

## ABOUT US

*"It is my pleasure to introduce you to our foundation in a few pages. 20 years ago my desire was and continues to be advancing science, helping patients, and being a part of the cure for pancreatic diseases."*

-Agi Hirshberg

## HISTORY

Founded in 1997, the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing pancreatic cancer research, and providing information, resources, and support to pancreatic cancer patients and their families.

Established by Agi Hirshberg, whose husband Ronald died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 54, the Foundation began by funding two projects at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Ronald S. Hirshberg Translational Pancreatic Cancer Research Laboratory and the Ronald S. Hirshberg Chair in Translational Pancreatic Cancer Research were funded with a commitment to support the research programs until the National Institute of Health grant recognition became available.

## MISSION

- To find a cure for pancreatic cancer in honor of Ron Hirshberg and the thousands of people who are diagnosed with this disease each year.
- To create a premier Pancreatic Cancer Center where all needs of pancreatic cancer patients can be met in one location with the most advanced treatment options.
- To be recognized as a patient support reference source for pancreatic cancer patients and their families.
- To fund new projects and programs designed to improve patient care, treatment and, ultimately, pancreatic cancer survival rates.
- To integrate and unite generations, young and old, through physical fitness participation, while creating public awareness and raising money to find a cure for pancreatic cancer.

## TO DATE, THE FOUNDATION HAS:

- Funded Seed Grant Award Recipients who have received \$95 million dollars in NIH grants
- Raised more than \$20 million dollars for pancreatic cancer research and education
- Granted over \$1 million dollars in financial aid for patients
- Provided assistance to thousands of patients and their families
- Expanded the Seed Grant Program to 30 Medical Research Institutions domestically and internationally
- Supported the American Pancreatic Association (APA), Japan Pancreas Society, and the European Pancreatic Club's Annual Meetings
- Presented the Agi Hirshberg Symposium at UCLA since 2002, focusing on research progress and patient and family education
- Funded the creation of the Tissue Data Bank at UCLA

- Awarded international grants to new investigators
- Promoted collaboration between investigators from different disciplines for the common goal of the cure
- Partnered with the World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition

#### **FOUNDATION COMMITMENTS:**

- Fund medical symposiums for pancreatic cancer research
- Fund seed grants for new research projects of merit for pancreatic cancer
- Host fundraising events to raise awareness and funds for pancreatic cancer
- Provide financial assistance for patients

## **WHAT WE FUND**

#### **The Hirshberg Pancreatic Cancer Research Laboratory at UCLA**

- Department of Surgery
- Directed by O. Joe Hines, MD. Opened in 1998
- Goal is to advance research to clinical trials
- Multiple National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grants have been received

#### **The Ronald S. Hirshberg Chair of Translational Pancreatic Cancer Research at UCLA**

- Department of Digestive Diseases
- Enrique Rozengurt, PhD, was appointed in November 1999
- Goal is early diagnosis and therapeutic intervention

#### **UCLA Pancreas Tissue Bank**

- Department of Pathology
- Directed by David Dawson, MD. & PhD
- Goal is to support researchers with an extensive data bank & results

#### **Hirshberg Foundation Seed Grant Program**

- Open to all researchers in the United States and internationally
- Seed Grant program funds encouraging new innovative proposals & projects
- Goal is to recruit established scientists to study pancreatic cancer

#### **Patient Support at CancerCare Inc.**

- Our annual support for patients who need financial aid has provided individuals with pain medication, transportation, chemotherapy and home care
- Goal is to eliminate financial burden during treatment

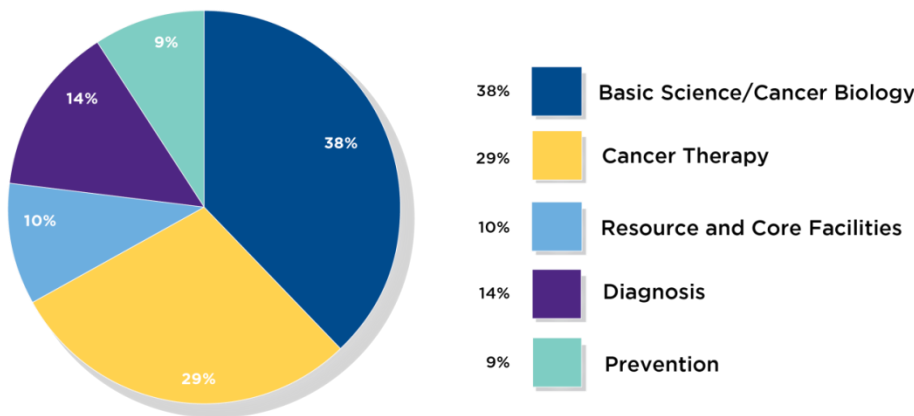
*\*The Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research is a California charitable non-profit, corporation. It is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. We invest 84 cents of every dollar raised on medical and scientific research – more than three times the average amount spent by the other major healthcare philanthropies.*

## SEED GRANT PROGRAM

The Foundation Seed Grant program has been extremely successful in providing research support to basic and clinical scientists and investigators in the United States and overseas. To date the foundation has provided over \$6.6 million for this program. The goals of the program are:

- To provide start-up funding for basic scientists and clinicians who intend to test innovative ideas for improving the diagnosis and current therapies and to develop new treatment modalities for pancreatic cancer.
- To obtain preliminary data required for additional funding from other agencies for pancreatic cancer research.
- To impact on the understanding of pancreatic cancer cell biology, biochemistry, physiology, morphology and response to therapy.
- To establish collaborations within the field for mutual projects that can be considered for further funding.

To date the Seed Grant Program has funded the following areas:



Past medical institution recipients of the Hirshberg Foundation Seed Grant Program include:

Beth Israel Medical Center	Harvard Medical School	Thomas Jefferson University
Boston Children's Hospital	Johns Hopkins University	University of Arizona Cancer Center
City of Hope	Loma Linda University	University of California, Los Angeles
Columbia University	Massachusetts General Hospital	University of California, San Diego
Dalian University, China	Mayo Clinic & May College of Medicine	University of San Francisco
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	MD Anderson	University of Southern California
Duke University Medical Center	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center	University of Michigan (Frankel)
Fox Chase Cancer Center	New York University	University of Minnesota
Greater VA of Los Angeles	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	University of Pittsburgh
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center	Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv	Vanderbilt Medical School

## Pancreatic Cancer Facts

- In 2017 an estimated **53,670 Americans will be diagnosed** with pancreatic cancer in the U.S., and over **43,090 will die from pancreatic cancer**.
- Pancreatic cancer is the **3rd leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States surpassing breast cancer**. It is expected to become the 2nd leading cause of cancer-related death in the US **by the year 2020, surpassing colorectal cancer**.
- Pancreatic cancer is one of the few cancers for which **survival has not improved substantially over nearly 40 years**.
- Pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate of all major cancers. 91% of pancreatic cancer patients will die within five years of diagnosis – **only 9% will survive more than five years. 74% of patients die within the first year of diagnosis**.
- **Few risk factors** for developing pancreatic cancer are defined. The risk for cigarette smokers is nearly twice that for those who have never smoked. Family history of pancreatic cancer, chronic pancreatitis, alcohol use, obesity and diabetes are risk factors. Individuals with Lynch syndrome and certain other genetic syndromes, as well as BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers, are also at increased risk.
- Pancreatic cancer **may cause only vague symptoms** that could indicate many different conditions within the abdomen or gastrointestinal tract. Symptoms include pain (usually abdominal or back pain), weight loss, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), loss of appetite, nausea, changes in stool, and diabetes.
- **Treatment options for pancreatic cancer:** Surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy are treatment options that extend survival or relieve symptoms, but seldom produce a cure. Surgical removal of the tumor is possible in less than 20% of patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer because detection is often in late stages and has spread beyond the pancreas. Adjuvant treatment with chemotherapy (and sometimes radiation) may lower the risk of recurrence. For advanced disease, chemotherapy (sometimes along with a targeted therapy drug) may lengthen survival. Clinical trials are testing several new agents for their ability to improve survival.
- Pancreatic cancer is a leading cause of cancer death largely because there are **no detection tools to diagnose the disease in its early stages** when surgical removal of the tumor is still possible.

*\*Source for statistics: American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures 2017*

## DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES:

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