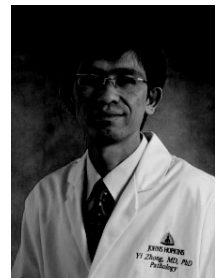


We thank you for your continued support of the JCM Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research. This is our first edition of our JCM Foundation Newsletter to notify you of our fundraising events throughout the country as well as to keep you informed of the amazing discoveries and findings our team of scientists at Johns Hopkins are continuing to make toward finding a cure and early detection of pancreatic cancer.

With Faith & Hope,
Monica Monastra-Lodge

We are a proud sponsor of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and their talented group of scientists. Donations to date, have gone directly to Dr. Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue who is leading a team of scientists whose focus is on the early detection and prevention of pancreatic cancer. The research is focused on gene analysis, and the development of clinical trials.



*Dr. Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue
and fellow, Yi Zhong MD PhD.*

Recent Publications

With the support of the Monastra Foundation in 2008, Dr. Chris Iacobuzio-Donahue's laboratory has made great strides towards understanding how pancreatic cancers develop and spread. There are two recent studies that are worth mentioning in greater detail. First, she and colleagues reported the complete DNA sequence of the pancreatic cancer genome in the journal *Science* (*Science* 321:1801). The scope of this sequencing project is unparalleled -simply put, we now know more about the genetic sequence of pancreatic cancer than we do of any other cancer type. In this study, more than 20,000 genes were analyzed for mutations, deletions or expression changes in 24 pancreatic cancers. Incredibly, each pancreatic cancer only contained an average of 63 mutated genes. These mutated genes were found to correspond to twelve different "core" features of pancreatic cancer cells. This is important because abnormal function of these core pathways and processes can explain the major features of pancreatic cancer formation, and may form the basis for new ways to diagnose and treat pancreatic cancer.

In another recent landmark study, Dr. Iacobuzio-Donahue's lab has made the striking discovery that there is not one type of pancreatic cancer, but instead there are at least two types of pancreatic cancer. While these two types of pancreatic cancer appear similar at diagnosis, they differ dramatically in that one type continues to grow within the pancreas and destroys surrounding organs and tissues, whereas the second type quickly

spreads ("metastasizes") to other organs. Mutations in a single gene called DPC4 (deleted in pancreatic cancer 4, one of the 63 mutated genes identified in the genome sequencing effort) were commonly found only in the metastasizing form of pancreatic cancer. This is a huge step forward as it suggests that one of the reasons for the failure of many clinical trials is that we have been unknowingly comparing these two types of cancer, in essence comparing "apples" to "oranges." This finding was reported in the March 2009 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

We are also proud to report that Dr. Iacobuzio-Donahue's success has been acknowledged at the national level. At the annual meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology in Boston in March, she was awarded the Ramzi Cotran Young Investigator Award. This award recognizes an individual under the age of 45 years who has made a significant life-time contributions to the understanding of human disease. Congratulations Chris!

Thank you for your continued support of JCM Foundation fund raising events. Your participation and sponsorship of the events are what funds the research and makes the foundation possible.

Sincerely,
JCM Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research