



HIRSHBERG FOUNDATION FOR PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH

Backgrounder and Pancreatic Cancer Fact Sheet

MEDIA CONTACT

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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 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**.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH UCLA

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 evaluation and a personalized treatment plan - often in a single visit - through a multidisciplinary team of surgical oncologists, medical oncologists, gastroenterologists, radiologists, pathologists, and support specialists. The Center strengthens collaboration between researchers and clinicians, accelerating innovation in patient care.



RESEARCH FUNDING PROGRAMS

Seed Grant Program

Launched in 2005, the Seed Grant Program provides early-stage funding to promising investigators in the U.S. and internationally. These grants generate the preliminary data necessary for researchers to secure larger federal funding, including NIH grants, multiplying the Foundation's initial investment many times over.

Catalyst Grant Program

Introduced in 2025, the Catalyst Grant Program provides multi-year funding to advance high-potential translational research from laboratory discovery toward clinical application.

PATIENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Foundation provides direct assistance and trusted resources to patients and families nationwide, including:

- Physician and second-opinion referrals
- Treatment center referrals
- Financial aid information
- Nutritional guidance
- Educational materials
- Emotional support connections

The Foundation also acts as a liaison, connecting patients and caregivers with others navigating similar journeys.

For more information: www.pancreatic.org

2026 PANCREATIC CANCER FACTS

Source: American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures 2026

- In 2026, an estimated **67,530 Americans** will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and more than **52,740 Americans** will die from the disease.
- Pancreatic cancer is the **third leading cause of cancer-related death** in the United States
- It has the **highest mortality rate of all major cancers.**
- The overall 5-year survival rate is **13%.**
- Only about **15% of patients** are diagnosed at a localized stage, where the 5-year survival rate increases to **44%.**



2026 PANCREATIC CANCER FACTS continued

Common Symptoms

Symptoms often do not appear until the disease is advanced and may include:

- Unexplained weight loss
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes)
- Abdominal pain radiating to the back
- Nausea and vomiting

Risk Factors

Symptoms often do not appear until the disease is advanced and may include:

- Cigarette smoking (approximately doubles risk)
- Chronic pancreatitis
- Type 2 diabetes
- Heavy alcohol consumption
- Obesity
- Certain inherited genetic mutations (including BRCA1, BRCA2, and Lynch syndrome)
- Family history of pancreatic cancer

Treatment Options

Treatment may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy. Fewer than 20% of patients are eligible for surgery at diagnosis due to late detection.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

The Hirshberg Foundation can provide:

- Expert interviews with leading pancreatic cancer researchers and clinicians
- Patient and survivor stories
- Insight on fundraising innovation and nonprofit leadership
- National awareness month coverage opportunities

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

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. The federal tax ID number for the foundation (EIN) is 95-4640311. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.