

# Damon Runyon Scientists Featured in The New York Times

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The big story in cancer research is the recent success of immunotherapy, which involves training and re-engineering the immune system to kill cancers. The New York Times featured four women whose rare, aggressive ovarian cancers were unexpectedly cured with immunotherapy. This story resulted from research by **Dmitriy Zamarin, MD, PhD (Damon Runyon Fellow '13-'16)**, of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, who studied these patients to understand why they responded to this treatment (nivolumab/Opdivo). In addition, two other Damon Runyon alumni were featured. **Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD (Damon Runyon-Lilly Clinical Investigator '03-'08)**, of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, led the clinical trials for the first FDA-approved immunotherapy and continues research to understand why it works in some patients, but not others. **Eliezer M. Van Allen, MD (Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator '15-'18)**, of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, identified a genetic mutation that may explain why these patients and those with other unique cancers have responded to this therapy, which may help identify others who might benefit from immunotherapy.

Read [the article](#), “Doctors Said Immunotherapy Would Not Cure Her Cancer. They Were Wrong.” in the New York Times.

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