



37 Years of Advancement in Cancer
Research Through Philanthropy

EVENING OF

Celebration

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

PINES MANOR • EDISON, NJ

Fifth District AHEPA Family Cancer Research Foundation, Inc.

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Foundation History

The Foundation was formed in October 1988, by the Fifth District Order of AHEPA to raise funds from its members and the general public for research grants. Shortly after, the Fifth District Daughters of Penelope came on board uniting the AHEPA Family behind a common cause of philanthropic support of cancer research.

The Foundation volunteers, began their fundraising efforts in March of 1989. Armed with collection canisters thus inaugurated the humble beginnings of collecting donations to provide funding for philanthropic support of cancer research.

Through the efforts of the “all volunteer” Board of Trustees, the Foundation presented its first grant award in the Fall of 1990 to Fox Chase Cancer Center in the amount of \$5,000.

Through the generosity and support of individuals and the expansion of several new fundraising events, the Foundation has significantly increased its financial support one hundred-fold. As of 2025 the Foundation has been honored and privileged to award approximately \$1,372,500 to men and women who diligently work towards a cure for cancer. No one receives a salary or any compensation and administrative costs are kept to a minimum of 2%.

Our Mission: The mission of the Foundation is to facilitate fundraising and to award grants to scientists and medical research institutions whose primary goal is to find a cure for cancer.

PROGRAM

Celebration Co-Chairs

Andrew C. Zachariades, PSP • Sophia Fountoukidis

National Anthems of Greece and the United States of America

Invocation

Rev. Fr. John Theodosion

Introduction of Dignitaries

Welcome

Thomas Sulich, Chairman

Daughters of Penelope Grand President

Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades

Order of AHEPA Supreme President

Chris Kaitson

Presentation to Grant Recipients

Thomas Sulich, Chairman

Weill Medical College of Cornell University/Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Extracellular Vesicle-Mediated Mechanisms of Pre-Metastatic Bone Formation
in Cancers That Spread to Bones

David C. Lyden, M.D., PhD. and Stavros S. Niarchos, Professor and
and Jane Howard, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow

Fox Chase Cancer Center

Meaningful Connections 2025-2026: Screening for an anti-stroma potential drug
as means to intercept pancreatic cancer development

Edna Cukierman, PhD and Aleksandr Dolskii, PhD and
Sergio Alcantara dos Santos, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellows

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Clinical Investigations of GLP-1RA induced weight loss in early-stage triple
negative breast cancer and impact on treatment outcomes

Coral Omene, M.D., Ph.D.

A Cancer Survivor's Story

Peter Bosco, Cancer Survivor

Closing Remarks

Demi Thomas, PGP

**Fifth District AHEPA Family Cancer Research Foundation, Inc.
Benefactor Program 37th Anniversary Celebration**

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**Fifth District AHEPA Family Cancer Research Foundation, Inc.
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Past Axios Award Recipients

The “Axios Award” is presented to an individual or individuals whose humanitarian purpose and endeavors have contributed in helping to find a cure for cancer, unselfishly and devotedly in the name of mankind.

This award has been given out since 1996, recent recipients include:

Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades, 2018

Dr. Shridar Ganesan, 2015

Dr. Yibin Kang, 2013

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA, 2011

Dr. David C. Lyden, 2009

Dr. William Hait, 2008

Dr. Nicholas Romas, 2007

Dr. Maria Theodoulou, 2006

George Righos, 2004

Gus Leontarakis, 2003

Constantine “Dino” Genakos, 2002

Christopher Sevast, 2001

Constantine “Gus” Theodos, 2000

Julian “Woody” West and Ernest Tsaptsinos, 1998

Michael Koufakis and Thomas Taros (Posthumously), 1998

George Kartikis, 1997

Stanley Mathews, 1996

Research Centers Who Have Received Grant Awards From The Fifth District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation

Fox Chase Cancer Center, Weill Cornell Medical College/Children’s Blood Foundation,
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Cancer Institute of New Jersey Pediatric Cancer,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, Montclair State University, Robert Wood Johnson,
Christiana Care Health Services, Coriell Institute for Medical Research, Hackensack Medical Center,
New York Presbyterian Hospital, Rutgers University, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey,
St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center of Columbia University



**The Board of Trustees
of the Fifth District
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for Their Continued Support.**

**For Additional Information About the
Foundation, Please Visit Our Website.
<https://fifthdistrictahepacrf.com>**

