

# The Palchak Connection

Hope for a Cure... Begins with Research

\*\*\* Fall 2022 \*\*\*

THE JACQUALYN PALCHAK  
CANCER FUND

Volume 11 Issue 2

## Research Leads to Progress in Medicine

By David Palchak, MD



### Immunotherapy has transformed cancer medicine.

Since the FDA approval of nivolumab and pembrolizumab (the first 2 widely-available PDL1 checkpoint inhibitors) in 2014, about 1/3 of metastatic cancer

patients have benefited from immunotherapy.

### PDL1 agents expose tumors to the immune system, allowing their destruction.

Responses are sometimes dramatic and long-lived. These results have fueled research into the mechanisms of response and resistance to PDL1 agents, which have identified a cell

("stimulatory dendritic cell" or SDC) that is a key determinant of responses to these drugs.

Tumors lacking sufficient numbers of SDCs are less sensitive or resistant to current immunotherapies. N803 is an immunostimulant that indirectly activates SDCs.

S1803 is a clinical trial comparing combined immunotherapy with N803 + pembrolizumab to standard chemotherapy for patients with tumors that have progressed on or after PDL1 therapy.

We are in the progress of screening a patient in this clinical trial. If she is eligible, she would be randomly assigned by the National Cancer Institute to either standard chemotherapy or the combination of N803 and pembrolizumab.

**This is an example of cancer research giving hope to one of our patients, while leading to progress in medicine.**

## Penny's Fall Fundraiser Unstoppable Together

Penny Rodriguez from **Penny's All American Café** in Pismo Beach is once again raising money for breast cancer and donating all proceeds to the Jacquelyn Palchak Cancer Fund. It's her 16th year of giving back!

Penny is selling T-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs and jams. This year's fundraiser includes a Grand Prize \$1,000 gift card for the Vespera Hotel in Pismo Beach.

Penny's campaign will run through December 22<sup>nd</sup> and the lucky winner will be announced on Christmas Day.



Penny's All American Café is a great place to get a fabulous meal while supporting an important and worthy cause! Penny's is located at 1053 Price Street in Pismo Beach.

## Celebrating Cancer Survivors In Person Again!

It was a celebratory time for all in attendance at JPCF's **2022 Cancer Survivor Celebration** held on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Saint John's Church in Arroyo Grande.

JPCF has hosted the luncheon event since 2009 with the generous support of the Arroyo Grande Lions Club. It was great having an in-person celebration again following a break in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

This year featured PCR's David Palchak MD and Kimen Colgan PA (pictured below) who both spoke on the compelling and life sustaining strides being made in cancer research.



Each cancer survivor in attendance received a special "Sunny Days Ahead" gift bag, and support from our sponsors and local businesses (see back page) made for wonderful drawings.

Special thanks to the Arroyo Grande Lions Club and Saint John's Church!



L to R: Lions Club member Daphne Manos and Lions Club President Terry Orton present a generous check to JPCF President Marie Palchak

## JPCF Board of Directors



### JPCF Directors from left to right:

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

## JPCF - Serving our Local Community Since 2003

A federally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization governed Federal Tax I.D. 010730501

PO Box 1614, Pismo Beach, CA 93448  
805-710-3113

[www.PalchakCancerFund.org](http://www.PalchakCancerFund.org)



## Why Support Cancer Research Locally?



JPCF will soon be mailing out our annual appeal letter to more than 1,000 members of the community, requesting support for the cancer research being done locally at PCR Oncology.

PCR's ability to offer clinical trials has an immense impact on local patients, eliminating the need to travel to larger cities, or out of state, for treatment.

Your donations make it possible for PCR to continue working at finding cures for cancer, assuring the preservation of local cancer research and giving cancer patients life sustaining treatment options.

## Brilliant Fall Leaves Display a Symphony of Colors By Marie Palchak



*David and Marie Palchak made a recent trip to New England to take in its brilliant fall foliage.*

Experiencing a true autumn and Mother Nature's burst of vibrant colors has escaped this California girl for most of my life.

Recently, my groom of 39 years and I traveled to the east coast for a "Leaf Peeping" adventure. The trees of Boston, New Hampshire and Maine put on a spectacular show for us. This much-needed getaway brought us moments of peace, calm, joy and pleasure.

This truly is an autumn to remember.



"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

*Albert Camus  
French philosopher*

## Special Thanks to our Survivor Celebration Sponsors & Supporters!



Calvin and Val Van Meter



**kardel**  
INSURANCE  
SERVICES



Nancy  
Bishop



Ivory  
Gallegos

