Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Dr. Kaelin?
William G. Kaelin, Jr., MD, is the 2019 Nobel Prize recipient in medicine or physiology. Dr. Kaelin received his MD from Duke University in 1982 and was a house officer and chief resident in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was a medical oncology clinical fellow at Dana-Farber and a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. David Livingston, where he began his studies of tumor suppressor proteins. He became an independent investigator at Dana-Farber in 1992, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School in 2002. The 2019 Nobel was awarded jointly to Kaelin, Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe, and Gregg L. Semenza for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability. Studying VHL led Kaelin and his co-awardees to a landmark discovery – the molecular explanation to a long-standing biological puzzle: How does the body sense and adapt to changes in oxygen – for example when people adjust to thinner air at high altitudes.

Why should I attend?
This event will provide a unique opportunity to hear firsthand from a Nobel Prize winner, but more than that it will give attendees insight into the strides being made in VHL research that will not only lead to a cure for VHL but many other forms of cancer. It will be an evening that you won’t want to miss!

What should I expect?
You can expect a dynamic program that will include music from DJTripleThreat, a quick mixology lesson from our friends at Chapoquoit Grill, a conversation with Dr. Kaelin on various topics including his 2019 Nobel Prize! If your ticket includes the dessert portion of the evening you will join us for a special treat and an interactive program with Dr. Kaelin.

How does the Dessert differ from the Mainstage event?
The dessert portion of the evening will be an exclusive small gathering only offered to those who purchased a Mainstage and Dessert Ticket or participated at a sponsorship level. Guests will receive a special treat by mail that can be enjoyed during this portion of the event (or before should you choose). This will be a time where guests can ask Dr. Kaelin specific questions and interact with others who are attending this portion of the event.
If I am a patient can I attend the event for free?
Individual tickets are being sold for the event and can be purchased by clicking here. If you are not able to purchase a ticket, you can apply for a special allocation of patient tickets by clicking here.

The event is virtual, what platform will you be using and how can we access it?
Before the event, you will receive an email with all the information you need to access the event. If you have any questions or need assistance troubleshooting you can reach out to Marissa at marissa@vhl.org

The Mainstage event begins at 7 pm ET

Event Participants
William G. Kaelin, Jr, MD
Toni K. Choueiri, MD
David McDermott, MD
DJ Triple Threat (Antoine Brewster)
Mixologist, Kevin Downey from the Chapoquoit Grill
Chandra Clark, MEd, VHLA Executive Director