



MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

The mission of the Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) is to improve patient outcomes and reduce the burden of cancer in Oklahoma and nationally through research, treatment, education, and community outreach. The SCC advances this mission by supporting members at the University of Oklahoma and other institutions in Oklahoma.

This Policy defines the categories, responsibilities, and benefits related to SCC membership. Investigators and clinicians who are actively engaged in cancer research and clinical activities are eligible. Applicants from all areas of cancer research are encouraged, including basic, clinical, behavioral, and population sciences.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Full Member
2. Associate Member
3. Affiliate Member
4. Clinical Member

1. Full Member (CCSG Category)

Full Members must have met one or more of the following criteria in the last 24 months:

- Conduct independent, peer-reviewed funded, cancer-focused research
- Serve as PI of an interventional investigator-initiated trial, or as national PI of an NCI / NCTN clinical trial
- Serve in an SCC leadership role (Associate, Program, or Shared Resource Director)

“Peer-reviewed” funding sponsors are specified by the NCI (see below for complete list). Full Members must have a substantial record of research productivity and SCC participation. They should 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. Research activities of Full Members will be included in the SCC’s NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG).

2. Associate Member (CCSG Category)

Associate Members are faculty who conduct cancer-focused research as evidenced by:

- Significant authorship or co-authorship
- A significant and independent contribution to cancer-focused basic, clinical, behavioral, and populations research
- PI of a peer-reviewed funded training grant
- Newly recruited and other junior faculty in a start-up period (three year)

Associate Members must be active participants in programmatic activities and utilize SCC Shared Resources. Activities for these members will be included in the SCC's NCI CCSG.

3. 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 entity other than the University of Oklahoma (OUHSC, OU Norman, OU Tulsa) who wish to collaborate with SCC members and participate in SCC-sponsored activities.

4. 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:

- **Access to Shared Resources:** The SCC has multiple Shared Resources to support cancer research. Eligible members may receive a reduced 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 Pilot Funding:** Pilot funding opportunities are available to eligible members to support cancer research that aligns with programmatic Specific Aims and promotes collaborative research.
- **Access to Proposal Services Support:** The SCC has a Proposal Services Core to assist eligible members with grant preparation and submission.
- **Access to Biostatistics Support:** The SCC has a Biostatistics and Research Design Shared Resource to assist eligible 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.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

All SCC members are expected to:

- Maintain research productivity consistent with their membership category.
- 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 developmental funding assistance, when appropriate, in research publications.
- 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

Thematically focused research programs with highly collaborative members are essential attributes of NCI-designated cancer centers. The NCI P30 CCSG highlights these attributes:

Cancer Centers foster cancer-focused research, in part through the creation of formal scientific research programs. A research program comprises the activities of a group of investigators who share common scientific interests and goals and participate in peer-reviewed funded research. Programs are 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.

Selection of members for a Center's programs is one of the most critical decisions made by leadership. Functional and productive programs select individuals for their scientific excellence and, just as importantly, for their commitment to work together to further the scientific goals of the Cancer Center. The expectation is that most members will hold peer-reviewed research funding; however, some unfunded members may contribute to the research objectives of the Center in other important ways, and their roles should be carefully described.

Where appropriate, SCC members will be assigned to a Program that best aligns with their primary research interests. The Goal and Specific Aims for each program are listed below. The **"Non-Aligned"** category is reserved for investigators whose research does not align with one of the programs.

Cancer Biology (CB) Program

Goal: To foster research in the molecular mechanisms that define normal and neoplastic cell growth in order to gain new insight into cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Program members represent a diverse range of research interests in basic cancer mechanisms, including the functions of oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes; regulators of cell cycle and apoptosis; regulators of

angiogenesis and metastasis; and aberrant signaling for resistance. The CB Program seeks to channel these transdisciplinary interests in a collaborative, team-based approach.

The Specific Aims are:

1. **Signaling Pathways:** To elucidate the mechanisms of intracellular signaling pathways and the role of oncogenic and tumor-suppressing genes involved in normal and neoplastic cells.
2. **Tumor Microenvironment:** To investigate the functional mechanisms informing tumor cell-stroma interactions in cancer initiation, progression and metastasis.
3. **Mechanisms of Resistance:** To uncover the mechanisms of resistance, including signaling molecules and pathways, relevant to drug resistance and cancer treatment.

Experimental Medicine and Developmental Therapeutics (EMDT) Program

Goal: To foster the development of novel therapeutic, chemopreventive, and biomarker strategies that can be translated into more effective clinical applications through proof-of-principle, early-phase clinical, and correlative science studies.

The Specific Aims are:

1. **Drug Development and Delivery:** To foster the development and to enhance the delivery of new therapeutic and preventive agents.
2. **Biomarkers:** To promote discovery and utilization of biomarkers that can be used for diagnosis, prognosis and prediction of response.
3. **Developmental Therapeutics:** To design and conduct innovative early-phase clinical trials integrated with correlative science studies.

Gynecologic Cancers (GC) Program

Goal: To raise the standard of care and improve clinical outcomes for all women with gynecologic malignancies, with an emphasis on addressing problems relevant to Oklahoma, through conducting transdisciplinary, team-based research that advances discovery into early- and late-phase randomized trials.

The Specific Aims are:

1. To interrogate mechanisms of precancer progression and prevention.
2. To investigate mechanisms underlying cancer therapy response and resistance.
3. To design and conduct early- and late-phase randomized clinical trials that advance novel discoveries and improve patient outcomes in the catchment area and the nation.

Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC) Program

Goal: To advance the science and application of cancer prevention, control, and survivorship research to reduce the burden of cancer and improve patient outcomes in Oklahoma, especially in the state's underserved populations, through collaborative, transdisciplinary, interventional, and educational efforts.

The Specific Aims are:

1. **Health Disparities:** To conduct community-engaged research to address the disproportionate burden of cancer affecting American Indian, rural, and other underserved communities in the SCC catchment area.
2. **Tobacco Research:** To discover the mechanisms underlying tobacco initiation, maintenance, cessation and relapse; and to develop and evaluate novel tobacco treatments targeted to vulnerable and underserved populations.
3. **Survivorship:** To conduct research that seeks to reduce morbidity / mortality and improve quality of life for cancer patients and survivors.

Non-Aligned

- Non-Aligned members engage in cancer-related research that is not related to the Specific Aims of a research program. This category is used sparingly.

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.