

## Oral Cancer Biomarker Study

The Fund recently approved a proposal submitted by a researcher at the Dental Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, to test his concept that saliva can be used to detect the early onset of oral cancer in Fanconi anemia patients. David Wong, DMD, DMSc, and his colleagues at UCLA, have ongoing research studies to identify biomarkers in the saliva for several types of cancer and disorders. It is their hypothesis that this same salivary technique could be used as an aid for early detection of oral cancer in FA patients.

To test this hypothesis—which could have tremendous benefit for FA patients if accurate—Dr. Wong needs to collect saliva samples from between 20 and 30 FA patients, aged 13 or older, over a two-year period *who have a newly diagnosed primary oral cancer lesion*. They also need to acquire the same number of “control” samples, or samples from FA patients who do not have oral cancer but whose demographic profile, i.e., gender, ethnicity and age range, matches that of someone with a cancer diagnosis.

The saliva donation to further this research will be anonymous; that is, no information will be given back to anyone who participates in this study. Nor is this a treatment study; no data findings may be used for care or treatment.

***The success of this project depends upon the participation of FA patients who have newly diagnosed oral cancer.*** The saliva must be collected (via an absorbent pad placed in the mouth) prior to surgery or other invasive treatment(s) or procedures.

If you or someone in your family is diagnosed with oral cancer, regardless of age, please consider participating in this research study. Here are the steps you can follow:

- 1) Contact Teresa Kennedy at the Fund as soon as possible after the diagnosis and before treatment. Teresa’s e-mail is [teresa@fanconi.org](mailto:teresa@fanconi.org); her telephone number is 541-687-4658. Teresa will contact Dr. Wong’s lab to arrange for a saliva collection kit and brief questionnaire to be sent, via overnight mail, to your home.
- 2) Collect your saliva, following the easy-to-follow instructions—including date and time of collection—fill out the questionnaire and ship both back to Dr. Wong’s lab on the same day as the collection or as soon as possible. All associated costs will be pre-paid.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Again, we feel that Dr. Wong’s concept, if proved via this study, would be extremely beneficial to FA patients, all of whom are at a very high risk for developing oral cancer.