



Celebrating 40 years of research and care

2022/2023 Highlights

This August marked our 40th Anniversary as a National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). We are thrilled to celebrate this special milestone. From our humble beginnings in 1983 with just seven member hospitals and 27 investigators, our consortium has flourished, now with 22 institutions and 157 investigators.

In our 2022/2023 grant year, we launched the “Success Through Synergy” accrual campaign to boost participant enrollment. The results have been remarkable, with an 11% increase in enrollments compared to the previous year. Providing access to over 100 actively enrolling National Cancer Institute (NCI) trials to the community, we are delighted that 124 investigators successfully enrolled patients in these clinical trials, with support from 29 radiation oncologists.

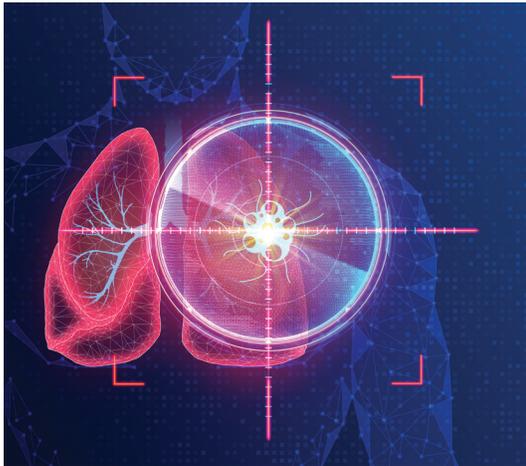
This year, we reached a significant milestone by enrolling 631 participants in high-performance interventions, quality-of-life studies, and advanced imaging trials, securing our position as one of the top accruing NCORPs in the country. We take immense pride in our strong tradition of excellence and look forward to many more successful years.



Daniel Anderson, MD
Department Chair, Oncology

MMCORC by the Numbers

- **631** participants enrolled onto national oncology clinical trials
- **46** enrollments to cancer care delivery clinical trials
- **255** local providers were rostered to enroll onto an NCI-sponsored trial
- **124** investigators enrolled a patient onto an MMCORC trial
- **121** federal and industry-sponsored cancer clinical trials available to patients within their communities
- **22** hospital and clinic consortium members
- **31** rural participants
- **39** adolescent and young adult (AYA) participants
- **162** older adult participants
- **10** health systems are members of MMCORC
- **116** patients enrolled onto national oncology clinical trials throughout our consortium were identified as racial and ethnic minorities



Precision medicine leads to targeted therapies

Through precision medicine, we use a person's molecular information to treat their cancer with targeted therapies based on the genetic results. Since everyone has different molecular makeup, this approach provides individualized cancer treatment instead of one size fits all. Targeted therapies lead to better results.

We participated in the NCI-MATCH trial, LungMAP, ImmunoMATCH Pilot Study, ALCHEMIST, and recently activated ComboMATCH. With the MATCH trial complete, ComboMATCH is the next large precision medicine trial. It is a cross-group collaboration of five National Clinical Trials Network research bases. ComboMATCH will evaluate either two targeted drugs or a targeted drug plus chemotherapy drug based on specific tumor alterations. We are activating the four treatment arms now available, with six more treatment arms in development. We will activate all treatment arms opened in the future.

FORTE study team shares enrollment successes and best practices

The success of the FORTE trial this past year can be attributed to hiring a dedicated enrollment specialist who opened two new sites within the consortium and plans to open a third site next year. MMCORC continued to be a top enrolling site and received national recognition for exceptional data quality. The study team presented their best practices at the NRG Oncology Winter 2023 Group Meeting Town Hall Session. They provided valuable insights to other sites on recruitment, on-study management, data management, and follow-up, ultimately contributing to increased national accrual and advancing knowledge in the field. The study team also presented locally at the Minnesota Colon Cancer Coalition meeting in 2023.

Industry research milestones

We have 50 active industry-sponsored clinical trials, 17 of which are actively enrolling. In the last year, we established four new strategic partnerships, increasing the total to 35 unique pharmaceutical companies to sponsor our work. In addition, we have six NCI/industry foundation-based sponsor collaborations.

We consistently remained the enrollment leader nationally for the NSABP C-14 biospecimen collection study which is analyzing circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) to detect minimal residual disease in patients with colorectal cancer.

We participated in the ICAREdata Capture Study: Integrating Clinical trials And Real-world Endpoints Data Capture Study in collaboration with Alliance Foundation Trials. We have been recognized by Alliance for enrolling the first patient nationally on the study and being the first site to activate nationally the most recent phase of the project – an Adverse Events reporting module.

Clinical Trials Day celebration

To recognize the history of clinical trials and to honor the research professionals who make them happen, we celebrated national Clinical Trials Day in May. We provided each site with a celebration kit containing posters, raffles, research careers brochures and appreciation treats with notes for clinic partners. We published many pictures of the cancer care teams and research nurses on @MMCORC all week. The campaign was so successful, it's become an annual engagement strategy.

Helping new providers prepare for clinical trials

Ensuring new providers have the resources they need to be involved in clinical trials is an important step. To support our new providers, we created an MMCORC Warm Welcome folder. It includes information about accessing protocol lists, digital resources and communication strategies. We also provide materials dedicated to the training and policies for Advanced Practice Providers (APP) enrolling to protocols including the new NCI policies, tailored training and protocol lists that indicate which studies APPs can be the enrolling investigators.

Providing greater access to clinical trials across Minnesota

Rural communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin face disadvantages such as high poverty rates and lack of access to health care. MMCORC continues to be an active partner in the Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network (MNCCTN). This network has been funded by the Minnesota legislature since 2018 to bring together health care organizations across the state. Together, we aim to improve cancer outcomes for all Minnesotans through greater access to cancer clinical trials in prevention and treatment.



We partner with MNCCTN to bring together experts and resources to deliver cancer clinical trials to Minnesotans in their own rural communities. Our consortium offers operational support, education and access to new treatment options. This enhances understanding of the disease and increases options for patient care, improves patient outcomes and reduces the burden of cancer on patients by engaging a broader population in clinical research. MNCCTN funding continues to support building the infrastructure to the affiliate site, Monticello Cancer Center. We participate in their various network committees such as Steering, Operations, Workforce Development Strategic Action Group and Educational Campaign Advisory Committee.

Community partnerships keep us connected

MMCORC team members attended the Minnesota Cancer Alliance (MCA) 2023 Summit where our community outreach and education project manager presented on a panel about building a statewide clinical trials strategy action group. In addition to MMCORC, panelists included Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network (MNCCTN), Sanford NCORP of the North Central Plains and the American Indian Cancer Foundation.



Sleep Awareness Month in March 2023. She worked with her New Ulm Medical Center clinic team, including the provider, to highlight this important cancer control clinical study. They advertised in the clinic with posters, brochures and even T-shirts to help generate curiosity and discussion around the clinical trial. Her efforts paid off with five new enrollments and several more interested participants.

Cancer control and quality-of-life research

This grant year, we enrolled 139 participants on cancer control and health-related quality-of-life trials. We achieved the national milestone of enrolling the first participant in the URCC Insomnia Study (URCC-19185) and provided valuable feedback to the research base regarding initial enrollment challenges. This feedback led to a study restructuring, reducing the burden on participants and sites, resulting in a significant increase in accrual. In March 2023, MMCORC had 23 out of 26 enrollments nationally, and by May 2023, we reached 35 out of 54 enrollments on the trial.

Another success of the URCC-19185 study was a campaign initiative targeted at one of our rural affiliate sites. To help with accrual, the research nurse developed a sleep campaign focused on National

Our X network (formerly Twitter) @MMCORC is growing! We have a communications plan that includes tagging our consortium member hospitals and community-based partners in the content we share.

Just-in-time access to protocols

We improved our public- and member-facing website mmcorc.org to enhance outreach to patients and providers. In addition, we created an iPhone/Android app to provide clinicians and research teams quick access to available clinical trials and protocol information. These enhancements help clinicians access NCI protocols more efficiently during treatment planning while patients are in the cancer center.



Consortium member sites

Abbott Northwestern Hospital

CentraCare – Willmar Regional Cancer Center

HealthPartners Cancer Center at Regions Hospital

HealthPartners Frauentshuh Cancer Center

Hennepin Healthcare

Lakeview Hospital

M Health Fairview Cancer Center – Maple Grove

M Health Fairview Lakes Hospital

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 Hospital and Clinic

Ridgeview Medical Center

St. Francis Regional Medical Center

United Hospital

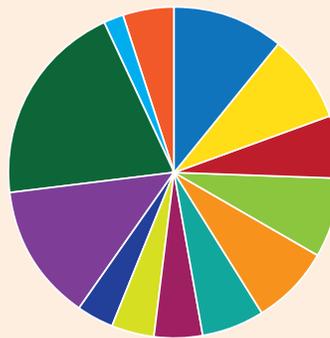
Westfields Hospital

Leadership

During Grant Year 9, we maintained a multi-Principal Investigator (PI) model with the contact PI responsibilities assigned to Daniel Anderson, MD, and the Co-PI responsibilities assigned to David King, MD, and Yan Ji, MD. Dr. Ji is our newest Principal Investigator. She has vast knowledge of research with an interest in breast cancer, immunology, and experimental therapeutics.

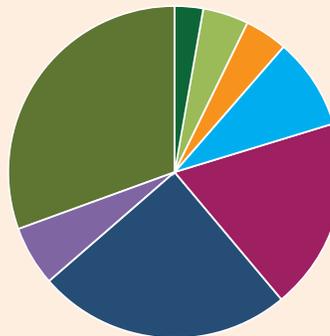
All three investigators remain strongly invested in our program and continue to contribute their knowledge, expertise, and passion for clinical research within our local community and on a national level.

MMCORC Accrual by Site – Main Members



- Abbott Northwestern Hospital
- HealthPartners Cancer Center at Regions Hospital
- HealthPartners Frauentshuh Cancer Center
- Hennepin Healthcare
- M Health Fairview St. John’s Hospital
- M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital
- Mercy Hospital
- Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus
- Minnesota Oncology – Burnsville
- Minnesota Oncology – Maplewood
- Minnesota Oncology – Woodbury
- North Memorial Health Hospital
- United Hospital

MMCORC Accrual by Site – Affiliate Members



- CentraCare – Willmar Cancer Center
- Lakeview Hospital
- M Health Fairview Cancer Center – Maple Grove
- Monticello Cancer Center
- New Ulm Medical Center
- Ridgeview Medical Center
- St. Francis Regional Medical Center
- Westfields Hospital

Contact information

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Visit mmcorc.org to learn about cancer research available with MMCORC.

Follow us on X, formerly known as Twitter, [@MMCORC](https://twitter.com/MMCORC) to receive updates about events and activities.

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MMCORC

community oncology research consortium



CELEBRATING
40
years

1983-2023