This is a story of a modest seed grant from Kure It making a dramatic difference in cancer research, a difference much larger than anyone had imagined.

In 2017, Kure It provided a $100,000 “seed grant” for a collaboration between two physician scientists at UCI. The seed grant funds were designated to the study of gastric cancer, a prevalent cancer in Orange County and a woefully underfunded cancer given its deadly progression and high mortality rate.

One of the two UCI physician scientists, Dr. Dayyani, began to collect patient donations of gastric tumor tissue for studies of drug sensitivities. Thus began the development of a precious resource, a biobank of gastric cancer research material.

As this resource was being developed, a new collaboration was proposed between four UC Cancer Centers: UCSF, Davis, UCLA and UCI. These four California University Cancer Centers, together with UC San Diego, make up a consortium that treats 19 cancer million patients – making it the largest cancer center entity in the world.

Dr. Dayyani’s efforts using Kure It funding to build a gastric cancer biobank were immediately recognized as a very important step toward additional research. He was invited to participate in the new four-University collaboration and to submit a large grant request to NCI so he could further develop the biobank.

The NCI grant was funded for over $6M. Now, Dr. Dayyani is actively working within the collaboration to create a resource that will enable multiple scientists within the UC Cancer Center system to test new ideas for stomach cancer treatments.