



Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center

Office of Public Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHNS HOPKINS ONE OF SIX CENTERS TO SHARE IN HALF BILLION DOLLAR GIFT FOR CANCER RESEARCH

--Ludwig Center at Johns Hopkins to receive \$90 million in new funding

Scientists at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center will receive \$90 million in new funding as part of a \$540 million gift from Ludwig Cancer Research, on behalf of its founder Daniel K. Ludwig, to six U.S. institutions. The new award is among the largest for a single private gift to cancer research.

Bert Vogelstein, M.D., and Kenneth Kinzler, Ph.D., co-directors of the Ludwig Center at Hopkins, used an initial \$20 million Ludwig gift to establish the Center and create the first genomic maps of cancer in 2006. Since then, their team has cracked the genetic codes of more than a dozen different forms of cancer, including breast, colon, brain, pancreas, ovarian and head and neck cancers and has published discoveries of newly linked cancer genes from each map.

“The Ludwig bequests have revolutionized what we’ve been able to do,” says Vogelstein, Ludwig Center co-director, as well as the Clayton Professor in Oncology and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at Johns Hopkins. “We’ve pursued some of the most important questions in cancer – not necessarily the most fundable questions.”

With the new gift, Ludwig’s commitment to cancer research at the six U.S.-based institutions now totals approximately \$900 million and another \$1.6 billion globally. The five other Ludwig Centers to share in the current award are: Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Stanford University, and the University of Chicago.

“Our current research programs focus on diagnostics for the early detection and prevention of cancers thanks, in large part, to Ludwig support,” says Kinzler, Ludwig Center co-director and professor of oncology at Johns Hopkins. “Compared with treatment research, early detection and prevention research is underfunded, but it can potentially make more of an impact on reducing cancer deaths.”

“It takes a long time and a sustained effort to see the results of cancer prevention and early detection studies,” adds Kinzler. “Ludwig funding will enable us to carry this and many other research projects forward.”

Kinzler and Vogelstein are consistently ranked as two of the world’s most highly cited cancer scientists by virtue of the number of journal citations their work receives, a common measure of scientific impact.



Their work has helped define the genetic bases of human cancer and led to blood tests widely available for diagnosing hereditary forms of colon cancer.

In addition to Kinzler and Vogelstein, members of Hopkins' Ludwig Center include Luis A. Diaz, Jr., Nickolas Papadopoulos, Gregory J. Riggins, Shibin Zhou, Nishant Agrawal, Chetan Bettegowda, Bjarne Bartlett, Cherie Blair, Lisa Dobbyn, Kathy Helwig, Will Hendricks, Margaret Hoang, Yuchen Jiao, Christine Joseph, Mark Kelman, Antonio Kim, Isaac Kinde, Zhao-Bo Li, Qiang Liu, Maria Popoli, Janine Ptak, Yuan Qiao, Nick Roberts, Kathy Romans, Joy Schaefer, Natalie Silliman, Andrew Skora, Simeon Springer, Surojit Sur, Qing Wang, Yuxuan Wang, Lattice Watson, Fay Wong, Jian Yang and Ming Zhang.

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On the Web:

The Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center: hopkinscancer.org

The Ludwig Center at Johns Hopkins: <http://www.ludwigcancerresearch.org/location/johns-hopkins-center>

Ludwig Cancer Research: ludwigcancerresearch.org

Videos on Johns Hopkins' Ludwig Center: [url TBA]

For instructions to download the full-length video and/or b-roll footage of the Ludwig Center at Johns Hopkins, contact Vanessa Wasta: wasta@jhmi.edu