

News Release



Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan proclaim May 20 as Clinical Trials Day in the State of Minnesota.

Metro-Minnesota Community Oncology Research Consortium and the American Cancer Society elevated the idea to proclaim May 20 as Clinical Trials Day in the State of Minnesota to save lives by increasing awareness, access and participation in cancer clinical trials for all Minnesotans.

May 19, 2025 – St. Paul, Minn. – 1 in 3 Minnesotans will be diagnosed with a serious form of cancer in their lifetime. Yet only 7.1% of cancer patients participate in a cancer treatment clinical trial. Metro-Minnesota Community Oncology Research Consortium and the American Cancer Society share the same goal to assure all Minnesotans know about cancer clinical trials. Celebrating Clinical Trials Day each year on May 20th raises awareness about clinical research as a care option and recognizes the researchers who are advancing science.

The American Cancer Society has accelerated their efforts with clinical trials education and launched a robust website, acts.cancer.org – [Access to Clinical Trials and Support](https://acts.cancer.org), where individuals can learn about clinical trials, find tools to help decide if participating in a clinical trial may be the right choice and search for specific studies for which they may be eligible for.

"We understand there are many challenges when seeking the right clinical trial and navigating cancer treatment options," says Matt Flory, Associate Director, State Partnerships, American Cancer Society, "making clinical trials more accessible allows everyone the opportunity to consider the best cancer treatments options available, no matter where they live, or where the latest advancement in treatment may be available."

Cancer clinical trials are available for participation along the entire cancer journey – prevention, screening, treatment, symptom management, chemotherapy toxicities, survivorship and the delivery of cancer care and patient experience.

There are numerous partnerships in Minnesota, including, three National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Programs (NCORP) – Essentia Health NCORP, Sanford

NCORP of the North Central Plains and Metro-Minnesota Community Oncology Research Consortium. Together, these programs consist of ten health systems that bring national clinical trials to community cancer centers so patients can enroll close to home.

“Our mission is to provide the opportunity for patients to enroll in a high-quality clinical trial 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 and offer cutting-edge treatment options. I invite community members to learn more about clinical trials, the cancer doctors within their community and the impact their participation has on clinical research in the progress against cancer.” said Daniel Anderson, MD, MMCORC principal investigator and oncologist with HealthPartners, which is the fiduciary agent of MMCORC.

The Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network (MNCCTN) is another way research leaders work together to expand access to cancer clinical trials in Greater Minnesota. Site locations offer cancer clinical trials to patients. Clinical trials originate from Minnesota’s two NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers, the Masonic Cancer Center and Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, along with the Hormel Institute in Austin.

On May 20th, Minnesota will issue a proclamation to celebrate these resources, recognize research professionals and honor the patients who consider volunteering to be on a clinical trial, taking an active role in their cancer care.

About Minnesota Proclamations

The Office of Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan issue proclamations for extraordinary state or local events that deserve special recognition from the Governor.

About Metro-Minnesota Community Oncology Research Consortium

MMCORC is a nonprofit research program sponsored by the National Cancer Institute and participating hospitals and clinics. This program, which is administered by HealthPartners Institute, provides people in our community access to the newest therapies available for cancer treatment, management of treatment side effects and disease symptoms and cancer prevention. The overall goal of MMCORC is to bring cancer clinical trials (cancer control, prevention, screening, treatment, and imaging) to individuals in their own communities, thus generating a broadly applicable evidence base that contributes to improved patient outcomes and a reduction in cancer disparities. For more information, visit mmcorc.org

About American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is the leading cancer-fighting organization with a vision to end cancer as we know it for everyone. For more than 110 years, we have been the only organization improving the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. To learn more, visit cancer.org/Minnesota or call our helpline 24/7 at 1-800-227-2345.

More about NIH National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program can be found at: <https://ncorp.cancer.gov/>

More about MNCCTN can be found at: cancer.umn.edu/mncctn