Good nutritional care improves outcomes and is critical for your quality of life.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
(PanCAN) strongly recommends that patients have access to pancreatic enzymes and see a registered dietitian.

### **ABOUT THIS BOOKLET**

Proper nutrition is important for maintaining a good quality of life, especially after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Nutritional needs will change during the course of treatment, and patients may experience concerns like loss of appetite, weight loss, **diarrhea** and **diabetes**. Choosing the right foods before, during and after treatment can help a patient better tolerate treatment and feel healthier and stronger.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network aims to answer many of the diet and nutrition questions frequently asked by patients and families dealing with pancreatic cancer.

- This booklet is designed to serve as a general reference guide. It should not be the sole resource for patients with diet and nutrition concerns.
- Before making diet changes, please talk to the doctor or registered dietitian. If a registered dietitian has not been consulted, see page 7 for ways to find one.

If you have additional questions about diet and nutrition or other topics relating to pancreatic cancer, contact PanCAN Patient Services toll-free at 877–2–PANCAN or email **patientservices@pancan.org**. Hablamos español. The PanCAN Patient Services Help Line is available Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pacific Time.

The glossary at the end of this booklet provides definitions for **bold** words in the booklet's text.

# CONTENTS

#### 1 DIET AND NUTRITION CHANGES AFTER DIAGNOSIS

- 2 Eating Recommendations for People with Pancreatic Cancer
- 3 Healthy Eating Recommendations
- 4 Cultural Considerations

#### **6 THE ROLE OF A DIETITIAN**

- 6 What Is the Difference Between a Dietitian and a Nutritionist?
- 6 How Can a Registered Dietitian Help?
- 7 Are There Dietitians Who Specialize in Cancer and Nutrition?
- 7 Where Can I Find a Registered Dietitian?

#### 8 SUGGESTED MEAL PLAN

#### 10 CONTROLLING WEIGHT LOSS

- 10 Weight Loss Due to Insufficient Calorie Intake
- 10 Weight Loss Due To Malabsorption
- 11 Tumor-induced Weight Loss

#### 13 MALABSORPTION AND PANCREATIC ENZYMES

- 14 Reasons to Take Pancreatic Enzymes
- 16 Sources of Pancreatic Enzyme Products
- 17 Dosage of Pancreatic Enzymes
- 19 Side Effects of Pancreatic Enzymes
- 20 Financial Considerations
- 20 FDA Approved Prescription Pancreatic Enzymes

#### 21 COPING WITH LOSS OF APPETITE

#### 24 PREVENTING OR REDUCING DIARRHEA

- 26 Foods That May Worsen Diarrhea
- 26 Foods Less Likely to Aggravate Diarrhea
- 27 Other Supportive Care Techniques

- 28 Diarrhea and Dehydration
- 29 Sources of Fiber

#### 30 MANAGEMENT OF TASTE CHANGES

#### 32 OTHER SIDE EFFECTS

- 32 Foods That May Cause Overall Discomfort
- 32 Relieving Constipation
- 33 Preventing Gas
- 34 Controlling Lactose Intolerance
- 34 Dealing with Fatigue
- 35 Overcoming Nausea and Vomiting
- 36 Antiemetic (Anti-Nausea) Medications

#### 37 DIETARY CHANGES FOLLOWING SURGERY

- 38 General Recommendations Following Pancreatic Cancer Surgery
- 40 Post-Surgical Nutritional Guidelines

#### **41 VITAMINS**

#### **43 DIABETES**

#### **46 SUGAR AND CANCER**

## 48 INTEGRATIVE, COMPLEMENTARY OR ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

50 Questions to Ask About ICAM

#### 51 GENERAL NUTRITION GUIDELINES

- 51 MyPlate
- 52 AICR Guidelines
- 53 Cookbooks

#### **54 GLOSSARY**