

November Updates

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Lung cancer is the most common cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States and worldwide. Smokers are encouraged to have regular screenings. But where does that leave people who have never smoked?

57% of Asian American females diagnosed with lung cancer have never smoked. The FANS Study is the only study of its kind focused on identifying the causes of lung cancer in Asian American females who have never smoked. Help us better understand why Asian American women have a higher risk of lung cancer.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The FANS Study is in the last phase of recruiting non-smoking Asian females.

Women without a history of cancer:

- 80 years or older and live in the San Francisco Bay Area
- 60 years or older and live in the Los Angeles, Orange or San Diego Counties

Women with lung cancer:

- Between the ages of 21 to 90 and live within the Greater Bay Area, Los Angeles, Orange or San Diego County

We plan to share results summer of 2025. Stay tuned!

FANS in the Media!



Dr. Phuong Ho, a FANS study participant, has advocated for this disparity of lung cancer in Asian women and is featured in the [AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report](#).

FANS was just featured on CBS National Evening News, in addition to [CBS KPIX](#) earlier this year and local NBC stations in [San Francisco](#), [Los Angeles](#), and [Chicago](#).



Patient Perspective

by Linda Shin, a FANS Study Student Intern

Lung cancer, long considered a smoker's disease, has taken on a new face in recent years. My mother, a Korean American woman who has never smoked a cigarette in her life, was a case in point. For 8 months, her only symptom was a persistent, dry cough. In March 2020 near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as the world began lockdowns, her newly designated oncologist informed her that she had Stage 3 lung cancer.

Our family was perplexed by the cruel irony of a disease that seemed at odds with the health-conscious lifestyle my mom embraced: brisk, early morning walks, a lifetime of homecooked Korean meals with a colorful variety of organic vegetables, Vitamin D and fish oil supplements, and rare indulgences in alcohol and sweets.



Her diagnosis left us searching for answers, and we came to learn that my mom's case was not an anomaly. There has been a silent epidemic of rising lung cancer cases among female, Asian American never-smokers just like my mom.

In my mom's case, she had a specific diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma with EGFR mutations, a subtype that is more prevalent in women who have never smoked and has a different molecular profile from cancers found in smokers. Following a lobectomy to remove the tumor and a round of chemotherapy, my mom was prescribed a drug called osimertinib, a targeted treatment option that inhibits EGFR tyrosine kinase, which is the specific genetic driver of her cancer, to help prevent recurrence. While treatments have improved over the years, the cause of my mom's cancer remains elusive.

JOIN THE FANS STUDY to help better understand and prevent lung cancer in Asian American women.

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