

FORUM

PROUTY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

To the Editor:

The *Valley News* recently reported on two major advances in cancer research that got their start at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center. In fact, it was the support of the cancer center through our annual Prouty event that led to vital early-stage funding for both projects.

Through The Prouty, people directly support cancer research and patient services. Prouty pilot grants provide investigators with an opportunity to conduct the critical preliminary research necessary to obtain federal funding or entrepreneurial investment.

DoseOptics and FreshAir are two such recent examples where small research awards by Norris Cotton Cancer Center via The Prouty developed into tangible advances in the fight against cancer.

First, DoseOptics devised a cost-effective way to “see” radiation therapy in real time, enabling doctors to target specific cancer tumors while avoiding surrounding healthy tissue and organs. After early Prouty funding, DoseOptics received a \$1.4 million research grant from the NIH and plans to start clinical trials in the fall of 2016 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock.

Second, FreshAir, a company that produces sensors to alert users via wi-fi to the presence of dangerous second- and third-hand smoke, used Prouty support to bring its product to market and earn investments from the likes of AOL founder Steve Case.

We would like to thank all of you in the Upper Valley and beyond who support The Prouty. Without you and your hard-won donations, these and other advancements in the fight against cancer would not be possible!

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