



COVER STORY

10 Ways Philadelphia is Leading the War on Cancer

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by John George

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**SaliMark™ OSCC
Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma**

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The region's surprising rise to the world stage as a major center for crushing the deadly disease

BY JOHN GEORGE, 18-21

Nurturing startups #3

The region has no shortage of early- and midstage biopharmaceutical companies focusing on cancer.

One of those companies, Adaptimmune, negotiated one of the largest venture capital deals in the region's life sciences industry last year when it raised \$104 million in a series A capital financing round led by New Enterprise Associates.

Adaptimmune, which has offices in Oxford and its clinical base of operations in Philadelphia, is competing in the increasingly crowded immuno-oncology field. The company is developing treatments that enhance a patient's own immune response to cancer and infectious diseases.

Other smaller startups include two companies working out of the biotech incubator at the Lankenau Institute for Medical Research in Wynnewood: HaRo Pharmaceutical, which is developing a small molecule cancer therapy that targets neuroblastomas, the most common form of pediatric cancer; and Immunome, which is attempting to commercialize technology originally discovered at MIT's Whitehead Institute that it is using to simultaneously discover novel cancer antigens and isolate native human antibodies that attack cancer cells.

Another small company focused on the diagnostic side of cancer, Broomall-based PeriRx, launched its first product last year. The product is a test kit for use in a dental office that can detect early-stage oral cancer from a small amount of saliva.

