



## Lung Cancer Action Network

January 9, 2013

Julie Fleshman, President and CEO  
Megan Gordon Don, Director, Government Affairs & Advocacy  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
1500 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Dear Ms. Fleshman and Ms. Gordon,

Lung Cancer Action Network (LungCAN®) applauds the news that President Obama signed into law the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act* last week! This is the first legislation where comprehensive plans for research in cancers with high mortality rates are made a priority and it was only made possible by a true collaborative effort.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCan) for initiating this effort and who did a great deal of work on this bill. Initially this bill was proposed by PanCan to just cover pancreatic cancer which has a survival rate of six percent (6%). Lung Cancer Alliance's Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act which just addressed lung cancer and was initiated many years ago was in the same position of singling out just one cancer.

Organizations that represented other recalcitrant cancers (cancers that have a very low survival rate) came together and proposed that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) would be required to identify two or more cancers that meet the established criteria -- a 5 year survival rate of less than 20% and a death rate of at least 30,000, which is what allowed lung cancer to be included and prioritized with pancreatic cancer in this bill.

It is because of this true collaborative effort that the lung, pancreatic and other recalcitrant cancer communities are celebrating today. The collaboration and compromise, countless hours put in by many, and the persistence by all involved is what gave this bill the momentum it needed to become law.

The landmark legislation requires NCI to examine its current research efforts on cancers with very low survival rates, giving lung cancer and pancreatic cancer a priority. NCI will work to develop scientific frameworks that support progress in the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of these deadly cancers. At any time, NCI may identify other recalcitrant cancers, defined as cancers with survival rates of below 50%, in which to conduct a scientific framework.

This is a huge milestone for the lung cancer and pancreatic cancer communities as well as other recalcitrant cancer communities and a testament to how powerful collaboration can be in the world of cancer.

Thank you for all your efforts to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association

Beverly Fund

Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation

*CancerCare*

Cancer Support Community

Cancer Survivors Against Radon

Caring Ambassadors Lung Cancer Program

The CHEST Foundation

Dusty Joy Foundation

Gianni Ferrarotti Lung Cancer Foundation

Lung Cancer Alliance

Lung Cancer Circle of Hope

Lung Cancer Foundation of America

LUNGevity

National Lung Cancer Partnership

Respiratory Health Association

Rexanna's Foundation for Fighting Lung Cancer

Uniting Against Lung Cancer

Upstage Lung Cancer