

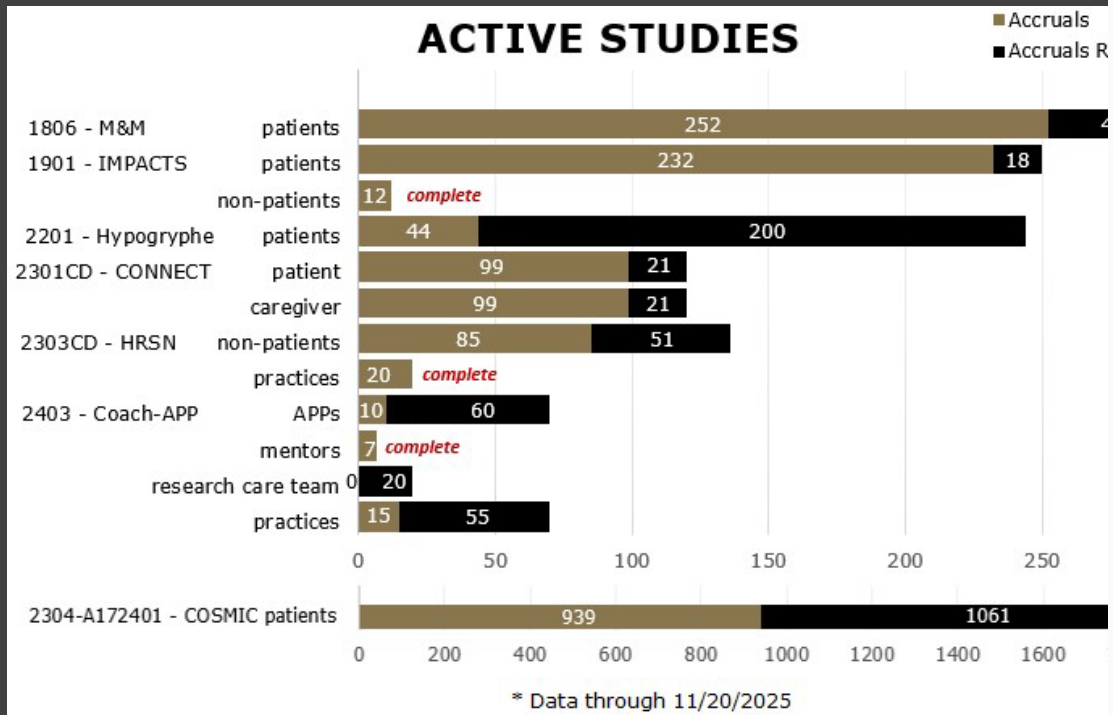


COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2025

Study Accruals



Study Highlight: WF-2501 - Practical Delivery of Geriatric Assessment in Community Oncology Settings (PGA)



New Study Coming December 2025!

Study PI: Hannah Arem, PhD - MedStar Health Research Institute

What is the purpose of this study? The purpose of this study is to assess and refine current processes around the practical delivery of geriatric assessment (PGA). Our goal is to ensure that PGA is carefully done and added to the patient's medical record in the community setting, with the ultimate goal of improving patients' cancer outcomes.

What is involved in this study? This study is divided into parts, creating 3 opportunities for practice involvement, detailed below. Please note that a practice may participate in just one Opportunity, OR both Opportunities 1 & 2, or Opportunities 1 & 3. However, a practice cannot participate in both Opportunities 2 & 3.

Opportunity 1: In Part 1 Stakeholder Interviews, we will gather qualitative feedback from involved oncology clinicians and patients to refine the proposed implementation strategies for delivering PGA. These qualitative interviews will aid in the description of current PGA processes and identify barriers and facilitators to increasing PGA delivery at participating practices. Practices are asked to identify the number of stakeholders they anticipate being able to recruit and enroll from their practice for the interview within approximately 3 months: 0-3 oncology clinicians who administer systemic therapy (chemotherapy, immunotherapy or targeted therapy), 0-3 oncology support staff, 0-3 oncology patients ≥65 years old and 0-3 caregivers of oncology patients ≥65 years old (dyads are not required).

Opportunity 2: In Part 2 Pilot Study, we will find out if our way of educating the clinics improves PGA delivery through a small study. Three selected practices, each with up to 3 clinics, will be selected to participate. Two Clinic Champions will be identified for each clinic and will participate with the assistance of the Study Team from the Medstar Health Research Institute (MHRI) to increase PGA implementation through site visits, virtual meetings, education, and support over a 6-month period. Each participating practice will be asked to enroll up to 35 patients for a one-time survey. Additionally, local NCORP staff will complete a chart review on a subset of 10-15 of these patients. Finally, 4-10 patients who consented for an optional

interview will complete the interview remotely with the MHRI Study Team.

Opportunity 3: Any practice interested in participating in the randomized trial planned for 2027 should express their interest *now*. The goal of the Future Randomized Trial is to test the implementation of PGA practices refined in Parts 1 and Part 2 of this study. **It is important that practices declare their interest now to be selected as one of the 20 practices for this future study.** Contact Persons from interested practices will be added to a mailing list for forthcoming information and final selections, which will be made at a later date.

For any questions or interest in activating this study at your site, please email NCORP@wfusm.edu. (Subject line: WF-2501CD PGA)

Study Highlight: Gulf South NCORP



LSUHSC-New Orleans Gulf South NCORP is headquartered in New Orleans, LA. **Augusto Ochoa, MD** has served as the Principal Investigator of the NCORP since its inception in 2014, first as the CCOP, then later transitioning to an NCORP. **Dina Brackman, RN** serves as the program administrator and has been in that role for 2 years. The Gulf South NCORP has 173 rostered physicians and 24 advanced practice providers in its health system, which includes LSU – Cancer Center in New Orleans, the Feist Weiler Cancer Center in Shreveport, the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Baton Rouge, and the Ochsner Medical Center. These health systems comprise 45 sites in Louisiana, 4 in Mississippi and 1 in Alabama.



Top Accruing CC Affiliates*

Patient Accruals

Rank	Affiliates	Accruals
1	CA197 - Kaiser Permanente-San Francisco (KAISER)	12
2	SC053 - Prisma Health Cancer Institute - Butternut (PRISMA)	11
3	GA106 - Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion - Saint Joseph's/Candler (GEORGIA)	10
4	GA031 - Northside Hospital (GEORGIA)	9
	SC101 - Gibbs Cancer Center-Pelham (UPSTATE)	

* Data from 07/01/2025 - 09/30/2025

Top Accruing CCDR Affiliates*

Patient Accruals

Rank	Affiliates	Accruals
1	GA020 - Augusta Univ. Medical Center (GACARES MU)	3
	HI022 - Hawaii Cancer Care Inc - Waterfront Plaza (HAWAII)	
	MO200 - Lake Regional Hospital (OZARKS)	
	WI212 - ThedaCare Regional Cancer Center (WINCORP)	
2	SC036 - Prisma Health Cancer Inst.- Eastside (PRISMA)	2

* Data from 07/01/2025 - 09/30/2025

Non-Patient Accruals (excluding practice)

Rank	Affiliates	Accruals
1	MO200 - Lake Regional Hospital (OZARKS)	3
	HI022 - Hawaii Cancer Care Inc - Waterfront Plaza (HAWAII)	
	WI212 - ThedaCare Regional Cancer Center (WINCORP)	
	GA020 - Augusta Univ. Medical Center (GACARES MU)	
	NY024 - NYP/Columbia University Medical Center/Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (COLUMBIA)	

* Data from 07/01/2025 - 09/30/2025

Wake Forest NCORP Research Base 2025 Annual Meeting Highlights

Thank you all for a successful and engaging meeting! We hope to see you again next year!



Day 1 Morning Session - Cancer Control



Prisma NCORP Staff - Accrual Award



Dr. Mary Helen Hackney, VCU NCORP



Investigator Panelists - Moderated by Dr. Emily Dressler



Networking Session - Dr. Tommy Curan, WF-2502CD (STOP-VTE) PI



Meet Wake Forest NCORP Research Base Staff: Eden Wood



Eden completed her undergraduate degree in Health Promotion and earned her masters in Healthcare Administration. She has been with the Wake Forest NCORP Research Base since 2018 as a part of the data management team. She specializes in REDCap database creation for current and new studies and regularly monitors data quality. She recently started assisting with Site Coordination and is the primary site coordinator for the WF-2202 SHINE and the WF-2403 COACH-APP studies. Eden also co-leads the audit team for the research base and facilitates on-site and remote audits.

When not working, Eden spends her time hanging out with her husband Brian and 19-month old Barrett. She also enjoys reading, exploring new coffee shops and restaurants and spending time outside.

Top Accruing CCDR Affiliates*

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* Data from 07/01/2025 - 09/30/2025

Top CC Accruing Investigators

(from 07/01/2025 - 09/30/2025) Patient Accruals



Michael Humeniuk, MD
SC101, SC024, UPSTATE (6)



Carla Jorgensen, MD
SC053, PRISMA (6)

Top CCDR Accruing Investigators

(from 07/01/2025 - 09/30/2025) Patient and Dyad Accruals



Sharad Ghamande, MD
GA020, GACARES MU (3)



Shahid Waheed, MD
MO200, OZARKS (3)

Publications & Presentations



Manuscripts:

- **UPBEAT (WF-97415):** Research letter of Secondary Results. This paper explores the relationships between physical activity, intramuscular fat, and the ability to maintain a 6 minute walk distance during treatment with chemotherapy. Daniel L, Bellissimo MP, D'Agostino RB Jr, et al. Intermuscular Fat and Physical Activity Levels Relative to Exercise Capacity Change During Breast Cancer Treatment. JACC CardioOncol. 2025;7(3):297-299. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2025.01.009. PMC
Link: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12046764/>.

- **Memantine (CCCWFU99311):** Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial of Memantine for Smoking Cessation. Spangler J, Skidmore E, Dressler EV, et al. Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial of Memantine for Smoking Cessation (CCCWFU 99311). Cancer Control. 2025;32:10732748251336416. doi:10.1177/10732748251336416. PMC Link: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12062594/>
- **OaSiS (WF-20817CD):** Predictors of Cessation Readiness among Cigarette Smokers Presenting for Low-Dose CT Lung Cancer Screening in Community Settings (WF-20817CD). Dressler EV, Weaver KE, Sutfin EL, et al. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2025 Oct 3;34(10):1828-1835. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-25-0293. PMID: 40694048; PMCID: PMC12434596. PMC Link: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12434596/>
- **HN-STAR (WF-1805CD):** Impact of an Electronic Patient-Reported Outcome-Informed Clinical Decision Support Tool on Clinical Discussions With Head and Neck Cancer Survivors: Findings From the HN-STAR Randomized Controlled Trial (WF-1805CD). Salz T, Dressler EV, Kittel C, et al. JCO Oncol Pract. 2025 Oct 21:OP2500867. doi: 10.1200/OP-25-00867. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41118619.

Abstracts:

- **SHINE (WF-2022):** "Addressing Representation in Sexual Health Research in Cancer survivorship: Results from SHINE Trial Recruitment and Enrollment" Shaffer, KM; Glazer JV,; Kittel, CA et al. Scientific Network on Female Sexual Health and Cancer- Oral Presentation October 1, 2025
 - **HN-STAR (WF-1805 CD):** "Association between intervention fidelity to clinical decision support tool and clinical discussions with head and neck cancer (HNC) survivors: Results form the HN-STAR (WF-1805CD) Trial ." Salz, T; Kittel, C; Dressler EV, et al. December 14-17, 2025 Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health (D & I)
 - **CONNECT Survey (WF-2300CD):** "Engaging Stakeholders and Planning for a Caregiver Intervention Trial in National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) Practices (CONNECT WF-2300CD)" Asad, S; Levine BJ; Snively AC et al. December 14-17, 2025 Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health (D & I)
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- **HRSN (WF-2303CD):** "Piloting context assessment methods from Context-Driven Co-Design (CD2) to plan for health-related social needs screening implementation in a national sample of community oncology clinics (WF-2303CD)" Haines E, Birken S, Clark L; et al. December 14-17, 2025 Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health (D & I)

WF NCORP RB Quarterly Calls

The next call is scheduled for February 4, 2026.

[Click here to add the Quarterly Call to your calendar](#)

Community Engagement Committee Updates

The **Community Engagement Core (CEC)**, led by Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD and Carla Strom, MLA with support from WF NCORP Research staff members, provides an opportunity for sites to highlight the work they are doing to build capacity for inclusive participation, recruitment and retention.

WF NCORP RB Annual meeting Spotlight

This year's WF NCORP RB Annual Meeting focused on *Rural Cancer Care in NCORP Practices*. Our keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Shellie Ellis, a Health Services Researcher and Implementation Scientists from the University of Wisconsin.



The CEC panel discussion on *Integrating Research into Rural Cancer Care* featured

- Billy Cater – Ozarks NCORP
- Jamie Saunders – MaineHealth NCORP
- Courtney Brown – Heartland NCORP
- **Moderator:** Amy Koffarnus – Crown NCORP

During the Community Engagement Committee luncheon, participants discussed: **a)** staff training needs, **b)** community resources, **c)** community engagement and **d)** provider engagement and were encouraged to brainstorm on possible solutions.

Staff Training

Training is often perceived as an investment with challenges such as background differences between senior and new CRAs. *Some recommendations* included utilizing CLASS/CTSU for basic clinical trials training, implementing study specific training,

providing checklists and links, simplifying consent process, and integrating physician education.

Community Resources

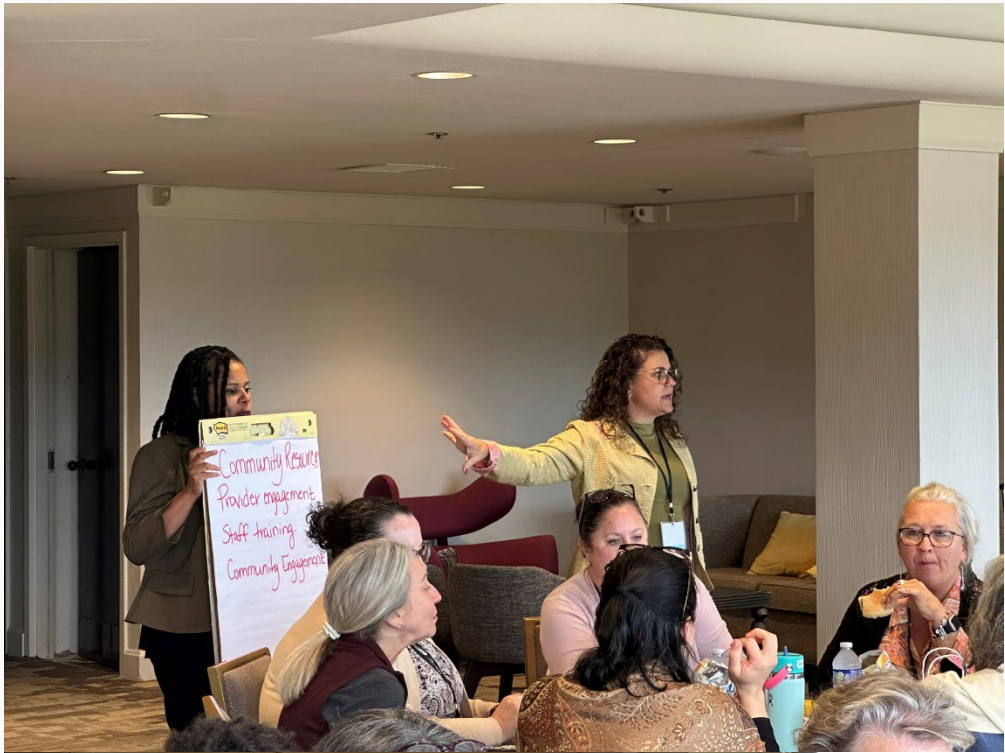
Identified barriers included food insecurity, financial toxicity, limited transportation and funding, lack of advocates and specialty care (i.e. oncologists and surgeons). *Proposed solutions* involved pursuing grants that support educational tools and screening, engaging local government, and partnering with organizations like Head Start for community resources.

Community Engagement

Challenges included resistance to e-consent, lack of staff and limited availability outside of office hours, funding for gatherings and site distance. *Strategies to engage communities* included identifying partners and community champions, talking about research at community gatherings, forming patient advisory groups, leveraging social media and NCORP investigators peer to peer engagement.

Provider Engagement

Some *perceived barriers* included the inability for APPs to consent, practices unable to put up flyers, providers too busy, coordinators not allowed to screen, staff turnover/unable to teach new providers and supportive care trials not seen as important. *Solutions* included providing brochures, flyers and provider summaries, increasing staff for screening, going out into the community to create awareness, using patient advocates, more storytelling, incorporating research staff as part of the care team and creating a sheet for providers with patient information and a list of studies where the patient may be eligible.



The CEC meets quarterly to share best practices, influence study design, discuss community engagement strategies and share resource tools.

Interested in joining the CEC team? Contact us at NCORP@wfusm.edu.



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