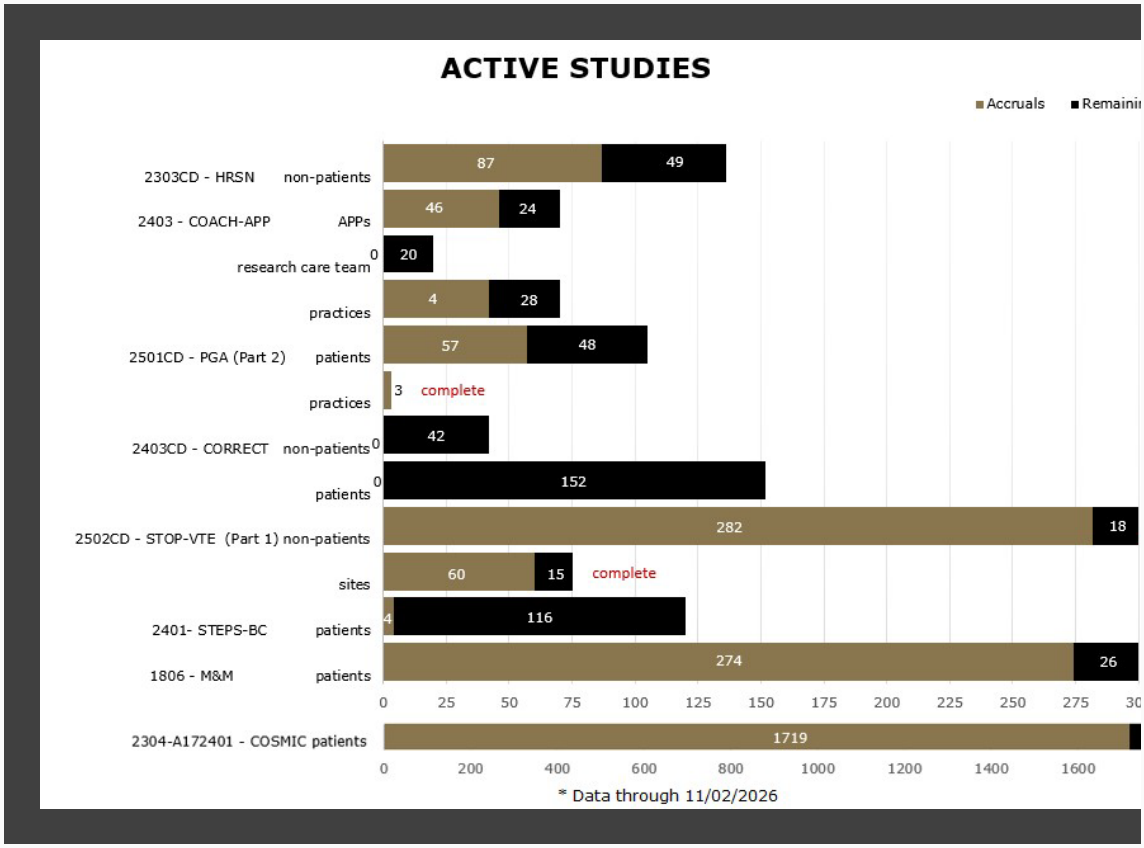
Wake Forest
NCORP RESEARCH BASE

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2026



Wake Forest NCORP RB Annual Meeting Highlights

We always enjoy getting to see our NCORP colleagues and friends each fall! This years meeting at the beach was very successful and well attended and we value your time and feedback!



Day 1



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Zubin Master: Using AI to Improve Patient Literacy

Around Unsubstantiated Therapies: A collaboration between patients and PCPs



Patient Advocate

Maria Ramirez: Survival is Not the End of the Story



Ozarks NCORP Award Recipients



Day 1 Panel

Engaging NCORP Partners throughout the study life cycle

Barbara Roe (MUSC), Sam Wright (Carle), Heather Lawson



AH-HA 2.0 Site Interest Break out Lunch



Christiana/Delaware NCORP Award Recipients



Community Engagement Panel Discussion

Karen Winkfield, Ricardo Vazquez Gonzalez (Puerto Rico NCORP), Jenn Hackney (Delaware/Christiana NCORP), Ashley Payne (Baptist NCORP)

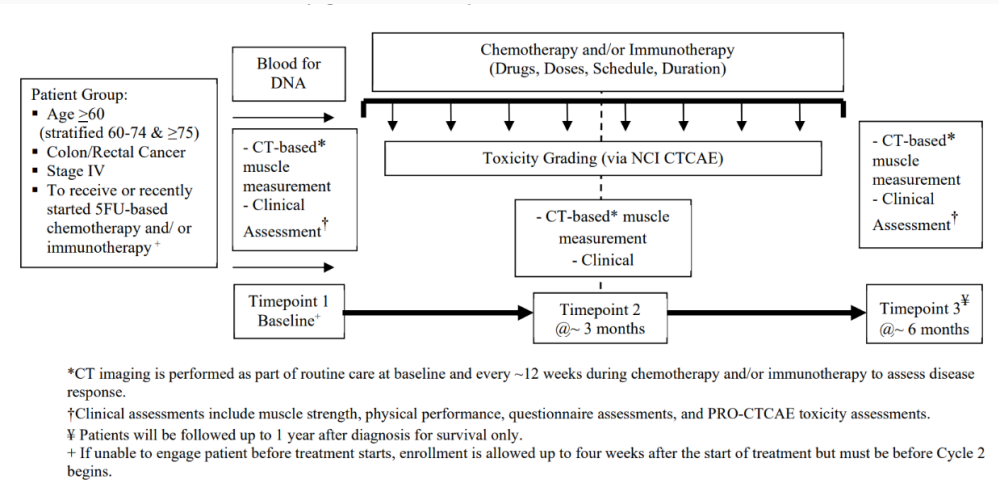
Study Highlight: WF-1806 M&M

Myopenia and Mechanisms of Chemotherapy Toxicity in Older Adults with Colorectal Cancer

m & m Study

Myopenia & Mechanisms of Chemotherapy Toxicity

We are STILL ENROLLING to both age groups. We need 25 more to meet our target!



Stratification: In order to ensure a wide range in body composition and a diverse sample of
older adults, enrollment will occur in two age strata: 60-74yo and ≥75yo, with at least 25% of
those enrolled ≥75yo.

Study Sample: n=300 (at least 25% of those enrolled ≥75yo)

We are looking for **older adults (age ≥60y)** with either **newly diagnosed metastatic CRC** or **newly recognized metastatic recurrence of CRC** ≥3 months (12 weeks) from completion of treatment of non-metastatic CRC. Potential participants must be **planning to or recently started to undergo immunotherapy and/or 5-FU based**

chemotherapy as first line of treatment. 5-FU chemotherapy can be 5-FU alone or in combination with oxaliplatin and/or irinotecan; +/- immunotherapy. Capecitabine is also acceptable. If unable to engage patient before treatment starts, enrollment is allowed up to four weeks after the start of treatment but must be before Cycle 2 begins.

For any questions, please contact NCORP@wfusm.edu.

Site Highlight: CommonSpirit NCORP

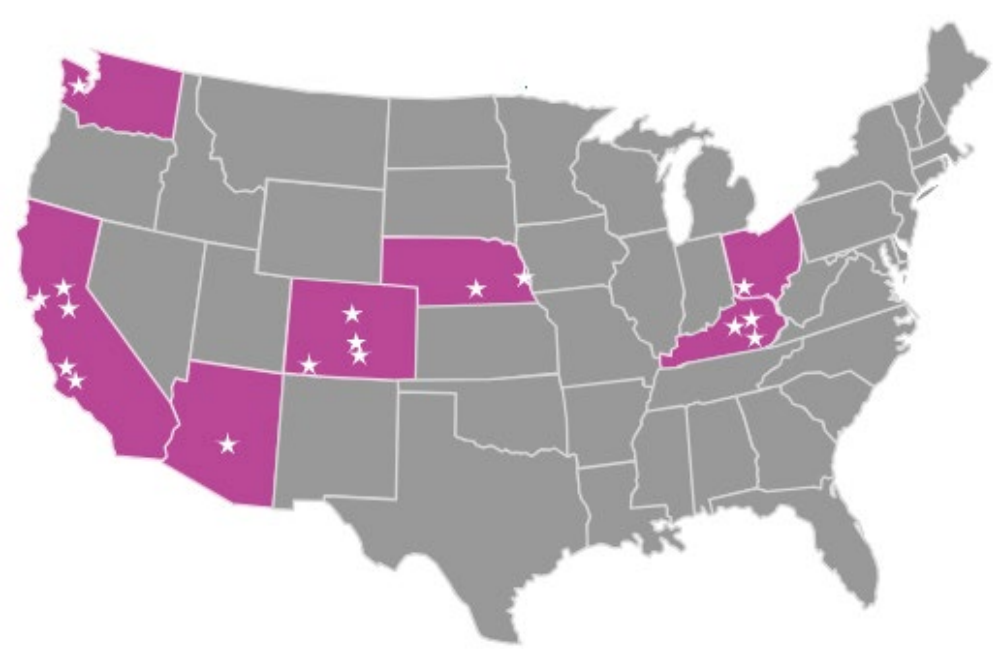
CommonSpirit Health is one of the nation's largest nonprofit health systems and a Catholic health ministry committed to improving health for all, especially those who are most vulnerable. CommonSpirit delivers around 25 million patient encounters each year across more than 2,600 care sites, including 156 hospitals in 24 states, and is a leading learning health system supporting approximately 3,200 residents and fellows across affiliated academic networks.

The CommonSpirit Research Institute is CommonSpirit's central hub for nationwide clinical research. It provides a comprehensive, multidisciplinary range of management services to affiliated hospitals, healthcare facilities, and physician groups necessary to conduct research. CommonSpirit Research Institute is one of the flagship research institutes within the CommonSpirit research mission. Through its size and reach, CommonSpirit offers clinical trials to patients who would not otherwise have access to them. Through operational and administrative oversight of the CommonSpirit Oncology Research Alliance (CORA) Program, its affiliated locations, and the NCORP research grant, CommonSpirit Research Institute bridges scientific discovery with clinical care—empowering patients to make informed cancer treatment choices while delivering healing *humankindness* to those in need.

CommonSpirit Research Institute Oncology Research Alliance (CORA)
The CommonSpirit Research Institute Oncology Research Alliance (CORA) was created to unify research administration, operations, regulatory compliance, and

oversight across the healthcare network. By offering comprehensive research management services to member community clinics, hospitals, and medical groups, CORA enables facilities that previously lacked dedicated infrastructure to actively participate in clinical research.

CORA's involvement in cooperative group research originated under the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) prior to the inception of NCORP. Securing its initial NCORP grant in 2014 provided the foundation to expand the network significantly from its original five cancer centers in three states. Currently, CORA's network spans seven states, comprising 40 affiliate and sub-affiliate locations managed by eight regional research units:



- CommonSpirit facilities in Kentucky:
  - Lexington, London, Corbin, Mount Sterling and Flaget
- CommonSpirit facilities in Colorado
  - North: Denver, Westminster / South: Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Durango
- CommonSpirit facilities in Nebraska
  - Omaha / Kearney
- CommonSpirit facilities Washington - Silverdale, WA
- CommonSpirit facilities in California

    - Sacramento
    - Stockton, Santa Cruz
    - San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, and Arroyo Grande
- CommonSpirit facilities in Phoenix
    - St. Joseph's Hospital
- TriHealth - Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, OH

To maintain an operationally resilient program, CORA centralizes key functions while promoting transparency and shared accountability throughout the Research Institute and broader healthcare network. The team manages essential operations, such as network-wide regulatory compliance, credentialing and rostering, and clinical trials management system (CTMS) administration. To guarantee that research staff receive the necessary tools, resources, and institutional backing to maintain compliance and succeed, this team works closely with the Research Institute's Institutional Review Board (IRB), Quality Assurance, and Training & Education teams.

Meet the CORA NCORP Team

				
Loretta Nastoupil, MD Principal Investigator	**Terah Hardcastle, MS** NCORP Administrator	**Mary Gulzow, CCRP** Research Program Specialist	**Amber Warrick, BS** Research Program Sr. Analyst	**Kevin Sewell** Research Program Analyst

The CORA network brings together 90 active physician investigators alongside more than 20 Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) across its affiliate sites. Positioned uniquely to identify prospective study candidates during routine clinical encounters, APPs serve a vital role within the program. Assigning committed physician and APP leaders at every facility guarantees that daily clinical workflows stay seamlessly connected to our overarching research objectives. Driving these efforts are 25 research coordinators/nurses, together with about 15 research managers, leads, and supervisors who direct clinical trial operations across eight regional research units.

CORA oversees approximately 60 active protocols across affiliated research bases. To offer broad clinical research access, CORA strategically aligns its portfolio across treatment, cancer control and prevention, and Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR). The most frequently enrolled disease categories within CORA trials encompass: Breast, Gastrointestinal (GI), Genitourinary (GU), Gynecologic, Thoracic, and Hematologic malignancies.

CORA's centralized regulatory oversight and standardized processes ensure uniform study implementation across all network locations. CORA provides specific procedural guidance available to all affiliate and sub-affiliate sites ensuring each location operates under identical compliance expectations and receives equitable institutional backing. This support allows sites to engage and serve populations that are historically underrepresented in clinical research

Through strong clinical leadership, standardized regulatory oversight, and dedicated regional support, CORA NCORP remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing equitable cancer research. By continuing to expand access to high-quality clinical trials and fostering robust community partnerships across all member sites, the CORA network ensures that innovative care and scientific progress reach diverse patient populations nationwide.

Top Accruing CC Sites*

Patient Accruals

Rank	Affiliates
1	DE038 - Medical Oncology Hematology Consultants PA (CHRISTIANA)
2	SC108 - Saint Francis Cancer Center (UPSTATE)
3	MN001 - Regions Hospital (METROMIN)
	MS053 - Baptist Memorial Hosp. & Cancer Ctr-Golden Triangle (BAPTIST)
	NM004 - Univ. of New Mexico Cancer Center (NEW MEXICO)

* Data from 07/01/2026 - 09/30/2026

Non-Patient Accruals (excluding practice)

Rank	Affiliates
1	NM004 - University of New Mexico Cancer Center (NEW MEXICO)

* Data from 07/01/2026 - 09/30/2026

Top Accruing CCDR Sites*

Patient Accruals

Rank	Affiliates
1	WI212 - ThedaCare Regional Cancer Center (WINCORP)
2	AR012 - Mercy Hospital Fort Smith (OZARKS)
3	AL073 - Lewis and Faye Manderson Cancer Center (GulfSouth)

* Data from 07/01/2026 - 09/30/2026

Non-Patient Accruals (excluding practice)

Rank	Affiliates
1	IL042 - John H Stroger Jr Hospital of Cook County (STROGER)
2	NY313 - Montefiore Medical Center-Einstein Campus (MONTEFIORE)
3	GA020 - Augusta University Medical Center (GACARES)
	MN024 - Essentia Health Cancer Center (ESSENTIA)

* Data from 07/01/2026 - 09/30/2026

Top Accruing Investigators by Study

(from 07/01/2026 - 09/30/2026)

WF-1806 M&M (patient)

1. **Michael Mullane, MD (2) - IL042 (STROGER)**
2. **4 investigators with 1 each at IWORC (2), CROWN, ESSENTIA**

WF-1901 IMPACTS (patient)

1. **Matthew Eadens, MD (1) - CO034 (KAISER)**
1. **Karen Kogel, MD (1) - CO125 (KAISER)**
1. **Sravanthi Ravulapati, MD (1) - CO112 (KAISER)**

WF2304-A172401 COSMIC (patient)

1. **Thomas Lycan, DO (5) - NC002**
2. **Stephen Dyar, MD (4) - SC108 (UPSTATE)**
2. **Jodi Kagihara, MD (4) - HI005 (2), HI023 (2) (HAWAII)**
2. **Bernard Tawfik, MD (4) - NM004 (New Mexico)**

WF-2401 STEPS-BC (patient)

1. **Mary Helen Hackney, MD (2) - VA010 (VCU)**
1. **Hetal Vachhani, MD (2) - VA010 (VCU)**

WF-2403 COACH-APP (non-patient)

1. **Bernard Tawfik, MD (1) - NM004 (New Mexico)**

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

1. **Holley Coker, PA (6) - AR012 (OZARKS)**
2. **Amir Bista, MD (5) - WI212 (WINCORP)**
2. **Grant Williams, MD (5) - AL073 (GULFSOUTH)**

WF-2502CD (surgeons & surgical APPs)

1. **Bret Friday, MD (22) - MN024 (6), MN127 (6), MN012 (5), ND009 (4), MN134 (1) (ESSENTIA)**
2. **Neda Amini, MD (11) - PA052 (4), PA138 (4), PA136 (2), PA043 (1) (GEISINGER)**





Publications & Presentations

Manuscripts

- **WF-1801 Ramipril:** Cramer, C. K., Smith, S., Dressler, E. V., Page, B., Wefel, J. S., Rapp, S. R., Ip, E. H., Pugh, S. L., Sumrall, A., Strowd, R. E., Vaslow, Z. K., Volas-Redd, G., Weaver, K. E., Lesser, G. J., & Chan, M. D. (2026). WF-1801: Single-arm pilot study of ramipril for prevention of radiation-induced cognitive decline in glioblastoma patients receiving

chemoradiotherapy. *Neuro-oncology practice*, *13*(5), 962–972. https://doi.org/10.1093/nop/npag047

- **WF-97415 UPBEAT:** Avis, N. E., Levine, B. J., Klepin, H. D., Mihalko, S. L., Brubaker, P. H., Moore, T., Ladd, A. C., Dent, S. F., Hackney, M. H., Ky, B., Ntim, W. O., Wagner, L. I., Weaver, K. E., Hundley, W. G., & UPBEAT study team (2024). The impact of non- and anthracycline-based chemotherapy on fatigue in breast cancer survivors: results from WF-97415. *Supportive care in cancer : official journal of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer*, *32*(8), 528. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-024-08717-7

Abstracts & Presentations

IPOS2026- International Psycho-Oncology Society.

- **WF-2022 SHINE:** Effects of Internet-Delivered Sexual Health Intervention Components on Sexual Distress after Breast Cancer: WF-2022 SHINE Trial. Shaffer, KM, Reese JB, Dressler EV, et al. International Psycho-Oncology Society. Barcelona, Spain. Oral Presentation Thursday November 12, 2026.

4th Biennial Conference on Caregiving Research

- **WF-2301CD CONNECT:** Multi-site Feasibility of the Caregiver Oncology needs Evaluation Tool (CONNECT) for Lung Cancer Caregivers in NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) Practices: WF-2301CD. Nightingale CL, Levine B, Snavely AC, et al. 4th Biennial Conference on Caregiving Research. Salt Lake City, UT. Poster. September 23-25, 2026.

American Heart Association

- **WF-97415 UPBEAT:** Olson H, Ambrosio M, Dagostino R, et al. Abstract 5708: Anthracycline and Non-Anthracycline Adjuvant Breast Cancer Treatments Promote Age-Related Decline in Proximal Thoracic Aortic Distensibility - Particularly in Young Women - 2-years Post Treatment.

Circulation. 2026;154(Suppl_1):A5708-A5708. doi:doi:10.1161/circ.154.suppl_1.5708.

ASCO Quality Care Symposium:

- **WF-1805CD HN-STAR**
  - Poster Session A, #367:Opportunities to advance head and neck cancer survivorship care: Perspectives from community oncology providers (HN-STAR WF-1805CD). Asad, SS; Rughes, RT; Kittel, C; et al. 2026 ASCO Quality Care Symposium. JCO Oncol Pract 22, 2026 (Supple 10; abstr 367). https://www.doi.org/10.1200/OP.2026.22.10_suppl.367
  - Rapid Oral Abstract Session B, #671:Use of a tailored clinical intervention for head and neck cancer (HNC) survivors: Findings from the HN-STAR Trial (WF-1805CD).Salz, T; Dressler, EV; Kittel, C; et al. 2026 ASCO Quality Care Symposium. JCO Oncol Pract 22, 2026 (Supple 10; abstr 671). https://www.doi.org/10.1200/OP.2026.22.10_suppl.671

- **WF2303-CD HRSN:** Poster Session A, #509: Health-related social needs screening in community oncology settings: Results from a national sample of NCORP clinics (WF-2303CD). Haines, ER; Birken, S; Clark, L; et al. 2026 ASCO Quality Care Symposium. JCO Oncol Pract 22, 2026 (Supple 10; abstr 509). https://www.doi.org/10.1200/OP.2026.22.10_suppl.509

ASTRO

- **Pilot: #259** Baseline Carotid Artery Calcium Score and High-Risk Carotid Ultrasound Findings in Head and Neck Cancer Survivors After Radiation Therapy: Secondary Analysis of a Prospective Study. Johnson JW; Napolitano JM; Snavely AC; Tegeler CH; Nightingale CL; Pacholke HD; 0Furdui CM: Soto-Pantoja DR; Register TC; Weaver KE; Lesser GJ; Hughes RT. International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics. Vol 126 no. 1S pg S119. https://rob-126-1s.elsevierdigitaledition.com/119/

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.

At this year's Annual WF NCORP Research Base Meeting, the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) focused on Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN). Keynote speaker Dr. Zubin Master discussed how misinformation influences health decisions and explored the use of AI to Improve Patient Literacy Around Unsubstatiated Therapies.

On the second day, CEC panelists Jennifer Hackney (Christiana), Ashley Payne (Baptist), and Ricardo Vazquez (Puerto Rico) shared experiences from their sites and led a discussion on lessons learned from the WF-2303CD study, Understanding and Enhancing HRSN Screening Among Community Oncology Practices.

During the CEC luncheon, participants exchanged ideas on:

- Engaging patient advocates in research activities
- Leveraging WF NCORP Research Base study materials
- Using plain-language summaries to communicate study results
- Enhancing patient outreach and engagement through social media

The meeting also featured patient advocate **Maria Ramirez,** who shared her experience as a cancer survivor, long-term clinical trial participant, and national patient advocate. Maria recently completed the **WF NCORP Research Base's Advocates for Research in Medicine (ARM) program** and like other trainees, is eager to support ongoing research initiatives and help ensure that research remains patient-centered.

Advocates from the ARM program may contribute to research by participating in scientific committees, reviewing study concepts, and evaluating patient-facing materials.

The next virtual ARM training will be held on **November 20th from 1-5pm (ET).** We are looking for cancer survivors, patients, previvors or caregivers who are interested in sharing their perspectives and help shape cancer research.

Know someone who may be interested in the ARM program and become a patient advocate for WF NCORP Research Base studies? Please share the program information and registration QR code with potential participants. Let us know if you would like an electronic flyer to share.



CEC Panel



ARM Program Table at the WF NCORP Annual Meeting



Carla Strom and Patient Advocate Maria Ramirez at the WF NCORP Annual Meeting



CEC Luncheon at the WF NCORP Annual Meeting

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



CLICK HERE to sign up for the next training

Follow us on Social Media!



NCI Community Oncology Research Program

A program of the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health

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