

A composite image featuring a vertical strip on the left showing pink cherry blossoms in the foreground and a tall, light-colored building in the background. The rest of the image is a solid dark red field with a faint, larger-scale pattern of cherry blossoms. White text is centered on the red field, and a white circle with a horizontal line extends from its right side.

Harvard Medical  
School research has  
saved millions of  
lives from **cancer.**

In the early 2000s, HMS scientists discovered that blocking the PD-1 / PD-L1 pathway – a mechanism that some cancers use to evade the immune system – could enable the immune system to fight these cancers.



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The first drug blocking this pathway, a form of cancer immunotherapy, was approved in 2014.



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Today, these  
therapies are  
approved for more  
than **25 cancer  
types** and have  
extended the lives  
of **millions of  
patients.**

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# Protect Research at Harvard Medical School

[hms.harvard.edu/protect-research](https://hms.harvard.edu/protect-research)