



TO: ALL MEDIA  
FROM: FUND A CURE FOR PANCREATIC CANCER, contact Robert L. Ciervo, Ph.D.  
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RE: Passing of NCAA President Myles Brand to Pancreatic Cancer  
DATE: September 17, 2009

NEWTOWN, PA – Once again we are saddened to learn of the passing of another notable and accomplished citizen to pancreatic cancer. We send out condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Myles Brand, former President of Indiana University and current Director of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Dr. Brand was committed to stressing the student aspect of the phrase "student-athlete" in collegiate athletics and presided over an organization that developed policies and procedures to increase graduation rates of student-athletes while enhancing the student-athlete experience at member institutions across the country and at all divisions.

His passing only 9 months after his diagnosis demonstrates to all of us again, how quickly pancreatic cancer steals our loved ones away from us. Over 50% of pancreatic cancer patients diagnosed today will succumb to the disease in less than 6 months and 75% will not be alive one year from now.

It is clear that the federal government through the National Cancer Institute must commit more than \$73 million a year towards life saving research, especially when far less deadly diseases enjoy government appropriations of upwards and beyond of \$1 billion a year towards specific disease research. The fact that pancreatic cancer has the worst prognosis of any major cancer, takes away as nearly as many lives as breast cancer each year, but is 11th on the funding priority of the National Cancer Institute must change. We feel it is completely inappropriate for the Director of the National Cancer Institute to spend less than 2% of the yearly budget on pancreatic cancer research. That is especially the case when the Director allows the National Cancer Institute to spend more money each year on non-cancer related research than on pancreatic cancer research.

This change is necessary in order to increase the 5 year survival rates for pancreatic cancer higher than the current 5% and upwards to the 90% that currently exist for breast cancer and prostate cancer. It is now time for Congress to intervene and investigate why the Director, Dr. John Niederhuber, continues to purposely underfund pancreatic cancer research.

Dr. Brand's passing less than 2 full days after the passing of Patrick Swayze underscores the question of how many more noted Americans must die from this disease before change is made in an office that spends nearly \$5 billion of tax dollars annually?

The American Cancer Society predicts that 35,240 Americans will die of pancreatic cancer this year. That is 96 Americans a day, nearly the same number that will succumb to breast cancer each day this year.

However breast cancer research enjoys nearly \$1 billion in taxpayer funded research dollars and early detection screening appropriations each year from the National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control. Again for some reason legislators are content with only appropriating \$73 million for the same type of research for pancreatic cancer patients even though it is so much more deadly in terms of survival rates. The continuance of this disparity will keep survival rates low indefinitely and Americans will continue to die at quicker rates.

It is time to Fund A Cure. Now.

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