

Rolfe Foundation 2024 Grant Impact

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Rolfe Pancreatic Cancer Foundation's mission is to provide personal support to those affected by pancreatic cancer through tailored resources, connections and education, and funding for early detection research.

Research-Focused Grants

Revealing the Origin of Pancreatic Cancer Metastases

Dr. Parnas's groundbreaking research explores how and when pancreatic cancer cells spread to other organs. By leveraging cutting-edge tools like single-cell RNA and CRISPR screening, his team aims to uncover early detection markers and identify weaknesses in the metastatic process, a critical step in improving patient outcomes.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Oren Parnas, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Digital Tools for Risk Assessment

This project addresses disparities in genetic testing and early cancer detection, particularly among underserved populations, by implementing a patient-directed digital cancer risk tool.

Principal Investigators: Drs. Sonia Kupfer, Christine Drogan, Ophir Gilad, and Emma Keel, University of Chicago Medicine

Biomarker Discovery for Early Detection

This innovative study focuses on identifying lymphatic and interstitial fluid biomarkers, offering a less invasive and more precise pathway to detecting pancreatic cancer at earlier stages.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Alex Muir, University of Chicago Medicine

Lustgarten Foundation

Lustgarten's comprehensive research program focuses on improving patient outcomes. Its programs include early detection and interception, therapeutic development, and personalized medicine, which brings cutting-edge science from the lab to the clinic.

Pancreatic Tissue and Tumor Analysis Projects

Johns Hopkins University (3 projects led by emerging leaders in pathology)

Fibroblast Influence in Tumor

Invasion: Investigating how cells in the tumor environment promote cancer spread using advanced 3-D tissue models.

3-D Study of Liver Metastases:

Dr. Ashley Kiemen's work reconstructs liver metastases in unprecedented detail, revealing patterns of cancer spread and response to treatment.

Fibroblast Characteristics in

ATM-Deficient Cancers: Dr. Nicholas Roberts explores unique tumor environments in genetically predisposed cases, paving the way for personalized therapies.



Support for Partner Organizations

Cancer Wellness Center

Offering vital counseling, support groups, wellness activities, and outreach to patients and families affected by pancreatic cancer.

Wellness House

Providing free, life-changing programs to improve the emotional and physical well-being of cancer patients and their loved ones.