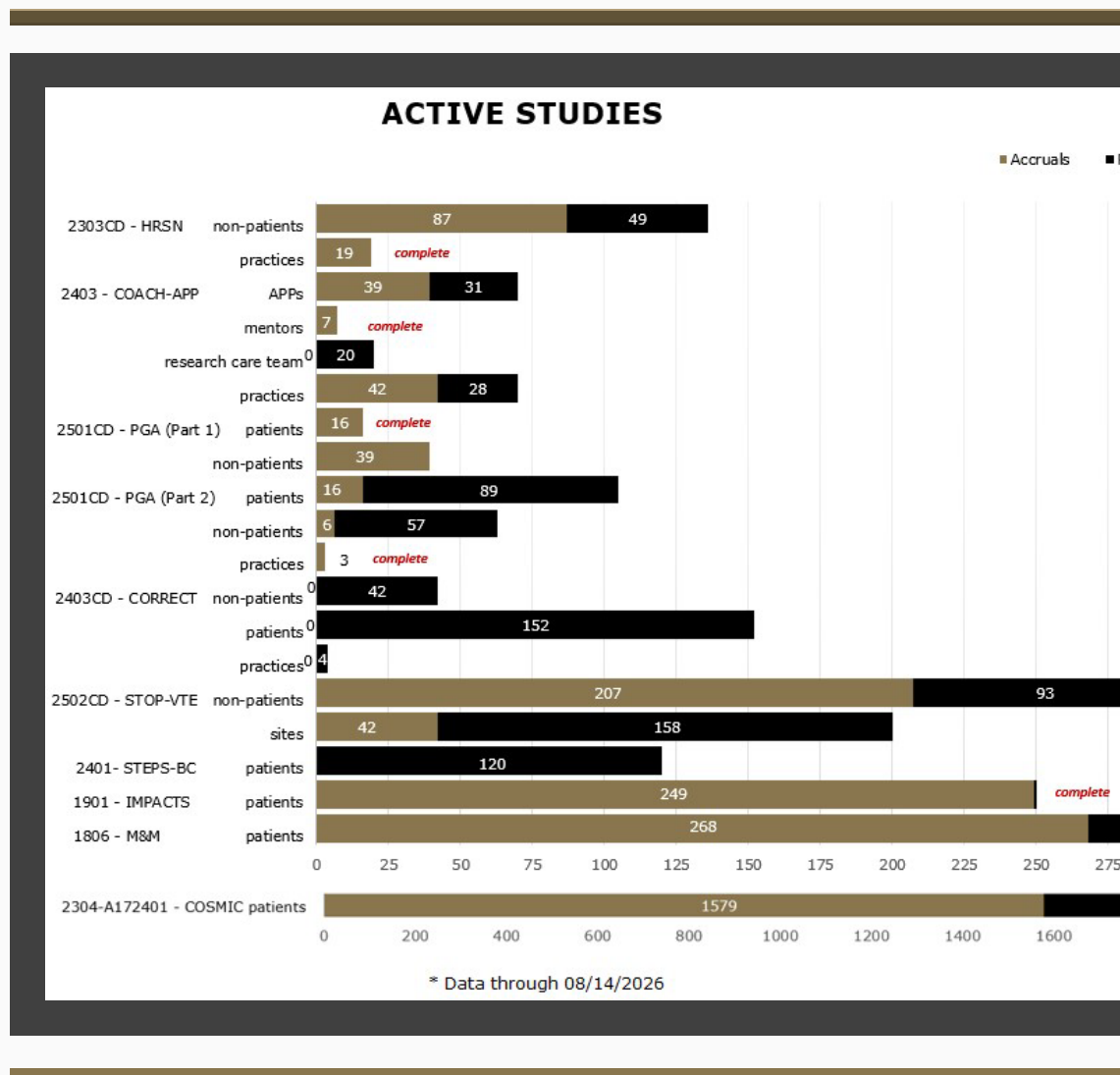




COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter

August 2026



Wake Forest NCORP RB 13th Annual Meeting

October 12-14, 2026

The Marriott Resort Myrtle Beach
Grand Dunes, Myrtle Beach, SC

Registration is Now Live!

<https://redcap.school.wakehealth.edu/surveys/?s=4LRWDFLY9PDDFLEL>

Last day to reserve a hotel room at the block rate is **9/10/2026**

Last day for Meeting registration is **10/7/2026**



Study Highlight: WF-2403 COACH-APP

**Building Capacity within the NCORP Network through an
Education and Mentorship Intervention for Advanced Practice
Providers**



COACH-APP
EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP

Brief Study Overview:

Study Population – All Advanced Practice Providers (APPs), including *nurse practitioners (NP)* and *physician assistants (PA)* regardless of their sub-specialty, employed at NCORP practice providing care to cancer patients potentially eligible for NCORP and/or NCTN trials who are registered as NP/PA within the NCI RCR at time of study enrollment but have not served as a site PI for an NCORP trial.

Sample Size - 97 total: 70 APPs randomized 1:1 (35 COACH-APP Intervention/35 Education Control), Subset for Interviews: 10 of 35 COACH-APP APPs, 7 COACH-APP Mentors, 20 Research Team members (e.g., 10 oncologists and 10 clinical research professionals).

Study Duration - APP study duration is 12 months. Pragmatic practice data collection is through 24 months.

Primary Objective - To compare change in research self-efficacy (RSE) scores (from baseline to 12 months post randomization) between APPs in the COACH-APP intervention compared to the education control.

We are still recruiting for this study and need approximately 28 more APPs!

Why should your site participate?

- This mentorship project was piloted at the Hawaii NCORP
- In the last 5 years, **APP engagement and contribution** has grown significantly
- in 2025, over **50% of accruals were attributed to APPs** at the Hawaii NCORP
- Most of the non-treatment trials are **being led by APPs**
- APP involvement in all disease site working groups and in the supportive care/CCDR group.

To learn more about opening this study at your site, please email NCORP@wfusm.edu.

WF-2602CD- Extending Automated Heart-Health Assessment (AH-HA) for Cancer Survivors to Expand Provider and Patient Reach and Promote Sustainability

- AH-HA 2.0 - COMING SOON!

Study Population: Breast, prostate, colorectal, endometrial, or lymphoma cancer survivors

Study Sample: Practices N= 16; Providers N=32-64; Patients N= 2,016(approx. 126 participants per practice over 2.25 years)

Practice Brief Eligibility:

- use of the Epic© EHR
- willingness to incorporate the AH-HA tool in their EHR
- have two or more providers willing to be trained and use AH-HA
- identified providers saw ≥ 100 potentially eligible patients (combined total for all providers) for follow-up in prior 6 months

Patient Brief Eligibility:

- ≥ 6 months post-potentially curative cancer treatment Ongoing hormonal therapies such as tamoxifen, aromatase inhibitors(with or without adjuvant CDK 4/6 inhibitors such as abemaciclib), or androgen deprivation are allowed.
- Received a routine cancer-related follow-up care visit within the past 6 weeks with a provider participating in the study

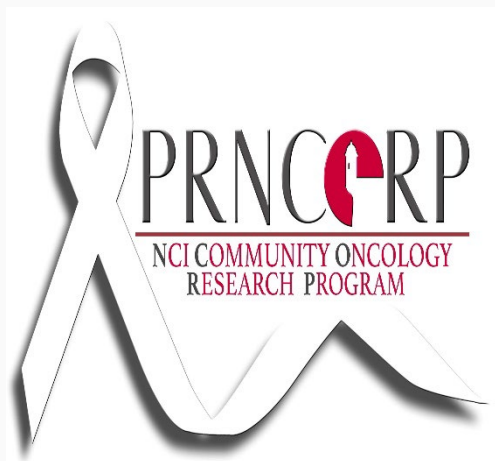
Primary Objective: Assess the impact of an enhanced AH-HA implementation package on overall reach (discussion of ≥ 3 CVH factors documented in the EHR) among post-treatment cancer survivors in active vs usual care phase.

We are looking for sites NOW!

- Begin to identify potential physician or APP champions
- Identify key IT processes/ personnel (funds available to support IT integration)
- Draft protocol is available
- Activation anticipated in Spring/Summer 2027

To learn more about opening this study at your site or to request the draft protocol, please email NCORP@wfusm.edu.

Site Highlight: Puerto Rico NCORP



For more than a decade, Puerto Rico NCORP has dedicated their time and effort to **expanding cancer clinical trial access** to the population of Puerto Rico, a research legacy that stretches back more than 30 years to its origins as the San Juan CCOP. Based at the **Centro Comprensivo de Cáncer of the University of Puerto Rico**, PRNCORP is composed of numerous hospitals of great esteem within its network, ensuring access to clinical trials for oncologic patients in various hospitals. Apart from the Centro Comprensivo de Cáncer, the other sites are **San Juan City Hospital, San Juan Community Oncology Group, Doctor's Cancer Center at Bayamon and Manatí, Puerto Rico Hematology Oncology Group, University Pediatric Hospital and PROncology**. Puerto Rico NCORP's principal investigators include Dr. Luis J. Santos-Reyes, Dr. Luis Baez-Vallecillo, Dr. Alexis Cruz-Chacón, Dr. Maria Echevarria and Dr. Karen Ortiz-Ortiz, ensuring diversity in the protocols that the NCORP works with.

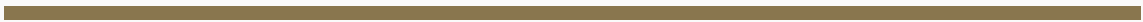
Puerto Rico NCORP is mainly focused on working in **nine specialty areas**, including solid tumors, gynecologic oncology, breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, hematologic malignancies, pediatric trials, cancer control and prevention trials and cancer care delivery research (CCDR). This structure has allowed PRNCORP to

achieve **high accruals** among the clinical trials currently being offered to patients. Behind the PIs' leadership, PRNCORP's administrators and study coordinators have kept enrollment on track, ensured protocols are followed with care, and maintained clear, consistent communication throughout.

Puerto Rico's **economic and demographic context shapes much of PRNCORP's mission**. A large share of the island's population lives below the poverty line and depends on public health coverage, and cancer remains a significant burden, with prostate, breast, and colorectal cancers ranking as the most frequently diagnosed. By bringing NCI-backed trials directly to local hospitals and clinics, **PRNCORP allows patients to access advanced cancer research and care without traveling off the island**.

Given the **strong community and academic partnership model**, PRNCORP remains focused on advancing cancer control and care delivery research, extending the reach of national cancer trials to a population that stands to benefit greatly from local access to oncology research.

Pictured below: Dr. Luis Santos-Reyes- Contact PI (top left), Dr. Karen Ortiz- CCDR PI (top right), Johanna Maysonet- Research Scientist CCDR (middle right), Ricardo Vázquez- CCDR Study Coordinator (middle right), Puerto Rico NCORP Team (bottom)



Top Accruing CC Sites*

Patient Accruals

Rank	Affiliates
1	IL042 - John H Stroger Jr Hospital of Cook County (STROGER)
2	GA031 - Northside Hospital (GEORGIA)
3	DE038 - Medical Oncology Hematology Consultants PA (CHRISTIANA)
	LA068 - Ochsner LSU Health Monroe Medical Center (GULFSOUTH)
	NM004 - Univ. of New Mexico Cancer Center (NEW MEXICO)
	SC024 - Spartanburg Medical Center (UPSTATE)

* Data from 04/01/2026 - 06/30/2026

Top Accruing CCDR Sites*

Non-Patient Accruals (excluding practice)

Rank	Affiliates
1	KS088 - University of Kansas Hospital-Westwood Cancer Center (KANSAS)
2	OH073 - Good Samaritan Hospital - Cincinnati (CORA)
	ME010 - MaineHealth Maine Medical Center - Portland (MAINE)
3	NY313 - Montefiore Medical Center-Einstein Campus (MONTEFIORE)
4	MI132 - Corewell Health Grand Rapids Hospitals - Butterworth (CRCWM)

* Data from 04/01/2026 - 06/30/2026

2027 NCORP Landscape Assessment

Submit your Questions!

The **Request for Questions (RFQ)** for the 2027 Landscape Assessment is now available. **The deadline for submitting questions is September 15, 2026.**

The purpose of the Landscape Assessment is to collect information about community site infrastructure and research capacity among NCORP clinics. The Landscape Assessment is **open to all NCORP affiliates and subaffiliates.**

Use this link to find the full RFQ as well as resources from the 2022 Landscape:
<https://wakencorp.phs.wakehealth.edu/studies/landscape/>

Please contact ncorp@wfusm.edu with any questions!

Wake Forest NCORP Research Base Clinical Trials Boot Camp - Call for Applications

Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2026, by 11:59pm EST



Overview: This 3 day, in-person, Wake Forest NCI Community Oncology Research Program Research Base (WF NCORP RB) clinical trials boot camp will be held **Monday, February 22, 2027, through Wednesday, February 24, 2027**, at Graylyn Conference Center (<https://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 participants 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 boot camp is a final study concept ready for development into a grant or full NCORP concept proposal to submit to the NCI Symptom Management/Quality of Life (SxQoL) or Cancer Care Delivery Research Steering Committee. Participating mentors have extensive experience developing NCI concepts and NIH (National Institutes of Health) 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 in October 2027 in Charlotte, NC 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) from academic institutions and/or NCORP Community and M/U Community sites.

2. The concept must focus on Cancer Control or Cancer Care Delivery Research; oncology treatment trials will not be responsive. Concepts proposing 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/>) are strongly encouraged. When appropriate, concepts are encouraged to include biological mechanisms or correlative science where appropriate. 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 Charlotte, NC.

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

Deadline: Please complete application and upload CV using the link below by 11:59pm EST on Friday, October 30, 2026.

Top Accruing Investigators by Study

(from 04/01/2026 - 06/30/2026)

WF-1806 M&M (patient)

1. 9 investigators with 1 each at MCRC, IWORC (2), CROWN, STROGER (2), WINCORP, HEARTLAND, CARLE

WF-1901 IMPACTS (patient)

1. Todd Capizzi, MD (2) - CO125 (KAISER)
2. 4 investigators with 1 each at HAWAII, CARLE, GULFSOUTH, KAISER

WF2304-A172401 COSMIC (patient)

1. Nada Sherman, MD (13) - IL042 (STROGER)
2. Amelia Zelnak, MD, MSc (8) - GA031 (GEORGIA)

WF-2403 COACH-APP (non-patient)

1. Jamie Myers, PhD (4) - KS061, KS088, MO137, MI202 (IOWA)
2. Leanna Fendley, NP (2) - MS053, TN029 (BAPTIST)
2. Leonard Henry, MD (2) - GA284, GA285 (GEORGIA)

WF-2501CD PGA (patients & non-patients)

1. Grant Williams, MD (4) - AL073 (GULFSOUTH)
2. Suma Sri Chennapragada, MD (3) - AR012 (OZARKS)
2. Michelle Sterpi, MD (3) - NY313 (MONTEFIORE)

WF-2502CD (surgeons & surgical APPs)

1. Luke Selby, MD (15) - KS088 (KANSAS)
2. Leslie Bradford, MD (12) - ME010 (MAINE)
2. Saulius Girnius, MD (12) - OH073 (CORA)

Top CC Accruing Investigators

(from 04/01/2026 - 06/30/2026) Patient accruals



Nada Sherman, MD
IL042, STROGER (14)



Amelia Zelnak, MD, MSc
GA031, GEORGIA (8)

Top CCDR Accruing Investigator

(from 04/01/2026 - 06/30/2026) patient & non-patient accruals



Luke Selby, MD
KS088, KANSAS (15)



Leslie Bradford, MD
ME010, MAINE (12)



Saulius Girnius, MD
OH073, CORA (12)

Publications & Presentations

Manuscripts

- **WF-2303CD HRSN:** Birken SA, Haines ER, Wagi CR, et al. Harmonizing intervention, context, and implementation strategies with Context-Driven Co-Design (CD2). Implement Sci Commun. Published online June 25, 2026. Doi:10.1186/s43058-026-01020-y.
- **Landscape:** Ingram KM, Ji L, Wu HV, et al. Distress screening and management for adolescents and young adults: 2022 NCI community oncology program landscape assessment. Support Care Cancer. 2026;34(8):778. Published 2026 Jul 18. Doi:10.1007/s00520-026-11009-x
- **WF-97415 UPBEAT:** Nguyen J, Reding KW, B D'Agostino R Jr, O'Connell NS, Ladd A, Szewczyk W, Lucas AR, Meléndez GC, Mihalko S, Wagner LI, Ky B, Weaver KE, Lesser GJ, Hundley WG; UPBEAT Study Team. Declines in Social Support During Breast Cancer Treatment and Their Association With Exercise Capacity Reductions in Breast Cancer Survivors. Am J Lifestyle Med. 2026 Jun 29:15598276261463497. doi: 10.1177/15598276261463497. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42389713; PMCID: PMC13318837.
- **WF-2300CD CONNECT Survey and WF-2301CD CONNECT:** Nightingale CL, Snaveley AC, Levine BJ, Turner JC, Farris MK, Tingen MS, Foust M, Graves K, Danai J, Price SN, Asad SS, Adonizio CS, Lesser GJ, Childrey L, Weaver KE. Multi-site feasibility of a web-based and telephone navigation intervention to connect lung cancer caregivers in community oncology settings with resources: Protocol for the WF-2301CD Caregiver Oncology Needs Evaluation Tool (CONNECT) trial. Contemp Clin Trials. 2026 Jun 27;168:108387. doi: 10.1016/j.cct.2026.108387. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42364728.

Asad SS, Levine BJ, Snaveley AC, Weaver KE, Farris MK, Price SN, Foust M, Graves KD, Dingman C, Tingen MS, Danai J, Sheedy J, Morris B, Nightingale C. Engaging community oncology stakeholders to plan multisite cancer caregiving research (CONNECT WF-2300CD). JNCI Cancer Spectr. 2026 Jul 7;10(4):pkag065. doi: 10.1093/jncics/pkag065. PMID: 42330334; PMCID: PMC13385343.

Abstracts & Presentations

American Society for Nutrition

- **WF-97415 UPBEAT:** Diet and Cancer Nutrition 2026. Alterations in the Plasma Lipidome and Links to Clinical Assessments During Breast Cancer Treatment. Bellissimo, MP; Yue, Y; Palladino, EN; et al. American Society for Nutrition. National Harbor, MD. Poster. Monday July 27, 2026.

International Society of Geriatric Oncology

- **WF-2501CD - PGA:** Arem H, Rivera JR, Aubuchon K, et al. Applying multi-level perspectives and influences on delivery of practical geriatric assessment to design implementation strategies: Results from the WF-2501CD qualitative study. International Society of Geriatric Oncology Conference. Poster. November 5-7, 2026

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.

For this year's Annual WF NCORP Research Base Meeting, the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) selected Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) as its featured topic. The CEC panel will include representatives from Christiana, Baptist, and Puerto Rico, who will discuss their site feasibility processes and share lessons learned from participating in the WF-2303CD study, *Understanding and Enhancing HRSN Screening Among Community Oncology Practices*.

Participants in the **Advocates for Research in Medicine (ARM)** program recently completed refresher training and are prepared to support the WF NCORP Research Base's ongoing research initiatives. ARM advocates contribute valuable patient perspectives that help ensure research remains patient-centered and relevant to those it serves. Advocates may participate in scientific committees and engage in activities such as concept review and evaluation of patient-facing materials. This year's featured patient advocate at our WF NCORP RB Annual Meeting, **Maria**

Ramirez (pictured below), will share about her journey as a cancer patient, long term clinical trial participant, and national patient advocate. Her experiences highlight the important role of patient voices in advancing cancer research and improving care delivery.

We will be recruiting new advocates for our next training program this winter. To learn more about the ARM program, our upcoming training and opportunities to get involved, be sure to visit our table at the Annual Meeting.



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.

Follow us on Social Media!



A centralized research base
in Winston-Salem, NC
for Cancer Center affiliates and
NCI-funded NCORP community sites.

Follow our *new*
LinkedIn and X accounts for:

- ✓ Study Announcements
- ✓ Cancer Research Opportunities
- ✓ Results and Publications
- ✓ Research Base Events and News

UPDATES ▶

Contact Us:
NCORP@wfusm.edu

Website:
www.wakencorp.phs.wakehealth.edu

X: @WF_NCORP_RB

LinkedIn: Wake Forest NCORP Research Base





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