Stephen Stetson

Stephen Stetson's mother died of cancer when he was young. More recently, his sister was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon and liver cancer. In the last few years several close friends and in some cases the children of close friends have battled and died of cancer. Early detection could have significantly helped and potentially saved every one of them. Upon learning that early detection methods for most cancers are either unavailable or pose too much risk for regular screening, Stephen devoted himself to developing a safe and non-invasive solution for early cancer detection. The method involves a procedure known as an optical biopsy, similar to taking a picture, without any of the harmful radiation or radioactive substances used in the current standards of care for cancer imaging.

Detecting cancer with optical sensors involves the sciences of remote sensing and data analytics. Stephen Stetson has forty years of experience in both of these fields and became recognized internationally for his expertise. NASA and Stetson signed a Space Act Agreement to advance the development and commercialization of remote sensing technology. Stetson also directed remote sensing projects involving several other government agencies, including USDOE's Los Alamos, Sandia and Oak Ridge national laboratories; USEPA; US Forest Service; DHS; as well as state governments, foreign governments, universities and private sector corporations. Stetson developed his first artificial intelligence algorithms for automated data analysis in the early 1980's. Since then, he has pioneered a variety of technology solutions and directed international collaboration on numerous social impact ventures.

In the last nine months Stetson applied for and obtained a letter from the USFDA officially designating his proposed solution for cancer detection and his protocol for clinical trials as a nonsignificant risk (NSR) device study. The NSR designation is a major step toward demonstrating the effectiveness of the new optical biopsy solution, obtaining FDA's premarket approval and deploying the technology to begin saving lives through early cancer detection.

Stetson's personal and professional experience, his deep knowledge in the relevant sciences, and his commitment and perseverance to beating cancer through early detection have created a new paradigm for stopping cancer before it stops us.