

Ill. cancer researcher wins \$500K genetics prize

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(AP) -- An 84-year-old University of Chicago researcher has won a half-million-dollar genetics prize for her pioneering work in showing that cancer is a genetic disease.

Dr. Janet Davison Rowley on Wednesday was named the 2009 winner of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation's 2009 genetics [prize](#) for her research on recurring chromosome abnormalities in leukemias and lymphomas.

Her work has improved understanding and led to new cancer treatments.

The \$500,000 cash prize comes with no strings attached.

Rowley enrolled at the University of Chicago in 1940 at age 15, earning a medical degree. She married and raised four boys before launching her scientific career in 1962.

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