

DEGREGORIO  
FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



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# Turning Research into Action for Stomach and Esophageal Cancers

[www.degregorio.org](http://www.degregorio.org)



The DeGregorio Family Foundation's seed money  
can mean the difference between cancer research  
being funded or abandoned.






# Overview

The DeGregorio Family Foundation provides seed money for innovative research focused on curing gastric and esophageal cancers.

This seed money is crucial for scientists to take innovative ideas and nurture them to a level where institutional funding is possible—most often from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), an agency of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Every year, we identify and fund research scientists endeavoring to begin this critical path towards a cure.



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# A Challenging Landscape



The incidence of gastroesophageal cancer has increased more than fivefold in the past three decades in the United States. Globally, it is the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths with 1.3 million annually.

While most other cancer death rates drop, the prognosis for gastroesophageal patients remains poor, with five-year survival remaining a dismally low 18%-30%.

NCI is the federal government's principal agency for cancer research and the largest funder of cancer research in the world with an annual budget exceeding \$5 billion. There is significant competition for these dollars—on average, only 11% of applicants receive funding. Furthermore, less than 1% of its budget is allocated to specifically addressing gastroesophageal cancer.



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## How We Help: A Case Study

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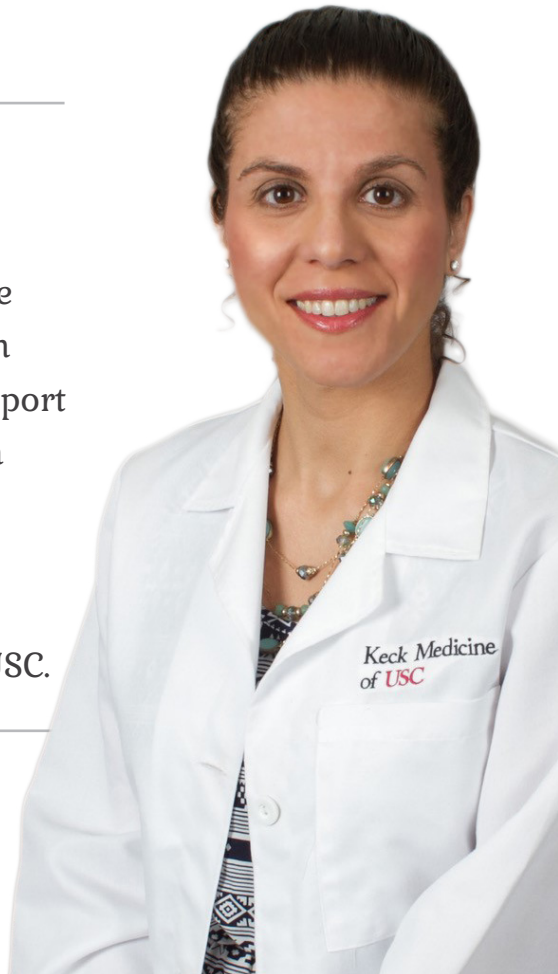
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Had it not been for the DeGregorio Family Foundation, I may have been forced to abandon my research. Their support led to my \$1.25 million R01 grant—which has planted the seeds for an Esophageal Cancer Research Program at USC.

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**Dr. Anisa Shaker**

Keck School of Medicine of USC





# Dr. Anisa Shaker

## Case Study

Dr. Anisa Shaker, a physician-scientist from the Keck School of Medicine of USC, was exploring the connection between gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and esophageal cancer. In order to advance this work, she sought the financial support of a Research Project Grant (R01)—the original and historically oldest grant mechanism used by the NIH.

Unfortunately, her first application was not funded. Despite this initial disappointment, Dr. Shaker persevered, gathered more data and applied for funding from the DeGregorio Family Foundation—and in March of 2017, we announced that we would be awarding Dr. Shaker a \$175,000 grant.

In addition to the financial support, the grant proved to be an emotional lift for Dr. Shaker. “The DeGregorio Family Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board comprises the world’s leading minds in gastroesophageal cancer research. I was emotionally buoyed by knowing that

my research was peer-reviewed by these individuals.” In fact, Dr. Shaker was further encouraged upon learning that the Scientific Advisory Board utilizes the same peer review process and nine-point NIH grant application scoring system which is at the heart of the NIH grants process.

For the subsequent two years, Dr. Shaker’s research accumulated critically validating data. She was able to continue in the far-too-uncommon role as physician-scientist—bridging the gap between scientific theory and practical medicine by treating patients while also conducting research. And in 2019, Dr. Shaker was indeed awarded a \$1.25 million R01 NIH grant—and in turn, the seeds of an Esophageal Cancer Research Program were planted at USC.



## Dr. Anisa Shaker Follow-on Funding

Dr. Shaker leveraged our \$175,000 grant to a \$1.25 million R01—an amount over seven times as large. This subsequent funding is known as “follow-on funding”—and it is often the case with our grants. In fact, when considering all completed research we have funded, over 92% of our scientists have received follow-on funding.

And the average follow-on funding received is approximately ten times the size of our grant! This has translated into nearly \$30 million in additional funding for cancer research.

On average, the DeGregorio Family Foundation turns every \$1 of research raised into \$10 of subsequent funding from institutional sources, including the NIH. This has translated into nearly \$30 million in additional funding for cancer research.



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# Turning Research into Action

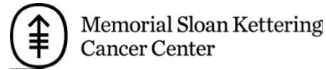
The DeGregorio Family Foundation is uniquely positioned to identify and fund promising research focused on curing upper GI malignancies—including cancers of the stomach, esophagus and gastroesophageal junction (GEJ).

This funding serves as the seed money needed for the research to mature and ultimately attract institutional funding—most often from the NIH.

On average, every dollar allocated to a grant has attracted more than \$10 in follow-on funding—a unique paradigm for donors and research scientists alike.



# Institutional Diversity of Grant Recipients



Boston University School of Medicine





# LEADERSHIP

## Scientific Advisory Board

### Manish Shah, MD

Chair of Scientific Advisory Board

Director, Gastrointestinal Oncology Program at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital

### Adam Bass, MD

Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Associate Professor, Medicine, Harvard Medical School,

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Cellular and Molecular Oncology, Dana Farber Cancer Center

### Tony E. Godfrey, PhD

Associate Chair, Surgical Research and Associate Professor of Surgery,

Boston University School of Medicine

### Parry Guilford, PhD

University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand Principal Investigator in Cancer Genetics Laboratory

Chief Scientific Officer of Pacific Edge Biotechnology, Ltd.

### Timothy C. Wang, MD

Dorothy L. and Daniel H. Silberberg Professor of Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

### Keith T. Wilson, MD

Thomas F. Frist Sr. Chair in Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

### Sam S. Yoon, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Physician-scientist, studies the role of tumor microenvironment in the progression and radiation response of sarcomas and gastric cancer

## Board of Directors

Lynn DeGregorio, President and Founder

Richard DeGregorio, MD, Treasurer

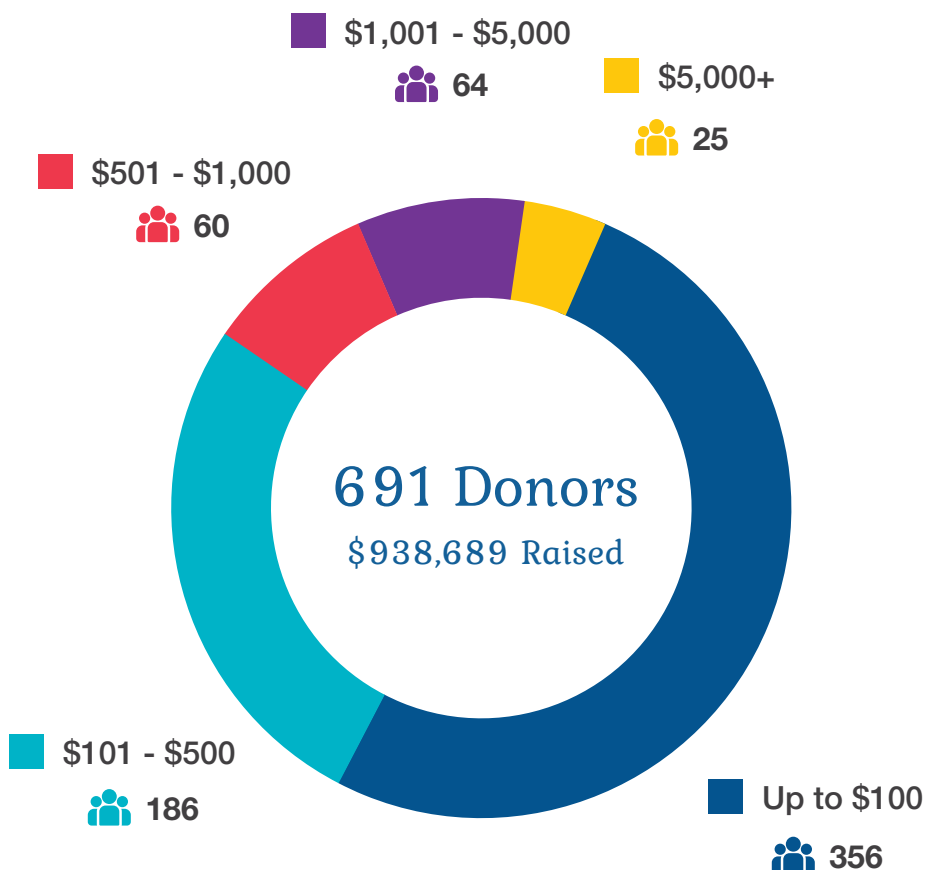
Frank Licciardi

Michael J. Meagher

Karen Naber

Nick Savone

# 2019 Contributions by the Numbers



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# Our Success is Due to the Generosity of Our Donors



Since its inception in 2006, the DeGregorio Family Foundation has raised nearly \$5 million—with a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 21%.

Our momentum continued into 2019 as we raised nearly \$1 million—a 49% increase from the prior year.

- The average contribution was approximately \$1,350.
- Over 50% of donations were for \$100 or less.
- There were almost 700 total contributions.



# Help Us Turn Fact Into Fiction<sup>™</sup>

You can join us in turning the deadly facts about stomach and esophageal cancers into fiction by making a tax-deductible gift to the DeGregorio Family Foundation.


Your contribution will support research into these deadly diseases—and help us lead the way to effective treatments and, one day, a cure.

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100% of your donation goes to research.

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Visit our website: [www.degregorio.org](http://www.degregorio.org) to learn more about our funded research or make a gift.





The DeGregorio Family Foundation  
is a community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with  
questions or for assistance.

We are happy to help and be of support.

The DeGregorio Family Foundation is a  
fully audited 501(c)3 charitable organization.

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