

# November News

## FANS has expanded to Southern California and Sacramento

Our study on female Asian never smokers has expanded beyond the Bay Area to Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Sacramento Counties. We are recruiting both women with and without lung cancer.

**Spread the word!**

## November is Lung Cancer Awareness month!

November is lung cancer awareness month when smokers or former smokers are encouraged to get screened. However, did you know that non-smokers are not eligible for lung cancer screening?

57% of Asian American females diagnosed with lung cancer have never smoked. We urgently need more research to change this statistic. The FANS Study is the only study focused on identifying the causes of lung cancer in Asian American females who have never smoked. So far, over 450 women have joined our study! Help us better understand why Asian American women have a higher risk of this disease.

## Dr. Scarlett Gomez honored for her work to reduce disparities for Asian Americans



Dr. Scarlett Gomez received the Christopher N.H. Jenkins Cancer Control Award in October 2023. She presented a lecture titled “Re-Envisioning Cancer Research in Asian American Populations: Data and Community” and discussed how to make cancer research in Asian Americans more equitable.



# PATIENT STORY

## FANS PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVE

By Nora Lyang

### ➤➤➤ SOMETHING WAS OFF

Ms. X knew something was off when her persistent back pain didn't go away with physical therapy or acupuncture, and only seemed to be getting worse. Her fears were confirmed with an MRI: she had lung cancer that had spread to her lymph nodes and bones. "I had no lung symptoms at all and have never smoked. I would have never guessed it," she confided during our interview.

### ➤➤➤ NO LONGER THE CAREGIVER

Ms. X is used to being the one taking care of others and helping address their burdens. As a licensed marriage and family therapist, she has worked with children on the spectrum, the unhoused, and the elderly – not to mention her own two young children at home. When diagnosed, Ms. X was faced with a new and unfamiliar role: no longer the caregiver, but the one to be cared for. She was determined to tackle cancer now that she had an answer for the cause of her pain, and resolutely channeled her emotions into action. "I know what it is now, so let's go ahead and tackle it. We have to get through this," she remembers thinking.

### ➤➤➤ WANTING TO HELP

"No one should experience this," she said firmly. "If there's any way I can help, I want to." FANS has a unique role to play as the premier study asking the urgent "why?" behind the disparate burden of lung cancer in Asian American women.

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