



PANCREATIC
CANCER
CANADA



CANCER
DU PANCRÉAS
CANADA

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

One step closer to early detection of deadliest form of cancer

Cancer Research Society and Pancreatic Cancer Canada join forces with \$120,000 contribution to pursue promising study in Edmonton, Alberta

Ottawa, December 16, 2013 – The Cancer Research Society, in partnership with Pancreatic Cancer Canada (PCC), is awarding \$120,000 to Dr. Michael Sawyer and his team of researchers from the University of Alberta’s Cross Cancer Institute to pursue research on a promising method for detecting pancreatic cancer. The disease is often referred to as a *silent killer* because typically, no symptoms emerge until the cancer is at a very advanced stage and effective treatment options are limited.

Dr. Sawyer’s new study is an important phase of a research project that took shape with significant headway a few months ago; “In 2012, we discovered a distinct chemical marker in the urine of pancreatic cancer patients,” said Dr. Sawyer. “Based on this discovery, this new study will help confirm whether this marker can detect pancreatic cancer within a wider group of people, through a simple urine test. This is significant progress because right now, there are no reliable means, let alone a non-invasive test, to identify this deadly cancer in its early stages,” added Dr. Sawyer.

About 4,700 Canadians are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer every year and the statistics are dismal. Only 15-20% of those afflicted will still be alive after 12 months, and a mere 6% will survive five years after their diagnosis.

Despite significant advances in the treatment of other cancers, pancreatic cancer remains, for the most part, incurable. PCC is committed to advancing pancreatic cancer research while the Cancer Research Society’s funding program is designed to attract scientists with innovative ideas for all cancers. This partnership aims to build a comprehensive research community poised to make significant breakthroughs.

“We hope that this research will translate to novel strategies for early detection of pancreatic cancer in patients in the near future,” stated Betty Aldridge, co-founder and Chair of Pancreatic Cancer Canada. “Research is already underway and all parties involved in this partnership are optimistic, expecting compelling outcomes,” added Ms. Aldridge. Right now, surgery offers the only chance for a cure, but only a small percentage of patients are diagnosed early enough to be eligible.

“Research is the most powerful ammunition in the fight against cancer. We are very excited about the research made possible by our partnership with Pancreatic Cancer Canada, because it will likely contribute to finding new ways to detect pancreatic cancer in the crucial early stages,” stated Mr. Andy Chabot, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cancer Research Society.

About Pancreatic Cancer Canada

The National Pancreatic Cancer Canada Foundation began operating in 2005 as The Dick Aldridge Pancreatic Cancer Foundation. In November 2008, recognizing the need for a national association in Canada, Pancreatic Cancer Canada was launched and is proud to be the only national foundation dedicated to fighting this devastating disease. In June 2010, the foundation name changed to the National Pancreatic Cancer Canada Foundation. To date, the Foundation has donated over \$2 million for research on pancreatic cancer to the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, The Ottawa Hospital, the BC Cancer Agency and the Cancer Research Society in Quebec. For more information on the National Pancreatic Cancer Canada Foundation, visit www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca.

About the Cancer Research Society

The Cancer Research Society is a national not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is to fund research on all types of cancer, thereby contributing to the advancement of science aimed at preventing, detecting, and treating this disease. The Cancer Research Society is devoted to both basic research, which has resulted in several innovative discoveries, as well as environment-cancer, a field in which the Society is considered to have played a pioneering role in Canada. During the past five years, the Cancer Research Society has granted over \$ 41 million to some 283 cancer research projects across the country through diverse fundraising activities. For more information on cancer, on the Cancer Research Society or to support research, visit www.CancerResearchSociety.ca or call 1 888-766-2262.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Stéfanie Roche
Director of Marketing and Communications
Cancer Research Society
sroche@src-crs.ca
514-861-9227

Laurie Ellies
Executive Director
laurieellies@pancancanada.ca
416-919-9943