CancerSEEK – A Blood Test to Detect Pancreatic Cancer at Early Stages

It’s the first and only FDA-approved multi-target stool DNA test for detecting colorectal cancer and pre-cancer covered by Medicare. To secure FDA approval, Exact Sciences will launch a registration trial for CancerSEEK designed to obtain sufficient data and results to support regulatory approval.

Investigator: Bert Vogelstein, MD, Johns Hopkins

Pancreatic Cancer Risk Assessment Tool Developed and Implemented

If it determines that someone has certain risk factors, they can be put in touch with genetic counselors and pancreatic cancer specialists at Perlmutter Cancer Center.

Investigator: Diane Simone, MD, NYU Lagone (visit find-pancancer-early.org to learn more)

The GENERATE (GENetic Education, Risk Assessment, and TEsting)

This study targeted people who had a relative with pancreatic cancer that may have been caused by an inherited change (mutation) in a gene. 1,000 participants were enrolled in this trial, which has recently been FDA-approved!

Investigators: Anirban Maitra, MBBS, Michael Goggins, MB, MD, Scott Lippman, MD, Sponsored by Dana Farber Institute

Developed a Personalized Pancreatic Cancer Screening Strategy

Implemented a strategy whereby GRS data is assessed in conjunction with testing for mutations in risk-associated HPGs for pancreatic cancer. In addition to family history, this is the most feasible way to identify a more substantial number of individuals who are at risk for developing pancreatic cancer.

Investigators: Jianfeng Xu, DrPH, Mark Talamonti, MD, Northshore Medical System Research Institute

Felix Project

Uses artificial intelligence (AI) to train computers to spot tumors in CT scans when the tumors are still small and localized. This effort is to use sophisticated computer programs that teach themselves to read CT scans the human eye cannot see.

Investigators: Elliot Fishman, MD, Bert Vogelstein, MD, Johns Hopkins

New Targets for Pancreatic Cancer Treatments Identified

A large international collaboration found new targets for pancreatic cancer treatment and early diagnosis after examining various aspects of these tumors’ genes and proteins.

Investigator: Hui Zhag, PhD, MS, Johns Hopkins

Raised Over 12.5 Million for Pancreatic Cancer Research and Patient Support!
Utilizing 5hmC modification patterns in a liquid biopsy, this test will indicate the presence of a particular disease. This scientifically proves that these epigenetic markers can reliably predict pancreatic cancer at an early stage of disease. Currently seeking more samples to move to FDA stages.

*Investigators: Chuan He, PhD, Marc Bissonette, MD, University of Chicago*

**The Study of High-Throughput Analysis of CDKN2A Variation**

Focused on familial BRACA2 genes for pancreatic cancer and melanoma. This study will use CDKN2A to develop a database system to assist in classifying these variants.

*Investigator: Nicholas Roberts, MD, Johns Hopkins*

**At the Origin – BNIP3 and What it Tells us About Pancreatic Cancer Progression**

Examines the BNIP3 gene and how it operates on a fundamental level to inform our understanding of how to diagnose pancreatic cancer earlier and more accurately.

*Investigator: Kay Macleod, PhD, Johns Hopkins*

**Pancreatic Cancer Biomarkers**

Developed a method to culture precancer lesions in three-dimensions, providing a critical system to study pancreatic precancers. Identifying precursor lesions before they become incurable invasive cancer is key to early detection.

*Investigators: Ralph Hruban, MD, Laura Wood, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins*

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**Cancer Wellness Center**

Psychosocial support and education for the pancreatic cancer community.

All services are provided by the Center’s professional clinical staff, which is comprised of psychologists, counselors, and social workers.

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**Wellness House**

Ongoing network support group for patients and families facing pancreatic cancer.

**Kellogg Cancer Center**

Located at the Highland Park Hospital Cancer Center, the team here provides financial support for nutrition and integrative medicine for pancreatic cancer patients.

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To read more details about these updates visit: rolffoundation.org/2021impact