

Funding Partner Report Longest Day of Golf

Thank you for supporting prostate cancer research through Partnership for Cures. This is your latest Funding Partner report.

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Multi-marker expression analysis on circulating tumor cells isolated from men with castrate resistant prostate cancer using a novel microcapture device

RESEARCHER NAME: Russell Szmulewitz, MD

RESEARCHER INSTITUTION: The University of Chicago

FUNDING AGENCY: The Longest Day of Golf and University of Chicago Foundation

Lay Summary: The goal of Dr. Szmulewitz's research is to find markers on prostate cancer cells circulating in the blood of hormone resistant prostate cancer patients that can be used to find new drugs and then to determine how well those drugs work. Finding markers on cells floating in the blood will make it much easier, safer and less expensive to take samples from patients. If you can't find these cells in the blood, you have to find them by taking a biopsy from inside the body.

In the second quarter of work, Dr. Szmulewitz began to use chemicals that stick to more many different markers on the prostate cancer cells. This allowed him to know which markers are important and how well he can find them.

This is the first time that a researcher has been able to evaluate more than one marker on the surface of a prostate cancer cell. This should lead to individualized prostate cancer treatment for patients that don't respond to traditional treatment.

Once this work is complete in the next quarter, 15 patients will be recruited to be the first ones to have their blood examined for a single marker at a time. Once that works on real patient blood, then Dr. Szmulewitz can begin taking patient samples and looking for multiple markers.