## LUNG CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



## **Our Mission**

The mission of the Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF) is to improve lung cancer outcomes by funding research for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure of lung cancer.

## **Our Vision**

Our vision is a world free of lung cancer.

### **LCRF History**

The Lung Cancer Research Foundation has evolved over the years, but one thing remains the same: we are determined to create a world without lung cancer. **Together, we can accomplish more than any one of us can alone.** 





# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH

### Our philosophy is simple: scientific discoveries lead to improved outcomes.

LCRF provides critical seed funding to the best and brightest investigators, helping establish proof of concept evidence to pave the way for follow-on funding. When it comes to research, we can accomplish more together than we can alone. Every grant our efforts make possible is an investment in the future.

### **RESEARCH ROADMAP HIGHLIGHTS**

LCRF's Scientific Executive Committee (SEC), a committee comprised of Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members, developed recommendations for the foundation's research program to address the needs of the lung cancer community and accelerate the pace of lung cancer research. Those recommendations include:

- Inclusion of patients in every aspect of LCRF's research program, from determining funding areas, participating in grant review, education, awareness, and funding.
- Fund research in the areas of greatest need, with the greatest opportunity for impact: early detection, prevention, and diagnostics; understanding resistance; novel and innovative projects.
- Continue investment in basic and early career investigators and expand to include other levels of investigators as well as collaborative and team awards.
- Develop funding partnerships to drive impact and improve outcomes.
- Facilitate scientific knowledge and understanding through convening members of LCRF's SAB with leading scientists, researchers, LCRF grantees, funders, and supporters by hosting meetings throughout the year.

### **RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR 2023**

To date, LCRF has funded 409 research grants, totaling over \$42 million. By 2024, LCRF intends to fund a total of at least \$45 million in direct lung cancer research. Priorities for funding include early detection, drug resistance, and innovation.

**LCRF Leading Edge Grant**, seeking to ferret out novel ideas, approaches, methods, and techniques that promise to have a profound impact on lung cancer patients and their treatment teams.

LCRF Research Grant on Early Detection and Pre-Neoplasia in Lung Cancer, which funds research projects that facilitate or advance the understanding and characterization of pre-neoplasia or approaches for early detection of lung cancer.

LCRF Research Grant on Understanding Resistance in Lung Cancer supports projects that focus on characterizing, identifying, treating, overcoming, or preventing resistance to therapies in tumors harboring alterations in oncogenic drivers in non-small cell lung cancer cells, tissues, mouse models or patient tumors.

LCRF's Minority Career Development Award (CDA) for Lung Cancer, which aims to increase the number of highly skilled and trained researchers from groups that are historically underrepresented in academia, medicine, and leadership in lung cancer research.

# EARLY DETECTION & PRE-NEOPLASIA RESEARCH

### MOHAMMAD SHAHROKH ESFAHANI, PhD

Stanford University



Circulating tumor DNA in patients being treated for NSCLC will be analyzed to look

for biomarkers in the blood to identify markers of recurrence. The goal is to one day predict recurrence and strategize therapy based upon that prediction.

### TIM LAUTENSCHLAEGER, MD Indiana University

24-hour urine based ctDNA analysis for early stage NSCLC detection

The goal of this research is to evaluate urine as a better alternative to plasma in detecting circulating DNA from NSCLC. This could be valuable for diagnosing cancers as well as detecting recurrence.



## ALK RESEARCH

### JAIME SCHNEIDER, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

Metabolic reprogramming as a driver of resistance in ALK+ lung cancer

This research aims to discover new ways to overcome resistance to ALK+ lung cancer therapy by targeting the metabolism. By identifying unique

metabolic abnormalities that drive resistance, new treatments can be developed.

### ÁLVARO QUINTANAL VILLALONGA, PhD Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Identifying epigenomic mechanisms of ALK TKI resistance

This project will study ALK+ lung cancer therapy resistance, particularly those that are epigenetic – not mutations, but rather major shifts in the activity of genes in the cancer cell.



Research is our difference of the support of the su

Getting the support I received from LCRF was a form of 'life-support' for an exciting new direction in my laboratory. Without that support, the project may have ended since I wouldn't have had the resources to hire qualified scientists to do the work. With this support I eventually landed my first large NIH grant, and the research it supported is now published in a prominent cancer journal. I'm also very excited that several clinical trials will be launched based on the foundation of this project."

> **Chad Pecot, MD** UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center 2016 LCRF grantee



# SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER RESEARCH

### HUANHUAN CHEN, PhD

The University of Chicago

A human pluripotent stem cell-based approach to metastasis of small cell lung cancer

This project plans to study primary small cell lung cancer and metastases. Understanding the process of SCLC

metastases, and the cellular and molecular pathways involved, could generate ideas about better therapy for this type of cancer.

### **BINGNAN ZHANG, MD**

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Harnessing DLL3 as a CAR T target in small cell lung cancer

Dr. Zhang's lab is studying a new immunotherapy approach for SCLC to overcome resistance. Laboratory



## MINORITY CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDEES

AMANDA IRIS BRADLEY, PHD Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Discovering genetic factors of MET Exon skipping and drug resistance in lung cancer

This project is taking a deeper dive into the different MET Exon 14 alterations to better understand how variants of MET cause drug resistance.



### **CARLA CONCEPCION, PHD** Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Targeting SMARCA4-deficient lung cancers

The SMARC4 gene is an indication of a poor prognosis in NSCLC. There is no treatment directed at SMARC4; however, SMARC2, which can also be present in



SMARC4 deficient cancers, may be a target for treatment. The goal is to understand the interaction of SMARC4/2.

## KRAS RESEARCH

### MATTHEW GUMBLETON, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

KRAS inhibitors for the treatment of invasive mucinous adenocarcinoma

Invasive mucinous adenocarcinoma (IMA) of the lung is an aggressive subtype of lung cancer. Since IMA is primarily KRAS+,

this research will study the role of KRAS inhibitors to improve treatment for IMA of the lung.



LCRF funding was instrumental in allowing me to complete and publish the project I was working on at the time. The project has fostered cross-institutional collaborations and a clinical trial. It provided support at a critical juncture so I can continue doing research. Now it serves as a springboard for me to compete for Federal funding with the results and publications I generated."

> Victoria Wang, MD, PhD University of California, San Francisco Two-time LCRF grantee

# MET RESEARCH

### TIMOTHY BURNS, MD, PhD

University of Pittsburgh

Targeting glycolysis in MET altered lung cancer brain metastases

This project will study the metabolic pathways in MET-altered lung cancer, especially in brain metastases (BM). The abnormalities in metabolism will be

defined and metabolic inhibitors will be used to target these abnormalities. This could lead to new therapies for patients with MET-altered lung cancer.

### EMILIANO COCCO, PhD

Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami

s to

Exploring novel therapeutic options to target MET-driven lung cancers

### 2022 William C. Rippe Award for Distinguished Research in Lung Cancer

This project has two goals. The first one is to study a new antibody-drug conjugate in MET-altered lung cancer models. The researcher also plans to evaluate MET mutations that occur as a resistance mechanism. Knowing which mutations are driving resistance could potentially direct treatment.

### **XIUNING LE, MD, PhD**

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Optimization of MET-CAR-T/NK cellbased therapies for MET Exon 14 skipping NSCLC

This project plans to engineer novel immunotherapeutic approaches

to target MET-altered lung cancer. The researcher will use a combination of cell therapy and other MET inhibitors to enhance their effect.

# EGFR RESEARCH

### SWARNALI ACHARYYA, PhD

Columbia University Medical Center

Drugging the S100A9-Retinoic acid pathway: companion biomarker and therapy

### 2022 James B. Dougherty, MD Award for Scientific Merit



This research will study a new pathway as a new target that when inhibited could prevent and/or treat brain metastases. The potential benefit could also extend to patients with leptomeningeal disease.

### LUKE HOEPPNER, PhD

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Predictive biomarkers and new therapeutic strategies to prevent EGFR TKI-refractory lung cancer progression



This project is attempting to understand how lung cancer cells evade EGFR targeted therapy and aims to develop

new innovative therapies to predict and prevent the emergence of resistance and disease progression.

### JONATHAN OSTREM, MD, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

Enhancing the precision of targeted therapies for EGFR-mutant lung cancer

The goal of this research is to develop a new therapy for EGFR positive lung cancer that would enhance effective cancer killing activity while limiting



toxicity to healthy tissue in the body. The initial focus will be on EGFR Exon 20 tumors but eventually could be applied to other targeted therapies.



## LUNG CANCER MUTATION CONSORTIUM

Matching Patients with the Best Possible Therapies

he Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium (LCMC) is an association of more than 20 U.S. cancer centers focused on understanding the genetic changes that underlie lung cancers. Through the testing of tumor tissues to uncover genetic changes, LCMC investigators match patients with targeted drugs and clinical trials designed to change the practice of thoracic oncology. Ultimately, the LCMC seeks to improve outcomes in patients whose tumors harbor oncogenic drivers. The Lung Cancer Research Foundation acts as facilitator for the LCMC, coordinating and supporting its activities.

The LCMC is a unique model that brings together advocacy, academic, and industry partners in a collaborative setting. This strategy streamlines research efforts, cuts cost and delays, facilitates connections with the lung cancer and advocacy communities, and brings us closer to the goal of precision medicine where therapies are matched to the specific needs of each person with lung cancer.

## **Current Study: LCMC4**

### LCRF LEADER Neoadjuvant Screening Trial

LCMC4 Evaluation of Actionable Drivers in EaRly-Stage Lung Cancer

The current LCMC study, the LCRF LEADER Neoadjuvant Screening Trial, is the fourth study conducted through the consortium and is a collaborative effort involving numerous academic study sites and pharmaceutical supporters.

Utilizing an umbrella trial design, the primary purpose of this testing is to determine the presence of 10 oncogenic drivers (mutations in EGFR, BRAFV600E, MET exon 14, and HER2, rearrangements in ALK, RET, NTRK, and ROS1, and amplification of MET and HER2) in 1,000 patients that can serve as targets, making patients eligible for upcoming targeted neoadjuvant therapy trials. The goal is to use this information from the screening process to select the optimal neoadjuvant therapy, and wherever possible, enroll patients onto separate neoadjuvant therapy trials with genomically matched treatments or other appropriate trials if no actionable driver mutation is detected. The LCMC4 screening study, together with matched industrysponsored therapeutic trials, will provide critical data for informing treatment decisions in the neoadjuvant setting.

This study will allow for inspection of tumors after neoadjuvant treatment to understand what oncogenic drivers remain that made the tumor resistant to that particular therapy.

### **LCMC4 LEADER Trial Participating Sites**

The LCMC4 LEADER trial will include participation from sites and investigators across the oncology community.

### **Participating sites**

- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Vanderbilt University

### **Prospective participating sites**

- Case Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Cedars-Sinai
- City of Hope Cancer Center
- Columbia University

- Dana Farber Cancer Institute
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock
- Karmanos Cancer Center
- Moffitt Cancer Center
- NYU
- Ohio State
- Sarah Cannon Cancer Center
- St. Josephs Hospital Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment
- UCLA

- University of California-Davis
- University of Colorado
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Missouri
- University of Washington
- USC Norris Cancer Center
- Virginia Cancer Specialists
- Washington University
- Yale University

# **Previous Studies**



Using Multiplexed Assays of Oncogenic Drivers in Lung Cancers to Select Targeted Drugs



The Impact of Smoking and TP53 Mutations in Lung Adenocarcinoma Patients with Targetable Mutations Begun in 2008, the first LCMC study was a multi-institutional program for investigating the frequency of selected oncogenic drivers in advanced lung cancers.

Using the results to treat participants with targeted therapies, either as part of standard clinical care or on investigational protocols, the study demonstrated the feasibility of widespread implementation of mutational profiling in the clinical care of patients with lung cancer.

With 14 institutions participating and over 1,000 patients enrolled, the study was one of the largest of its kind to address the many challenges that arise in the course of molecular testing of solid tumors for therapeutic decision-making.

Building on the initial accrual of 1,000 patient samples from the first study, the second LCMC trial accrued an additional 1,000 patients. This cohort, with stage IV lung cancers whose tissue samples were tested with a larger panel of molecular targets, received approved medications or were again enrolled into "matched" therapeutic trials.

These two studies demonstrated that oncogenic drivers were detected in more than half of patients with lung adenocarcinomas and that treating these patients with targeted therapies improved survival. The LCMC2 trial also

Ultimately, these studies led to major changes in guidelines for biomarker testing

established that secondary genetic alterations that are not drivers (e.g. p53) could influence the outcomes of patients receiving targeted therapy.

Ultimately, these studies led to major changes in guidelines for biomarker testing including advocating for routine next generation sequencing at diagnosis.



A Study of Atezolizumab as Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Therapy in Resectable NCLC

With success in patients with stage IV disease, the LCMC3 study shifted attention to early stage lung cancers. For the first time, the study scope included thoracic surgery leaders from member institutions, recognizing their central role in care and research in the perioperative setting.

With enrollment begun in 2017 and completed in 2020, LCMC3 was designed as a neoadjuvant and adjuvant trial of immune checkpoint blockade for stage IB-IIIA non-small cell lung cancer.

The goals of this study included providing early stage patients with a new treatment option and leveraging the LCMC's expertise in multicenter studies to address questions about the biology of response and resistance to immunotherapeutics.

For additional information, contact LungCancerMutationConsortium@LCRF.org

Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium LCRF.org/LCMC





# COMMUNITY MISSION EVENTS

# A strong community is a natural outcome when people share a sense of purpose.

LCRF's fundraising events are not just a way for individuals to impact life-saving research, they also show people affected by lung cancer that they are not alone. Participants tell us they experience an outpouring of compassion and kindness at a whole new level.

LCRF hosts several different types of gatherings where attendees can fundraise and donate towards research grants. At the heart of every one is a focus on what lung cancer research means for patients and families. Learn more at LCRF.org/getinvolved.

### Free to Breathe Walk

The Free to Breathe Walk is a grassroots fundraising event bringing people together in several cities across the nation. Those unable to attend an in-person walk can join the Free to Breathe Anywhere Walk and walk at the time and place of their choosing.

Butterfly imagery abounds, representing hope, strength, metamorphosis, and resiliance. Different colored butterflies represent participants' connection to lung cancer and provide a way



for people to identify one another. Opening ceremonies are elevated by a mission moment recognizing survivors, loved ones, supporters, and those who have lost someone to lung cancer. A local survivor is invited to speak at each walk.



**Evening of Innovation Gala** 

The Evening of Innovation Gala is LCRF's premiere event celebrating scientific discovery and honoring the work of research luminaries.

This black-tie event raised more than \$650,000 at its inaugural in 2022, which honored Dr. Brendon Stiles and Dr. David Hidalgo. Patient speakers headline the gala. This year's honoree is Dr. Katerina Politi.

A looping presentation features every patient in attendance, highlighting them with a photo and quotation. The presentation also includes caregivers and people who had lost someone close to them. Messages of hope and congratulations appear alongside tributes to the honorees in a keepsake gala journal, which also is shared digitally.



### Free to Breathe Your Way

Free to Breathe Your Way fundraising encompasses all sorts of individual events – golf outings, picnics, concerts, and more. LCRF provides support and information that doubly serves to raise awareness about lung cancer. The program also encompasses Team LCRF endurance athletes, who train and complete various distance events. In 2022, a community of 16 Team LCRF runners raised over \$106,000 as part of the New York City Marathon.



# PATIENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

LCRF educates and supports the lung cancer community through online and in-person programming, our Lung Cancer Support Line, and printed materials written especially for patients and caregivers.

Our #TogetherSeparately educational webinar series was developed in response to the 2020 pandemic. The series continues to be popular, highlightings topics of interest with a variety of guest experts.

LCRF hosts a Facebook group, the #TogetherSeparately Lung Cancer Support Community, which offers a place for patients and caregivers to continue their conversations.

Learn more about how we support the lung cancer patient community by visiting LCRF.org/patients.



**In-person events** 

LCRF hosts a variety of inperson educational programs and community gatherings. Regardless of the event type, they all have a common goal: to **create a connected "second family" among those impacted by lung cancer**, with a focus on what lung cancer research means for patients and families. In 2023, LCRF will expand its reach to the Chicago, New York City, and Washington, DC metropolitan areas.



### **Educational materials**

To empower patients to play an active role in their treatment decisions, LCRF offers **relevant, accurate, and up-to-date education in laypersonfriendly language**. These evidence based materials are developed in conjunction with LCRF's Education + Engagement Committee and are offered free of charge. In 2023, we plan to overhaul our immunotherapy booklet, adapt key pieces into Spanish, and develop new pieces on specific mutations.



### **Education + Engagement Committee**

This newly-formed group of **clinicians, researchers, patients, caregivers and advocates** is tasked with ensuring that LCRF provides educational content that is **relevant, helpful, and meets the needs of the lung cancer community**. In addition, the committee ensures these resources are readily available to inform and empower individuals on their lung cancer journey.

### Know Your Risk Español

Expanding on the success of LCRF's *Know Your Risk* guide for Black Americans, this program will provide Spanish-speaking Americans vital information on lung cancer and its subtypes, screening, risk factors, early detection and diagnosis, comprehensive biomarker testing, clinical trials, and accessing care.

Educational components include a Spanishlanguage documentary video and key printed materials translated into Spanish.



LCRF provides up-to-date, credible information on diagnosis, treatment, and what to expect from treatment through our free educational materials – including tools to help facilitate discussions between patients and their healthcare teams.

Our goal is to provide relevant, accurate information in layperson-friendly language in order to empower patients to play an active role in their treatment decisions.

These patient education materials are evidence based and developed in conjunction with LCRF's Education + Engagement Committee, comprised of oncologists, researchers, oncology nurses, social workers, patients, caregivers, and advocates.

> More than **125,000** pieces were distributed in 2022

Materials are available in both digital download and print format. Shipping is free to addresses in the United States.

# EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS





Living with Lung Cancer Spanish translation in progress our flagship resource



Personal Lung Cancer Profile tear pad available in Spanish

most requested by healthcare teams



#### My Lung Cancer Care Plan

recently updated; loose pages for tracking appointments can be added to a 3-ring binder *Visit LCRF.org/resources for a complete list of materials available for order.* 



Caregiving for a Loved One with Lung Cancer



Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Lung Cancer

major revision and Spanish translation coming in 2023



Understanding Squamous Cell Lung Cancer

Comprehensive Biomarker

recently updated; 1-page quick

Testing for Lung Cancer

guide also available



Understanding Small Cell Lung Cancer



Understanding Clinical Trials for Lung Cancer

recently updated; 1-page quick guide also available



# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

View more detailed biographies at LCRF.org/board.

Updated February 2023

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**Reina Honts** Fashion industry executive

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**Bruce Dunbar** Coppertop Media

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Associate Professor of Pathology and Internal Medicine Yale School of Medicine

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Research Scientist, Epidemiology International Agency for Research on Cancer

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Chief, Lung and Upper Aerodigestive Cancer Group Division of Cancer Prevention National Cancer Institute, NIH

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Assistant Professor, Clinical Research Division

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

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Anne Murnick Cogan and David H. Cogan Professor of Oncology, Department of Medicine Director, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology Laura & Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center NYU Langone Medical Center

### COLLEEN CONNER ZIEGLER SEC

Member, LCRF Board of Directors Lung cancer patient advocate

### **2022 Financials**

To view the Lung Cancer Research Foundation's previous audited financial statements and Form 990, please refer to our web page: LCRF.org/financials.





### **YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK**

	Total	\$6,415,904
Management and gene	eral	\$279,307
Fundraising		\$567,237
Program services		\$2,546,648
Direct research		\$3,022,712

### **NET ASSETS**

Total net assets Dec 31, 2022 \$3,58	35,118
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