



Oswald, lung cancer patient treated with immunotherapy

Tackling the critical unanswered questions in cancer immunotherapy research

2020 Annual Report

Following a decade of astonishing progress, immunotherapy has emerged as a major breakthrough in cancer treatment—accelerating scientific research, changing cancer care, and saving lives. Turning these advances into potential cures for all cancer patients, however, requires that we focus our efforts on exploring the critical, unanswered questions in the field. In 2020, we made significant strides toward deepening our understanding of these questions, which we describe in this year's annual report. Little did we know, however, that the field, and the world, would be shaken by a new crisis.

While cancer continues to be a leading cause of death worldwide, a new menace emerged this January: the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 pandemic. Working at the intersection of immunology and cancer biology, CRI scientists rose to join the fight. Our organization adjusted to the health crisis to protect our staff, supporters, and the communities we serve. Moreover, donor generosity made it possible for us to provide an unprecedented "lifeline" funding extension to 23 postdoctoral fellows.

Despite the challenges, we have not lost sight of our mission to save more lives by fueling the discovery and development of powerful immunotherapies for all cancers. We continue to tackle the profound and unanswered questions in cancer research with the support of our generous donors. We remain focused on: **A Future Immune to Cancer.**

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Martina Molgora, Ph.D.
CRI Lloyd J. Old Memorial Fellow

OUR MISSION: SAVE MORE LIVES
by fueling the discovery and development of powerful immunotherapies for all cancers.

Founded in 1953, the Cancer Research Institute (CRI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to funding laboratory and clinical research aimed at harnessing our immune system's power to treat and potentially cure all cancers. This work has led to a revolutionary new class of cancer treatments called immunotherapy, which today is giving millions of cancer patients a better chance at living longer.



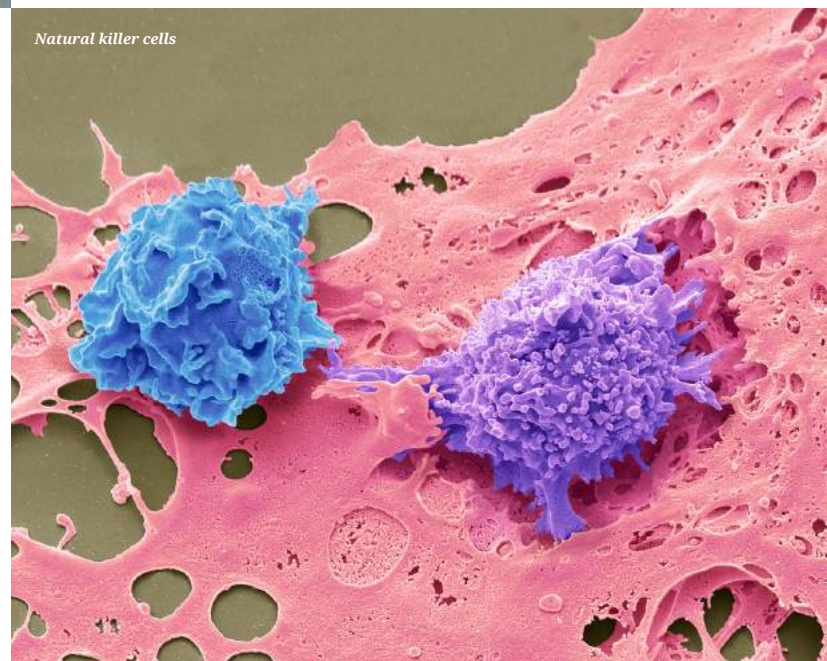
Samir, mesothelioma patient treated with immunotherapy

Why do some people respond to immunotherapy but not others?

Over the past decade, cancer immunotherapy has transformed our ability to treat more than twenty types of advanced cancer. The immune system's power may enable us in the near future to conquer all forms of the disease, but first we must improve our understanding of how it works in the context of cancer—down to the molecular level. Ansuman Satpathy, M.D., Ph.D., Sumit K. Subudhi, M.D., Ph.D., Padmanee Sharma, M.D., Ph.D., James P. Allison, Ph.D., and Yunlong Zhao, Ph.D., are just a few of the CRI scientists applying the latest discoveries and new technologies to expand the benefits of immunotherapy to more cancer patients.

What immune cells besides T cells can we effectively unleash to fight cancer?

Much of the recent success in cancer immunotherapy can be tied back to one immune cell: the T cell. However, there are many more cells in the immune system, each with great potential to help patients. B cells release antibodies to defend against threats in the body. Dendritic cells help orchestrate immune responses against threats including cancer. Macrophages engulf and destroy bacteria, virus-infected cells, and cancer as well as present antigens to other immune cells. Natural killer cells are part of our innate immune system's defense against cancer and pathogens, patrolling the body and acting as first responders. Oscar A. Aguilar, Ph.D., Pranay Dogra, Ph.D., Martina Molgora, Ph.D., Timothy Fessenden, Ph.D., Cheng-Sheng Lee, Ph.D., and Zhaoqing Ba, Ph.D., are just a few of the CRI scientists examining these extraordinary immune cells and their untapped potential in cancer immunotherapy.



Natural killer cells



Sumit K. Subudhi, M.D., Ph.D. CRI Clinical Accelerator Investigator

Can we accelerate discovery and development through smarter clinical trial design?

Clinical trials are an essential step toward giving patients more treatment options, but they can take many years to implement and complete—time many cancer patients don't have. The CRI Anna-Maria Kellen Clinical Accelerator has developed a way to overcome these barriers to clinical development: platform trials. Rather than test new drugs or drug combinations in sequence, we can test them simultaneously and allow for mid-course corrections—getting effective treatments to patients faster.

Of course, these clinical trials could not happen without the participation of courageous patients not only seeking the best treatments for themselves, but also willing to contribute to medical research responsible for future breakthroughs. The CRI Answer to Cancer Patient Education Program reached thousands, if not millions, of cancer patients through a variety of educational programs and initiatives in the past year, and continues to connect many to immunotherapy clinical trials for which they may be eligible.

The Cancer Research Institute funds the entire spectrum of scientific discovery, from basic laboratory studies on the fundamentals of the immune system to clinical trials of cutting-edge immunotherapy combinations. CRI's funding decisions are guided by a renowned Scientific Advisory Council that includes four Nobel Laureates and 26 members of the National Academy of Sciences. In Fiscal Year 2020, CRI awarded \$30.2 million in grants and fellowships to scientists around the world.

CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

CRI fellowships support the career development and laboratory research of promising young scientists working under the mentorship of leading immunologists.

\$6,311,750

awarded to 32 scientists along with 23 COVID-19-related extensions

Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP)

CLIP grants provide catalytic support for the translation of basic laboratory discoveries into novel therapies that can be tested in the clinical setting.

\$2,391,600

awarded to 12 scientists

CRI Anna-Maria Kellen Clinical Accelerator

The CRI Clinical Accelerator serves as a unique, venture philanthropy-driven partnership model that brings together academia, nonprofit, and industry to develop and de-risk novel cancer immunotherapy combinations.

\$12,567,893

awarded to 8 scientists

Lloyd J. Old STAR Awards

The Lloyd J. Old STAR Program (Scientists Taking Risks) provides investigators with long-term funding in order to promote freedom and flexibility in exploring innovative avenues of research.

\$6,250,000

awarded to 5 scientists

Technology Impact Awards

The CRI Technology Impact Award funds initiatives that seek to bridge the gap between the technological development and clinical application of cancer immunotherapies.

\$1,000,000

awarded to 5 scientists

Impact Grants

Impact Grants support projects aimed at advancing scientific goals and addressing challenges that would otherwise limit progress in cancer immunotherapy research and drug development.

\$1,642,560

awarded to 2 scientists

Our work to advance lifesaving science is possible only with the generous support of individual donors, philanthropic foundations, and corporate sponsors who share our vision of A Future Immune to Cancer™. In Fiscal Year 2020, donors and supporters gave or raised more than \$31.6 million for the Cancer Research Institute.



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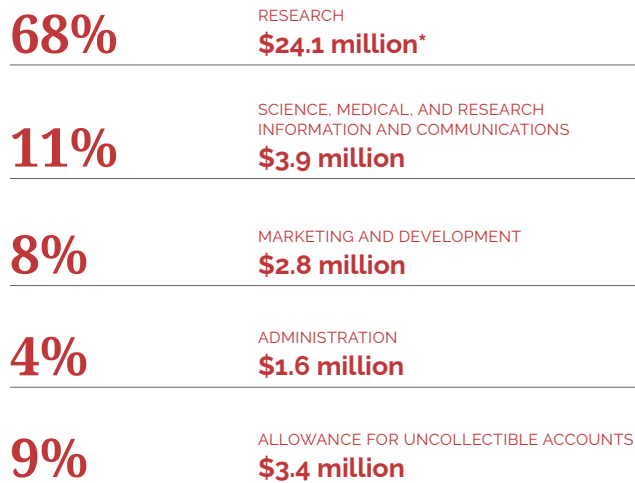
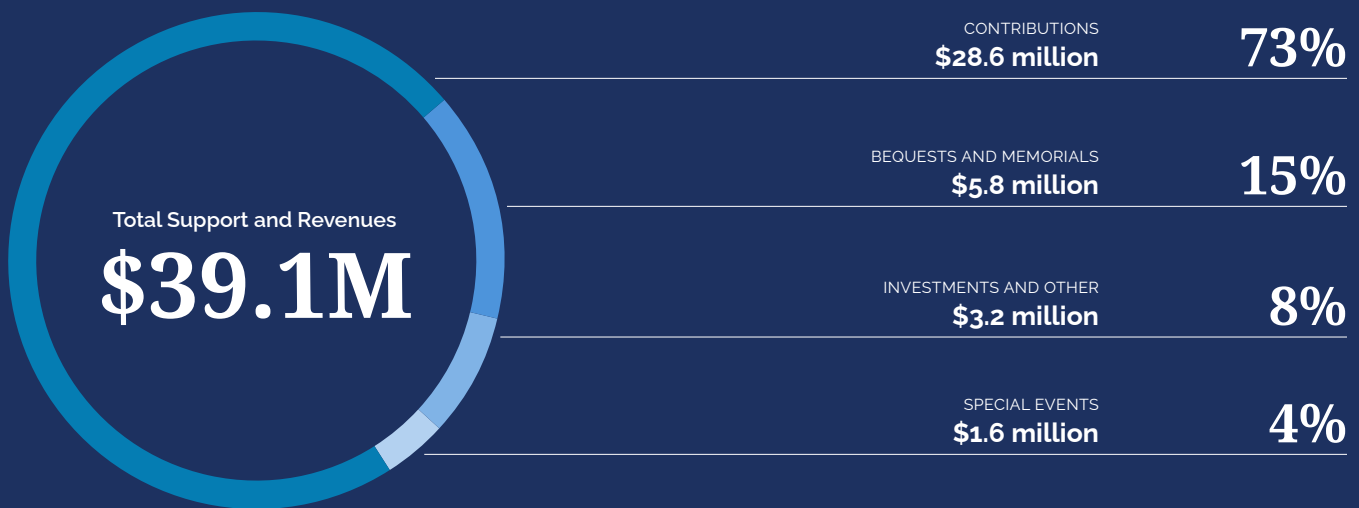
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- 1 Team CRI runners collectively raised nearly \$61,000 at the TCS New York City Marathon in November 2019. This was the 26th marathon for CRI ImmunoAdvocate Alan Kaufman.
- 2 Mary Jo Bramson has hosted multiple fundraising events in her home and raised thousands of dollars over the last ten years. Photo by Genevieve Garruppo.
- 3 Guests exchanged laughs during the cocktail reception at the 2019 CRI Annual Awards Gala, which raised over \$1 million.
- 4 The Fifth Annual Jim & Jerry Smith Memorial Golf Tournament at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club raised more than \$11,000. Photo courtesy of Connor and Trevor Smith.
- 5 Rachel Caron coordinated an evening cabaret called "Night of Light" at The Iridium in New York City, raising almost \$1,000 in July 2019.
- 6 CRI Community Fundraising Coordinator Cierra Howard accepts a gift from Los Angeles Airport Police Pink Patch Project on behalf of the Cancer Research Institute at their annual Women's Conference.

Donor trust is our most valued asset. We earn and keep this trust through our commitment to accountability and transparency, holding ourselves to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and responsible use of donor dollars to achieve the greatest mission impact.



* \$30.2 million awarded minus \$6.1 million in early terminations of grants and clinical trials from prior years

End of Year Net Assets
\$60.3 million

Leaders in business, philanthropy, and science volunteer their time and expertise to guide the Cancer Research Institute's strategic course, oversee its operations, shape its mission-driven programs, and increase awareness of CRI's impact.

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