

Metro-Minnesota Community Oncology Research Consortium

2023/2024 Highlights



Partnering for progress in the fight against cancer

This year, we proudly celebrated 41 years of delivering innovative oncology clinical trials, bringing advanced treatment options directly to patients within their communities. Our team, consisting of 138 medical oncologists, 29 radiation oncologists, and 83 advanced practice clinicians, enrolled a total of 589 participants to cancer clinical trials. Our success was nationally recognized by the National Cancer Institute who awarded us Platinum level recognition for the 2023/2024 grant year. This underscores our commitment to expanding access to care and advancing oncology research.

We also built upon our initiatives in cancer screening. MMCORC continues to be a national leader in the FORTE trial, which investigates optimal intervals for colonoscopy screenings. Additionally, our collaboration with the TMIST trial supports research into the effectiveness of 3D mammography for breast cancer screening. Through our partnership with Exact Sciences,

we are also contributing to the development of blood-based cancer screening assays, pushing the boundaries of early cancer detection.

Looking forward, we've joined forces with the Data Lab at the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology to streamline the reporting of clinical trial data, enhancing both accuracy and efficiency. We are also excited to have introduced a mobile app, developed in-house, which allows clinicians to quickly identify trials suited for their patients, making trial enrollment faster and more accessible.

MMCORC remains dedicated to pioneering advancements in oncology, and we look forward to another year of progress and partnership in the fight against cancer.

Daniel Anderson, MD
Department Chair, Oncology
MMCORC Principal Investigator



Cancer treatment studies and commendations

MMCORC is bringing more than 100 active National Cancer Institute (NCI) treatment studies to the community. Our studies cover a variety of solid tumor and hematologic cancers, as well as symptom management, prevention and care delivery. We continue to actively enroll in the TMIST breast cancer trial, studying 2D versus 3D mammography to determine which is better at detecting advanced cancers. The TMIST trial has almost reached its accrual goal of 108,508 participants.

MMCORC has added to our portfolio multiple precision medicine trials over the 2024 year and we plan to add more in 2025. Trials include substudies specific to LungMAP and ComboMATCH which focus on a variety of genomic markers and disease states.

We received a Commendation for Overall Outstanding Performance on the 2024 ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Group Institution Evaluation. We were recognized at the ECOG-ACRIN Fall Group Meeting in a slideshow with a photo of our team.

Affiliate Member Program nurse receives award and scholarship

Shannon Mattson, RN, Research Nurse at Monticello Cancer Center, received the Outstanding Support Award from American Cancer Society ResearchHERS: Women Fighting Cancer™ in May 2024. In 2023, Mattson received a literature-review scholarship from the Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network (MNCCTN) to research the effects of Reiki on chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) symptoms experienced during cancer treatment.

Cancer control and cancer care delivery research

This grant year, we enrolled 158 participants on cancer control and health related quality-of-life trials. Studies examining CIPN, insomnia, cachexia and pain are just a few of the trials in our portfolio that we offer to patients. These studies have seen robust enrollment and have helped us guide changes to study procedures based on feedback from our site teams and patients. At the University of Rochester Cancer Center (URCC) 2024 annual meeting, MMCORC was ranked fifth out of 30 NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) sites for enrollment onto URCC trials.

Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR) successes include three clinics contributing crucial information to Understanding the Impact of Drug Shortages on Oncology Care Delivery (URCC18004CD). And nine physicians participated in S2108CD, studying whether an educationally enhanced genomic tumor board increases evidence-based genome-informed therapy.

Participating community hospitals and clinics

Allina Health Cancer Institute
 CentraCare
 Hennepin Healthcare
 HealthPartners Cancer Centers
 M Health Fairview
 Minnesota Oncology
 North Memorial Health
 Ridgeview Medical Center

MMCORC Accrual by Site
Main Members



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

MMCORC Accrual by Site
Affiliate Members



- Allina Health – New Ulm Medical Center
- Allina Health – St. Francis Regional Medical Center
- CentraCare – Rice Memorial Hospital
- HealthPartners at Lakeview Hospital
- HealthPartners at Westfields Hospital
- M Health Fairview – Maple Grove
- MN Oncology and Ridgeview Center and Infusion Center
- Monticello Cancer Center

Industry-sponsored clinical trials

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 Integrating Clinical trials And Real-world Endpoints Data (ICAREdata) 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.

MMCORC leadership news

We have 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. 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.

This grant year we welcomed three new members to the MMCORC Operations Committee: Maggie Nolan, MD, as CCDR PI Lead, Sarah Jax, APRN, AOCNP, as URCC Research Base Liaison, and Lisa LaFranchi, PA, as Wake Forest Research Base Liaison.

The MMCORC Administrative Advisory Committee representing each of our participating hospital and clinic sites continues to meet to discuss consortium governance and decision making. We are very grateful for all our leaders’ ongoing support and collaboration.

Community NCORP awards

At this year’s 2024 NCORP Administrator meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, two MMCORC physicians were awarded Gold Level Physician Accrual (10-39 patients): Steven McCormack, MD, (Regions/Westfields) and Puneet Cheema, MD, (St. John’s). MMCORC also had another 21 physicians awarded at the Silver Level Physician Accrual (5-9 patients).

Learn more

Download the MMCORC app to find clinical trials, or explore our website: mmcorc.org



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