



Van Andel Institute®

CANCER RESEARCH



## CANCER RESEARCH

### How You Can Help

More than 1,500 people die of cancer each day in the United States. Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the U.S. and accounts for nearly 1 out of every 4 deaths. As more of our families, friends, and neighbors fight cancer, Van Andel Research Institute is prepared and dedicated to fight back, with your help.

## WAYS TO JOIN THE FIGHT

**Give a Gift:** Use our secure online form at [vai.org](http://vai.org), mail a check, or contact us at 616-234-5780 to make a donation to help fight cancer. You can make your donation in memory of a loved one, or as a gift for a special occasion. Check with your employer to see if they will match your gift. Don't forget other giving options such as securities / stock, bequests, IRA's or other retirement plan assets, and life insurance.

**Attend or Host an Event:** Check out [vai.org](http://vai.org) for a list of upcoming events, or contact 616-234-5712 if you are interested in sponsoring an event. If you are interested in hosting a personalized Community for a Cure event to help fight disease, please contact 616-234-5780.

**Join Our Online Community:** Go to [vai.org](http://vai.org) to sign up for Van Andel Institute's email newsletter, find us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, and create an account on our web site to share your story through a personal web page, view your giving history, and update your contact information and preferences.

**Be an Ambassador of Hope:** Spread the word about VAI's work by starting a conversation, inviting others to VAI events, and sharing VAI's email newsletter. You can also bring in a group to tour Van Andel Institute; go to [vai.org](http://vai.org) or contact 616-234-5780.

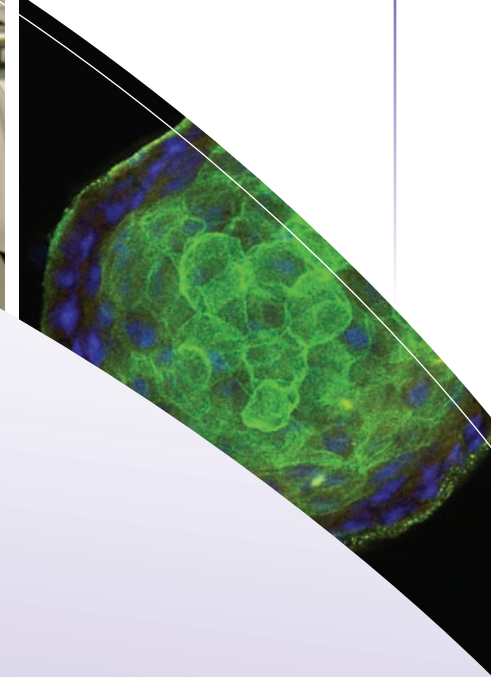
**It's Personal:** VAI lost principal investigator Han-Mo Koo to cancer in 2004. Koo was head of the Laboratory of Cancer Pharmacogenetics and established, among others, projects to study melanoma and pancreatic cancer.

"Cancer is a victimizing disease for everyone, and especially children. Van Andel does so much more than research cancer. They are empowering kids. In my world, it doesn't get any better than that!"

**-Kelley Peel**, counselor at Reeths-Puffer Intermediate School, whose school district hosted a week of Community for a Cure games



Turn the page to find out what your dollars will support. >>



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## VAN ANDEL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### Cancer Research

Scientists at Van Andel Research Institute study what happens at the molecular level in cancer cells to find drug targets and biomarkers to diagnose and treat cancer, giving patients and families around the world the tools to fight back against this devastating disease.

### SOME OF THE CANCERS WE STUDY

- |                 |                  |                   |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Bone Cancer     | Brain Cancer     | Breast Cancer     |
| Colon Cancer    | Kidney Cancer    | Leukemia          |
| Liver Cancer    | Lung Cancer      | Lymphoma          |
| Melanoma        | Multiple Myeloma | Pancreatic Cancer |
| Prostate Cancer | Sarcomas         |                   |

### MAKING PROGRESS: RECENT FINDINGS

- A way to reverse resistance to the treatment that is currently the first line of defense against clear cell renal cell carcinoma, a deadly form of **kidney cancer**
- Two potential drug targets to help fight one of the most aggressive and virtually untreatable forms of **breast cancer**
- Two methods: one that could lead to the development of blood tests to detect **pancreatic cancer** early, and one that could be used to predict whether pancreatic cysts are benign or are precursors to invasive cancer
- An enzyme that could help diagnose and treat cholangiocarcinoma, a form of **liver cancer** that strikes up to 3,000 new patients/year in the U.S.
- How two proteins required for the initiation and development of prostate cancer interact at the molecular level, which could lead to improved treatments
- A way to diagnose several different types of **kidney cancer**
- Genes that play an important role in melanoma's ability to spread; future treatments could target these genes to stop the spread of **melanoma**



**It's Personal:** "My father and grandfather died of cancer, my mother-in-law died of breast cancer, I had two sisters-in-law die of cancer, and I myself had cancer. It's touched my life intensely."

—VAI Scientific Investigator

**Cindy Miranti, Ph.D.**

Turn the page to find out how you can help. >>