

Our Mission: It's All About Access

The goals of the Pacific Shores Hematology-Oncology Foundation are: To ensure that people with cancer have access to the latest and most effective treatments; to provide transportation and other logistical assistance to ensure that patients have access to their doctors, tests and clinics; to ensure that patients and their families get accurate, comprehensive information about their disease; to ensure that patients receiving care and treatment for their cancer in community centers close to their homes have access to the latest in clinical trials and advanced treatments; to ensure that barriers of lack of health care coverage, lack of resources, language and culture are overcome and treatments are available to all who need them; and to ensure that the treatment and research into cures for cancer proceed forward while maintaining the quality of life for patients, family members and the entire community. For more information or to make a donation please call (800) 303-0131 or visit www.pacificshoresfoundation.org

Board Members

Jennifer Cordial
Peter Ferrera, MD
Nancy Illian
Lois Kearney
Elizabeth Lucas

Dick Miller
David Scholer, PhD
Gerry Seckington
Simon Tchekmedyan, MD
Kalust Ucar, MD

SOARING TO SURVIVE: Banding Together To Battle Cancer

Whether they research cures for cancer, treat patients, help family or fight their own disease, members of the Pacific Shores Hematology-Oncology Foundation's board of directors are committed to improving the quality of life of everyone touched by the disease.

Making sure everyone has access to the latest treatments and research options moves us closer to cures.

"You can have the best research program in the world, but if the patients don't know about it, it doesn't work," says Dr. Simon Tchekmedyan, co-founder of the PSHOF.

"Even though there is a vast investment into trying to bring about new treatments for cancer, people with cancer do not necessarily have access to these treatments," he says. "That makes a vast investment by agencies that are trying to advance the war on cancer go unused."

Tchekmedyan, Dr. Kalust Ucar, and Dr. Peter Ferrera serve on the foundation's board of directors. Each of them are dedicated to improving treatments for the disease – and that means making sure that treatments get to the people who need them.

"A lot of things doctors do on a daily basis, help the patients, treat the patients, educate the families, go through the usual triangle of patient, family and insurance. But a lot of patients fall outside this triangle. Having the foundation helps fill those gaps," says Ucar.

Other board members have been touched by cancer from the other side – they have survived the disease, have helped family members through the disease, or both. For them, the desire to help the PSHOF is personal.

"I see a potential for a foundation that will be able to really help patients," says Dr. Peter Ferrara, an internal medicine specialist in Long Beach. "I'm also on the board for personal reasons, because my wife passed away from breast cancer. As a physician, I care for people every day, but this is a different way of giving something back."

"This all started because my little sister, Tori Miller-Busch, passed away from ovarian cancer," says board member Jennifer

Cordial, 48, a flight attendant. "She was just a wonderful, warm, bubbly personality. I don't think I ever saw her cry, even on her death bed. It's been a long haul and everyone has been so supportive, so we wanted to give something back."

"We felt so strongly about what the hospital, Dr. T and everyone did for Tori," says Richard Miller, 74, Tori's father. "She was a real bright light over there in the chemo room."

Other board members struggled with their own cancers, and that fight led to their desire to help others.

David M. Scholer, 69, of Pasadena, a professor of New Testament at the Fuller Theological Seminary, has survived cancer for more than six years.

"We need every dollar available for research devoted to cancer," Scholer says. "Dr. Ucar is a marvelous oncologist, and I strongly support the effort to raise money."

Gerry Seckington, 69, a Long Beach bank officer, is a 12-year cancer survivor who lost her husband to the disease.

"I'm hoping the foundation can give people more information," she says. "So often, I hear people say, 'No one explains to me anything about my disease and what's going to happen to me.'"

Elizabeth Lucas, 71, the semi-retired founder of Elizabeth Lucas Designs, calls herself "a mom, a grandmother, a widow of a former cancer patient and a cancer survivor myself."

"For years, I've told Dr. T that he should establish a foundation so patients like me could contribute directly to the treatment of cancer," she says. "It's not just about survival – it's about quality of life."

Lois Kearney, 69, of Seal Beach, a survivor of lung cancer, says her goal is "to touch base with anyone we can. There's still a lot of fear associated with cancer; so much unknown, so much to comprehend. If we can take away any of that fear, that's our goal."

And Nancy Illian, an ovarian cancer survivor, says serving on the PSHOF board has given her life a new meaning.

"I've never known what it meant to be passionate before, but I am passionate about doing this, and the foundation has given me a vehicle for that passion," she says.