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CancerFree KIDS Raises \$1.4 Million for Research Grants

Cincinnati Children's to receive \$750,000 in grants

Cincinnati (For Immediate Release) – CancerFree KIDS announces a record \$1.4 million to be invested in 25 research grants at both Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. The total brings the number of research projects funded to 240 since CancerFree KIDS started in 2002, with an investment of \$10.85 million over 22 years.

To date, CancerFree KIDS researchers have received more than \$114 million in follow-on funding as a result of work funded by a CancerFree KIDS grant. CancerFree KIDS-funded projects have also been the basis for researchers to publish 296 publications, earn 57 patents, conduct 21 clinical trials, create four companies and develop two FDA-approved drugs.

This year, 22 of the grants will support New Idea awards — projects in their early stages that show innovation and promise of offering less invasive, more effective treatments for pediatric cancer. The remaining three Accelerator awards, which go to past CancerFree KIDS New Idea award recipients to continue work on projects that have been exceptionally successful.

A total of \$750,000 will go to projects at Cincinnati Children's, including 11 New Idea awards (two at University of Cincinnati), and two Accelerator.

New Idea Awards

100 Mile Challenge Research Grant in honor of Corporate Competition Winner DBL Law - Jay Pundavela, PhD: T cell-directed drug repurposing to prevent progression of nervous system sarcoma

altafiber Research Grant - Mohammad Azam, PhD: Targeting immune-checkpoint resistance in AML

Cron-O'Neill Research Grant in memory of Joe, Mike and Dan - H. Leighton Grimes, PhD: Defining the role of DPF2 mutations in Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Dean and Hedy Gregory Research Grant - Mengna Chi: Mechanisms underlying increased risk of hematological malignancy (HM) in sickle cell disease (SCD) Principal Investigator

Loveland Eagles 3006 Research Grant - Fukun Guo, PhD: Harnessing stemness to improve CART cell efficacy in pediatric leukemia therapy

Paxton's Grill Golf Outing Research Grant - Nicolas Nassar, PhD/Charles Dirr-Nims: Engineering Forward Genetics Cell Lines for Improved Drug Target Identification

Sycamore Capital Research Grant - Yi Zheng, PhD: Targeting CDC42 reshapes glioblastoma immune microenvironment to benefit immunotherapy

Terry Rasch Memorial Research Grant - Kristie Ramos, MD: The use of LINE-1 as a novel biomarker and therapeutic target for pediatric cancers

Visionary Society Research Grant - Daniel Starczynowski, PhD/Emma Uible, BSc: Developing therapies targeting Pro-Caspase-1 in pediatric AML

The Reader Author Get Together Research Grant in honor of Lori Foster - Ola A. Elgamal, PhD: Identify the impact of targeting DHODH on AML and immune surveillance

The Interlink Cloud Advisors Research Grant - Chia Sharpe, PhD: Determining the role of leukemia pDC in AML

Accelerator Awards

The Wirtz Family Research Grant in memory of Jacob - Mohammad Azam, PhD: Targeting CAR-T cells Immune-resistance in B-ALL

The TQL Research Grant - Bailee N. Kain, PhD: Investigating recurrent PHIP mutations found in African ancestry Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

"CancerFree KIDS, over the last 20 years, has been extraordinarily successful in picking the right early projects, projects that otherwise would not get funded, and making that early investment is what allows it to work and grow," said Dr. Stella Davies, Director of Bone Marrow Transplantation and Immune Deficiency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. "So the success rate of CancerFree KIDS, in my opinion, is extraordinarily different than most organizations that fund research and that's because they are clever in how they pick, and where they put their money - and so you, you are clever on where you pick and put your money, so thank you."

"We are tremendously humbled by the generosity of our supporters at CancerFree KIDS," said Jill Brinck, executive director of CancerFree KIDS. "Because of the record number of dollars raised, we will be able to fund important research to make the lives of our children better, and give them hope for the future."

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About CancerFree KIDS

CancerFree KIDS aims to find more effective and gentler treatments for childhood cancer by funding innovative research projects in the early stages of development. New ideas need money to grow, yet potential breakthrough treatment methods often go unfunded because pediatric cancer research is drastically limited. CancerFree KIDS provides grants to promising childhood cancer research projects in these crucial early stages, which allows researchers to prove their concept, secure additional funding, and eventually create new treatments for kids. Learn more at cancerfreekids.org.