



A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation

When Hearts Unite, Hope is Inevitable

A Breath of Hopeful News April 2015

Dear Friends,

In spite of an ongoing five year survival rate of less than 16% for lung cancer patients, our country has made steps that bring hope to families hurt by lung cancer. As new drugs are approved, low dose screening becomes more available and new awareness levels achieved, we are sure to see a drop in lung cancer's alarming (and often avoidable) mortality rate.

Of particular interest are the following improvements:

- **Fact:** Ignorance compounds the lung cancer threat in this country. **Good news:** Lung Cancer has been in the media frequently this year, mostly around new FDA approved drugs that are sure to change outcomes for some patients.
- **Fact:** Early detection is a sure proof way to improve the lung cancer survival rate. **Good news:** Medicare has approved lung screening for those at high risk of lung cancer and we are hearing of companies following suit with changes to their employee insurance policies.
- **Fact:** For lung cancer patients with advanced NSCLC (nonsmall cell lung cancer), treatment outcomes have been traditionally poor (less than 14% of patients diagnosed in stages 3 or 4 live more than 5 years). **Good news:** An immunotherapy drug called pembrolizumab used in treating Melanoma was recently found to reduce tumor progression in patients with advanced NSCLC. [Read full report.](#)
- **Fact:** Cancer treatments have traditionally been hard on healthy tissues. **Good news:** A new study published in *ACS Nano* shows how nanoparticles might be used to fight lung cancer. The authors describe how they developed nanocarriers that can release chemotherapy drugs selectively at tumor sites without affecting tumor-free areas. [Read full report.](#)
- **Good news from A Breath of Hope Fellow, Dr. Manish Patel:** *"We are pleased to report progress on our work towards translation of VSV-IFN β to clinical application for patients with lung cancer. We are continuing our work on utilizing blood outgrowth endothelial cells (BOECS) as a carrier of VSV-IFN β . We are currently evaluating the overall survival of mice in a large cohort of mice and hope to have results to share very soon. In the meantime, we have generated some data that are potentially very important with regards to future clinical application of VSV-IFN β . First, we have learned that lung cancer cells with activated antiviral pathways might be resistant to VSV-IFN therapy. This type of knowledge may be critically important when applying treatment to patients."* [Read full progress report.](#)

The staff and board of directors at A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation keep busy with any number of projects aimed at raising awareness, supporting research and helping patients. [We welcome your help in fighting this terrible disease.](#)

Here's how you can make an impact on lung cancer now:

- **Golf with us at the 3rd Annual A Breath of Hope Golf Classic** (more below) on June 12th. A full house sends a strong message to the public and media! Proceeds go to research fellowships for young, brilliant scientists. More info at www.abreathofhope.org/events.
- **Individuals or businesses: Sponsor a hole** (\$250, \$500, \$1000)! This is an excellent marketing opportunity (or chance to share your story) in front of 10,000 or more Minnesotans! Email nancy@abreathofhope.org for more information or to receive a sponsor benefit chart.
- **Mark your calendars for the 9th Annual Twin Cities Lung Run/Walk** (more below) on August 15th at Lake Harriet (8 am-Noon). **Plan to start a fundraising team** in honor of your loved one who has fought or is fighting the battle. More to come in May...
- **Individuals or businesses: Our 5K provides marketing exposure** in front of 10,000 - 1,000,000 people. **Sponsoring this 5K** is an excellent way to support an important mission while promoting your work or honoring your loved one. Email nancy@abreathofhope.org for a sponsor benefit chart or more info.
- **Help us find opportunities to use our speaker's bureau** to raise awareness. Do you belong to a civic group, place of worship or business that invites speakers? Email jill@abreathofhope.org

We appreciate your partnership in the fight to save lives and reduce lung cancer's grip on the families of this country. Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Nancy Torrison
Executive Director
952-456-2463

[A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation](http://www.abreathofhope.org)



**A Breath of Hope Golf Classic,
Friday June 12th, 1 pm shotgun
start, Deer Run Country Club,
Victoria, MN**

\$150 registration covers 18 holes, the finest in golf carts, lunch, happy hour, a steak or chicken dinner hot off the grill and a super cool silent auction featuring 'Rest and Relaxation' items.

Thank you to our current hole sponsors! Register here or view list of the generous lung cancer warriors that make our day in the sun possible.



A special thanks to KFAN's Common Man for joining us again this year - everything is more fun with Common around!

See you June 12th!



**Twin Cities Lung Run/Walk,
August 15th, 8 am to Noon
Lake Harriet, Minneapolis**

Featuring a 5K walk or chip-timed run, this beautiful event also features live bluegrass music, food, commemorative t-shirts, a resource fair for cancer patients, survivor bus ride around the lakes, the Rose Raft of Remembrance in memory of those we have lost, kids' activities, and oncology updates from leaders in the field.

Registration opens May 1st! Check back at www.abreathofhope.org/events!

Can't make an event, but want to help?

[Donate Now!](#)

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