

**Lung Cancer Research - Progress Report**  
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Dr. Jones has made tremendous progress in his lung cancer research during the past two years. In particular, his work to determine why lung cancer cells are resistant to chemotherapy, and how new therapies can be created to address this problem has drawn international attention. At the most competitive time in the history of grant awards by the NIH, Dr. Jones' grant application was ranked in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile of all submissions. He was able to secure a \$1.1 million NIH grant over five years for this research. This grant will also help him to continue to study how and why lung cancer spreads to specific areas of the body.

The progress that Dr. Jones has made to date has been documented as part of the clinical trial that he is performing with collaborators at the National Cancer Institute and the University of Texas Southwest in Dallas. This trial, available only to patients at UVa, is over 85% complete. Several patients have had dramatic, positive responses, and no patient has died during or after treatment. In fact, the survival rate is 100% for up to 2.5 years. Toxicity is minimal (no hair loss or missed work). By the end of the first phase of this trial, 24 patients will have been treated and studied.

Private support was instrumental in Dr. Jones' progress in phase I of this trial. Without the funds to provide the initial data required to submit the NIH grant application, he never would have been able to start the trial. Now, as he nears the completion of phase I, he is seeking to move into phase II, a necessary, expanded version with more patients and collaborators. This phase II trial will probably cost \$500,000-\$750,000 to complete. If his approach continues to succeed in this larger group of patients, pharmaceutical companies would be expected to show interest near its conclusion.

Phase II of the clinical trial will involve more highly respected collaborators from around the world. Already, scientists from Sloan Kettering and Vanderbilt have made verbal commitments to participate. In September, Dr. Jones will be the keynote speaker at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Cancer Institute of Italy. He expects the discussion of his research there to lead to more international opportunities for collaboration.

Dr. Jones will also seek funding to pursue several parallel lines of research that appear to be very promising, given the success he has had in the current trial. In general, this research would involve identifying various biomarkers to detect lung cancer far in advance of current methods. In fact, Dr. Jones' dream is to develop a blood serum test to detect the disease. He describes this as the "Holy Grail" of lung cancer research. It would enable physicians to detect the presence of lung cancer cells in the body long before any tumor is evident. This extremely early detection could lead to dramatically more successful intervention with the therapies being devised by Dr. Jones in his clinical trial today. This blood serum initiative could be initiated with \$500,000. It will probably cost up to \$2 million to complete.

Dr. Jones is extremely grateful for the private support that he has received in recent years. This support has resulted in dramatic progress in an unusually short period of time. He is hopeful that those who have supported this work will realize that their donations have been very well spent. Most importantly, he wishes that they might continue to make his program one of their philanthropic priorities. Defeating lung cancer in our time will require private support to attack the disease on several fronts simultaneously. Additional private funding for phase II of his current trial and seed funding for the serum trial would accelerate the progress of this attack dramatically.