



## **PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK**

**ADVANCE RESEARCH. SUPPORT PATIENTS. CREATE HOPE.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK MOURNS THE LOSS OF DR. RON DAVIS, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

**EL SEGUNDO, CA – (November 7, 2008)** – The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network ([www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org)), the only national organization creating hope in a comprehensive way through research, patient support, community outreach and advocacy for a cure, is saddened by the loss of Dr. Ron Davis, former president of the American Medical Association.

“Dr. Davis was a friend of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, and we send our condolences to the Davis family, his friends and colleagues at the American Medical Association,” said Julie Fleshman, president and CEO of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. “He waged a brave battle against this disease and spoke publicly about his fight with strength and courage. We are very grateful for his time and efforts supporting the work of our organization and the entire pancreatic cancer community.”

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States and 75 percent of patients diagnosed die within one year. It is the most lethal cancer with a five year survival rate of 5 percent. Despite the statistics, pancreatic cancer is the most under-funded among leading cancer killers with less than 2 percent of the National Cancer Institute’s annual research budget—a figure far too low given the severity of the disease. We urgently need the funding to find early detection methods, diagnostic tools and ultimately a cure for this disease.

To address this disparity the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network launched, in January 2008, *Raise the Cure*, an unprecedented initiative that combines a commitment to raise \$25 million in private funding with a call for the federal government to devote more attention and resources to finding a cure and treatments for pancreatic cancer. The federal component of the plan, called *The National Plan to Advance Pancreatic Cancer Research*, was developed by the organization’s esteemed Scientific Advisory Board to provide a detailed blueprint of the research and federal resources required to make true inroads in this disease, and forms the basis for legislation introduced in the United States House of Representatives in September 2008. This historic initiative marks the first major piece of legislation that could address the astounding mortality rate of pancreatic cancer.

To learn more about the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, visit [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org).

#### **About the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network**

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the only national organization creating hope in a comprehensive way through research, patient support, community outreach and advocacy for a cure. The organization raises money for direct private funding of research—and advocates for more aggressive federal research funding of medical breakthroughs in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network fills the void of information and options by giving patients and caregivers reliable, personalized information they need to make informed decisions. We create a sense of hope and community so no one has to face pancreatic cancer alone. The organization helps support individuals and communities all across the country work together to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for pancreatic cancer.

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