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MORE TIME, MORE OPTIONS

CLINICAL TRIALS NEWSLETTER

Knowing What's In Your Tumor: This month, we're unpacking biomarkers, breakthroughs, and MSS immunotherapy—and why it matters.

FEATURED STORY

BREAKWATER Trial Shows Encouraging Results for BRAF-Positive mCRC



The [BREAKWATER](#) clinical trial recently studied a new treatment approach for people with metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) who have a BRAF V600E mutation, found in about 8% of stage IV CRC patients.

[READ THE STUDY](#)

Why This Matters: Early results showed encouraging outcomes, including longer overall survival and improved tumor control compared to standard treatment alone. Researchers considered the side effects manageable.

The trial is now closed to new participants, but these findings may help guide treatment decisions in the future. If you have the BRAF V600E mutation, consider

talking with your care team about how this research might apply to your care.

CLINICAL TRIAL ROUNDUP

Each month, we share [a curated list of clinical trials and recent research](#) that may support you as you explore treatment options. This month, we're highlighting studies focused on **BRAF, KRAS, and MSS (microsatellite stable) biomarkers**, which can impact both treatment decisions and trial eligibility. Not every trial will be open to enrollment or suitable for every patient, but if any of these feel relevant to your diagnosis, consider discussing them with your care team.

Curated by Fight CRC's Medical Advisory Board & Research Advocacy Training and Support (RATS) team.

[READ THE FULL LIST OF AUGUST CLINICAL TRIALS](#)

Disclaimer: *Inclusion in this list does not imply endorsement or a guaranteed benefit. Always consult your healthcare provider to determine whether a clinical trial is appropriate for you.*

SPOTLIGHT

Understanding Biomarkers in CRC: Biomarkers are specific changes in a tumor's genes that can help doctors choose the right treatment or identify clinical trial options. While some mutations are rare, others have FDA-approved therapies or well-studied trials available.

BIOMARKER	APPROX. % IN STAGE IV CRC	WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU
BRAF V600E	~8%	Linked to faster-growing cancer. Targeted treatments can help slow progression.
KRAS G12C	~2%	FDA-approved targeted drugs available; additional trials underway.
HER2+	~4%	FDA-approved targeted therapies (used in breast cancer) are now available for CRC.
MSI-H / DMMR	~4%	Often responds well to immunotherapy.
NTRK FUSIONS	<i>Rare</i>	If present, TRK inhibitors may be an option.

Our Resources: [Download our biomarker brochures](#) | [Watch our biomarker video](#)

BLOG HIGHLIGHT

Immunotherapy and MSS CRC: New results from a clinical trial offer hope for patients with microsatellite stable (MSS) colorectal cancer. Immunotherapy hasn't typically worked well for people with MSS CRC, the most common subtype. This study may represent a meaningful shift in that story, offering a new avenue for patients. [Read the full blog](#).

Patient Tip: If you've been told your cancer is microsatellite stable (MSS) and have already received standard treatments, this new immunotherapy combination might be worth exploring. **Ask your oncologist about:**

- Your eligibility for a Botensilimab + Balstilimab clinical trial (search for trials using Botensilimab)
- Whether your medical center is participating in any related studies
- How to find out your MSI or MSS status if you don't know it yet

Financial Tip: Ask your oncologist if a financial navigator can walk you through which targeted therapies and testing costs are covered—and which support programs exist if they're not.

BEHIND THE RESEARCH

Our Research Advocacy Voices

“

I believe research should reflect the real needs of the communities it serves, and I'm committed to helping stakeholders better engage with Hispanic communities so that no one is left out of the conversation.”

ANDREA SUAREZ

2025 RATS Advocate
Stage II Colon Cancer Survivor



[Meet our full Research Advocacy Training and Support \(RATS\) team!](#)

Medical Advisory Board Spotlight

At Fight CRC, our mission is strengthened every day by the expertise, dedication, and compassion of our Medical Advisory Board (MAB). These clinicians, researchers, and thought leaders are more than advisors—they're partners in hope.

Meet the Medical Advisory Board

- Al B. Benson III, MD
- C. Richard Boland, MD
- Yin Cao, ScD, MPH
- Noel de Miranda, PhD
- Andrea Dwyer, MPH
- Cathy Eng, MD, FACP, FASCO
- Ashley E. Glode, PharmD, BCOP
- David Greenwald, MD
- Samir Gupta, MD
- Stanley R. Hamilton, MD
- Heather Hampel, MS, CGC
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- Jose Perea, MD, PhD
- Nicholas Petrelli, MD
- Leonard Saltz, MD
- Cynthia L. Sears, MD
- Joel E. Tepper, MD
- Erin Van Blarigan, ScD

FIGHT COLORECTAL CANCER

ACTION AND AWARENESS

NIH Policy Update: As of July 1, all NIH-funded research, all NIH-funded research must be free to read at the time of publication. This new policy means that anyone—patients, caregivers, advocates, and clinicians—can immediately access research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) without waiting or paying for journal access.

Take Action

- **Ask your care team:** “Have I had full biomarker testing?”
- **Explore clinical trials** at clinicaltrials.gov
- **Share this newsletter:** Forward this email to someone who may benefit
- **Read our [summary report](#)** for our latest findings on EOCRC from our first Global Early Onset Colorectal Cancer Think Tank



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