SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

► Dr. Phil Greenberg is a world expert in discovering how disease-fighting immune cells known as T cells can be manipulated to treat a range of cancers.

► Head of Fred Hutch’s Program in Immunology, Dr. Greenberg led the team that first showed it is possible to extract T cells from a sick patient’s body, isolate the desired disease-fighting T cells, multiply them to billions in the laboratory, and infuse these targeted T cells back into the patient to seek and destroy particular diseased cells. That same approach has since been used to treat patients with advanced melanoma and other cancers.

► Dr. Greenberg developed a way to aim T cells specifically at leukemia cells, genetically engineering them to efficiently recognize a protein that “flags” tumor cells while sparing healthy cells without the protein flags. This therapy is in clinical trials for leukemia patients who have relapsed and is showing great promise.

► His lab is also developing equivalent approaches targeting lung, ovarian and pancreatic cancers.

► In addition to his cancer research, Dr. Greenberg is collaborating with a large team to develop effective laboratory models to facilitate the development of a vaccine to augment the immune system’s response to HIV.

BACKGROUND

► After earning his M.D. from The State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, Dr. Greenberg undertook his residency and a fellowship at the University of California, San Diego. He joined Fred Hutch as a Senior Fellow in 1976 and has had joint appointments at the Hutch and UW since then.

► Among other honors, Dr. Greenberg has twice received the National Institutes of Health MERIT Award, and his peers have elected him a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American College of Physicians. He has played a role on numerous national committees and boards, and he is currently a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Cancer Research Institute.