



## **ACCRF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

May 2007 Update

Since its formation in December 2005, The Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation (ACCRF) has worked relentlessly to achieve its mission: to find a cure for ACC. The highlights of the Foundation's activities in the past year and half are:

1. ACCRF formed an exemplary **Scientific Advisory Board** that includes **Dr. David Sidransky** (Director of Head & Neck Cancer Research at Johns Hopkins; Vice-Chairman of Imclone Systems), **Dr. Bruce Chabner** (Clinical Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center; Member of the National Cancer Advisory Board), **Dr. Robert Haddad** (Medical Oncologist at Dana Farber Cancer Institute; Moderator of the ACCOI Doctors' Forum) and **Dr. Norman Sharpless** (Cancer Geneticist at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center). They have been generous with their time and responsive to all requests – a remarkably capable, committed and compassionate group.
2. ACCRF sponsored and/or presented at **Scientific Meetings** to build researchers' focus on ACC:
  - April 2006 – “State of the Science on ACC” meeting alongside the annual meetings of the American Association of Cancer Researchers (AACR). Sixteen researchers brainstormed about the most promising projects to consider.
  - July 2006 – “Project Review” meeting alongside the annual meetings of the NCI's Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE).
  - October 2006 – “Workshop on Malignant Salivary Gland Tumors”, the first-ever meeting on the topic at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
  - April 2007 – “Patient Advocates Forum” at the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), discussing the creation of a salivary gland tumor bio-repository.
  - May 2007 – “Epidemiologic Research on Rare Cancers” meeting at the National Cancer Institute.
3. ACCRF announced its **Research Agenda** in June 2006, developed with the input of the Scientific Advisory Board and other interested researchers. A multi-institutional, multi-year plan to make parallel and logically-sequenced progress, the Research Agenda includes projects on bio-banking, model system development, genomics and drug testing.
4. ACCRF funds **Bio-banking Projects** that will make ACC specimens available to interested researchers and thereby stimulate new studies. ACCRF is supporting two institutions (MD Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Virginia) in their bio-banking efforts, and is developing an even broader effort in collaboration with other governmental and healthcare institutions.
5. ACCRF funds the generation of additional **Model Systems**. ACCRF is building a colony of mouse models of ACC by supporting the xenografting efforts of multiple institutions across the country. In addition, ACCRF is seeking to make cell lines available to interested researchers for their studies.
6. ACCRF is managing a high-throughput **Genomics Project** with the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute (Hinxton, England), the laboratory that sequenced one-third of the human genome. The Foundation identified the appropriate DNA samples, brought together the collaborating researchers and is funding the effort to identify genetic mutations associated with ACC. This project follows on the heels of an ACCRF Genotyping Project at Goteborg University (Sweden) that aims to identify chromosomal regions that may be altered in ACC.
7. ACCRF is developing a **Drug Screening** program to test new compounds and incorporate the output of the Genomics Project in identifying “smart drugs” for ACC. The Institute for Drug Development, a non-profit that specializes in pre-clinical drug screening as well as clinical trials, conducts the program under a contractual relationship with the Foundation.

ACCRF is constantly evaluating new proposals and considering new directions for its Research Agenda, all with the purpose of accelerating the development of new therapies for ACC.