

# The Palchak Connection

## Hope for a Cure... Begins with Research

✧ Fall 2013 ✧

THE JACQUALYN PALCHAK  
CANCER FUND  
Volume 2 Issue 2



**PCR**  
ONCOLOGY

### Statistics & Information

David Palchak MD

Six of the twelve FDA approvals for new cancer treatments in 2013 were for oral agents. Genetic testing of cancers is permitting us to separate the few patients who benefit from chemotherapy from the majority who do not. As a result only about 10% of breast cancer patients receive chemotherapy at PCR Oncology.

The incidence of cancer peaked at 510 cases per 100,000 people in 1992 and fell to 461 cases per 100,000 people in 2007.

Five year cancer survival was 48.9% for cancer diagnosed in 1975-1977; 66% for those diagnosed 1999-2001; and 68% for cancers diagnosed in 2003-2009.

Hospitalization rates are falling. Five years ago, I usually had one to two patients in the hospital. While the practice is 50% busier now than then, I usually do not have inpatients.

New Affiliation: When we built our research program in 1994, I was fresh from training

and we started our program as affiliates of UC San Diego, where I had trained. Because of distance, it has been difficult to have a close relationship with the university. At the beginning of 2013, the National Cancer Institute asked that affiliates forge closer relationships with their university. In order to comply with this request, we approached UC San Francisco in April, and by June of 2013 became affiliates of UC San Francisco. We made our first trip to the university this month and met six of their faculty and about as many research support staff. We are proud to be affiliates of this great university and look forward to strengthening this relationship.

#### Melanoma:

The research program exists to give patients choices, but the improved cure rates and reductions in hospitalizations described above only happen when people choose to participate in clinical trials that result in progress.

The most successful clinical for accruals this year is E1609, which compares the standard adjuvant treatment for stage III melanoma (alpha interferon) with a new drug (Ipilimumab). We have enrolled three patients on this protocol, including one referred from UCLA because we were the only center in the region to have this protocol open.

### Fundraising Campaign

Our annual community appeal in a Fundraising Letter Campaign starts this month.

Letters will be mailed to homes and businesses detailing the benefits of local cancer research, and gives you the opportunity to financially support the work that we do throughout the year.

Cancer research, with clinical trials, is the biggest cost to our budget, and the most important. These valuable treatment alternatives offer patients choices and options in their cancer treatment that are made available only through human-subjects research.

The JPCF remains committed to supporting the work done by Dr. David Palchak and PCR Oncology. Your financial assistance in a donation will secure and ensure continued research treatment options for local cancer patients and their families.

During this season of thankfulness and giving, we offer our heartfelt thanks for your consideration of support.



### Penny's All-American Café "Steppin' Out for Breast Cancer"

Penny Rodriguez, owner of Penny's All American Café, held her 7th annual benefit on October 12th, "Steppin' Out for Breast Cancer". Penny generously donated all the proceeds raised to the JPCF.

This year's event was held at the Pismo Beach Veterans' Hall with lots of festivities, a BBQ dinner, auction, and music from Steppin' Out and DJ Rawger.

This year's event raised \$13,108, surpassing her previous breast cancer fundraisers. Penny's passion for the cause is evident, "The spirit was so amazing! Everything came together," Rodriguez said, "We just thought we'd do something bigger. I just don't

know how we can top this."

Pictured at this year's event from L-R: Dr. David Palchak, Penny Rodriguez, Dale Rodriguez, & Marie Palchak.



### JPCF's 5th Annual Survivorship Celebration

On September 21st, the JPCF held its 5th Survivorship Celebration to recognize and celebrate those who have fought the battle and survived a cancer diagnosis.

Dr. David Palchak, Medical Oncologist and Clinical Investigator, gave an impassioned and informative presentation on cancer treatments and the progress being made in research.

Cancer survivor Kristin Alexander shared an emotionally touching testimonial of her journey and victory over breast cancer, while four-time cancer survivor Judy Freeman's testimonial imparted a touch of humor.

Thank you to the generosity of our sponsors: PCR Oncology; APIO Inc.; Arroyo



Grande Community Hospital; Dr. Marc Weise; Maurina L. Kusell, DDS; Bringle Integrative Physical Therapy; and EC Loomis and Son. Thanks to our supporters: Arroyo Grande Lions Club; Bill Cockshott & Marilyn Nelson; Rooster Creek Tavern; Saint John's Lutheran Church; Theresa's Sweet Expressions; & Wells Fargo Advisors.



## Co-Authors' Generosity

Local award-winning advertising writer and former newspaperman John Tuzee, along with his wife Diane, a retired elementary school teacher, co-authored the book titled, "Luke and Linda Discover Pismo Beach and California's Central Coast".



A portion of the proceeds from sales of the book go to the JPCF.

The book is available at local businesses, including hotels and restaurants. This is the fifth children's book authored by the couple. The price of the book is \$9.95 and can also be purchased through Dr. Palchak's office or by contacting Marie at 805-710-3113.

## A "Roaring" Fundraiser



For the second year, Rosie Saenz and a group of friends, held a Breast Cancer Fundraiser and donated the proceeds to the Jacquelyn Palchak Cancer Fund.

This year's theme was "The Roaring 20's" with guests dressed in period attire. A wonderful lunch buffet was provided with lots of "pink" treats.

Rosie and company raised \$536. Thank you to Rosie and friends for your efforts!

## DONATE

Donations made to the Jacquelyn Palchak Cancer Fund are not only tax-deductible, but all donated funds remain here locally, benefiting patients in our community.

Your charitable donation will provide cancer treatment options for local patients, preserve cancer research in our local community, while supporting advancements in cancer research.

- Honor or remember a loved one on their birthday or for an anniversary, by making a donation in their name.
- An estate bequest in your will or trust, or a memorial donation, will ensure that our work continues in the future.

### Donations can be made to:

Jacquelyn Palchak Cancer Fund, PO Box 1614  
Pismo Beach, CA 93448 or made on-line at:  
[www.palchakcancerfund.org](http://www.palchakcancerfund.org).

## JPCF Board of Directors

A federally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors:



Marie Palchak, President  
Theresa Schultz, Secretary  
Linda Alvarado, Treasurer  
Bill Cockshott, Member at Large  
Donna Glass, Member at Large

### Contact JPCF

Call Marie Palchak at  
805-710-3113  
PO Box 1614  
Pismo Beach, CA 93448  
[www.palchakcancerfund.org](http://www.palchakcancerfund.org)

If you would prefer receiving this newsletter electronically, please contact us.



## Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival



Every year, the JPCF participates in the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival by sponsoring a game booth for children. Our "Veggies & Fruits Hoops" was a big hit with the kids and parents alike! The game was FREE, and everyone got a fresh juicy apple for playing. This is just one little way we're able to contribute back to the community that we serve.

*Above: (L) Donna Glass, JPCF Board of Directors. Below: Marie Palchak, President*

