**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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Project Purple Establishes $250,000 Research Grant at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and New York University School of Medicine

BEACON FALLS, CT – Pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer related deaths in the United States and has a five year survival rate of less than six percent. Helping patients and their families, Project Purple is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds toward a cure for pancreatic cancer.

This month, Project Purple announces the creation of a $250,000 grant to Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and New York University School of Medicine. The grant will support a research project to identify determinants of immunosuppression in pancreatic cancer. The research project will be conducted by Kenneth Olive, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Digestive and Liver Diseases) and Pathology and Cell Biology at Columbia, in collaboration with Dr. Dafna Bar-Sagi, Professor of Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology; Professor of Department of Medicine Office of Science and Research at NYU.

Project Purple Founder and Chairman Dino Verrelli had this to say: “This grant follows in our mission of helping to find a cure for pancreatic cancer and we are super excited to be partnering with the amazing staff at Columbia and NYUSOM. This grant brings together two of the top scientists in the world battling pancreatic cancer research. We are excited to be partnering with both scientists and institutions to make this happen”.

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**About Project Purple**

Project Purple is a 501c(3) not for profit organization with a mission of raising awareness and funds toward a cure of pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer is the 4th largest killer of all cancer killers and one of the least funded by the NCI. It is the only cancer in the top 10 killers of cancer with a single digit survival rate after 5 years. To learn more about Project Purple visit – [www.run4projectpurple.org](http://www.run4projectpurple.org)

Project Purple is the nation’s # 1 running pancreatic cancer charity with chapters in Nebraska and Colorado.