

# The Palchak Connection

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

✧ Fall 2017 ✧



**PCR**  
ONCOLOGY

I believe the most important advance in the treatment of cancer in the last year is a paradigm shift at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This point is illustrated by a patient currently being seen in our office.

Ms. X was diagnosed with endometrial (uterine) cancer last year. She had surgery, but suffered an early relapse which spread to her adrenal gland. She tried chemotherapy with acceptable side effects but only had a brief response. The genetic profile of her tumor was analyzed and her tumor was found to be prone to make mistakes copying DNA. Based on this genetic trait (and completely independent of the organ of origin) she was able to be treated with pembrolizumab, one of the new immunotherapies. Her tumor is controlled now, about six months after starting pembrolizumab.

Had she been diagnosed with the same

### A Paradigm Shift

by David Palchak, MD

problem a year ago, she would have been unable to be treated with this immunotherapy because until sometime this year, cancer treatments were all approved based on the organ of origin (breast, colon, lung etc.). Since endometrial cancer is not very common, pembrolizumab would not have been approved to treat it.

However, the new paradigm matches treatments with the genetic trait of the cancer that makes them likely to respond. There are only 2 drugs approved in this manner but many are being tested in the MATCH trial (at PCR Oncology), and in other trials around the country.

I'm certain that the next year of FDA approvals will result in more drug approvals based on genetic susceptibility. Research paid for by donations to the Jacquelyn Palchak Cancer Fund (JPCF) permits us to participate in this work, allows us to make cutting edge treatments available locally, and hastens the testing and the approval of these drugs. Thank you for your support!

## JPCF's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Survivor Celebration!

This year's Cancer Survivor Celebration drew more than 100 attendees and was held on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Arroyo Grande.

The program featured presentations from PCR Oncology's Dr. David Palchak and Dr. Erick Hjortsvang. A check was presented to the JPCF from the Arroyo Grande Lions Club and two heartfelt cancer survivor testimonials were given by John Rieckewald and JPCF's very own President, Marie Palchak. (Cont. pg 2: Celebration!)



From L to R: Lions Club Members: Frank Freitas, Terry Orton and Bill Cockshott, JPCF's Marie Palchak & David Palchak, MD

Our deep gratitude to the following businesses and organizations that sponsored and supported this year's event.

#### **SPONSORS**

- Radiology Associates
- Dr. Marc Weise, Orthopedic Surgeon
- Dignity Health
- Broadway Bagel
- One Hour Valley Cleaners
- Maurina L. Kusell, DDS
- Mullahey Ford
- Kardel Insurance Services
- EC Loomis Insurance Associates
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#### **SUPPORTERS:**

- Arroyo Grande Lions Club
- Apio, Inc.
- Saint John's Lutheran Church
- Wells Fargo Advisors
- Cherry Lane Nursery
- Bill Cockshott, Century 21
- Ember Restaurant
- Branch Street Deli
- Rooster Creek Tavern
- Mason Bar and Kitchen



THE JACQUALYN PALCHAK  
**CANCER FUND**

Volume 6 Issue 2

### October's Pink Cheer

#### **Athletes Don Pink for a Cause**

Five Cities Girls Softball league kicked off Breast Cancer Awareness Month by hosting a softball tournament and invited leagues from surrounding areas of the Central Coast including Santa Maria, Orcutt and Lompoc.



The teams brought the spirit of unity and support by dressing in their pink uniforms & hair bows and decorating their dugouts pink. It was a wonderful display of love and a beautiful reminder that together we can make a difference and bring awareness to breast cancer.



Five Cities Girls Softball League is generously donating proceeds from the tournament sales to the JPCF.

Their organization has a spring league and fall league available for girls ages 4-18. Visit their website for more information at [www.5cgs.com](http://www.5cgs.com).

#### **Penny's All American Café**

Every year Penny's in Pismo Beach has supported the JPCF through various breast cancer fundraisers. This year they're selling t-shirts and a few more surprises that involve two Get-Aways! Many thanks for Penny's ongoing support!

#### **Rosie's Breast Cancer Fundraiser**

This year Rosie Saenz is collecting donations from friends and family. We are so grateful for Rosie's efforts every year! (Cont. pg 2: October's Pink Cheer)

**(Cont. pg 1: Celebration!)**

This year's "Celebration" event was filled with special joy and significance. Marie recently completed treatment for Stage II Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer and opened the morning's program dancing to Justin Timberlake's, "Can't Stop The Feeling!" Marie's energy and enthusiasm carried the morning! During her testimonial Marie expressed deep gratitude for her medical team, family, friends and community support.



Each survivor received a special gift with a focus on this year's theme, "Stay Active & Keep Your Mind Sharp", and several prize drawings were presented to the attendees.

Following the program, everyone was treated to a delicious BBQ chicken lunch prepared and served by the Lions Club. Each year the Lions generously provide this wonderful lunch, but this year's \$500.00 donation to the JPCF further confirmed their support of our mission for cancer research.



Local artist Jackie Hertzog even offered her paintings for sale during the event and then donated the proceeds to the JPCF.

Jackie's paintings can also be found displayed at the PCR Oncology medical office.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Annual Celebration event so special!

## PCR Oncology is Moving!

PCR Oncology has had so much recent growth that they have outgrown their current medical office space. Come January 2018, the doctors and staff will be in their new medical facility located at:



**584 Camino Mercado, Arroyo Grande**

This new larger space is easily accessible, has great parking and is a quieter location due to less road noise.

With the move comes the need to update and replace many things like chemotherapy chairs and patient furnishings. With more medical space, several more chemotherapy chairs will be added to accommodate more patients.

JPCF is seeking individuals interested in being a "Chemochair Sponsor" for this medical office undertaking. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made to JPCF with a memo designating it a "Chemochair Sponsor". We appreciate your strong support.

## JPCF Board of Directors

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

### To Contact JPCF

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

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

## Mailbox Letter Appeal

Cancer research in clinical trials is the biggest cost to our budget, and the most important. Many new treatment alternatives offer patients more choices and options previously not available for cancer treatment.

This month we kick off our annual appeal with our Mailbox Letter Appeal. This fundraising campaign is an appeal for donations which provide valuable cancer treatment options for local patients and helps to assure cancer research preservation in our local community. Be sure to check your mailbox for your letter.

Your financial assistance will ensure continued research treatment options for local cancer patients and their families.

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

## JPCF - Serving our Local Community since 2003

A federally recognized 501(c)3  
non-profit organization

Federal Tax I.D. 01-0730501

**(Cont. pg 1: October's Pink Cheer)**

### The Real Estate Book

Sharon Biddle is the publisher and owner of this local monthly real estate publication. During the month of October, Sharon graciously reached out to Realtors and the community to contribute funds to the JPCF on behalf of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Many thanks Sharon!

### LuLaRoe Fashion Line

Kayla Tackett is a local LuLaRoe Fashion Retailer. Last month Kayla held an on-line sale and donated a portion of her sales to JPCF. Special thanks Kayla!