



PANCREATIC  
CANCER  
CANADA



CANCER  
DU PANCRÉAS  
CANADA

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

**Unique collaboration involving pancreatic cancer patient  
helps make innovative research possible**

Cancer Research Society, Pancreatic Cancer Canada and cancer patient join forces with  
\$120,000 contribution to promising study in Toronto, Ontario

Ottawa, December 18, 2013 – The Cancer Research Society and Pancreatic Cancer Canada (PCC) have come together alongside Mr. John van Haastrecht, a pancreatic cancer patient and caring philanthropist, in order to award \$120,000 to Dr. Ming Tsao and his team of researchers at the University Health Network (Toronto) to pursue research on new potential targets for improving treatment of pancreatic cancer. “Involving patients in the process is crucial, as they can provide invaluable insights through, for example, participation in trials and donation of tissues and samples. When a patient like Mr. van Haastrecht donates financially to get a study off the ground, it’s really commendable,” stated Dr. Tsao.

With dismal survival statistics and limited treatment options for the disease, this innovative collaboration was established as part of a concerted effort to address pancreatic cancer head-on, with PCC committed to advancing pancreatic cancer research while the Cancer Research Society’s funding program is designed to attract scientists with innovative ideas for all cancers. For John van Haastrecht, contributing to this study is a continuation of his personal battle with the disease, and a tangible way to provide hope to other pancreatic cancer patients. “It’s exciting to be associated with this study and I’m looking forward to positive outcomes,” said Mr. van Haastrecht.

One of the deadliest forms of cancer, often no symptoms emerge until it is at a very advanced stage, and successful treatment options are limited. ‘With 4,700 Canadians diagnosed annually and only a 8% survival rate five years after diagnosis, there is a very real need to invest in pancreatic cancer research with the goal of finding new ways to detect and treat this disease,’ stated Betty Aldridge, co-founder and Chair of Pancreatic Cancer Canada.

Dr. Tsao’s research in particular will focus on the tissues surrounding tumour cells and the impact they have on cancer cell growth, spread, survival, metastasis and resistance to chemotherapy, with the goal of discovering new targets for improving how pancreatic cancer is treated. “It’s no secret, cancer is a

devastating illness that cuts lives short, causes despair for countless families and can make those who suffer from it feel powerless. We are truly touched by Mr. Van Haastrecht's generosity and his resolve to support research to fight this disease,' stated Mr. Andy Chabot, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cancer Research Society.

### **About Pancreatic Cancer Canada**

The National Pancreatic Cancer Canada Foundation began operating in 2005 as The Dick Aldridge Pancreatic Cancer Foundation. In November 2008, recognizing the need for a national association in Canada, Pancreatic Cancer Canada was launched and is proud to be the only national foundation dedicated to fighting this devastating disease. In June 2010, the foundation name changed to the National Pancreatic Cancer Canada Foundation. To date, the Foundation has donated over \$2 million for research on pancreatic cancer to the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, The Ottawa Hospital, the BC Cancer Agency and the Cancer Research Society in Quebec. For more information on the National Pancreatic Cancer Canada Foundation, visit [www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca](http://www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca).

### **About the Cancer Research Society**

The Cancer Research Society is a national not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is to fund research on all types of cancer, thereby contributing to the advancement of science aimed at preventing, detecting, and treating this disease. The Cancer Research Society is devoted to both basic research, which has resulted in several innovative discoveries, as well as environment-cancer, a field in which the Society is considered to have played a pioneering role in Canada. During the past five years, the Cancer Research Society has granted over \$ 41 million to some 283 cancer research projects across the country through diverse fundraising activities. For more information on cancer, on the Cancer Research Society or to support research, visit [www.CancerResearchSociety.ca](http://www.CancerResearchSociety.ca) or call 1 888-766-2262.

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