You are your own best advocate. The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network strongly recommends that you discuss your treatment goals with your healthcare team and know all of your options at every stage of your disease.

# **ABOUT THIS BOOKLET**

This booklet is a resource for patients and families who want to understand pancreatic cancer. The more information and knowledge you have, the more empowered you can be about decisions associated with a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

Use this booklet as a reference guide to talk about pancreatic cancer with your healthcare team.

Our Patient Central staff is trained on a wide variety of topics relating to pancreatic cancer. Contact Patient Central toll-free at 877-2-PANCAN or email **patientcentral@pancan.org**. Patient Central is available Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pacific Time, for support and information about:

- Disease and treatment
- Know Your Tumor<sup>®</sup> precision medicine service
- Clinical trials personalized searches using our comprehensive database
- Diet and nutrition
- Pain and symptom management
- Pancreatic cancer specialists
- Support resources

All services are free of charge.

# The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network recommends that all patients consider clinical trials when exploring treatment options.

A glossary is provided at the end of this booklet for **bold** words in the booklet's text.

# CONTENTS

# **1 THE PANCREAS**

**3 UNDERSTANDING CANCER** 

### 4 PANCREATIC CANCER

- 4 Pancreatic Exocrine Tumors
- 5 Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors (PNETs)

# 8 SYMPTOMS OF PANCREATIC CANCER

- 8 Ascites
- 9 Blood Clots
- 9 Changes in Stools
- 10 Diabetes
- 10 Digestive Difficulties
- 11 Jaundice
- 11 Pain
- 11 Unexplained Weight Loss
- 12 Symptoms Related to Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

#### **13 DIAGNOSIS AND STAGING**

- 13 Imaging Tests
- 21 Biopsy
- 23 Blood Tests
- 25 Genetic Counseling and Testing
- 26 Staging
- 30 Surgical Resection Category

# 31 TREATMENT AND CLINICAL TRIALS FOR PANCREATIC CANCER

- 31 Selecting a Doctor or Hospital and Treatment Plan
- 32 Treatment Options for Pancreatic Cancer
- 34 Surgery
- 41 Chemotherapy
- 43 Targeted Therapy
- 44 Radiation Therapy
- 48 Immunotherapy
- 49 Clinical Trials
- 51 Finding a Clinical Trial
- 52 Precision Medicine

# 54 SIDE EFFECTS OF TREATMENT

55 Management Suggestions for Side Effects of Treatment

# **58 RISK FACTORS FOR PANCREATIC CANCER**

60 Genetic Mutations

#### 63 GLOSSARY