Community for a Cure

From the Director:

Dr. Caryn Lerman

As we approach our annual fundraising event, An Evening in Monte Carlo: Casino Night and Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, I am reminded of the incredible journey of Augie and Kirsten Muñoz, residing in Koreatown. This year, the Muñoz Cancer Research Fund has committed $300,000 to USC Norris, which is our largest single gift to date.

In the United States, pancreatic cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths, due to late presentation of symptoms and lack of effective treatments. Despite this, there has been an increase in pancreatic cancer research. Donors like David and Kirsten Muñoz are vital in advancing cancer research at USC Norris. This event will include presentations from Dr. Caryn Lerman, PM at the San Gabriel Country Club. All proceeds from the event will benefit pancreatic cancer research.

Dr. David Freyer, member of the USC Norris Cancer Epidemiology Program, has discovered that adolescents and young adults are less likely to present with metastatic disease for cancer, compared to adults. This finding is crucial as it indicates that adolescents and young adults may be differentially affected by the disease, and may require tailored approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

In their ongoing mission to support cancer research, the Muñoz family has been instrumental. Their donation has enabled the opening of new labs, the development of new clinical trials, and the expansion of existing programs.

Dr. Joshua Neman, member of the USC Norris Tumor Microenvironment Program, has been awarded the 2021 Clinical Science Development Award by the American Society of Transplantation for his contributions to the field of transplantation and the society.

The Muñoz family has been a vital part of the USC Norris community, and their generosity has had a profound impact on cancer research. They have been instrumental in advancing our understanding of cancer, and in developing new treatments and therapies. Their continued support is essential to our mission of finding a cure for cancer.

Thank you to Dr. David Muñoz, executive director of the Augustine L. Muñoz Cancer Research Fund, for sharing this incredible story. We feel like we have had a part in funding that.

For more information, contact Mary Aalto at mary.aalto@med.usc.edu.

Upcoming Events

- October 23, 2021, 5 pm
  - An Evening in Monte Carlo: Casino Night and Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament
  - Register at: www.AugieMunoz.org

- November 19, 2021 at Rancho La Quinta Country Club
  - Enjoy a day of brunch, golf, and dinner that includes great prizes, auctions items, and speaker testimonials.
  - This event supports lifesaving cancer research.

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- September 14, 2021, 12-1 pm
  - Poster Presentation Session

- October 15, 2021, 12:30-1:30 pm
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