

EARLY DETECTION AND INTERVENTION INITIATIVE



The promise of early detection: a unique opportunity to make a dramatic impact on cancer

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's Early Detection and Intervention Initiative is dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients by discovering the most effective ways to find and treat cancer at its earliest stages, when it is most curable. The advent of new technologies for discovering trace signs of cancer in the blood now offer the unprecedented opportunity to make a dramatic impact on cancer — an impact that will far exceed what has been achieved over the last three decades.

As the leader of more national and international consortia for early cancer detection than any other cancer center, the Hutchinson Center is uniquely positioned to be the first institution to make major achievements in this area that will directly benefit individuals suffering from or at risk of developing cancer.

The single most important step to curing cancer is to catch it early

Because most cancers are diagnosed when they have spread from their site of origin to nearby or distant parts of the body, the vast majority of cancer research has focused on treating advanced disease. With the exception of success stories such as those for leukemia or several childhood cancers, survival rates for individuals with advanced cancer have changed little over the past two decades.

In contrast, investment in early detection research has demonstrated value and powerful potential:

- ⊙ For many common cancers, when the disease is diagnosed before it has spread from the organ of origin, nine out of 10 lives can be saved.
- ⊙ Thanks to early detection of cervical cancer through regular Pap screening, incidence and death rates for the disease have dropped approximately 70 percent.
- ⊙ If all colorectal cancer cases were now detected at their earliest stages, five-year survival rates for the disease would jump from 64 to 90 percent; for lung cancer, five-year survival rates would shift from 16 percent to nearly 50 percent.

- ⊙ Early detection could drastically reduce the economic burden of cancer on society. In 2002, the cost of cancer was more than \$150 billion, including direct medical costs and loss of productivity due to illness and premature death.

The Hutchinson Center strategy

The Hutchinson Center Early Detection and Intervention Initiative is based on the enormous potential of biomarkers — trace proteins in the blood that signify the risk, presence and type of cancer, as well as response to treatment. With simple blood tests for biomarkers, doctors will be able to diagnose and treat cancer when it is early and highly curable. For those with more advanced cancers, this research will ensure that patients receive the most effective therapies for their specific disease and that relapsed disease is treated swiftly.

The Center is one of two institutions in the country chosen to lead a National Cancer Institute-sponsored project that will set the field standards for cancer biomarker research.

Supporting Early Detection: The Gregory Fund® and Catch a Cure for Cancer

The Gregory Fund, an initiative established through the collaborative efforts of the Center and The Moyer Foundation, was created to generate financial support for early cancer detection research. The Gregory Fund was the brainchild of Karen and Jamie Moyer. Jamie is a Seattle Mariners baseball icon, and he and his wife, Karen, are well-known community leaders and long-time supporters of the Hutchinson Center. The Gregory Fund is named after a close personal friend of the Moyers, cancer survivor Gregory Chaya, who was treated at the Center.

Catch a Cure for Cancer, August 25-27, 2006, offers a host of events including a Radiothon on Warm 106.9 on Friday, August 25, and *Celebrity Waiters Dinner and Auction* on Sunday, August 27, to benefit The Gregory Fund for early cancer detection research. For more information visit www.catchacure.com or call 206.298.1217. [H](#)