



Daniel Marks, M.D., Ph.D.



Aaron Grossberg, M.D., Ph.D.



## Science of the Patient award for two OHSU physician-scientists

Daniel L. Marks, M.D., Ph.D., and Aaron Grossberg, M.D., Ph.D., are among the first recipients of the new Science of the Patient Award from AACR and The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research. The three-year, \$750,000 award will support their research on the wasting syndrome cachexia in pancreatic cancer.

In advanced cancer and other diseases, cachexia can become the primary factor eroding quality of life and hastening death. The relentless loss of body mass, driven by inflammation and metabolic imbalances, often brings other systemic symptoms, including debilitating fatigue, enhanced pain sensation, and difficulties with learning and memory. No effective pharmaceutical treatment exists.

Marks, the principal investigator, is a professor of pediatrics and senior associate dean for research in the OHSU School of Medicine. Co-investigator Grossberg is an assistant professor of radiation medicine. In their funded project, the two are focusing on the role of the autonomic and neuroendocrine stress responses in pancreatic cancer cachexia. The work is drawing upon a multi-institutional observational clinical study in addition to preclinical mouse models.

AACR and The Mark Foundation [established the Science of the Patient Award](#) to simulate groundbreaking research exploring the influence of the biology of the patient on cancer genesis, development, treatment, and survivorship. The inaugural recipients of these new grants will be recognized at the AACR annual meeting in April.