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[Leadership](#)

[History](#)

[Equality, diversity & inclusion](#)

[Annual report](#)

[Give to MSK](#)

approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the many forms of the disease that together constitute one of the greatest threats to human health.

The program, to be known as the [Starr Cancer Consortium](#), will provide an innovative framework for research that brings together world-class biomedical investigators with a critical mass of technology. It will build on the complementary strengths of the five institutions, including one-of-a-kind experience in applying the power of genomics to biomedical problems, a proven expertise in the study of cancer genetics in humans and animals, and a strong clinical operation and vast collection of cancer specimens that offer a crucial resource for studying cancer in humans.

“The opening years of the 21st century have brought dramatic advances in understanding cancer and in putting new discoveries to work for the people who need it most,” said Maurice R. Greenberg, Chairman of The Starr Foundation. “Our goal in launching the Starr Cancer Consortium is to bring these exceptional institutions together in a manner that assures maximum efficiency and the greatest firepower in targeting cancer. This will enable us to achieve tangible results more quickly and decisively than any one or two members of the consortium could accomplish working alone.”

The Starr Foundation, with assets today of approximately \$3.5 billion, has donated in excess of \$2 billion - more than \$1 billion in New York City alone - making it one of the largest private foundations in the United States. The Foundation supports education, cultural institutions, medicine and healthcare, human needs, public policy, and the environment.

Each institution taking part in the Starr Cancer Consortium enjoys international distinction as a leader in scientific research and discovery. At the same time, they have each compiled an impressive track record of collaborative work in a variety of partnerships. The Starr Foundation grant of \$100 million will be earmarked specifically for joint projects involving two or more institutions, including several highly promising initiatives already underway.

Key areas of focus for the Starr Cancer Consortium will include:

Creation or accelerated development of powerful technology platforms designed to unravel the genetic and molecular basis of cancers

Application of these technologies in joint projects aimed at developing new and highly effective approaches to diagnosis and treatment

Support for basic biological research to provide insights into the fundamental molecular and cellular processes underlying cancer

Activities selected for funding through the Starr Cancer Consortium will be determined by an executive committee including leaders of the five institutions: Eric Lander of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Bruce Stillman of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Harold Varmus of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Paul Nurse of The Rockefeller University and Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., of Weill Cornell Medical College.

Inspired by The Starr Foundation's visionary generosity in establishing the Starr Cancer Consortium, the five collaborating institutions (profiled below) are committed to achieving dramatic progress in addressing the enormous challenges posed by cancer and in seizing one of today's greatest scientific opportunities.

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