



## Learning and adapting through challenging times

### 2020/2021 Highlights

The COVID pandemic posed many challenges to oncology research over the past year. Fortunately, we were able to maintain our operations and adapt in ways that gave our patients continued access to cutting-edge clinical trials in their community.

Last year, our management team streamlined barriers to accrual caused by the pandemic, including the adoption of remote consenting, delivery of investigational medications to patients when possible, and using telehealth visits. Investigators accrued 171 patients to treatment trials, 211 patients to cancer control trials and 153 to the Tomosynthesis Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial (TMIST).

We also had representation on several national cancer committees:

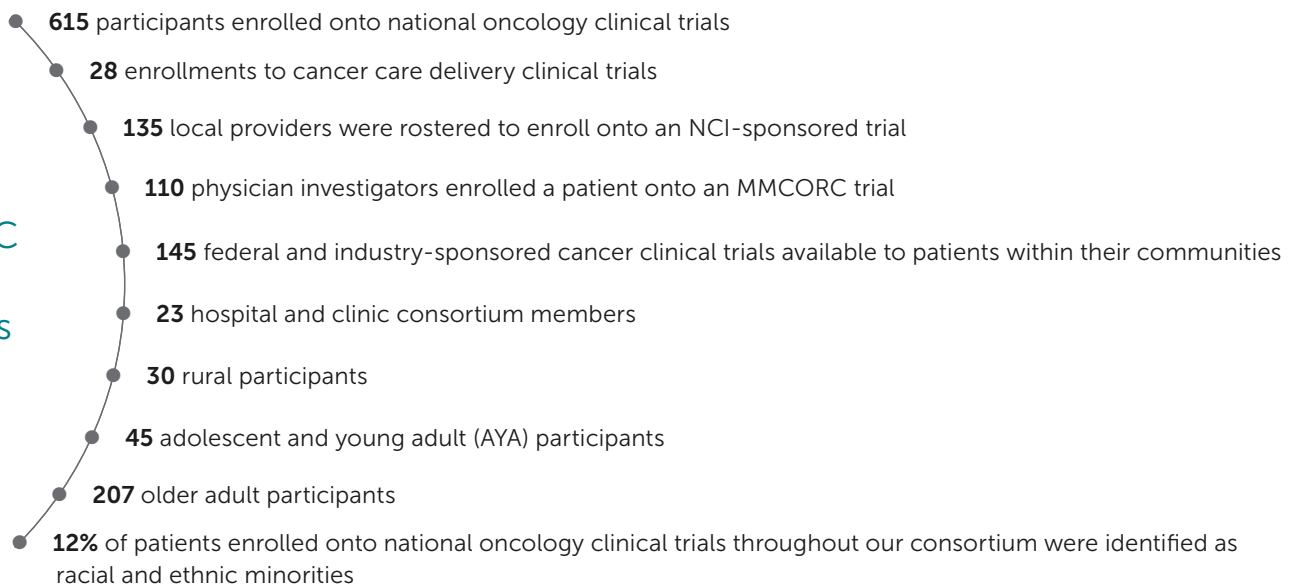
- Richard Peterson, MD, served on the NCI Brain Tumor Steering Committee
- Daniel Anderson, MD, was elected to the Executive Committee of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology and served as a Co-Chair of the Community Oncology Committee
- Michele Lacy served on the American Society for Clinical Oncology Research Community Forum Steering Group
- Heather Kehn was a member of NCORP Disparities Integration Emphasis Group (DIEG)

In addition, we are taking steps to launch the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Five or Ten Year Colonoscopy for 1-2 Non-Advanced Adenomatous Polyps (FORTE). We continued our partnership with the Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network to offer trials to cancer patients outside of the metro region. Our industry research team was able to fill gaps in our NCI research portfolio, offering trials to patients with pancreatic cancer and locally advanced breast cancer among other diseases. And, in recognition of our success over the past year, NCI increased our grant support.

We have learned a great deal from the COVID pandemic and will continue to apply these lessons as we move forward. All of us at MMCORC appreciate the support of our investigators, their supporting institutions, and most of all, the patients who participate in our trials.

Sincerely, Daniel Anderson, MD

### MMCORC by the Numbers



## Learning about COVID-19 in people with cancer

MMCORC investigators welcomed the activation of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study (NCCAPS), that is gathering data on the impact of COVID-19 in people with cancer. The knowledge gained through this natural history study will help doctors better manage treatment for people with cancer and COVID-19 in the future.

NCI plans to enroll 2,000 participants. So far 1,228 have already signed up. The 17 participants MMCORC enrolled have been re-consented as the study was updated to capture their vaccination status and additional correlative studies. This COVID-19 study can be accessed at all MMCORC member sites including sites in rural Minnesota. So far, the Carris Health Cancer Center located in Willmar, Minnesota has enrolled the most participants.



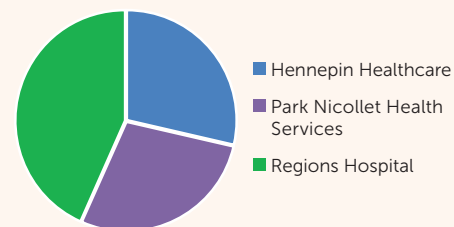
## TMIST and FORTE trials help advance screening science

The Tomosynthesis Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial (TMIST) is the first randomized controlled trial that seeks to identify women in which digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT) may outperform 2D digital mammography in reducing advanced breast cancer development. No one knows if 3D mammography is better than 2D at finding breast cancers before they become more difficult to treat.

TMIST continues to be offered through the participating MMCORC sites: Arden Hills (Regions Hospital site), Bloomington (Park Nicollet site), and Hennepin Healthcare. We enrolled 153 patients from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021 and hope to expand to additional sites. TMIST has reached the 50,000-patient milestone with women from 111 study sites enrolled across the nation.

All women who join the trial are asked to submit tissue samples, such as blood and swabs of cells from inside their mouths. The results of TMIST will help move toward a more personalized approach that tailors mammography for each woman based on her own genetics and individual risk factors for developing breast cancer. MMCORC is proud to be part of the 111 study sites that are helping answer the question if digital breast tomosynthesis outperforms 2D mammography in reducing advanced breast cancer development.

Tomosynthesis Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial (TMIST) Enrollment



### FORTE

Over the past year, we have been gearing up to open a second screening study called Five or Ten Year Colonoscopy for 1-2 Non-Advanced Adenomatous Polyps (FORTE). FORTE is a colorectal cancer prevention study to determine whether people with one or two benign adenomatous polyps should have a repeat colonoscopy exam at 10 years or at five and at 10 years.

It is easier to screen for than treat a cancer. Please encourage individuals to consider the TMIST and FORTE trial to help us find the right screening for the right patient at the right time.


## Local alliances reduce the burden of cancer

MMCORC continues to be an active member of the Minnesota Cancer Alliance (MCA), a coalition of more than 100 organizations from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. MCA is dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer across the continuum – from prevention and detection to treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life care. For Minnesotans, that means increasing participation in cancer clinical trials as listed on the current Cancer Plan Minnesota 2025. This membership offers MMCORC opportunities to join outreach and networking activities with relevant communities that contribute to the Community NCORP goals.

This year, MCA members formed the Clinical Trials Strategy Action Group co-led by Heather Kehn, MMCORC's Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR) program manager and Lisa Beckendorf, project director for Research Advocacy Network. The group includes actively engaged partners who have interest or expertise in cancer clinical trials and are working to increase participation in those trials across Minnesota. Current members represent health care, providers, research participants, community-based organizations, foundations and patient advocacy groups across the state.

To provide an inclusive research experience and increase participation of people normally underrepresented in cancer clinical trials, together, they developed an educational clinical trials infographic translated to Somali, Spanish and Hmong languages.

Visit [mncanceralliance.org/clinical-trials-network](https://mncanceralliance.org/clinical-trials-network) to access materials and additional information.




minnesota cancer alliance  
working together to eliminate the burden of cancer

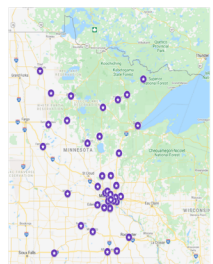
### CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

<https://mncanceralliance.org>

#### WHAT

Cancer clinical trials are available for people before and throughout the cancer care journey including screening for cancer, lowering the risk of cancer, cancer treatments for all stages of disease, helping the side effects of cancer treatment, follow up and quality of life after a cancer diagnosis.






#### WHERE

Cancer clinical trials are available in hospitals and clinics across Minnesota. Local cancer care specialists have access to the newest advances in cancer treatment, care delivery, and prevention research.

For more information call 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) or <https://www.cancer.gov/contact>

#### WHO

**ALL** people can consider a cancer clinical trial. It is important that a diverse group of people enroll onto cancer clinical trials so the results can be applied safely and effectively to all people.





## Showing our appreciation

Thank you to the study participants who have been willing to assist us in answering important questions related to cancer prevention, treatment and symptom management as part of our research portfolio.

In appreciation of our dedicated research staff, MMCORC leadership provided a drive-by lunch as an end-of-the-year grant celebration. We exceeded our NCI NCORP grant goals that are assigned when we receive our Notice of Award (NOA) funding. Our assigned goal was 510 patient enrollments. We enrolled 535 patients, which brought us to 105% of our goal. Based on our successes, we maintained a high level of funding that will help give patients access to national clinical trials through our Metro-Minnesota consortium membership. This would not be possible without the willingness of participants, the dedication and talent of the research staff onsite, and the commitment of our consortium member hospitals and clinics.

## Consortium member sites

Abbott Northwestern Hospital

Carris Health Rice Memorial Hospital

Hennepin Healthcare

Lakeview Hospital

M Health Fairview Cancer Center – Maple Grove

M Health Fairview Lakes Hospital

M Health Fairview Northland Medical Center

M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital

M Health Fairview St. John's Hospital

Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus

Minnesota Oncology – Burnsville

Minnesota Oncology – Maplewood

Minnesota Oncology – Woodbury

Monticello Cancer Center

New Ulm Medical Center

North Memorial Health Care

Park Nicollet Health Services

Regions Hospital

Ridgeview Medical Center

St. Francis Regional Medical Center

United Hospital

Westfields Hospital

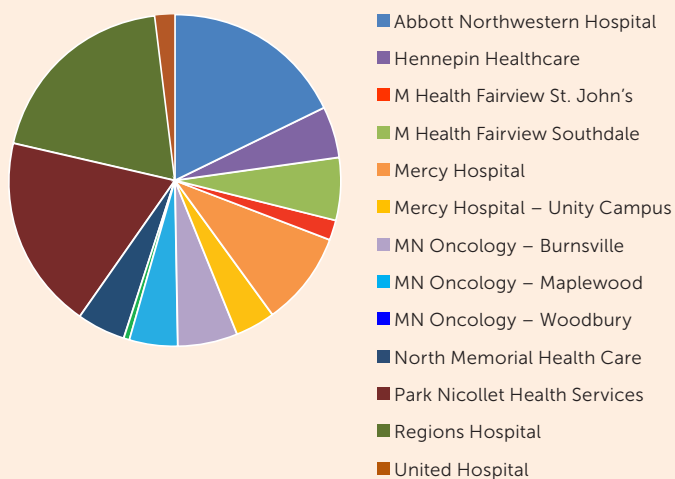
## Leadership

MMCORC leadership includes multiple principal investigators. The contact principal investigator is Daniel Anderson, MD, and the co-principal investigators are Richard Peterson, MD, and David King, MD. They are invested in our program and have contributed their knowledge, expertise and passion for clinical research within our local community and nationally. Our Administrative Director, Michele Lacy, BSN, RN, OCN, oversees the federal grant and staffing, serving each of our consortium member hospitals and clinics.

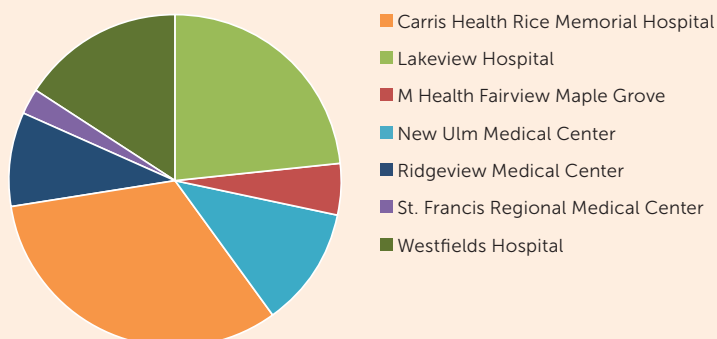
## Bringing the advantages of cancer treatment to the community

We provide patients the opportunity to enroll in high-quality clinical trials for the treatment or prevention of cancer in their own community – while being treated by a local physician. Our dedicated and experienced medical professionals conduct clinical trials with compassion and respect for our participants while offering cutting-edge treatment options.

MMCORC Accrual by Site – Main Members



MMCORC Accrual by Site – Affiliate Members



## Contact information

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Visit [mmcorc.org](http://mmcorc.org) to learn about cancer research available with MMCORC.