

## 2020 Annual Report

### MISSION

*The Leukemia Research Foundation is dedicated to conquering all blood cancers by funding research into their causes and cures, and enriching the quality of life of those touched by these diseases.*

Blood cancers have not gone away. The fact is, COVID-19 affects cancer patients at a much higher rate than non-cancer patients, and forecasts indicate that productivity in research will be impacted for at least the next three and a half years because of the pandemic. The Leukemia Research Foundation's (LRF) mission of conquering all blood cancers is more important now than it's ever been.

Despite COVID-19 impacting the final few months of the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020, the LRF achieved another solid year of program delivery and financial growth. We are most grateful for your support and honored you have chosen the LRF as a beneficiary of your philanthropic efforts.

Some highlights of the year include:

- The LRF is proud to have awarded \$1,266,000 in research grants to 13 New Investigators around the world (see sidebar). The LRF exclusively funds New Investigators allowing these innovative scientists to act on their ideas and try new procedures and experiments that can lead to significant breakthroughs.
- Nearly \$200,000 was disbursed to patients in need to assist in paying their medical bills and medications, allowing them to focus on their treatment and care.
- The annual Town Hall Meeting was held in-person in January, 2020 attracting more than 230 registrants (a record number). Positive feedback from attendees indicated that 70% learned something they didn't know about their disease and/or treatment and 99% would recommend the program to others.
- The LRF launched our branded Online Support Community in April. The Community, with over 4,000 members across four disease-specific groups, is where Community members gain support from other patients and caregivers living with the same diagnosis at a time when patients are at home and isolated.
- In May, Dr. Jayesh Mehta of the

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine answered questions virtually about treatment of hematologic malignancies, stem cell transplantation, and infection prevention precautions in immunocompromised patients (including COVID-19). More than 100 participated from 12 different states.

- The Multiple Myeloma Rounds series successfully completed its fifth year providing a forum for healthcare professionals to meet on a regular basis and address issues specific to the diagnosis and treatment of their multiple myeloma patients. Sessions this year took place in Atlanta, Chicago, Florida, NYC/New Jersey, and Seattle.
- Fundraising totals for the fiscal year eclipsed \$2.6 million marking the second highest total in organization history and reflecting a 10% increase over the previous year.

Cancer is costly; physically, emotionally and financially. COVID-19 has made the pivotal role that research plays in addressing threats to our nation, our communities, and our families highly visible.

The LRF includes 21 volunteer chapters comprised of people who have lost a loved one or have been touched by the disease. Their remarkable support and dedication ensures that the LRF will continue to pursue the ultimate cures for all blood-related cancers – as we have since 1946.

We appreciate your support of our mission and all those we serve. Thank you!



Blake Brandwein  
Board President



Kevin Radelet  
Executive Director

### 2020 New Investigator Research Grants

**Jeevisha Bajaj, Ph.D.**  
Rochester University, New York  
*Role of SLC6A6 in aggressive Myeloid Leukemia*

**Triona Ni Chonghaile, Ph.D., BSc**  
Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland  
*Identifying and epigenetically inducing BCL-2 dependence in Multiple Myeloma*

**Sergi Cuartero, Ph.D.**  
Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute, Spain  
*Identifying novel transcriptional vulnerabilities in MDS with cohesin mutations*

**Heiko Konig, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Indiana University  
*A novel approach to target drug resistant Acute Myeloid Leukemia cells*

**Bridget Marcellino, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, New York  
*Enhancing natural killer cell recognition of leukemic cells*

**Fabiana Perna, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Indiana University  
*Interrogation of the Leukemia cell Surfaceome for immune-targeting*

**Yana Pikman, M.D.**  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts  
*Novel combination strategy for targeting one-carbon folate metabolism for T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia therapy*

**Giovanni Roti, M.D., Ph.D.**  
University of Parma, Italy  
*Targeting NOTCH1 trafficking vulnerabilities in T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia*

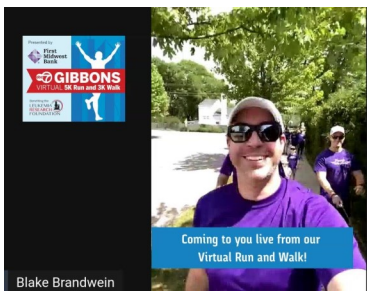
**Simone Sidoli, Ph.D.**  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York  
*Accessible heterochromatin as new target against Acute Myeloid Leukemia development*

**George Souroullas, Ph.D.**  
Washington University, Missouri  
*Understanding the oncogenic mechanisms and chromatin interactions of EZH2 mutations in Lymphoma*

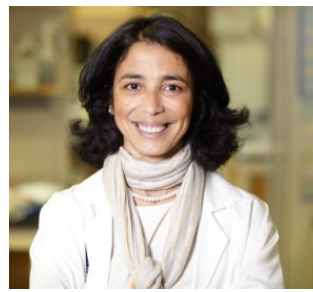
**Liling Wan, Ph.D.**  
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine  
*Targeting the chromatin reader protein ENL in acute leukemias*

**Siao-Yi Wang, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Loyola University Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center, Illinois  
*Engineering CD19-specific chimeric antigen receptor T-cells without inducing cell division or differentiation*

**Yibin Yang, Ph.D.**  
Research Institute of Fox Chase Cancer Center, Pennsylvania  
*Investigating and therapeutic targeting of the IL1R1-MyD88 pathway in Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma*



**The ABC 7 Gibbons 5K Run and 3K Walk was held virtually for the first time, giving participants a safe alternative to support our cause.**



**Miriam Merad, M.D. Ph.D. of The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, was selected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2020. Her research was funded by the Leukemia Research Foundation in 2006.**



### Revenue and Other Support

	FYE 2020	FYE 2019
Contributions and grants	2,598,095	2,378,441
Other revenue	22,499	8,194
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,620,594</b>	<b>2,386,635</b>

### Expense Allocation

Program service	1,954,968	1,839,495
research	1,349,295	1,227,593
patient financial assistance	266,021	169,710
patient education	339,652	392,192
Management	246,074	258,672
Fundraising	259,440	272,972
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,460,482</b>	<b>2,371,139</b>

change in net assets	160,112	15,496
<b>net assets (end of year)</b>	<b>2,768,509</b>	<b>2,630,231</b>

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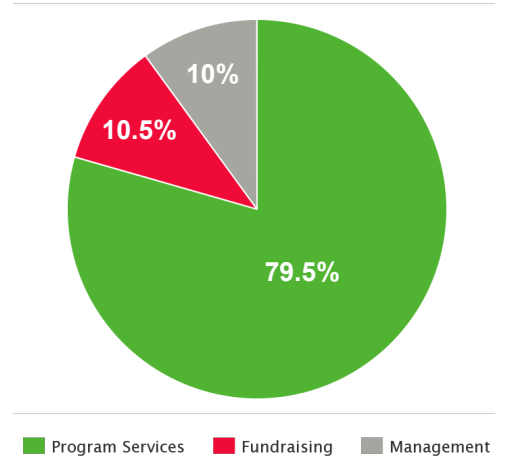
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### Expense Allocation



## Thank You

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