



Your Impact

Friends and Family Against Prostate Cancer (FFAPC) grants have enabled the Prostate Cancer Clinical Trial Consortium (PCCTC) to study significant questions regarding prostate cancer therapy.

Past grants supported projects associated with an important clinical trial, the BRCAAway Trial, designed to investigate new ways to improve treatment for advanced prostate cancer patients having specific genetic mutations affecting DNA repair. Positive results of this trial have been published⁽¹⁾, demonstrating that combining hormone therapy with a DNA-repair agent more than doubled the survival rate of patients treated with either intervention alone ⁽²⁾. The first FFAPC donation allowed researchers to analyze circulating tumor cells (CTCs) from BRCAAway patients, detectable by simple blood tests, to predict treatment response by measuring androgen receptor protein levels. Patients with mutations and high androgen-receptor levels typically responded poorly to single-drug therapy, but combination therapy overcame this resistance. This FFAPC-supported study provided biological evidence for using both drugs together upfront, thereby demonstrating why the combination approach is more effective.

The second project, now underway, examines whether clonal hematopoiesis (CH) (age-related blood cell mutation) contributes to side effects like anemia and impacts how long patients can stay on these therapies. CH has also been associated with bone marrow failure and cardiovascular disease, the two top contributing causes of death in men with prostate cancer. The FFAPC donations are helping to identify which patients benefit most from combination therapy and who may face higher risk of side effects, ultimately helping doctors make better treatment recommendations for men with advanced prostate cancer.

A third project supported by FFAPC, also ongoing, is the MetaCure Project at MSKCC. This project is assessing the immune microenvironment within prostate tumor tissue. By developing a better understanding of tumor-immune cell interactions, ultimately scientists will gain an understanding of the correlation between tumor immune microenvironment and clinical outcomes.

1. Hussain M, Kocherginsky M, Agarwal N, et al. Abiraterone, olaparib or abiraterone + olaparib in first- line metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer with DNA repair defects (BRCAAway) Clin Cancer Res 2024 Oct 1;30(19) 4218-4328
2. Hussain M, he 2026 Genitourinary (GU) American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, Thurs, Feb 26 – Sat, Feb 28, 2026.