

## **Targeted Treatment of Oral Cancer and Precancer in FA Patients**

The Board of Directors of the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund recently approved a new research project. The project is titled “Targeted Treatment of Oral Cancer and Precancer in FA Patients” and the co-Principal Investigators are Ruud Brakenhoff, PhD, and Johan de Winter, PhD, from the Vrije University Medical Center in The Netherlands.

The project has two primary aims:

- 1) To establish a repository of FA premalignant and malignant cell lines from FA tumors and surrounding tissue. (A cell line is a permanently established cell culture that will proliferate indefinitely given appropriate fresh medium and space, providing an extremely valuable research tool.) They will use these cell lines to grow FA tumor tissue in mice. The cell lines will also be made available for other researchers to use.
- 2) To screen a large number of drugs and to identify specific targets on the tissues created in aim 1. After two years, the investigators hope to have identified the most promising drugs for further clinical development.

This project will cost the Fund \$324,000 for two years (\$162,000 per year).

This is an exciting project by two long-time and well regarded FA researchers. The Fund’s Proposal Review Committee feels that this work is at the very heart of the mission of the Fund and that FA patients will benefit greatly from the project’s success. ***Please know that the Fund’s ability to support this important work is 100% made possible by the efforts made by FA families to raise funds. Thank you!***