

Texas NF Research News!



The Denise Terrill Charity Classics (DTCC) and the Texas NF Foundation (TNF) is exciting to have been able to fund Dr. Kurzrock with M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

(Pictured: Minerva Terrill, Dr. Kurzrock, Dr. Robert Terrill, Christina Terrill)

Summary of Research Project Funded

On April 8, 2006 the Denise Terrill Charity Classics(DTCC) and the Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation donated \$89,000 to Dr. Razelle Kurzrock at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX for NF research. (proceeds from the Denise Terrill Classics)

The research that was funded through the DTCC funds is for studying the drug curcumin. It is contained in tumeric, a spice used in curry and a lot of Indian food. It has been known for years that people from India have a very low incidence of breast, prostate, and pancreatic cancer. Curcumin is suspected as the low incidence. It has been studied in mice and indeed it slows down the growth of cancer cells and causes them to die. But getting curcumin into the body in high enough amounts to affect cancer has been hard because it is not soluble in water. Dr. Kurzrock and her associates at M.D. Anderson have developed a liposomal delivery system that allows large amounts of drugs like curcumin to be delivered into the human body.

Because NF and cancer share many of the same pathways, curcumin might be able to treat the tumors of NF in the same way it affects cancer. So Dr. Kurzrock's project is to study the delivery of liposomal curcumin in mice that have been engineered to develop NF2 to see what happens to the NF2 tumors. It will take about a year to complete.

