2024 NFCR SNAPSHOT
A YEAR OF IMPACT TO ADVANCE CANCER RESEARCH

NFCR™
National Foundation for Cancer Research
We Make Cures Possible

2024 NFCR GLOBAL SUMMIT AND AWARD CEREMONIES FOR CANCER RESEARCH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

An Event Unlike Any Other — Recognizing Advancements and Collaborating on What's Next in the Fight Against Cancer

2024 Szent Györgyi Prize Winner, Dr. Dennis Slamon and AIM-HI Beacon Award Winner, Dr. Margaret Foti

Dr. Sujuan Ba with world leaders in cancer research

The 2024 NFCR Global Summit and Award Ceremonies brought together prominent cancer researchers, clinicians, entrepreneurs, and advocates to share the latest breakthroughs and promote cross-sector collaboration in the fight against cancer. With a full day of scientific presentations, critical discussions on basic and clinical research, and awards honoring pioneering work, the event highlighted the current progress and the road ahead in cancer research and entrepreneurship in the quest to make cures possible.

The NFCR Global Summit underscored several key themes: 1) the critical importance of cross-sector collaboration, 2) the urgent need to address treatment resistance, 3) the growing focus on early detection and intervention, 4) the essential role of entrepreneurship in bridging the gap between lab and bedside, and 5) the emerging role of Artificial Intelligence in cancer research. While recognizing significant progress, attendees emphasized the continued need to develop more effective treatments and ensuring equitable access to cancer care.

This event provides NFCR, and our collaborators, with a renewed roadmap in the quest to cure cancer.

Research works and we are gaining on cancer, but only with your help. NFCR is counting on you. We must maintain our momentum so we can continue to fund critical research programs that are showing great promise for cancer patients. For a complete event recap, visit **NFCR.org**. ■

Dr. Bardia and Dr. Olopade engage in critical discussion to advance cancer research

Dr. Pardoll and Dr. Kucherlapati enjoy panel discussion on precision medicine

CANCER RESEARCH WORKS

Advancing Against Childhood Cancers

NFCR and our partner organization, AIM-HI Accelerator Fund, have funded pediatric discovery labs for several years in the fight against pediatric cancers.

Pediatric tumors differ greatly from their adult counterparts not only in their driver genetic mutations, but also in their unique developmental origin and tumor microenvironment. The direct consequence of these differences is that currently approved drugs, which were developed using adult models, fail in children.

Funded research programs have made significant progress in moving research discoveries to human clinical trials, focused on better treatments for children.

Advancing Treatment Options for Gastro-Related Cancers

2024 brought impactful advancements in the potential of YIV-906, a first-in-class botanical drug developed by Dr. Yung-Chi Cheng, a longtime NFCR-supported scientist at Yale University Medical School.

YIV-906 significantly reduces gastrointestinal side effects in rectal cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation.

In pre-clinical models, YIV-906 acts as an immunomodulator, enhancing the immune system's response to tumors, while also protecting the digestive system. ■

NEW FRONTIERS IN CANCER RESEARCH

Early Intervention to Stop Cancer Before it Starts

NFCR RESEARCHERS IN FOCUS:

Siddhartha Mukherjee, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine, Columbia University

Azra Raza, M.D.
Chan Soon-Shiong Professor of Medicine, Columbia University

Imagine a world where routine check-ups not only detect cancer in its earliest stages but also guide personalized treatment strategies. The collaborative research team of Dr. Azra Raza and Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee continue to deepen our understanding of cancer and how it forms. Dr. Raza's research seeks to identify elusive biomarkers that serve as harbingers of cancer, allowing for timely intervention when the disease is most amenable to treatment.

Dr. Raza's pioneering work in cancer research includes the formulation of the first cell theory, a paradigm-shifting concept that recharacterizes our understanding of cancer progression at the cellular level.

Dr. Mukherjee, who specializes in blood diseases, focuses on the microenvironment where blood-forming stem cells live within the bone marrow, called the blood-stem cell niche. Dr. Mukherjee's research has not only pinpointed crucial genes and chemicals capable of altering the microenvironment but has also steered clinical trials for potential cancer therapies.

NFCR views this pioneering research as a new frontier area of discovery, which we are hopeful will lead to early detection of cancer — as early as stage 0 — to stop the disease before it starts.

CANCER PREVENTION CAN HAPPEN EVERYDAY, STARTING WITH WHAT YOU EAT.

Visit **NFCR's YouTube channel** to access our growing library of "Eating for Cancer Prevention" Tips.

LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

NFCR was honored with the **"2024 Pioneer in Medicine Award"** by the World Brain Mapping Foundation and the Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics. This recognition highlights a significant landmark in NFCR's over 50 years of impact in charting new pathways through research to find cures for cancer and its leadership in the global fight against cancer.

Dr. Sujuan Ba, President & CEO, accepts award for NFCR

YOU, our donors, make everything possible for NFCR and the impact we can have for patients through our supported research programs. **Thank you!**

Scan the QR code with your phone to give online at NFCR.org/donate.

CANCER RESEARCH WORKS BUT ONLY WITH YOUR HELP.