

## Spotlight on Chicago

The V Foundation funds all types of research across all cancer types, including adult and pediatric cancers, common and rare cancers, from the laboratory to clinics, and from prevention and detection through treatment and recurrence.

The V Foundation solicits competitive research proposals from the 73 National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Centers and other exceptional institutions across North America.

### There are two NCI-Designated Cancer Centers in Chicago:

- Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
- The University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center, Chicago, IL

## Our Impact on Cancer Research in Chicago

We've funded

**48 grants totaling over \$16.8 million.**

V Foundation funded researchers in Chicago, over their careers, have:

Received

**over 346 grants and \$1 billion in funding.**

Produced

**over 6,400 publications.**

Worked on

**80 clinical trials.**

## V Foundation Funded Researchers – Proven Positive Impact

- **Lillian Eichner, Ph.D.**, is a 2023 V Scholar at Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center and Northwestern University and studies how lung cancers with a mutation in the KRAS gene are able to resist standard treatments and keep growing.
- Lung cancers with KRAS mutations not only resist treatment, but also avoid detection by the immune system, which usually helps mount a response against cancer, through a “gatekeeper” protein called HDAC3.
- Dr. Eichner and her team discovered that blocking HDAC3 activates the immune system to help get rid of the cancer cells.
- Lung cancer with these KRAS mutations is tough to get rid of. Dr. Eichner’s study shows that if we can control HDAC3’s behavior, we might finally have a way to let the body’s own immune fighters attack the tumor. This research could open doors to new, more effective therapies for patients.



Lillian Eichner, Ph.D.,  
2023 V Scholar