

Patients' Selfless Contributions After Death Unlock Mysteries of Cancer

Rapid autopsies allow scientists to study how cancer spreads and evolves, help develop more effective treatments

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center -
Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	DESPITE ADVANCING TREATMENTS, THERE ARE SO MANY UNKNOWNNS ABOUT HOW TO EFFECTIVELY FIGHT CANCER. COMING UP, THE SELFLESS CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FROM CANCER ARE LEADING TO ANSWERS THAT COULD SAVE LIVES IN THE FUTURE.
ANCHOR LEAD	ADVANCES IN CANCER TREATMENTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE SURVIVAL RATES, BUT THERE IS STILL SO MUCH ABOUT CANCER THAT IS NOT UNDERSTOOD. AND WHEN A THERAPY STOPS WORKING, DOCTORS DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHY. BUT THROUGH A UNIQUE RESEARCH PROGRAM, MANY PATIENTS ARE SELFLESSLY VOLUNTEERING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANSWERS SHOULD THEY ULTIMATELY PASS AWAY FROM CANCER. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS.
(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute :00 - :03	(Nats - Sound) :02
Shots of Kathy looking at binder	KATHY WEBER'S SISTER, M-J, WAS ALWAYS A PLANNER. SO WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT HER CANCER TREATMENT WAS NO LONGER WORKING, SHE BEGAN MAKING HER FINAL PLANS. :07
CG: Kathy Weber Sister passed from cancer	<i>"I have the binder still that I was given and told when to do what and you know, that's her. And that was her greatest gift is to share herself with the research that's going on at Ohio State."</i> :13
Shots of autopsy team in lab	THAT RESEARCH THROUGH THE RAPID AUTOPSY PROGRAM AT THE OHIO STATE COMPREHENSIVE

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<p>Shots of Dr. Roychowdhury in lab</p>	<p>CANCER CENTER—JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND SOLOVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IS LED BY DOCTOR SAMEEK ROYCHOWDHURY (sah-MEEK roy-CHOWD-her-ee), WHO SAYS HE IS ALWAYS HUMBLLED BY PATIENTS' EAGERNESS TO DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO HELP ADVANCE CANCER RESEARCH, EVEN IF IT DIDN'T COME IN TIME TO ERADICATE THEIR OWN DISEASE. :15</p>
<p>Shots of research team in lab</p>	<p><i>"Everyone on our team sees it as a privilege and duty to care for them in that research study and to use that autopsy to help others as that patient would have wanted."</i> :13</p>
<p>CG: Dr. Sameek Roychowdhury The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute</p>	<p>WHEN A PATIENT PASSES, A TEAM AT OHIO STATE MOBILIZES QUICKLY TO CONDUCT THE AUTOPSY BEFORE TISSUES DEGRADE. PRESERVING SAMPLES WITHIN HOURS OF DEATH AND EXAMINING THEM IN A LAB IS UNLOCKING MYSTERIES ABOUT HOW CANCER BEHAVES IN THE HUMAN BODY. :10</p>
<p>Shots of team going into lab</p>	<p><i>"When that person was living. We couldn't go sample and look at each of those sites of tumor."</i> :06</p>
<p>Shots of team collecting tissues</p>	<p>THE AUTOPSY ALLOWS SCIENTISTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND GENE MUTATIONS AND HOW DIFFERENT TYPES OF CANCER EVOLVE TO OVERCOME CURRENT THERAPIES. :06</p>
<p>Dr. Roychowdhury (CG'd earlier)</p>	<p><i>"That's been a very big part of our work to help understand why the therapy stopped working, because then we can now go back to the drawing board and help develop better therapies for that same gene."</i> :11</p>
<p>Shots of lab work under hood</p>	<p>KATHY SAYS BEING PART OF FINDING THOSE EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS WAS HER SISTER'S LAST WISH. :04</p>
<p>Dr. Roychowdhury (CG'd earlier)</p>	<p><i>"She said to me after she signed the paper, she thought this was the most important thing she had ever done. That she could hopefully, through her generosity, people that came behind her would benefit from the research they are doing."</i> :13</p>
<p>Shots of Kathy looking at photos of her sister</p>	<p>AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER—JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND SOLOVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :05</p>
<p>Kathy Weber (CG'd earlier)</p>	<p>AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER—JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND SOLOVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :05</p>
<p>Shots of Kathy looking at photos of her sister</p>	<p>AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER—JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND SOLOVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :05</p>

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(PACKAGE END) -----

ANCHOR TAG

NEW RESEARCH BASED ON INFORMATION FROM RAPID AUTOPSIES IS ALREADY EMERGING, INCLUDING THE ADVANCEMENT OF A NEW TYPE OF BLOOD TEST CALLED A LIQUID BIOPSY.

THE TEST PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO CANCER IN THE BODY WITHOUT INVASIVE BIOPSIES OR SCANS, AND RAPID AUTOPSIES HELP RESEARCHERS DISCOVER THE ACCURACY OF LIQUID BIOPSIES, THE BEST USES FOR THIS TECHNIQUE AND HOW TO INTERPRET THE RESULTS.

SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Share it! Suggested tweet:**

The selfless contributions of those who have died from cancer are helping to save lives in the future by allowing scientists at [@OSUCCC_James](#) to better understand how cancer evolves and develop better treatments to fight it. <https://bit.ly/3kgw2bx>

 **Suggested post:**

Advances in cancer treatments are improving survival rates, but there's still a lot that's unknown about how cancer evolves and why therapies stop working. Now, the selfless contributions of those who have died from cancer are helping researchers at [The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center–James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute](#) better understand how cancer behaves so they can develop treatments to save lives in the future. <https://bit.ly/3kgw2bx>

EXTRA BITES

CG: Dr. Sameek Roychowdhury

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute

Roychowdhury says there are limited opportunities to understand what makes cancer lethal:

“As patients undergo cancer treatment, and in some instances succumb to their disease, there's limited opportunity to understand their cancer and what made it so lethal and what took their lives.” :14

Roychowdhury explains why it's important to perform the autopsy quickly:

“If we're going to do research into the genetics, to the proteins, all the pieces of cancer research that we're trying to understand, we want to do it quickly because these tissues and proteins and molecules will degrade.” :15

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CG: Dr. Sameek Roychowdhury

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute

Roychowdhury says families are happy their loved ones are part of the study:
"We're understanding how to better take care of patients with cancer, better ways to develop therapies, understanding the biology; but even more rewarding for me is the fact that almost every single family member has said to me, how grateful they are, that their loved one could be part of the study." :18

Roychowdhury says the program is open to patients with any type of cancer:
"We really didn't ever want to say 'no' to any patient or family member who wanted to be part of the study. So we really opened the study to any kind of cancer. We're one of the few clinical studies in the country that has said, 'any cancer.'" :14

Kathy says it was important to her sister that she was able to improve experts' understanding of cancer:
"To be able to use that information, to understand the mutation of the cells, why I believe the drug worked for a while, why it did not. Help them develop more targeted treatments for cancer. So it was just, it was hugely important for her to donate that and to be in that spirit of giving of herself to The James." :19

CG: Kathy Weber
Sister passed from cancer

Kathy says it was important that her sister was able to make the decision to be in the study at the end of her life:
"In the end of her life, giving her that ability to do her planning, to make the connections, to make the decisions is really important for someone because that had been who she was and not to take that away from her." :12

Kathy says her sister knew the value of scientific research and didn't hesitate to participate:
"Both of our parents had died of cancer. So we know how critical research is. And it's really... Science has hope for all of us, for our generation, for the people behind us. And without science there is no hope really. So she never hesitated. Never. She thought it was the most important thing she had done." :19

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