



IN MEMORIAM: Passing of LIXTE Founder John S. Kovach



We at LIXTE are deeply saddened to report the passing of John S. Kovach, MD, LIXTE's founder, Chief Scientific Officer, and member of the Board of Directors. Dr. Kovach founded LIXTE in 2005 in the hopes of finding better treatments for cancer.

Since the inception of the company, Dr. Kovach worked tirelessly to develop LIXTE's lead clinical compound, LB-100, a protein phosphatase 2A inhibitor, in his efforts to advance treatments for many types of cancer at various stages. He was very proud to have brought LB-100 from concept to compound to clinical testing.

Dr. Kovach received a B.A. (cum laude) from Princeton University and an M.D. (AOA) from the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University. Dr. Kovach trained in Internal Medicine and Hematology at Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University and spent six years in the laboratory of Chemical Biology at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic diseases studying control of gene expression in bacterial systems.

Dr. Kovach was recruited to the State University of New York at Stony Brook ("SUNY – Stony Brook") in Stony Brook, New York in 2000 to found the Long Island Cancer Center (now named the Stony Brook University Cancer Center). From 1994 to 2000, Dr. Kovach was Executive Vice President for Medical and Scientific Affairs at the City of Hope National Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. His responsibilities included oversight of all basic and clinical research initiatives at the City of Hope. During his tenure, he led the successful effort for City of Hope to become a National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Center, reflecting the quality of its cancer care and research, joining only a small group of cancer centers in the United States to achieve that distinction. During that time, Dr. Kovach was also Director of the Beckman Research Center at City of Hope and a member of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Scientific Advisory Board in Newport Beach, California.

From 1976 to 1994, Dr. Kovach was a consultant in oncology and director of the Cancer Pharmacology Division at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. During this time, he directed the early clinical trials program for evaluation of new anti-cancer drugs as principal investigator of contracts from the National Cancer Institute. From 1986 to 1994, he was also Chair of the Department of Oncology and Director of the NCI-designated Mayo Comprehensive Cancer Center. During that time, Dr. Kovach, working with molecular geneticist Steve Sommer, M.D., Ph.D. published extensively on patterns of acquired mutations in human cancer cells as markers of environmental mutagens and as potential indicators of breast cancer patient prognosis. Dr. Kovach has published over 100 articles on the pharmacology, toxicity and effectiveness of anti-cancer treatments and on the molecular epidemiology of breast cancer.

LIXTE hopes to honor his immense contributions and legacy by fulfilling his mission to pursue novel therapies, new therapeutic combinations, and to endeavor to increase the efficacy of existing treatments to enable them to work for a broader range of patients.