

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK GROWS BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS**

***Patient-Based Advocacy Organization's Success is Marked by Several Achievements, Including an Innovative Program for Pancreatic Cancer Patients and New Headquarters***

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif. U.S.A. (Aug. 6, 2002)?** The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN), the first national patient-based advocacy organization for the pancreatic cancer community, continues to grow by leaps and bounds, making it one of the most significant not-for-profit organizations for the pancreatic cancer community, which includes patients, family, medical researchers and physicians. Several important milestones consisting of an innovative information program for patients, additional team members, and a move to larger headquarters in El Segundo, Calif. mark PanCAN's growth.

PanCAN represents thousands of pancreatic cancer advocates, patients and families in their joint quest to focus national attention on the need to find a cure for pancreatic cancer. Approximately 30,300 people in the United States will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year. Pancreatic cancer's 99 percent mortality rate is the highest of any cancer, and the average life expectancy after diagnosis with metastatic disease is just three to six months. Pancreatic cancer is the 4th leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. for men and women, and only 4 percent of patients survive beyond five years. Because there is no cure or early detection methods, effective treatment options are extremely limited.

PanCAN founding CEO Paula Kim said, "PanCAN is pleased with the success of the organization after just three short years. Providing public awareness and professional education on the urgent need for more research, effective treatments, prevention programs, and early detection methods is key in PanCAN's efforts. We look forward to continued development and success of the organization

to meet these important goals. Without the assistance of so many wonderful volunteers and supporters around the world, PanCAN would not have been able to achieve so much. ”

### **Milestones:**

**PanCAN's Patient and Liaison Services (PALS):** Offers an innovative and comprehensive program for pancreatic cancer patients, their families and health professionals that integrates the clinical trial process into extensive patient information and guidance from PanCAN's PALS Associates.

PanCAN's new PALS program assists patients and caregivers in learning about and understanding their options so that they can discuss them with their medical care team and loved ones. PALS Associates are available now to assist patients on a one-on-one basis Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. PST. The PALS program is offered at no cost to callers, and is made possible through the generosity of PanCAN supporters. PALS Associates are available toll free at 877-2-PANCAN (877-272-6226), or via e-mail at [medinfo@pancan.org](mailto:medinfo@pancan.org).

**New PanCAN Headquarters – El Segundo, Calif.:** The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has outgrown its original office and moved its headquarters from Torrance to El Segundo, Calif. The new headquarters is a reflection of the positive impact the organization is having on the pancreatic cancer community. The new address is 2221 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 131, El Segundo, CA 90245.

**New Team Members:** In the last two years, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has grown from just one full-time staff member to a team of eight highly skilled professionals to serve the pancreatic cancer community. Since May 2002, three new team members were added, including: Michelle Muething, Director of Patient and Liaison Services (PALS) and Scientific Affairs; Jennifer Holt, Patient and Liaison Services (PALS) Associate; and George Hsing, Manager Information Technology.

### **About PanCAN**

PanCAN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1999 by surviving family members of individuals who died of pancreatic cancer. Chartered as a grassroots organization of advocacy for pancreatic cancer patients and their families, PanCAN currently has volunteers and members throughout the United States and around the world. PanCAN is the first national public benefit advocacy organization for the pancreatic cancer community. The organization works to focus

national attention on the need to find a cure for pancreatic cancer, and provides public and professional education embracing the urgent need for more research, effective treatments, prevention programs and early detection methods. Visit [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org) to obtain more information, e-mail [info@pancan.org](mailto:info@pancan.org), or call 1-877-272-6226.

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