

## LET'S WIN: SHARING SCIENCE SOLUTIONS FOR PANCREATIC CANCER

**L**et's Win ([www.letswinpc.org](http://www.letswinpc.org)), an initiative supported by The Lustgarten Foundation and launched in May, is an interactive online community where patients and families can share information and experiences about new, innovative science-driven treatments and learn about the latest research, breakthroughs, and clinical trials in the fight against pancreatic cancer. There is an urgent need for patients to communicate amongst themselves and with the medical community about potentially life-changing non-standard of care treatments and clinical trials, as the incidence of pancreatic cancer is rising while the five-year survival rate remains at just eight percent.

Let's Win meets that need in a groundbreaking way. The site has become an unprecedented crowdsourcing platform, enabling doctors, researchers and patients to share fast-breaking clinical information on potentially life-saving pancreatic cancer treatments and trials that go beyond the standard of care – a vital step in advancing science and patients' lifespans. Let's Win also helps doctors who do not specialize in pancreatic cancer to learn about emerging treatments to combat the disease.

Let's Win is designed to:

- Fulfill an unmet need, as pancreatic cancer patients are typically offered one of only a few basic standard of care treatment options, none of which has proven effective long-term.
- Alleviate the countless hours of research a patient experiences when faced with a pancreatic cancer diagnosis by

crowdsourcing actionable information and offering it all in one place.

- Connect scientists and patients for the first time, enabling two-way communication that can advance current research.



Let's Win founders and senior leadership  
Photo Courtesy of Willa Shalit

The cornerstone of Let's Win is the interactive My Treatment section, where patients describe their personal treatment plans, focusing on novel and innovative treatments they have pursued beyond the standard of care. Often oncologists are unaware of these options, so they don't offer their patients the possibility of exploring new and promising science-backed treatment protocols. Now, through Let's Win, patients can learn from others who have tried other treatment options and can share this information with their doctors to explore emerging treatments.

The site also features a Promising Science section, which includes articles and studies about and by scientists and researchers who are leading cutting-edge studies in pancreatic cancer; a Clinical Trials section, with articles highlighting some of the latest clinical trials and a comprehensive listing of new trials; and a Newsfeed

*"If I could sum up my treatment it would be about change and flexibility, yet I am always searching for answers with new science."*

— Let's Win Co-Founder Anne Glauber, as quoted in the Huffington Post

section, which contains an up-to-the-minute newsfeed of the latest articles and abstracts related to pancreatic cancer from medical and scientific journals.

Let's Win was founded by Anne Glauber, a seasoned communications professional, pancreatic cancer patient, advocate and member of The Lustgarten Foundation's Board of Directors. Co-founders are Willa Shalit, a communications and digital marketing executive, and Allyson Ocean, M.D., attending physician in the Gastrointestinal Oncology Solid Tumor Division, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and the scientific advisor for Let's Win. Cindy Price Gavin, a nonprofit and financial services professional, serves as Founding Executive Director. The Lustgarten Foundation's President and CEO, Kerri Kaplan, was instrumental in the creation of Let's Win as well. Let's Win also has a Scientific Advisory Board comprised of esteemed pancreatic cancer physicians and researchers. For more information and to share your story, if applicable, please visit [www.letswinpc.org](http://www.letswinpc.org).

### Follow us on Facebook

([www.facebook.com/letswinpc](http://www.facebook.com/letswinpc)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/letswinpc>):

Join a community of patients and loved ones dedicated to surviving – and thriving – despite a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

Here's what some of our followers have said:

- "Keep fighting the good fight!"
- "This news is definitely what we fighters/survivors need to help to keep going! Thank you for sharing so we all have hope to beat this!"
- "This information could save my life."

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# President's Message



As the season changes to fall, we begin our busiest time of year at the Foundation. We are holding walks nearly every weekend, we are preparing for our Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and our annual scientific conference with our *Distinguished Scholars*, other Lustgarten-funded researchers and esteemed Scientific Advisory Board, and we will soon embark on a major fundraising initiative. The common thread throughout these activities is that all of them, directly or indirectly, support our mission to raise awareness and urgently-needed funding for pancreatic cancer research – research that is helping us change the odds in the fight against this disease and increase the number of survivors.

In our cover story, we introduce you to Let's Win ([letswinpc.org](http://letswinpc.org)), an initiative supported by The Lustgarten Foundation and co-founded by Board member and pancreatic cancer patient Anne Glauber. Let's Win is an online community for sharing new, innovative science-driven treatments for pancreatic cancer and learning about the newest research, breakthroughs, and clinical trials. We encourage you to visit the site and if applicable share your treatment story with other patients who could benefit.

As part of our ongoing commitment to research, this issue profiles promising studies we are funding, including a clinical trial using an immunotherapy treatment that has shown significant results in patients who have a specific mutation. We also highlight research from The Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Cancer Research Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory demonstrating that reducing levels of antioxidants in pancreatic cancer cells can help kill them. Our Research Spotlight offers key findings from innovative research that was recently presented at the American Association for Cancer Research's pancreatic cancer conference. The Lustgarten Foundation was the lead sponsor of this event.

To complement our research, we also feature the inspirational stories of Jeffrey Ross and Nancy Borowick, who both lost their fathers to pancreatic cancer, in our Donor and Caregiver Spotlights. Jeffrey and his three brothers participate annually in our New York City Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk as the Ross Brothers Team to honor their father's memory. Nancy, an accomplished photographer, provides her unique perspective on caring for her parents during their simultaneous cancer battles and chronicling their journey through photography.

Additionally, our events and walks program continues to grow, with seven new walks added this year alone, 300 local fundraisers, and several large-scale fundraisers, all to pursue our mission of advancing research towards a cure. We invite you to join us, or consider starting an event or a walk in your area.

**We also encourage you to join us for World Pancreatic Cancer Day on November 17th and wear purple to honor our fight against the disease and celebrate our research progress.**

As we look ahead to the upcoming holiday season, we are pleased to share the good news that following the sale of Cablevision in June, the Foundation received additional private funding to cover all of our administrative expenses, so that 100 percent of every dollar donated to the Foundation will continue to go directly to pancreatic cancer research. We hope you will consider supporting The Lustgarten Foundation so we can continue our momentum and fund even more groundbreaking research. As always, we thank you for your ongoing support. By joining the fight, you are helping to find a cure.

Warm Regards,

Kerri Kaplan  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**Tyler Jacks, Ph.D.**  
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*The Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic  
Cancer Research Laboratory at  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*

**Bert Vogelstein, M.D.**  
*The Johns Hopkins University  
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# Events In Westchester County, NY Honor Loved Ones And Raise Nearly \$400,000 In 2016

We are honored to have worked with so many dedicated families, all as committed to our ultimate goal of finding a cure for pancreatic cancer as we are. These families organized large-scale fundraisers earlier this year, with proceeds going to support the Foundation's significant research efforts, in honor of loved ones who are currently fighting pancreatic cancer, and in memory of family members who have passed away from the disease. We are incredibly grateful for their efforts.



## Michelle's 50th Birthday Bash

**O**n April 15th, more than 300 family members, friends, and colleagues gathered at Pepe Infiniti in White Plains, New York to celebrate at **Michelle Hirsh's 50th Birthday Bash**, enjoying drinks, dinner and dancing as everyone toasted Michelle's milestone birthday. The Lustgarten Foundation, along with Michelle, her husband Scott and their children Jack and Madison, organized this event to raise awareness and research funding for the Foundation, as Michelle continues her brave fight against pancreatic cancer.

Then on April 17th, Team Ameriprise for Michelle walked in the Westchester



Michelle celebrates her 50th birthday with loved ones, including her Kappa Alpha Theta sorority sisters, pictured above, who traveled from several states to be with her. Photo Credit: Mark Jessamy

awareness and hope, and to show their support to Michelle, who was first diagnosed nearly two years ago. Following this weekend of celebration, Michelle underwent a distal pancreatectomy with NanoKnife® (Irreversible Electroporation – IRE) on April 18th and she continues to beat this disease.

Special thanks to Pepe Infiniti, Ameriprise, all of the generous sponsors, and everyone who celebrated Michelle's birthday and joined us at the Westchester walk!

Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk. These two events raised more than \$234,000. Team Ameriprise for Michelle has raised a cumulative total of \$327,000 since it started in 2015. This year, more than 100 walkers joined the team in solidarity for a day of



Team Ameriprise for Michelle participates in the Westchester walk. Photo Credit: Ben Asen

## Race 4 A Cure

**T**he 2nd annual Race 4 A Cure was held on February 26th at Grand Prix New York, a family and corporate



Committee members honor their loved ones by organizing Race 4 A Cure. Photo Credit: Ben Asen

entertainment complex in Mount Kisco, New York. The event raised more than \$160,000 for The Lustgarten Foundation's research on early detection and new treatments.

The event was organized by several families from Westchester County, New York and Fairfield County, Connecticut who have been personally impacted by pancreatic cancer and whose vision was to honor their loved ones by raising awareness and funding for this devastating disease. The event's family-driven format brought together more than 500 children, teens and adults in the shared mission of finding a cure. With entertainment and music provided by Total Entertainment, indoor go kart racing, bowling, a bounce house, an arcade, and a varied menu provided by top-rated local restaurants, it was a fun-filled, memorable night for all. Attendees also enjoyed a silent auction featuring prizes including vacation packages, sports memorabilia and tickets, gift cards from



Guests enjoy a varied menu, compliments of famed local eateries Restaurant North and Kira Sushi. Photo Credit: Ben Asen

acclaimed restaurants, and show tickets and entertainment.

The first and second annual Race 4 A Cure events have cumulatively raised more than \$300,000 for cutting-edge pancreatic cancer research that will help to accelerate our path towards a cure.

Thank you to the committee members, sponsors, Grand Prix New York, and all of the participants who made this event such an incredible success!

# Research Spotlight:

## Dear Friends,

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), dedicated to preventing and curing cancer through research, education, communication, and collaboration, held a special conference, entitled "Pancreatic Cancer: Advances in Science and Clinical Care" this spring. The Lustgarten Foundation was the lead sponsor of this event. Leading pancreatic cancer researchers convened to discuss the latest developments, ground-breaking research, and new treatment approaches.

Below are presentation highlights from some of the most innovative studies currently underway:



*David Tuveson, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director of Research,  
The Lustgarten Foundation*

*Director of The Lustgarten  
Foundation Pancreatic Cancer  
Research Laboratory at  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*

*Professor and Deputy Director  
of the Cancer Center at  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*



*Dr. Eileen O'Reilly,  
Memorial Sloan  
Kettering Cancer  
Center*

### **Biomarker selected therapy for pancreas ductal adenocarcinoma: An emerging reality?**

*Eileen M. O'Reilly, M.D.*

*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY*

Dr. O'Reilly's keynote address focused on effective treatments for pancreatic cancer patients with the BRCA gene mutation, and other mutations in DNA Damage Repair (DDR) pathway genes, as well as the successful MSK-IMPACT (Integrated Molecular Profiling Actionable Cancer Targets) genetic sequencing program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The MSK-IMPACT program found that the Ashkenazi Jewish population had double the risk of having a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation over the general population and that everyone of this heritage should speak with their physician to determine if they should be tested for the BRCA mutation. Those who test positive for the BRCA mutation should be monitored for pancreatic cancer development over time. Genetic sequencing with the MSK-IMPACT program can be done in a 3-6 week timeframe, which is crucial for identifying the best treatment options for this patient population.

Dr. O'Reilly also discussed several studies using PARP inhibitors combined with a platinum-based therapy in patients with a BRCA mutation. PARP inhibitors are a type of treatment that holds promise for treating BRCA-related cancers. These important clinical trials are being funded by The Lustgarten Foundation, and it is possible that they will result in a new and effective standard of care for this patient population.

### **Biological Drivers of Pancreatic Cancer**

*Dafna Bar-Sagi, Ph.D.*

*New York University Langone Medical Center,  
New York, NY*

For the first time, researchers used mouse models to confirm the observation that tumors in the head of the pancreas indicate a poorer survival outcome than tumors in the tail of the pancreas. Dr. Bar-Sagi found that there were more aggressive, precancerous lesions in the head as compared to the tail of the pancreas, which could contribute to the poorer survival outcome.



*Researchers convene at the AACR's special meeting on pancreatic cancer. Photos Courtesy of Willa Shalit*

### **Identification of Familial Pancreatic Cancer Susceptibility Genes**

*Nicholas J. Roberts, Ph.D.*

*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD*

Dr. Roberts presented his research on familial pancreatic cancer, recently published in *Cancer Discovery* and funded by The Lustgarten Foundation. Researchers found that the genetics of familial pancreatic cancer is "heterogeneous," or very different from family to family. They confirmed the previously identified familial pancreatic cancer genes, like BRCA and CDKN2A, but also identified new candidates, such as APC, BUB1B, CP1, FACC and FANCG. Dr. Roberts believes, however, that there are still undiscovered pancreatic cancer susceptibility genes that could be driving this disease in families.

### **Reprogramming the Tumor Microenvironment to Improve Responses to Immunotherapy**

*David G. DeNardo, Ph.D.*

*Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO*

Dr. DeNardo's research demonstrated that in mice, inhibiting a protein called FAK makes the cancer-killing ability of both chemotherapy and immunotherapy more effective. FAK inhibition caused cancer-killing immune cells to be recruited into the tumor, which resulted in more cancer cell death and extended the survival of the mice. Dr. DeNardo's preclinical studies have led to clinical trials at Washington University to determine its effectiveness in pancreatic cancer patients. The Lustgarten Foundation has funded other successful preclinical research projects performed by Dr. DeNardo's team.

All of these promising findings give us the impetus to continue conducting innovative research that will move us towards earlier prevention and a cure. We look forward to updating you on additional research advancements that will impact the pancreatic cancer landscape.

Sincerely,

David Tuveson, M.D., Ph.D.

Director of Research, The Lustgarten Foundation

# Donor Spotlight:

## Jeffrey Ross

In 2012, Dr. William ("Bill") Allan Ross, a Long Island internist, was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, linked to an inherited BRCA gene mutation.

The diagnosis was especially devastating for his family, as he was typically the person treating and healing others, "a skilled and beloved physician, an unparalleled diagnostician with a caring bedside manner -- a doctor's



*Dr. William Ross*

doctor," as those who knew and loved him often described him.

After Bill was diagnosed, his oldest son Jeffrey was speaking with a colleague whose grandmother had died of pancreatic cancer, and she suggested that Jeffrey and his family get involved with The Lustgarten Foundation's efforts to fundraise for pancreatic cancer research. In 2013, while their father was undergoing chemotherapy, Jeffrey and his brothers Raymond, Michael, and Daniel, along with their mom Cheryl, close friends, and extended family, formed the Ross Brothers Team. They participated in The Lustgarten Foundation's New York City Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk,

raising over \$32,300 for research. While Bill watched his family and friends walk in his honor, he was humbled by their commitment to finding a cure for a cancer with few treatment options and such a low survival rate.

After courageously fighting the disease for over a year, Bill passed away on December 30, 2013, when he was just 65 years old. Jeffrey remembers his father as a "great physician and a unique individual who saved a lot of lives. He was taken from us way too soon." Jeffrey and his brothers now participate in the New York City

Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk as an annual tradition and as an impactful way to commemorate their father's life

and legacy. Over the past four years, the Ross Brothers Team has raised more than \$164,400 for The Lustgarten Foundation's research efforts, including more than \$38,000 as the first place team in 2016.

"The fact that The Lustgarten Foundation ensures that all of the money raised goes to research makes the walk something that my family and I want to be a part of every year," said Jeffrey. He feels that there haven't been enough meaningful advances in pancreatic cancer treatments like there have been for other cancers, and he's hoping that raising money through this walk will change that. "If we could save one life, it would all be worth it. Sometimes it takes an unfortunate event like the death of a loved one to make a positive impact."

For more information on how to participate in a walk near you, please visit [www.lustgarten.org](http://www.lustgarten.org).



*Photo Credit: Ben Asen*

## SUPPORT THE LUSTGARTEN FOUNDATION'S YEAR-END CAMPAIGN

As we approach the season of giving and gratitude, The Lustgarten Foundation will be launching our year-end campaign, and we encourage you to make your tax deductible contribution by December 31st. You can give with confidence, as thanks to private funding, 100 percent of every dollar donated to The Lustgarten Foundation goes directly to pancreatic cancer research.

As part of our year-end campaign, we invite you to pledge your support on Tuesday, November 29th for Giving Tuesday, and help guarantee that research leading

to potential scientific breakthroughs, in areas including early detection, new treatments and personalized medicine, will be possible. You will also have the opportunity to double your donation by having your gift matched dollar for dollar, ensuring that your support for pancreatic cancer research will go twice as far.

Please visit [www.lustgarten.org](http://www.lustgarten.org) starting in October for more information and to make your tax deductible donation to support the Foundation's research initiatives.

# RESEARCH ROUNDUP

## IMMUNOTHERAPY CLINICAL TRIAL AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS

The Lustgarten Foundation is funding multiple clinical trials, including a clinical trial being conducted by one of our *Distinguished Scholars*, Dr. Bert Vogelstein, and his colleagues at Johns Hopkins University Kimmel Cancer Center.

Dr. Vogelstein's clinical trial will test the effectiveness of Merck's Pembrolizumab\* immunotherapy drug in patients whose tumors have a unique mutation. This mutation can only be identified through testing of tumor tissue for a characteristic genetic signature called "MSI" (microsatellite instability), found in approximately 2 percent of pancreatic cancer patients. ***Some patients whose tumors have this unique genetic signature have had significant responses to Pembrolizumab, even when other forms of therapy have not been effective.***

The Lustgarten Foundation will pay for this testing and encourages patients interested in this clinical trial to speak with their physicians about having their tumors tested for MSI by ProPath.

***Patients who test positive and whose disease is resistant to other therapies are likely to be eligible for a clinical trial at Johns Hopkins using Pembrolizumab.***

Patients will receive treatment and clinical care free of charge. However, patients may incur other costs.

Initial responses to Pembrolizumab have been extremely positive. In 2014, 52-year-old engineer David Blevins was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that had metastasized to his liver, and he underwent a year of debilitating chemotherapy treatment. He researched clinical trials and was encouraged by an oncologist at Johns Hopkins University to have his tumor tested for the MSI mutation. After testing positive, he became the first patient enrolled in a clinical trial sponsored by The Lustgarten

Foundation using Pembrolizumab. Now, after 37 treatments over 16 1/2 months (as of August), David is doing well. He is working again, experiencing minimal,

manageable side effects and is fully engaged in his active family life with his wife and four children. At his scan in July, there was no evidence of any more liver metastases. "Pembrolizumab has given me a second chance on life, and I encourage all pancreatic cancer patients to get tested for this mutation, because this medication could be what changes their lives as well," said David.

*\*Note: Pembrolizumab is not yet FDA approved for the treatment of mismatch repair deficient pancreatic cancers. This trial may be limited; availability is on a first-come, first-served basis.*

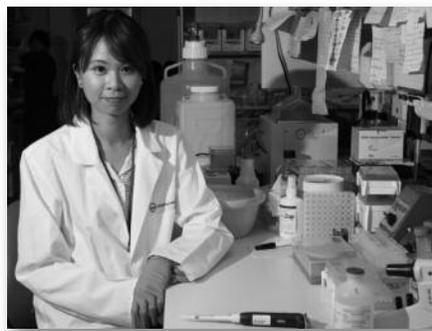


David Blevins enjoys a recent vacation in Colorado.

## PROMISING RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN LEADING JOURNAL

The July 28th issue of the prestigious journal *Cell* featured a study conducted by *IoK In* Christine Chio, Ph.D., at The Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Cancer Research Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, demonstrating that reducing levels of antioxidants in pancreatic cancer cells can help kill them.

Because cancer cells are highly active and metabolic, they produce an abundance of free radicals that "poison" the cell that, when it reaches dangerously high levels, could eventually lead to the cell's death. As a way to evade its death, the cancer cell increases the amount of antioxidants to remove the poison. Dr. Chio discovered that KRas, which is mutated in greater than 90 percent of pancreatic cancers, cleverly increases the amount of Nrf2, a powerful



Dr. IoK In Christine Chio  
Photo Credit: Ed Betz

protein that raises the levels of antioxidants and controls many pro-survival signaling pathways in the cell so it can continue to thrive. Dr. Chio and her colleagues were able to investigate the consequences of removing Nrf2 in pancreatic cancer organoids, which are three-dimensional reproductions of a pancreas tumor. She found that the lack of Nrf2 crippled the cancer cells, but not the healthy cells, leaving them vulnerable to cell death by treatment

with existing chemotherapies, most significantly a drug that targets the AKT signaling pathway. ***These results demonstrate a biological phenomenon called "synthetic lethality," where reducing antioxidants would only be impacted in precancerous and malignant cells, not healthy cells, which offers a potentially powerful therapeutic opportunity.***

These findings come as a surprise to most, as for years, people have been told that antioxidants help prevent or kill cancer. However, unfortunately, this cancer-protective claim has been made without much supporting evidence. Because of revealing results like these, there have been greater efforts to better understand the role of antioxidants in cancer, and how antioxidants can be used as a therapeutic strategy to kill pancreatic cancer cells. Dr. Chio is continuing her research and is now attempting to optimize the killing power of inhibiting Nrf2 in pancreatic cancer cells.

## Caregiver Spotlight:

# Nancy Borowick



*The Borowicks pose for a family portrait when Nancy and her siblings were children.*

*“So my philosophy of life is that it's a gift, and any amount of years is a gift. Nobody promised me longevity. Nobody promised me success. Nobody promised me love. Nobody promised me healthy kids. Nobody promised me good friends. Nobody promised me a great career. And yet, I've had all those. So, I'm way ahead in the balloting and in accounting. I have no regrets because, without any guarantees of those things, I've been able to achieve them and I've been blessed with them for a long, long time.”*  
— *Howie Borowick*



*Nancy's parents underwent cancer treatment side by side.*

**M**y father Howie knew time was limited, even before he received his diagnosis of Stage 4 pancreatic cancer in December of 2012. Both of his parents died of cancer before he reached 16 years old and he figured that he would follow suit, so when each big birthday of 20, 30, 40 and 50 came around, he celebrated like there might not be another one. Even with knowing this, the news of his diagnosis came to us as a complete shock because our whole lives, he was the healthy one and it was our mom, Laurel, who had been sick with breast cancer on and off for 18 years. So here we were, both parents in treatment for Stage 4 cancer at the same time. I am not going to lie, there were many days I looked to the sky and cursed the universe for putting us in this position. I thought my parents would be around forever — for the weddings, the grandchildren, the milestones I don't even know about yet but here my brother, sister and I were, faced with a reality that we were losing both of our parents sooner than expected.

I made the fatal mistake of Googling pancreatic cancer the second I got home from hearing about his diagnosis. I was overwhelmed with the information, the realities and the lack of development in cures that appeared on my screen, but I also learned about the amazing work and progress The Lustgarten Foundation was making in understanding the disease. I learned that my dad had a battle ahead of him, one he faced with strength, courage, and his signature sense of humor. I made sure I spent as much time with my dad as I could, asking him questions and recording our conversations because I knew I would forget the meat of them in time.

As a photographer, and their daughter, I needed to find a way to process what we were going through as a family and naturally my camera became that therapeutic tool. Photography allowed me to put this situation into a context through which I could better understand it and my lens allowed me a safe distance from the reality of what was unfolding in front of me — I was losing my parents and there was nothing I could do about it. In a world that felt like it was spiraling downward fast, my camera became my lifeline and while I had no medical expertise, documenting our story brought a different kind of healing to our pain.

Here is when they taught us a lesson in courage. Rather than wallowing in their own sadness and grief, they chose to spend their final months living life. Yes, there was chemo, but there were also family dinners, late night movies, spontaneous vacations, and fireside chats. And I photographed this. I captured every moment because I needed to hold on to each memory, each frame. I wanted to hold onto the essence of who my parents were and who my family was, before the moments passed and they were gone.

Death may be a universal human experience, but every family experiences it so differently. There is no cookie-cutter way of dealing with death. Fortunately, my family never quite fit the mold. A spoonful of Fluff to help the chemo pills go down? Mom certainly thought so. Swapping out a traditional Jewish shroud for his favorite Lawrence Taylor Giants Jersey for his burial clothing? Dad pretty much demanded it. And along that same rhythm, there I was, camera in hand, photographing both of their funerals. When the time came to bury Dad, and Mom 364 days later, almost everything had already been taken care of because my parents wanted to talk about their deaths, a conversation many actively try to avoid. Even though I only had 28 years with my dad and 29 with my mom, I feel like I won the lottery.

*After Howie passed away, Nancy started a team called “Howie's Homies” and participated in The Lustgarten Foundation Westchester Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk, raising nearly \$21,000 for the Foundation's efforts and honoring her father's life and legacy.*

To see photographs from Nancy's project, *Cancer Family*, and to learn more about the upcoming book on the work, please visit [www.nancyborowick.com](http://www.nancyborowick.com) or send an email to [nb@nancyborowick.com](mailto:nb@nancyborowick.com).

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## FUNDING RESEARCH

### NEW RESEARCH INVESTIGATOR GRANT AWARDED



Dr. Vander Heiden  
Photo Credit: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Lustgarten Foundation has awarded Matthew Vander Heiden, M.D., Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, with a three-year grant for his research, "Understanding the metabolic interplay between tumor and host in pancreatic cancer," to study how a person's metabolism contributes to pancreatic cancer. Changes in how nutrients are metabolized, or broken down for energy, contribute to both the development and progression of pancreatic cancer, but the complicated relationship between the cancer itself and a person's body is not well understood.

In previous work, Dr. Vander Heiden has shown that the breakdown of muscle tissue, which is a common occurrence for pancreatic cancer patients, takes place early in their disease, and now he wants to know why. Through a previous project funded by The Lustgarten Foundation, Dr. Vander Heiden found that the muscle breakdown releases branched chain amino acids (BCAAs) and he will test how these BCAAs affect the growth of the tumor and the person's whole body metabolism. The primary goal of his work is to identify new targets for new therapies to stop the growth of the cancer, and also to treat the effects of the disease that impact the use of existing therapies.

### THE LUSTGARTEN FOUNDATION ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

From November 1-3, researchers funded by The Lustgarten Foundation, as well as our Scientific Advisory Board members, will gather for the Foundation's annual scientific meeting at the Banbury Center, on the grounds of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Long Island, New York. The researchers will have the opportunity to share in-depth updates on their projects, collaborate, and discuss new directions for moving pancreatic cancer treatment forward. Additionally, in conjunction with Stand Up To Cancer, the Foundation is sponsoring a Vitamin D Summit during this meeting to discuss the clinical potential of synthetic Vitamin D for pancreatic cancer patients and to establish a task force to facilitate collaboration and accelerate progress, given the early promising findings. We look forward to sharing the researchers' updates with you in our next issue of *Progress & Promise*.

## RAISING AWARENESS

### PAINT THE WORLD PURPLE: SUPPORT WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER DAY!

2016 WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER DAY

Mark your calendars for World Pancreatic Cancer Day on Thursday, November 17th, celebrated as part of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month! Communities around the world will unite to draw attention to the need for increased awareness, research, and funding for pancreatic cancer.

The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition, comprised of more than 40 organizations from over 20 countries worldwide, including The Lustgarten Foundation, is sponsoring activities in honor of World Pancreatic Cancer Day around the theme of being "In It Together." Show your support by getting "together" – hug, hold hands, high-five, or stand together – and share your photos on social media. Join an online community of people who want to change the outcome for those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Follow @WorldPancreatic and #InItTogether on social media and visit [www.worldpancreaticcancerday.org](http://www.worldpancreaticcancerday.org) for the latest updates and information on how to show your support and get involved. Join us in wearing purple on November 17th to help raise awareness and demonstrate your commitment to fighting against this disease and offering hope for patients and their loved ones!

### STAND UP TO CANCER 5th BIENNIAL TELECAST



On Friday, September 9th, millions of people across the United States and Canada joined in watching the 2016 Stand Up To Cancer live telecast, during which The Lustgarten Foundation was recognized as one of SU2C's major supporters. Celebrities including Bradley Cooper, Ben Affleck, Emma Stone, Ken Jeong, Celine Dion, Viola Davis and Kristen Wiig participated, and the telecast raised substantial funding for collaborative cancer research. The Lustgarten Foundation is a long-term collaborator with Stand Up To Cancer, working on four pancreatic cancer research teams designed to attack the disease using novel approaches to treatment. We were honored to be a part of this telecast, and we invite you to join the continuing conversation on social media at #Reasons2StandUp.

# EVENTS UNITED BY A SHARED PURPOSE: COMMEMORATE LOVED ONES & EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITIES ABOUT PANCREATIC CANCER

## THE FIRST ANNUAL RICHARD & JONATHAN LEWIS MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

On June 27th, nearly 200 people attended the first annual Richard & Jonathan Lewis Memorial Tournament on what would have been Jonathan's 40th birthday. Jonathan, a CFO at Clearwater Capital, passed away last year from pancreatic cancer, leaving behind his wife, young daughter, mother and sister. He died just 18 months after his father Richard also succumbed to cancer. Lenore Lewis, Richard's wife and Jonathan's mother, created this event to commemorate their lives and preserve their legacies. She also founded this annual event as part of her vow to her son to help ensure that pancreatic cancer stops tearing apart other families. Co-chaired by Larry Fox, all proceeds from this memorial tournament - amounting to more than \$150,000 - benefitted The Lustgarten Foundation's innovative research programs. The event, held at Glen Head Country Club on Long Island, New York, featured golf, tennis, card games, an auction with sought-after prizes, and a cocktail reception to honor Richard and Jonathan.



*Lenore, granddaughter Maya, daughter-in-law Julie, and daughter Stephanie honor Richard and Jonathan. Photo Credit: K Stanley Photography*



*Sam Hitch  
Photo Courtesy of the Hitch Family*

## A CROSS COUNTRY JOURNEY FOR PANCREATIC CANCER

Sam Hitch, a 2016 graduate of the University of Virginia, embarked on a cross country triathlon, swimming, biking and running from Yorktown, Virginia to San Francisco, California this summer to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer and funding for The Lustgarten Foundation's research initiatives. Sam was motivated to complete this triathlon in honor of several of his close friends whose families have been affected by pancreatic cancer. Sam combined his passions for exercise, travel, and fundraising by swimming 105 miles, biking 3,030 miles and running 771 miles across the country. With the encouragement of his family, friends, and other supporters along the way, Sam completed this incredible feat in just 50 days and finished by crossing the Golden Gate Bridge and diving into the Pacific Ocean. Through his journey, he raised more than \$34,000 and inspired people with his energy, dedication and focus on accomplishing his goal of fighting pancreatic cancer.

## JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY #PANCCHATS!

Join The Lustgarten Foundation (@LFPancreaticCan), Let's WinPC (@letswinpc), Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (@PanCan), and Allyson Ocean, MD, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center (@drallysonocan), for our upcoming Twitter chats. We hope you will be part of the conversation about topics related to pancreatic cancer.

**Upcoming #PancChats will cover:**  
**"Why People Aren't Getting Treated for Pancreatic Cancer"**

**(September 27, 2016, 8 pm ET)**

This chat will address what we may be able to do to treat pancreatic cancer patients who are not being treated. Guests will include physicians.

**"Who's Treating You When You Have Pancreatic Cancer?"**

**(October 25, 2016, 8 pm ET)**

This chat will provide guidance on how to find specialists and work with other members of the treatment team. Guests will include a patient navigator and a physician.

**"World Pancreatic Cancer Day"**

**(November 17, 2016, 1 pm ET)**

This chat will highlight awareness-building activities taking place in the United States. Guests will include patient groups.

**"Importance of Nutrition in Pancreatic Cancer"**

**(December 20, 2016, 8 pm ET)**

This chat will examine why nutrition can be a challenge for pancreatic cancer patients and will offer suggestions and resources on this topic. Guests will include a registered dietician, physicians and patients.

# Join Us on Our Journey Towards a Cure!

The Lustgarten Foundation is proud to report that more than 300 community events are taking place across the country this year. We are so thankful for our community organizers for planning events that advance our mission of raising awareness and crucial funding for pancreatic cancer research. We are honored to highlight the event organizers featured on this page for spearheading golf outings and restaurant events to benefit our research initiatives.

If you are interested in starting an event in your area, contact Susanne Igneri, Special Events Coordinator, at 516.803.2339 or [signeri@lustgarten.org](mailto:signeri@lustgarten.org). You can also visit [www.lustgarten.org](http://www.lustgarten.org) and view the Events section to find an upcoming event near you. Let's unite to fight pancreatic cancer!

## DELFINA RESTAURANT GROUP



Runners celebrate at the San Francisco Marathon.  
Photo Courtesy of Arielle Chernin

**Delfina Restaurant Group** (San Francisco) participated in the San Francisco Marathon on July 31st in honor of Chris Wright, the former wine director for Delfina Restaurant Group who passed away from pancreatic cancer in March. Chris was described as "a passionate foodie, incredible friend, and heartwarming teacher who would light up any room he walked into." The Delfina Carbloaders Team raised \$1,110 for pancreatic cancer research in Chris' memory.

## TERRY HAGEN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On August 13th, family and friends came together for the 16th annual **Terry Hagen Memorial Golf Tournament** (Ravena, New York) to honor Terry's life and raise money for The Lustgarten Foundation's research initiatives. Terry passed away in 1999 when he was only 54 years old after a year-long struggle with pancreatic cancer. This year's event garnered \$14,000, bringing the total raised since this tournament started to over \$89,000. Terry's sons Travis and Chris organize this event every year in memory of their father. "There's no better way to pay tribute to our father's life than by doing whatever we can to help find a cure for this disease," said Travis and Chris. "We know he would want us to continue this fight for him."



The Hagen family honors Terry's life at this annual golf tournament.  
Photo Courtesy of the Hagen Family



Sean, center, pictured with son Connor and brother Scott  
Photo Courtesy of Sean Gorman

## TOM GORMAN MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

The **14th Annual Tom Gorman Memorial Golf Outing** (Mechanicville, NY) benefiting The Lustgarten Foundation was held on June 2nd and was a tremendous success, thanks to all of the participants, the generous donors and sponsors and the continued support from Rensselaer Honda, the event's organizer. The event included the round of golf, with a hole-in-one contest for a chance to win a new car from Rensselaer Honda, a Beat-the-Local Celebrity Challenge Hole and a putting contest which helped generate additional proceeds for the event. The event garnered a record of \$21,120, bringing the total it has raised since inception to nearly \$200,000. Special guest WNYT Sports Anchor Rodger Wyland once again participated as the local celebrity in the on-course challenge as well as emceed the LIVE auction held at the banquet, which offered great food and incredible raffle and auction prizes. "My family is very fortunate and appreciative to have our father honored through Rensselaer Honda's creation of the Tom Gorman Memorial Golf Outing. Through this event, we are raising both money for and awareness of this devastating disease, allowing us to have a positive impact on the future of pancreatic cancer. We will continue fighting for a cure and will not allow this disease to win," said Sean Gorman, son of Tom Gorman.



Photo Courtesy of Arielle Chernin

## GA MAY

May 2016 marked the 2nd annual **Ga May** (Washington, DC), a month-long celebration of the gamay grape that is used for producing red wine. Proceeds from the sale of gamay wines were donated to The Lustgarten Foundation. This year's Ga May raised \$8,000 for the Foundation, bringing the total raised from this event to more than \$36,000, with every dollar going towards critical research. The event was created by Max Kuller, Executive Wine Director for three restaurants in the Washington, DC area, in honor of his father Mark who passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2014. In 2016, more than 15 restaurants, wine retailers, distributors and vintners participated. "I created this event to bring attention to how devastating pancreatic cancer can be and why more research is so desperately needed," said Kuller.



# COMMUNITIES JOIN TOGETHER IN THEIR DEDICATION TO FIND A CURE

## 2016 WALK LOCATIONS

In 2016, The Lustgarten Foundation's Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk series continued to expand with seven new walks reaching even more communities across the country seeking to raise awareness and funding for research in areas such as early detection, immunology, and new treatments. Through the first half of 2016, we've held 13 walks across 11 states with more than 20 additional walks planned for the second half of the year. Our walk series has garnered more than \$5 million to date – all of which goes to research – and we anticipate raising significantly more funding as the year progresses.



Thank you to our dedicated walk organizers, volunteers, participants, and sponsors whose contributions continue to make our walk series such a tremendous success. For more information and to register, visit [www.lustgarten.org](http://www.lustgarten.org).

We are pleased to highlight on this page three of our new walks this year in **Colorado, Ohio, and Kentucky**.

*Don't see a walk near you? Learn how you can start a walk in your community. Contact Ann Walsh, Director of Events, 516.803.2419 or [awalsh@lustgarten.org](mailto:awalsh@lustgarten.org).*

### COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

The inaugural Colorado Springs Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk attracted nearly 100 participants and garnered more than \$6,100 in donations for research. This walk was organized by Jacque Sanders to commemorate her mother, who passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2015, and was held during Mother's Day weekend as a tribute to her mother's life and legacy. "I started this walk in honor of my mother and in honor of all of the pancreatic cancer patients out there whose futures depend on research to find new treatments for this devastating illness," said Jacque.



*Team Janet Sandeen celebrates at the finish line in Colorado Springs.  
Photo Credit: Organic Light Photography*

### BUTLER COUNTY, OH

More than 100 people participated in the inaugural Butler County Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk, which raised \$10,750 for research. The walk was organized by Brandy Turco, who lost cousins in 2012 and 2014 to pancreatic cancer. Brandy's family was further affected by this devastating disease when her uncle, Tim Sams, who was a father figure to Brandy, was diagnosed with Stage 3 pancreatic cancer in 2013. Tim underwent Whipple surgery and chemotherapy, and now, three years later, he is doing well. "I am so excited that I can be part of raising money for this amazing foundation, because as of today, my uncle is considered 'cancer free' and we owe all that blessing to research," said Brandy.



*Team Timmy walks in honor of Tim Sams.  
Photo Courtesy of Brandy Turco*

### LOUISVILLE, KY

More than 250 participants attended the inaugural Louisville Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk, which raised \$29,665 for critical research. The walk was organized by Melissa Oatley, who lost her aunt to Stage 4 pancreatic cancer when she was just 52 years old.



*Members of the Miraculous Meerkats participate at the Louisville walk.  
Photo Courtesy of Melissa Oatley*

Melissa believes that through research, patients can have a fighting chance against this disease. "I know we can help pave the way for research, awareness, prevention, and finally a cure. My Aunt Renee would want us to raise our hearts and toast to life," said Melissa. Congratulations to Melissa for her appearance on WLKY 32, the Louisville-based CBS affiliate, to promote this important event!

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### Social Media:

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and share us with your friends!



[www.facebook.com/curepancreaticcancer](http://www.facebook.com/curepancreaticcancer)  
<http://twitter.com/LFPancreaticCan>  
<http://instagram.com/lustgartenfoundation>

Thanks to private funding, 100 percent of every dollar donated to The Lustgarten Foundation goes directly to pancreatic cancer research.



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Be sure to check the calendar of events at [www.lustgarten.org](http://www.lustgarten.org) for updates.

## 2016-2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER 2016

- 1 Inaugural Silicon Valley Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Mountain View, CA*
- 1 Hamptons Marathon  
*Southampton, NY*
- 1 New England Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Boston, MA*
- 8 Pound the Pavement for Purple 5K Run/Walk  
*Neptune, NJ*
- 8 Inaugural Newport News Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Newport News, VA*
- 8 Scramble for Shelly  
*Pottstown, PA*
- 9 Long Island Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Wantagh, NY*
- 22 Inaugural Hannibal Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Hannibal, MO*
- 22 Grape Gallop  
*Milford, NJ*
- 22 Dutchess County Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Poughkeepsie, NY*
- 26 Big Apple Cares Supports The Lustgarten Foundation Casino Night  
*New York, NY*

### NOVEMBER 2016

- 6 Denver Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Denver, CO*
- 6 Greater Philadelphia Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Pennsauken, NJ*
- 6 Purple Pucks for Pancreatic Cancer Research  
*Stoughton, MA*
- 17 World Pancreatic Cancer Day
- 19 Inaugural El Paso Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*El Paso, TX*

### DECEMBER 2016

- 1-4 Champions for Charity  
*Manhasset, NY*
- 3 San Francisco Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*San Francisco, CA*
- TBD Holiday Rock & Roll Bash  
*New York, NY*

### FEBRUARY 2017

- 4 Green Valley Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Green Valley, AZ*
- 18 Southwest Florida Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Fort Myers, FL*
- 18 Westlake Village Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Westlake Village, CA*

### MARCH 2017

- 4 Inaugural Tampa Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Tampa, FL*
- 19 Valley of the Sun Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Phoenix, AZ*

### MAY 2017

- 20 Butler County Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Butler County, OH*
- 20 Monmouth County Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk  
*Monmouth, NJ*

New Location