



OVERVIEW

The mission of the Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) is to reduce the burden of cancer in Oklahoma and nationally through conducting innovative and impactful research. The SCC advances this mission by supporting member researchers at the University of Oklahoma (OU Health Science Center, OU Norman and OU Tulsa), Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) and other institutions in Oklahoma.

This Policy defines the categories, responsibilities and benefits related to SCC membership. Investigators who are actively engaged in cancer research at OU, OMRF or other Oklahoma research institutions are eligible. Applicants from all areas of cancer research are encouraged, including basic, clinical, behavioral and population sciences.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- **Full Member**
- **Associate Member**
- **Affiliate Member**
- **Clinical Member**

Full Member (CCSG Category)

Faculty who actively conduct research directly relevant to cancer as evidenced by being:

1. Principal Investigator (PI) on a national, peer-reviewed extramural grant (funding should be R01 or equivalent level), or
2. PI of an interventional, investigator-initiated trial or national PI of an NCI / NCTN clinical trial.

“Peer-Reviewed” funding sponsors are defined by the NCI (see attached for complete list). Full Members must have a substantial record of research productivity and SCC participation over the last twelve months. They must have cancer-focused publications in peer-reviewed journals, be active participants in an SCC research program and other center activities, and be primary users of SCC Shared Resources. A Full Member will have an appointment in an SCC research program. Research activities of Full Members will be included in the SCC’s upcoming NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) application.

Associate Member (CCSG Category)

Faculty who conduct research directly relevant to cancer as evidenced by authorship on peer-reviewed publications and / or being PI on a cancer-focused grant (but not funding that qualifies as “Peer-Reviewed” per the NCI definition) within the last three years. Associate Members must be active participants in SCC research programs and other center activities and utilize SCC Shared Resources. An Associate Member will have an appointment in an SCC research program. This category of membership will be included in the SCC’s upcoming NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) application.

Affiliate Member (Non-CCSG Category)

This category is intended primarily for:

- Investigators, including non-faculty investigators (*e.g.*, post-doctoral trainees, research associates), who engage in cancer research but have had no active, independent, cancer-related grant funding or publications within the last three years.
- Investigators in other research areas who are interested in translating their work into cancer.
- Investigators from an institution other than the University of Oklahoma (OUHSC, OU Norman, OU Tulsa) or the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) who wish to collaborate with SCC members and participate in SCC-sponsored activities.

Clinical Member (Non-CCSG Category)

Stephenson Cancer Center clinicians directly involved in patient care activities but who do not have an active record of research activities within the last three years. Clinical faculty who do not meet the requirements of Full, Associate or Affiliate Membership may be classified as Clinical Members.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The SCC provides members with a number of benefits and support services:

- **Access to Shared Resources:** The SCC has multiple Shared Resources to support cancer research. Eligible members may receive prioritized access at a discounted rate. For more information see the “Shared Resources” pages on the SCC website.
- **Access to NCI-Funded Research Incentive Funds:** Eligible members who are PIs on qualifying NCI grants can receive the equivalent of up to 10% of the incurred annual indirect costs based on expenditures (for more information see the SCC’s “NCI-Funding Research Incentive Policy”).
- **Access to Seed Grant and Directed-Research Funding:** Seed grant and directed-research funding opportunities are available to eligible members to support cancer research that aligns with programmatic Scientific Aims.
- **Access to Proposal Services Support:** The SCC has a Proposal Services Core to assist members with grant preparation and submission.
- **Access to Biostatistics Support:** The SCC has a Biostatistics and Research Design Core to assist members with statistical analysis.
- **Access to Grant Resubmission Support:** The SCC provides support and assistance for eligible members who receive a competitive, but not fundable, score on a qualifying grant in order to enhance the likelihood of a successful resubmission.
- **Pure Experts Research Profile:** The SCC will create a Pure Experts research profile for all members. This interactive, web-based profile is a great tool for networking and building research collaborations with similar researchers.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

All SCC members are expected to:

- Submit all cancer clinical research protocols to the SCC’s Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC).

- Acknowledge the use of SCC facilities, space and / or funding assistance, when appropriate, in research publications (standard acknowledgment text can be found on the SCC website).
- Provide updates to the SCC upon request regarding publications, research support (including Notification of Grant Awards), clinical protocols, and / or other information that may be needed to fulfill the requirements of an NCI CCSG application.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND MEMBERSHIP

Scientifically-focused, highly-collaborative research programs with active members are essential attributes of NCI-designated cancer centers. The NCI highlights the importance of these attributes in the guidelines for the NCI P30 CCSG:

“Cancer centers foster cancer-focused research, in part through the creation of formal scientific Programs. A Program comprises the activities of a group of investigators who share common scientific interests and goals and participate in competitively-funded research. Programs should be highly interactive and lead to exchange of information, experimental techniques, and ideas that enhance the individual productivity of scientists and often result in collaborations and joint publications. Ultimately, the success of Programs is measured by scientific excellence and the emergence of productive collaborations.”

Applicants will be assigned to a Program that best aligns with their primary research interests. Scientific goals are listed under each program. The **“Non-Aligned”** category is for investigators who engage in cancer research that is not related to one of the programs below:

Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program

Mission: To build a robust, transdisciplinary cancer prevention and control research and training program to reduce the burden of cancer in Oklahoma’s most vulnerable populations, with special foci on the American Indian (AI) and rural populations.

Goals:

1. Health Disparities – To develop and employ novel community engagement strategies to overcome persistent cancer health disparities that affect American Indians and rural populations.
2. Tobacco Control – To examine basic mechanisms underlying tobacco initiation, maintenance, cessation, and relapse, and to develop and evaluate novel tobacco treatments.
3. Chemoprevention – To apply natural, synthetic or biological agents to reverse or suppress premalignant lesion progression to invasive disease in high-risk cohorts in Oklahoma and nationally.

Gynecologic Cancers Research Program

Mission: To raise the standard of care and improve clinical outcomes for women with gynecologic cancers. Program members collaborate in thematically-focused, team-based projects in order:

Goals:

1. To discover and interrogate molecular mechanisms central to carcinogenesis in gynecologic cancers in order to develop targeted approaches to improve prevention, early detection and treatment.
2. To advance novel discoveries into therapeutic strategies in gynecologic cancers through the design and conduct of early-phase clinical trials.
3. To impact the SCC catchment area and the nation through the design and conduct of clinical trials that improve patient outcomes.

Preclinical Translational Cancer Research Program

Mission: To promote and accelerate scientific discovery and development of ideas through the translational continuum in order to impact the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, both within the SCC's catchment area and nationally.

Goals:

1. To understand the genetic, epigenetic and signaling mechanisms that drive tumor growth, progression and responses to therapy.
2. To develop novel strategies and tools to improve cancer prevention, early detection and treatment, with a focus in nanomedicine and imaging.
3. To accelerate the translation of promising ideas into novel therapeutic strategies for improving patient outcomes through collaborative, transdisciplinary, team-based science.

Non-Aligned

- Non-Aligned members engage in cancer-related research that is not related to the Scientific Goals of a research program. Affiliate and Clinical Members in the Stephenson Cancer Center may be Non-Aligned (i.e., not have research program appointments).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for membership will be reviewed four times per year.

Application Deadlines: November 1, February 1, May 1, and August 1

A Membership Application Form may be downloaded from the SCC website. A completed Membership Application Form along with *curriculum vitae* and an updated NIH biosketch should be submitted via email to: CancerResearch@ouhsc.edu

All applicants will receive a letter notifying them of membership status within 30 days of the review deadline.

MEMBER APPOINTMENT TERM AND REVIEW PROCESS

Membership appointments in the SCC are for three years. Members will be reviewed annually and recommendations will be made concerning membership status to the Director. Membership may be revoked, and membership categories may be reassigned, if criteria are not met.

The SCC Director has final authority pertaining to membership assignment, reassignment and revocation.

NCI List of “Peer-Review” Funding Organizations other than NIH:

1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
2. Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF)
3. American Association of Cancer Research (AACR)
4. American Cancer Society (ACS), (national office only)
5. American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)
6. American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR)
7. California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)
8. Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
9. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
10. Central Office of the Veterans Administration (VA) - excluding local/regional awards and "block" grants
11. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
12. The Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI)
13. Florida Biomedical Research Program (FBRP)
14. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
15. Howard Hughes Medical Foundation
16. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
17. Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)
18. Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF)
19. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
20. National Science Foundation (NSF)
21. New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center/New York State Stem Cell Science Program (NYSTEM)
22. Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
23. Prevent Cancer Foundation
24. Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF)
25. Susan G. Komen for the Cure
26. The California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP)
27. The California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP)
28. U.S. Army (Department of Defense) special research programs*

***Note:** Grants funded through the U.S. Army's, (DOD) special research programs in ovarian, breast and prostate cancer may also be listed in the category of peer-reviewed funded grants.