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### **Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network Announced the Recipient of The JPB Foundation 2016 Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Award**

BETHESDA, MD – The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) has announced the recipient of The JPB Foundation 2016 Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Award. The aim of the award is to support exceptionally novel and creative projects with great potential to produce breakthroughs in the management of bladder cancer, the fifth most common cancer in the United States. The JPB Foundation 2016 Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Award was granted to Dr. David McConkey for his project “Targeting FGFR3 in muscle-invasive bladder cancer.”

Muscle-invasive bladder cancers (MIBCs) are highly heterogeneous with variable levels of aggressiveness and responses to conventional and investigational therapies. MIBCs, grouped into 3 “intrinsic subtypes” resemble the ones found in breast cancers that behave as distinct disease entities. While treatments are available for patients with two of them, the biological properties of the third one (referred to as luminal) appear to make them more resistant to the available therapies. Fortunately, these tumors are highly enriched with a biological target, FGFR3, for which inhibitors are clinically available. The overall goal of Dr. McConkey’s project is to identify strategies to best exploit the effects of these FGFR inhibitors, thereby providing “therapeutic coverage” for all three subtypes of MIBC.

Dr. McConkey is the Director at the Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute in Baltimore, MD. He also maintains an adjunct faculty position at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. This project will be a collaborative effort between these two prominent institutions.

“Advancing top quality research is a priority for BCAN. The work of Dr. McConkey is highly innovative, with the potential to enhance our fundamental knowledge of the biology of bladder cancer. His research has the potential to make a difference in the lives of those diagnosed with bladder cancer. We are grateful for the generous support of The JPB Foundation, a national philanthropy supporting medical research, and programs designed to enrich the environment and break the cycle of poverty in the United States” stated Andrea Maddox-Smith, Chief Executive Officer of BCAN.

## **About the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network**

The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network's (BCAN) mission is to increase public awareness about bladder cancer, advance bladder cancer research, and provide educational and support services for the bladder cancer community.

BCAN serves as the leading voice for bladder cancer in the U.S., providing resources to not only those diagnosed with the disease but their families, caregivers and the medical community united in support of people touched by the disease. The organization is setting the agenda for bladder cancer by promoting and funding collaborative and cutting-edge research programs and providing critical patient support and education services. Each year, it provides thousands of patients, caregivers and the medical community with the educational resources and support services they need to navigate their bladder cancer journey. BCAN works collaboratively with the medical and research professionals who are dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of bladder cancer and empowers the patient community by allowing them to share experiences with others, and to participate in building awareness of the need for a cure. For more information go to [www.bcan.org](http://www.bcan.org) or call 1-888-901-BCAN (2226).