“It only matters at the end of the day if I can bring something new to a patient that might make a difference.”

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

▼ Dr. Hingorani studies the molecular and cellular factors involved in the onset and progression of pancreatic cancer. His goal is to create new methods for detection and treatment that transform pancreatic cancer from a death sentence into a survivable condition.

▼ His team developed the first mouse model of this cancer to accurately mimic the disease in humans, which is vastly improving researchers’ ability to study the disease and design ways to boost survival.

▼ Using this model, Dr. Hingorani and colleagues discovered the primary basis for chemotherapy resistance in pancreatic cancer: Tumors are surrounded by a dense, fibrous shell that has a high internal pressure, which prevents drugs from getting in. Now in nationwide clinical trials, a treatment he pioneered employs a pressure-lowering enzyme to allow effective chemotherapy penetration into tumors.

▼ Dr. Hingorani is a lead investigator on a transformative new clinical trials consortium called Precision Promise, which matches pancreatic cancer patients with the experimental treatment that is most likely to be effective against their tumor at a given time.

▼ The multidisciplinary Pancreatic Cancer Specialty Clinic is a focal point of the Center for Accelerated Translation in Pancreas Cancer, both founded by Dr. Hingorani. The center unites researchers at Fred Hutch, UW and SCCA to turn the most promising preclinical research into effective prevention, detection and treatment strategies in this cancer.

BACKGROUND

▼ He earned a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular physiology and an M.D. from Yale University in 1994. He completed a fellowship in hematology and oncology at Boston’s Dana-Farber Cancer Institute before moving to the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania in 2002. Dr. Hingorani joined the Fred Hutch and UW faculties in 2005.

▼ Dr. Hingorani was recognized as a 2014 “Top Doctor” by Seattle Met magazine. He has served since 2013 on the scientific and medical advisory board of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.