

UCSF's Dr. Kevan Shokat To Receive "Breakthrough Science Award" For New Lung Cancer Treatment

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, November 16, 2021

[/EINPresswire.com/](https://www.einpresswire.com/) -- The Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation (SWCRF) will present its SWCRF Breakthrough Science Award to Dr. Kevan Shokat, Professor, Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, at the University of California, San Francisco, and Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for discovering a method to inhibit the mutant KRAS protein - a common driver of the growth of lung cancer as well as colorectal and pancreatic cancer. His findings led to a new FDA-approved medication that shrinks lung cancer tumors by up to 50 percent with remarkably low toxicity.

"This medication is a real game changer and is a perfect example of why we do what we do here at the SWCRF - fund

leading scientists around the world and encourage them to work together towards discovering minimally toxic treatments," said Dr. Samuel Waxman. "I am pleased to recognize Dr. Shokat with our first Breakthrough Science Award for his groundbreaking, life-saving, research."

Researchers had known about KRAS for more than 40 years but had all but given up finding a compound that could shut it off, referring to KRAS as "undruggable" or cancer's "Death Star". However, in 2008 SWCRF made its first investment into the pioneering research by Kevan Shokat, PhD., who was seeking molecules that could attach to the mutated protein and prevent it from functioning. Five years later, Dr. Shokat, released data showing the discovery of a compound that effectively targeted the cancer cell leading to the creation of new medications.

"Lung cancer is just the beginning. In the next several years we can expect newer, even more



Dr. Kevan Shokat ©SWCRF

effective drugs that will improve treatment outcomes for thousands of patients with life-threatening cancers caused by mutant KRAS," said Dr. Shokat. "I am grateful for the 15 years of support from the SWCRF that allowed my lab to pursue this research even when it seemed impossible and profoundly honored to receive this Breakthrough Science Award."

The SWCRF Breakthrough Science Award will be presented to Dr. Shokat at the 24th Annual Collaborating for A Cure Gala benefitting the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation. The event will be held in the evening for Thursday November 18th, 2021, and include fellow honoree, Debra Waller, Chairman and CEO of Jockey International, Inc. For more information about the event visit www.waxmancancer.org/gala.

Thursday, November 18th, 2021
Cipriani, Wall Street

24TH ANNUAL GALA

Together again

Elin and Michael Nierenberg and the Board of Directors of the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation invite you to the Collaborating for a Cure Gala

2021 GALA HONOREES

Debra S. Waller
Chairman and CEO, Jockey International, Inc

Kevan Shokat, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY
Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit
and very special guest artist
Warren Haynes

Proof of Covid Vaccine is Required for all Attendees

24th Annual Collaborating for a Cure Gala ©SWCRF

About the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation (SWCRF):

The Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation is an international organization dedicated to curing and preventing cancer. The Foundation is a pioneer in cancer research and its mission is to eradicate cancer by funding cutting-edge research that identifies and corrects abnormal gene function that causes cancer and develops minimally toxic treatments for patients. Through the Foundation's collaborative group of world-class scientists, the Institute Without Walls, investigators share information and tools to speed the pace of cancer research. Since its inception in 1976, the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation has awarded more than \$100 million to support the work of more than 200 researchers across the globe.

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