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Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network Announces 2016 Young Investigator Awardees

BETHESDA, MD – The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) has announced the recipients of the 2016 Young Investigator Awards. The Young Investigator Awards fund researchers in basic, translational, clinical, epidemiologic, bio-engineering or any other scientific or research field. Recipients must be working in a research environment capable of supporting transformational bladder cancer research. The program, first launched in 2013, hopes to inspire more investigators to join the bladder cancer field, a disease in which more research is desperately needed. BCAN is pleased to announce two awards of \$50,000 to support one year of research in 2016.

The Stephen Hale Gushée Young Investigator Award will support Kent William Mouw, M.D., Ph.D. of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, for his research “Identifying Genomic Determinants of Chemoradiotherapy Response in Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer.” Dr. Mouw’s study will leverage new genomic techniques to better understand how these biomarkers can benefit muscle invasive bladder cancer patients treated with combined modality therapy.

The JPB Foundation Young Investigator Award will further the work of Niannian Ji, Ph.D. of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio for her project on the “Role of antigen-specific immunity in BCG therapy for bladder cancer.” Dr. Ji’s study will provide key mechanistic insights into BCG efficacy in treating bladder cancer and establish a framework for rapid development of BCG combination strategies to combat BCG resistance in bladder cancer patients.

“Advancing quality research is a top priority for BCAN. The work of Drs. Mouw and Ji exemplifies the promise of early career researcher’s efforts to make a difference in the lives of those who are diagnosed with bladder cancer. We are grateful for the generous support from the JPB Foundation and the family of Stephen Hale Gushée for making these awards possible,” stated Andrea Maddox-Smith, Chief Executive Officer of BCAN. “BCAN is committed to continuing to support Young Investigators interested in advancing knowledge about the fifth leading cause of cancer in the United States.”

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 or call 1-888-901-BCAN (2226).