Cancer is the most curable in its early stages
At the Karmanos Cancer Institute, we know that routine screenings save lives every day. Advocate for your health and talk with a health care professional to make an informed decision on which screenings are right for you.

November was National Pancreatic and Lung Cancer Awareness month. In recognition of last month’s importance, read more here for important things you should know about pancreatic and lung cancer.

Access all of our patient education sheets about various cancers HERE
Cigarettes aren't the only cause of lung cancer

"The risk for developing lung cancer persists even after smoking cessation," Dr. Gadgeel says. "Other risks include exposure to asbestos, radon and second-hand cigarette smoke. There is also increasing evidence that small particulate matter in air pollution may cause lung cancer."

Pancreatic Cancer presents many challenges

Because the pancreas is located in the center of the abdomen, deep inside the body, pancreatic cancer is difficult to diagnose at an early stage. Initial disease symptoms-like jaundice, back pain and digestive problems-are often attributed to other ailments. In many cases, by the time a physician makes a correct diagnosis, the cancer has spread to other organs, significantly reducing the chance for a cure.

Research funds impact early cancer detection, survival rates

Two of the deadliest forms of cancer-lung and pancreatic-are not receiving sufficient government research funding needed to accelerate breakthroughs in early detection and better treatment.

While government funding for many cancer types has steadily increased over the past decade, lung and pancreatic cancer funding (about $357 million combined in 2010) remains far behind diseases like breast cancer ($750 million) and HIV/AIDS ($3 billion).