

The Palchak Connection

Hope for a Cure... Begins with Research

Spring 2020

THE JACQUALYN PALCHAK
CANCER FUND
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Coronavirus and the Oncology Office

Cancer patients frequently do not have the option of deferring treatments, so oncology offices have run with little interruption during the Shelter at Home orders.

At press time (end of April) we will have seen more than 1,100 patients since the start of quarantine, which by sheer number has increased our chances of exposure.

However, we take every precautionary measure to make the office safe for staff and patients. COVID tests are done to ensure everyone's safety from the possibility of exposure. N95 masks are worn by staff whenever patients are in the office. We are physically distanced and wash our hands many times throughout the day. In the examination rooms, our protocol is to wash hands 3 times per patient encounter.

Continued on page 2



Research, LungMap Trial by David Palchak, MD

Cancer is an acquired genetic disease caused by mistakes copying genes that regulate cell division.

Over the last few decades, many of the genes that cause cancers have been identified. These genes encode enzymes or hormones that "turn on" cell division or proteins that help cancers evade the immune system.

We have treatments aimed at some of the enzymes, hormones and immune traits that cancers use, but are just starting to learn how to combine them.

The LungMap trial is aimed at individuals with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer receiving a standard treatment. Eligible and interested patients have cancers analyzed to determine the enzymes, hormones and immune traits driving their growth. If their initial treatment becomes ineffective, the NCI chooses a treatment(s) devised for the genetic makeup of their tumor, often combining classes of treatments.

We are screening our first patient for this trial. This patient is very happy to have the treatment option of a non-chemotherapy clinical trial.

Your generous support and the dedication of our staff at PCR Oncology allows local patients to receive truly advanced cancer care.

Fundraising Appreciated!

We would like to recognize and thank Penny Rodriguez of Penny's All American Café and Rosie Saenz, for their annual fundraising efforts benefitting JPCF. These gals have exhibited a tireless commitment in the fight against breast cancer, raising \$8,071 and \$1,465 respectively this year. We are so grateful to Penny and Rosie and to their many donors for their ongoing support of JPCF. Their efforts help us to continue working at finding cancer cures through research. Bravo ladies!



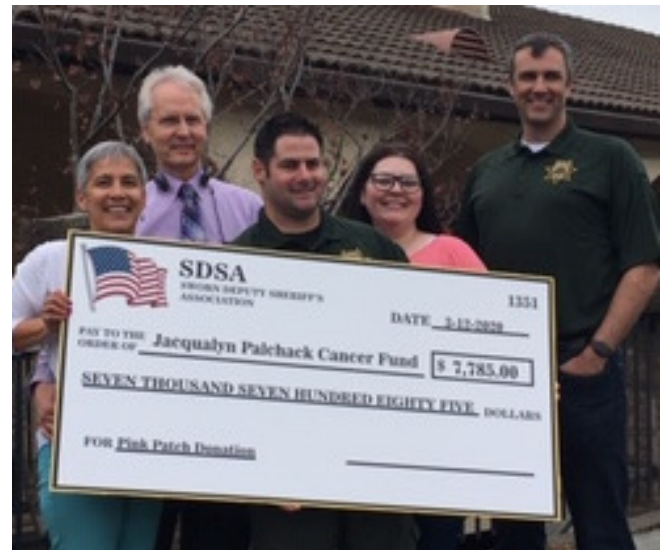
Pictured L-R: Rosie Saenz and JPCF President Marie Palchak.

The Pink Patch Project Pays Off

Members of San Luis Obispo County's Sworn Deputy Sheriff's Association (SDSA) participated in the Pink Patch Project to increase awareness about lifesaving benefits of early detection and intervention in the fight against breast cancer.

SDSA members sold pink Sheriff's patches to raise money for this cause. More than 750 patches were sold and in March JPCF received a donation of \$7,785.

We are grateful to the SDSA for their efforts on our behalf and for their generosity.



Check presentation, pictured L-R: Marie Palchak, David Palchak MD, Deputy Brian Geremia, Danielle Geremia, Sergeant Jason Caron.

Serving our Local Community since 2003

A federally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Federal Tax I.D. 01-0730501
PO Box 1614, Pismo Beach, CA 93448 805-710-3113 www.PalchakCancerFund.org

Apple pie makes everyone smile!

At our October 2019 Cancer Survivor Celebration, cancer survivor Terri Gray won the bid to have a homemade apple pie baked to order by our own Dr. Palchak. Terri, pictured holding the pie, shared it with her fellow members of the New Life Cancer Support Group.



What Cancer Cannot Do

It cannot cripple LOVE
It cannot shatter HOPE
It cannot corrode FAITH
It cannot destroy PEACE
It cannot kill FRIENDSHIP
It cannot suppress MEMORIES
It cannot silence COURAGE
It cannot invade the SOUL
It cannot steal eternal LIFE
It cannot conquer the SPIRIT



Giving Daffodils as Gifts of Hope

In spite of the restrictions created by COVID-19, JPCF prepared 50 daffodil vases that were given out in March as "Gifts of Hope" to patients of PCR Oncology. As one of the first flowers of spring, the daffodil symbolizes rebirth and new beginnings. To those affected by cancer the daffodil is a symbol of hope.

Coronavirus & the Oncology Office

continued from page 1

We wipe down all touched surfaces with antiseptic after every patient and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when collecting COVID-19 specimens. Windows remain open to draw clean air in and the pharmacy exhaust fan remains on all day to blow out air throughout the day. So far none of our staff have been infected.

Similar precautions should be taken in homes and the use of masks should be worn when out in the community and among the general public.

PCR has some capacity for COVID-19 testing. If you or anyone you know has symptoms or would like to be screened, please contact PCR Oncology at 805-474-9143 and schedule a test.

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Donations make a difference!

In November, JPCF sent out letters to the community seeking donations to support the local cancer research being done at PCR Oncology. Research through clinical trials is commonly available in larger cities. PCR's ability to offer clinical trials to patients locally, is far easier for patients, while affording a path to finding a cure.

As a result of your generosity, we report with overwhelming gratitude that this year's donations totaled \$19,535! These funds make it possible for us to continue our work at finding cures for cancer. We are humbled by the generosity of our community and extremely thankful for the immeasurable support. You have made a difference!

