



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LUSTGARTEN FOUNDATION RAISES MORE THAN \$18 MILLION FOR
PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH AT LONG ISLAND EVENT**

21st Annual Long Island Walk for Research sponsored by Northwell Health

More than 2,000 Long Islanders touched by pancreatic cancer were finally able to come back together at Jones Beach in Wantagh on Sunday, Oct. 3 for a day of hope, awareness and fundraising for pancreatic cancer research. The Lustgarten Foundation's annual Walk for Pancreatic Cancer Research marked the Foundation's first in-person event on Long Island in more than a year since the COVID-19 pandemic halted gatherings. Supporters rose to the occasion by raising more than \$650,000 and catapulting the 21-year total to over \$18 million, with 100% of every dollar raised funding life-saving research.

"We believe community is power," said Linda Tantawi, Lustgarten CEO. "Pancreatic cancer is a devastating disease, so it is especially important for survivors, patients, family, friends, researchers and healthcare providers to have a place to come together to remember those we have lost, to honor those in the fight and to take positive action against the disease. We also believe research is fundamental to transforming pancreatic cancer into a curable disease. Thanks to the incredible support of this event over the years, the Lustgarten Foundation is the largest private funder of pancreatic cancer research in the world, able to support bold and innovative research."

Emceed by WNBC weather forecaster Dave Price, who lost his brother to the disease in April, the walk kicked off with an announcement of the inaugural Clinician of Impact Award. Presented to Danielle Pinto, NP, RN, the award was created to recognize a clinician who has demonstrated "unparalleled dedication to, and exemplary expertise in, caring for pancreatic cancer patients." As a nurse navigator for the Northwell Health Cancer Institute Pancreatic Cancer Center, Danielle is often the first clinician to speak with patients following their diagnosis. Offering a warm and caring respite, Danielle patiently answers questions and helps patients navigate the complex and overwhelming treatment process.

"In collaboration with the Lustgarten Foundation and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, our experts have been pushing the boundaries of science and technology and are on the verge of developing promising new treatments for pancreatic cancer patients of all stages," said Richard Barakat, MD, physician-in-chief and director of the Northwell Health Cancer Institute. "This year, Northwell Health was pleased to once again support the Lustgarten Walk and thrilled to see the Long Island community come out to raise critical funds and awareness for pancreatic cancer research, enabling us to continue our breakthrough advancements that are already changing patient outcomes."

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The first Long Island Walk for Research was held at Old Westbury Gardens on August 2, 2000 and raised approximately \$130,000.

For anyone interested in supporting the Long Island Walk, the event registration page, as well as individual and team fundraising pages will remain open throughout 2021.

***High-res photos and video are available upon request.**

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About the Lustgarten Foundation

The Lustgarten Foundation funds the world's preeminent pancreatic cancer researchers, driving the pursuit of bold and innovative science toward earlier detection, better treatments and transforming pancreatic cancer into a curable disease. The Foundation is a catalyst—Lustgarten-funded science has been a driving force in every major advancement in pancreatic cancer research since 1998. We believe time is everything for pancreatic cancer patients and their families, so we fund research where creative risks yield high rewards to accelerate and expand life-saving treatment options. And we believe in the power of community. Lustgarten programs and events provide people affected by pancreatic cancer a voice and a place to create hope, together. The Lustgarten Foundation is the world's largest private funder of pancreatic cancer research and 100% of all donations fuel the research to advance understanding of this complex, devastating and historically underfunded cancer. For more information, visit lustgarten.org and follow us on social @LustgartenFDN. [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

About Northwell Health

Northwell Health is New York State's largest health care provider and private employer, with 23 hospitals, 830 outpatient facilities and more than 16,600 affiliated physicians. We care for over two million people annually in the New York metro area and beyond, thanks to philanthropic support from our communities. Our 76,000 employees – 18,900 nurses and 4,800 employed doctors, including members of Northwell Health Physician Partners – are working to change health care for the better. We're making breakthroughs in medicine at the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research. We're training the next generation of medical professionals at the visionary Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies. For information on our more than 100 medical specialties, visit Northwell.edu and follow us @NorthwellHealth on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).