Partnership for Cures (PFC) transforms existing science and medicine into "new" treatments. By turning FDA approved drugs and devices, long-approved for one disease, into novel, "repurposed" therapies for additional indications, we are able to quickly create safe, effective and affordable treatments for patients afflicted with catastrophic conditions.

Thousands of safe and effective FDA-approved drugs and other therapies can be repurposed to treat different diseases than those for which they were originally approved. Treatment protocols can be modified to help more patients for longer periods of time. Anecdotal clinical successes can be tested to see if they should be incorporated more widely into patient care.

This Rediscovery Research™ takes less time and money to impact a patient than “New Discovery Research.” Yet our current medical research system provides no incentives for researchers or companies to pursue Rediscovery Research™. The burden falls on private philanthropy, which cares about patient impact, instead of profit, promotion, publication or intellectual property protection.

Researchers will eagerly partner with philanthropists to deliver Rediscovery Research™ to patients, and the legal and regulatory rules support Rediscovery Research™.

With your help, we continue to make this happen, touching hundreds of thousands of lives each year! Thank you!!

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Mission

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President’s Letter

2011 was a big year for Partnership for Cures! We kicked off our newest and most important program, the Patient Impact Initiative. The Patient Impact Initiative is our most powerful way to make a difference in the world of medical research. Why?

Drugs and devices that might provide treatments for diseases are not pursued when they don’t fit the for profit pharmaceutical model. This includes FDA approved drugs/devices that might have new indication but have no patent protection, patent protected therapies that could target a tiny disease market, and drugs that “failed” during research for one disease but could succeed for a different disease.

The Patient Impact Initiative and our partners will source, fund, test, and market these drugs and devices for new indications to bring rediscovered treatments and cures to patients. Success may simply be publication of a proof of concept clinical trial that allows physicians to decide if off-label use could help their patients. In other cases market potential may be sufficient to cover the costs of a very efficient FDA approval process for a new indication. Either way, Rediscovery Research quickly, safely and affordably creates “new” treatments and saves significant research and healthcare dollars.

Our Partner Research Institutions generate 125-250 new Rediscovery Research proposals each year and our Science Advisors and Executive Board rank and select 20 projects for our PII Portfolio. We solicit patient support groups, foundations and philanthropists to fund these proof of concept trials that cost $100,000-$300,000 over a 12-36 month period. These projects can include:

1. Repurposing FDA approved drugs, devices and nutriceuticals to treat "off label" diseases
2. Testing Pharma and other shelved compounds for new indications
3. Combining drug and non-drug treatment
4. Modifying current treatment protocols to make them work better and help more patients
5. Testing clinical observations from integrative medicine or from other parts of the world

Come Join Us!

Dr. Bruce E. Bloom
President and Chief Science Officer
Sample PFC Funded Patient Impact Initiative Projects

Defeating 7 Deadly Orphan Childhood Diseases

Dr. David Teachey was our researcher who saved the lives of children with the deadly genetic disease ALPS starting in 2005. It took less than 36 months, using an already existing drug, so no wasted time and money in further drug testing and approval issues! 7 years later thousands of children have a chance for a long and healthy life thanks to this Rediscovery.

We are funding Dr. Teachey again with support from the Longest Day of Golf. The same drug he used for ALPS, rapamycin, is being tested in 7 other deadly childhood diseases, further leveraging this discovery. In the first 6 months of his work in 2011, 7 patients with three different diseases who had failed every therapy were started on rapamycin. Four of those patients were in complete remission 30 days later-in other words, their symptoms had disappeared with no side effects and very little cost! One other patient had a partial response-the rapamycin worked better than anything else ever tried! Unfortunately, two of the patients had no response to the rapamycin, but 5 out of 7 patients is a pretty great response! 30-60 children will participate in this study-if the results keep up with the first 7 patients, the published paper will change the standard of care in some or all of these childhood diseases!

Improving Prostate Cancer Outcomes and Reducing Complications

Drs. Scott Eggener and Aytekin Oto at the University of Chicago are eradicating prostate cancer in its earlier stages using a laser that heats and kills just the cancer cells. The treatment takes just a few hours, is done under a mild sedation, and because the whole process is done under MRI observation, the system reduces the chances of injuring surrounding tissue to nearly zero! Dr. Oto, the radiologist on the team, talks about why this is so important. “Even with the best surgery or radiation treatment there is a significant chance of injuring the nerves that control continence and potency. And the last inches of colon and the urethra are also very close to the prostate, and can be damaged during surgery or with radiation. When we do the laser heat ablation therapy, the MRI will tell us if the nerves or other tissues are getting too hot, and will automatically turn off the laser and let everything cool down, so there is almost no chance of tissue damage. Then we heat up the laser again until all of the cancer cells in the tumor mass are dead.”
Dr. Eggener, the surgeon on the team, tells us about the patient response. “The laser probe is so small that it causes no side effects. It inserts through the skin just like the needle and the tip is positioned in the center of the tumor. When the heat ablation is done, we pull it back out and put on a small "Band-Aid." That is the extent of what happens to the patient. So far every subject we have treated has been back to normal activities the next day with no healing from any incision, no pain and no other permanent side effects. The follow-up tests have shown no evidence of any remaining cancer. We will continue to do follow-up, but the initial results are very promising.”

The laser device was originally designed for use on breast cancer and brain cancer. Drs. Oto and Eggener approached Partnership for Cures to see if our funders would be interested in supporting the first repurposing of this device for prostate cancer. We contacted one of our funding groups, the organizers of our Longest Day of Golf, and they agreed to raise the $50,000 to cover the costs of the clinical trial over the two year period. In less than 9 months after the initial inquiry from Drs. Oto and Eggener, 9 patients were actually being impacted by this promising new treatment, with excellent initial results!
The Longest Day of Golf

The Longest Day of Golf raises funds to fund cancer research. In 2009 and 2010, they raised enough to fund two prostate cancer projects at the University of Chicago. Since the 1990s the golfers and donors of The Longest day of Golf have provided over $500,000 in medical research and other funding!

Dr. Denise Faustman and Friends United for Juvenile Diabetes have joined forces again. With a sizable grant from Friends United the Faustman Lab will move forward on translating their previous discoveries in type 1 diabetes into human clinical trials. Friends United also funded a joint project at Mayo Clinic and at McGill University in Toronto to evaluate whether a repurposed protein can promote growth of insulin producing cells in the pancreas in type I diabetics with disease for 10 or more years.

The Jasper Against Batten Fund has raised a significant amount of funding to support Rediscovery Research and other research to find treatments for the rare and fatal childhood genetic LINCL-Batten Disease. In 2010 and 2011, these funds provided support for a clinical trial using a virus to place a functioning gene in the brains of the children with this disease. This group also funded a project to screen every available FDA approved drug to see if any of them might help Batten Disease, and they discovered one drug that looks like it could have immediate impact!