



**HIRSHBERG FOUNDATION
FOR PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH**

INFO PACKET



"I'm proud to introduce you to our foundation. When I lost my husband Ron to pancreatic cancer when he was 54, it motivated a desire to advance science, help patients, and be part of the cure for pancreatic diseases."

— Agi Hirshberg

2990 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Suite 300C
Los Angeles, CA 90064

T. (310) 473-5121
info@pancreatic.org
www.pancreatic.org



OUR PURPOSE

The Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research is focused on finding a cure for pancreatic cancer and empowering the patients and families whose lives are touched by this disease. Founded in 1997, the foundation funds groundbreaking scientific research, provides patient education and support, and sustains hope that this cancer will be eradicated once and for all.

OUR 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 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.

OUR IMPACT

Since 1997, the Hirshberg Foundation has:

- Raised more than **\$42 million** for pancreatic cancer research and patient programs.
- Awarded **140 Seed Grants** to investigators at 55+ leading institutions in the U.S. and internationally.
- Launched a multi-year **Catalyst Grant Program** to propel high-impact translational research.
- Helped establish the **UCLA Agi Hirshberg Center for Pancreatic Diseases**, an innovative integrated practice unit.
- Granted over **\$1.2 million** in direct patient financial assistance.
- Hosted over **100 community fundraising events** to drive awareness and engagement.
- Presented the **Agi Hirshberg Symposium** at UCLA since 2002, for patients and caregivers.
- Supported **global scientific collaboration** through partnerships with leading pancreatic organizations worldwide.
- Provided personalized support, resources and guidance to patients and caregivers through our various **Patient Programs**.



WHAT WE FUND

UCLA Agi Hirshberg Center for Pancreatic Diseases

- Established in 2015, the Center is one of the nation's first integrated practice units dedicated to pancreatic diseases.
- Patients receive comprehensive evaluations and a personalized treatment plan, often in a single visit, supported by a multidisciplinary team of specialists.
- Directed by Timothy Donahue, MD, since 2023, the Center continues to lead advancements in pancreatic cancer care, translational research, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

Catalyst Grant Program

- Launched in 2025, the Catalyst Grant Program builds on two decades of early-stage discovery investment.
- Developed in collaboration with UCLA, this multi-year funding initiative accelerates high-potential research from laboratory discovery to patient application.
- Builds upon the success of our Seed Grant initiative by supporting projects that have demonstrated strong potential for clinical translation.

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

- Established to advance early diagnosis and therapeutic intervention, this endowed chair supports sustained scientific leadership.
- Directed by Enrique Rozengurt, PhD, since 1999, this endowed position advances the Foundation's long-standing commitment to translating scientific discoveries into meaningful clinical progress.

UCLA Pancreas Tissue Bank

- Established in 2005, the Tissue Bank provides researchers with critical biological samples and data necessary to accelerate discovery.
- Directed by David Dawson, MD, PhD, this resource strengthens collaboration and innovation across institutions.
- Allows investigators to confirm promising laboratory results in patient tissue samples.
- Serves as a vital tool in the discovery and validation of diagnostic, prognostic, or predictive clinical biomarkers.

Hirshberg Foundation Seed Grant Program

- Launched in 2005, the Seed Grant Program identifies and funds innovative investigators in the U.S. and abroad.
- Directed by Miklós Sahin-Tóth, MD, PhD, since 2024, and serving as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board, the program drives innovation by funding high-impact, early-stage research.
- Seed funding enables researchers to generate the preliminary data necessary to compete successfully for major NIH and federal grants, multiplying the Foundation's impact many times over.

The Hirshberg Translational Pancreatic Cancer Research Laboratory at UCLA

- Directed by Guido Eibl, MD, the laboratory leads cutting-edge investigations in cancer biology, treatment development, and prevention strategies.
- The lab has secured multiple NIH grants and remains central to translational innovation in pancreatic cancer research.

Annual Symposium on Pancreatic Cancer

- Since 2005, the Foundation has hosted an annual patient and caregiver symposium at UCLA.
- This event brings together clinicians, researchers, survivors, and caregivers to provide trusted information, emotional support, and updates on emerging research.
- Thanks to generous sponsors and donors, the event is offered free of charge.

Patient Support Programs

- Since 1998, we have funded financial assistance grants through Cancer Care Inc to reduce the economic burden of treatment. These grants provide relief to patients navigating high costs associated with pancreatic cancer care.
- In 2022, we launched a partnership with the nonprofit organization Talking Angels to provide cozy keepsake blankets to pancreatic cancer patients and the loved ones who support them.
- In 2025, we collaborated with Cancer Support Community South Bay to host Wellness Days that bring pancreatic cancer patients and caregivers together for education, mindfulness, and shared support.



SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Our internationally recognized Scientific Advisory Board guides funding strategy and research direction, ensuring scientific rigor and national impact.



Miklos Sahin-Toth, MD, PhD, Chair

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Chair of the Hirshberg Foundation Scientific Advisory Board
- Garry Shandling Chair in Pancreatic Diseases
- Professor, Department of Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine
- Co-Editor-in-Chief for the journal Pancreatology



Timothy Donahue, MD

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Director of the UCLA Agi Hirshberg Center for Pancreatic Diseases
- Garry Shandling Chair in Pancreatic Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
- Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Vice Chair for Cancer Surgery in the Department of Surgery



J. Randolph Hecht, MD

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Professor of Clinical Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine
- Director of the UCLA Gastrointestinal Oncology Program



Guido Eibl, MD

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Professor and Chief, Division of General Surgery, Department of Surgery
- Director of The Ronald S. Hirshberg Translational Pancreatic Cancer Research Laboratory, UCLA, David Geffen School of Medicine
- Director of Surgical Research, Division of General Surgery
- Robert and Kelly Day Chair in General Surgery



Murray Korc, MD

UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, Orange, CA

- Department of Developmental and Cell Biology, School of Biological Sciences, UC Irvine
- Disease Oriented Team for Hepato-Pancreatic-Biliary Malignancies at the UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Board Certified in Internal Medicine and in Endocrinology



Stephen J. Pandol, MD

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

- Director, Basic & Translational Pancreas Research in the Department of Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine at UCLA



SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD



Anirban Maitra, MD

New York University, Langone Health, New York, NY

- Director, Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center
- Associate Dean for Cancer Research
- Co-director, NYU Langone Gastrointestinal Cancer Center



Eileen M. O'Reilly, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), New York, NY

- Winthrop Rockefeller Endowed Chair in Medical Oncology
- Co-Director for Medical Initiatives, David M. Rubenstein Center for Pancreatic Cancer
- Section Head for Hepatopancreaticobiliary/ Neuroendocrine Cancers



Marina Pasca di Magliano, PhD

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Maude T. Lane Professor, Department of Surgery
- Professor, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology
- Co-leader, Signaling and Tumor Microenvironments program, Rogel Cancer Center
- Co-leader, Pancreatic Disease Initiative



Rushika M. Perera, PhD

University of California, San Francisco, CA

- Professor, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco
- Vice Chair, Department of Anatomy
- Chief Scientific Officer, UCSF Pancreas Center
- Executive Committee Member, UC Pancreas Cancer Consortium



Ashok Saluja, PhD

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL

- Professor, Department of Surgery
- Secondary Appointment of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Secretary-Treasurer, American Pancreatic Association



Mara Sherman, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York, NY

- Associate Member, Cancer Biology & Genetics Program
- Mara Sherman Lab, Sloan Kettering Institute