

The Search for Lasting Remission and a Cure for Multiple Myeloma

After nearly five decades of developing novel therapies to treat patients with blood cancers — including the revolutionary bone marrow transplant — Fred Hutch Cancer Center is uniquely qualified to solve multiple myeloma’s most complex challenges.

Among those challenges is patients’ varied responses to treatment: Some can live several years with few symptoms; others experience less benefit from therapies. In all cases, though, multiple myeloma is currently incurable.

Fred Hutch researchers are committed to discovering new ways to help more patients achieve lasting remission with leading-edge immunotherapies while also unlocking the secrets of relapse on the way to finding a cure. The Defeat Multiple Myeloma 5K / 1-Mile Run & Walk plays a key role in this progress, raising awareness of myeloma and fundraising to propel this research.

Where We’ve Been

Personalizing Treatments

Because myeloma has more than five dozen mutations — each of which responds differently to available drugs — finding the most effective treatment for a given patient is difficult. A team of our researchers has shown it’s possible to quickly screen patients’ tumor cells against a library of 170 FDA-approved drugs to help predict responses to therapy and inform real-time therapeutic decisions.

Banking Samples

Since 2011, more than 600 multiple myeloma patients — at every stage of disease — have donated blood and bone marrow samples to research at Fred Hutch. Those gifts have helped establish a one-of-a-kind biorepository. This resource enables our team to evaluate emerging therapies and investigate the biology of multiple myeloma today, and it will continue to fuel innovative research for decades to come.

Where We’re Going

Moving to Cures

While current therapies often lead to remission, most patients with myeloma still face recurrence. Our researchers are developing immune-based therapies to eliminate residual tumor cells that evade treatment. These approaches seek to reprogram the immune system to destroy cancer more effectively, with the goal of achieving lasting remissions and cures.

Understanding Origins, Preventing Myeloma

Investigators are actively studying the earliest biological events that lead to myeloma, including how precancerous conditions like monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance evolve into cancer. By mapping immune changes and genetic mutations over time, researchers aim to identify biomarkers that signal disease progression and reveal new targets for early intervention.

The impact of your support

Participants in the Defeat Multiple Myeloma 5K / 1-Mile Run & Walk are important partners for Fred Hutch's efforts to cure myeloma. Since the first Defeat Myeloma 5K in 2012, participants, donors, and sponsors have raised more than \$1.6 million for breakthrough work at Fred Hutch, fueling research in immunotherapy, blood and marrow transplantation, and survivorship. For instance, in 2023, Defeat Myeloma participants raised funds to sustain our multiple myeloma biorepository for three years, giving our scientists the power to evaluate emerging therapies and delve deeply into the biology of the disease to improve clinical practice.

By participating, you raise awareness for myeloma while supporting:

Pilot projects

These early-stage studies allow investigators opportunities to explore high-risk, high-reward ideas and generate proof-of-concept data to support applications for even larger research grants.

Technology and equipment

Advanced technologies enable our investigators to pursue their boldest ideas to advance treatments.

Training for the next generation

Donor support creates educational opportunities for the next generation of scientists working to find cures.



“Every gift strengthens collaboration and speeds progress in our understanding of multiple myeloma relapse, informing clinical trials and therapies so we can move from functional treatments to more curative options.”

— **Madhav Dhodapkar, MBBS;**
scientific director, Multiple Myeloma Program and Milton B. Rubin Family Endowed Chair, Fred Hutch; professor, Fred Hutch and UW Medicine

Beyond
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For more than 50 years, Fred Hutch has been looking beyond what's possible today to a new era of discovery. With your partnership, our Campaign for Fred Hutch is transforming the pace and scale of innovation so we can redefine cancer and infectious disease for generations to come.

Help us Defeat Myeloma

Gather your family and friends to support your loved ones as we build community around multiple myeloma. Join us on Sunday, June 28, 2026 for a family-friendly 5K or 1-mile run or walk, and help us continue fundraising to advance cures.

DefeatMyeloma.org/Registration

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