

The impact of the SF3B1 gene mutation on the interaction between an isoform of the PP2A gene and the BCL2 gene and the relation between the mutation and resistance to the drug, ABT 199. The Foundation has approved a grant to Dr. Peter Ruvolo of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center to study the impact of a mutation of the SF3B1 gene on the interaction between the tumor suppressing PP2A gene and the tumor promoting BCL2 gene. The mutation is present in a significant percentage of CLL patients, is more prevalent in advanced cases of the disease, and is associated with poor survival rates. The mutation may account for resistance to ABT 199—an otherwise effective drug for many CLL patients. Dr. Ruvolo's research will also compare how cells with and without the SF3B1 mutation respond to ABT 199.