



10

Years

2014 - 2024

HCRF



HIPPOCRATIC
CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

A Vision for Expanding Cancer Research – A Call to Action

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Leonidas Platanius, Director of the Cancer Center at Northwestern Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center Hospital in Chicago, we have made remarkable strides in understanding and treating cancer, a disease that poses formidable challenges. Our mission has remained steadfast: to accelerate breakthroughs in cancer care and to eradicate cancer once and for all. Achieving this mission demands collaboration, innovation, and unwavering support.

This year marks a significant milestone for the HIPPOCRATIC CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION as we celebrate a decade of dedicated service. With the spirit of innovation and unwavering dedication, we have achieved breakthroughs over this remarkable decade. Our foundation serves not only as a beacon of hope but also as a leader in cancer breakthroughs, embodying the legacy of Hippocrates, the father of medicine. This legacy reflects our commitment to healing, compassion, and the principles that guide our mission.



Our goal is ambitious: to raise millions, as we have successfully done, to ensure that the excellence of Northwestern's Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center is accessible to all and to accelerate efforts to eradicate cancer as a disease. This year is truly remarkable and entirely possible with your support and guidance.

Each year, our aim is to bring our vision to life, where eager and distinguished individuals who share our commitment to advancing cancer research and treatment will play a crucial role.

We offer our supporters an unparalleled opportunity to be directly involved in a health initiative that promises not only to advance cancer research but also to eradicate it and provide direct access to world-renowned medical experts like Dr. Leonidas Platanius and his team. This is more than an invitation to support a cause; it is an invitation to be part of a new initiative that values life and is dedicated to safeguarding the health of future generations.

With confidence, we anticipate that your support will catalyze the transformation of this vision into reality. Together, we shall forge a legacy of hope, innovation, and compassion that echoes not just throughout Chicago but across the entire world.

We trust that you are inspired to join a mission that beckons each of us. The eradication of cancer is a collective responsibility. We are committed to making a significant impact on the lives of countless individuals through this life-saving endeavor and welcome your partnership in this vital mission. Please join us as we believe that our foundation will be the one to eradicate cancer once and for all.

Eleni Bousis

Chairwoman

Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation

What is the mission of the Hippocratic cancer research foundation?

The Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation (HCRF) supports cutting-edge, “think outside the box” research at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. The urgency of its mission is fueled by increased incidence of cancer amongst young people in recent years, driving its efforts to help an exemplary team accelerate progress and optimize the impact of cancer research.

HCRF funding focuses on empowering investigators to address the most urgent questions in the field of cancer biology and oncology. In this way, world renown investigators can harness new knowledge and discoveries generated through basic research. These new insights pave the way for innovative cancer treatments and launch game-changing translational research that can save lives. Inspired by Hippocrates himself, a revolutionary in the practice of medicine, HCRF seeks to create an opportunity to help achieve breakthroughs and cure cancer.



Why support the Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center?

The Lurie Cancer Center has a long-standing history as a leading institution not only in patient care, but also in cancer research and is a founding member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), an alliance of 28 of the world’s leading cancer centers that develop guidelines for optimally treating cancer in the US and the world. Having been ranked as one of the top 10 leading academic comprehensive cancer centers in the country in US News and World report, it exemplifies excellence in cancer care and the pursuit of curing cancer. The Lurie Cancer Center is a national leader in the advancement of cancer treatments. From discovery to delivery, in the last 5 years the Lurie Cancer Center has been a leader or key partner in the development of several FDA approved cancer drugs. These cancer drugs span many disciplines, including breast cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, lymphoma and so many more. HCRF continues to champion Dr. Platanius and his exceptional research team coordinated for academic excellence and success.



What cutting edge research has HCRF helped advance providing hope for cancer patients?

HCRFs support has helped accelerate advancements in the following areas of research at the Lurie Cancer Center:

■ **Tumor killing capacity and cancer-curing potential.**

A team of scientists are among the first in the world to identify protein targets that not only effectively kill cancer cells, but unlike other treatments including chemotherapy, they may help avoid treatment resistance. The implications of these studies are revolutionary, redefining how cancer patients can be effectively treated all over the world. Strategies targeting newly identified molecules may replace chemotherapy as a more effective cancer treatment, sustaining patients in remission and providing long-lasting cure.

■ **Basic research in immunology and immunotherapy for treating malignant melanoma.**

By identifying unique cellular and molecular pathways, scientists have discovered new ways to attack malignant metastatic melanoma that may ultimately translate to new treatments. Molecular studies have also identified novel targets of the immune system that pave the way for effective immunotherapies to better address and fight malignant melanoma.

■ **Targeting cell signaling pathways in leukemia cells and solid cancers provide novel perspective and therapeutic approaches.**

Scientists have developed new drugs targeting metabolic/mRNA translation pathways in leukemia cells. In this way, treatment strategies can efficiently impact a multitude of cellular processes important for cancer biology, including cell growth, cell survival and tumor progression. Studies so far suggest that targeting these signaling pathways will be important for treating leukemia and possibly solid tumor cancer as well.

■ **Developing new cellular therapies that modulate the immune system to better fight cancer and optimize cancer patient's outcomes.**

Scientists have applied state-of-the-art technologies to develop new approaches to make cellular therapies more effective for targeting cancer. Research initiatives at the Lurie Cancer Center are focused on improving such FDA-approved technologies and taking research to a higher level of promising treatments.

■ **Supporting the Immunotherapy Assessment Core to develop new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for cancer.**

The Immunotherapy Assessment Core has made significant strides in providing cutting-edge technologies and expert support for developing new clinical and translational studies. These studies specifically aim to determine the effectiveness and feasibility of immunotherapy approaches to help cure cancer.

■ **Developing new approaches to address aggressive cancers, including pancreatic cancer and brain cancer.**

Scientists are developing new approaches for treating cancer by targeting newly identified unique molecules, important for the response of the immune system, known as intracellular immune checkpoint inhibitors. These approaches have the potential to give rise to a new version of immunotherapy, perhaps more effective for treating aggressive cancers like pancreatic cancer and brain cancer that typically do not respond to standard immunotherapy.

■ **Building the Immuno-metabolism field in cancer research.**

The Lurie Cancer Center has unique strengths and expertise in the field of immune-metabolism that bridges cancer immunology with metabolism. This area of research has the potential to help develop new therapies based on metabolic re-programming of immune cells, and this an area is actively supported by HCRF.

HCRF has done so much, and time is of the essence to continue momentum and do much more. HCRF mission to provide funding to Dr. Platanius and his exceptional team continues to be realized with the help and support of generous donors and sponsors throughout the years. With your generosity, our vision will continue to become a reality, and we will persevere towards conquering cancer. **Join us in the fight.**

Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD

Director, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University
Associate Vice President for Cancer Programs, Northwestern University

Dr. Platanias leads the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University in Chicago, a founding member of National Comprehensive Cancer Centers Network (NCCN). He is the Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology and Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics. Since Dr. Platanias became director in 2014, the Lurie Cancer Center (LCC) has experienced dramatic growth, with doubling of its NCI funding and the recruitment of over 160 new faculty members. Under his leadership, LCC received the highest rating in its history, an overall exceptional and a near-perfect score on the last CCSG renewal and is ranked number 6 in the USA in the last US News World Report rankings.



Dr. Platanias was born and raised in Athens, Greece. He earned his medical degree and doctorate from the University of Patras Medical School, in Patras, Greece. He subsequently moved to the US and began his research career at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, as a Fogarty research fellow studying the immune mechanisms of bone marrow failure syndromes. He subsequently moved to New York City where he completed his residency in Internal Medicine and eventually to Chicago where he completed his fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at the University of Chicago. He joined Northwestern in 2002, initially as Deputy Director and eventually as Director of the Lurie Cancer Center in 2014. Prior to joining Northwestern, he was Professor and Chief of the Division of Hematology Oncology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dr. Platanias is board certified in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology, with clinical expertise in leukemia. Dr. Platanias' research work focuses on cytokine signaling pathways in cells, with translational applications in leukemia and brain tumors. He has published more than 350 papers and his research has been continuously funded by the NCI for nearly 30 years. In addition to being the principal investigator of the largest institutional grant for cancer (CCSG) at Northwestern, he is currently the principal investigator of 4 NIH R01 grants and an I01 Merit Review. He has made significant contributions in the interferon and cytokine signaling field for 3 decades. His early work on interferon signaling, along with the work of others, led to discoveries that helped define the modern cancer immunotherapy field and resulted in clinical applications for the treatment of malignancies. He has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Seymour and Vivian Milstein Award for outstanding contributions in cytokine research and the UHVA Award for the Most Distinguished Greek American in the Field of Medicine. Dr. Platanias previously served as President of the International Cytokine and Interferon Society. He serves as Editor for several oncology and immunology journals and has been a chair or member of several study sections and site visit teams for the NIH, including more recently the NCI Subcommittee A for Cancer Centers. He has also served as chair or member of several grant panels for the US Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

OUR WORLD RENOWN NORTHWESTERN TEAM

Roger Stupp, MD

***Chief of Neuro-oncology in the Department of Neurology
Paul C. Bucy Professor of Neurological Surgery
Professor of Neurological Surgery, Medicine (Hematology and
Oncology) and Neurology (Neuro-oncology)***

Dr. Roger Stupp is an internationally recognized medical oncologist with a special focus on innovative cancer treatments and drug development, notably for brain tumors and brain metastases. At Northwestern, he is leading the Division of Neuro-Oncology, and serving as the Co-leader of the Translational Research in Solid Tumors (TRIST) program of the Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Dr. Stupp has been the lead investigator for numerous clinical trials from first-in-human phase 1 to pivotal phase 3 registration studies. In the brain tumor field, he is best known for his contributions of temozolomide, and radiation in the first line treatment of brain tumors (the “stupp protocol”), and establishing MGMT as a predictive marker for benefit from alkylating agent chemotherapy. He was also the lead investigator establishing Tumor Treating Fields as an innovative treatment modality. Two novel treatments that based on his research received FDA approval and are today standard of care for patients suffering from glioblastoma.

William Gradishar, MD

***Chief of Hematology and Oncology in the Department of Medicine
Betsy Bramsen Professor of Breast Oncology
Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Oncology)***

My clinical domain is breast cancer management. My clinical research interest focuses on the development of novel therapies for the treatment of breast cancer. Clinical trials focusing on precision medicine for defining the right therapy, for the right patient at the right time is our goal. To that end, molecular interrogation of breast tumors are leading to novel trial design that will hopefully translate into better outcomes for our patients. In conjunction with the developmental therapeutics...[Read full text]My clinical domain is breast cancer management. My clinical research interest focuses on the development of novel therapies for the treatment of breast cancer. Clinical trials focusing on precision medicine for defining the right therapy, for the right patient at the right time is our goal. To that end, molecular interrogation of breast tumors are leading to novel trial design that will hopefully translate into better outcomes for our patients. In conjunction with the developmental therapeutics program, novel agents are being incorporated into clinical trials for patients with both early and late stage disease.

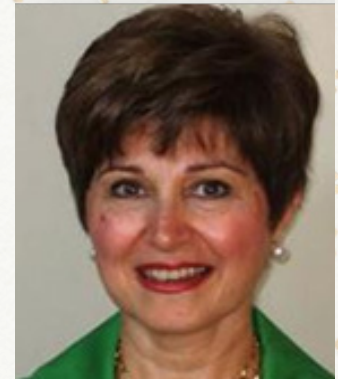


OUR WORLD RENOWN NORTHWESTERN TEAM

Maha Hussain, MBChB

***Genevieve E. Teuton Professor of Medicine
Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Oncology)***

Maha Hussain, MD, FACP, FASCO, is the Genevieve Teuton Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Medicine, and the Deputy Director, and leader of the GU Oncology Program at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Hussain is a practicing oncologist, internationally renowned expert and clinical researcher in genitourinary oncology particularly prostate and bladder cancer. Her research, funded by federal grants and contracts, is focused on the development of novel therapeutics integrating scientific advances into clinical trials and has contributed to significantly impacting the standards of care for patients with metastatic hormone sensitive and castration resistant prostate cancer.



Jyoti Patel, MD

***Associate Vice Chair for Clinical Research, Department of Medicine
Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Oncology)***

Jyoti Patel, MD, is Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University and Associate Vice-Chair for Clinical Research in the Department of Medicine. She is also Medical Director of Thoracic Oncology and Assistant Director for Clinical Research in the Lurie Cancer Center. Dr. Patel is a leader in thoracic oncology, focusing her efforts in the development and evaluation of novel molecular markers and therapeutics in patients battling non-small cell lung cancer. She has numerous publications and has lead multiple lung cancer trials, from phase I to III. Dr. Patel is recognized for her expertise in new drug development as well as being an outstanding clinician, educator, and mentor.



OUR WORLD RENOWN NORTHWESTERN TEAM

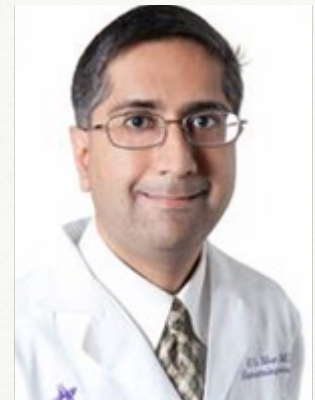
Jessica Altman, MD
Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Oncology)

Jessica Altman is the Director of the Leukemia program at the Lurie Cancer Center. Dr. Altman's primary research efforts are based on increasing understanding of the role of aberrant signal transduction pathways in the development of myeloid neoplasms; defining molecular targets for the treatment of leukemias; and generating clinical trials based on such research work.



Hidayatullah G Munshi, MD
Robert and Lora Lurie Professor of Medicine
Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Oncology)

Hidayatullah Munshi has a broad background in studying the mechanisms regulating pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) progression. He has expertise in orthotopic and transgenic mouse models and routinely employ ex vivo acinar-to-ductal metaplasia, organoid, and slice cultures of human PDAC tumors in our studies. Besides studying the mechanisms by which collagen microenvironment regulates invasion, he is interested in understanding the role of the collagen microenvironment in treatment resistance. He has shown that epigenetic changes induced by the collagen microenvironment contribute to resistance to chemotherapy and immunotherapy. He has found that collagen microenvironment induces histone acetylation and that targeting "readers" of histone acetylation marks using BET inhibitors can limit growth of pancreatic cancer cells. He has also shown that the collagen microenvironment regulates mRNA translation to mediate pancreatic cancer progression. His ongoing studies are focused on identifying mechanism-based novel combination regimens to enhance response of immune checkpoint inhibitors in PDAC.

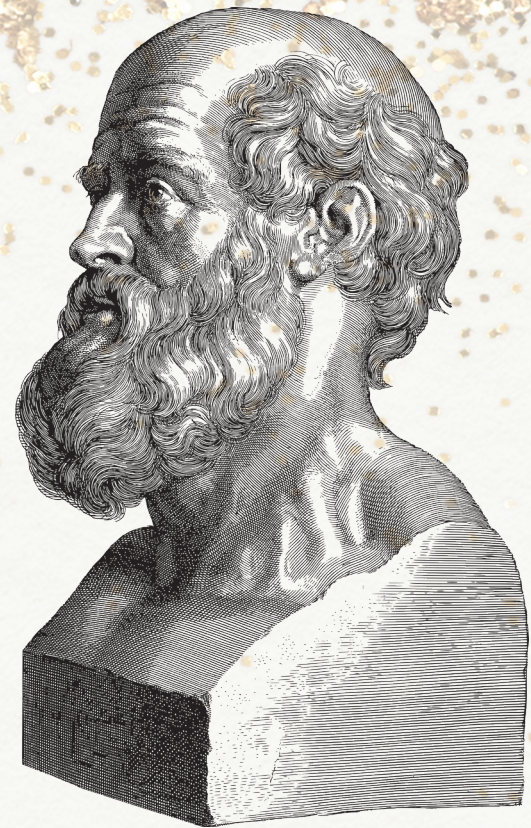


HIPPOCRATES

Doctor | Healer | Father of Medicine

Hippocrates was born on the Aegean island of Kos around the middle of the fifth century, BCE. With little knowledge of his life experiences, historians rely on a biography written some 500 years after his death by another Greek physician, Soranus, which was drawn from legend and a collection of medical writings commonly called the Hippocratic Corpus.

His formal name was Hippocrates Asclepiades, meaning “descendant of (the doctor-god) Asclepius.” Born into a wealthy family, the son of Praxithea and Heracleides, Hippocrates was likely given a solid education in the basic subjects. He went on to a formal secondary school before learning medicine from his father and another physician Herodicus. Historians believe Hippocrates traveled throughout the Greek mainland and possibly Libya and Egypt practicing medicine. Known for his teaching as much as his healing abilities, Hippocrates passed on his medical knowledge to his two sons and started a school for medicine on the island of Kos around 400 BCE. It was probably here that many of the methods attributed to Hippocrates were developed.



THE HIPPOCRATIC CORPUS

Much of what is known about these methods comes from a collection of more than 60 medical books known as the Hippocratic Corpus, considered the oldest writings on medicine. Compiled 100 years after his death, historians believe the documents may be the work of many different physicians practicing medicine during Hippocrates’ lifetime and later. However, a unique aspect of the writings is that they share basic assumptions about how the body works and the nature of disease. The books were written for different fields of medicine—physicians, pharmacists, and the layperson, not so much to practice medicine, but to be able to talk with the doctor.

According to the Corpus, Hippocratic medicine recommended a healthy diet and physical exercise as a remedy for most ailments. If this did not reduce sickness, some type of medication was recommended. Plants were processed for their medicinal elements. The Corpus also describes how joints could be repositioned, the importance of keeping records of case histories and treatments, and the relationship between the weather and some illnesses.

Though Hippocratic medicine believed disease was caused by natural forces—instead of the will of the gods as was commonly believed—it didn’t have a firm understanding of the nature of what makes people ill. Doctors at the time only observed sick people not the diseases themselves. Most descriptions of internal organs were based on what could be seen or felt externally. Dissections of animals were performed to make comparisons with the human body, but fifth century Greek ethics forbid dismemberment of humans.

THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH

The very familiar “Hippocratic Oath” is a document on medical practices, ethics, and morals. Originally, Hippocrates was credited with composing the oath, however, newer research indicates it was written after his death by other physicians influenced by the medical practices in the Corpus. Though not applied in its original form today, the many modernized versions that exist serve as foundation for the oath medical graduates take at the start of their careers. Some of the basic tenets of the oath include practicing medicine to the best of one’s ability, sharing knowledge with other physicians, employing sympathy, compassion and understanding, respecting the privacy of patients and helping to prevent disease whenever possible.

Little is known about Hippocrates’ death or his age, though it is widely held that he died in the Ancient Greek town of Larissa, around 377 BCE. Many historians believe he may have lived into his 80s or 90s. What is known is that he made a major contribution to medicine and set a standard for ethical practices.



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