



finding a cure
unites us



**LUNG CANCER
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





ABOUT LCRF



Our Mission

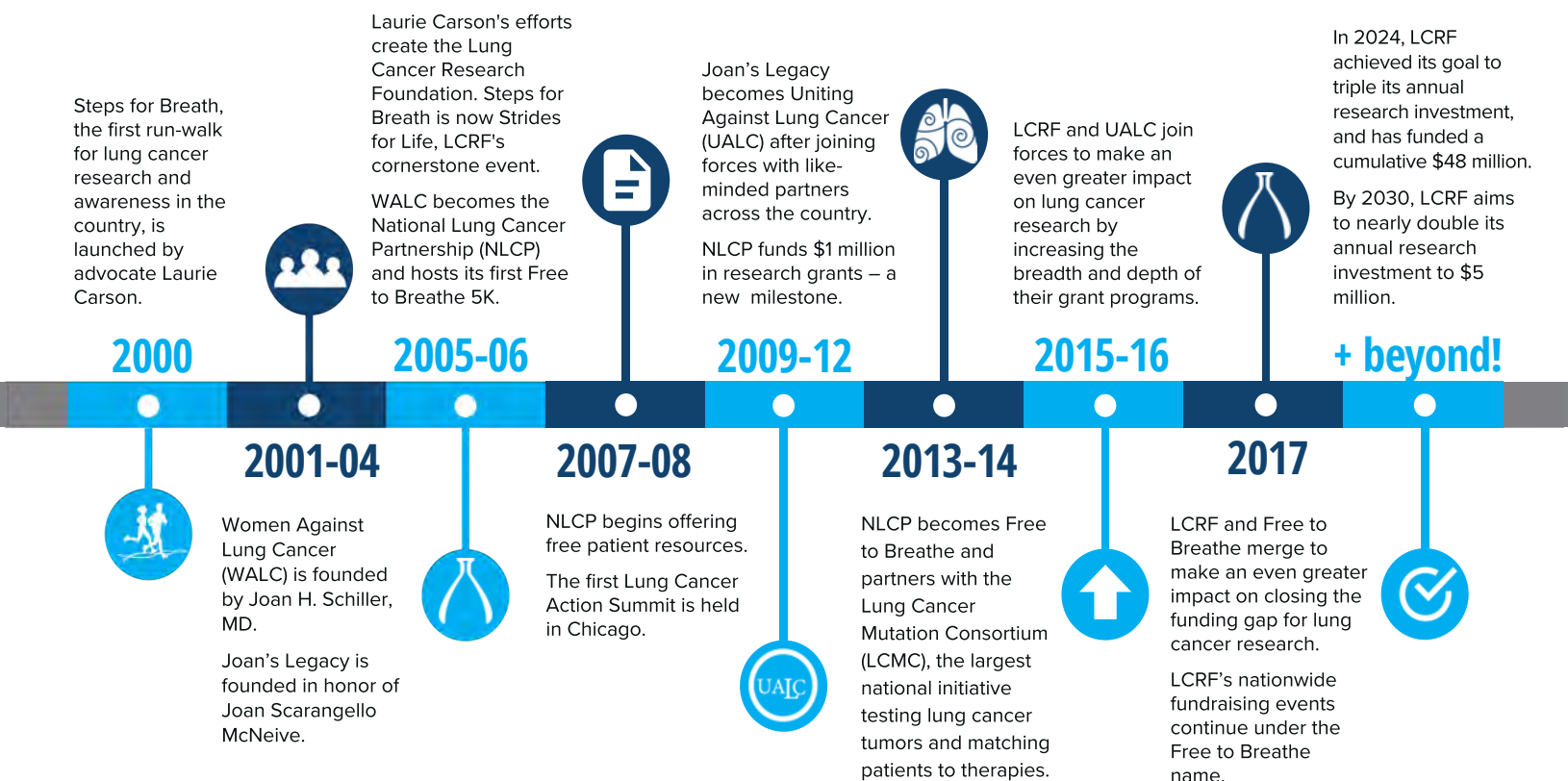
The mission of the Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF) is to improve lung cancer outcomes by funding research for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure of lung cancer.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world free of lung cancer.

LCRF History

The Lung Cancer Research Foundation has evolved over the years, but one thing remains the same: we are determined to create a world without lung cancer. Together, we can accomplish more than any one of us can alone.





INVESTING IN RESEARCH



With your help, LCRF is transforming the future of lung cancer.

By the end of 2024, we reached a milestone. Together we have funded a cumulative total of \$48 million in high-impact, breakthrough lung cancer research.

The research we fund seeks to address the areas of most need, answer the most pressing questions, and move the science to improve the survival rate as well as quality of life for people facing a lung cancer diagnosis. Ultimately, we envision a world without lung cancer.

Countless patients, caregivers, health professionals and family members have rallied to further lung cancer research. For many patients with lung cancer, assuring there will be a second and third line of treatment is a race against time.

The more research LCRF can fund and the more investigators are given the opportunity to solve the riddles of lung cancer, the closer we are to applying what happens in the lab to real-life solutions.

Our philosophy is simple: scientific discoveries lead to improved outcomes.

LCRF donors provide critical funding to the best and brightest investigators, moving the needle forward toward a cure.



RESEARCH PRIORITIES

LCRF's Scientific Executive Committee (SEC), comprised of Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members, developed recommendations for the foundation's research program to address the needs of the lung cancer community and accelerate the pace of lung cancer research.

This Research Roadmap informs LCRF's decisions about research funding.



Research is our **true north.**

Patient engagement

Patients are integrated at every level of LCRF's research program including, but not limited to, determining funding areas, participating in grant review, education and awareness, and funding.

Investment type

In addition to funding basic science research and early career investigators, LCRF is expanding investment in translational research and clinical trials, working with experienced researchers and collaborative, multi-institutional, teams.

Beyond grants

In addition to funding grants, LCRF moves the mission forward and impacts science by hosting scientific meetings, such as an annual scientific summit, think tank forums, and round table discussions on specific areas of study.

Greatest areas of need

To make the greatest impact on LCRF's mission to improve lung cancer outcomes, LCRF funds research in the following areas of study:

- Early detection and prevention
- Understanding resistance
- Novel, innovative projects exploring other relevant areas of lung cancer research

Partnerships

Developing funding partnerships is critical to driving LCRF's mission forward.

2024 Research Grant Tracks

LCRF Leading Edge Grant
LCRF Research Grant on Early Detection and Pre-Neoplasia in Lung Cancer

LCRF Research Grant on Understanding Resistance in Lung Cancer

LCRF's Minority Career Development Award (CDA) for Lung Cancer



2025 RESEARCH GRANT TRACKS

LCRF's research funding mechanisms have been developed with an intention to further innovative projects across a variety of diverse topics and to support the careers of talented scientists.

Through partnerships with individuals, foundations, and organizations, LCRF is open to exploring research funding tracks in addition to those listed here. These mechanisms could range from basic science to clinical trials, team science awards, and other methods for advancing discoveries in lung cancer.

All LCRF grants:

- \$150K in funding
- Funded 2 years
- Available in US and internationally
- Open to early- and mid-career investigators

LCRF Leading Edge Research Grant

For high-risk, high reward research projects on a wide variety of topics

LCRF Research Grant on Prevention and Early Detection of Lung Cancer

For research projects on early detection of lung cancer in areas of liquid biopsy, histological, and omics approaches

LCRF Research Grant on Overcoming Resistance in Lung Cancer

For research projects identifying, characterizing, treating, or preventing resistance to therapies. Can address topics across subtypes of lung cancer, i.e. lung adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and small cell lung cancer

Minority Career Development Award (CDA) for Lung Cancer

For basic, clinical, and translational research projects from minority investigators on a variety of topics, including disparities and social determinants of health (SDOH)

Learn more at
[LCRF.org/fundingopportunities](https://www.lcrf.org/fundingopportunities)





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LUNG CANCER MUTATION CONSORTIUM

The Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium (LCMC) is an association of more than 20 U.S. cancer centers focused on understanding the genetic changes that underlie lung cancers.

LCMC investigators match patients with tumors harboring oncogenic drivers with targeted drugs and clinical trials that will change the practice of thoracic oncology. Ultimately, the LCMC seeks to improve outcomes for these patients.

The Lung Cancer Research Foundation acts as a facilitator for the LCMC, coordinating and supporting its activities.

The LCMC is a unique model bringing together advocacy, academic, and industry partners in a collaborative setting. This strategy streamlines research efforts, cuts cost and delays, facilitates connections with the lung cancer and advocacy communities, and brings us closer to the goal of precision medicine where therapies are matched to the specific needs of each person with lung cancer.

Current Study: LCMC4

LCRF LEADER Neoadjuvant Screening Trial

LCMC4 Evaluation of Actionable Drivers in Early Stage Lung Cancer

The current LCMC study, the LCRF LEADER Neoadjuvant Screening Trial, is the 4th study conducted through the consortium and is a collaborative effort involving numerous academic study sites and pharmaceutical supporters.

Utilizing an umbrella trial design, the primary purpose of this testing is to determine the presence of 10 oncogenic drivers (mutations in EGFR, BRAFV600E, MET exon 14, and HER2, rearrangements in ALK, RET, NTRK, and ROS1, and amplification of MET and HER2) in 1,000 patients who can then become eligible for upcoming targeted neoadjuvant therapy trials. The goal is to use information from the screening process to select the optimal neoadjuvant therapy, and wherever possible, enroll patients onto separate neoadjuvant therapy trials with genomically matched treatments or other appropriate trials if no actionable driver mutation is detected. The LCMC4 screening study, together with matched industry-sponsored therapeutic trials, will provide critical data for informing treatment decisions in the neoadjuvant setting.

This study will allow for inspection of tumors after neoadjuvant treatment to understand what oncogenic drivers remain that made the tumor resistant to that particular therapy.

LCMC4 LEADER Trial Participating Sites

The LCMC4 LEADER trial includes participation from sites and investigators across the oncology community.

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Brigham & Women's Hospital
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Moffitt Cancer Center
- Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University
- St. Joseph Hospital – Orange Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment
- University of California-Davis
- UCLA
- USC Norris Cancer Center
- University of Michigan
- University of Missouri
- University of Washington
- Virginia Cancer Specialists
- Washington University, St. Louis

For more information:
LCRF.org/LCMC

LEADING EDGE RESEARCH

LINDSAY LAFAVE, PHD

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Investigating chromatin-mediated mechanisms of immune response in lung cancer

2024 William C. Rippe Award for Distinguished Research in Lung Cancer



This research focuses on understanding how lung adenocarcinoma, particularly in smokers, develops and progresses. By investigating how chronic inflammation and immune responses drive cancer development and affect treatment outcomes, the project aims to improve current therapies and develop new strategies, benefiting both smokers and non-smokers with lung cancer. This could lead to new therapeutic rationales for both smokers and non-smokers.

DIAN YANG, PHD

Columbia University
Irving Medical Center

Investigating the molecular basis of cancer plasticity in LKB1-mutant lung adenocarcinoma

2024 James B. Dougherty, MD Award for Scientific Merit



This project aims to understand how aggressive lung adenocarcinomas develop and how they adapt to treatment. LKB1-deficient tumors are a type of lung cancer that can adapt and resist treatment through a process called cell plasticity, in which cancer cells switch states to survive challenges. Investigators will explore how LKB1-deficient tumors influence this plasticity, focusing on a stage called the pre-EMT state, which may drive disease progression and drug resistance. With advanced mouse models that mimic human tumors, the study aims to uncover the unique genetic mechanisms behind LKB1-deficient tumors. This information could lead to new therapeutic strategies to target these aggressive tumors.

UNDERSTANDING RESISTANCE

MEGAN BURGER, PHD

Oregon Health & Science University

Optimizing immunotherapy sequencing to overcome resistance



This project aims to enhance cancer immunotherapy by combining immune checkpoint blockade (ICB) therapy with cancer vaccines to overcome resistance and extend the benefits of treatment to more patients. Using a mouse model of lung adenocarcinoma, the study will explore how these therapies work together, optimizing vaccine dosing and timing relative to ICB treatment for maximum effectiveness. The findings could inform clinical trials, improve response rates, prevent disease recurrence, and ultimately lead to better outcomes for lung cancer patients.

WILLIAM FENG, PHD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Targeting AP-1 in KRAS-mutant lung cancer



This research explores a potential weakness in lung cancer by targeting AP-1, a group of transcription factors that act as an “on/off switch” for genes essential to cancer cell survival. Previous studies show that EGFR-mutant lung cancers rely on AP-1 for resistance to therapies, and this study investigates whether KRAS-mutant lung cancers do the same. The project will evaluate AP-1 as a drug target, test whether inhibiting it can effectively treat KRAS-mutant lung cancers and develop a new drug to block AP-1 function. This work could lead to groundbreaking therapies for currently untreatable lung cancers.

EARLY DETECTION & PRE-NEOPLASIA

PEGGY HSU, MD, PHD

University of Michigan

Understanding the origin of ALK-driven lung cancer

ALK-positive lung cancer, often affecting non-smokers and diagnosed at advanced stages, has unclear origins. This research aims to uncover the earliest events driving ALK-driven lung cancer using advanced single-cell technologies. By studying patient samples, lung organoids, and mouse models, the team will map how ALK activation leads to tumor initiation. The findings could reveal novel molecular features, enhance our understanding of cancer cell plasticity, and pave the way for earlier detection and prevention strategies, improving survival rates for ALK+ lung cancer patients.



I was once a young investigator who received seed funding through LCRF. Funding young investigators is key to keeping the smartest people in the field and coming up with new ideas of tomorrow."

Lecia Sequist, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center
Harvard Medical School
2010 LCRF Grantee

MINORITY CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDEES

TIKVAH HAYES, PHD

David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA

Advancing preclinical cell line diversity and decoding TKI-resistance landscapes in EGFR-mutant lung cancer

2024 Cynthia M. Page Merit Award

Treatment resistance remains a major challenge for patients with EGFR-mutant lung cancer. This project aims to shed light on how different mutations in EGFR affect cellular biology and response to treatment. The team will develop new models to study understudied mutations and use advanced genetic techniques to identify mutations that cause resistance to current therapies. By uncovering these mechanisms, the study could lead to better treatments and improved outcomes for patients with EGFR-mutant lung cancer, advancing the field of lung cancer research.



LUISA ESCOBAR-HOYOS, MSC, PHD

Yale University

Altered RNA splicing as a driver of Osimertinib resistance in lung cancer

Resistance to Osimertinib is a significant challenge with 40-50% of cases lacking a clear genetic cause. This project will investigate whether alternative pre-mRNA splicing (AS) – a process where cells alter RNA to change protein production – might explain this resistance. Lung cancers are known to have widespread changes in AS compared to healthy tissue, suggesting it could play a role. This research will explore how AS differs in resistant vs. sensitive cancers and test whether blocking AS with a drug can restore sensitivity to Osimertinib, potentially leading to new treatment strategies for resistant lung cancers.



View all current funded research projects: [LCRF.org/currentgrants](https://www.lcrf.org/currentgrants)
For further information about our research grant program, contact: grants@LCRF.org

TEAM SCIENCE AWARD

IASLC/LCRF Team Science Award on Advancing Therapies Towards Curing Oncogene-Driven Lung Cancers

Immune elimination of drug tolerant persister cells in oncogene-driven lung cancer

Lung cancer remains one of the deadliest cancers worldwide, particularly in its advanced stages. Metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients face poor prognoses despite recent advances in targeted therapies against EGFR, ALK, and KRAS mutations. These therapies, although initially effective, often lead to relapse driven by drug-tolerant persister (DTP) cells that develop resistance. This research aims to tackle this critical challenge, focusing on innovative immune-based strategies to eradicate these persistent cells and improve patient outcomes.

The project is aimed at exploiting vulnerabilities in DTP cells leveraging activating the innate immune programs and targeting of cell surface markers making them susceptible to immune attack. By leveraging the team's expertise in patient-derived models, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy, the project will take a multi-faceted approach to target DTP cells, utilizing cutting-edge CAR T-cell therapy and modulation of the tumor microenvironment (TME).

Project 1: Co-opting innate immunity to eliminate drug tolerant persister cells

Project 1 aims to co-opt innate immunity by inhibiting TREX1, a negative regulator of STING-IFN signaling, to enhance immune response against DTP cells. Preliminary data suggest that TREX1 inhibition can unleash a potent antiviral response, making DTP cells vulnerable to immune attack. By targeting this pathway, we hope to stimulate a robust immune response capable of eliminating these resistant cells.

Project 2: Enhancing CAR T cells to eliminate drug tolerant persister cells

Project 2 focuses on enhancing CAR T cellular therapy to specifically target DTP cells in EGFR mutant NSCLC. While traditional CAR T therapies face challenges in solid tumors due to off-target toxicity and poor Tcell infiltration, the team's approach incorporates a novel strategies to address and overcome both these limitations.

This research is poised to make significant strides in the treatment of metastatic NSCLC. The success of this project could rapidly translate into first-in-human clinical trials, offering new hope for patients who have exhausted other treatment options. The team has a track record of working collaboratively, as well as translating discoveries from lab into clinical trials which have led to improved the lives of patients by offering more effective and less toxic therapies. By advancing our understanding and ability to combat DTP cells, we aspire to turn the tide against this resilient form of cancer and pave the way for more effective, long-lasting treatments.

DAVID A. BARBIE, MD

Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute
Lead Investigator



AARON HATA, MD, PHD

Massachusetts
General Hospital



ERIC SMITH, MD, PHD

Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute



PASI JÄNNE, MD, PHD

Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute



SHUNSUKE KITAJIMA, PHD

Japanese Foundation
for Cancer Research





PATIENT & HEALTH CARE RESOURCES



#TogetherSeparately Lung cancer community

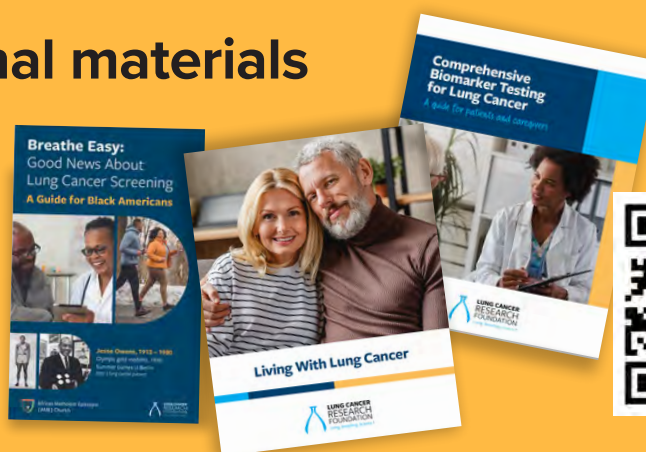
Lung Cancer Community Talks are livestream forums where participants can hear from guest experts including leading oncologists, psychologists, and lung cancer researchers. Learn more: [LCRF.org/togetherseparately](https://www.lcrf.org/togetherseparately) In addition, in-person LCRF Together talks take place in locations across the U.S.

Our Facebook Group grew out of these live talks. This private group is a place to ask questions and share day-to-day experiences with lung cancer.

New members are welcome to join the community:
[LCRF.org/facebookcommunity](https://www.lcrf.org/facebookcommunity)

Complimentary educational materials

LCRF provides up-to-date, credible information on diagnosis, treatment, and what to expect from treatment through our educational materials – including tools to help facilitate discussions between patients and their health care teams. Materials are available in both digital and print format. Shipping is no charge to U.S. addresses: [LCRF.org/resources](https://www.lcrf.org/resources)



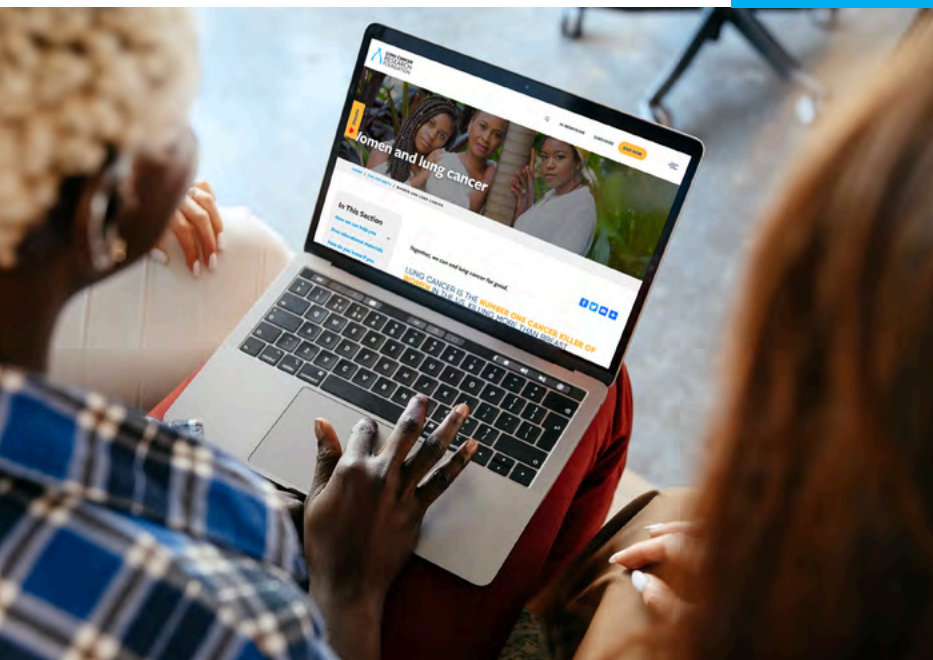
Lung cancer support line

(844) 835-4325 support@LCRF.org

Our toll-free number is available to anyone who needs support related to lung cancer and is staffed by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. We can provide resource guides to help navigate the uncertainties that come with living with lung cancer – financial assistance, transportation or lodging for medical appointments, and much more.



WOMEN & LUNG CANCER



Web page: Women and Lung Cancer

A dedicated web page states the facts pertaining to women and lung cancer, highlights stories about women facing the disease, and shares LCRF news about topics of special interest to women.



Social media

LCRF boosts educational content in its social media channels, using the hashtag #WomenLC.



Lung cancer is an equal opportunity disease.

Many people don't think of lung cancer as a women's health issue, but the truth of the matter is that it kills more U.S. women than breast, uterine & ovarian cancers combined.

LCRF's Women & Lung Cancer initiative raises awareness and promotes understanding of the impact research funding can have on women's lives. Educational programs, social media, and web resources provide information on risk factors, early warning signs, and treatment options with a focus on how they impact women.



#TogetherSeparately

Several of LCRF's #TogetherSeparately webinars have been dedicated to issues specific to women with lung cancer, most recently a forum with Dr. Narjust Florez and Dr. Isabel Preeshagul for Women's Health Month in May 2024.

Visit the web page: [LCRF.org/women](https://www.lcrf.org/women)



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KNOW YOUR RISK

A Hispanic/Latino-American's Guide to Lung Cancer: an LCRF Awareness Program



Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic men and the second leading cause of cancer death in Hispanic women.

As with all populations, early detection and screening are imperative to improving survival rates. Many in this population also experience financial, structural, and personal barriers to health care in general, and are the least likely to have health insurance of any major ethnic group.

Access to key educational resources in both Spanish and English will better equip community health providers to provide care and address misconceptions about lung cancer. Educating the general population will help ensure those who need care will recognize signs and symptoms before it's too late.

PSAs and documentary video



With actor/spokesperson Esai Morales (top), LCRF has developed English- and Spanish-language public service announcements. These :30 and :60 PSAs are to be distributed and aired in markets where Hispanic/Latino populations are highest and most at-risk. Morales is also featured in a 10-minute documentary along with thoracic medical oncologist Dr. Narjust Florez and two of her patients.



#TogetherSeparately en Español

Several of LCRF's #TogetherSeparately educational webinars have featured physicians and other specialists presenting and answering questions entirely in Spanish, tying in to Hispanic Heritage Month. In 2024, the livestream began offering closed captioning in Spanish.

Spanish-language resources

LCRF has translated nine key pieces into Spanish:

- *Living with Lung Cancer / Vivir con Cáncer de Pulmón*
- *Biomarker Testing for Lung Cancer / Análisis Integral de Biomarcadores en el Cáncer de Pulmón*
- *Biomarkers Quick Guide / Análisis Integral de Biomarcadores Guía de Consulta Rápida*
- *Understanding Clinical Trials / Los Ensayos Clínicos para el Cáncer de Pulmón*
- *Clinical Trials Quick Guide / Los Ensayos Clínicos Guía de Consulta Rápida*
- *Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Lung Cancer / La Inmunoterapia en el Tratamiento del Cáncer de Pulmón*
- *My Lung Cancer Care Plan / Plan Personalizado de Atención de mi Cáncer de Pulmón*
- *Lung Cancer Symptoms & Screening / Síntomas y Pruebas de Detección*
- *Personal Lung Cancer Profile tear pad / Perfil Personal del Cáncer de Pulmón*



Educational information in Spanish is offered on LCRF's website at [LCRF.org/conozcasurriesgo](https://www.lcrf.org/conozcasurriesgo).



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COMMUNITY MISSION EVENTS

A strong community is a natural outcome when people share a sense of purpose.

LCRF's fundraising events are not just a way for individuals to impact life-saving research, they also show people affected by lung cancer that they are not alone. Participants tell us they experience an outpouring of compassion and kindness at a whole new level.

LCRF hosts several different types of gatherings where attendees can fundraise and donate towards research grants. At the heart of every one is a focus on what lung cancer research means for patients and families. Learn more at LCRF.org/getinvolved.



Evening of Innovation

The Evening of Innovation Gala is LCRF's signature event celebrating scientific discovery and honoring the work of research luminaries.

Our 2024 honoree was Dr. Mark Kris.

Patients are the true inspiration for the evening. A looping presentation features every patient in attendance, highlighting them with a photo and quotation. The presentation also includes caregivers and people who lost someone close to them.

Each year, the gala raises over \$600,000 for lung cancer research.

Free to Breathe

The Free to Breathe Walk is a grassroots fundraising event bringing people together in several cities across the nation. Those unable to attend an in-person walk can join the Free to Breathe Anywhere Walk and walk at the time and place of their choosing.

Butterfly imagery abounds, representing hope, strength, metamorphosis, and resilience. Different colored butterflies represent participants' connection to lung cancer and provide a way



for people to identify one another. Opening ceremonies are elevated by a mission moment recognizing survivors, loved ones, supporters, and those who have lost someone to lung cancer. A local survivor is invited to speak at each walk.



Free to Breathe Your Way

Free to Breathe Your Way fundraising encompasses all sorts of individual events – golf outings, picnics, concerts, and more. LCRF provides support and information that doubly serves to raise awareness about lung cancer.

The program also encompasses Team LCRF endurance athletes, who train and complete various distance events. In 2024, a community of 24 Team LCRF runners raised \$150,000 as part of the New York City Marathon.

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View more detailed biographies
at [LCRF.org/board](https://www.lcrf.org/board).
Updated July 2024

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University of Chicago Medical Center

Robert A. Winn, MD

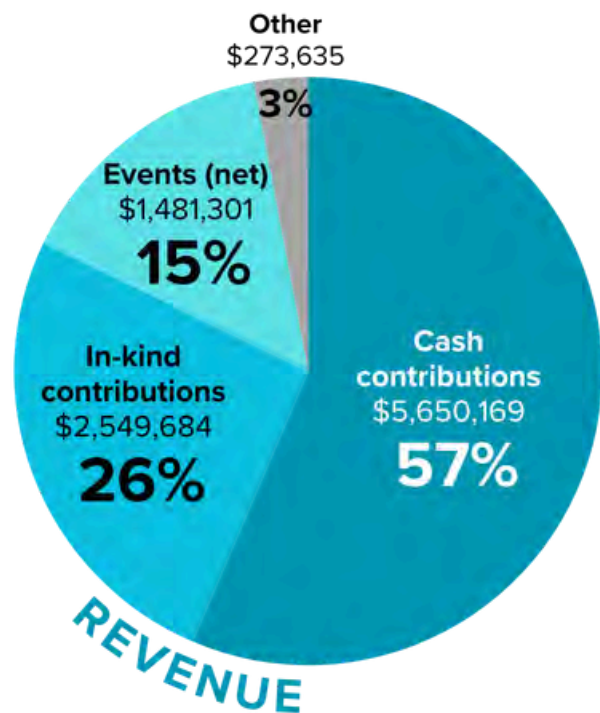
Director & Lipman Chair in Oncology, VCU Massey Cancer Center;
Senior Associate Dean for Cancer Innovation, Professor of Pulmonary
Disease and Critical Care Medicine, VCU School Of Medicine

Kwok-Kin Wong, MD, PhD**

Anne Murnick Cogan and David H. Cogan Professor of Oncology,
Department of Medicine; Director, Division of Hematology and
Medical Oncology, Laura & Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center,
NYU Langone Medical Center



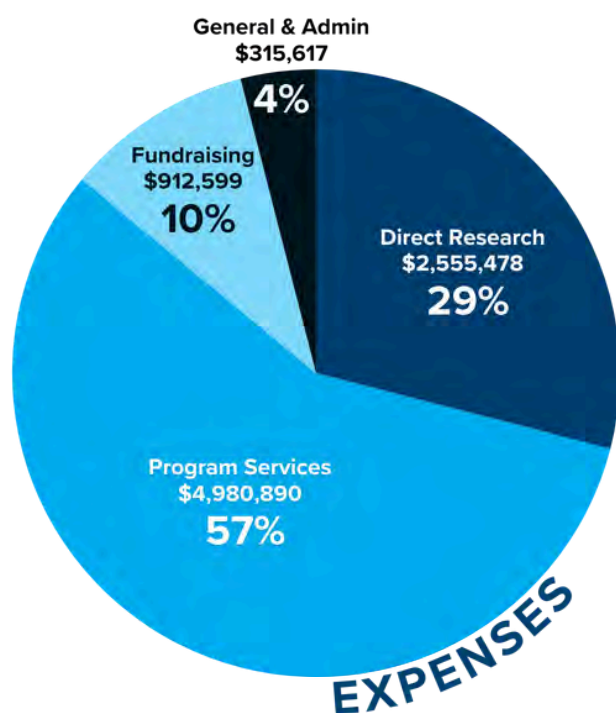
2024 FINANCIALS



To view the Lung Cancer Research Foundation's previous audited financial statements and Form 990, please refer to our web page: LCRF.org/financials.

FUNDING SOURCES

Contributions and grants	\$5,650,169
In-kind contributions	\$2,549,684
Event revenue	\$1,481,301
Other	\$273,635
TOTAL	\$9,954,789



YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

Direct research	\$2,555,478
Program services	\$4,980,890
Fundraising	\$912,599
Management and general	\$315,617
TOTAL	\$8,764,584

NET ASSETS

Total net assets Dec 31, 2024	\$4,826,101
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