



## Lung Cancer

Americans are more likely to die from lung cancer than from breast, prostate, colon and kidney cancers combined. Lung cancer affects nonsmokers, former smokers and those who are still smoking. The statistics are daunting: Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States and in the world. Each year, more than 200,000 Americans will be diagnosed with lung cancer, and 160,000 of them will die from the disease. More than half of those diagnosed with lung cancer are diagnosed after the cancer has spread, when the outlook is particularly poor.

Those with lung cancer also suffer the stigma that smoking increases the risk of the disease. In fact, half of Americans diagnosed with lung cancer had quit smoking many years before, and 15 percent of cases occur in people who never smoked, and that rate is even higher among woman.



*Creating Hope Through Science*

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hope

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awareness

lung cancer

AMC Cancer Fund is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the University of Colorado Cancer Center to support its outstanding programs in cancer prevention, care, education, research and service to the nation.

Visit [www.amc.org](http://www.amc.org) and learn more about the different ways to support AMC Cancer Fund.

- Make a Donation
- Sponsor one of our annual events
- Participate in or implement a workplace giving program
- Become a volunteer

*Information for this brochure provided by the University of Colorado Cancer Center, University of Colorado Hospital and University of Colorado Foundation.*



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celebrate survival!

## Prevention

Although lung cancer is often associated with smoking, not all lung cancer patients are smokers. Cancer prevention measures such as healthy diet and exercise are the first line of defense against the disease. Refraining from or quitting smoking is key.

## Early Detection

Lung cancer is so deadly because it is often not detected until it has spread beyond the lungs. Several UCCC laboratory projects aimed toward the early detection of lung cancer are showing promising results. One project attempts to “smell” the cancer by detecting the biomarkers in exhaled breath from high-risk people. By having a patient simply breathe into a special designed tube and then analyzing the breath, researchers hope to be able to diagnose lung cancer noninvasively.

## Treatment

The key to effective lung cancer treatment is determining the “driver gene” for each person’s tumor, then treating the tumor with drugs that target that gene. UCCC researchers are world leaders in testing tumors - especially in lung cancer - to determine which genetic problems are involved, then matching patients with new targeted treatments in clinical trials.

With advanced molecular tumor testing, discoveries of new targets and access to new drugs through clinical trials, UCCC physicians will soon be able to offer personalized treatment to every patient.

AMC Cancer Fund supports the physicians and researchers at the University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC) who are leaders in the tremendous surge in research that is contributing new knowledge about diagnosis, treatment and prevention of lung cancer.

UCCC is one of 40 comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute, and the only one in the Rocky Mountain region. To earn this distinction, UCCC must demonstrate equal strength in research, patient care and education through a competitive grant process.



## Translational and Collaborative Approach to Care

Cancer patients of the University of Colorado Cancer Center are treated with multidisciplinary teams of experts that include oncologists, pathologists, geneticists, surgeons, radiation therapists, counselors and nurse navigators.

Clinicians and researchers work together to ensure that the science discovered in the lab is quickly and efficiently translated to new treatments for patients. This collaboration is vitally important to advancing not only the discoveries of the causes of cancer from a biological level, but the most effective way to treat cancer in humans.

your support helps...

- recruit researchers and physicians who are dedicated to the lung cancer problem.
- provide seed money to transform ideas developed in the laboratories into tangible results in the clinics. Discoveries made from seed grants often show promising results that attract new collaborative grants and federal money to fund additional research.
- patient support and care, and ensures the highest possible quality of life so patients and their families have support during their entire cancer journey.
- clinical trials of new treatments that are sometimes not available anywhere else in the world. At UCCC, the number of lung cancer patients going on clinical trials has doubled every two years since 2005. The national average of lung cancer patients on clinical trials is 3%. At 38%, UCCC is offering more than 12 times more patients from around the country access to clinical trials than the typical provider.

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