



2022 Research Program Overview

From our very first 5K event, which funded one grant in 2008, Lung Cancer Initiative (LCI) has been committed to advancing lung cancer research as the most critical way to save lives. Based in North Carolina, LCI is fortunate to collaborate with medical leaders and renowned medical institutions from across the state. The Scientific Advisory Committee provides leadership for the organization's [Research Fellow Program](#), [Career Development Research Grants](#), and the [Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Grant](#).



\$2.8M

Total LCI funding for lung cancer research

56

Total researchers funded

\$325K

Awarded to researchers in NC in 2022

36

Fellows funded to date

83%

Fellows continuing in the field of lung cancer



RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT



2021 LCI Career Development Grant Awarded to Dr. Emily Ray

Emily Ray, MD, MPH, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Dr. Emily Ray is a medical oncologist at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. There she has a clinical practice caring for patients, but is also a cancer researcher with a strong interest in finding ways to "improve health systems improve outcomes for patients."

The 2021 Career Development Grant is going to be focused on patients with newly diagnosed advanced lung cancer. About one-third of these patients are hospitalized within 7 days of diagnosis. This goal of this study will be to identify ways to predict which of these patients, following their initial hospitalization, are at highest risk for further hospitalization. According to Dr. Ray, "This work is actually going to allow us to implement a risk stratification system...where we identify those who are highest risk for coming back to the hospital, and then put some additional supports around those patients to try and lower their downstream risk." She added, "To those who support the Lung Cancer Initiative, I would like to say thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to improving outcomes to patients with lung cancer. Your investment will help us advance the field."



LCI Funding: A Catalyst for Greater Research Opportunities!

Jared Weiss, MD, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
2018 V Foundation Partnership Recipient

Dr. Jared Weiss is an oncologist, researcher, and former member of LCI's Board of Directors. Dr. Weiss has worked tirelessly to provide quality patient care and innovative clinical technology for his lung cancer patients.

In 2018, he was the recipient of the V Foundation Partnership Grant, which funded a research study entitled "Targeting GD2 Ganglioside in Small Cell Lung Cancer."

The goal of this project was to complete the necessary laboratory work to bring a new cellular therapeutic to a phase one trial for lung cancer. That trial is currently being evaluated at the FDA (IND) with a goal of treating the first patient by the end of the year. The funding received by LCI, in partnership with the V Foundation, empowered him to bring his research to the phase one trial, ultimately leading to the award of a much larger grant to support further development of this project. According to Dr. Weiss, "LCI was the catalyst for that."

