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## 2014 Current Activity Update:

Continue to biobank specimens.

Presented data on FOLFIRINOX in the neoadjuvant setting at LA Chapter of American College of Surgeons. Presented data on peri-operative pathways to improve outcome after Whipple procedure (we were able to reduce length of stay, blood usage, and readmissions). We will be presenting both of these projects at upcoming Pancreas Club and DDW/SSAT meetings in May (Chicago) and are turning both projects into manuscripts.

Currently revising a basic science manuscript looking at the Wnt/LRP6 pathway in pancreatic cancer.

Requesting funding (grant) to continue the Wnt/LRP6 studies in an animal model (in conjunction with Dr. Zabaleta at LSU) Collaborating with Agnes Witkiewicz (Robert Emmons' wife - he's a medical oncologist at Ochsner) who is currently at UT Southwestern. She is a very accomplished basic/translational researcher in pancreatic and breast cancer (RO1 grants in both). I am trying to recruit her to Ochsner and with Emmons here, I think we have a shot at getting her. This would be huge for pancreatic research in NOLA. Currently, I am involved with a project looking at cancer cell metabolism. This has become a hot topic in the field (pubmed Ralph DeBerardinis) and I think a promising avenue to ultimately develop better treatments.

We are going to get her core samples from tumors that are still perfused to get a look at cell metabolism as close to truly what is happening in the human as possible. There is a significant worry that a lack of understanding of the metabolism in the tumor may make it difficult to find treatments that will work in a real person. There is likely significant perturbation by the cell culture media, animal models, etc. that needs to be elucidated to better develop drug therapies. Also, there is new evidence that metabolism isn't just a bystander but is important in facilitating hypoxic growth and tumor development. I'm really excited about this collaboration and really hope Agnes will eventually be working at the LA Cancer Research Institute with a combined Ochsner/LSU appointment. Agnes mentioned she would be interested in attending the Purple Pants Party.

Alliance A021101 - This was a neoadjuvant clinical trial that was open at Ochsner. This was an exploratory trial that only included 20 patients and was only open at major pancreatic cancer centers including Ochsner. We put 3 patients on the trial. It is now closed, but is going to be expanded into a larger phase 2 trial because the results were so promising (we had a patient with a complete response!).

I think that covers it. We're still early in getting our pancreatic cancer research program going, but are getting some things together that I think are very exciting. Of course, we couldn't have this program without philanthropy and are very indebted to you and others for making it possible.