

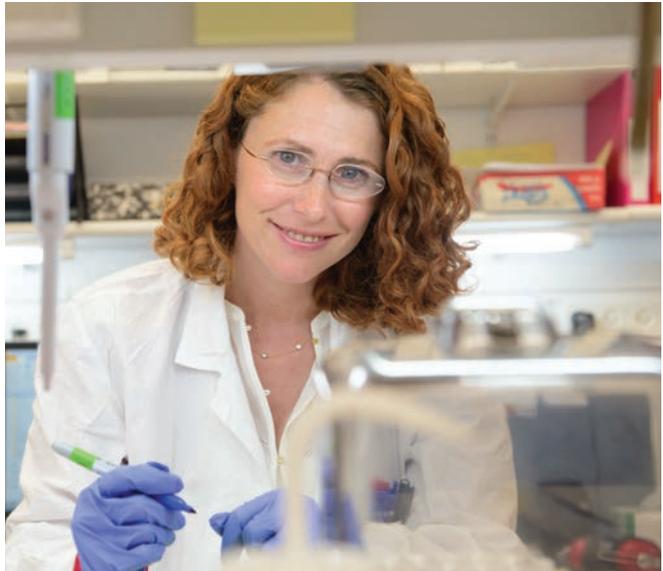
## Announcing the winner of The Pezcoller Foundation – EACR Cancer Researcher Award

The EACR and the Pezcoller Foundation are delighted to announce that the Pezcoller Foundation – EACR Cancer Researcher Award will be awarded to Professor Yardena Samuels (Department of Molecular Cell Biology and Director, Ekard Institute for Cancer Diagnosis Research, MICC, Israel).

The Samuels laboratory uses various sequencing approaches to identify the genetic changes that underlie melanoma. Once these mutations are identified, her group focuses on characterising the biochemical, functional, and clinical aspects of the most highly mutated genes.

The Pezcoller Foundation – EACR Cancer Researcher Award celebrates academic excellence and achievements in the field of cancer research. The award is presented biennially to a researcher of excellence with no more than 15 years post-doctoral experience.

Professor Samuels will give the Pezcoller Foundation – EACR Cancer Researcher Award Lecture at the EACR24 Congress in Manchester, 9-12 July 2016 and receive an unrestricted honorarium of €10,000.



Professor Yardena Samuels.

## Blue Faery grants liver cancer research award to Dr Alan Venook

Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association is proud to announce the sixth annual Blue Faery Award (BFA) for Excellence in Liver Cancer Research. Primary liver cancer, also known as Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC), is the second leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. Blue Faery created the award to recognize medical professionals who develop innovative research in the fight against HCC, which has no cure.

This year's recipient of the Blue Faery Award is Dr Alan Venook, the leader of the gastrointestinal oncology clinical program and the Madden Family Distinguished Professor of Medical Oncology and Translational Research at the University of California, San Francisco. A nationally recognized expert in colorectal and liver cancers, Dr. Venook has published more than 70 original articles, chapters or books dealing with gastrointestinal malignancies. He has chaired the Scientific Program for ASCO 2015 and the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Hepatobiliary Task Force. He is a member of NCI's Gastrointestinal Cancer Steering Committee and currently chairs the Gastrointestinal Committee of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, where he oversees an extensive clinical trial portfolio.

Andrea Wilson started Blue Faery in honor of her sister Adrienne, who died of HCC only 145 days after her diagnosis at the age of 15. Blue Faery announces the recipient of the BFA on April 8 — Adrienne's birthday. She would have been 30 years old this year. Dr. Venook will receive \$3,000 and a custom Blue Faery plaque to commemorate his achievement.

Founded in 2002, Blue Faery is the only nonprofit organization in the United States solely devoted to fighting HCC. The



Dr Alan Venook.

mission of Blue Faery is to prevent, treat and cure primary liver cancer, specifically Hepatocellular Carcinoma, through research, education and advocacy. Blue Faery has developed an HCC patient education brochure for liver cancer patients, their families and their healthcare providers. The FREE brochure, which has been translated into Chinese and Spanish, has been distributed in over 35 treatment centers across the nation.

**For more information on how to apply for the BFA, visit [www.bluefaery.org](http://www.bluefaery.org).**

**To learn more about liver cancer, sign up for the Blue Faery quarterly e-newsletter.**

## The Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute awards \$500,000 in research grants to ten bladder cancer projects

A total of \$500,000 has been awarded to ten bladder cancer projects by The Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute. A study of obesity and related metabolic changes on bladder cancer incidence and deaths, and a plan to use stem cells to grow novel urinary tubes are the research projects awarded funding. Awardees include researchers from University of Leeds, UK to the University of Chicago to the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

The institute is a collaborative initiative of the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, the Brady Urological Institute, the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the School of Medicine, aims to develop new clinical strategies for combating bladder cancer through intensive, collaborative and innovative research, awards individual grants of up to \$50,000 each to encourage young investigators to take on research that advances the science and treatment of bladder cancer and to leverage existing resources and expertise. The grants, renewable for up to three years, are awarded in the following areas: genetic and epigenetic approaches; immunotherapy; targeted therapies; patient care, prevention and screening; and pioneering studies. This is the second year of grant awards for the institute.

The awardees include six new projects and four renewed projects. The new recipients and their projects are:

- **Margaret Knowles**, PhD, professor of experimental cancer research at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, for "Characterization of Gender-Related Mutation of KDM6A/UTY in Bladder Cancer". Knowles will look to identify gender-related molecular features of bladder cancers and develop relevant *in vitro* models. Her group already has identified mutations in the tumour suppressor gene KDM6A in more than one-half of low-grade stage Ta bladder tumours, and data suggest that bladder cancer in females has distinct epigenetic features. Now, she will conduct a more comprehensive analysis of mutations and alterations in KDM6A in tumours of all grades and stages from both men and women, and in a related gene, UTY, in males.
- **Corinne Joshu**, PhD, MPH, assistant professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and assistant professor of oncology at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, for "Investigating the Influence of Obesity and Metabolic Perturbations on Bladder Cancer Risk".
- **Anirudha Singh**, PhD, assistant professor of urology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, for "Regenerative Urology: From Micro Ureters to Mini Bladders".
- **Alexander Baras**, MD, PhD, assistant professor of pathology and urology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, for "Characterization of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Response Predictors and the Immunological Microenvironment in Muscle Invasive Urothelial Carcinoma of the Bladder".
- **Shawn E Lupold**, PhD, associate professor of urology, oncology, and radiation oncology and molecular radiation sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, for "Identification and Characterization of Genetic Factors That Contribute to Exceptional Therapeutic Responses in Locally Advanced Bladder Cancer".
- **Michael Johnson**, MD, instructor of urology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, for "Rapid Lymphocyte Enrichment and Expansion Using Tumour-Specific Neoantigens in Urothelial Cell Carcinoma".
- **Trinity Bivalacqua**, MD, PhD, associate professor of urology, surgery and oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and director of urologic oncology at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, for "Nanoparticle Approaches to Improving the Immunologic Response to Intravesical Therapy for NMIBC (Nonmuscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer)".
- **George Netto**, MD, professor of pathology, urology and oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, for "TERT-Promoter Mutations Assay for Early Detection and Monitoring of Bladder Cancer".
- **Peter O'Donnell**, MD, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago, for "Genetic Diversity of T Cell Receptors Impacting Anti-Tumour Effects in Bladder Cancer".
- **Armine Smith**, MD, assistant professor of urology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, for "Pilot Study of TRAIL and BCG Combination Therapy in Bladder Cancer".



Margaret Knowles.

**Applications will be made available online this summer for the next round of funding, Isaacs says. The URL is <http://pilotprojects.onc.jhmi.edu>.**

## Eminent cancer researchers elected to Royal Society Fellowship

Two world-leading scientists at The Institute of Cancer Research, London, have been made Fellows of the Royal Society – one of the greatest honours in UK science.

Professor Paul Workman (pictured top), Chief Executive of the ICR, and Professor Jonathon Pines (pictured bottom), Head of Cancer Biology, have been elected for their outstanding contributions to cancer research.

Election to the Royal Society Fellowship is one of the highest accolades a researcher can receive and recognises individuals for their scientific excellence and substantial contributions to research endeavours.

The election of two Fellows in one year is also a reflection of the quality of the ICR's research – ranging from the fundamentals of cancer biology, led by Professor Pines, to the discovery of new treatments, which is Professor Workman's expertise.

Professor Workman is the ICR's Chief Executive. He has been a pioneer in the field of targeted cancer drugs, is a passionate advocate of personalised molecular medicine, and is an enthusiastic practitioner of multidisciplinary cancer drug discovery and team science.

He has successfully built drug discovery teams in the academic, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors, and has driven the discovery of numerous drugs and chemical probes, including inhibitors of protein kinases, PI3 kinase and the molecular chaperone Hsp90.

Professor Workman said: "This is a wonderful recognition of the work of members of my lab team at the ICR, together with the contributions made by numerous colleagues and collaborators who have worked with me over my career. I'd also like to thank the admin and facilities staff whose contribution to science often goes unrecognised, and all those who have funded and supported the ICR and my own research. Most importantly, thanks to my wife and family for their invaluable support."

"I'm also very happy to see this recognition of the science of drug discovery, and the importance of multidisciplinary team science."

Professor Pines is Head of the ICR's Division of Cancer Biology. His research focuses on understanding how cells divide – in particular how the machinery that controls cell division is regulated in different parts of the cell over time.

He was the first to clone cyclin B – an essential protein that regulates how cells divide – and has rigorously explored how cells regulate cell division to find new ways to target cancer.

Professor Pines said: "I am deeply honoured to be elected to the Royal Society. Reflecting on this, I am exceedingly grateful to my mentors who set me on my scientific path and continued to offer their critical but generous guidance, my colleagues who helped and encouraged me to strike out in new directions, and my team, whose achievements this honour recognises. It also highlights the vital contribution that fundamental science makes to cancer research."

Luke Johnson, Chairman of the ICR, said: "These two elections to the Royal Society Fellowship in one year highlight outstanding scientific achievement, and are an endorsement of the ICR's excellence across the breadth of cancer research, from fundamental cancer biology to the discovery of novel cancer treatments."

"Both of these scientists are driving forces behind our next research strategy, Professor Workman as our Chief Executive and Professor Pines as the leader of our programme of fundamental cancer research. It bodes well for our aim to exploit our knowledge of cancer biology to create innovative treatments for patients."

The Fellowship of the Royal Society is made up of the most eminent scientists, engineers and technology experts across the UK and the Commonwealth. Each year, the Royal Society elects up to 52 new Fellows chosen from all sectors of science.

The ICR now has four Fellows of the Royal Society among current staff, with Professor Mel Greaves, Director of the Centre for Evolution and Cancer, and Professor Julian Downward, who has a joint post between the ICR and The Francis Crick Institute, being the others. In addition, Professor Peter Rigby, the ICR's Professor Emeritus of Developmental Biology, is also a Fellow.



Professor Paul Workman.

*"This is a wonderful recognition of the work of members of my lab team at the ICR, together with the contributions made by numerous colleagues and collaborators who have worked with me over my career"*



Professor Jonathon Pines.

*"I am deeply honoured to be elected to the Royal Society. Reflecting on this, I am exceedingly grateful to my mentors who set me on my scientific path and continued to offer their critical but generous guidance..."*