

# Pratt & Whitney Cancer Study Update

Summer 2006

*A Publication of the Communications Facilitation Workgroup*

## *An important message from the Communications Facilitation Workgroup*

If you have been contacted by researchers to participate in the Pratt & Whitney Cancer Study, please know that it is *extremely important* that each and every person respond in order for the case control study to be scientifically valid.

If you have already sent in your forms, and completed your interview, thank you. If you have been contacted and have NOT sent in your package, we still need you!

The process is simple:

- Complete the authorizations in your information packet, and return it to the researchers.
- Researchers will contact you to participate in a short phone interview.
- **ALL INFORMATION IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

If you have misplaced your information packet, please contact the number below for a new one.

**Remember, the case control study will only produce valid results if a large enough number of people agree to participate.**

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONTACT

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## Research Update

*The Pratt & Whitney Brain Cancer Research study is being conducted in three components: epidemiology, exposure assessment and genetic.*

*Below is a brief update on each of these components. For more detailed information, please visit [www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us)*

### Epidemiology

*Gary Marsh, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
University of Pittsburgh*

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh have completed identification of over 250,000 individuals to be included in the study. These people worked during any year and for any length of time between 1952-2001 at any one or more of eight Pratt & Whitney plants in Connecticut: North Haven, East Hartford, Cheshire, Middletown, Rocky Hill, Manchester, and two in Southington. This group is the study cohort.

In addition, the epidemiology research team is currently working with the DPH Tumor Registry to identify people with brain cancer, and to trace the cause of death for all deceased individuals in the study.

### Genetic

*Frank Lieberman, M.D.  
Principal Investigator  
University of Pittsburgh*

In 2005, Dr. Frank Lieberman assumed the role of Principal Investigator for the genetic component of this study. Dr. Sydney Finkelstein remains as Co-Principal Investigator. Recently, the genetics research team began receiving brain tumor tissue specimens from individuals who worked at Pratt & Whitney and underwent surgery as part of their treatment for brain cancer. The team is conducting DNA analysis on these specimens.

### Exposure Assessment

*Nurtan Esmen, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
University of Illinois at Chicago*

The exposure assessment team is currently focused on completing the collection and analysis of documents regarding part and process manufacturing operations, as well as examining over 300,000 unique work history entries received from the University of Pittsburgh.

In addition, University of Oklahoma researchers have received scanned images of over 50,000 industrial hygiene records. These records will be provided to the University of Illinois at Chicago as part of the exposure reconstruction effort.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**WHAT:** COMMUNITY UPDATE/PRATT & WHITNEY CANCER STUDY

**WHEN:** WED OCT. 18, 2006 @ 7:00PM

**SITE:** CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CROMWELL