

# The Wine Advocate Fund Makes an Impact on Cancer Research at Dana-Farber

Seminal scientific discoveries in cancer research over the past decade have made this a pivotal time in cancer research. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, with its unique 50-50 balance between research and care, is in the forefront nationally of utilizing these unprecedented scientific opportunities and cutting-edge technologies to propel breakthroughs in the understanding and treatment of cancer.

We now have the knowledge and the tools to identify and understand the genetic changes that cause cancer and an action plan that will maximize our ability to disrupt them. Our goal is the delivery of personalized medicine for cancer patients – the right drug to target the right tumor in the right patient at the right time. This is the vision of cancer care in the 21st century and this is the caliber of research being supported through the outstanding philanthropy of the Wine Advocate Fund (WAF).

We are making great strides and the WAF support for research in pediatric and adult blood cancers at Dana-Farber has been instrumental in significant new discoveries:

- **In Adult Leukemia:** A genetic mutation has been newly identified in 30 percent of leukemia patients, giving researchers fresh insights into possible causes of the disease, and has resulted in new clinical trials with a potentially significant impact on treatment choices.

“Dana-Farber gave me the best options for treating my disease. I chose a clinical trial that combined chemotherapy, a stem cell transplant, and a vaccine created from my own tumor cells engineered to make my body fight any cancer recurrence. Though experimental, I knew it would give me the greatest chance of a cancer-free life.” – Dana-Farber patient Mike Violandi, on his successful battle against acute myelogenous leukemia

- **In Pediatric Leukemia:** A groundbreaking new test for children and young adults with leukemia is being utilized in treatment protocols.

“Philanthropic support was critical in developing a new groundbreaking test to pinpoint those kids who will not respond well to traditional leukemia treatments and who are in danger of relapse. Thanks to this breakthrough test, we now know how to modify their therapy from the beginning, giving them a better chance of a favorable outcome. The results have been astounding and immediate: In the last two years, none of the children in this at-risk group have relapsed.” – Dana-Farber Chief of Staff Stephen E. Sallan, MD

- **In Lymphoma:** The discovery of a never-before documented sub-type of the disease has led to new clinical trials with profound implications for patients.

“I wanted my family to have a relationship with an organization that is on the cutting-edge of cancer research. Dana-Farber has the combination of extraordinary research capabilities, remarkable clinicians, and an exceptional sense of patient care.” – Dana-Farber Trustee Alan Hirschfield on lymphoma research

- **In Multiple Myeloma:** Philanthropic support has accelerated research that has led to the remarkably rapid FDA approval of four new drugs for the treatment of multiple myeloma which are prolonging life and in some cases turning a devastating disease into a chronic and manageable one.

“Philanthropic gifts allow us to investigate initiatives that tackle new challenges facing patients for whom even the newest and best drugs have failed.” – Kenneth C. Anderson, MD, Program Director and Chief, Division of Hematologic Neoplasias at Dana-Farber