

# PEDAL TheCAUSE<sup>SM</sup>

A WORLD WITHOUT CANCER.



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT



## OUR MISSION

Pedal the Cause provides critical funding for cancer research at Siteman Cancer Center and Siteman Kids at St. Louis Children's Hospital through our annual cycling challenge. It is our hope that research funded by Pedal the Cause will ultimately lead to a cure for cancer.

100% of participant-raised donations fund innovative cancer research at:



AT ST. LOUIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
Washington University Physicians

### THE NUMBERS:

**\$5,003,916** RAISED IN 2023

### SINCE 2010:



**38,000**  
RIDERS



**450,000+**  
DONATIONS



**8,700**  
VOLUNTEERS

**\$45,811,439**

DONATED TO FUND

**219** CANCER RESEARCH PROJECTS

**171** ADULT  
**48** PEDIATRIC



PEDIATRIC TOTAL INCLUDES 2 PIECES OF CRITICAL EQUIPMENT USED FOR CANCER RESEARCH

**3** NEWLY RECRUITED  
PEDAL THE CAUSE CANCER RESEARCHERS

# THE IMPACT OF CANCER IS DEVASTATING.

1 in 2 men & 1 in 3 women will be diagnosed in their lifetime.

1 in 285 children in the U.S. will be diagnosed before their 20th birthday.

## THE RESEARCH WE ARE FUNDING IS CHANGING THE NARRATIVE.

### PTC FUNDED PROJECTS SPOTLIGHT:

#### NATURAL KILLER CELLS PROVIDING HOPE FOR PEDIATRIC LEUKEMIA PATIENTS

When pediatric AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia) reoccurs, it almost always does not respond to chemo. A Siteman researcher working on adult lymphoma developed a new treatment called “natural killer cells” (NK cells) and was able to stimulate certain cells in the body to react to tumors. Pedal the Cause funded a pilot study using this novel treatment for pediatric AML, where 7 of the 15 children had complete remission. Subsequent studies have supported the success of this treatment and more than 100 children have received this therapy. **Now, children from all over the world come to St. Louis Children’s Hospital because it is the only place in the country that offers this treatment.**

#### CANCER MOONSHOT TUMOR ATLAS PROGRAM ADVANCES BREAST + PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH

The Cancer Moonshot Tumor Atlas Program at Siteman Cancer Center has made great progress in better understanding pancreatic and breast cancers. Specifically, this program has identified new targets in the genetics of these cancers that exposes new treatment opportunities. This work has inspired the development of new therapies that exploit these findings, including new genetic and immunotherapy regimens. **All preliminary data and early support for this program came from Pedal the Cause.**

#### NEW IMAGING TECHNOLOGY MAY REDUCE SURGERIES FOR RECTAL CANCER PATIENTS

Siteman researchers developed an ultrasound system (PAM/US) to assess rectal cancer treatment response, with specialized AI to automate image analysis allowing for more accurate results. Patients who have made a complete response could avoid unnecessary surgery without compromising their recovery, thereby lowering morbidity and health care cost. This PAM/US system also represents a remarkable advancement toward real-time imaging displays that will allow physicians to assess rectal cancer treatment response in the endoscopy rooms. **The initial funds for this project were provided by Pedal the Cause in 2020. Researchers were recently awarded a \$2.8 million federal grant to continue the research on this patent-pending device.**



LEARN MORE

#### \$10.9 MILLION PANCREATIC SPORE GRANT

Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have received a prestigious SPORE grant from the NCI that will provide \$10.9 million over the next 5 years to support research and clinical trials aimed at improving therapies for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, the deadliest form of pancreatic cancer. **The initial research needed to secure this grant would not have been possible without Pedal the Cause!**



LEARN MORE

**12:1  
ROI**

FOR EVERY \$1 PEDAL THE CAUSE  
DONATES TO CANCER RESEARCH,  
AN ADDITIONAL \$12 ON AVERAGE IS  
OBTAINED IN EXTERNAL FUNDING

**MAKING PEDAL THE CAUSE RESPONSIBLE FOR A TOTAL  
OF \$550 MILLION FOR ALL CANCERS, FOR ALL PEOPLE.**

## **PEDAL THE CAUSE CANCER RESEARCHERS**

Since 2021, Pedal the Cause has provided funding to recruit top talent to lead new cancer research laboratories at Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University in St. Louis, including:

### **DR. PRIYANKA VERMA**

**FUNDED IN 2021**

The Verma Lab employs advanced CRISPR genetic screens and cancer genome mining tools to uncover biological circuits that are essential in cells with compromised DNA repair. The ultimate goal is to understand mechanisms that lead to genomic instability and identify vulnerabilities that will lead to the development of improved therapeutic regimens for cancer patients. Dr. Verma was previously a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.



### **DR. JOHN KRAIS**

**FUNDED IN 2023**

The Kraiss Lab focuses on the fundamental issues of DNA repair and how they relate to cancer initiation, progression and therapy responses. The Kraiss Lab employs a variety of methodologies to study the DNA damage response including microscopy, next-generation sequencing, cell and mouse genome engineering, patient-derived xenografts (PDX) and cancer models. Dr. Kraiss was previously a Research Assistant Professor at the Fox Chase Cancer Center.



### **DR. XUE-YAN HE**

**FUNDED IN 2023**

The Xue-Yan He Lab aims to advance the knowledge of the mechanisms responsible for colorectal tumor progression, with a specific focus on stress and its influence on the tumor microenvironment. Dr. He was previously a Postdoctoral Fellow at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.



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For more information scan here  
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