



## PCRF FACTSHEET

### Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund (PCRF)

**PCRF** is a national charity dedicated to supporting research to improve diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer.

PCRF has three main objectives:

1. To raise funds for research into early detection, new treatments and ultimately a cure for pancreatic cancer
2. To encourage more of the research community to get involved in pancreatic cancer research
3. To promote the need for more research funding by the major cancer research funding organisations

PCRF has supported 11 research projects with grants totalling £1.6million - all through fundraising and donations.

### Foundation of the charity

PCRF was founded in April 2004 by **Maggie Blanks**, following the death of her husband Alan from the disease in May 2003. Having discovered that survival rates for pancreatic cancer had barely improved in forty years and that little research was being undertaken, she was determined to encourage more research that was targeted specifically at the disease. She felt the best way to do this was through a charity that would not only raise new funds for research but also be a voice for pancreatic cancer sufferers and argue for a fair allocation of research funding and attention.

### The PCRF logo

The **PCRF logo** is the leaf of a golden ash, the tree Maggie Blanks planted in memory of Alan, after his death from pancreatic cancer. Historically, the ash tree has been associated with medicinal and mystical properties. Before the coming of Christianity, the people of Scandinavia worshipped the ash as a sacred tree and symbol of the life-force. It was also believed that if a sick child was passed through the cleft of an ash tree, it would be cured.

### PCRF Scientific Advisory Panel

Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund has a **scientific advisory panel** made up of prominent cancer specialists who decide on the allocation of research funding. Limited research into pancreatic cancer in the past has meant that there are many aspects of the disease requiring further investigation and study. Given that detecting and diagnosing pancreatic cancer are still major challenges, and given the need for more

effective treatments, PCRF makes these its priority areas for research funding and so is particularly interested in supporting basic and translational research proposals.

The advisory panel acts in a voluntary capacity and its members are as follows:

**Panel Chairman**

**Professor Nick Lemoine** - Clinical Director, Institute of Cancer, Barts & The London School of Medicine and Dentistry

**Panel Vice Chairman**

**Professor Michael Seckl** - Professor of Molecular Cancer Medicine, Imperial College, London

**Panel Members**

**Dr. Heike Grabsch** - Senior Clinical Lecturer in GI Pathology/Consultant Histopathologist, Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine, St. James's University

**Professor Matthias Löhr** - Professor of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, The Karolinska Institute, Sweden

**Dr. Karin Oien** - Senior Lecturer in Molecular Pathology, Honorary Consultant Pathologist, Cancer Research UK Beatson Laboratories, University of Glasgow