

2021 Annual Report



LEUKEMIA
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



2021 Year in Review



As we look back on 2021, we are inspired by and grateful for our community of supporters. Our relentless pursuit to find a cure continues, and your support has been vital.

Despite challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leukemia Research Foundation made unprecedented progress on our mission this past year, achieving several organization milestones. Thanks to our supporters, we:

- » Funded the largest number of research grants in our history
- » Expanded our patient support services to every state and several different countries
- » Earned the highest rating from Charity Navigator, the world's largest and most respected nonprofit evaluator



This annual report outlines the above accomplishments and more. As we continue forging ahead with many exciting initiatives under development, we want to pause and give thanks for all that you do. We can't do this important work without you, and we are beyond grateful to have your support.

We hope you'll review this report to learn more about all the incredible things you're helping make possible.

Thank you!

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Blake Brandwein' and the second is 'Kevin Radelet'.

Blake Brandwein
Board President

Kevin Radelet
Executive Director

\$2.6M

raised from our community of supporters

23%

of revenue raised by our volunteer chapter groups

\$1.4M in research grants

awarded to 14 blood cancer researchers around the world for the 2021-2022 funding cycle
(largest number of research grants we've ever funded in a one-year period)

\$151K

disbursed in need-based financial assistance to patients

800

registrants for patient education programs
(double the registrants from 2020)



Notable progress in service to our mission was uninterrupted and enhanced during the worldwide COVID pandemic



Dramatic improvements to our website, social media channels, and other communications platforms



★★★★
CHARITY NAVIGATOR
Four Star Charity

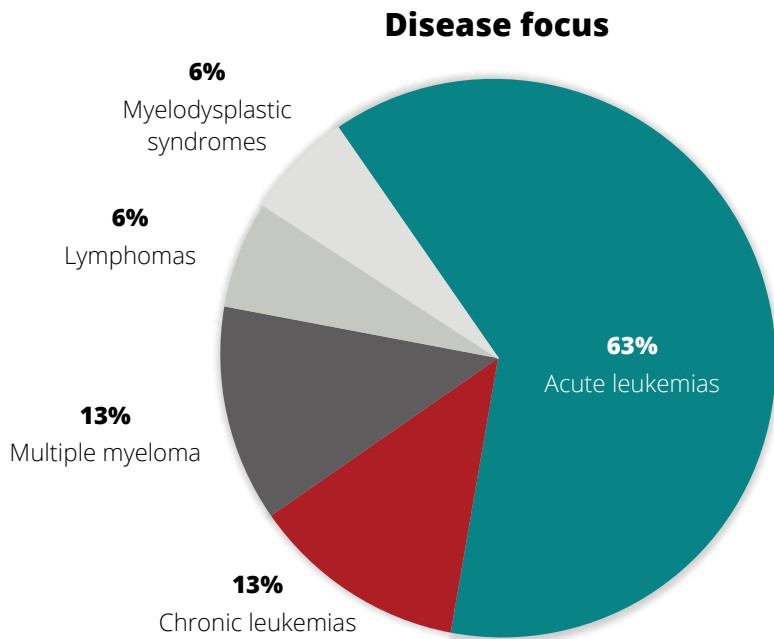
Earned Charity Navigator's highest rating reserved for the most exceptional nonprofits that exhibit superior financial health, transparency, and accountability.

Research

Funded researchers

In 2021, we awarded \$100K grants to 14 researchers around the world. Their projects, all focused on a blood cancer, represent a diverse set of topic areas, including:

- » Developing new targeted therapies
- » Improving outcomes of stem cell and immunotherapies
- » Preventing relapse after treatment
- » Uncovering the mechanisms, genetics, and epigenetics that drive cancer cell growth
- » Overcoming racial disparities in treatments to improve survival outcomes



Acute leukemias (especially in adults) have a significantly lower survival rate than all other blood cancers. More research into these diseases is necessary to improve survival rates.

Emanuele Azzoni, PhD
University of Milan-Bicocca

George Burslem, PhD
University of Pennsylvania

Matt Christopher, MD, PhD
Washington University

Leslie Crews, PhD
University of California, San Diego

Ernesto Diaz-Flores, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Cihangir Duy, MS, PhD
The Research Institute of Fox Chase Cancer Center

Ann-Kathrin Eisfeld, MD
The Ohio State University

Pietro Genovese, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Md Kamrul Hasan, PhD
University of California, San Diego

Sangmoo Jeong, PhD
Johns Hopkins University

Huacheng Luo, PhD
Pennsylvania State University
College of Medicine

Mithun Shah, MD, PhD
Mayo Clinic

Alexander Valvezan, PhD
Rutgers, The State University of
New Jersey

Zhiquan Wang, PhD
Mayo Clinic

[Learn more about researchers.](#)

Research breakthroughs

In the last 75 years, we have funded more than 600 researchers worldwide. Below are a few of the breakthroughs these researchers made in 2021. View our [Research Impact Report](#) for more.



Avocados may offer a better leukemia treatment

Paul Spagnuolo, PhD, from the University of Guelph, identifies a compound in avocados that inhibits an enzyme responsible for cancer cell growth. [Read more.](#)



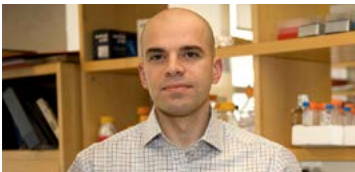
Clinical trial shows promise for new lymphoma therapy

Jaeychuck Choi, MD, PhD, from Northwestern University, has identified a new targeted therapy for cutaneous T-cell lymphoma that is showing promising results in clinical trials. [Read more.](#)



A new potential targeted therapy for acute leukemia

Daniel Herranz Benito, PhD, from Rutgers Cancer Institute, has identified a new targeted therapy for T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia that interrupts cancer growth in a lab setting. [Read more.](#)



Researcher confirms nutrient's role in childhood leukemia

Iannis Aifantis, PhD, from NYU Langone Health, has confirmed diets low in valine slow progression of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia cancer cells. [Read more.](#)

“ The Leukemia Research Foundation grant was not just a, but THE most critical support factor that allowed our lab to identify a new enzyme to target for therapy in acute myeloid leukemia patients. With the grant, we were able to do all necessary experiments in a timely fashion, which wouldn't have been the case without funding.

- M. Andrés Blanco, PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Patient + Family Support

Education

In 2021, we shifted our two annual conferences, New + Emerging Treatments and Town Hall Meeting, to virtual and added new webinars on various blood cancer-related topics. As a result, we reached a record number of participants and expanded our geographic footprint.

83%

of attendees rated the program content as very good or excellent

Support services

Peer support

We added a new, free, one-on-one peer support program, and grew membership of our complimentary online support community.

4K

members of our online support community
(+12% from 2020)

Financial assistance

Need-based grants of up to \$1.5K were disbursed to 100 patients to help cover medical and other treatment-related expenses.

100%

of recipients felt the grant was extremely helpful to them and their family

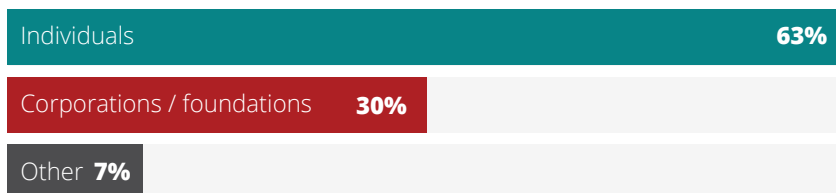
“ I was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia just before my 34th birthday. The last eight months have been the most difficult of my life. With high insurance costs on top of everyday expenses, the medical bills depleted my savings very quickly. I am so thankful that the Leukemia Research Foundation is there for me and other warriors fighting – this is a hard enough battle without the stress of money.

-Scott, acute myeloid leukemia patient

Financials

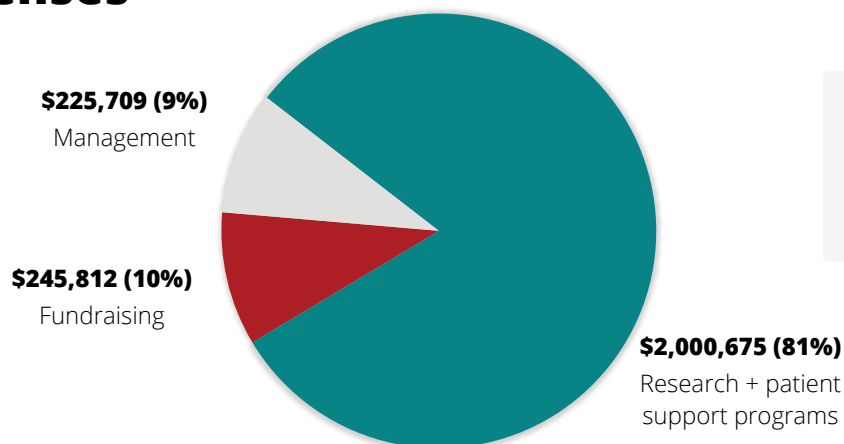
Our Foundation is driven by efficiency, results, and long-term stability, as exhibited by our financials below. Our FY2021 net assets are \$3,074,307.

Revenue



\$2,562,072
Total revenue in FY2021

Expenses



\$2,472,196
Total expenses in FY2021

Board of Directors

Blake Brandwein
President
Pharmacy specialist, U.S. Hospital Products

Gerald Brin, CPA
Treasurer
Welman Bernfield, LLC (retired)

Patty Mix
Secretary
Vice president, Joey's Angels Chapter

Harvey Brin
President, Harkin Cable Company

Marcia Brin
President, Davidson-Brin Chapter

John Burke
Private wealth management,
Goldman Sachs

Rong Chen
Quantitative services director,
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Robert S. Grabemann
Partner, Daspin & Aument, LLP

Todd Holmes
President, Liquidus Media

Frank Martinez
Director of multi-family investments,
Keller Williams

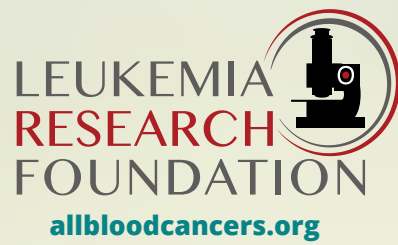
Larry Mix
Vice president, F.H. Paschen

Gregg Rossier
President, GWR Global Partners

Randi Schlossberg Schullo
President, Alden Management

Steve Wilensky
Attorney at law

Kevin Radelet
Ex-officio



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