

Spotlight on Bladder Cancer

An estimated 84,870 new cases of bladder cancer were diagnosed in the U.S. in 2025, making it the sixth-most common cancer.

Bladder cancer typically occurs more frequently in men compared to women, non-Hispanic whites compared to other people groups, and in people aged 65+.

The five-year relative survival rate for bladder cancer is 79%.



Our Impact on Bladder Cancer Research

We've funded

13 grants totaling over \$6.3 million.

V Foundation funded researchers, over their careers, have:

Received

**70 grants and over
\$255 million in funding.**

Produced

**over 1,400
publications.**

Worked on

**19 clinical
trials.**

V Foundation Funded Researchers – Proven Positive Impact

- **David Oh, M.D., Ph.D.**, a 2023 Translational Grantee at the University of California, San Francisco, recently published an exciting new study on the role of the immune system in bladder cancer.
- Dr. Oh and team identified two main types of killer CD4 immune cells: fighters and scouts. Fighters produce granzyme B and can directly kill cancerous cells. These cells respond to immunotherapy. Scouts produce granzyme K but don't kill directly. They remember what the tumor 'looks like' and . . . maybe evolve from the Fighter cells.
- Crucially, KLRG1 acts as a "brake" on these killer cells, preventing them from fully fighting the tumor. However, when Dr. Oh and team blocked KLRG1's interaction with the tumors, the cells went back to killing.
- In summary, there's a potent, underappreciated immune cell in the bloodstream of cancer patients, ready to fight, if we just release the brakes. This discovery opens new doors for cancer immunotherapy, early detection, and more personalized treatment options in bladder cancer.



*David Oh, M.D., Ph.D.,
2023 Translational Grantee*