

Spotlight on Pancreatic Cancer

An estimated 67,440 new cases of pancreatic cancer were diagnosed in the U.S. in 2025.

Pancreatic cancer is the third-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, with 51,980 estimated deaths in 2025.



Our Impact on Pancreatic Cancer Research

We've funded

66 grants totaling over \$24 million.

V Foundation funded researchers, over their careers, have:

Received

**over 379 grants and
\$4.51 billion in funding.**

Produced

**over 4,600
publications.**

Worked on

**42 clinical
trials.**

V Foundation Funded Researchers – Proven Positive Impact

- **Sita Kugel, Ph.D.**, a 2018 V Scholar and 2023 Translational Grant awardee from Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, has seen her V-funded research taken from the lab to the bedside.
- Through Dr. Kugel's V Scholar grant, she was able to identify the cellular pathway that is specifically turned off in basal tumor cells (a subtype of pancreatic cancer particularly aggressive and resistant to chemotherapy), which leaves them vulnerable to a type of drug called a CDK7 inhibitor.
- This is a major advance in the field because understanding the molecular details about specific tumor sub-types, knowing the weak spots in different tumor types, can lead to better drug design, individualized treatment plans, and improved patient outcomes.
- Now, with her Translational award, she will conduct a clinical trial testing CDK7 inhibitors in patients following chemotherapy and before surgery and search for new blood markers of treatment response and resistance.



*Sita Kugel, Ph.D.,
2018 V Scholar and
2023 Translational Grantee*