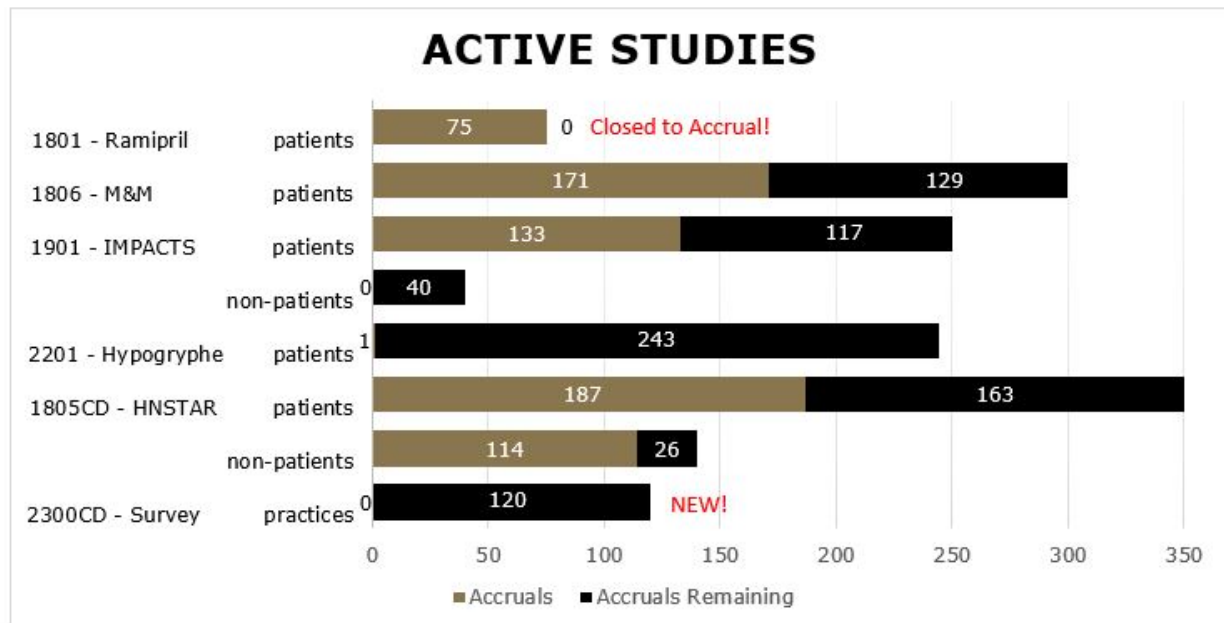




COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter
November 2023

Study Accruals



* Data through 11/14/2023, 12:00PM ET

Study Highlight: Practice Survey for Multi-site Community Oncology Planning for the CONNECT Intervention Targeting Lung Cancer Caregivers (WF-2300CD CONNECT Survey)

Study Activation Date: 11/13/2023

The purpose of this study is to determine interest and capacity of outpatient oncology practices across the broad NCORP network to test the CONNECT Intervention in a future trial. **An introductory webinar will be hosted on Thursday, 11/16/2023 at 3 PM EST.**

SCHEMA

Practice Survey for Multi-site Community Oncology Planning for the CONNECT Intervention Targeting Lung Cancer Caregivers

Caregiver Oncology Needs Evaluation Tool (CONNECT) is a web-based intervention that empowers and educates caregivers about the benefits of supportive care services and systematically identifies unmet needs to connect lung cancer caregivers with tailored supportive care resources.

Study Population: Practices consisting of affiliate and sub-affiliates within NCORP community and minority underserved community sites rostered with the Wake Forest NCORP Research Base.



Sample Size: 60 – 120 practices. An NCORP practice is comprised of one or more NCORP affiliate/sub-affiliate sites, that must share providers, supportive care resources for caregivers, and be willing to participate as a single unit in the future clinical trial.

Study Duration: 15-20 minutes to complete one practice survey after gathering data

Primary Objective: To determine interest and capacity of outpatient oncology practices across the broad NCORP network to test the CONNECT Intervention.

Assessments: One-time cross-sectional observational CONNECT Practice Survey

If you would like to be involved in this study, please contact us at NCORP@wakehealth.edu for more information.

Top Accruing CC Affiliates*

Rank	Affiliates	Accruals
1	IL042 - John H Stroger Jr Hospital of Cook County (Stroger MU)	8
2	GA106 - Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion at Saint Joseph's/ Candler (Georgia)	6
3	SC053 - Prisma Health Cancer Institute - Butternut (Prisma Health)	5
4	NC042 - Carolinas Medical Center/Levine Cancer Institute (NMC)	4
5	MN054 - North Memorial Medical Health Center (MMCORC)	3

* Data from 07/01/2023 - 10/31/2023

Top Accruing CCDR Affiliates*

Rank	Affiliates	Accruals
1	SC108 - Saint Francis Cancer Center (Upstate)	5
1	OH122 - Licking Memorial Hospital (Columbus)	
2	PA052 - Geisinger Medical Center (Geisinger)	4
2	HI005 - Queen's Medical Center (Hawaii MU)	
3	SC024 - Spartanburg Medical Center (Upstate)	3

* Data from 07/01/2023 - 10/31/2023

Site Highlight: Carle Cancer Center NCORP



The Carle NCORP is a small but mighty community of clinics. It consists of 14 Carle Health clinics/hospitals and 13 Affiliate clinics/hospitals serving the rural and micro-urban communities throughout Indiana, Iowa, and Illinois. The Carle NCORP has access to over 47 investigators, 3 nurse practitioners, and 30 clinical research coordinators. This dedicated community has been continuously funded by the NCI since 1983; back to the times of the CCOPs. Dr. Kendrith Rowland, Jr holds the title of Principal Investigator and Betsy Barnick and Sally Shipley are the enthusiastic administrators for the NCORP.

The research team puts the patients first and thrives on the ability to change the world of cancer care one study at a time. As Dr. Rowland quotes, "Yesterday's clinical trial is today's standard of care". The staff at the Carle NCORP is not only engaged with clinic patients, but also the various committees that serve to build clinical trials within the various Research Bases. Several staff members (including CRAs) focus on helping clinical trials reflect the community populations that are served in the situations and environments in which they take place.

Community engagement is a vital aspect of the Carle NCORP. While efforts are continuously increasing to educate and inform the community regarding clinical trials and general health literacy, the Carle NCORP already has many avenues in place. Just in the past year, Carle Research has been found at the Midwest Ag Expo in Gifford, IL, PRIDE Fest in Urbana, IL, Paint the Field Pink events at various local high schools, and various underserved health clinics that feed into the main treatment sites. We focus on bringing research to the patient's level by providing non-study specific material about what research is and remain available to answer questions.

The Carle NCORP works on over 100 trials every day; whether they be NCI funded trials, pharmacology company trials, University of Illinois trials, or Investigator Initiated trials. In 2018, the Carle NCORP achieved a High Accruing Site status by the NCI thanks to the extraordinary recruitment efforts of the EA1151 TMIST trial. Carle has worked to implement technology-based screening practices as much as feasible to help ease the burden on staff as well as minimizing unconscious biases.

While the Carle NCORP works very hard, the staff also plays hard and makes time to decompress. The Carle staff members are known for laughter and food. We enjoy hosting carry-ins at the slightest suggestion of celebration. We acknowledge our investigators with treats and candy. We commonly bring the infusion nurses or laboratory phlebotomists candy, especially when they assist with something special for a study. Annual cookie trays are made up for each department that helps Cancer Research around the holidays. We appreciate that the organization as a whole does so much to support the research branch that we don't take it for granted.



Do you have site or staff that should be recognized? Please submit recommendations to NCORP@wakehealth.edu with "Quarterly Newsletter Site/Staff Highlight" in the subject line.

Top Accruing Investigators by Study

(from 07/01/2023 - 10/31/2023)

WF-1801

1. Roy Strowd, MD (2) – NC002
2. Zachary Vaslow, MD (2) – NC004, SCOR

WF-1802

1. John Pablo, MD (1) – GA106, Georgia
1. Michael Humeniuk, MD (1) – SC101, Upstate
1. Joseph Pennington, MD, PhD (1) – VA217, SCOR
1. Payal Dilip Soni, MD (1) – NJ048, Atlantic

WF-1805CD

1. Zeeshan Ali, MD (5) - SC108, Upstate
2. Heather Sloan, APRN-RX (4) - HI005, Hawaii MU

WF-1806

1. Thomas Lad, MD (4) - IL042, Stroger MU
1. Christopher Thomas, MD (4) - SC053, Prisma Health
2. Kunal Kadakia, MD (3) - NC042, NMC

WF-1901

1. Ronald Goldberg, MD (2) - GA106, Georgia
1. Avanti Mehrotra, MD (2) - MN054, MMCORC
1. Andrew Pippas, MD (2) - GA045, Georgia
1. Mark Taylor, MD (2) - GA106, Georgia

WF-2201

1. Justin Tang, MD, MS (1) - NY045, Montefiore MU

Top CC Accruing Investigators

(from 07/01/2023 - 10/31/2023)



Christopher Thomas, MD
SC053, Prisma Health (5)



Thomas E. Ladd, MD
IL042, Stroger MU (4)

Top CC DR Accruing Investigators

(from 07/01/2023 - 10/31/2023)



Zeeshan Ali, MD
SC108, Upstate (5)



Heather Sloan, APRN-RX
HI005, Hawaii MU (4)

Meet Wake Forest NCORP Research Base Staff: Mariana Pardy



Mariana Pardy has been working as a Project Manager II for the Wake Forest NCORP Research Base since 2022. She is part of the IMPACTS study team and oversees logistics for the administrative supplement and pilot study: Developing a Culturally Appropriate Non-Opioid Pain Coping Skills Training Intervention for Spanish-Speaking Patients with Cancer Pain Using a Community Engaged Approach.

She holds a Master's in Public Health and is a nationally certified healthcare interpreter; she is passionate about promoting culturally and linguistically appropriate services for the Latino community. In 2021, Mariana became faculty for the MAESTRO Program, a 4-year certificate for bilingual medical students at Wake Forest University. She has a parallel career as a ceramic studio artist and in her free time, Mariana loves to get her "hands in the mud" to create pieces inspired in her Hispanic roots.

"With my own experience as a foreign national navigating the U.S. health system, I recognize how language discordant clinical encounters can compromise health outcomes and quality of care. In my role as a healthcare interpreter, I have witnessed that caring for Spanish speaking patients is a task that faces many cultural challenges beyond language skills. As a public health practitioner, I am interested in community-engaged research and culturally sensitive initiatives that promote health equity and inclusion of underrepresented populations. "

New Publications & Presentations

Manuscript:

- Nightingale CL, Snavelly AC, McLouth LE, et al. Processes for Identifying Caregivers and Screening for Caregiver and Patient Distress in Community Oncology: Results from WF-1803CD. JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute. 2023:djad198. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djad198>

Congrats to Dr. Nightingale for being recognized! Checking Cancer Caregivers for Distress – NCI

Abstracts:

- Nightingale CL, Dressler EV, Lee S, et al. Acceptability of the AH-HA Cardiovascular Health Assessment Tool among Oncology Providers and Post-treatment Cancer Survivors in Community Oncology. ASCO Quality Care Symposium. 2023, Oct 27-28
- Pardy M, Trejo G, Henighan TN, et al. Challenges and Facilitators of a Community Engaged Approach for the Development of a Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Cancer Pain Management Program for Spanish Speaking Populations. American Public Health Association. 2023, Nov 12-15.
- Kepper MM, Foraker RE, Lee S, et al. Clinician perspectives on using a clinical decision support tool to facilitate cardiovascular health discussion among cancer survivors (AH-HA 1804CD). 16th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation. 2023, December 10-13
- Gierbolini-Rivera RD, Weaver KE, Lee S, et al. Identifying Barriers and Facilitators in Digital Health using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR): The AH-HA Trial Case Study. Kepper MM, Foraker RE, Lee S, et al. Clinician perspectives on using a clinical decision support tool to facilitate cardiovascular health discussion among cancer survivors (AH-HA 1804CD). 16th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation. 2023, December 10-13
- Foley KL, Dressler EV, Weaver KE, et al. The OaSiS Trial as a model for equitable co-creation and adaptation of an implementation blueprint: a partnership with NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) Sites (WF-20817CD). 16th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation. 2023, December 10-13
- Bluethmann SM, Levine B, Leitzelar B et al. How do chemotherapy and age affect physical performance in breast cancer patients over 12 months of treatment? (UPBEAT WF-97415). AACR San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS). 2023, December 5-9

Wake Forest NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) Research Base Boot Camp

New Investigator Workshop - Call for Applications

Deadline: Friday, December 1, 2023, by 11:59pm EST



Overview: This 3 day, in-person, Wake Forest NCI Community Oncology Research Program Research Base (WF NCORP RB) New Investigator Workshop will be held Monday, February 26, 2024, through Wednesday evening, February 28, 2024, at Graylyn Conference Center (<https://graylyn.com/>) [graylyn.com] in Winston-Salem, NC. Each applicant will submit a basic proposal (2-page max) for a Cancer Control or Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR) study suitable for community oncology sites to be fully developed during the workshop. Protocols that are largely written before the new investigator workshop are likely not appropriate. Modeled after the AACR/ASCO Methods in Cancer Clinical Research workshop and Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center (AHWFBCCC) boot camp for therapeutic oncology trials, the program will offer didactics related to clinical trial design, NCORP operations, feasibility and approval processes, recruitment of diverse populations, and statistical considerations. Lectures and discussions on how to develop protocols for inclusive and broad patient representation and participation will be led by WF NCORP RB Health Equity Core leadership. Workshop lectures are mixed with intensive mentoring and feedback sessions from experienced NCORP investigators; active group participation through questions and feedback to others is expected of all participants. Additional information about the WF NCORP RB is available at <https://wakencorp.phs.wakehealth.edu>.

Accepted applicants will work with a mentoring team comprised of boot camp faculty with expertise in clinical care, cancer care delivery and implementation science, biostatistics and study design, and research and patient advocate perspectives. Additional mentors will be incorporated as needed to meet trainee needs, i.e., radiation or surgical oncology, hematology, adolescent and young adult (AYA) research, etc. WF NCORP RB research staff will provide additional perspectives on feasibility and multi-site implementation.

The desired outcome of the 3-day in-person workshop is a final study proposal ready for development into a grant submission (with NCI approval), a full NCORP concept to submit to the NCI Symptom Management and Quality of Life (SxQoL) or NCI Cancer Care Delivery Research Steering Committee for approval, or a pilot study to prepare for an eventual NCORP grant/concept. Participating mentors have extensive experience developing NCI concepts and NIH grants for NCORP studies and will work with each participant to decide if additional pilot data may be needed to support the concept. If so, mentors will assist in developing a plan and budget for pilot activities.

Following the workshop, participants will meet monthly with mentors and peers to develop the desired final product. Participants will attend and present their concepts at the WF NCORP RB Annual Meeting October 21 - 22, 2024 in Myrtle Beach, SC as the culminating experience. At the annual meeting, workshop participants will network with national NCORP leaders, receive feedback on their study concept from NCORP investigators, clinical research staff, and clinicians, and learn more about additional career development opportunities through this national research network.

Eligibility:

1. Doctorally trained in any oncology specialty, including medical, surgical, radiation, gynecologic, and pediatric oncology, or faculty from other departments conducting cancer clinical research. Senior fellows may also apply (letter of support from current faculty mentor for fellow applicants strongly encouraged).

*Prioritization will be given to those new investigators (i.e., have not previously been a PI (Principal Investigator) or study chair for a WF NCORP RB study) who self-identify as members of groups underrepresented in the biomedical research enterprise (e.g., certain racial/ethnic groups, persons with disabilities, students from disadvantaged backgrounds, women, and other groups as described in the NIH Notice of Interest in Diversity) from academic institutions and/or NCORP Community and M/U Community sites.

2. The proposal must focus on Cancer Control or Cancer Care Delivery Research; oncology treatment trials will not be responsive. Proposals of an interventional trial well-aligned with WF NCORP priorities that are feasible to open within the NCORP community oncology network (<https://ncorp.cancer.gov/about/> [ncorp.cancer.gov]) are strongly encouraged. When appropriate, proposals are encouraged to include biological mechanisms, correlative science, and a focus on underserved patient populations. Priorities include:

Cancer Control

- Cardiovascular complications of cancer therapy
- Neurocognitive complications of cancer therapy
- Additional cancer and treatment-related symptoms (e.g., fatigue, pain) and related outcomes and supportive care interventions

Cancer Care Delivery Research

- Delivery of comprehensive survivorship care
- Integrating informal or familial caregivers into cancer care
- Integration of evidence-based care in cancer care settings

Funding: WF NCORP RB will pay for participant expenses and travel to the workshop in Winston-Salem, provide pilot funds to collect needed pilot feasibility data (where applicable), and to attend and present their concepts at the WF NCORP RB Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Additional Information: Please contact WF NCORP RB at NCORP@wakehealth.edu for more information.

Deadline: Please complete application and upload CV using this link: <https://redcap.wakehealth.edu/redcapccc/surveys/?s=NMANY9PEHTHNY9LK> by 11:59pm EST on **Friday, December 1, 2023**.

Health Equity Core Updates

10th Annual WF NCORP Research Base Meeting – Health Equity Committee Luncheon

We are pleased to share that we had over 50 people register for the HEC luncheon this year!

Topics discussed included “What barriers does your site encounter regarding recruitment of underrepresented groups and what can our Research Base do to help alleviate some of these barriers?”





Mariana Rodriguez-Pardy, MPH

Hispanics and Latine Americans routinely experience disparities in cancer-related care and are significantly underrepresented in behavioral medicine and cancer supportive care. The majority of behavioral/psychosocial oncology research continues to focus on non-Hispanic whites.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage month (October), our team would like to shed light on some of these disparities while recognizing positive contributions to increase participation of Hispanic and Latine individuals in cancer research.

Patients with limited English proficiency routinely report sub-optimal communication with providers, poorer pain outcomes, and barriers to pain management (Zhao F, 2014). Given that Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken in the U.S. and approximately half of Spanish speakers have limited English proficiency, it is imperative that care services and research initiatives include opportunities for this growing segment of the population.

With an administrative supplement from the WF NCORP RB IMPACTS trial, our team aims to bridge this gap by leveraging our prior work in Pain Coping Skills Training (PCST) and create the Spanish-language linguistic adaptation of an evidence-based online PCST program, painTRAINER. Using a community engaged approach, our team is developing a Culturally Appropriate, Non-opioid, Pain Coping Skills Training Intervention for Spanish-speaking Hispanic/Latine Patients with Cancer-related Pain.

By developing a culturally and linguistically appropriate Spanish-language version of the painTRAINER program (painTRAINER en Español) our work will address the unmet but growing need for cancer-related pain management services among historically and traditionally marginalized populations—Spanish-speaking Hispanic and Latine patients.

Funding provided by NIH HEAL Grant (3UG1CA189824-08S2) and Wake Forest NCORP Research Base (2UG1CA189824)

References:

Zhao F, Chang VT, Cleeland C, et al. Determinants of pain severity changes in ambulatory patients with cancer: an analysis from Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group trial E2Z02. J Clin Oncol 32:312-9, 2014



November is National American Indian Heritage Month

American Indian/Alaska Native men and women have some lower cancer rates than the non-Hispanic white population. However, disparities still exist in certain types of cancer.

- From 2014-2018, American Indian/Alaska Native men were almost twice as likely to have liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct (IBD) cancer as compared to non-Hispanic white men.
- American Indian/Alaska Native men are 30 percent more likely to have stomach cancer than non-Hispanic white men and are over twice as likely to die from the same disease.
- American Indian/Alaska Native women are 2.3 times more likely to have, and 2.2 times as likely to die from liver & IBD cancer, as compared to non-Hispanic white women.
- American Indian/Alaska Native women are 20 percent more likely to have kidney/renal pelvis cancer than non-Hispanic white women. Website: Office of Minority Health

The Wake Forest NCORP Research Base Health Equity Core focuses on recruitment & retention of minority/underserved populations. This group meets quarterly to share best practices, influence study design, discuss community engagement strategies and share resources and tools. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact us at NCORP@wakehealth.edu

Wake Forest NCORP Research Base Annual Meeting Highlights

Thank you to all who attended our 10th Wake Forest NCORP Annual Meeting. We really value all of the interactions and feedback we received and look forward to this event every single year!

We hope to see you next year October 21-22, 2024 at Grand Dunes Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC!









Wake Forest NCORP Leadership Highlights

Congrats to Emily Dressler, PhD! - Recognized in 25 Young Professionals in 2023 Leadership Award and also received a Mid-Career Investigator in Clinical/Population Sciences award from Public Health Sciences at Wake Forest University School of Medicine!



WF NCORP RB Quarterly Calls

*The 2023 Annual meeting was held in place of the last quarterly call. A meeting invite will be sent at a later time for the first call of 2024.

Recipe: Winter Layered Salad with Beets and Brussels Sprouts



- 1 cup walnut halves
 - 1 cup pearled barley
 - 2 large pink grapefruits
 - 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
 - 1 small shallot, finely chopped
 - 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 - 1/2 teaspoon honey
 - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 - 8 cups mesclun greens (about 5 ounces)
 - 1/2 pound Brussels sprouts, thinly sliced
 - 4 large cooked and peeled beets, cut into wedges (about 10 ounces)
 - 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds
1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Spread the walnuts out on a rimmed baking sheet, and bake until golden and toasted, 8 to 10 minutes. Let cool, and roughly chop.
 2. Meanwhile, bring a small saucepan of water to a boil. Add the barley, and simmer until plumped and tender, 20 to 25 minutes. Strain and rinse under cold water. (The barley can be made and refrigerated up to 2 days ahead.)
 3. Use a sharp knife to remove peel and pith from the grapefruits. Cut the grapefruits into pieces, and remove the seeds.
 4. Whisk the vinegar, shallots, mustard, honey, 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper in a medium bowl. Slowly drizzle in the oil, whisking constantly, until blended into a vinaigrette.
 5. Using a 3-quart straight-sided tall glass bowl for 1 large salad or four 16-ounce wide-mouth glass jars for 4 individual salads, make a first layer with half the mesclun, then add the following in separate layers: the grapefruit, the Brussels sprouts, the barley, the beets, and the remaining mesclun. Sprinkle the walnuts and pomegranate seeds on top.
 6. If making 1 salad, just before serving, transfer it to a large bowl, toss with the vinaigrette and season with salt and pepper. If making 4 salads, add vinaigrette to each jar, season with salt and pepper, cover with the lid and shake to coat.

Recipe from Food Network: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/winter-layered-salad-with-beets-and-brussels-sprouts-3363606>



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