



SAMUEL WAXMAN
CANCER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION
2009 ANNUAL REPORT



“...THE IMPORTANT ROLE SWCRF PLAYS...”

“The SWCRF is willing to fund **more innovative, novel projects** that are higher risk but potentially of higher therapeutic impact...”

“The SWCRF is willing to fund innovative high risk projects that other funding agencies (particularly the NIH) are loath to fund. These other agencies are extremely conservative and are willing to fund only projects that they feel are “guaranteed” to be successful or projects which have essentially already been done. In contrast, the SWCRF is willing to fund more innovative, novel projects that are higher risk but potentially of higher therapeutic impact with respect to the therapy of human malignancy.”

—**Steven J. Collins, M.D.**
Member Human Biology Division and Clinical Division
at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

“The SWCRF funds top scientists and brings them together to encourage collaboration in an intimate, friendly, supportive environment. Other agencies simply provide funds.”

—**Alan D. Friedman M.D.**
Professor, Oncology and Pediatrics,
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine,
Division of Pediatric Oncology

“Each of our individual laboratories has been successful in obtaining funding from national organizations, including the NIH, based on preliminary data obtained using SWCRF funds. This is a testament to the important role that the SWCRF plays in the mission of moving the best science forward, especially that with considerable clinical potential.”

—**Stephen B. Baylin, M.D.**
Deputy Director of the Cancer Center, Associate Director
for Basic Research, Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Professor
in Cancer Research, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive
Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University

Steven Belinsky, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, Director Lung Cancer Program,
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute

Robert A. Casero, Jr., Ph.D.
Professor of Oncology, Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

“Funding from SWCRF has greatly facilitated our drug development efforts and has allowed us to generate the preliminary data necessary for a successful NIH application.”

—**John D. Crispino, Ph.D.,**
Associate Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine,
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center
of Northwestern University



Michael Nierenberg Samuel Waxman, M.D. Merle Duskin Kailas

OUR VISION

We can't tell you how pleased we are with the progress we've been making toward curing and preventing cancer. Or how proud we are of the brilliant scientists whose work we have helped support. Our approach – to uncover the molecular processes that cause a cell to become cancerous and then to discover a way of arresting or reversing those processes – has already succeeded in producing a cure for a particular virulent form of leukemia. Now, we are closing in on a number of promising approaches to breast cancer, while brain cancer, liver cancer, lung cancer, melanoma, pancreatic cancer and prostate cancer are also in our crosshairs.

We are very much aware of how much we owe to your support for the success of the Foundation's efforts – not only your financial support, but also the buoyant force your trust in us has imparted to everything we do. We have tried to maintain the utmost efficiency in our staffing and other expenses so that every possible dollar may be channeled directly into research. We have created the *Institute Without Walls*, so that the work we fund for each project is readily available to the scientists working on other projects, which means that each discovery is leveraged to accelerate work in as many other areas as possible and wasteful duplication of effort is minimized. We tell you this because it evidences our commitment to extract the greatest possible return on what you give us in carrying out your purpose in giving. It is important to us personally that you know, not only that we are grateful, but how hard we work to treat your gifts with the respect they merit as precious resources to save human lives.

Efficiency is more important than ever in these challenging times. But so is effectiveness, and it is the effectiveness of our efforts that lies at the heart of our request for support. We have only to persist in our efforts, and the time will soon be at hand when humanity will at last have triumphed over this most feared disease.

With kindest regards,

Michael Nierenberg
Chairman of the Board

Samuel Waxman, M.D.
Scientific Director

Merle Duskin Kailas
Executive Director

It is important to us personally that you know, not only that we are grateful, but how hard we work to treat your gifts with the respect they merit as **precious resources to save human lives.**

BREAKTHROUGHS

The next decade will bring such breakthroughs in the fight against cancer as past generations could only dream about. Many forms of cancer have already lost much of their most frightening consequences since recent discoveries of treatments that have cured some patients and permitted many others to lead relatively normal lives despite cancer. Other forms of cancer will surely succumb to science in the near future, if the current pace of discovery is not diminished. People who would have had little hope of survival only recently will be able to look forward to long-term recovery, while families that once would have been torn apart by the financial and emotional burdens of caring for loved ones will be able to move ahead in confidence that those loved ones will, in fact, survive without incurring financial ruin as the price of survival.

SWCRF Mission Statement

The SWCRF mission is to develop therapies to reverse abnormal cancer cell behavior and establish normal function to eradicate cancer selectively, working through a uniquely organized network, founded 35 years ago. SWCRF collaborative research in the United States and China was the first to establish a differentiation therapy to normalize a deadly form of acute leukemia, which resulted in a curable outcome with minimal side effects. The concept remains the focus of the SWCRF, broadened to benefit all patients with cancer, young and old, and with common or rare forms, since our research can be applied from one form to another. SWCRF investigators throughout the world work together in our Institute Without Walls to translate research into therapy.

Our mission over the years has been unwavering: To eradicate cancer at its root cause and prevent recurrence with therapies designed to reverse abnormal cancer cell behavior.

Current Areas of Focus for Research

The Foundation continues to expand the scope of its funding to support research in many of the most devastating forms of cancer.

Blood Malignancies

The Foundation funds 13 collaborating groups of researchers in Canada, China, Europe, Israel and the United States. We now report a 95% cure rate of acute promyelocytic leukemia due to the introduction of differentiation therapy. Therapies to eradicate leukemic stem cells have advanced with clinical trials in the United States and China. An SWCRF investigator in Israel has identified a gene that may play an important role in another form of childhood leukemia. Several groups are studying ways to induce differentiation and promote leukemia cell death. A custom-designed molecule, based on the 3-dimensional structure of a disease causing protein was found to kill a subset of lymphomas. A novel treatment was identified that is designed to eradicate the dormant cell population in multiple myeloma.

Brain Cancer

A team of investigators is developing inhibitors to block two important signals that drive the growth of glioblastoma. This is a promising potential for a new approach to the treatment of brain cancer. It is our belief that this can lead to breakthrough treatments in this difficult disease to treat.

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. A majority of women diagnosed with breast cancer are missing a vitamin A receptor, which is needed for normal breast cell growth and differentiation. Engineered mouse models are being used to learn how breast cancers form and how to better treat them. Our translational goal and clinical research program will apply this research to women predisposed to breast cancer because they lack this

protein. A small molecule has been identified that can induce breast cancer cells to differentiate and behave more like normal breast cells. These breast cancer cells then become responsive to hormonal treatment and undergo cell death. Strategies are under way to develop pharmacological treatments to signal these effects in patients. A member of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee has identified a pathway called NOTCH that breast cancer stem cells need for survival. A clinical trial now under way is translating this work into the clinic. A new approach to cancer treatment called proteocrine therapy has been reported and has entered clinical trial.

Liver Cancer

Liver cancer is a devastating malignancy with few treatment options when surgery is not possible. Basic scientific research is being matched with translational studies involving development of new clinical trials. The major discoveries of this program include a complete cataloging of the changes of the activity of genes in the liver as the liver progresses from chronic damage and cirrhosis as a result of hepatitis C virus infection, the initial development of a liver tumor and the progression of such tumors. A set of genes has been identified whose level of expression at diagnosis can tell physicians the risk for recurrence of surgically removed liver cancer. A recent SWCRF report showed that certain critical genes can be used to better classify liver cancer, which will allow for tailoring or "personalizing" therapy to the particular patient. The SWCRF supported liver cancer program received an award from the American Association for Cancer Research for most productive international collaboration.

We now report a **95% cure rate** of acute promyelocytic leukemia due to the introduction of differentiation therapy.

“Via the SWCRF, I have the opportunity to... have our new leukemia drug evaluated.”

—Craig Jordan, Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine and Director
of Hematologic Malignancies
Translational Research Program,
University of Rochester
Cancer Center

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer among both men and women. In a recently published report, a translational and clinical phase I trial developed through SWCRF support combined two drugs that independently target the cell cycle machinery and turn it off. Early clinical results have been promising, with the lives of treated patients being prolonged. A phase II trial has now begun, which could lead to a definitive phase III trial. The program will increase the number of SWCRF collaborators, thereby increasing the number of patients accrued to the trial allowing a more rapid and robust trial that can determine whether this new regimen will be applicable to the general population of lung cancer patients. Mouse models have also been developed that mimic human lung cancer and these are being used to guide future clinical trials. Indeed, some of these models have already been used to show that the same drugs already given to patients with advanced lung cancer can also prevent lung cancer in mice. Thus, these cell cycle proteins are targets for both lung cancer therapy and prevention.

Melanoma

Metastatic melanoma is a lethal disease on the rise. With SWCRF support, a potentially paradigm-shifting gene therapy program was funded to confer long-lasting immune therapy to treated melanoma patients by inserting a critical gene into normal bone marrow stem cells. The result is an immune cell specially targeted against a protein commonly found on the surface of the melanoma cell. The SWCRF investment in initiating this program has generated a 50-fold increase in support from other sources for a total of \$30,000,000. This has helped launch clinical trials and new federal

grants. Independently, this program will provide a better understanding of how a single cancer causing gene, known as “B-raf,” contributes to melanoma development and how this protein can be targeted with specific drugs for therapy. B-raf mutations are present in 80% of patients with melanoma.

Pancreatic Cancer

This form of cancer has a dismal prognosis when surgical treatment is not an option, and is almost invariably resistant to current treatments. The reason for this resistance may lie in the unique nature of the pancreatic stem cell, the root cause of pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer cells are being isolated to explore which genes are abnormally expressed in them. Answers to this question would simultaneously illuminate mechanisms for pancreatic cancer development and provide clues to novel therapeutic targets. Given the pressing clinical need for advances in this area, SWCRF plans to fund teams to build upon this important collaborative program in the future.

Institute Without Walls Core Facilities

The SWCRF supports three Core Facilities to facilitate the work of SWCRF investigators. Newly discovered compounds can be screened for anti-cancer effects at the Drug Screen Facility at Massachusetts General Hospital. A facility at Weill Cornell Medical School screens the effects on genes by these compounds. Compounds thought to have therapeutic potential can be structurally altered at the Shenyang Pharmaceutical University. Thus far, several compounds designed to induce differentiation, block metastasis recurrence and attack the cancer-initiating cell are being evaluated.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

The success of the concept of differentiation therapy, in both the advances already achieved and those to be achieved in the future, is quite literally the product of the outstanding quality of the science being practiced in Foundation-supported research and of the scientists themselves.

In effect, what SWCRF provides is a superbly staffed and exquisitely credentialed switchpoint for the routing of funds to precisely determined projects within the area of cancer research. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$70 million in strategically focused grants to support the work of more than 170 researchers at the prestigious facilities on three continents that make up the *Institute Without Walls*. Actually, each institution housing Foundation-supported researchers is worthy of mention, but some of the more familiar names include Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center, The Salk Institute, University of California, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and Weill Cornell School of Medicine. Outside of the U.S., the names include the Institute of Cancer Research (England), Istituto Nazionale Tumori of Milan (Italy), McGill University and University of Toronto (Canada), Shanghai Institute of Hematology (China), Sheba Medical Center (Israel), and University of Barcelona (Spain).

The following list includes all of the institutions at which we have funded research in 2009. We will continue to fund the research taking place at these institutions, and/or other institutions of comparable quality until the threat of cancer has been eliminated or the disease itself has been reduced from a life-threatening personal disaster to a conveniently controlled, chronic ailment.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center | Brandeis University
California Institute of Technology | Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles | Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Dartmouth Medical School | Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center | Institute of Cancer Research, England
Istituto Nazionale Tumori of Milan, Italy | Johns Hopkins University | Massachusetts General Hospital,
Harvard University | McGill University, Canada | M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center | Mount Sinai Medical Center | Northwestern University | Ontario Cancer Institute
The Salk Institute | Shanghai Institute of Hematology | Sheba Medical Center, Israel | University of Barcelona, Spain
University of California, Los Angeles | University of California, San Francisco | University of Connecticut
University of Maryland | University of Miami | University of New Mexico | University of N. Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Rochester | University of Southern California | University of Toronto, Canada
Virginia Commonwealth University | Weill Cornell School of Medicine | Weizmann Institute, Israel | The Wistar Institute

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FROM THE DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

There is growing sense of urgency on the subject of funding cancer research. Paradoxically, that urgency stems, not from a sense of the immensity of the obstacles to be overcome in curing or preventing cancer, but rather from the awareness that tremendous breakthroughs are very near. Until recently, a decline in funding for cancer research meant only that success, already in the somewhat remote future, would be sadly delayed even further, but to the detriment of humanity in the abstract, as it were. Today, however, we are at the stage where any delay in the research translates into a comparable delay in treating patients, not at some hoped-for future date, but immediately, and not for the benefit of humanity in the abstract, but for the benefit of people now alive and possibly even known personally to donors or researchers. And no one who has ever watched a family torn apart by the ruinous burden of supporting the treatment of a loved one can ever be willing to postpone the discovery of a cure by as much as a single day.

Every individual, foundation and corporation that supports the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation has helped to ensure that the cure will be found with as little delay as possible. You have improved the life of every person who will be diagnosed with cancer tomorrow; you are beacons of life for thousands upon thousands today.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Gary Jacob
Development Chair

THANK YOU

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Every individual, foundation and corporation that supports the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation has helped to ensure that the cure will be found...

Cancer does not stop because the economy is faltering and neither must we.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(unaudited) July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009¹

Support & Revenue

Support

Contributions & Grants	\$ 1,446,632
Special Events (net of direct costs)	1,003,007
sub-total Support	\$ 2,449,639

Revenue

Interest & Dividend Income	\$ 26,323
Realized Gain on Investments	529,359
Unrealized Gain on Investments	(1,459,738)
sub-total Revenue	\$ (904,056)

Raised in prior years	\$ 3,243,537
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 4,789,120

Expense

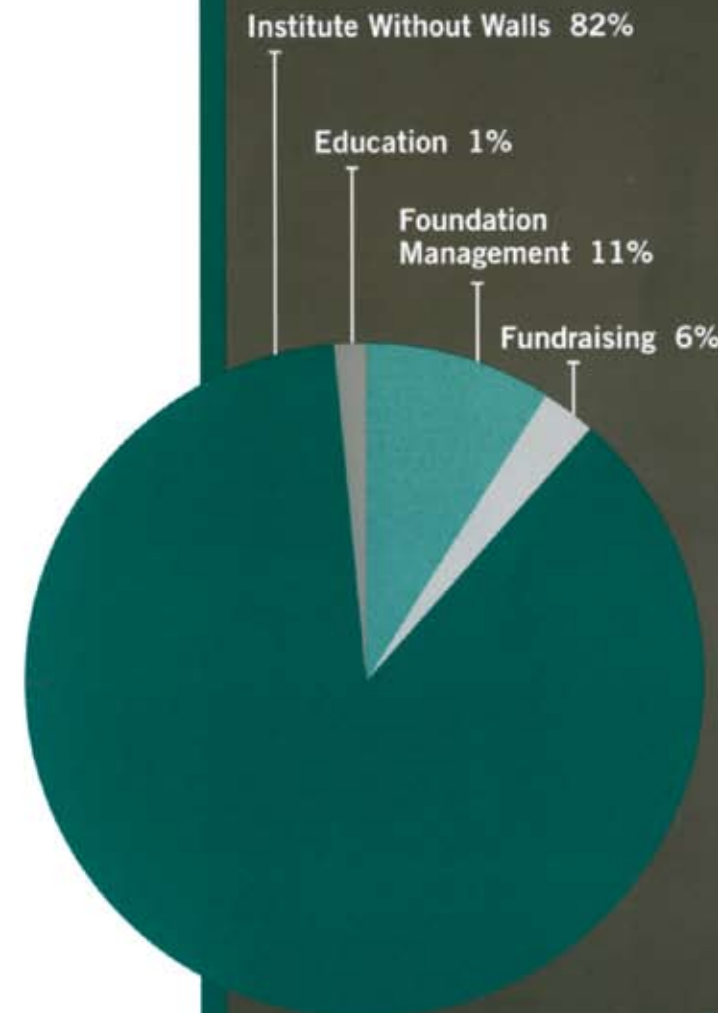
Program Services	
Research Grants	\$ 3,143,368
Other Program Related Activities	813,020
General and Administrative	548,016
Fundraising	284,716
Total Expense	\$ 4,789,120

Net

Total Assets	\$ 7,234,971
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¹ Unaudited figures for management purposes only. A complete financial statement is available upon request.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS (\$4.8 MILLION) 2008-2009



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—Albert Baldwin, M.D.
Professor of Biology, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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of Hematologic Malignancies
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“The difference between SWCRF and other funding sources is the emphasis on collaboration and collegiality. With SWCRF, I am a valued member of an international team of scientists who are united in the search for new ways to help patients with cancer.”

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