

GABRIELLE'S
ANGEL FOUNDATION
FOR CANCER RESEARCH



OUR QUEST

“If you wonder where your money’s going,
it’s inside me. I am living proof that the work
that these doctors do on a daily basis is
saving lives of real people like me.”

~ **Ethan Zohn** • Angel Ambassador • Two-time lymphoma survivor



Our Inspiration

The Life of Gabrielle Rich Aouad (1969~ 1996)



Gabrielle Rich Aouad grew up in Switzerland where she graduated from Aiglon School. She graduated with honors from Oxford University in England, earning her B.A. in philosophy and modern languages. Fluent in five languages, Gabrielle was a champion skier, an expert in horseback riding and a skilled rock mountain climber.

In the summer of 1991, she moved to New York and joined the NYU intensive film program where she met her future husband, Philip Aouad. At the tender age of 23, she was diagnosed with advanced stage Hodgkin's disease. Her strength and feistiness never failed through months of painful treatment.

By 1993, Gabrielle was at last in remission. This period of renewal brought great vibrancy and activity to her life. She and Philip got married. She became one of the finalists in the worldwide search to replace Isabella Rossellini as the face of Lancôme. She studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute. In May of 1996, she was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). Once more, she was treated with chemotherapy. She lost her beautiful long hair, but fought with fearless determination throughout her difficult and painful treatment. After going into remission for the second time, she was due for a bone marrow transplant, so her mother, Denise donated her own bone marrow to save Gabrielle's life. Upon receiving this gift Gabrielle said, "Mummy is giving me birth again."

Gabrielle's final wish was to create a leukemia foundation that would help spare others the suffering that she endured. One of its goals would be to invest in research for better treatments for leukemia, so people would not have to suffer from the side effects and damage of chemotherapy and radiation. Gabrielle Rich Aouad passed away in the fall of 1996 at the age of 27.

The work of Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research continues in her honor and memory. Gabrielle's strength and wisdom live on in her own words, "**Love defies all pain, even death.**"

Our Story



It was Gabrielle's last wish to create a Foundation that would fund the most promising scientific investigators in the nation with the hope that less toxic treatments, and ultimately a cure, might be discovered. Her mother Denise and sisters, Daniella and Ilona, believed the best way to honor Gabrielle's memory was to turn their extraordinary grief into a positive force for others. Her spirit lives on in the work of the organization created in her memory. Gabrielle's Angel Foundation funds only the best and brightest physician-scientists just starting their labs and has become one of the largest non-governmental sources of grant support to blood cancer research in the nation.

Since 1998, Gabrielle's Angel Foundation has proudly funded more than \$41 million in research grants in the United States and abroad.

The Foundation honors Gabrielle's legacy by continuing to fund bold scientific ideas with a focus on grants that will make a significant impact on blood cancer treatment in the short-term.

A Positive Force

This award allows me to explore innovative ideas that would not readily be supported by typical NIH funding mechanisms.

Dorothy Sipkins, MD, PhD
Duke University

My lab would be lost without the support of organizations like yours.

Andrea Ventura, MD, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

The work that you do is so important for young scientists—and the results will benefit us all.

Curt I. Civin, MD
*Medical Advisory Board;
University of Maryland
School of Medicine*

The Foundation has nurtured and supported such a great cadre of leukemia researchers over the years that the list of grantees looks like a Who's Who in leukemia.

David Frank, MD, PhD
*Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute*

Your support allows us to take risks and ask the really important questions.

Ross L. Levine, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Our Grants

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation funds the nation's best science in the fields of leukemia, lymphoma, and related cancers of the blood. The Foundation not only funds conventional scientific research, but also projects that combine integrative (complementary) therapies or botanical agents. We focus on projects for **cancer prevention, detection and treatment** that are most likely to be translated into clinical trials within a 3-5 year period. These Medical Research Awards, distributed on an annual basis, each total \$225,000 and are given over a three-year period. The **top research institutions** in the nation are solicited by invitation-only and, in this highly competitive process, applications undergo **rigorous peer review** by the Foundation's distinguished Medical Advisory Board. This panel of experts, led by Stephen D. Nimer, MD, Director of Miami's Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, selects only **the most distinguished projects** for funding. The Foundation also supports pediatric oncology initiatives, music and art therapy programs and select symposia that align with our mission.

“There is nothing more gratifying than to witness the success of our 20 years of effort. The work of this foundation will last for generations and while we have made great progress, we still have so much more work to do. The future of cancer research has never looked brighter!”

~ **Stephen D. Nimer, MD** • Chairman, Medical Advisory Board • Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation has awarded more than **\$41 million in research grants** to the best and brightest scientists in America.

Here are highlights of the newest class of brilliant early career scientists to receive funding.



Dr. David Beck

NYU GROSSMAN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

*Modulating UBA 1 to treat
Myelodysplastic Syndrome*

“I was inspired to choose the field of cancer research through my clinical experience seeing patients with difficult to treat disease and recognizing the importance of better understanding the underlying causes of disease.”



Dr. Zuzana Tothova

DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE

*The role of inflammation during
STAG-2 mutant MDS and AML
initiation and progression*

“This grant will enable me to perform high-risk high-reward experiments to test a bold hypothesis about the origin of inflammation in cohesin-mutant MDS and leukemias, related to three-dimensional organization of DNA within the nucleus.”



Dr. Linde Miles, PhD

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
MEDICAL CENTER

*Investigating the role of oncogenic
dependency in NPM1-mutant AML*

“This grant will enable me to support ongoing critical experiments and make progress on a project that examines how dependent acute myeloid leukemia (AML) cells are on an individual mutation, specifically in the gene NPM1. This question is important as it will inform whether future therapies should be designed to directly inhibit mutant NPM1 and if so, what disease characteristics dictate the best response in NPM1-mutant AML patients.”



Dr. Francesca Ferraro, MD, PhD

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

*Dissecting MYC Influence on mRNA
Processing and Protein Translation
During Acute Myeloid Leukemia Initiation*

“I chose to pursue a career in cancer research because a cancer diagnosis has a profound impact on people's lives, causing significant upheaval. It poses unique challenges, unlike any other disease. Historically, we had limited resources to fight cancer, but the successful translation of scientific discoveries from the laboratory to the bedside has brought significant positive changes for cancer patients and their families. I am motivated to contribute to these transformative discoveries and to play a role in improving the lives of patients with cancer.”



Dr. Tania Jain, MBBS

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

*Targeting SLAMF7 using Chimeric
Antigen Receptor T-cell Therapy
and HMGA1 in Myelofibrosis*

“Blood cancers, especially myeloproliferative neoplasms, have limited treatment options, and there is still much to discover and develop in this field. This opportunity to address an unmet need and improve patient lives motivated me to pursue research in this area.”



Dr. Jerry Lio

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

*The Epigenetic Mechanism
of Vitamin C in Tumor Suppression*

“This grant will enable me to study novel VitC-regulated molecular targets important for cancer suppression. My personal experience with blood malignancies inspired me to study cancers.”

In 2023, The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research joined Gabrielle's Angel Foundation in co-funding **two \$500,000 collaborative grants to teams** of Gabrielle's Angels grantee alumni. These two-year grants will allow us to re-invest in our grantees' impactful work while helping to accelerate progress by bringing together scientists and institutions for collaboration.



Dr. David Dominguez-Sola

ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Dr. Daniel Herranz-Benito

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

*Chromatin remodeling INO80 complex as a targeted
therapeutics platform in heme malignancies*



Dr. Jeffrey Magee • Dr. Grant Challen • Dr. Stephen Sykes

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ST. LOUIS

*Epigenetic and metabolic vulnerabilities in
high-risk pediatric acute myeloid leukemia*



“Support from Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation was absolutely invaluable for me as a new PI establishing my lab, and allowed me to pursue a new and high risk project that has since opened up a plethora of impactful directions for my lab. Without this support, my lab would not have had the early success we did!”

~ **Shannon Elf, PhD** • University of Utah

“I am immensely grateful to Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation for their generous support. Their commitment to nurturing early-career scientists and encouraging bold, risk-taking research is truly exceptional. **This support has been pivotal** in enabling me to explore innovative ideas and lay the groundwork for future breakthroughs in cancer research.” ~ **Marco Ruella, MD** • University of Pennsylvania



“The Gabrielle’s Angel Foundation award allowed my lab to pursue a risky direction on reconstructing history of blood cancers in individual patients. **We would not have been able to do this work otherwise.** We have now obtained funding to expand our work to a larger cohort of patients with the ultimate aim of using disease history to inform patient care.” ~ **Sahand Hormoz, PhD** • Harvard University

The Angel Ball

Gabrielle believed that life was a celebration and lived her life with joy and hope. She is the inspiration behind the **Angel Ball Gala**, which has become one of New York City's most anticipated charity events!

The Angel Ball boasts spectacular live entertainment, exciting sponsors, and outstanding honorees who have made significant contributions in support of blood cancer research. Proceeds from The Angel Ball fund our research grants, bringing us one step closer on our quest for a cure!

For more event details, visit gabriellesangels.org





Medical Symposium

This annual event provides an opportunity for our grantees, past and present, to introduce their work, discuss the latest medical advances and form scientific collaborations with their peers.

The event is led by our Chairman, Dr. Stephen D. Nimer, and also features a keynote speech from one of our esteemed Medical Advisory Board members and a compelling patient perspective.



Music Therapy

Music played an important role during Gabrielle's treatments and hospital stays. Because of this special connection, the Foundation has provided support to music therapy programs at several institutions across the country. Music therapy programs provide one-on-one patient and family care with bedside visits as well as in the pre-surgical and post-operative suites. Often patients are referred for relief of symptoms such as pain, anxiety, social isolation and end-stage disease.

Why Give to Gabrielle's Angel Foundation?

We provide funding to only the **highest caliber** early career scientists, allowing them to pursue their most creative ideas.

We fund projects for **cancer prevention, detection and treatment** that are most likely to be translated into clinical trials within a 3 to 5 year period.

We fund **traditional** scientific research, as well as research that combines integrative or complementary therapies or **botanical** agents.

More than 80% of our grantees go on to obtain **further funding** which is proof that the seed money we provide is truly **shaping the future leaders** of cancer research.

Medical Advisory Board

Gabrielle's Angel Foundation grants are selected after a rigorous peer review by our Medical Advisory Board, comprised of experts in the field of blood cancers and led by Dr. Stephen D. Nimer, Director of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Stephen D. Nimer, MD ~ Chairman
*Director, Sylvester Comprehensive
Cancer Center
University of Miami School of Medicine*



John F. DiPersio, MD, PhD
*Chief, Division of Oncology
Washington University
School of Medicine*



Rainer Storb, MD
*Clinical Research Division;
Head, Transplantation Biology Department
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center*



Eduardo Bruera, MD
*Chair, Department of Palliative Care &
Rehabilitation Medicine
The University of Texas,
MD Anderson Cancer Center*



Jerome E. Groopman, MD
*Dina and Raphael Racanati
Chair of Medicine
Harvard Institute of Medicine*



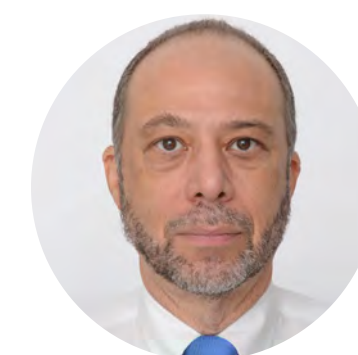
Sarah Tasian
*Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*



Michael A. Caligiuri, MD
*President of City of Hope
National Medical Center
City of Hope National Medical Center*



Carl H. June, MD
*Director, Parker Institute for
Cancer Immunotherapy
University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine*



Jeffrey D. White, MD
Bethesda, Maryland



Curt I. Civin, MD
*Director, Center for Stem Cell Biology
and Regenerative Medicine
University of Maryland School of Medicine*



Erini Papapetrou, MD, PhD
*Professor of Medicine,
Hematology and Medical Oncology
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

IN MEMORIAM

Barrie R. Cassileth, PhD | Board Member 1998 - 2015
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Janet D. Rowley, MD, DSc | Board Member 2002-2013
The University of Chicago

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Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research

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