

HMO Cancer Research Network (CRN) Applied Research Program

Overview

The HMO Cancer Research Network (CRN) is a consortium of 14 nonprofit research centers based in integrated health care delivery organizations. Collectively, these organizations provide care to nearly 11 million individuals.

CRN research focuses on the characteristics of patients, clinicians, communities, and health systems that lead to the best possible outcomes in cancer prevention and care. The CRN allows for large, multi-center, multidisciplinary intervention research that addresses the spectrum of cancer control, including studies of prevention, early detection, treatment, survivorship, surveillance, and end-of-life care. The CRN also develops and makes good use of standardized approaches to data collection, data management, and analysis across health systems.

The CRN is funded through a National Cancer Institute (NCI) cooperative agreement grant, which ensures substantive NCI involvement in attaining research goals and catalyzing new collaborations. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) also supports the CRN.

Edward H. Wagner, MD, MPH serves as CRN Principal Investigator. Lawrence H. Kushi, ScD and Mark C. Hornbrook, PhD serve as CRN Co-Principal Investigators. Martin Brown, PhD is the NCI Program Director.

To achieve its scientific goals, the CRN fosters collaborations among CRN investigators and with investigators and research institutions outside of the CRN member organizations. CRN activities have generated more than 125 journal publications in a range of disciplines. To search the CRN publications database, please visit <http://crn.cancer.gov/publications>.

Research Priorities

The CRN's priority areas of research focus are:

- Data resources and infrastructure
- Enhancing cancer communication and decision-making
- Health care delivery, quality, costs, and outcomes
- Health insurance benefit design and patterns of care utilization
- Cancer epidemiology, prevention, and health promotion
- Psychosocial factors and burden of cancer
- Research translation and patterns of screening, treatment, and care
- Building capacity to support emerging areas of cancer control research

Working with the CRN

The CRN encourages new and continued partnerships in this scientific community. A successful collaboration involves sharing ideas, aligning with CRN priority areas of research, and developing an innovative research proposal or paper.

Persons who are interested in collaborating with the CRN should follow these steps.

Step 1: Visit <http://crn.cancer.gov>. Use the Web inquiry form to connect with the CRN PI's office. The CRN PI's office will identify potential collaborators, arrange an initial meeting, and track the progress of the collaboration.

Step 2: Work with CRN staff to assess interest level and feasibility. If your ideas are a good fit, participate in an initial conference call to discuss your ideas with interested collaborators. Work with CRN collaborators and/or a Scientific Interest Group (SIG) to develop your project proposal or paper.

Step 3: Work with internal CRN collaborators to finalize research questions and develop and execute proposals. Submit your proposal to the CRN New Proposals Committee for review and approval. When ready to publish, follow the policies and procedures of the CRN Publications Committee regarding authorship and publication.

Resources to Ensure a Productive Collaboration

Experienced CRN investigators are available for direct involvement in all aspects of the research, including research design, conduct, analysis, and dissemination planning. The CRN New Proposals Committee has outlined policies and procedures for reviewing and submitting new collaborative proposals. CRN sites contributing data to a project will review and comment on the research proposal. The CRN Publications Committee has outlined policies and procedures for authorship and publication of CRN-related research.

For more information, please visit <http://crn.cancer.gov/collaboration>.

CRN Sites

- **Group Health Center for Health Studies, Group Health Cooperative**
(Edward H. Wagner, MD, MPH, Site Principal Investigator and CRN Principal Investigator)
- **Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente Northern California**
(Lawrence H. Kushi, ScD, Site Principal Investigator and CRN Co-Principal Investigator)
- **Center for Health Research–Northwest, Kaiser Permanente Northwest**
(Mark C. Hornbrook, PhD, Site Principal Investigator and CRN Co-Principal Investigator)
- **Meyers Primary Care Institute, Fallon Community Health Plan**
(Terry S. Field, DSc)

- **Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Marshfield Clinic**
(Robert T. Greenlee, PhD, MPH)
- **Geisinger Center for Health Research, Geisinger Health System**
(Robert D. Langer, MD, MPH)
- **Lovelace Clinic Foundation, Lovelace Health System**
(Margaret J. Gunter, PhD)
- **Center for Health Research–Southeast, Kaiser Permanente Georgia**
(Douglas W. Roblin, PhD)
- **Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care**
(Suzanne W. Fletcher, MD, MSc)
- **HealthPartners Research Foundation, HealthPartners**
(Cheri J. Rolnick, PhD, MPH)
- **Department of Research, Henry Ford Hospital and Health System**
(Christine Cole Johnson, MPH, PhD)
- **Institute for Health Research, Kaiser Permanente Colorado**
(Debra P. Ritzwoller, PhD)
- **Center for Health Research–Hawaii, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii**
(Andrew E. Williams, PhD)
- **Department of Research and Evaluation, Kaiser Permanente Southern California**
(Virginia P. Quinn, PhD)

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