



**Research**

**PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK**

ADVANCE RESEARCH. SUPPORT PATIENTS. CREATE HOPE.

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## PANCREATIC CANCER: NEWS & UPDATES October 31, 2008

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### 1. Pancreatic Cancer Action Network – AACR Research Grants

**Application Submission Deadline: November 10, 2008**

Pilot Grants <http://www.pancan.org/Research/documents/2009Pilot.pdf>

Career Development Awards <http://www.pancan.org/Research/documents/2009CDA.pdf>

Fellowship Award <http://www.pancan.org/Research/documents/2009Fellowship.pdf>

#### 2. NCI Funding Opportunities

Exploratory Studies in Cancer Detection, Diagnosis, and Prognosis

<http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov/initiatedetail.jsp?InitiativeID=3946>

Studies of the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Human Microbiome Research

<http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov/initiatedetail.jsp?InitiativeID=3944>

Roadmap Transformative R01 Program

<http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov/initiatedetail.jsp?InitiativeID=3941>

Translating Basic Behavioral and Social Science Discoveries into Interventions to Reduce Obesity:

Centers for Behavioral Intervention Development

<http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov/initiatedetail.jsp?InitiativeID=3942>

#### University of Nebraska Medical Center Researchers Earn \$5M SPORE Grant for Pancreatic Cancer

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26909718/>

<http://www.ketv.com/news/17570159/detail.html>

Pancreatic cancer researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center earned a highly sought-after SPORE grant. The federally funded \$5 million grant will cover four separate pancreatic cancer research projects including: 1) a vaccine that would block cancer cells from spreading, 2) a vaccine that would weaken cancer cells, 3) a blood test for screening pancreatic cancer and 4) an immunotherapy that would stop tumors from growing.

#### New Machine Detects Cancer with Simple Blood Test

[http://cbs4denver.com/health/cancer\\_monitor\\_machine.2.827840.html](http://cbs4denver.com/health/cancer_monitor_machine.2.827840.html) (includes video)

Dr. Daniel Haber from Massachusetts General Hospital said they are testing a new machine that detects cancer with a simple blood test and allows the physician to ascertain if treatment is working. The machine, which works by counting the number of cancer cells in a patient's blood, is reported to be so accurate it can detect one cancer cell among one billion healthy cells in the bloodstream. The machine is still in the testing stage but they hope it will be ready for widespread use within two years.

#### Study Finds Association Between Hepatitis B and Pancreatic Cancer

[http://www.cancer.net/patient/ASCO%20Resources/Cancer%20Advances/News%20for%20Patients%20from%20the%20Journal%20of%20Clinical%20Oncology/JCO%20Cancer%20Advances%20PDFs/9.29.08\\_JCO\\_CA.pdf](http://www.cancer.net/patient/ASCO%20Resources/Cancer%20Advances/News%20for%20Patients%20from%20the%20Journal%20of%20Clinical%20Oncology/JCO%20Cancer%20Advances%20PDFs/9.29.08_JCO_CA.pdf)

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-09/asoc-sfa092908.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-09/asoc-sfa092908.php)

A new study has shown that evidence of past hepatitis B infection was twice as common in people with pancreatic cancer than in healthy controls. Lead author Manal M. Hassan, MD, PhD, assistant professor at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, states "If these findings can be confirmed by other studies, hepatitis B could be another risk factor for pancreatic cancer that is readily modifiable with treatment, and even preventable with a vaccine."



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### **Vitamin C Supplements May Reduce Benefit from Wide Range of Anti-Cancer Drugs**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-10/aafc-vcs092308.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-10/aafc-vcs092308.php)

<http://www.aacr.org/home/public--media/news.aspx?d=1137>

Memorial Sloan Kettering researchers report that vitamin C supplements may undercut the effectiveness of cancer drugs. They tested vitamin C along with five common chemotherapy drugs (gleevec, doxorubicin, cisplatin, methotrexate and vincristine) and found that vitamin C did not neutralize but rather blunted the effects of chemotherapy. This study involved cancer cells and animal research so the applicability to humans is unclear. The investigators speculate that the use of vitamin c supplements during treatment with chemotherapy may be ill-advised.

### **MU Researcher Finds New Method to Create Cancer Drugs - New Drugs Could be Quicker, More Effective than Current Treatment Options**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-09/uom-mrf092608.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-09/uom-mrf092608.php)

Dr. Cathy Cutler at the University of Missouri Research Reactor Center developed a new method to create cancer drugs that overcome problems currently faced by researchers. Oncologists have a fairly limited supply of radiopharmaceutical treatments at their disposal. Researchers have been attempting to develop a "menu" of different radiopharmaceuticals that could be used for cancer treatments. Older methods of creating the drugs took a very long time and were not consistent. The finished products varied in quality; impurities might have been introduced; and several liters of waste were generated. It also was difficult to produce the drugs in large quantities. Dr. Cutler's new method produced a product in a very predictable, consistent time frame, reduced the amount of radioactive waste associated with producing these drugs and cut the time in half to generate the drugs.

### **Penn Study Shows Immune System can Hurt as Well as Help Fight Cancer**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-09/uops-pps092908.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-09/uops-pps092908.php)

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine researchers have found that some immune system proteins can promote tumor growth. Investigators found that instead of fighting tumors, the protein C5a, which is produced during an immune response to a developing tumor, helps tumors build molecular shields against T-cell attack.

### **Media Doesn't Often Mention Pharma Funding on Research**

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_69886.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_69886.html)

The October 1<sup>st</sup> issue of *Journal of the American Medical Association* reports that mainstream media often fail to report when drug company funding is used for studies of medications. The study authors analyzed 306 news articles about medication research from US newspaper and online sites, and they also asked 100 editors at the most widely circulated newspapers in the country about their reporting practices. The studies that were analyzed had been published in five prominent medical journals, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Forty-two percent of the news articles did not state when drug research had received funding from the pharmaceutical industry; when they did, it was often buried in the text.

### **Minorities Less Likely to Plan for End-of-Life Care**

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_69849.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_69849.html)

[http://www.cancer.net/patient/News+and+Events/News+Articles?&reuterview=plwc\\_detail\\_view&reutersid=11542](http://www.cancer.net/patient/News+and+Events/News+Articles?&reuterview=plwc_detail_view&reutersid=11542)

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center researchers report that African-American and Hispanic patients were about one-third less likely to have an advance care plan. They based their findings on interviews with 449 cancer patients who were believed to have fewer than six months left to live. They found that 80% of white patients had at least discussed end-of-life care with their doctors or had a documented plan in place -- through a living will, for example, or by designating a person to make their medical care decisions if they became too ill to do so. In contrast, this was true of only 47% of both black and Hispanic patients.



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### **Aggressive Surgical Resection in the Management of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors: When Is It Indicated?**

<http://www.moffitt.org/CCJRoot/v15n4/pdf/314.pdf>

Dr. Hodul and colleagues discuss the approaches to manage pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors and the evidence that, in appropriately selected patients, cytoreductive surgery can provide appreciable benefit in palliating symptoms and lengthening survival.

### **Researchers Working on Cancer Detection Blood Test**

<http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/daily/local/98794.php>

Dr. Samir M. Hanash of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center reported Monday at the Biosciences Leadership Symposium: Translational Medicine at the University of Arizona that they are on fast-track development of a blood-based cancer biomarker using proteomics. Hanash states that using proteomics cancers like breast, lung, and pancreatic can be detected a year before symptoms develop.

### **Bisphenol A Linked to Chemotherapy Resistance**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-10/uoc-bal100808.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-10/uoc-bal100808.php)

University of Cincinnati researchers report that exposure to bisphenol A (BPA), a man-made chemical found in a number of plastic products including drinking bottles and the lining of food cans, may reduce the effectiveness of chemotherapy treatments by inducing a group of proteins that protect cancer cells from the toxic effects of chemotherapy.

### **Cancer Groups Look for Common Ground As Competition for Research Funds Heats Up**

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122341756066312903.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj#articleTabs%3Dcomment](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122341756066312903.html?mod=googlenews_wsj#articleTabs%3Dcomment)

The economic slump is energizing competition among more than 1,000 advocacy groups fighting to influence federal cancer-research spending and raising concerns about the competing demands of advocacy groups and the dilution of funds. According to this article, pancreatic cancer alone has 14 advocacy groups.

### **End-of-Life Talk Has Cascading Benefits: Study**

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_70128.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_70128.html)

[http://www.cancerfacts.com/Home\\_News.asp?NewsId=2370&CB=14&CancerTypeId=4](http://www.cancerfacts.com/Home_News.asp?NewsId=2370&CB=14&CancerTypeId=4)

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute reports that end-of-life discussions between terminally ill patients and their physician do not increase the emotional distress or reduce quality of life. On the contrary, researchers report that these discussions improve the quality of life of both the patient and loved ones when death is near.

### **Phase I Clinical Trial of ImmuFact IMP321 in Pancreatic Cancer Will be Carried out at Washington University in Saint Louis**

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/125643.php>

Dr. William G. Hawkins, Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Hepatobiliary Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Surgery Section at Washington University, is initiating a phase I trial of IMP321 in advanced pancreatic cancer treated by first-line gemcitabine alone or associated with increasing doses of IMP321. Dr. Hawkins is a 2005 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network -AACR Career Development Award grant recipient. Click here for a snapshot of his funded research: <http://www.pancan.org/Research/documents/2005Hawkins.pdf>

### **FDA Grants Orphan Drug Status to Reata's RTA 402 for Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer**

[http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/biospace/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20081015005350&newsLang=en](http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/biospace/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20081015005350&newsLang=en)

Reata Pharmaceuticals' drug RTA 402 was granted orphan drug designation by the US Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of pancreatic cancer. RTA 402 is currently being studied in a Phase 1/2 trial with gemcitabine or placebo in patients with unresectable pancreatic cancer.



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### **Palliative Care Access Mediocre Nationwide, Report Says**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-10/tmsh-wyl092508.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-10/tmsh-wyl092508.php)

<http://www.acor.org/news/display.html?id=7294>

According to a recent report, access to palliative care in US hospitals scored only a “C” on a national report card. Only Vermont, Montana and New Hampshire earned an “A,” with programs in at least 81% of the hospitals [Vermont, with programs in 100% of hospitals, Montana, at 88% and New Hampshire, with 85%. Three states got an “F” including – Oklahoma, with palliative care programs in just 19% of hospitals, Alabama with 16% and Mississippi, with 10%.

### **Editorial: New Insights and Gains in Pancreatic Cancer**

<http://www.moffitt.org/CCJRoot/v15n4/pdf/276.pdf>

**The October 2008 edition of *Cancer Control* features a collection of articles devoted to pancreatic cancer. It begins with an editorial by Dr. Mokenge P. Malafa, MD, Chair, Department of Gastrointestinal Oncology at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center.**

Dr. Malafa explains that the series of articles, “... underscore the impressive gains in knowledge and understanding of this particular cancer over the last decade. Risk factors have been identified, precancerous lesions have been described, diagnosis has improved, and treatments are being actively studied. This is no longer a ‘forgotten’ cancer.”

### **Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer: Why, Who, and How to Screen**

<http://www.moffitt.org/CCJRoot/v15n4/pdf/280.pdf>

Drs. Klapman and Malafa review the risk factors, genetic syndromes, screening modalities, and screening studies of pancreatic cancer. They discuss the practical considerations when determining if an individual should be screened for pancreatic cancer.

### **Cancer of the Pancreas: Are We Making Progress? A Review of Studies in the US Oncology Research Network**

<http://www.moffitt.org/CCJRoot/v15n4/pdf/308.pdf>

Dr. Cartwright and colleagues review the status of research in developing new agents to treat patients with unresectable and metastatic pancreatic cancer, with an emphasis on the studies performed by the US Oncology Research Network.

### **Borderline Resectable Pancreatic Cancer: On the Edge of Survival**

<http://www.moffitt.org/CCJRoot/v15n4/pdf/295.pdf>

Drs. Springett and Hoffe review the value of neoadjuvant treatment programs employing gemcitabine chemotherapy followed by chemoradiation to increase the possibility of subsequent margin-negative resection.

### **Outcomes Following Resection of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma: 20-Year Experience at a Single Institution**

<http://www.moffitt.org/CCJRoot/v15n4/pdf/288.pdf>

Dr. Helm and colleagues report on a group of patients treated with pancreatectomy for ductal adenocarcinoma over the past 20 years at a single institution.

### **University of Minnesota Surgeons are Testing a Novel, Protein-Based Treatment for Pancreatic Cancer**

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/545265/>

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/125434.php>

University of Minnesota surgeons are studying the possible applications of a pancreatic cancer-specific agent that could increase treatment options. The study is one of several leading to a phase I clinical trial that researchers hope will ultimately result in a change to the treatment regimen for the disease.



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### **Pancreatic Tumors: An Elusive, Lethal Cancer**

[http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2008/10/15/2008-10-15\\_pancreatic\\_tumors\\_an\\_elusive\\_lethal\\_canc.html?page=0](http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2008/10/15/2008-10-15_pancreatic_tumors_an_elusive_lethal_canc.html?page=0)

Mount Sinai Hospital Surgical Oncologist Dr. Daniel Labow discusses the signs and symptoms, treatment options and risk factors for pancreatic cancer.

### **Just Say Die**

<http://jco.ascopubs.org/cgi/reprint/26/1/157>

Medical Oncologist Dr. Scott Berry of the University of Toronto examines why it is so difficult for physicians to use the word “die” and why it may be vitally important that they use it more often. Berry recounts an interesting study that illustrated how all but one of eight experienced oncologists avoided using the word “death” in a role-play situation where they had to answer the question, “How long do I have?” to a woman with advanced pancreatic cancer resistant to chemotherapy.

### **Pancreatic Cancer: More Than One Flavor?**

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/582257>

In this video blog, Dr. John Marshall of Georgetown University talks about the growing ability to prospectively define pancreatic tumors according to their genetics and using this knowledge to determine which anticancer treatment to use.

### **Eating Fruit and Vegetables can Improve Cancer Patients' Response to Chemotherapy**

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Neurology/BrainCancer/11442>

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-10/uoc--hef102208.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-10/uoc--hef102208.php)

UC Riverside biochemists report that ingesting apigenin – a naturally occurring dietary agent found in vegetables and fruit – improves cancer cells' response to chemotherapy. Apigenin is mainly found in fruit (including apples, cherries, grapes), vegetables (including parsley, artichoke, basil, celery), nuts and plant-derived beverages (including tea and wine). It has shown growth inhibitory properties in several cancer lines, including breast and colon, and also shown to inhibit pancreatic cancer cell proliferation.

### **U.S. Panel Urges More Cancer Research Funding**

<http://www.oncolink.com/resources/article.cfm?c=3&s=8&ss=23&Year=2008&Month=10&id=15739>

The presidential advisory panel stated this week that the US government needs to step up funding for cancer research, which has been stagnate for a decade, as part of an effort to make beating cancer a national priority. The panel noted the US biomedical research system “is being starved of funding at a pivotal juncture” and that there must be adequate funding for clinical trials and basic research.

### **Jefferson Department of Surgery Announces New Pancreas Tumor Registry**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-10/tju-jdo102908.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-10/tju-jdo102908.php)

Thomas Jefferson University recently established the new Jefferson Pancreas Tumor Registry (JPTR). This registry serves to further study whether pancreatic cancer occurs more frequently in families with a history of the disease and to determine the environmental and occupational risk factors to which patients have been exposed. For more information about the Jefferson Pancreas Tumor Registry (JPTR), click here:

<http://www.jeffersonhospital.org/pancreas/article16736.html>

### **Second-Line Therapy for Gemcitabine-Refractory Pancreatic Cancer: Is There a Standard?**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18935928?dopt=AbstractPlus>

To date, no standard guideline for second-line treatment of pancreatic cancer has been established. The authors reviewed the published literature on second-line chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer and report that no single drug has been studied extensively in this setting and benefits seem to be modest.



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### **Bevacizumab Better than Gold Standard Imaging at Detecting Tumors**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-10/eeco-bbt102108.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-10/eeco-bbt102108.php)

[http://www.medgadget.com/archives/2008/10/cancer\\_medication\\_can\\_be\\_new\\_imaging\\_agent.html](http://www.medgadget.com/archives/2008/10/cancer_medication_can_be_new_imaging_agent.html)

Scientists have developed a new imaging agent that can be used in scanning for tumors which gives a much clearer and more precise image than existing methods. Dr. Wang, Director of Molecular Imaging at MPI Research Inc in Michigan, reports that the collaborative research reveals and verifies a new imaging agent for the next generation of tumor detection imaging probes. <sup>64</sup>Cu-bevacizumab is highly sensitive in pancreatic, breast and lung cancer models, detecting tumors earlier than <sup>18</sup>FDG, with much better contrast between the tumor and the surrounding tissue. Dr. Wang and his colleagues are the first to show that it is possible to use bevacizumab as a diagnostic imaging agent to detect early tumors in animal models and that it is better than <sup>18</sup>FDG.

### **Newly Diagnosed Cancer Patients Retain Little Medical Information**

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_70743.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_70743.html)

Researchers from the Netherlands and Australia report that most individuals just diagnosed with cancer remembered less than half of what their doctor had told them. Patients do not hear much of what is said after bad news is delivered. In this study, more than half of the provided information was forgotten. The researchers found that people under 65 recalled about 49.5% of what they'd been told, while those over 65 recalled about 48.4%. Age made the biggest difference in recall when the amount of information presented was greater, and the consultation was longer. Older individuals tended to ask fewer questions than younger ones, and those who asked the most questions had poorer recall. Those with a worse prognosis tended to remember less information than those with a better prognosis.

### **Half of Doctors Routinely Prescribe Placebos**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/24/health/24placebo.html?\\_r=1&em&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/24/health/24placebo.html?_r=1&em&oref=slogin)

A study to be published in *BMJ* reports that about half of 679 US internists and rheumatologists reported recommending placebos regularly. Surveys in Denmark, Israel, Britain, Sweden and New Zealand have found similar results. The most common placebos the American doctors reported using were headache pills and vitamins, but a significant number also reported prescribing antibiotics and sedatives. Although these drugs are not inert, which is contrary to the usual definition of a placebo, doctors reported using them for their effect on the patient's psyche, not their body. It is no wonder we find cancer patients fear participation in a clinical trial believing they will be treated with a placebo.

### **Lung Cancer Gene Discovery A Sign of Cancer's Future - Science is Tackling Genes, Cancer Stem Cells, and Earlier Detection of Tumors for Many Cancer Types**

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/cancer/2008/10/23/lung-cancer-gene-discovery-a-sign-of-cancers-future.html>

This article discusses the recent mounting discoveries in a number of different cancers and the disease's astounding complexity, which lies in the multitude of genes that go awry and the wide variation in the disease even if they look the same under a microscope. New technology has allowed researchers to begin comparing the DNA of cancerous and healthy tissues and gain a look at the very blueprints of similar-looking but markedly different tumors. The advances are leading to personalized treatment and early detection.

### **Research Could Cut Region's High Pancreatic Cancer Rate**

<http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/cityregion/article/462356>

Dr. Sunil Hingorani, a clinical researcher at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, Washington (and a two-time recipient of a Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Grant) spoke with medical professionals at the University of New Brunswick about his research.



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### **Effect of Hospital Volume on Margin Status After Pancreaticoduodenectomy for Cancer**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18926452?dopt=AbstractPlus>

The volume-outcome relationship has been repeatedly demonstrated for pancreatectomy, but the underlying reasons for this association has been challenging with some suggesting that differences in surgical technique may affect long-term survival. It is unknown whether margin-positive resection rates vary by hospital volume so the study authors evaluated the effect of hospital pancreatectomy volume on margin status. The authors identified 12,101 patients from the National Cancer Data Base (1998 to 2004) who underwent pancreaticoduodenectomy. They report that patients undergoing pancreaticoduodenectomy at low-volume centers are more likely to have margin-positive resections if they had a higher T classification or nodal involvement, were uninsured or living in lower-income areas, or underwent resection at lowest-volume hospitals compared with highest-volume hospitals.

### **Tests Could Predict Benefit from Cancer Drugs - Markers in Blood or Tumor Tissue May Help Those Fighting Colon, Lung or Pancreatic Malignancies.**

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/news/newsstory.aspx?docid=620742>

A briefing, co-sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), discussed three studies presented at the second annual meeting on Molecular Markers in Cancer, Oct. 30 through Nov. 1. The goal of all three studies is to pinpoint which patients will reap the biggest benefit from a particular cancer therapy. One study looked at pancreatic cancer and researchers found that patients whose pancreatic cancer tumors do *not* contain the S100A2 protein have double the life expectancy of patients whose tumors show high levels of the protein. Testing for the presence of the protein beforehand could help select which patients would benefit from surgery.

### **Rexin-G Returns to the Big Apple: Clinical Trial for Pancreatic Cancer Opens in Manhattan**

<http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/Rexin-G>Returns-The-Big/story.aspx?guid=%7B3B99F147-04EF-44A6-ACE7-1814906B8093%7D>

Epeius Biotechnologies announced the expansion of their phase I/II clinical trial using intravenous Rexin-G for pancreatic cancer. The New York clinical trial will be conducted at the Bruckner Oncology Center with Dr. Howard W. Bruckner as the Principal Investigator.

### **The Upside to Allergies: Cancer Prevention**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-10/uocp-tut102908.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-10/uocp-tut102908.php)

Cornell University researchers report that there is strong evidence that allergies are much more than just an annoying immune malfunction. They may protect against certain types of cancer by expelling foreign particles, some of which may be carcinogenic or carry absorbed carcinogens, from the organs most likely to come in to contact with them. Inverse allergy-cancer associations were found to be far more common with cancers of organ systems that come in direct contact with matter from the external environment—the mouth and throat, colon and rectum, skin, cervix, pancreas and glial brain cells.

### **Social Security Speeds Disability Claims Review**

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iehbar0cfRyF-t4ZjGfDc0BZgIAgD942RP9G0>

Cancer patients and other severe medical conditions will get quicker action on disability claims under a new Social Security program. The time needed to decide claims could be trimmed from 100 days or more to as few as two. The Compassionate Allowances initiative will apply to 25 rare diseases and 25 cancers including pancreatic cancer. Even with the speedier processing, there will be no change in the law under which claimants must wait five months before getting benefits. Those receiving approval may have shorter periods to wait because the five-month period begins from the onset of the disability.



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**Phase II Study of Calcitriol-Enhanced Docetaxel in Patients with Previously Untreated Metastatic or Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer—Study Abstract**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18843448?dopt=AbstractPlus>

**The Impact of Resection Margin Status and Postoperative CA19-9 Levels on Survival and Patterns of Recurrence After Postoperative High-Dose Radiotherapy with 5-FU-Based Concurrent Chemotherapy for Resectable Pancreatic Cancer—Study Abstract**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18838880?dopt=AbstractPlus>

**Irinotecan Monotherapy as Second-Line Treatment in Advanced Pancreatic Cancer—Study Abstract**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18839175?dopt=AbstractPlus>

**Efficacy of Preoperative Radiochemotherapy in Patients with Locally Advanced Pancreatic Carcinoma—Study Abstract**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17882555?dopt=AbstractPlus>

**Pancreatic Cancer Survivors Urge: Get a Second Opinion**

[http://www.13wham.com/guides/health/story.aspx?content\\_id=3a3f4fd3-304e-4663-a684-de60c33fc1a1](http://www.13wham.com/guides/health/story.aspx?content_id=3a3f4fd3-304e-4663-a684-de60c33fc1a1)

Video -

<http://www.13wham.com/mediacenter/local.aspx?videoid=201188@video.wokr13.com&navCatId=13&articleID=201188>