

Lung Cancer Facts 2012

- **The poor survival rate for lung cancer is a direct result of the lack of funding for lung cancer research.**
- Lung cancer is the nation's leading cause of cancer deaths for BOTH MEN AND WOMEN – this year, Lung Cancer will claim more lives than breast, prostate, colon, liver, kidney and melanoma cancers – COMBINED. It will kill more than 160,000 Americans this year.
- Despite the fact that lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States it remains the most under-funded and under-researched cancer.
- **If you have a set of lungs, you are at risk for lung cancer.**
- **It is estimated that 60% of new lung cancer diagnoses will be in non-smokers** - a combination of 45-50% former smokers (many who quit 10, 20, even 30 years prior to the onset of lung cancer) and 15% people who have never smoked.
- People who do the right thing and quit smoking don't realize that they are still at risk for lung cancer and just like lung cancer victims who have never smoked, they will be shocked to discover how few treatment options are available to them.
- **Lung cancer is the only disease that stigmatizes its victims** – somehow society believes that lung cancer victims bring it upon themselves. Lung cancer is therefore enshrouded in guilt, both for the victims and family members.
- **Lung cancer is the forgotten cancer. Because of a 5-year survival rate of only 15%**, there are few survivors to stand up and speak out in support of research funding for the disease.
- No one deserves cancer, any cancer, regardless of personal behaviors or habits. All cancers are the direct result of three things ... genetics, environment and behavior. Do colon cancer patients deserve their disease because they did not get enough fiber in their diet? Should we have denied Natalie Cole her new kidney because her old one was damaged by her previous drug use? If someone is ill, don't they deserve all of our know-how, research and talent to save them and let them live a productive life? Lung cancer patients seems to be the exception -- when it comes to victims of this disease, society still plays the blame game.
- Many people are under the misconception that lung cancer research is well-funded because of tobacco taxes and other tobacco-related settlements. Because of the association of smoking with lung cancer,

almost all lung cancer funding is directed toward tobacco cessation and education programs. Only a very small fraction of these funds is directed towards research into early detection and a cure.

- Lung cancer stands alone in that the prognosis for this disease in 2012 is the same as it was almost 40 years ago.
- Research funding is critical for lung cancer because right now, there is no approved screening for early detection of lung cancer. Only 16% of lung cancers are diagnosed at an early stage.
- The Lung Cancer Foundation of America (LCFA) is having a big impact on lung cancer survivors/loved ones of lung cancer victims -- its mission is to save lives by dramatically increasing the five-year survival rates for all stages of lung cancer by providing the necessary and critical funding for creative and leading edge lung cancer research programs.
- LCFA is focused on funding the most promising lung cancer research from across the medical community that can lead to early detection and a cure for this disease. LCFA is unique in that it has assembled a Scientific Advisory Board that includes some of the leading lung cancer research experts in the world, and the organization has close ties to some of the best lung cancer research minds both in the USA and abroad.
- Please join the fight against this disease for yourself, or on behalf of someone you care about, by visiting the LCFA website at www.lcfamerica.org to find out about ways to help and to learn about the latest lung cancer research efforts, including testing lung cancer tumor tissue for specific gene mutations and new targeted therapies, that could help you or your family.