# Giving Hope Back to Cancer Patients



Yusuke Nakamura

Deputy Director, Center for Personalized Therapeutics Professor, Medicine and Surgery

#### **CURRENT RESEARCH**

# New anti-cancer drugs provide personalized medicine to cancer patients

After operating upon numerous cancer patients, hoping to revive their health and give peace to their friends and families, Dr. Yusuke Nakamura, of the University of Chicago, firmly believes in the necessity of working towards curative measures for the many affected by cancer globally each year. With his patients at the forefront of his motivation, Dr. Nakamura still recalls significant moments with his patients. For instance, one woman who was suffering with gastric tumors. She had been very patient, but one day she cried and asked him to \*please remove the mass in my abdomen.\* There was no way to remove the tumors that disseminated in her abdomen and Dr. Nakamura found he was at a loss for any words of consolation and nearly cried. She was just 27 years old when she died. When he declared her death, he too was 27. With even greater motivation, he started studying genetics to better understand cancer, particularly hereditary cancers. Today he is a world-renowned researcher and one of the pioneers of applying genetic variations and genomics to the medical field, his previous work has already made it possible to map and clone genes responsible for hereditary diseases as well as genes involved in cancer. When his own mother developed colon cancer in 1999, Dr. Nakamura was very strongly motivated to work towards developing an anti-cancer drug in addition to his basic cancer research. Through her battle with cancer, Dr. Nakamura explains, "I re-realized the importance to provide hope to cancer patients and their family members." Today, his research tries to provide hope to cancer patients as he and his team develop new anti-cancer drugs. Furthermore, his work attempts to provide personalized medicine that can..

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#### **AFFILIATION**

University of Chicago

#### **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D., in Molecular Genetics, 1984, Osaka University
- Medical Doctor's License, 1977, Japan
- M.D., Medicine, 1977, Osaka University

#### **AWARDS**

- Honorary Citizenship, The State of Maryland, USA, 1991
- Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Award, 1992
- Keio Medical Science Prize, 2000
- The Medal with a Purple Ribbon (for contributions to education and culture), 2004
- Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher, 2014

### **RESEARCH AREAS**

Life Science, Diagnostics, Oncology / Cancer, Stem Cell

## **FUNDING REQUEST**

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Yusuke Nakamura, of the University of Chicago, as he continues to contribute to the development of new anti-cancer drugs. Donations will support the necessary \$2M required to optimize such drugs to apply to human use and bring them to clinical trials. In choosing to donate, you will aid in providing personalized medicine for patients with cancer.

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