

The Lustgarten Foundation Gathered Nation's Foremost Pancreatic Cancer Experts for Annual Scientific Advisory Board Meeting



COLD SPRING HARBOR, N.Y., Oct 10, 2025 – The Lustgarten Foundation, the world's largest private funder of pancreatic cancer research, convened its annual Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting on October 6 at the Banbury Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Over three days, the nation's leading pancreatic cancer experts reviewed progress across Lustgarten-funded projects, exchanged insights, and charted bold new strategies to drive breakthroughs in the treatment of and, ultimately, cures for this devastating disease.

SAB Chair **David Tuveson, MD, PhD**, Chief Scientist of the Lustgarten Foundation and Director of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center, led the meeting, which featured presentations and discussions from world-renowned researchers leading each of the Foundation's six [LABS \(Lustgarten Advancing Breakthrough Science\)](#) including Elizabeth Jaffee, MD, Johns Hopkins, Tyler Jacks, PhD, MIT, Reuben Shaw, PhD, Salk Institute, Bert Vogelstein, MD, Johns Hopkins, and Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, among others., Johns Hopkins, Tyler Jacks, PhD, MIT, Reuben Shaw, PhD, Salk Institute, Bert Vogelstein, MD, Johns Hopkins, and Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, among others.



David Tuveson, MD, PhD,
& Elizabeth Jaffee, MD

"The Lustgarten SAB meeting is where discovery meets direction," said David Tuveson, MD, PhD. "We come together to evaluate the science, identify the biggest opportunities, and accelerate the work that will change patient's lives. This year, the momentum in the field was unmistakable."



Tracy W. Liu, PhD,
Morgan Truitt, PhD,
& Christina Towers, PhD

Over the course of two days of in-depth sessions, attendees shared insights from Lustgarten Foundation's LABS program, which provides long-term funding to promote the development of innovative ideas and speed the pace of discovery by incentivizing interdisciplinary team science. The agenda also spotlighted emerging investigators through presentations by Christina Towers, PhD, Salk Institute, and Tracy Liu, PhD, West Virginia University, recipients of the Foundation's [Ruth Bader Ginsburg and John Robert Lewis Career Development Awards](#), a program

designed to foster the next generation of pancreatic cancer researchers.

The 2025 meeting focused heavily on KRAS-driven pancreatic cancer. Discussions explored breakthroughs in KRAS inhibitors, combination therapies, and clinical trial design - all aimed at advancing the most promising science from the lab bench to the clinic faster. Andy Aguirre, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Ken Olive, PhD, Columbia University, Ron Evans, PhD, Salk Institute, and Anirban Maitra, MBBS, NYU, led sessions about new therapeutic strategies and opportunities for collaboration across the field.

"The Scientific Advisory Board meeting showcases exactly what makes the Lustgarten Foundation unique - our ability to bring together the brightest minds in pancreatic cancer research to share findings, challenge ideas, and collectively accelerate progress," said Linda Tantawi, CEO of the Lustgarten Foundation. "Every conversation held at this table brings us closer to new treatments and, ultimately, to saving lives."

The meeting concluded with a strategic roadmap outlining new funding opportunities to investigate and advance novel therapeutic combinations. Through these initiatives, the Lustgarten Foundation continues to support high-impact research to *transform pancreatic cancer into a curable disease*.



Dafna Bar-Sagi, PhD,
& Ronald Evans, PhD