



Fall 2020 Issue

Message from our Advisory Board
Fireside Chat with 2019 Grant recipient
Technology Square in Cambridge-Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc.
65 Grove Street in Watertown- BioMed realty
Sydney Research Campus in Cambridge- BioMed Realty
Mosaic in a new home in Brookline



Fireside chat with Scientific Advisory Board member **Dr. Vicky Richon**, photo on left, and 2019 Rachel Molly Markoff Foundation grant recipient, **Dr. Mariella Filbin**, photo below.



Art in Giving held a scientific forum in May 2019 that brought together top multi-disciplinary researchers from diverse institutions to foster cross team research and to discover new therapeutic

approaches and cures for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). Many novel ideas resulted from the forum and led to the funding of a multi-institutional research project led by Mariella Filbin from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Suzanne Baker from St. Jude's Children's Hospital that focused on "Dissecting the immune-microenvironment in diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma". We recently met with Mariella and discussed the impact of the award on her and the research she and Suzanne are conducting.

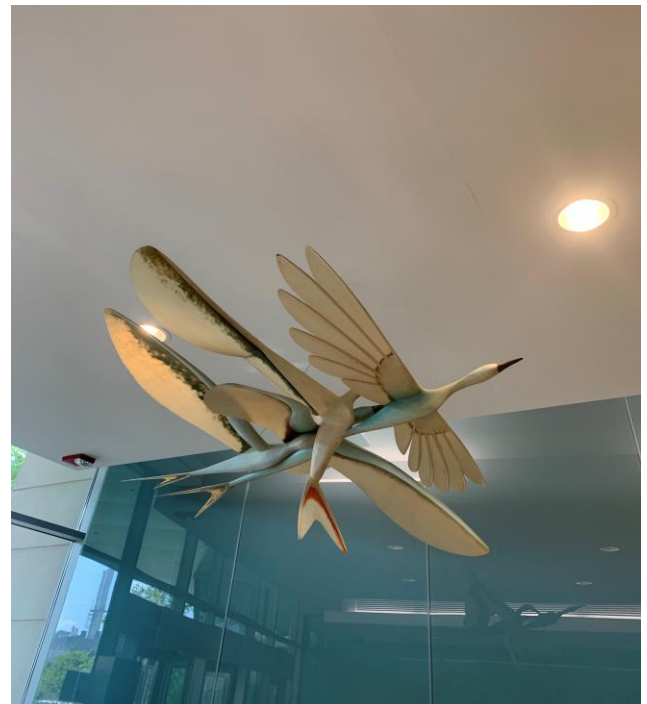
Continued on page 3

Message from our Advisory Board

We hope you are all well and safe.

The Advisory Board for Art in Giving wishes to give special thanks and acknowledgement to Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc. and BioMed Realty for their continuing support of our mission. Their support along with the support of our donors, artists, and all clients keep hope alive for the countless children suffering from childhood cancer. Our grants to cutting edge research continues to be critical in giving them and their families hope. Remember Bob Coughlin's words from his video appearance, "[Buy Art and Save Lives.](#)"? Bob is the President and CEO of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council. He has been a wonderful supporter.

As we head into the fall and the holidays, we wish all of you safety and good health. Together we will prevail.





“Our most recent lab conversion project at 65 Grove Street in Watertown was a perfect opportunity for BioMed to expand its ongoing partnership with Art In Giving. The installed artwork has added a much-welcomed level of color and vibrancy to all of the public spaces in the building, and has helped to create a warm and inviting environment for the tenants. Thank you Art in Giving!” Ed McDonald- Director, Development- [BioMed Realty](#)

“To reflect my fond memories of living in Cambridge, I created a mosaic entitled *Camberville*. I am very touched it now has a home in a beautiful house in Brookline. Thank you Art in Giving and thank you Sadaf and Mark!” Audrey Markoff-Dunn, artist and founder [Sowa Mosaics](#).



“ Art in Giving is grateful to BioMed Realty and especially Sal Zinno for his significant and continued support of [gallery Art in Giving and The Rachel Molly Markoff Foundation](#). “ Eliane and Gary Markoff

Photo on left is a painting by John Himmelfarb hanging at [Biomed Sydney Research Campus on Erie Street at Flour Bakery](#).

Follow us on Instagram: [@art_in_giving](#)

"Have art from Art in giving hanging in your place of business or home? Share the story and picture [with us](#) and we will share it on our Instagram. Please include a picture, short write up about your company and your instagram handle."

Fireside Chat, continued from page 1

1. **What does the award from Art in Giving mean to you?** I am incredibly honored and thrilled! Without this award this work would have not been done as many funding organizations will only fund studies that are more advanced. The highly innovative research undertaken in this project is not fundable at this stage as it is too early with no data to show at application.
2. **One of the goals of the award is to foster collaborations. How has the award fostered collaborations that otherwise would not have occurred?** Working with Dr. Baker and her group at SJ has been a pleasure. We are the perfect team as she has tremendous expertise in mouse models of DIPGs and my group brings single cell sequencing of human tumors to the table. Together we will be able to both identify potential new ways to approach DIPG by characterizing the human DIPG tumors and then test those new approaches in relevant mouse models of DIPG.
3. **How will the work resulting from this award contribute to our understanding of the DIPG?**
By understanding the individual immune cell make-up of the DIPG tumor we will be providing a “roadmap” that doesn’t exist today. This map of DIPG will lay the foundation to all immune-based research in DIPG.
4. **How will the results contribute to the new treatments for DIPG?** DIPG tumors block our own body’s immune system from attacking and eradicating the tumor. Once we understand how DIPG cells block the immune attack against them, we will either be able to use already developed immune-oncologic drugs, or make it possible for new drugs to be developed that overcome this “fighting block”. The research we are conducting is focused on providing this understanding of how the immune cells in the DIPG tumor are blocked from attacking the tumor.
5. **What has this award enabled you to do that you otherwise would not be able to study and learn?** -> see above AND I am expanding the research in my lab from tumor cell focused to the communication between tumor cells and all the cells around them. How does the body respond to cancer cells and how can we weaponize it to treat DIPG?
6. **What is the importance of these results to the academic community?** Immuno-oncology is a new way of attacking cancers. However, we need to understand the underlying defects in the cancer and what’s controlling the lack of immune attack first. This research will for the first time provide a roadmap that can be used for discovery of new immune-oncology treatments.

