

Spotlight
on

New York City

OVERVIEW



The V Foundation funds all types of research across all cancer types, including adult and pediatric cancers, common and rare cancers, from the laboratory to clinics, and from prevention and detection through treatment and recurrence.

The V Foundation solicits competitive research proposals from the 74 National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Centers and other exceptional institutions across North America.

Our Impact on Cancer Research in the New York City Region

We've funded
**121 grants totaling
 over \$47 million.**

V FOUNDATION FUNDED RESEARCHERS IN THE NEW YORK CITY REGION
 OVER THEIR CAREERS, HAVE:

Received
**871 grants and nearly
 \$3.6 billion in funding.**

Produced
**over 14,100
 publications.**

Worked on
**105 clinical
 trials.**

Developing a Drug Target for Pancreatic Cancer

- **David Tuveson, M.D., Ph.D.**, a 2016 Translational Grantee at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, studies what drives pancreatic cancer to metastasize to different parts of the body. Pancreatic cancer's ability to metastasize is what makes this cancer type so deadly.
- In an exciting 2023 publication in "Advanced Science", he discovered that a protein called Engrailed-1 (EN1) allows pancreatic cancer cells to spread to sites beyond the original tumor.
- What is interesting about this discovery is that EN1 is traditionally needed for the development of neuronal cells and the developing nervous system and brain.
- It seems that cancer cells hijack cellular pathways for new uses. Here, Dr. Tuveson found that altered EN1 in pancreatic cancer cells was required for the ability of pancreatic cancer to 'hijack' cellular pathways.
- This work points out EN1 as a potential drug target in pancreatic cancer, particularly to block or reduce metastasis in this extremely deadly cancer type.
- Notably, **Dr. Christopher Vakoc**, a two-time V Foundation grantee, is also a collaborator on this project!



*David Tuveson, M.D., Ph.D., 2016
 Translational Grantee*