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Impact

Dana-Farber.org and JimmyFund.org

THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



PSR Inc. funds new fellowship in esophageal cancer research

Barrett's esophagus (BE) is a condition that increases one's risk of developing cancer. With no reliable predictors of BE's progression and no clear symptoms of disease, many patients who develop esophageal cancer are not diagnosed until their cancer is advanced, and often incurable. Dana-Farber's Adam Bass, MD, hopes to change this with the help of a recent gift to his lab.

Inspired by their mother's treatment at Dana-Farber for esophageal cancer, Glenn and Walter Baker—along with their wives Rebecca and Alexandra, and on behalf of their employees—established a fellowship at Dana-Farber through their company, PSR Inc. Their gift of \$150,000 helped Bass recruit a new team member, computational biologist Chunyang Bao, PhD.

As Bass and his team churn out volumes of data from the genomic sequencing of BE patient samples, Bao analyzes the data, looking for minute genetic changes that could signal a BE cell's predisposition to esophageal cancer before physical changes would be detected.

"Dr. Bao's analysis will help identify potential biomarkers of esophageal cancer that could ultimately help physicians diagnose this cancer earlier, when patients have the greatest chance for survival," said Bass.

"Our team at PSR is thrilled to help Dr. Bass grow his team and advance their research in this tangible way," said Glenn Baker, president of PSR. "In a sense, we feel like we have made a new hire, and it is one of the best we will ever make." ■



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— **GLENN BAKER**, president, PSR Inc.