

NCI's Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program

Key Points

- 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.

The Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program, which is sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), 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 issues and rehabilitation during and after treatment. Cooperative groups include researchers, cancer centers, and community physicians throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. They work with NCI to identify important questions in cancer research and to design clinical trials to answer these questions.

The Cooperative Group Program involves more than 1,700 institutions that contribute patients to group-conducted clinical trials. Thousands of individual investigators also participate in NCI-supported cooperative group studies. Cooperative groups place more than 22,000 new patients into cancer treatment clinical trials each year.



The groups differ in structure and research focus. Some groups, such as the Children's Oncology Group, consist of investigators that have a particular medical specialty (e.g., pediatrics); some, such as the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, study a specific type of cancer therapy; and others, such as the Gynecologic Oncology Group, focus on a group of related cancers. The groups share a common purpose—to develop and conduct large-scale trials in multi-institutional settings.

The Cooperative Group Program was established in 1955 following congressional approval to increase support for studies of chemotherapy for cancer. Congress initially appropriated \$5 million for NCI to establish the Chemotherapy National Service Center. By 1958, 17 cooperative groups were part of the Center. At that time, 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.

People interested in taking part in a clinical trial should talk with their doctor. Information about clinical trials is available from the Cancer Information Service (CIS) at 1-800-4-CANCER and the NCI booklet *Taking Part in Cancer Treatment Research Studies*. This booklet describes how research studies are carried out and explains their possible benefits and risks. In addition, the NCI's Web site provides general information about clinical trials at <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/> on the Internet. From this page, users can search PDQ[®], the NCI's comprehensive cancer information database, which contains detailed information about specific ongoing clinical trials in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. The CIS also provides information from PDQ.

Clinical Trials Cooperative Groups

American College of Radiology Imaging Network

Bruce J. Hillman, M.D., Chair
Suite 1600
1818 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
<http://www.acrin.org>

American College of Surgeons Oncology Group

Heidi Nelson, M.D., Co-Chair
David M. Ota, M.D., Co-Chair
2400 Pratt Street
Durham, NC 27705
<http://www.acosog.org>

Cancer and Leukemia Group B

Richard L. Schilsky, M.D., Chair
Suite 2050
230 West Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60606
<http://www.calgb.org>

Children's Oncology Group

Gregory H. Reaman, M.D., Chair
440 East Huntington Drive
Post Office Box 60012
Arcadia, CA 91066-6012
<http://www.childrensoncologygroup.org>

Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group

Robert L. Comis, M.D., Chair
Suite 1100
1818 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
<http://www.ecog.org>

European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer

Françoise Meunier, M.D., Director General
Avenue E. Mounier 83, BTE 11
B-1200 Brussels
Belgium
<http://www.eortc.be/default.htm>

Gynecologic Oncology Group

Philip J. DiSaia, M.D., Chair
Suite 1020
Four Penn Center
1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19103
<http://www.gog.org>

National Cancer Institute of Canada, Clinical Trials Group

Joseph L. Pater, M.D., Director
Queen's University
10 Stuart Street
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6
Canada
<http://www.ctg.queensu.ca>

National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project

Norman Wolmark, M.D., Chair
Fifth Floor
East Commons Professional Building
Four Allegheny Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5234
<http://www.nsabp.pitt.edu>

North Central Cancer Treatment Group

Jan C. Buckner, M.D., Chair
200 First Street, SW.
Rochester, MN 55905
<http://ncctg.mayo.edu>

Radiation Therapy Oncology Group

Walter J. Curran, Jr., M.D., Chair
Suite 1600
1818 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
<http://www.rtog.org>

Southwest Oncology Group

Laurence H. Baker, D.O., Chair
24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive
Post Office Box 483
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
<http://www.swog.org>

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Related NCI materials and Web pages:

- National Cancer Institute Fact Sheet 2.11, *Clinical Trials: Questions and Answers* (<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Information/clinical-trials>)
- *Taking Part in Cancer Treatment Research Studies* (<http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/Taking-Part-in-Cancer-Treatment-Research-Studies>)

For more help, contact:**NCI's Cancer Information Service**

Telephone (toll-free): 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

TTY (toll-free): 1-800-332-8615

LiveHelp[®] online chat: <https://cissecure.nci.nih.gov/livehelp/welcome.asp>

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