



SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Sarcoma Organization Expands Research Funding

SFA Awards Nearly Three-Quarter Million Dollars to Sarcoma Research

DAMASCUS, Md. – May 16, 2013 – The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), an organization dedicated to increased awareness and research for sarcoma, today announced that it has awarded nearly \$700,000 in research funds to deserving scientists at institutions across the United States during 2013. Ten 2013 SFA research grants, each worth \$50,000, have been awarded to researchers who have made it their mission to study sarcoma, a rare cancer that arises in the body's connective tissue. All proposals are peer reviewed by the SFA Medical Advisory Board who award the grants to the best, most promising research toward the cure for sarcoma. In addition, SFA awarded almost \$200,000 to fund the inaugural Vision 2020 Campaign to Cure Sarcoma Research Project. This project launches the SFA's new effort to direct the energy and focus of the organization toward successfully expanding and improving treatment options for sarcoma patients through individualized sarcoma therapies by 2020.

The Sarcoma Foundation of America began its research grant program in 2003. Since that time, the Foundation has invested funds in 87 grants. More information on SFA's research program, including current and past grant recipients, can be found at http://www.curesarcoma.org/index.php/research_grants/.

2013 RESEARCH GRANTS

Alexander Burdo/ZIOPHARM Research Award

Kurt Weiss, MD

Assistant Professor

University of Pittsburgh

“Investigation of novel anti-metastatic therapies for osteosarcoma”

Alexander Burdo Research Award

Zhenfeng Duan, PhD

Director of Sarcoma Molecular Biology Laboratory

Massachusetts General Hospital

“miR-15b (miRNA-15b) delivery to reverse multidrug resistance in human osteosarcoma”

Jean Tweedie Memorial Research Award

Faris Farassati, PhD, PharmD

Associate Professor

University of Kansas Medical Center

“RalA as a novel target for treatment of MPNST”

Mandell/Kropp Run for a Sarcoma Cure Research Award

Robert Canter, MD

Assistant Professor

University of California Davis

“Targeting sarcoma cancer stem cells with natural killer cell immunotherapy”

Mandell/Kropp Run for a Sarcoma Cure Research Award

Wesley Hsu, MD

Director of Neurosurgical Spine Oncology

Wake Forest University Health Sciences

“Targeting FGFR/MEK/ERK/Brachyury pathway to inhibit chordoma cell growth”

Mark Herzlich Research Award

Romel Somwar, PhD

Senior Research Scientist

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

“In vivo activity and characterization of the mechanism of action of a novel class of proteasome inhibitors in Ewing's sarcoma”

Pittsburgh Cure Sarcoma Research Award

Brian Van Tine, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor

Washington University, St. Louis

“A metabolomic approach to targeting ASS1 deficient sarcomas”

Dr. Richard and Valerie Aronsohn Memorial Research Award

Christine Lovly, MD, PhD

Instructor in Medicine

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

“Identifying and characterizing actionable kinase fusions in Inflammatory Myofibroblastic Tumors”

Sarcoma Foundation of America Research Award

Corinne Linardic, MD, PhD

Associate Professor

Duke University Medical Center

“Role of SFRP3 in PAX3-FOXO1-positive alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma”

Sarcoma Foundation of America Research Award

Eric Alejandro Sweet-Cordero, MD

Assistant Professor

Stanford University

“Characterization of the function of a novel lncRNA in Ewing's sarcoma using genomics and proteomics”

VISION 2020 CAMPAIGN TO CURE SARCOMA RESEARCH PROJECT

Funded by the Dr. Richard and Valerie Aronsohn Memorial Fund

Narasimhan P. Agaram, MD

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

“Comprehensive Genomic Analysis of Metastatic Uterine and Extrauterine Leiomyosarcoma”

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Quick Facts About Sarcoma

Sarcoma is a rare cancer in adults (1 percent of all adult cancers) but rather prevalent in children (about 15 percent of all childhood cancers). At any one time, 50,000 patients and their families are struggling with sarcoma. Every year, about 14,000 new cases are diagnosed and about 6,000 people die from the disease.

About the Sarcoma Foundation of America

The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, is an advocate for increased research to find new and better therapies with which to treat patients with sarcoma. The organization raises money to privately fund grants for sarcoma researchers and conducts education and advocacy efforts on behalf of sarcoma patients. For more information, please visit www.curesarcoma.org