



"Cancer research is critical for improving the treatment of cancer patients and for the design of better diagnostic and prevention strategies."

Kornelia Polyak, M.D., Ph.D.

GRANT SPOTLIGHT: V SCHOLAR

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Dr. Kornelia Polyak is a leader in translating ground-breaking science into clinical practice. Her 2001 V Foundation grant helped establish a research program designed to transition findings from the laboratory to practical applications to enhance patient management. The grant also supported Dr. Polyak's exploratory discoveries that are initiating future research projects and funding opportunities.

"As a junior investigator, I felt honored to be a recipient of a V Foundation V Scholar Award," said Dr. Polyak. "It gave me confidence to secure funding to pursue our ideas. It also provided critical support to initiate our work in new areas." The research project funded by The V Foundation served as a basis for subsequent applications for NIH grants, and played a key role in securing outside funding to continue research.

Dr. Polyak is a professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School-affiliated Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. She and her research team focus on the cellular and molecular diversity of tumors to discover and validate new therapeutic and preventative strategies in difficult-to-treat breast cancers, and translate these findings into clinical practice. Using cutting-edge technologies, Dr. Polyak's research will potentially improve patients' diagnoses and available treatments.

In addition to her V Foundation grant, Dr. Polyak has received numerous awards lauding her novel research, including recognition from Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, the Sidney Kimmel Foundation, and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She received the 2012 American Association for Cancer Research Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research, specifically created for breast cancer scientists under age 50.

Dr. Polyak's research has been featured in more than 140 peer-reviewed scientific publications. She emphasizes that "cancer research is critical for improving the treatment of cancer patients and for the design of better diagnostic and prevention strategies." Dr. Polyak is dedicated to advancing cancer research and fulfilling The V Foundation's mission of a world without cancer.

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