Realigning State-wide Cancer Clinical Trials Programs to Improve Minority and Underserved Patients with Cancer

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NCI's Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program Overview

• The Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program is designed to promote and support clinical trials (research studies) of new cancer treatments, explore methods of cancer prevention and early detection, and study quality-of-life and rehabilitation issues.
• Cooperative groups include researchers, cancer centers, and community physicians throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Overview

• The Cancer Cooperative Group Program involves more than 3,100 institutions
• More than 14,000 individual investigators are registered to participate in NCI-supported cooperative group studies.
• Cooperative groups place more than 25,000 new patients into cancer treatment clinical trials each year.

Overview

• Congress established the program in 1955 to increase support for studies in chemotherapy
• The main focus of the program was to test new anticancer agents from NCI’s drug development program.
• The emphasis on chemotherapy gradually shifted to studies of combined therapy approaches in cancer treatment

Overview

• The Cooperative Groups differ in structure and research focus yet share a common purpose—to develop and conduct large-scale trials in multi-institutional settings
• Children’s Oncology Group (COG), consist of investigators that have a particular medical specialty in pediatrics
• Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), study a specific type of cancer therapy
• Gynecologic Oncology Group (COG), focus on a group of related cancers.

Overview

• Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP)
  – designed to engage community physicians in NCI clinical trials
  – to assure that patients treated in their communities had access to quality medical care using the latest research results available.
• The Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program (MB-CCOP) was developed in 1990
  – as a means to provide a similar structure for clinical trials in institutions that serve largely minority and underserved communities.
Overview

The CCOP Network

- CCOPs: Take Part in Clinical Trials in Your Community
- MB-CCOPs: Take Part in Clinical Trials in Minority Communities
- Research Bases: Design, Develop & Conduct the Clinical Trials

LSU MB-CCOP 1993-2005

- Charity Hospital awarded a MB-CCOP in 1993
- Limited to one site
- Participating investigators were limited to physicians of LSU School of Medicine

Beginnings of a Network

New Orleans-based

Multisite-based

In 2006 LSU MBCCOP enlisted the support of community oncologists to support the program. Children's Hospital, Mary Bird Perkins and Baton Rouge General

NCI – Community Oncology Research Program – NCORP

- Goals:
  - Expand to clinical trials
  - Expand Cancer Care Delivery Research: Epidemiology, Navigation, Survivorship, Multidisciplinary Care, Palliative Care, Outcomes Research, etc.
  - Expand Health Disparities Research
  - Consolidate and decrease number of sites.

- Two types
  - NCORP – Will replace CCOPs (46) and NCCCP (16) sites. Down to 41 NCORPs.

GS-NCORP

The Vision

- Create a consortium that will integrate well-established and experienced teams of clinicians and researchers with the major goal of expanding access to state-of-the-art cancer clinical trials to the populations we serve, through an experienced network of leading academic and community hospitals in Louisiana.

GS-NCORP

The Vision

- Optimize trial management resources to encourage participation by community providers and treating centers
- Select a clinical trials portfolio necessary to provide optimum treatment to the patients
- Promote the accrual of minority patients into clinical trials, especially for those malignancies that have a higher incidence in Louisiana.
## Public – Private Partnerships
A State-wide Approach

**Advantages:**
- Provide access to trials for private oncology groups
- Provide Data Management
- Provide Regulatory support
- Provide research nursing support
- Academic affiliation
- Increase patient enrollment to MI-CCOP

**Challenges:**
- Multisite
- Communications
- Maintaining focus of clinicians
- Increased expenses