Repurposing a Liver Cyst Laser Device to Eliminate Side Effects of Prostate Cancer Treatment

In 2009, Cures Within Reach funded Drs. Oto and Eggener at the University of Chicago to support the first clinical trial repurposing of a liver cyst laser device for newly diagnosed prostate cancer patients. This research demonstrated that the laser could kill the cancer without any chance of the patient becoming incontinent or impotent, risks that often occur with other prostate cancer treatments. For $50,000, 9 patients underwent this outpatient therapy with excellent results. This led to more than $2.5 million in grants from the NIH for larger trials, which were also successful. The treatment is now routinely offered at the University of Chicago and at other institutions, providing excellent patient outcomes with zero side effects and lower costs.

KEY FACTS
- CWR funded $40,000 of total $50,000 of this Clinical Phase 1 trial from 2009 - 2012

IMPACT
- This treatment is being used at the U of C and several other institutions
- CWR’s initial funding leveraged more than $2.5 million in follow-on funding from the NIH for larger clinical trials
- Oto and Eggener published more than 7 articles based on this research