

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network



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Mission

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is a nationwide network of people dedicated to working together to advance research, support patients, and create hope for those affected by pancreatic cancer. The organization's goal is to double pancreatic cancer survival by 2020.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network seeks to realize the following vision:

- Early detection tools and effective treatment options for pancreatic cancer will exist and be accessible.
- The organization will raise awareness of pancreatic cancer clinical trials among both patients and healthcare practitioners.
- Policymakers will recognize pancreatic cancer as a national and urgent health priority and will provide sufficient and sustained federal funding for research.
- A robust, collaborative pancreatic cancer research community will flourish and will support the training of new investigators.
- The public will understand the function of the pancreas and the symptoms associated with pancreatic cancer as well as join the national effort to increase awareness, raise funds, and advocate in the fight against pancreatic cancer in communities across the country.
- Corporate partners, cause marketing efforts, and celebrities will raise the visibility of pancreatic cancer and the organization.

Strategy/Approach

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network takes a comprehensive approach to fighting pancreatic cancer. It focuses on the following areas:

- **Research** – Funds a robust research portfolio using a peer-reviewed system to ensure unbiased selection of the projects to support. The goal is to fund promising research, grow the number of researchers directly working on pancreatic cancer, foster collaboration across disciplines and institutions, and act as a facilitator to build and strengthen a Community for Progress to expedite scientific and clinical progress that benefits patients.
- **Advocacy** – Works to educate elected officials about pancreatic cancer and the urgent need to increase federal funding for pancreatic cancer research to advance early detection methods and effective treatment options.
- **Patient Services** – Provides comprehensive disease information free-of-charge to pancreatic cancer patients and their families and caregivers, including

the latest research and treatment options. Maintains a comprehensive database of all pancreatic cancer clinical trials taking place in the United States and recommends that all patients consider clinical trials when exploring treatment options.

- **Community Outreach** – Organizes a network of volunteers across the country who drive the organization's national strategy by hosting local events, raising awareness of the disease and the organization's patient services, gaining media attention for pancreatic cancer, and alerting elected officials about the urgent need for scientific progress in pancreatic cancer research.
- **Donor and Corporate Relations** – Solicits financial support from individuals and corporations to allow the organization to expand the services it provides and advance innovative pancreatic cancer research.

Research Portfolio

From 2003 to 2014, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has awarded almost \$23 million in research funding through 110 research grants.

In 2014, the organization awarded a record \$5.1 million in grants. In addition to research funding, the network offers grant recipients career development opportunities, including mentorship and professional activities. Types of grants include:

- **Research Acceleration Network (RAN) Grant** – given to a team of at least two co-principal investigators from distinct institutions; research includes a clinical component aimed at the organization's goal of doubling pancreatic survival by 2020
 - *\$1 million over one to three years*
- **Clinical Continuation Research Grant** – supports next steps of an ongoing project that is ready to be tested in patients
 - *\$1 million over one to three years*
- **Translational Continuation Research Grant** – supports the next steps of an ongoing project with sufficient scientific foundation to merit preclinical studies, with hopes of translating the laboratory findings into clinical benefit
 - *\$250,000 over three years*
- **Pathway to Leadership Grant** – awarded to highly promising postdoctoral or clinical research fellows to support the mentored research phase, career enrichment activities, and the successful transition to research independence and leadership
 - *\$600,000 over five years*
- **Innovative Grant** – provides seed money for the development of new ideas and innovative models

- \$200,000 over two years
- **Career Development Award** – attracts and supports junior faculty at academic and medical institutions
 - \$200,000 over two years
- **Fellowship Award** – jump-starts the careers of postdoctoral and clinical research fellows
 - \$45,000 for one year

Partnership Practices

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network collaborates with healthcare professionals, associations, and industry to advance its mission through strategic partnerships.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is also a member of the International Cancer Research Partnership, an alliance of cancer organizations working together to enhance global collaboration and strategic coordination of research, and the Health Research Alliance, which fosters collaboration among not-for-profit, nongovernmental funders to support the continuum of health research and training from biomedical science applications that advance health.

In addition, the organization partners with other patient advocacy organizations to share ideas, disseminate information, and collaborate on specific projects. The organization actively participates in several coalitions including One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), Cancer Leadership Council (CLC), and National Coalition of Cancer Research (NCCR). The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network also founded and leads the Deadliest Cancers Coalition, composed of those organizations that represent the deadliest cancers.

The organization also works with many biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, including Genentech, Eli Lilly and Company, Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company, Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Astellas, NewLink, OncoGenex, and Celgene Corporation.

Financials

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The most recent 990 filed is for FY2013.¹

Year ending 6/30/2013:

- Revenue: \$20,049,500
- Assets: \$16,360,398
- Medical research grants: \$5,045,000
- Expenditures: \$19,038,020

Key Accomplishments

- To date, the organization has awarded nearly \$23 million in research grants through a rigorous competitive peer-review process, supporting

promising basic scientific, translational, and clinical projects. In 2013, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network underwent a rigorous research grants program evaluation and found:

- For every \$1 invested by the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network between 2003 and 2011, research grant recipients went on to receive \$9.93 in subsequent funding to support their pancreatic cancer studies.
- The 62 researchers who received grants from 2003 to 2011 authored an impressive 813 papers, with more than 6,200 citations of the papers.
- The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's advocacy efforts have contributed to an increase in National Cancer Institute annual funding for pancreatic cancer research from \$17 million in 1999 to \$104.8 million in 2012, an \$87.5 million increase. In addition, the organization's efforts secured passage of the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act requiring NCI to create a scientific framework for pancreatic cancer.
- The organization's patient services program has served more than 80,000 patients and families since the program launched in 2002.
- Since 2009, more than 270,000 participants have taken part in the organization's signature PurpleStride® and PurpleLight awareness-building and fundraising events.

Leadership

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is governed by a national **Board of Directors**; managed by a strong **Executive Team** based in Los Angeles, California, and Washington, D.C.; advised by a **Scientific and Medical Advisory Board**; and guided by a **Volunteer Advisory Council**.

¹ Information obtained from Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Financial Information, <http://www.pancan.org/section-about/financial-information/>, March 2014. To view the organization's annual report and financials, go to www.pancan.org/impact_2013.