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Success in funds hunt for widow

\$1.9M TO HELP CANCER FIGHT

A WIDOW who started a charity for pancreatic cancer after her husband was diagnosed with the disease has announced six grants totalling \$1.9 million.

Caroline Kelly, 43, of Manly, hopes the money will lead to lives being saved.

The grants will go to a number of highly regarded researchers and prestigious organisations such as the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, the Centenary Institute, University of Sydney and the University of NSW.

"These grants have the potential to transform the knowledge and understanding of this disease and bring hope to the thousands of families who receive such a heartbreaking prognosis every year," Ms Kelly said.

"It is making survival possible."

Ms Kelly and her husband Avner Nahmani started their own charity for people with pancreatic cancer in 2008 after finding there was little support for people with the disease.

After Mr Nahmani died aged 56, Ms Kelly gave up her job as a business analyst to work fulltime on the charity, which became a foundation in 2010. She hopes the grants will help change the lives of those suffering from what she calls the "underdog" of cancers.

Ms Kelly said typically people were diagnosed after the disease had progressed because the symptoms were so vague. Most people lived just three to six months after diagnosis, with some only surviving a few weeks.

Her husband survived 13 months, which was unusual, she said.

She hopes the same progress in survival rates can be made with pancreatic cancer as other more high-profile cancers which have benefited from focused efforts in research.

She said the key objective of the charity was "to break through 40 years of no progress by doubling the number of people who survive pancreatic cancer by 2020".



The Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation has raised \$6.3 million since it was founded.

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