

Vision: A world of simple tests that identify and isolate cancer at its earliest most curable stage.

Mission: Deliver early detection tests for solid tumor cancers by 2015.

Strategy: Stimulate investment in the cancer diagnostics industry by demonstrating the first set of efficient, cost-effective early detection tests.

Who Are We?

Canary Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to discovering highly sensitive and specific markers of early stage cancer and building tests for these markers. The goal is to identify cancer through a simple blood test, isolate the disease through imaging scans and then to intervene early enough to dramatically increase the chance of a full recovery with minimal side effects.

What's Different?

Canary Foundation is the world's first non-profit organization dedicated solely to the funding, discovery and development of tests for early cancer detection. We have assembled teams of cancer researchers recognized by their peers as leaders in their disciplines from across multiple institutions and disciplines to attack the problem of early detection in a new, collaborative, action-oriented manner with the foremost objective of translating research into clinical applications.

- Dedicated to early detection
- Leaders in collaborative science
- Integrated Blood and Imaging-Based Research Center
- Focused and managed research
- Best-in-class talent
- 100% of donations goes to research

Background: Early Detection Saves Lives;

Canary Foundation was founded in 2004 by Don Listwin, a successful high-technology executive, who lost his mother to misdiagnosed ovarian cancer. Don discovered that less than 15% of research funding goes to early detection even though early intervention is far more effective than late stage treatment. Surprisingly, little funding is available to researchers investigating new ways to detect cancer at its earliest, curable stages.

Key Milestones

- Clinical study launched to reduce over-treatment of prostate cancer - Prostate Active Surveillance Study (PASS) (2008).
- Partnership with NCI's Early Detection Research Network initiated to isolate lung cancer biomarkers in non-smokers (2008).
- Canary Foundation of Canada founded (2008).
- Strategic partnership with Stanford formed to create integrated facility for blood based and imaging based early detection tests.
- Focus extended to four major cancers – Ovarian, Pancreatic, Prostate, Lung Cancer Programs and initiated Baseline Program.
- Ovarian biomarkers evaluated in prediagnostic blood samples (2007).
- Novel microbubble/ultrasound-based imaging technique validated in mouse models (2007).
- Palladin gene mutation discovered in hereditary pancreatic cancer (2006).

Canary Foundation's Scientific Leadership

Dr. Sam Gambhir, Stanford University – Director of Canary Center at Stanford and Canary Scientific Program Director

Dr. Lee Hartwell (2001 Nobel Laureate), Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Dr. Frank McCormick, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. Teri Brentnall, University of Washington – Pancreatic Cancer Program Lead

Dr. Charles Drescher, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center – Ovarian Cancer Program Co-Lead

Dr. Samir Hanash, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center – Lung Cancer Program Lead

Dr. Peter Nelson, University of Washington & Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center – Prostate Cancer Program Lead

Dr. Martin McIntosh, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center – Baseline Program Lead, Ovarian Program Co-Lead

100% of donations goes to early detection research activities

Canary Foundation, named after the "early detection" role canaries once played by alerting coal miners of hazardous fumes, is the first nonprofit devoted exclusively to early detection. All administrative costs are underwritten by operating grants.

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Tax ID No.65-1230251