Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

The Jimmy Fund®

PAN-MASS CHALLENGE
SINCE 1980
CLOSER BY THE MILE

Closer By the Mile

2024 Impact Report

Closer By the Mile

DANA-FARBER PRESIDENT AND CEO BENJAMIN L. EBERT, MD, PHD, WITH HIS SON DURING THE PMC.

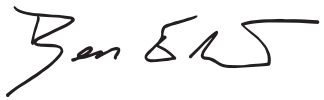
The pathway of progress against cancer is clear. More funding leads to more discoveries in the lab, better care in the clinic, the best talent in both settings, and greater numbers of lives saved. At Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) provides the driving force for this momentum, propelling everything we do to transform cancer medicine.

A Massachusetts-based bike-a-thon that raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country, the PMC has generated an extraordinary sum exceeding $1 billion for Dana-Farber since 1980, including a record-breaking $75 million in 2024. As the Institute's largest single-contributor, accounting for 66% of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue, the Pan-Mass Challenge is the key to unlocking the most powerful possibilities for patients everywhere who are counting on us.

Because of the PMC, our brilliant scientists can pursue their boldest ideas, advance innovative investigations deemed too risky for most funding sources, and build the case for additional support to take their work to the next level. Because of the PMC, our dedicated clinicians can address the comprehensive needs of patients and ensure optimal access to the very best in cancer detection, prevention, and treatment. And because of the PMC, Dana-Farber can recruit, develop, and retain the world-class team that keeps us at the forefront of cancer research and care.

The present report provides an overview of the deep and broad impact of PMC support at Dana-Farber in 2024. The entire PMC community should take pride in this progress and know how very grateful we are at Dana-Farber for their commitment.

With deep appreciation,



Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD
President and CEO, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and 7-year PMC rider

In this moment of great promise in cancer medicine, the PMC's strong support is empowering Dana-Farber to embrace bold visions and innovative methods that maximize progress. The advancements shared in the present report underscore the impact of the committed PMC community, bringing hope to patients across the globe.

Yet, even as momentum continues to build, foundational funding sources continue to decline. For example, precipitous cuts to the budgets of the National Institutes for Health threaten to slow this rapid flow of progress to a trickle. Without such bedrock support, novel research that ultimately saves lives may stall, challenging our pursuit of cancers' causes and cures.

That is why the PMC's partnership is more important than ever. The need is clear and there is no time to wait. In 2025, more than 2 million people in the United States are projected to be diagnosed with cancer. They, and the millions more already living with the disease, depend upon Dana-Farber to accelerate next generation treatments, pioneer new early detection and prevention approaches, and expand personalized care programs.

The PMC remains the central catalyst that makes all this possible, and its impact will continue to grow with every stride Dana-Farber makes toward the cancer-free future we envision together.

Changing the Future of Cancer Care

Dana-Farber continues to advance plans to build New England's only dedicated cancer hospital and forge a new collaboration with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School Physicians. This partnership furthers the Institute's long-term goal of creating a fully integrated oncology campus for adult inpatient and outpatient care, as well as research. The state-of-the-art facility will provide 300 proposed beds to address urgent demand for adult inpatient beds, meet the growing incidences of cancer, and enable timely access to comprehensive care focused solely on the needs of oncology.

Preliminary plans – construction of the future cancer hospital is subject to receipt of a determination of need and all other necessary regulatory approvals

2024 By the Numbers

628,358
infusion treatments and outpatient visits

97%
patient satisfaction rate

1,100+
open clinical trials

558
faculty (333 MDs, 138 PhDs, and 85 MDs/PhDs)

836
research and clinical fellows

175
Principal Investigators

1,101
registered nurses

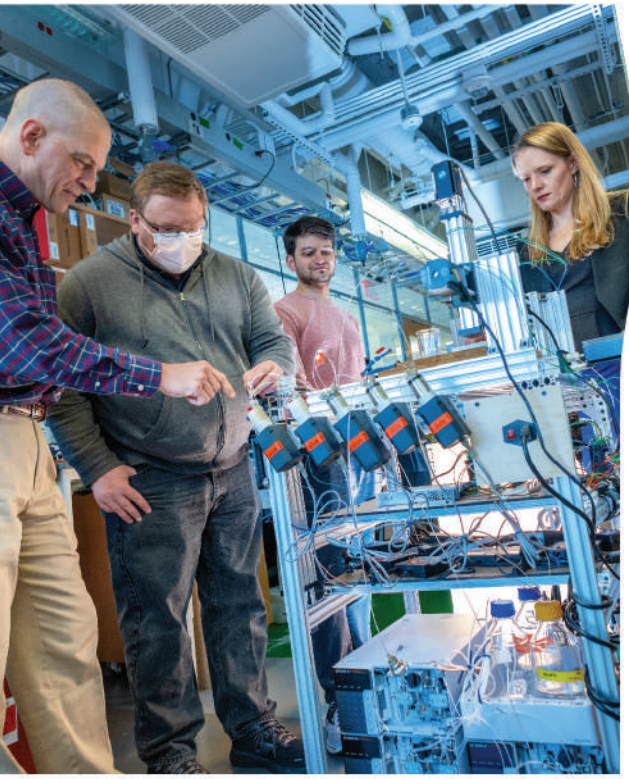
32,140
new patients

101,103
unique patients

160
DFCI faculty/staff participating in 2024

475
total years of PMC riding among them

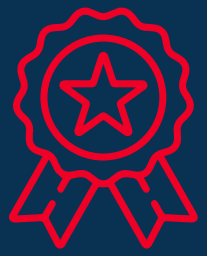
Lifesaving Research



PAN-MASS CHALLENGE
SINCE 1980
CLOSER BY THE MILE

The PMC is the crank turning the wheel of discovery and care at Dana-Farber, driving progress that moves cancer medicine forward and changes lives everywhere.

Extraordinary Care



145+

Dana-Farber affiliated faculty named as 2025 Top Doctors™ in Boston magazine.

Adult—Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been the top-ranked cancer hospital in New England by *U.S. News & World Report* for 24 consecutive years, and is the only cancer center in the country ranked in the top 4 for both adult and pediatric cancer programs.

Pediatrics— U.S. News & World Report has again recognized Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center as the #2 pediatric cancer program in the nation in its 2024-25 Best Children's Hospitals report. Dana-Farber/Boston Children's has been recognized as one of the top three pediatric cancer centers in the country each year since the ranking's inception in 2007. This is the second year in a row for #2, and the 18th year in the top 3.

3rd

Highest ranking cancer specific charity on America's Top 100 Charities by Forbes

(behind only St. Jude's and American Cancer Society)

42 Dana-Farber faculty were named to the Highly Cited Researchers List of the Institute for Scientific Information at Clarivate in 2024.

Highly Cited Researchers from Clarivate is an annual list that recognizes influential researchers in the sciences and social sciences from around the world who have demonstrated significant and broad influence in their field(s) of research. Each researcher selected has authored multiple Highly Cited Papers which rank in the top 1% by citations for their field(s) and publication year in the Web of Science over the past decade. Of the world's population of scientists and social scientists, Highly Cited Researchers are 1 in 1,000.

Philippe F. Armand
Mark M. Awad*
Joaquim Bellmunt
Bradley E. Bernstein*
James E. Bradner*
Jennifer R. Brown
Myles Brown
Edward T. Chouchani
Alan D. D'Andrea
Glenn Dranoff
Benjamin L. Ebert*
Eric S. Fischer
Gordon J. Freeman
Wendy S. Garrett
Todd R. Golub
Robert Haddad
W. Nicholas Haining
F. Stephen Hodi
Rafael A. Irizarry*
Pasi A. Jänne
Panagiotis A. Konstantinopoulos

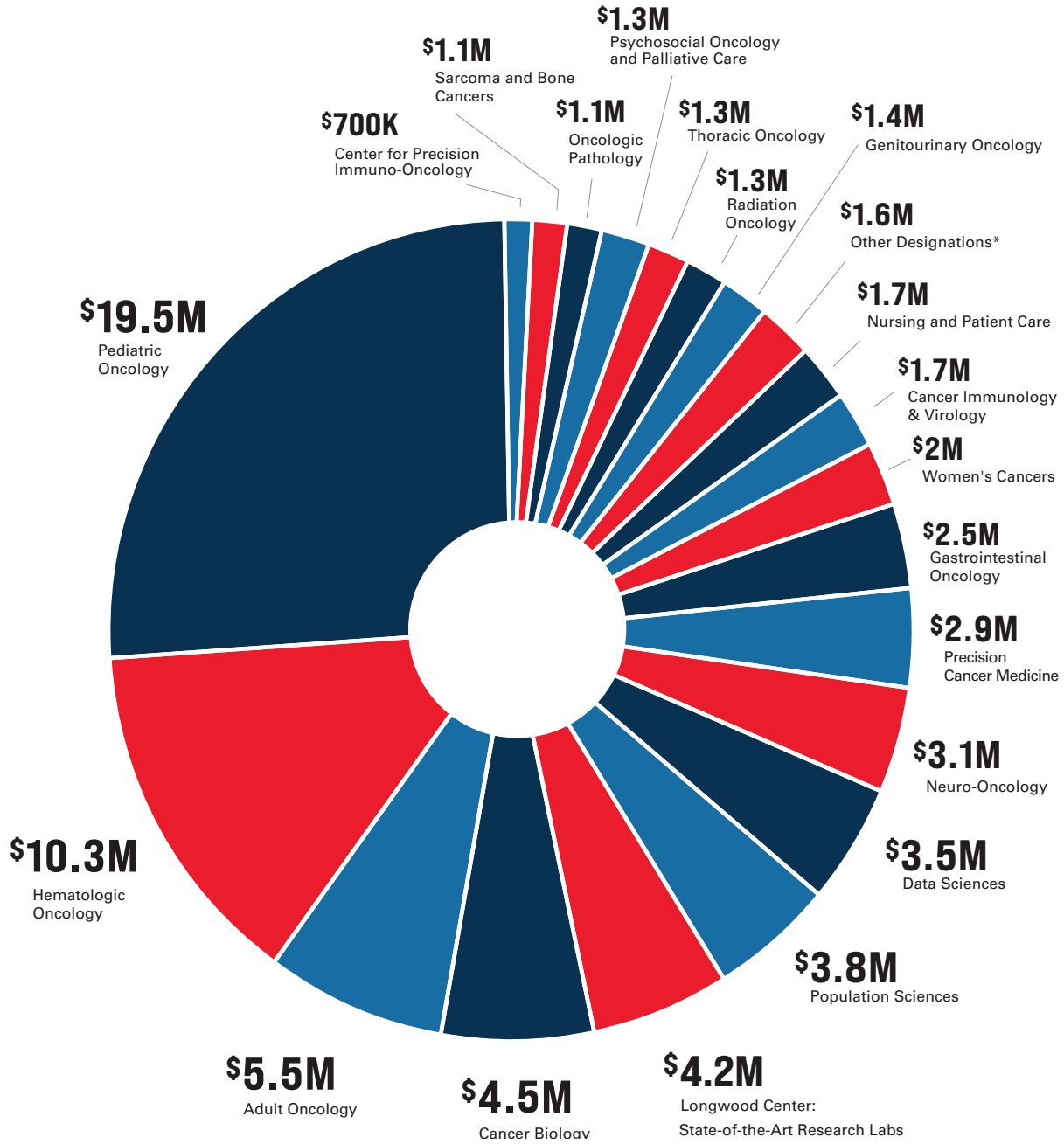
Heng Li
Nancy U. Lin
X. Shirley Liu
Ursula Matulonis*
Jeffrey A. Meyerhardt*
Matthew Meyerson*
Nikhil C. Munshi
Donna Neuberg
Patrick A. Ott
David A. Reardon*
Paul G. Richardson
Scott Rodig
Chris Sander
Geoffrey I. Shapiro
Bruce M. Spiegelman
Sara M. Tolaney
Eliezer M. Van Allen*
Matthew G. Vander Heiden
Patrick Y. Wen
Catherine J. Wu
Kai W. Wucherpfennig*

* Current or former PMC rider

Pan-Mass Challenge Impact

$75 million in 2024

The PMC donates 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar directly to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to fund lifesaving cancer research, treatment, and patient care.



Lifesaving Research & Researchers

New Treatments ➡ New Hope

Bolstered by funding from the PMC, Dana-Farber investigators contributed substantively to more than 60 cancer drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) during the last decade, including the following in 2024.

Revolutionary Therapy for Childhood Brain Tumors

Pediatric low-grade gliomas are the most common brain tumors in children, with more than 3,000 diagnosed each year in the United States. While not typically deadly, these tumors and their treatments can result in life-altering and lifelong side effects. New therapies are therefore urgently needed to enable these children to survive with fewer lifelong side effects.

To that end, Dana-Farber researchers helped drive FDA approval of tovorafenib (Ojemda), the first-ever systemic therapy for the treatment of BRAF-rearranged pediatric low-grade gliomas, in April 2024. This breakthrough was rooted in collaborative preclinical research at the Institute that generated two essential discoveries. First, Dana-Farber's team found that medicines designed to block mutant BRAF protein in melanoma would not block the most common form of mutant BRAF low-grade gliomas in the same way, but rather produced tumor growth. Second, they found the ideal drug candidate in Ojemda, a seemingly forgotten adult melanoma therapy, which inhibited the oncoprotein in these brain cancers and shut them down.

Armed with this information, Institute investigators initiated a phase-1 trial testing the safety and efficacy of Ojemda for children with pediatric low-grade gliomas, who showed strong response even to low doses. As a result, the FDA designated it as a "breakthrough therapy" in 2020, propelling further trials that led to the drug's recent approval.

Pratiti Bandopadhayay, PhD, Co-Director of Dana-Farber's Low Grade Glioma Program, noted that PMC support was "essential" in the testing and development of Ojemda. "This drug would 100% not have happened without the PMC," she said. "Now it is available to anyone, so children whose tumors don't respond to chemotherapy have a new option that can help them enjoy the life they were meant to lead."

The PMC has been the top contributor to pediatric oncology research at Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund for the last five years.

PRATITI BANDOPADHAYAY, PHD

Groundbreaking New Treatment for Relapsed Leukemia

In November 2024, thanks to years of work by **Scott Armstrong, MD, PhD,** and other researchers, the FDA approved the drug revumenib for patients with relapsed or refractory acute leukemia with a KMT2A translocation—the first drug in a new class of therapies called menin inhibitors to receive FDA approval.

Armstrong led pivotal early research to better understand this subset of leukemia patients with translocations of the mixed-lineage leukemia (MLL) gene. Following that, he spearhead further investigations that revealed how various forms of leukemia respond to revumenib, which blocks the interaction between menin and other proteins. Armstrong's findings sparked additional preclinical studies and clinical trials that accelerated approval of this powerful new treatment option for patients with aggressive leukemia.

Institute researchers in Armstrong's lab continue to investigate menin inhibitors with a focus on overcoming drug resistance. They have already uncovered insights that could lead to future solutions, including developing new drug molecules that deprive menin of any potential to bind MLL or combining menin inhibitors with drugs that use a different mechanism for keeping MLL and menin apart.

Breakthrough for Advanced Kidney Cancer

Toni Choueiri, MD led a landmark clinical trial resulting in FDA approval of belzutifan, an HIF-2α inhibitor, to treat adult patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma. Choueiri's study was informed by Institute researcher and Nobel Prizewinner, William Kaelin, Jr, MD's prior discovery of the role of Hypoxia-inducible factor-2α (HIF-2α) – a protein that controls cellular response to insufficient levels of oxygen – in disease development. Critically, the PMC is a top supporter of basic research such as Kaelin's leading to therapeutic advances like this.

Additionally, Choueiri's team recently released fundings from an investigation demonstrating for the first time in 50 years that an adjuvant therapy improves overall survival in patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma, the most common type of kidney cancer. Adjuvant therapy is an additional cancer treatment given after the primary treatment to lower the risk that the cancer will return. This study used the immune checkpoint inhibitor pembrolizumab as an adjuvant therapy after surgical removal of the cancerous kidney, and reducing risk of mortality by 38% compared with a placebo.

According to Choueiri, his team depends on the PMC to help move such life-changing treatments forward. "I cannot stress enough the positive impact that PMC support has on our research," he said. "Every year the PMC brings us closer to cures and our ultimate goal of ridding the world of cancer."

SCOTT ARMSTRONG, MD, PHD

TONI CHOUEIRI, MD
8-YEAR PMC RIDER

Over 70 biotech companies have been founded based on Dana-Farber discoveries. These start-ups provide a pathway to further develop and translate groundbreaking research from Dana-Farber laboratories into novel therapies and diagnostics with the goal of improving patient outcomes and care.

First New Therapy for Glioma In Decades

Based on a global clinical trial led by **Patrick Wen, MD,** and his collaborators, the FDA approved the drug vorasidenib for patients with certain gliomas with IDH1 or IDH2 mutations—the first new drug for low-grade gliomas since 1999. This trial demonstrated that vorasidenib more than doubled progression-free survival and delayed the need for radiation and chemotherapy post-surgery. This approval opens avenues for further research, including trials combining vorasidenib with immunotherapies and other treatments to maximize their benefit for patients.

Current treatment for these incurable brain tumors involves surgery followed by radiation and chemotherapy. Radiation and chemotherapy are effective strategies, but after many years of treatment, patients – who are often young adults in their 20's, 30's, and 40's – will experience signs of cognitive dysfunction normally seen in much older people. By delaying the start of these treatments, vorasidenib would delay cognitive dysfunction in patients and preserve their quality of life.

Next Up—New Immunotherapies For Colorectal Cancer and Ovarian Cancer

Immunotherapies use the body's own immune system to detect and attack cancer cells. Dana-Farber's clinical trials program has been responsible for the development of several FDA-approved immunotherapies for melanoma, kidney cancer, head and neck cancer and others. For more patients to benefit, however, new and better immunotherapies across all cancer types must advance into the clinic, and Institute investigators continue to lead this effort.

For example, **Benjamin Schlechter, MD** spearheaded a recent phase I trial showing the first safe and effective use of immunotherapy for patients with microsatellite stable (MSS) colorectal cancer, the most common subtype of the disease. Nearly a quarter of participants, whose disease was resistant to chemotherapy, had a major response to treatment with the combination therapy of immune checkpoint inhibitors botensilimab and balstilimab. The study's encouraging results prompted investigators to move forward with a phase III trial of this immunotherapy combination.

Additionally, **Rebecca Porter, MD, PhD** launched one of the first clinical trials in the United States to test the safety, tolerability, and antitumor activity of "memory like" natural killer (NK) cells in ovarian cancer. Natural killer cells are white blood cells on the body's first line of defense that have the ability to recognize and destroy cancer cells. However, they lack the longevity and ability to remember previous infections compared to other immune cells such as T cells. **Rizwan Romee, MD**'s lab at Dana-Farber, overcame some of these shortcomings by developing "memory-like" NK cells, which are modulated in the lab to gain memory function, and then proliferate and persist longer within the body than standard NK cells. Now, Porter and her team are testing this promising cellular therapy in patients with recurrent, platinum resistant ovarian cancer.

PATRICK WEN, MD

BENJAMIN SCHLECHTER, MD

REBECCA PORTER, MD, PHD

RIZWA ROMEE, MD

Novel Discoveries ➡ Better Therapies

Cancer is an incredibly complex set of diseases, with myriad genetic and biological causes of progression, relapse, and treatment resistance. PMC support is helping intrepid Dana-Farber investigators gain insights into these underlying factors, leading to improved treatments, care, and outcomes.

Rising Star Illuminates the Path of Discovery

One of the most impactful ways the PMC propels Dana-Farber's lifesaving research is by supporting talented innovators at critical points in their careers. This includes **Cigall Kadoch, PhD,** an expert in the study of gene regulation and rising star in basic science. In January 2025, she was selected as first incumbent of the **Meredith and Billy Starr Investigatorship**. Named for Billy Starr, founder and chairman of the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), and his wife, Meredith Beaton Starr, PMC director of stewardship, this endowed position provides resources in perpetuity so Kadoch can continue her ascent and accelerate field-altering advances for years to come.

Located in the Longwood Center, Dana-Farber's world-class research facility, Kadoch's lab focuses on characterizing the biological drivers of disease progression and translating these insights into novel therapeutics. By going straight to the source, her team's investigations are yielding foundational discoveries and broadly applicable innovations with a diversity of potential benefits. For example, they created the first-ever three-dimensional model of the BAF complex, a key molecular "machine" which is frequently mutated in more than 20% of all cancers. By enabling the spatial mapping of cancer-associated mutations within the complex and understand their functions, this model has provided a powerful primer for new treatments, including the first targeted therapy for synovial sarcoma, a rare and aggressive tumor, and informed promising strategies for boosting immunotherapies.

Kadoch knows her research requires "bigger bets" beyond conventional government funding, so is deeply grateful for the PMC's role in keeping her and her team moving forward.

"The PMC has supported our laboratory research since my recruitment to Dana-Farber to start my career and has enabled us to advance the understanding and therapeutic targeting of an entirely new area of biology central to both adult and pediatric cancers," said Kadoch.

CIGALL KADOCH, PHD

Understanding and Treating Relapse in Hematological Oncology

Thanks to funders like the PMC and researchers like Dana-Farber's, hematological cancers are more treatable than ever before. Nonetheless, relapse, or the return of one's disease after a period of remission, remains a significant challenge in cancer care. This is especially true with blood cancers where, for example, 50-70% of patients may experience relapse in adult leukemias, 30-40% in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, and nearly all in multiple myeloma.

Given the prevalence and harm of relapse, Institute researchers such as **Ann LaCasce, MD** are leading efforts to better understand and treat it. At the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology in December 2024, she presented findings from a promising study showing that a novel combination treatment with brentuximab vedotin and nivolumab may reduce toxicities, decrease the need for radiation, and prevent recurrence in patients with early-stage high-risk classic Hodgkin lymphoma.

Additionally, Dana-Farber investigators recently developed a groundbreaking method to augment CAR T cells so they last longer in the body and can reactivate if cancer recurs. While CAR T-cell therapy—an approach that involves creating genetically enhanced versions of a patient's own cancer-fighting T cells—has proven highly effective against certain types of cancer, many patients eventually experience relapse. To prevent that, Dana-Farber's team pioneered a novel CAR-Enhancer (CAR-E) platform that bolsters CAR T cells' activity and longevity, enabling them to eliminate tumor cells and form a memory of the cancer in case it comes back. This revolutionary technique has the potential to eliminate relapse and create more durable results for patients.

Investigators Identify Novel Target for Pediatric Neuroblastoma

Kimberly Stegmaier, MD, and her collaborators at Dana-Farber discovered a protein complex essential for the growth of a high-risk childhood cancer known as MYCN-amplified neuroblastoma. In about 25% of these cancer cases, the MYCN gene is overactive, leading to the production of a protein which activates genes that help the cancer grow. Since targeting MYCN directly to stop this process has proven challenging, Stegmaier's team explored other ways to block it. They discovered that the cancer's growth depends on the SAGA complex, which helps control gene activity but can be blocked with drugs, making it a promising target for developing new treatments for neuroblastoma.

Neuroblastoma is the most common childhood solid tumor and accounts for a disproportionately high number of cancer-related deaths in children. By laying the groundwork for novel classes of therapies, Stegmaier's discovery has lifesaving potential for a broad population of young patients.

ANN LACASCE, MD
15-YEAR PMC RIDER

KIMBERLY
STEGMAIER, MD


L. Porter, MD
PhD

Artificial Intelligence ➡ Real-Time Results

PMC has helped the Institute harness the power of data to change patients' lives by accelerating next-generation technologies and approaches that efficiently capture, sort, analyze, and share data in real time for maximal clinical impact.

A *Profile* in Data Making a Difference

Launched at Dana-Farber in 2011, *Profile*, one of the most extensive and comprehensive patient-based cancer genomics projects in the world, offers every patient the opportunity to have their tumors analyzed for hundreds of cancer-related DNA mutations. As a result, *Profile* has facilitated the analysis of more than 70,000 patient tumors, dramatically expanding the scope of genomic data available to Institute researchers.

With the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI), Dana-Farber investigators led by **Eli Van Allen, MD,** have leveraged Profile's vast database to enhance precision medicine, gain insights into drug resistance, and study biological patterns in large patient populations to better understand cancer progression and treatment response.

Van Allen has seen the impact of efforts like this in his own clinical practice. During a recent PMC event at Dana-Farber, he recounted the story of a prostate cancer patient whose disease recurred following surgery. The patient asked Van Allen why his cancer came back and was advised to have his tumor analyzed in *Profile*. Inspired by such questions, Van Allen's team developed a novel AI program that utilized biologically guided deep learning to interrogate this genomic data, elucidate why some localized prostate cancers are more aggressive, and predict which ones will behave in this way.

Years later, Van Allen saw his patient again and was able to explain why his cancer came back. The patient, in turn, shared that he has been doing well since he saw Van Allen, riding in the PMC each summer and ultimately surpassing $100,000 in cumulative fundraising to bring cures closer for other patients.

ELI VAN ALLEN, MD

Transformative Care

Early Detection ➡ Stopping Cancer Before It Starts

Cancer care has historically been reactive, with diagnosis and treatment typically occurring after disease has advanced. With funding from the PMC, Institute researchers and clinicians are shifting the paradigm by advancing new ways to detect cancer at its earliest stages and intervene before it progresses, improving outcomes for patients worldwide.

Remote Online Genetic Education Programs Spur Testing for Inherited Cancer Risk

While it has become clear that an inherited susceptibility to some cancers is more common than once thought, genetic testing of family members of cancer patients has not increased as much as experts had hoped. However, a remote online genetic education program can be a powerful motivator for genetic testing, according to research led by **Sapna Syngal, MD, MPH.**

Under Syngal's direction, the investigation demonstrated that remote online genetic education significantly boosted testing among people with a family history of cancer. Her team enrolled 601 participants from 45 states, each with a close relative who had pancreatic cancer. After engaging in one of two online education programs, 90% opted for genetic testing using a saliva-based kit sent to their homes. The study found that testing did not increase anxiety or depression among participants and addressed barriers such as limited awareness and access to testing services. These findings highlight the potential of online education to make genetic testing more accessible and expand risk assessment efforts.

New Diagnostic Tool Could Speed Diagnosis and Save Lives

Researchers at Dana-Farber developed a CRISPR-based rapid molecular diagnostic test for acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) and chronic myeloid leukemia (CML)—two forms of leukemia that are driven by gene fusions. While targeted treatments are available for these leukemias, many care centers are unable to diagnose these diseases in a timely fashion due to limited resources. In a recent study led by **Coleman Lindsley, MD, PhD,** the CRISPR-based technology, which uses a precise gene-editing mechanism to identify specific RNA sequences, was 100% accurate and produced results within two hours. This breakthrough could help expedite accurate diagnosis and enable rapid access to lifesaving treatments.

SAPNA SYNGAL, MD, MPH

COLEMAN LINDSLEY, MD, PHD

Screening for Risk of Multiple Myeloma

Irene Ghobrial, MD is leading the first-ever study to test healthy people who may be at higher risk for early warning signs of myeloma. Her investigation is focused on participants who have a first-degree relative (parent, sibling, or child) with a plasma cell disorder such as myeloma, as well as Black patients ages 40–75 at higher risk of developing monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance than white individuals. Ghobrial and her team hope that the study helps researchers identify the factors that contribute to the development of MGUS and its progression into cancer, informing novel prevention and detection approaches.

IRENE GHOBRIAL, MD
1-YEAR PMC RIDER

Dana-Farber treated patients from 84 countries worldwide in 2024.

Cancer Care Equity ➡ Better Outcomes For Everyone

The PMC provided more than half of the critical unrestricted funding designated to the Cancer Care Equity Program (CCEP) in 2024. This support helped to fuel more than 90 active clinical research studies and pilot programs which are essential in helping researchers understand and eliminate disparities in cancer care for all. Led by **Christopher Lathan, MD,** the CCEP has more than doubled in size in the past seven years, allowing the Institute to expand access to care for more patients from medically underserved communities. "With PMC support, we are making real progress to eliminate structural barriers for patients, in order to make sure that nothing stands between lifesaving cancer care and everyone who needs it," Lathan said.

CHRISTOPHER LATHAN, MD

Patient Navigation—A Research-Based Intervention To Improve Outcomes

In 2021, Dana-Farber piloted a new community-facing patient navigation program to assist patients with transportation, language services, insurance, nutrition, and other social and economic concerns that may be barriers to care. Since then, funding from the PMC has helped fuel the program's growth, with the Institute hiring six new community-facing patient navigators in centers for hematologic malignancies, gastrointestinal, breast, thoracic, gynecologic, and genitourinary cancers at Dana-Farber. Since October 2021, these navigators have helped more than 700 patients with more than 4,000 touchpoints, including assistance with housing, transportation, nutrition, language services, mental health care, and more.

Recently, **CCEP investigators** led a study to examine the impact of patient navigation at Dana-Farber, tracking key metrics such as patient demographics, barriers to care, and resources provided. After analyzing data from gastrointestinal oncology, the Institute's first disease center to hire a community-focused patient navigator, investigators found that patient navigators helped to decrease no shows and increase social work encounters, completions of New Patient Intake Questionnaires, and providers' use of *Pathways*, Dana-Farber's electronic road map of the best treatments currently available for each type of cancer and for every stage of disease.

Improving Equity in Clinical Trials

Growing numbers of health care organizations are requiring patients to undergo genomic testing to assess their clinical trial eligibility or before receiving standard precision therapies. To increase equity in clinical trial enrollment, **Nadine McCleary, MD, MPH** is piloting a novel intervention aimed at addressing barriers to such testing, which is often inaccessible in urban communities.

McCleary's intervention employs patient navigators to guide participants through the genetic testing process and help them understand how their genetic information will be protected and used to inform treatment decisions. Her team has also developed a video education and patient navigation program to increase health literacy around genetic testing, with the eventual goal of providing the video in six different languages.

Building the Case for Community-Based Lung Cancer Screening

At the September 2024 World Conference on Lung Cancer, **Narjust Florez, MD** presented on the Cancer Care Equity Program's lung cancer screening initiative, which has provided services to at-risk patients in two community health centers since 2014. Florez shared data from nearly 400 participants, approximately 100 of whom had a lung cancer screening consult. This cohort was composed primarily of Black or Hispanic individuals, with an average age of 61, and nearly all had Medicare or Medicaid listed as their primary insurance.

Almost 80% of the cohort reported current tobacco use and, of those, more than 90% received counseling for smoking cessation, in addition to lung cancer screening and patient navigation support, and 93% expressed interest in quitting. After initial consultation, 80% were referred to radiology for further screening and three received lung cancer diagnoses. Ultimately, these findings demonstrate the profound impact screening initiatives can have when providers reach out to local communities and tailor services to their needs.

NADINE
MCCLEARY, MD, MPH

NARJUST
FLOREZ, MD

Mammography Van

Dana-Farber's **mammography van** is the only mobile digital mammography program in Massachusetts, and an integral part of Dana-Farber's efforts to increase access to screening and breast health education in Boston's medically underserved neighborhoods. With PMC support, the Mammography Van has provided more than 44,000 mammograms to more than 19,000 patients and detected 138 cases of breast cancer since 2002. In fiscal year 2024 alone, the team conducted 1,700 mammograms, identifying nine cases of breast cancer that might have otherwise gone undetected.

Reducing Transplantation Complications ➡ Optimal Quality of Life

Stem cell transplantation offers the greatest hope of a cure for many patients with blood disorders. However, recovery from the procedure is often undermined by graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), a significant complication in which the donor's immune cells attack the recipient's tissues. Strengthened by support from the PMC, Dana-Farber's Stem Cell Transplantation Program is one of the world's leading research and treatment centers for acute and chronic forms of GVHD, having played an integral role in the FDA approval of three novel agents within the past seven years.

In a clinical trial by **Corey Cutler, MD, MPH,** researchers found that patients who have undergone a donor stem cell transplant and receive preventative treatment with obinutuzumab have a sharply reduced risk of developing chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGVHD), requiring treatment with systemic steroids. These findings underscore the effectiveness of drugs that, like obinutuzumab, deter cGVHD by depleting the body's supply of B cells—white blood cells that contribute to the development of the disease.

Informed by such studies and driven by Dana-Farber's signature commitment to total patient care, the Institute's transplant teams continue to earn recognition for outstanding outcomes from the Center for International Blood & Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR). In January 2025, Dana-Farber's adult and pediatric transplant programs both scored +1, the highest possible score, on CIBMTR's annual report, indicating they outperformed the expected one-year survival rate for allogeneic or donor stem cell transplants in the United States. This marks the fifth consecutive year that the adult stem cell transplant program received this score.

COREY CUTLER, MD, MPH
10-YEAR PMC RIDER

12,475 **Total adult stem cell transplants (SCT) performed 1982 – 2024**

2,095 **Total pediatric SCT performed 2001 – 2024**

147 **Total cell therapy infusions in the outpatient setting**

1,800+ **Inpatient bed days saved in 2024 due to expansion of outpatient infusions**

Integrative Therapies ➡ Evidence-Based Healing Benefits

When it was founded more than 25 years ago, the Leonard P. Zakim Center for Integrative Therapies and Healthy Living was one of the nation's first to focus on integrative medicine, providing comprehensive services–from acupuncture and massage to exercise and music therapy–that address the physical, emotional, and existential effects of cancer.

In addition to these services, the Zakim Center advances knowledge of the effectiveness and outcomes of integrative therapies through peer-reviewed, evidence-based clinical research. This research has shown that when used in conjunction with traditional cancer care, complementary therapies can help ease cancer-related symptoms and improve quality of life. As evidence of such benefits has grown, medical experts worldwide have come to view integrative therapies as an indispensable complement to surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation.

3,169

users signed up for a MyZakim account to access the Zakim Center's online programming, including 2,408 patients, 301 caregivers, and 460 staff, as of September 2024

45,000

visits to Zakim's virtual live classes and 750,000 views of on-demand videos from 2020-2024

For example, **Jennifer Ligibel, MD** leads investigations focusing on the impact of energy balance factors, such as physical activity and body weight, upon cancer risk and outcomes. She has conducted more than a dozen randomized trials evaluating the impact of exercise and weight loss interventions on endpoints such as cardiorespiratory fitness, biomarkers associated with cancer risk and outcomes, body composition, and quality of life in cancer patients and survivors. This work has culminated in the design and implementation of the Breast Cancer Weight Loss Trial, the only fully powered phase III trial designed to test the impact of a weight loss intervention on invasive disease-free survival in women with early-stage breast cancer and obesity.

As a 22-time rider and multiyear fundraiser, Ligibel knows well how powerful the PMC experience is, and how pivotal PMC funding is to the Zakim Center's work. "What we do at the Zakim Center is so important but a lot of it is not supported by insurance, which is why the PMC is so important," Ligibel said. "The PMC allows us to provide these services to our patients to support them in living the best lives that they can through and after treatment."

JENNIFER LIGIBEL, MD
22-YEAR PMC RIDER

Excellence In Nursing ➡ Extraordinary Patient Care

Dana-Farber's nurses are leaders on the front lines of cancer research and care, playing a crucial role in maximizing progress and improving outcomes. They drive the Institute's robust clinical trials program by recruiting participants, administering trial protocols, monitoring patient responses, and ensuring compliance with study requirements. They advance novel studies to fuel innovations in clinical practice and enhance patient safety and quality of life. Above all, they deliver the comprehensive, compassionate, and personalized patient care that has been Dana-Farber's signature since its founding in 1947.

As a steadfast supporter of nursing at Dana-Farber, the PMC has helped make the Institute's team one of the nation's best. In 2024, Dana-Farber earned its fifth consecutive Magnet® designation recognizing excellence in nursing practice and patient care. Only 9% of U.S. hospitals earn this distinction and Dana-Farber was the first cancer center in New England to do so.

BRE LEATHERSICH, RN
4-YEAR PMC RIDER

Bre Leathersich, RN, a 4-year rider PMC rider and member of Team More Cowbell, exemplifies Dana-Farber nursing excellence in action. As an oncology nurse navigator on genitourinary cancers, Leathersich helps patients navigate the complexities of the healthcare system, connects them with resources such as psychosocial counseling or financial assistance, and ensures they receive the education, support, and care they need from diagnosis through treatment and beyond. She compares her role to that of an air-traffic controller. "We may not always be visible, but we're constantly coordinating and managing behind the scenes, ensuring that all aspects of a patient's care stay connected and on track," Leathersich said.

With PMC support, Dana-Farber's oncology nurse navigator team has grown by more than 230% since the program's founding in 2019. Today, more than 230 nurse navigators serve across multiple disease areas at Dana-Farber, including hematologic malignancies, gastrointestinal, breast, thoracic, gynecologic, and genitourinary cancers. Additionally, they present original research at national conferences, such as annual meetings of the Oncology Nursing Society and the Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators, to disseminate the latest knowledge and innovations in clinical practice.

According to Leathersich, one of the most inspiring aspects of the PMC is getting to see its impact firsthand in her daily work in the clinic. "Thanks to PMC support, our team can continue to grow and expand, guiding those we serve every step of the way at such a challenging time in their lives," she said. "Together with the PMC, we are shaping a future where every patient feels supported, informed, and hopeful."

more than
$2.5 billion

$425 million
from the PMC

Dana-Farber Campaign 2017-2024 Powered by the PMC

32.5%
increase in clinical trials

49
growth in number of endowed faculty positions

3
new patient care facilities, contributing to 51% growth in patient volume since 2016

9
new multidisciplinary centers and initiatives

THANK YOU

for bringing cures Closer By the Mile

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

The Jimmy Fund®