

PRESS RELEASE

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PLC ORGANIZES LARGEST STUDY IN MEDICAL HISTORY - ONE GOAL IS TO DEVELOP BIOMARKERS TO PREDICT WHICH SMOKERS DEVELOP LUNG CANCER

NEW ORLEANS, LA— Cigarette smoking is the cause of over 90 percent of all lung cancer and caused over 143,000 lung cancer deaths in 1991. In that same year 161,000 lung cancer cases were diagnosed. This number is expected to rise to over 300,000 new cases by the year 2000.

While survival rates from other types of cancers have improved dramatically, survival from lung cancer has improved by only 1 percent (12% to 13%) in the past 20 years. The relatively slow decline in smoking trends and the nonspecific nature of lung premalignancy and early lung cancer symptoms are commonly believed to contribute to poor survivability.

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