

The Pancreas Center



Making Strides Against Pancreatic Cancer

Contact us:

The Pancreas Center
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Questions about the program or making a gift:

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To heal is not simply to prescribe,
but it is to understand human
nature, to use compassion, to show
commitment and to remain hopeful.

COMPASSION, COMMITMENT, HOPE

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NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia
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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
College of Physicians
and Surgeons

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Columbia University Medical Center

“There is hope. With your support, we are making important strides in preventing and treating pancreatic cancer.”

— John A. Chabot, MD, Executive Director

Making a Difference:

About the Pancreas Center

Of all types of cancer, pancreatic cancer has the poorest survival rate. It is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States and is frequently detected only in its advanced stages, when it is the most difficult to treat.

By providing outstanding medical care to patients, researching the biology of the disease, providing early screening and detection to high-risk individuals, and educating patients and physicians about ongoing breakthroughs in clinical care, The Pancreas Center aims to reduce the burden of pancreatic cancer both locally and worldwide. Its initiatives are comprehensive and aggressive in their pursuit of better surgical, endoscopic, chemotherapeutic, radiologic, immunologic, and genetic interventions.

Led by **John A. Chabot, MD**, *Executive Director*, the Pancreas Center takes a multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and pancreatic cancer treatment. Fostering close collaboration among our experts in every facet of pancreatic disease, rather than emphasizing physicians' working in isolation, translates into better care for patients. The quality of care at our center is exceptional, evidenced by the high volume of patients seeking our help and our exceptional patient outcomes. While centers performing over 16 pancreatic resections are considered 'high volume,' NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia performed a staggering 324 pancreatic resections (Whipple procedure) and pancreatic surgeries, as well as treated 1,725 patients overall, in 2011. Moreover, our center's mortality rate after resection is less than 1%—well below the national mortality rate after this procedure of 5.3%.



Gifts help to advance laboratory and clinical research, support patients and families, and sponsor educational events and initiatives.

Advancing the Field:

Basic Science and Prevention

Research — The Pancreas Center is conducting some of the most compelling and progressive research in the field of pancreatic cancer. Our award-winning physician-researchers are at the forefront of clinical advances, including the first noninvasive test to detect pancreatic disease, trials of multiple new therapies, and auto-transplantation of pancreatic islet cells.

Fundamental discoveries in the research laboratory make these successes possible. Under the direction of our *Scientific Director*, **Timothy Wang, MD**, our research initiatives cover the spectrum from basic studies of gene function, to pre-clinical and translational studies, to clinical trials. Advances in understanding how pancreatic tumors develop and respond to treatments are rapidly translated from the laboratory to the clinic, directly improving our patient care.

Prevention and Genetics — Experts agree that the best way to improve the outcomes for patients with pancreatic cancer is through early detection. The Pancreas Center has centralized its work in prevention through the formation of the Muzzi Mirza Pancreatic Cancer Prevention & Genetics Program, which is dedicated to the development of early detection strategies and offers one of the most comprehensive screening and detection programs for pancreatic cancer in the nation.

The Muzzi Mirza Center includes a patient-centered clinical practice and a robust research program. Patients who may be at risk for pancreatic cancer—due to personal or family history of cancers and other conditions—receive evaluations that include thorough analysis of family and genetic history, and a personalized surveillance plan.

Your Gift:

Funding What Matters Most

In addition to conducting research, the Pancreas Center addresses all facets of the disease from a population level to the most personal. In a given day, researchers are making breakthroughs in the laboratory, support staff are assisting patients and families at home, faculty from the center are testifying in Congress on behalf of pancreatic research and education, and the team is holding an educational event in the community.

Every day grateful patients, families, friends, and others contribute to the efforts of the Pancreas Center, from small, personal contributions to extensive investments in the center. Donations of every amount are allocated with the utmost care to ensure they are supporting the most promising efforts. Donors may choose to fund a specific area of interest, to honor a family member or physician, or make a general contribution, which is used where most critically needed.

Above and Beyond Patient Care — In addition to taking care of patients within the hospital and clinic, the Pancreas Center prioritizes addressing the other aspects of families' lives that may be affected by pancreatic disease. One of our funds is dedicated toward housing family members accompanying loved ones during pancreas surgery or hospitalization far from their home. Our involvement with and concern for patients, thus, extends beyond the confines of the Center.

How you can help — Please consider making a gift that will support our efforts at the Pancreas Center. Even a small contribution makes an enormous difference in countless lives. All contributions benefit the clinical care and research taking place and support our doctors as we strive to find a cure and provide the very best care to our patients. Your help is crucial to our goal of defeating pancreatic disease.