



IMPACT CANCER FOUNDATION 2.0

Newsletter, September 2025

Launch of new vision

On 26 August 2025, we relaunched the Impact Cancer Foundation with our bold new initiative “ICF 2.0”. Impact Cancer Foundation 2.0 will redefine the future of cancer innovation by accelerating research and empowering scientific leaders, particularly women, through targeted funding and mentorship. At the heart of our mission is a simple but powerful belief: accelerating the cure for cancer requires every voice, every perspective, and every opportunity.

The event began with heartfelt opening remarks from our co-founder, **Lola Grace**, who shared the story of founding the Impact Cancer Foundation together with her husband, John, with the goal of accelerating patient access to innovative cancer treatments by supporting collaborative research across Switzerland’s leading institutions. From the CHUV under the direction of Prof. George Coukos, to EPFL and ISREC, first guided by Prof. Doug Hanahan and now led by Prof. Elisa Oricchio, their efforts have helped drive pioneering science within the Swiss Cancer Center. Over the years, the foundation has funded critical projects in cancer immunotherapy, including T-cell therapies and vaccines for lung cancer, as well as the creation of a specialized nursing role to administer highly personalized treatments. This work builds on a long Grace family legacy of advancing cancer and genetic research through deep engagement with institutions including the Cancer Research Institute, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, EPFL, and the Center for Genomics at UNIL.

Lola reflected on decades of conversations with leading scientists who have acknowledged a lack of visibility, mentorship, and leadership opportunities for young female researchers which impact their promotions to key roles in academic and research institutions. Out of this recognition came the inspiration for *Impact Cancer 2.0*, a renewed commitment to empowering the next generation of scientific leaders in innovation and discovery.





Our Chair and Board Member, **Kathy Karl**, shared the Foundation's renewed vision and passion for the cause. She spoke about how **ICF 2.0** will not only provide funding but also mentorship, collaboration, and visibility, ensuring that innovative ideas don't just remain in the lab but translate into real-world treatments that save lives.

Kathy also shared why this mission is so personal to her. She spoke candidly about the challenges she faced in her own career and leadership journey, as well as her fight against cancer—experiences that gave her a deeper understanding of the resilience, talent, and determination of women who are often overlooked in science. Her story underscored why it is essential to create pathways of support for women in oncology, so their groundbreaking ideas can flourish and transform cancer care.

The event took place at the beautiful Chateau d'Hauteville (www.pepperdine.edu/global-impact/chateau/) with an inspiring lecture from Dr. Briskin (@briskin-cathrin-md-phd-17a9578) and a classical music performance (<https://menuhinacademy.ch>). We truly hope this event will be the start of helping us to raise funds and donations to support women scientists.

We are proud to support women researchers in oncology, not only because equity matters, but because their unique perspectives, insights, and creativity drive breakthroughs that might otherwise be overlooked in a field where opportunities have historically been limited. This is about more than research; it's about transforming discoveries into lifesaving treatments, ensuring cures move beyond the lab, become accessible to all, and truly change the future of cancer care.



Learn more on our website (www.impactcancer.org) about the two pioneer labs we've identified as our first partners on this journey. The groundbreaking work they are doing and the profound implications their discoveries hold for the future of cancer cures.



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FOUNDATION 2.0**



🙏 Contribute whatever you can, because every donation makes a difference in shaping a future where cancer is no longer a barrier to living fully.