

May 27, 2009

Scottsdale Healthcare, TGen join \$18M pancreatic cancer study

By [Angela Gonzales](#)

Scottsdale Healthcare and the **Translational Genomics Research Institute** teamed with Johns Hopkins University and University of Pennsylvania to kick off an \$18 million pancreatic cancer research project.

Stand Up to Cancer gave the group \$18 million from a pool of \$74 million shared with four other research projects nationwide. The philanthropic group was created by the Entertainment Industry Foundation to quickly turn scientific discoveries into ways to care for cancer patients.

Dr. Daniel Von Hoff, TGen's physician in chief, along with Dr. Craig Thompson, director of the Abramson Cancer Center at Penn, are co-leaders of the three-year investigation. The goal is to develop tests to determine what nutrients fuel the growth and survival pancreatic cancer cells.

Scottsdale Healthcare will serve as primary clinical site for this study, said Mark Slater, vice president of research for Scottsdale Healthcare. Phoenix-area patients with pancreatic cancer are being recruited for clinical trials.

"We're ready to go," he said. "We currently have about 40 new first-in-human agents we are studying. Many of these are for pancreatic cancer with the goal of extending the life of pancreatic cancer patients."

This not only gives pancreatic cancer patients a chance to try new medications before they are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but also brings major attention to Arizona, Slater said.

"We have access to the best possible agents and the best possible care right here in our area," he said.

Patients interested in participating in the clinical trial can call 480-323-1339. For more: www.su2c.org.