



Oncology Research Program

Fostering innovation and knowledge discovery that improve the lives of patients with cancer.

Streamlining the Development and Evaluation of Promising New Cancer Treatments/Strategies

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) Oncology Research Program (ORP) is a comprehensive program utilizing diverse research platforms and expert scientific advisors to foster the development of innovative research to benefit people with cancer.

NCCN ORP's core services focus on facilitating the conduct of preclinical, clinical, translational, and implementation/outcomes research and quality improvement collaborations, assisting companies with drug/device development plans and strategies, and ensuring that results of funded research are publicly disseminated. NCCN ORP can also facilitate research collaborations between NCCN Member Institutions and industry in cancer screening and prevention, quality of life, health equity, and other areas of interest.

Flexible Models Facilitate Collaborative Research

Strong and enduring collaborations with Member Institution investigators and funders are integrated into each platform. NCCN ORP is involved in research projects from start to finish.

Investigator Initiated Research Grant Model

NCCN ORP works with individual or multiple funders and uses a peer-review process to evaluate and approve proposals for investigator initiated research using either investigational or commercially available cancer drugs.

Quality Improvement Collaboration Model

NCCN ORP works with individual or multiple funders and uses a peer-review process to evaluate and approve proposals for quality improvement, outcomes, or education projects.

Protocol Development Model

NCCN ORP organizes a Protocol Development Team to work with industry collaborators to identify their research needs and subsequently design and implement a protocol.

NCCN ORP Guiding Principles

- Study both FDA-approved and investigational agents/devices to seek novel enhanced, effective, and equitable cancer therapy
- Develop new insights into cancer care delivery outcomes and quality, as well as identify solutions to barriers affecting optimal cancer management
- Increase opportunities for NCCN Member Institution faculty to participate in oncologic investigation and support those who are, or will become, leaders in cancer research
- Demonstrate that constructive, appropriate, and transparent collaboration between academia and industry results in valuable knowledge and improved cancer management
- Ensure the dissemination of knowledge gained through the program to the medical community at large through presentations at meetings and/or publication in peer-reviewed journals



Namrata Vijayvergia, MD, ORP investigator,
photo courtesy of Fox Chase Cancer Center

Established Peer-Review System Builds Collaborative Alliances with Funders

RFP Development Teams

Expert leaders from NCCN Member Institutions guide the development of Request for Proposals (RFPs) in collaboration with funders.

Scientific Review Committees

Topic-specific expert Scientific Review Committees (SRCs) are established to conduct peer review of research proposals received in response to RFPs.

Protocol Development Teams

Experts in specific scientific and clinical topics form teams that work with funding collaborators to design protocols and identify Study Chairs/Principal Investigators to conduct studies.

Drug Development and Pipeline Review

Renowned consultants from NCCN Member Institutions review the quality and relevance of scientific and technical data to guide drug/device development.

Value to Funders

Long-standing relationships with leading investigators and key thought leaders at NCI-designated cancer centers across the country

History of effective, productive collaborations with funders, including industry

High-quality peer-review process for investigator-initiated research and quality improvement collaborations

Flexible and tailored research platforms

Standardized contracting process

Rapid study start-up

Close investigator engagement and oversight of study progress

Scientific Advisory Boards

Highly distinguished scientific advisors in oncology, representing the country's top academic institutions, serve as advisors on drug-specific scientific advisory boards.

Real World Data (RWD)/Real World Evidence (RWE)

Explore means to develop and analyze models of RWD/RWE that may provide additional insights to traditional clinical trials.

NCCN ORP Conflict of Interest Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy sets forth principles and procedures to ensure that the personal financial and professional interests of scientific committee members do not compromise the objectivity with which recommendations for research and approval of projects are made.



Scott Plotkin, MD, PhD, ORP investigator,
photo courtesy of Mass General Cancer Center

Research in Action

“NCCN ORP has supported our efforts to improve early detection and navigation of patients with suspected or newly diagnosed lung cancer in Antelope Valley, one of the most underserved regions of Southern California. Antelope Valley has the highest rate of lung cancer mortality in the region and the **NCCN ORP has funded a community navigator to support patients with needs as they get the care they need.** In addition, the program has supported the establishment and growth of the first lung cancer screening program in Antelope Valley. This initiative has touched many lives and has supported an incredible team working hard to improve the early detection and treatment of lung cancer in this underserved area.”

Dan J. Raz, MD
City of Hope National Medical Center

“The ORP is an amazing way to move novel agents into new directions that would not be possible through traditional drug development mechanisms. **This program not only supports innovative science, but it helps to invest in the next generation of clinical trialists in oncology.** My NCCN-supported trial combining enzalutamide (previously used for prostate cancer) with chemotherapy facilitated the evaluation of this novel combination in advanced/recurrent endometrial cancer. Combining clinical endpoints with translational analyses, this may eventually result in a new and effective treatment option for patients with endometrial cancer. This is a perfect example of the great potential of the NCCN ORP!”

Shannon N. Westin, MD, MPH
The University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center

“NCCN ORP has played a big role in my development as a translational researcher. I have been the recipient of several NCCN grants and have served on the Scientific Review Committee for the program as well. The opportunities for NCCN centers to mentor their young faculty, build collaborations with other centers and across disciplines, and bring novel therapies to patients have been invaluable benefits of the program. **The feedback and mentorship I received from national thought leaders through the ORP have underpinned my success and desire to support others in their oncologic investigations and career development.”**

Renuka Iyer, MD
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Strengths of NCCN Member Institutions

Comprise some of the most sophisticated medical research centers in the world

A select group of cancer centers that participates in extensive preclinical, translational, and clinical trials through a wide variety of research structures

Supportive and respectful of NCCN ORP’s scientifically structured peer-reviewed systems and have enthusiastically embraced the Program’s approach to all levels of research

To learn how NCCN ORP can help you develop and evaluate your pharmaceutical, biological, or other oncology research projects, contact: 215.690.0565 or email ORP@NCCN.org