymphoma patients.

Participants share best practices and learn the latest information on the treatment and management of lymphoma through interactive case studies.

2025 Schedule

1/23 – National Lymphoma Rounds
1/30 – Chicago Lymphoma Rounds
2/6 - New York Lymphoma Rounds
2/12 - Puerto Rico Lymphoma Rounds
2/20 – Washington DC Lymphoma Rounds
3/6 – San Francisco Lymphoma Rounds
4/9 – New England Lymphoma Rounds
4/24 – Philadelphia Lymphoma Rounds
5/8 – Seattle Lymphoma Rounds
5/14 – Los Angeles Lymphoma Rounds
5/28 – National Lymphoma Rounds

Visit lymphoma.org/hcpeducation to register and learn more.

Lymphoma Rounds programming is supported by educational grants from:

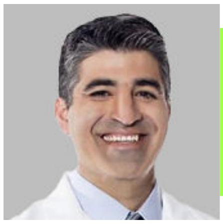
AbbVie, Inc.; Acrotech; ADC Therapeutics; AstraZeneca; BeiGene; Bristol Myers Squibb; Genmab; Ipsen; Lilly USA, LLC; Pfizer; Pharmacyclics LLC, an AbbVie Company and Janssen Biotech, Inc., administered by Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC; Secura Bio; SERB Pharmaceuticals

Meet the Newly Elected Foundation Scientific Advisory Board Members

The Lymphoma Research Foundation welcomed five new members, Alex Herrera, MD; Kami Maddocks, MD; Todd Fehniger, MD, PhD; Gilles Salles, MD, PhD; and Sharon Castellino, MD, MSc, to its elite Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Comprised of 45 world-renowned lymphoma experts, the Lymphoma Research Foundation's SAB seeks out the most innovative and promising lymphoma research projects for support. Members of the Foundation's SAB are leaders in blood cancer research, with unparalleled experience and accomplishments in both lymphoma-specific research and clinical care. They guide the planning of the Foundation's research portfolio, selecting and monitoring grant recipients and designing the Foundation's international consortia and scientific programs.

The new SAB members will join current members to review grant proposals, make recommendations regarding research priorities and funding to the Foundation's Board of Directors, evaluate the progress of ongoing research projects, and guide the strategic direction of the Foundation's research programs and consortia.



Alex Herrera, MD

Chief, Division of Lymphoma, Department of Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, City of Hope

Dr. Herrera is an Associate Professor in the Division of Lymphoma at City of Hope. He is also the Associate Medical Director of the Briskin Center for Clinical Research. He earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and was inspired to a career in lymphoma research during his internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "I was attracted to the variability in lymphoma subtypes, the wide range of ages of the lymphoma patients we care for, and the very special long-term relationships a lymphoma clinician can develop with patients over many years," he says. "As I was finishing my training, we were just seeing the early promise of targeted therapies with the initial tyrosine kinase inhibitors and immunotherapies, and it was clear that there would be tremendous research opportunities for a young lymphoma researcher."

Today, Dr. Herrera's clinical research focuses on the optimization of novel immunotherapies for classical Hodgkin lymphoma (cHL) and how best to incorporate new targeted therapies into treatment. He notes that he is most proud of a recent clinical trial his team conducted investigating the use of immunotherapy (nivolumab) versus chemotherapy in patients with stage 3-4 cHL, which led to the establishment of a new standard of care for this patient population. "Many adolescent patients with stage 3-4 Hodgkin lymphoma have historically received radiation therapy; however, with nivolumab-AVD, we were able to increase the effectiveness of treatment and omit radiation in nearly all patients," he explains. "I am excited about the wave of targeted immune-based therapies for lymphoma that are reducing the amount of chemotherapy and radiation treatment patients receive."

As a member of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, Dr. Herrera is excited to help guide the field of lymphoma research to help the foundation achieve its mission. "I am honored to be part of a brilliant group of lymphoma researchers who work together with the Lymphoma Research Foundation to advance our scientific understanding of lymphoma, support the development of new lymphoma treatments, and advocate for lymphoma patients around the world," he shares. "We continue to have an amazing amount of scientific discoveries with new drugs in development for the treatment of lymphoma, and it is an exciting time to be a lymphoma researcher."

Kami Maddocks, MD

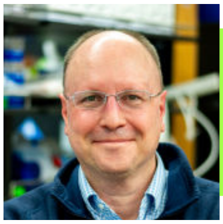
Lymphoma Program Director
The Ohio State University

Dr. Maddocks is a Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine at The Ohio State University and Medical Director of Infusion Services at the James Outpatient Care Cancer Treatment Center. She earned her medical degree from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and completed her residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic. It was here that she was inspired to pursue a career in lymphoma research.

"During my residency, I had the opportunity to take care of patients with lymphoma and was drawn to this population, as it included patients of all ages and various outcomes," she explains. "Caring for patients who would be cured of their disease was rewarding, and caring for patients who needed more effective and less harsh therapies provided an opportunity to make a future impact."

As a clinical researcher, Dr. Maddocks' work has focused on improving outcomes in the treatment of aggressive lymphomas using novel and emerging targeted therapies. She is most proud of her involvement in some of the original trials evaluating the use of Bruton's tyrosine kinase inhibitors (BTKi) in the treatment of B-cell lymphomas. "I was involved in many trials that studied the use of the first BTKi, ibrutinib, and while there are newer BTK inhibitors available with improved toxicity profiles, ibrutinib saved the lives of many people, and it was very rewarding to witness," she shares.

Through her work on the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board and as a member of the Foundation's Mantle Cell Lymphoma Consortium Executive Committee, Dr. Maddocks is excited to help further research that advances our understanding of and ability to treat lymphomas. "I have been fortunate to witness many patients and colleagues benefit from the work of the Lymphoma Research Foundation, including patient education, research funding, and faculty development, and am excited to be joining many of my colleagues on the Scientific Advisory Board who help drive the work and mission of the Lymphoma Research Foundation," she says.



Todd Fehniger, MD, PhD
Professor of Medicine, Division of Oncology
Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Fehniger is a Professor of Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He is co-leader of the hematopoietic development and malignancy program at the Siteman Cancer Center and laboratory director for the Center for Gene and Cellular Immunotherapy in the Division of Oncology. He was initially introduced to lymphoma research as a medical student at the Ohio State University College of Medicine, where he was involved in research investigating novel immunotherapies for lymphoma patients.

As a physician-scientist, Dr. Fehniger's research focuses on understanding immune cells to support the development of new therapies that harness the power of the immune system to treat lymphoma. "One focus of our group is to understand an emerging cellular therapy, natural killer (NK) cells, and how best to engineer and harness these cells," he explains. "We are developing a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-engineered NK cell therapy that is 'supercharged' to be better equipped to attack lymphoma in patients without causing side effects." He hopes that this work will contribute to the growing body of immunotherapies — including CAR T cells and bispecific T-cell engagers — that have helped improve outcomes and experiences for people living with this disease, and he is excited to see how the treatment landscape will continue to evolve. "I expect this is the tip of the iceberg, and we'll be seeing advancements and refinements in how we manipulate, engineer, and modify the immune system and the environment around a lymphoma to treat and cure lymphoma."

As a member of the Scientific Advisory Board, Dr. Fehniger is excited to help guide and support cutting-edge lymphoma research. "The Lymphoma Research Foundation represents a critical force in the advancement of lymphoma research and support for lymphoma patients," he says. "I'm excited to help guide and shape the lymphoma research focus over the coming years in directions that support the very best basic, translational, and clinical research as well as advocate for providing critical support for patients living with lymphoma and their families."

Gilles Salles, MD, PhD
Chief, Lymphoma Service
and Steven A. Greenberg Chair
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Salles is the Lymphoma Service Chief and Steven Greenberg Chair at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He is also a Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. As a member of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, Dr. Salles is looking forward to encouraging research performed by young investigators in the field. "Besides funding meaningful research projects to advance the field, the Scientific Advisory Board and the Foundation have important roles in bringing together clinical and science investigators to address the interpretation of new findings and elaborate research priorities in the field," he says.

Over his career, Dr. Salles has been involved in many clinical studies aimed at investigating lymphoma treatments and uncovering the nature and biology of the disease. His current work is focused on evaluating new immunotherapies for individuals with B-cell lymphoma, with the hopes of understanding how patients develop resistance to these therapies. "I think immunotherapies have changed how we treat B-cell lymphoma," he explains. "They have increased the proportion of patients with aggressive B-cell lymphoma who are cured, significantly prolonged the life of those with indolent disease, and perhaps cured some. We are excited to elucidate the mechanisms of action of these drugs, [identify] resistance mechanisms, and explore new combinations."

The rapid advancements that have been made in lymphoma research give Dr. Salles hope for the future of lymphoma care. "We are already seeing that some patients can be effectively and safely managed for years without chemotherapy, and maybe we will defeat some of the indolent diseases," he says.

Sharon Castellino, MD, MSc
Director, Leukemia/Lymphoma (LL)
Program for the Aflac Cancer
and Blood Disorders Center
Emory University School of Medicine

Dr. Castellino is a Professor of Pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine and Director of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Program at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She earned her medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine, where she also completed a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology. As a member of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, Dr. Castellino is interested in helping the Foundation better tailor their resources for pediatric oncology clinics to help meet the unique needs of this patient population.

As a pediatric oncologist, Dr. Castellino's research career has focused on understanding and improving outcomes for children, adolescents, and young adults with Hodgkin lymphoma. "Most of my research now is in collaborative approaches to improving outcomes in Hodgkin lymphoma," she explains. "This is done through clinical trial designs, studies to create cohorts of cancer survivors treated with new therapies, and also looking upstream at social determinants of health that impact the severity of disease at initial presentation of cancer." She is also interested in understanding the long-term effects of newer treatment options in these younger patient populations. "We don't want to assume that novel agents are better in the long run just because they are tolerated better in the acute therapy setting," she says. "We have an obligation to our patients and to survivors to understand whether or not there will be any later effects."

In addition to her work with pediatric patients, Dr. Castellino is excited to leverage her experiences on the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board to support early- and middle-career investigators to keep lymphoma research moving forward. She is also interested in identifying ways to increase diversity and representation within the lymphoma research space.

Research is in our name — and at the heart of everything we do. Our funding, support, and people have been behind some of the most important innovations in the treatment of lymphoma. For us, research is the beginning of a cure.

Learn more about our impact on lymphoma research by visiting lymphoma.org/research.

A Husband's Devotion as His Wife Faced Lymphoma

In 2015, Alex Wald, his wife, Alicia (Ali), and their 12-year-old son, Luke, were living a busy life in Crystal Beach, Florida, a picturesque beach town with shell-lined streets about 45 minutes outside of Tampa. Life was good.

“Back then, we were living the most normal existence you can imagine as a middle-of-the-road family,” said Alex. “I had a career in law enforcement, and Ali was working as a senior executive at a real estate development firm. Things were humming along, and we were happy, doing our work and raising our son — things were great.”

Then, in the summer of 2015, Ali started experiencing swelling in her abdomen. Initially, she thought it might be an abdominal obstruction and figured it would go away on its own. However, instead of going away, it slowly worsened over the next few weeks, until one day, Ali began taking on water weight and was in a great deal of pain. Her appearance had changed dramatically almost overnight due to the swelling. There was no putting it off any longer — Alex and Ali had to go to the emergency room.

“We initially thought it would be simple, something quickly fixed,” said Alex. “We just wanted to get to the bottom of it.”

In the emergency room, the staff saw that Ali was in distress and took her to be examined immediately. The doctor ordered a scan, and within an hour, he said that it looked like advanced cancer all over her abdomen.

An oncologist came to see Ali that evening and ordered paracentesis, a medical procedure that drains excess fluid from the abdominal cavity. Ali’s pressure was so great that her internal organs had been displaced. Over the next few days, the hospital removed six liters of fluid from Ali’s abdomen. After more tests, on September 7, 2015, just days after being admitted to the emergency room, Ali was officially diagnosed with follicular lymphoma (FL).

“I will remember that day forever,” said Alex. “It felt like a bucket of cold water in the face. I don’t think anybody’s ready to hear they or their loved one has cancer — we certainly weren’t. I remember thinking then and there that everything had just changed.”

Follicular lymphoma, is usually a slow-growing or indolent form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) that arises from B-lymphocytes, which make it a B-cell lymphoma. Due to its slow-growing nature, symptoms can take a while to present themselves, and by then, the lymphoma can be well advanced. Follicular lymphoma accounts for 20%-30% of all NHL cases. While generally not considered to be curable, follicular lymphoma is characterized more as a chronic disease, and patients can live for many years with this type of lymphoma.

“I will remember that day forever,” said Alex. “It felt like a bucket of cold water in the face. I don’t think anybody’s ready to hear they or their loved one has cancer — we certainly weren’t. I remember thinking then and there that everything had just changed.

Assuming the Role as a Care Partner

Upon receiving Ali’s diagnosis, Alex immediately began researching the disease and her options. Ali’s oncology team initially wanted to put her on a regimen called R-CHOP, but after taking Ali’s relative youth and strength into account, they decided to try a less aggressive treatment regimen combining Treanda and rituximab — an emerging frontline treatment that was proving to be effective while milder on the body.

“I’m a researcher by nature, and I read nonstop,” said Alex. “I had never even heard of follicular lymphoma before Ali’s diagnosis, but I knew it was time to put my head down and get to work. After researching the suggested treatment, we agreed that this would be the path for us.”

Alex was an active participant in Ali's care throughout her lymphoma journey, attending and taking notes at every doctor's appointment and every treatment.

"I told Ali, 'Look, I got this,'" said Alex. "'You're going to do the fighting; I'm going to take care of all the research, logistics, and everything else.' So I just dove in."

With all the conflicting sources of information online, Alex found it difficult to discern what information was real and helpful to them — until he found the Lymphoma Research Foundation.

"There's so much information online — but you don't know what's real, what isn't, and the motivation behind it, so you have to sift through it all and find who's credible and what makes the most sense," said Alex. "The Lymphoma Research Foundation was an invaluable resource for us — not only providing us with up-to-date information but also giving us hope by sharing stories of others who were diagnosed with Ali's type of lymphoma and who have gone on to live full lives for many years post-diagnosis."

Alex found that getting so involved with Ali's treatment helped him feel more hopeful and took his mind off the situation he and his family found themselves in.

"Telling my son what was happening to his mom was tough, but we tried to reassure him that we were going to do everything we could so that mom would be fine. But there's no easy way to do it," said Alex. "There's probably no easy way for a child to receive that kind of news either, but how you package the news is equally important."

Ali had six treatments — one each month — which she sailed through with relatively minor side effects. After the third treatment, her doctor wanted to take a scan to see how her body was responding.

"The evening after Ali had been scanned, I remember standing in the middle of our bedroom at about 9 o'clock at night when the doctor called," said Alex. "He told us that her scans looked great, and it looked like the cancer was already gone. We couldn't believe it — I don't think I've ever had that feeling of elation before. We were just so relieved and unbelievably happy."

Inspiring Hope in Others

Once Ali's lymphoma was under control, Alex began volunteering with the Foundation's peer support program, the Lymphoma Support Network (LSN), to help others navigate the challenges that come with facing a lymphoma diagnosis. The LSN is a one-to-one peer support program connecting patients and care partners with volunteers who have had similar experiences. More than 6,000 lymphoma survivors and their caregivers have joined the LSN to connect with others, share their personal histories as they relate to lymphoma, and offer emotional support.

"As a care partner, one of the biggest challenges is assuming the emotional burden of everything that is happening all around you — it can be a lot," said Alex. "I did everything I could to keep Ali from worrying about things, but there's a lot of worry there. Friends and family were constantly asking for updates on how she was doing, so I served as the point person on those communications, which was tough at times when I was worried myself."

Alex credits Ali's bravery and fighting spirit for enabling him to focus on the details of caregiving, from meal prep to making sure Ali made it to each of her doctor appointments.

"Ali made it easy for me — she really did," Alex said. "After that first night in the hospital, she told me that she had her little cry that night, and now it was time to fight. That inspired me so much — here she was facing this rare disease, and she showed this kind of inner strength that blew me away."

Alex did everything he could to keep Ali's spirits high, from simply making her laugh to watching a funny movie or going for a walk down to the pier to look at the water.

As a caregiver, Alex remembers those moments and is reminded that realizing that he and Ali were not alone made all the difference. It was those experiences that made him want to get involved with the Lymphoma Support Network.

"It helps to know you're not alone in something like this, and I encourage anyone facing a lymphoma diagnosis to find some type of community of people that you can talk to who have been through similar experiences," said Alex. "It may seem small, but talking with someone who's been there and made it through really goes a long way. I found community through the Lymphoma Research Foundation."

Alex remembers reading the Foundation's Stories of Hope and learning about follicular lymphoma on its website, which inspired him to help other people going through what his family did.

Alex looks back at Ali's diagnosis, treatment, and recovery and can barely believe just how far they've come since that first day in the emergency room.

"When I was a kid, if you got cancer, it usually meant that you were probably dying, but it's not like that anymore," said Alex. "With the medicines coming out today, some lymphomas are turning into chronic issues, and you can live a full life. We feel so thankful that Ali's been cancer-free for the past eight years. Thanks to talented researchers and organizations like the Lymphoma Research Foundation, new, more effective treatment options are being developed every day — and that's encouraging!"

> **"It helps to know you're not alone in something like this, and I encourage anyone facing a lymphoma diagnosis to find some type of community of people that you can talk to who have been through similar experiences.**

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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Past Chair, 2015-2017
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

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Michael E. Williams, MD, ScM
University of Virginia Cancer Center

Upcoming Events

1.15
Update on B-Cell Lymphomas From the 2024 ASH Annual Meeting

1.23
National Lymphoma Rounds

1.28
Ask the Doctor: Information for Newly Diagnosed Patients

1.30
Chicago Lymphoma Rounds

2.6
New York Lymphoma Rounds

2.12
Puerto Rico Lymphoma Rounds

2.20
Washington, DC, Lymphoma Rounds

3.6
San Francisco Lymphoma Rounds

4.9
New England Lymphoma Rounds

4.24
Philadelphia Lymphoma Rounds

4.27
Lymphoma Research Ride

5.5
South Florida Golf Invitational

5.29
Partners in Purpose Chicago

Want to receive information about Lymphoma Research Foundation events happening in your area? Visit **lymphoma.org/emailsignup** to select your email preferences and stay up to date with the latest from the Foundation.

Lymphoma
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New York, NY 10005

Commit to Your Future Impact Today

When you include the Lymphoma Research Foundation in your estate plan, you are investing in the most promising research that has the greatest potential to dramatically improve the lives of those impacted by lymphoma.

To learn more about Planned Giving, contact Jessica Sharrow at **jsharrow@lymphoma.org** or visit **lymphoma.org/legacy.**