



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Cathy Griffith - (814) 937-1082**  
[cathy@griffithfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:cathy@griffithfamilyfoundation.org)

**The Griffith Family Foundation “I CAN Sideline Pancreatic Cancer” Symposium/Forum - Friday, April 5, 2019:  
“We Are” Fighting for Our Future**

ALTOONA, PA - Penn State and The Griffith Family Foundation’s “I CAN Sideline Pancreatic Cancer” Youth Initiative are teaming up in the big game to sideline and cure Pancreatic Cancer.

On Friday, April 5, 2019, six years to the day of our first symposium/forum, Jack Andraka (currently at Stanford University), will return to Penn State Altoona’s Devorris Downtown Center along with Penn State’s 2018 “Inventor of the Year” Dr. James Adair and Dr. A. James Moser, co-director of both the Pancreas and Liver Institute and the Pancreatic Cancer Research Program at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and associate professor at Harvard Medical School.

Based on the efforts we’ve seen between our first and fourth forum, we are very hopeful and excited about the future of Pancreatic Cancer research. We are also encouraged by the recurring support from Dr. Lori J. Bechtel-Wherry, Penn State Altoona’s chancellor and dean, who played a vital role in helping us conduct our first symposium/forum and is also lending her time and energy for our fourth symposium/forum.

Our first Pancreatic Cancer Symposium/Forum was on April 5, 2013. At that symposium, Penn State Altoona and the Griffith Family Foundation hosted the 2012 Intel Science and Engineer Fair winner Jack Andraka. Jack, who was only 16 years old at the time, used that platform to encourage students to be active participants in transforming the outcome of Pancreatic Cancer.

Jack would later become an official Sideline Cancer Ambassador, and he and fellow future Ambassador, Kiera Chirdon, were the joint inspiration behind the creation of our Griffith Family Foundation “I CAN Sideline Pancreatic Cancer” Youth Initiative. This program was, and still is, the only youth initiative in the world that engages students to use their entrepreneurial and philanthropic ideas to raise

awareness and be advocates for transformational change in conjunction with the global Pancreatic Cancer community.

Another important contributor to the effort to raise awareness has been Lisa Georgiana, Saint Francis University Center for Service & Learning Director. She was instrumental in taking the steps to create the first official Sideline Cancer Chapter in 2016. Her work done on behalf of the Griffith Family Foundation and Sideline Cancer provides a superb example of Sideline Cancer’s rallying phrase: “Where Wisdom Meets Energy.”

On March 1, 2018, the Sideline Cancer community entered yet another important phase by becoming an official student club at Penn State. University Park students Sierra Cobler and Caitlyn Edgell, along with Griffith Family Foundation liaison Marissa Lombardi, conducted the necessary research, submitted the appropriate paperwork, and made essential connections that allowed us to reach this new benchmark. One significant step made during that process was the selection of Dr. James Adair as club advisor.

Dr. Adair is Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Biomedical Engineering at University Park. He is also the 2018 recipient of the Invent Penn State “Inventor of the Year” for his outstanding work and collaboration in cancer research and use of nanotechnology. The key principle at the core of his research is “Kill the cancer. Do no harm to the patient.”

Similar to the goals of the first Sideline Cancer Chapter established at Saint Francis University, the goal of this newly established Penn State Sideline Cancer Club is to raise awareness for Pancreatic Cancer research by participating in our trademarked Sideline Cancer t-shirt campaign and by hosting collaborative Pancreatic Cancer Symposia such as the one scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2019.

Below is a list of the key participants in our upcoming Pancreatic Cancer Symposium/Forum, which will be held on Friday April 5, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State Altoona Devorris Downtown Center:

*Jack Andraka, Maureen Shul, Dr. A James Moser, Dr. James Adair, Dr. Michael Lotze, Dr. Randall Brand, Dr. Shyam Thakkar, Dr. Stephen Baker, Dr. Stephen LoRusso, Dr. Ivan Mulligan, Dr. Brian Boone, Dr. Ralph McKibbin, Dr. Matt Moyer, Cindy Callahan, Rhonda Hatfield, and Erin Willett*

Students and community members will have the opportunity to ask questions to our panel regarding a marketable early detection test for Pancreatic Cancer. Additionally, we encourage audience members to ask questions regarding the Marshal Plan of Action for Pancreatic Cancer and how it is being coordinated through research, government, and pharma.

Location: Penn State Altoona Devorris Downtown Center: 1431 12th Ave, Altoona, PA 16601.

Date & Time: Friday, April 5, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Cost: Student Admission is Free; General Admission for non-students is \$30

Tickets can be purchased at: <https://griffithfamilyfoundation.ticketleap.com/symposium-2019/>

Students who would like more information about Pancreatic Cancer or how they can get involved in Sideline Cancer can email Cathy Griffith at [cathy@griffithfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:cathy@griffithfamilyfoundation.org).