The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PCAN) was founded in 1999 to shine a national spotlight on a disease that affects over 37,000 Americans annually, kills 75% of its victims within one year of diagnosis, has only a five year survival rate of less than 5%, and commands far less attention than cancers of comparable severity. Although it represents the 4th leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, pancreatic cancer receives the least amount of federal research funding of all major cancers and is decades behind other cancers in research discoveries. As a result, little is known about the causes of pancreatic cancer and no effective screening, diagnostic or treatment options exist. Moreover, the incidence of pancreatic cancer has grown. This trend is expected to continue as our population ages and the number of older adults rises. If nothing is done to change this course, just five years from now, an additional 185,850 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and only 10,000 of them will be alive to contribute to their families and society.

Headquartered in El Segundo, CA and with affiliates located throughout the country, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the only national non-profit organization fighting pancreatic cancer with a comprehensive strategy by funding research and providing patient support and advocacy for a cure. The organization raises money for direct private funding of research and urges Members of Congress to recommend more aggressive federal research funding to speed medical breakthroughs in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer.

Grants Program. Our Grants Program is made possible by the generosity of our donors and volunteers. It is designed to stimulate innovative research on pancreatic cancer, foster collaboration across disciplines and institutions, grow the number of scientists working directly on this disease and support their career development. The ultimate goal is to expedite scientific progress and medical breakthroughs to maximize patient benefit.

Grant recipients are selected using a peer-reviewed system administered by the prestigious American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) to ensure that the very best science in the country is funded. Our grants process emphasizes originality and scientific credibility in order to move the field forward. Donors can be assured that they will not be funding duplicate or redundant science because the expert reviewers are well-versed in the current scientific landscape in pancreatic cancer. This system also ensures that the investigator’s proposal is appropriate to their experience level, and that they are in the right scientific environment to contribute to success. The Research Grants Program offers donors the opportunity to make a difference in advancing the state of the science, and with their consent, can be chosen to be recognized by having their name or the name of a designated relative or friend in the grant award title.

Impact to Date. Since 2003, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has awarded 38 grants totaling over $3.7 million to scientists throughout the United States. These grants have jump-started the careers of young scientists in the field of pancreatic cancer research and have provided seed money to both senior and junior investigators to develop innovative models and new ideas that can be leveraged with larger federal grants. Important outcomes include: the development of a mouse model that replicates the human progression of pancreatic cancer that is being used by scientists worldwide to help develop early detection and therapeutic strategies; advances in understanding the biology of pancreatic cancer, specifically the role of cell signaling pathways and their potential therapeutic value; and the development of a patient database that links clinical information so that we can better understand and predict individual risk for pancreatic cancer and how to personalize and optimize treatment.

Our Grants Program includes opportunities to fund the following awards:

**FELLOWSHIP/YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD**

One-year grant totaling up to $50,000 that is awarded to a postdoctoral or clinical research fellow at an academic facility, teaching hospital or research institution who is sponsored by a mentor.

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

Two-year grant totaling $100,000 each that is awarded to junior faculty at academic and medical institutions.

**PILOT GRANT**

Two-year grant totaling $100,000 each to support innovative basic, translational, or clinical research. Particular consideration is given to projects that are non-duplicative with the potential for national application.

For more information about the Grants Program, please contact Rhonda Alzenberg, PhD, Senior Manager of Research/Senior Program Officer, at raizenberg@pancan.org. To fund a grant or learn more about naming opportunities, please contact Pamela Acosta Marquardt, Founder/Director of Donor and Corporate Relations, at 310-725-0205, or pmarquardt@pancan.org.
Thanks to the support of our donors, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has to date distributed six Fellowship/Young Investigator Awards, 23 Career Development Awards, and nine Pilot Grants as presented below.

**2008**

**Samuel Stroum - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Fellowship**
- Kien-Tye Yong, PhD
- State University of New York, Buffalo
- Engineering Multimodal Targeted Probes for Pancreatic Cancer Detection

**Patty Boshell - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Career Development Award**
- Peter Storz, PhD
- Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL
- Kinases Regulating Pancreatic Cancer Resistance to Chemotherapeutics

**Constance Williams - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Career Development Award**
- Marie-Christine Daniel, PhD
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Multifunctional Nanovectors for Pancreatic Cancer Therapy

**Randy Pausch, PhD - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Pilot Grant**
- Nabeel Bardeesy, PhD
- Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston
- Molecular Markers of Drug Sensitivity in Pancreatic Cancer

**Seena Magowitz - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - ACR Career Development Award**
- David W. Dawson, MD, PhD
- University of California, Los Angeles
- Activin Signaling in the Development of Pancreatic Cancer

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Pilot Grant**
- Dafna Bar-Sagi, PhD
- New York University School of Medicine, New York
- Impact of Diet-Induced Hyperlipidemia on Pancreatic Inflammation and Cancer

**Michael C. Sandler - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Pilot Grant**
- Matthias Hebrok, PhD
- University of California, San Francisco
- NF-kB Signaling in Panalitil Formation

**Blum-Kovler - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Career Development Award**
- Joseph Michael Herman, MD
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore
- Evaluation of Focused Radiation to Enhance the Impact of a Pancreatic GM-CSF Vaccine

**Skip Viragh - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - ACR Career Development Award**
- Hyunki Kim, PhD
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham
- MRI to Monitor Early Pancreatic Tumor Response to a Novel Triple Therapy

**Laurie and Paul MacCaskill - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - AACR Career Development Award**
- Lorenzo F. Sampere, PhD
- Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH & Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH
- Role of MicroRNAs in Initiation and Progression of Pancreatic Cancer

**2007**

**Samuel Stroum - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - ACR Career Development Award**
- Hiyuki Kashiwagi, MD
- Washington University, St. Louis, MO
- Targeted Delivery of Pro-Apoptotic Therapeutics in Pancreatic Cancer

**Carole and Bob Daly - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - ACR Career Development Award**
- Martin E. Fernandez-Zapico, MD
- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- Characterization of the Hedgehog Interacting Pathways in Pancreatic Cancer

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Pilot Grant**
- Paul J. Grippo, PhD
- Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
- Evaluating Kras Oncogene Addiction in Pancreatic Precancer and Cancer

**Laurie and Paul MacCaskill - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - ACR Pilot Grant**
- Kimberly Kelly, PhD
- Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, MA
- Molecular Imaging Agents for Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Pilot Grant**
- Sunil R. Hingorani, MD, PhD
- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA
- Activated Kras and Oncogene Dependence in Pancreatic Cancer

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Pilot Grant**
- Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue, MD, PhD
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
- Using a Genomic Scale to Identify the Genes that Play a Role in the Ability of Pancreatic Cancer to Metastasize to Other Organs

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Pilot Grant**
- Priyanka Mukherjee, PhD
- Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, AZ
- Development of Immune-Modulating Therapies Delivered Directly to the Pancreatic Tumor Site

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Pilot Grant**
- Gloria Su, PhD
- Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, NY
- Activin Signaling in the Development of Pancreatic Cancer Precursor Lesions