

# DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

## Six Essential Characteristics

---

RICHARD VAN ETEN, MD, PHD

**EAB 2025**

MARCH 14, 2025



# Overview

---



# Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (CFCCC): Vision, Mission and Aims

2021 NIH Merit Rating  
**EXCELLENT**

## STRENGTHS (2021 NIH Summary Statement)

“Overall, the CFCCC continues to provide robust service to the catchment area with innovative basic, clinical and translational, and population science-based cancer research.

**Our VISION:** *To Prevent, Manage and Cure Cancer so that All People Live Healthier, Longer Lives*

**Our MISSION:** *To DISCOVER, TEACH and HEAL within the broad discipline of cancer medicine*

## Our SPECIFIC AIMS:

### DISCOVER

- To facilitate and promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary cancer research across UCI
- To develop new knowledge about the causes, prevention, detection, treatment and survival of cancer that shift scientific paradigms, change public policy and clinical practice, and eliminate health disparities

### TEACH

- To disseminate state-of-the-art cancer knowledge to cancer caregivers, patients and families, and the public
- To train the next diverse generation of cancer researchers and care providers

### HEAL

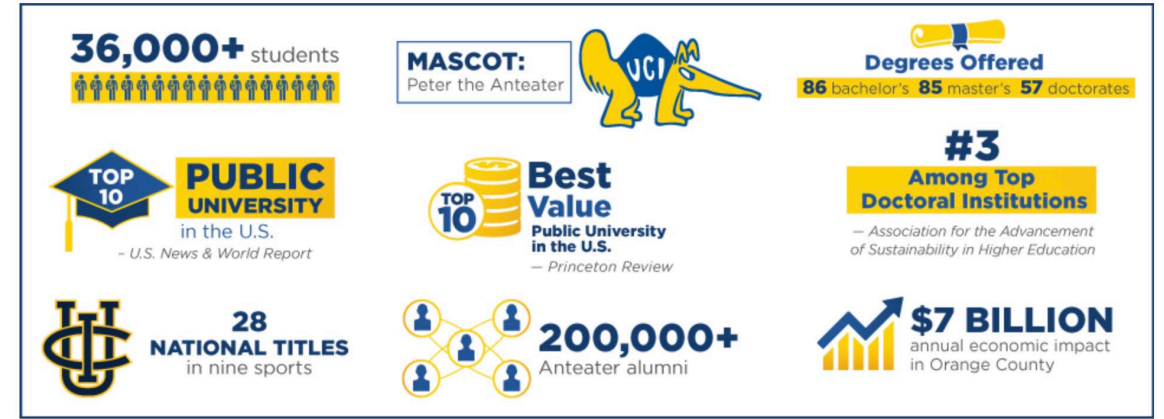
- To deliver the highest quality multidisciplinary clinical care to cancer patients
- To develop and sustain programs to alleviate the burden of cancer within our diverse community

**Our MOTTO:** *“We Stop at Nothing to End Cancer!”*

# University of California, Irvine and UCI Health

## UCI

- One of 10 campuses of the University of California
- World's preeminent public university system
- UCI ranked #9 public university in the U.S., #33 overall
- Youngest member of the Association of American Universities
- 36,000+ students, 1,200 faculty, 15 Schools
- Second largest employer in Orange County
- Annual economic impact >\$7 billion

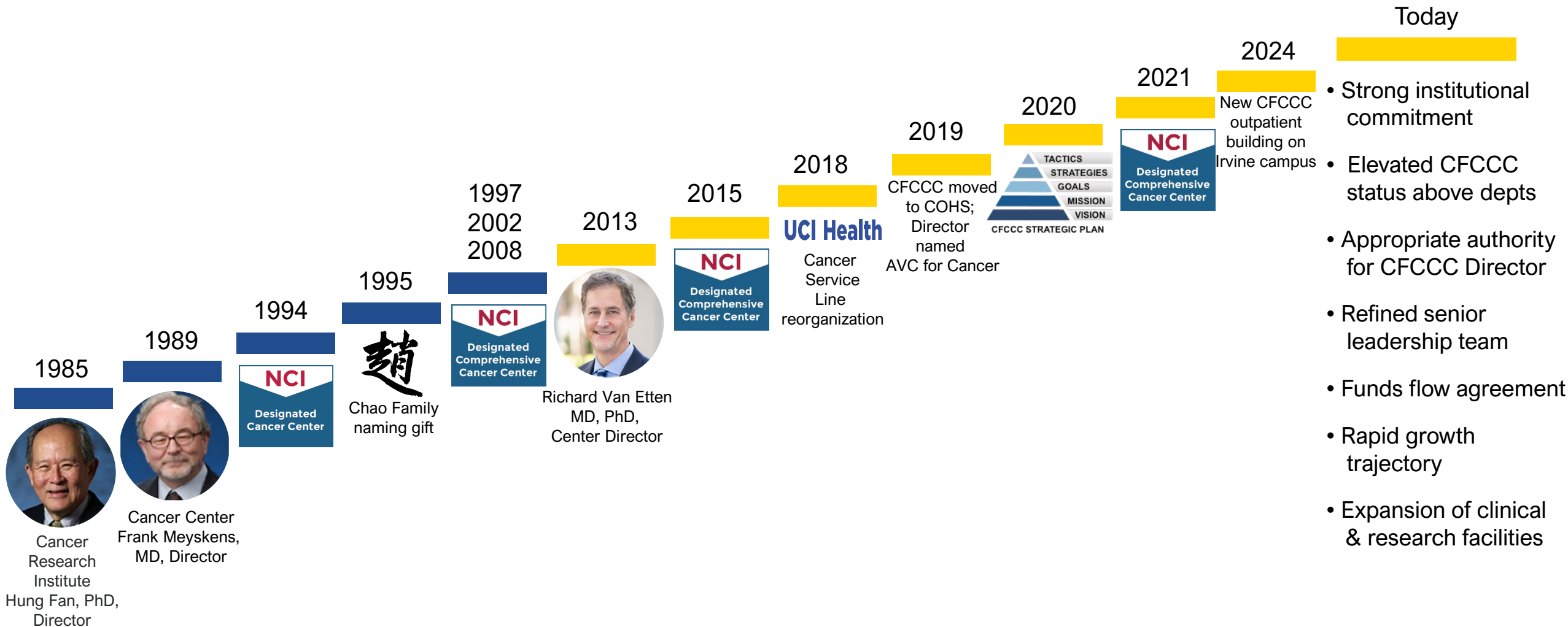


## UCI Health

- Orange County's only academic health system
- *USN&WR* Best Hospital for 24 straight years
- Region's only stroke center, Level I trauma center, ACS burn center
- Own/operate two FQHCs caring for underserved populations
- *De facto* safety net hospital for Orange County



# CFCCC History: Entering our 31<sup>st</sup> year as an NCI-designated cancer center



Director's Overview

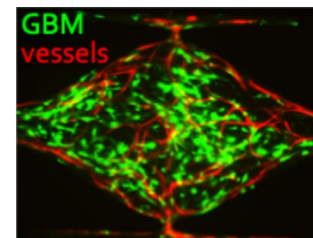
# CFCCC Snapshot 2024

<div>248 Members</div> <div><div>14%</div><div>Increase since 2021</div></div>	<div>52% Female Leaders*</div> <div>20% Latino/Hispanic Leaders*</div> <div>*Includes Director, Deputy Director, ADs, Program Leaders</div>
<div>\$15.0M Annual Direct Cost NCI Funding</div> <div><div>40%</div><div>Increase since 2021</div></div>	<div>\$2.8M Annual Direct Cost Training Awards</div> <div><div>3X</div><div>Increase in NCI funding since 2021</div></div>
<div>505 Cancer-Relevant Publications 106 (21%) High Impact</div> <div><div>19%</div><div>Increase since 2021</div></div>	<div>397 Accruals to Interventional Treatment Trials in CY2024</div>
<div>~\$40M Annual Institutional Commitment</div>	<div><div>727</div><div>Accrual to Interventional Trials CY2024</div><div><div>24%</div><div>Hispanic/Latino Accrual To Interventional Treatment Trials CY2024</div></div></div>
<div>117,500 sq.ft. Fully Director-Controlled Laboratory Research Space</div>	

# CFCCC Key Strengths and Distinguishing Features

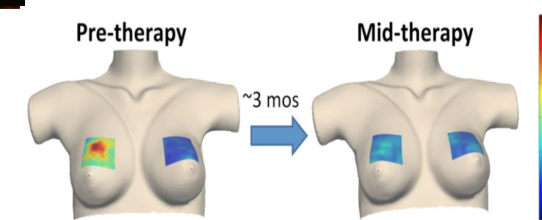
## Distinguishing strength in the physical oncology sciences

- Chemical and structural biology
- Biotechnology and biomedical engineering
- Biomedical imaging (light, x-ray, MRI)
- Computational and systems biology



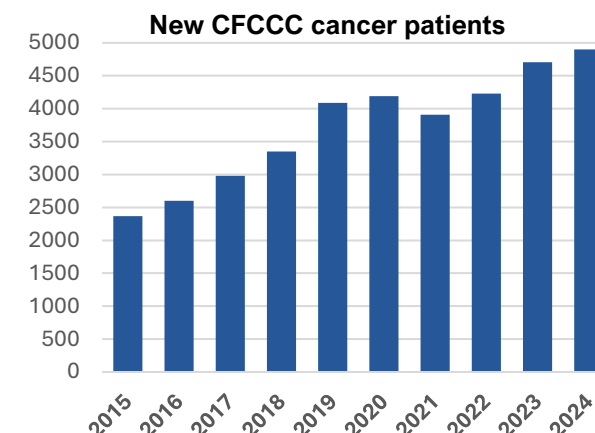
## The only NCI cancer center based in Orange County (OC)

- 6<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the U.S. (3.2 million people)
- Highly diverse county (34% Non-Hispanic White)
- Substantial socioeconomic disparities



## Vital resource for cancer care & research in underserved/uninsured patients

- Rapid CFCCC growth from 2015-2024 reflecting increased impact on the community
- CFCCC accounted for the plurality (26%) of OC Medi-Cal cancer discharges from 2018-2020
- Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant program: >250 transplants, 50% Medi-Cal/CalOptima
- Bringing cancer screening and prevention to OC FQHCs (*Advancing Cancer Care Together*)
- Member of NCI ETCTN (U Pittsburgh), #1 accruer of URM



# CFCCC Current Strategic Plan (2020-2025)



## Expand the cancer science enterprise across UCI

Expand new clinical & research programs in targeted areas: HSCT, immunotherapy, cancer metabolism, precision oncology, integrative oncology  
Enhance capabilities of CFCCC Shared Resources, including a new Mass Spectrometry Shared Resource



## Increase the translation of CFCCC discoveries through the pipeline towards the clinic

Recruit additional physician-scientists, enhance the function of DOTs and launch new DOTs, increase IITs



## Grow the CFCCC clinical cancer research enterprise

Optimize Stern Center infrastructure, staffing and procedures to increase accruals to clinical trials, particularly IITs



## Fulfill the commitment of the CFCCC to the Catchment Area of OC

Expand *Advancing Cancer Care Together* to additional FQHCs, grow the CC Program through recruitments, enhance research to reduce cancer disparities



## Position UCI Health as the premier provider of advanced cancer care and research in Orange County

Leverage new governance structure to increase market share and awareness, execute on staffing and integrating research into new clinical sites



## Continue to grow CFCCC philanthropy and endowment

With UCI Health Advancement, increase CFCCC endowment by \$25M including 5 new endowed chairs, grow the Anti-Cancer Challenge



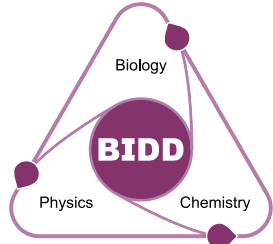
## Train and mentor the next generation of diverse cancer scientists and health professionals

Increase CFCCC participation in institutional mentoring programs, increase participation of HS students, secure additional T32 grants

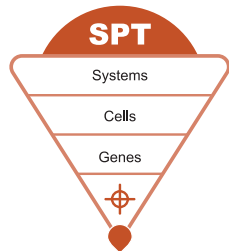
# CFCCC Research Programs & Shared Resources

## 3 RESEARCH PROGRAMS

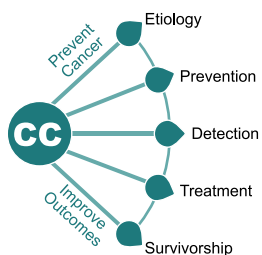
### Biotechnology, Imaging & Drug Development (BIDD)



### Systems, Pathways & Targets (SPT)



### Cancer Control (CC)



## 7 SHARED RESOURCES + 1 IN DEVELOPMENT



### Transgenic Mouse Facility



Grant MacGregor, DPhil  
**TMF Director**



### Optical Biology Core



Rahul Warrior, PhD  
**OBC Director**



### Genomics Research & Technology Hub



Suzanne Sandmeyer, PhD  
**GRT Hub Director**



Remi Buisson, PhD  
**Assistant Director**



### In Vivo Functional Onco-Imaging



Gultekin Gulsen, PhD  
**IVFOI Co-Director**



Zhuoli Zhang, MD, PhD  
**Co-Director**



### Experimental Tissue Resource



Robert Edwards, MD, PhD  
**ETR Co-Director**



Wendy Cozen, DO, MPH  
**ETR Co-Director**



### Biostatistics Shared Resource



Min Zhang, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>  
**BSR Director**



### Biobehavioral Shared Resource



Michael Hoyt, PhD  
**BBSR Director**



Michelle Fortier, PhD  
**Assistant Director**



### Mass Spectrometry (in development)



Sergey Pronin, PhD  
**MS Director**



Lan Huang, PhD  
**MS Co-Director, High-End MS**



Cholsoon Jang, PhD  
**MS Co-Director, Metabolomics**

# CFCCC Shared Resource Highlights / Issues for EAB



- In Vivo Functional Onco-Imaging:

- Low user base
- Option to fold into OBC?



- Genomics Research & Technology Hub

- Need for increased bioinformatics support?



- Experimental Tissue Resource

- Need for fresh tumor/paired normal tissue collection pathway



- Biobehavioral Shared Resource

- More clinical research use
- Financial model



- New SR in Mass Spectroscopy in developmen

- Financial model
- Formal launch with the P30 renewal?



Felix Grun, Ph.D.



Waters Xevo G2-XS Qtof



Small molecule  
characterization



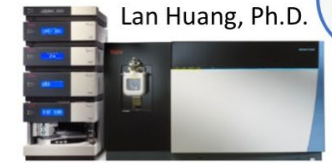
Cholsoo Jang, Ph.D.



Thermo-Fisher Orbitrap Exploris 480 MS



Metabolomics



Thermo-Fisher Orbitrap Fusion Tribrid



Quantitative proteomics  
Multimolecular complexes



Lan Huang, Ph.D.

# Catchment Area

---

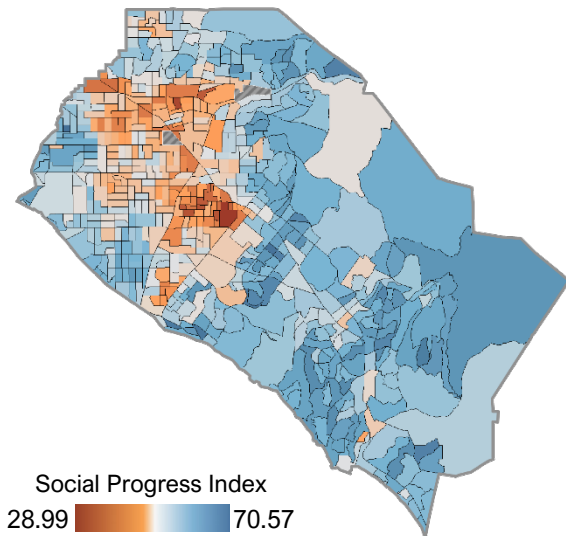


# Catchment Area: Orange County, CA

Historically Minoritized Groups are the Majority (62%)

[cancer.uci.edu/about/catchment-area](https://cancer.uci.edu/about/catchment-area)

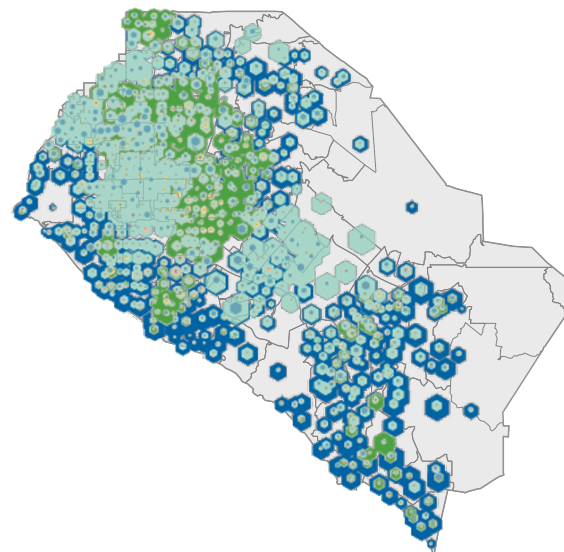
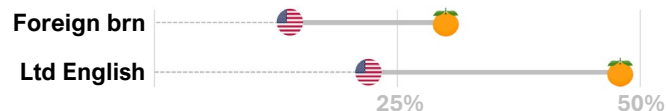
State — County — Racial & Ethnic Diversity — Asian Ethnic Diversity (24% of OC)



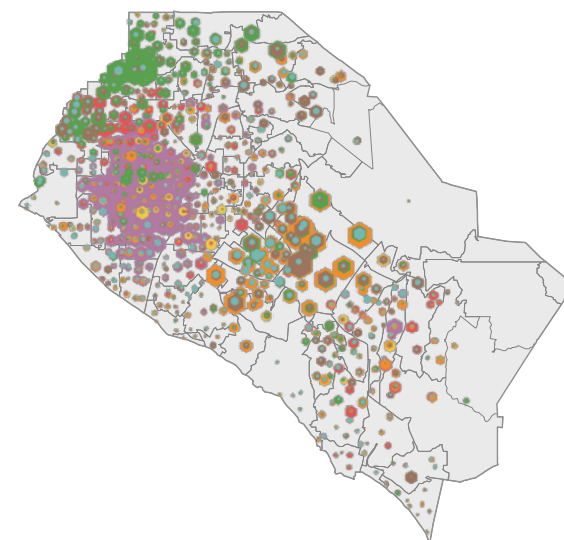
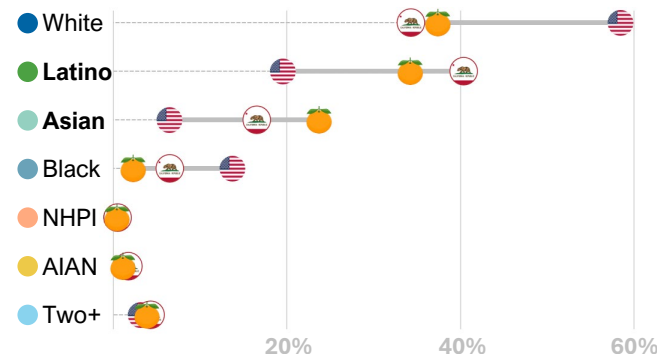
6<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the US  
Home to **3.2M** residents (~10% of CA)

Double the national average of foreign  
born and limited English residents

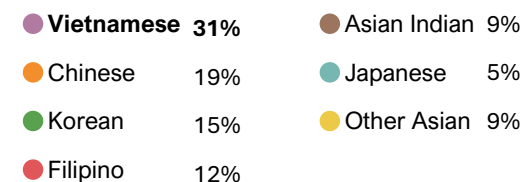
Age  
Distribution 🍊 = 🇺🇸  
Poverty 🍊 = 🇺🇸












Latino and Asian populations surpass  
national averages (US Census 2023)



Home to the largest Vietnamese  
community outside of Vietnam



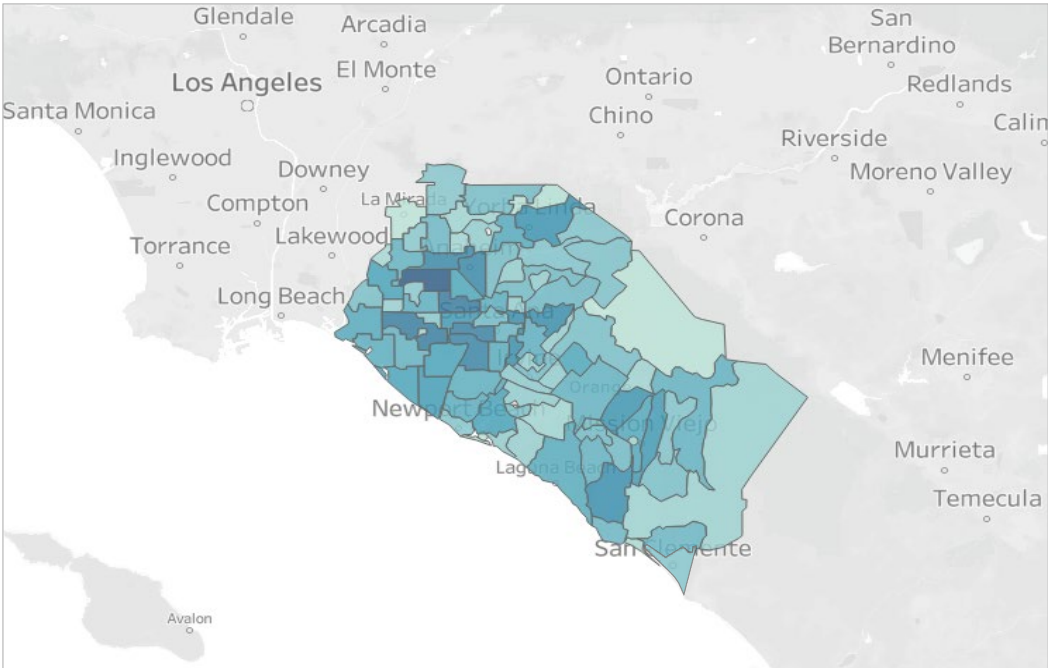
# Catchment Area Priority Cancers

Cancer	Research Priorities	CFCCC Translational Science
 Breast	Understand higher incidence in OC, and why mortality is not decreasing for Hispanic women	UCI-19-145: Abemaciclib + fulvestrant + anastrozole in metastatic HR <sup>+</sup> /HER2 <sup>-</sup> breast cancer
 Colorectal	Understand increasing early onset incidence and mortality, esp among Hispanics	R01 CA244519: Circadian clock disruption in colorectal cancer
 Leukemia	Understand and address increasing incidence and mortality (female) among Hispanics	UCI-18-128: Statins to augment venetoclax activity in leukemia R37 CA266042: Genomic instability in Hispanic Ph-like ALL
 Liver	Understand and address increasing incidence and mortality among Hispanics (e.g., fatty liver disease)	R01 AA029124: Elucidating dietary fructose and alcohol interactions during liver cancer development
 Lung	Understand and address increasing incidence and mortality in Asian and Hispanic males	<b>CFCCC Pilot Project award: Lung cancer screening of family members of patients with mutation-driven lung cancer</b>
 Melanoma	Understand and address higher and increasing incidence among Hispanics and Whites, and higher mortality for Whites	DoD HT94252311024: Advanced imaging & AI to measure immunotherapy efficacy in melanoma
 Myeloma	Understand and address higher risk and mortality, especially among Hispanics	U01 CA164973: Risk profile of native Hawaiians for MGUS and multiple myeloma
 Stomach	Understand and address increasing incidence and mortality (male) among Asians, and lower survival for Hispanics	<b>UCI-20-87: STOPGAP Phase II Trial of Sequential Systemic Therapy + IP P</b>  <b>stric/GEJ Cancer Peritoneal Carcinomatosis</b>

# Proposed future Catchment Area to mirror UCI Health Service Area

**Orange County**

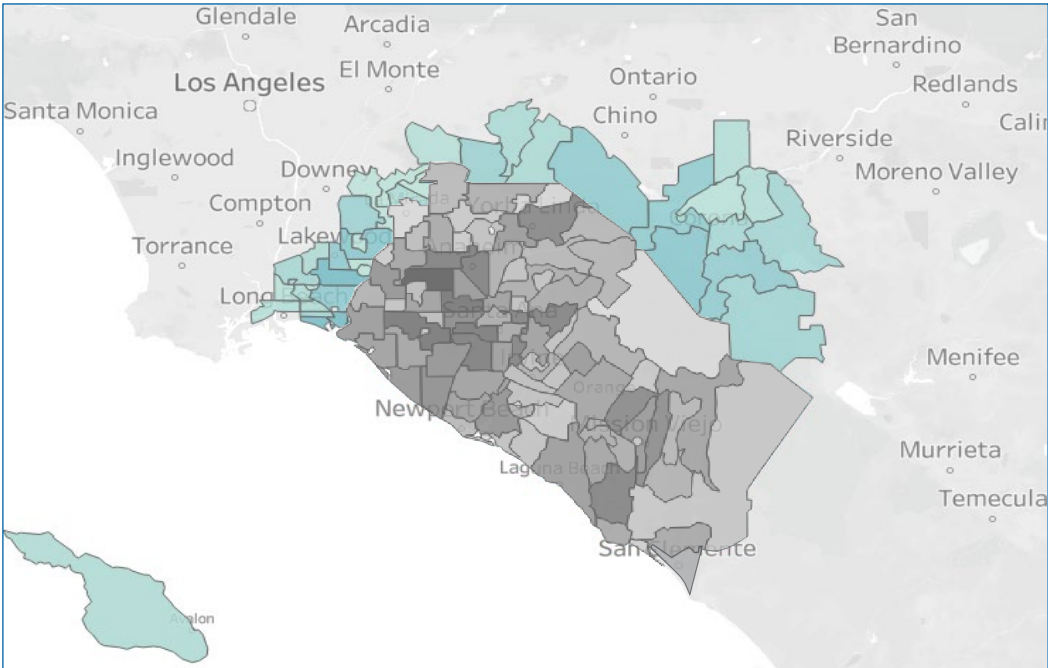
Total # patients seen	4,869
# of analytic cases	3,649
% of analytic cases that reside in OC	70%



Current: OC	
White	38%
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	34%
Asian	23%
Black/African American	2.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%
Two or More Races	4%
<b>TOTAL population</b>	<b>3.2 million</b>

**+UCI Health PSAs/SSAs**

Total # patients seen	4,869
# of analytic cases	3,649
% of analytic cases that reside in OC	80%



Expanded: OC+UCI Health PSAs/SSAs	
White	33%
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	37%
Asian	22%
Black/African American	3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%
Two or More Races	4%
<b>TOTAL population</b>	<b>4.6 million</b>

Adding OC-adjacent includes:

+5.4% Black/African American

+45% Hispanic/Latino

# Community Outreach & Engagement

---

# Community Outreach & Engagement

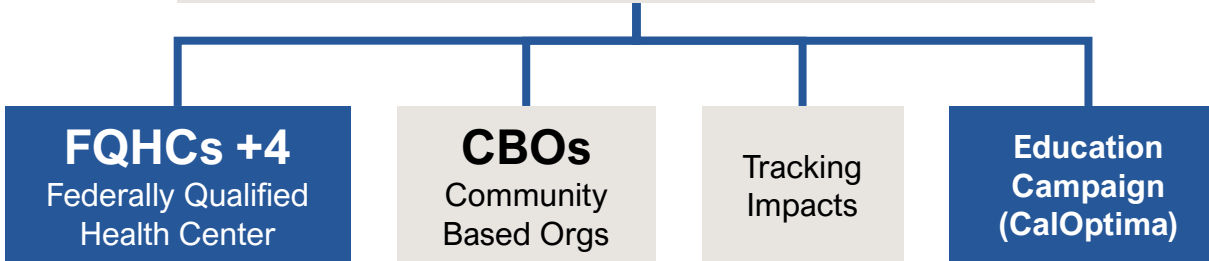
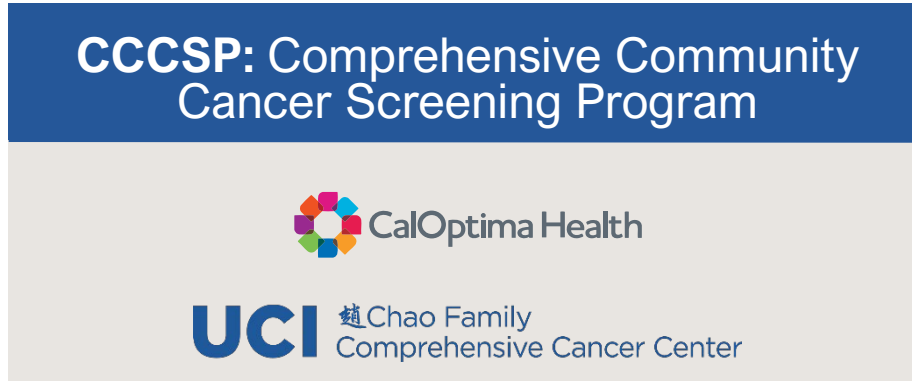
NCI 2021: Outstanding to Excellent



**Sora Tanjasiri, DrPH MPH**

Associate Director

Cancer Health Equity & Community Engagement

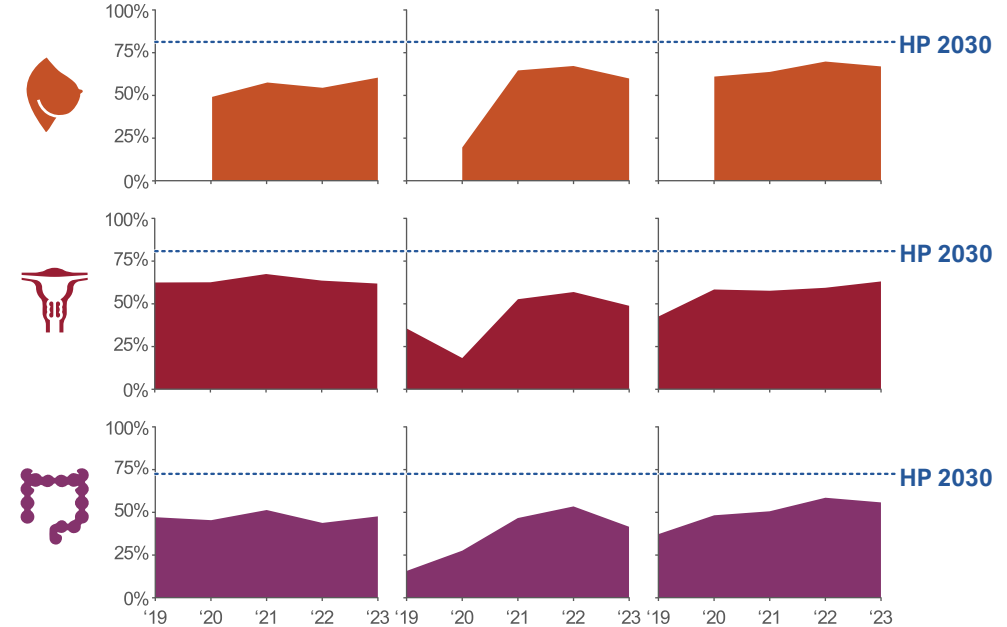


- Quarterly CalOptima grantee meetings
- Train educators and navigators in community-based organizations
- RFP to propose role as CCCSP community engaged trainers

**SCREENING UCI Health**

**KCS**

**SOUTHLAND**  
INTEGRATED SERVICES, INC.

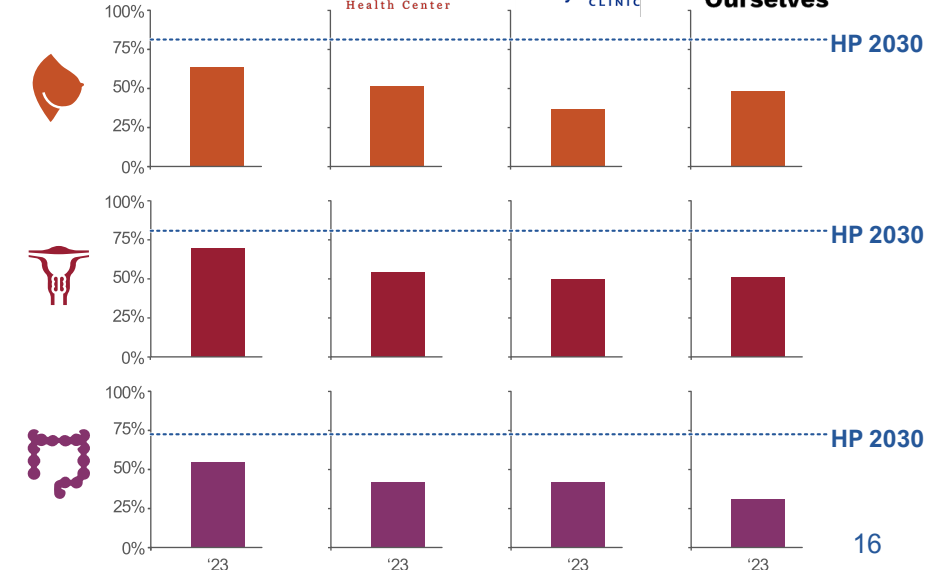


**SCREENING AltaMed**

**Friends of Family Health Center**

**HURTT familyhealth CLINIC**

**Share Ourselves**



# Clinical Protocol & Data Management

---

# Clinical Protocol & Data Management

NCI 2021: Outstanding



**Warren Chow, MD**

Associate Director for  
Clinical Science



**Farshid Dayyani, MD, PhD**

Medical Director, Stern Center for  
Cancer Clinical Trials & Research



**Arash Rezazadeh, MD**

Co-Chair, Protocol Review &  
Monitoring Committee



**John Fruehauf, MD, PhD**

Chair, Data & Safety Monitoring  
Board

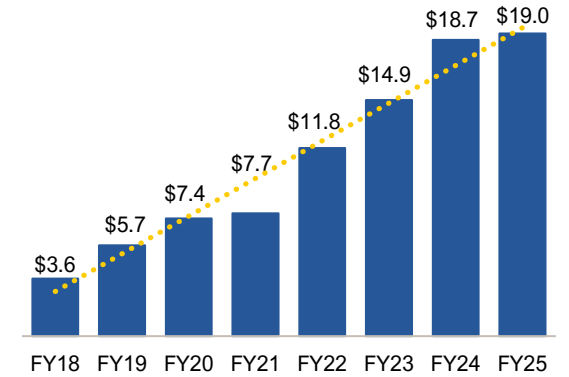


**Christine Hui, MPH**

Administrative Director for  
Clinical Research Operations

- Increased Stern Center efficiency & scope
- ClinROC oversight committee
- Outstanding internal QC process
- Decreased time to trial activation
- Increasing treatment trial accruals
- Record number of IITs open to accrual
- Robust accrual to interventional trials
- Increasing treatment trial accruals
- Faculty recruitments in GynOnc and H&N to increase those accruals
- Excellent accrual of URMs and older adults
- Issue with accrual of women

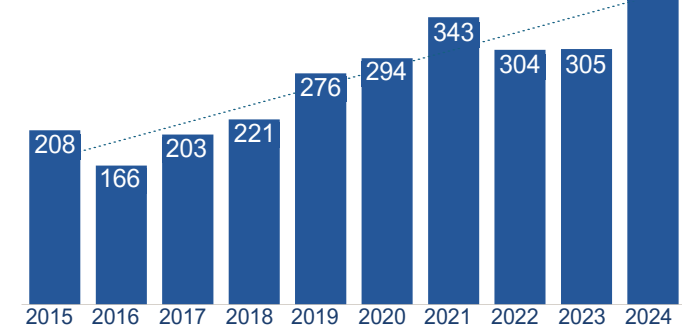
**Clinical Trial Revenues (\$M)**



**Time to Trial Activation (days)**



**Accrual to TRE Trials**



# Cancer Research Training & Education

---

## CRTEC Portfolio

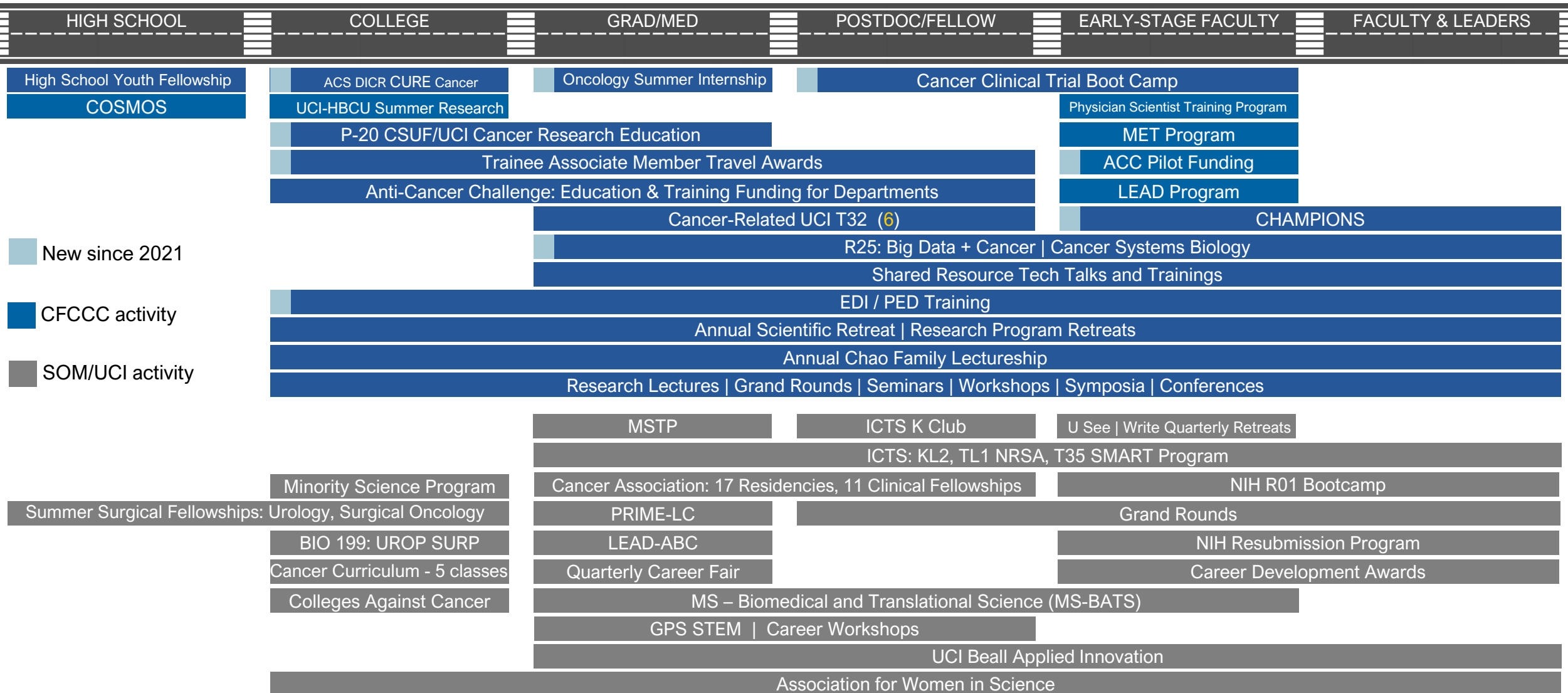
NCI 2021: Outstanding



**Sora Tanjasiri, DrPH MPH**  
Associate Director  
Cancer Health Equity & Community  
Engagement



**Edward Nelson, MD**  
Associate Director  
Cancer Research Training & Education



# Plan to Enhance Diversity

---

# Plan to Enhance Diversity



**Edward Nelson, MD**  
Interim Associate Director  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

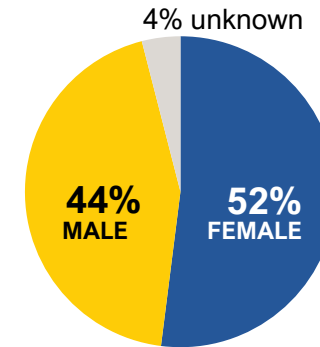
July 2024



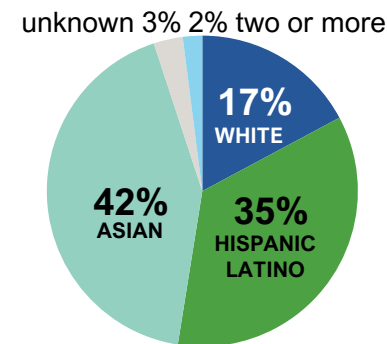
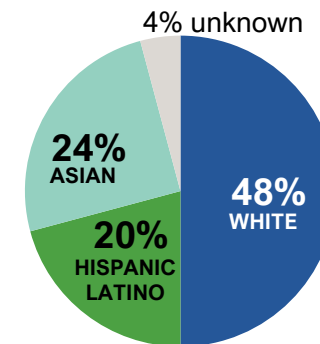
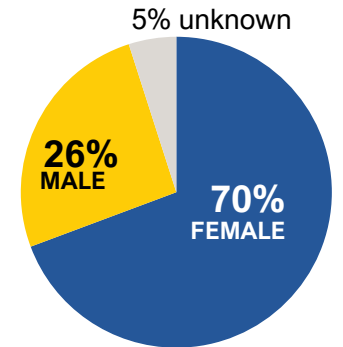
**Ursula Worsham, EdD**  
CFCCC Associate Director for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion  
SOM Diversity Officer and Assistant Dean for DEI

- We understand that PED is no longer being presented, evaluated or scored at current NCI CC site visits and is likely to be eliminated from revised CCSG guidelines in Sept.
- The CFCCC follows the lead of our Chancellor, campus, and university system
- The University of California is compliant with CA Proposition 209, which requires that the *“state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting”*
- Dr. Worsham today will present our outlined Plan to Enhance Diversity:
  - Cultivate inclusive excellence across CFCCC activities
  - Expand programs to enhance trainee diversity
  - Recruit, retain and promote diverse faculty
  - Identify and nurture emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds
- These activities (LEAD, BEE Scene, CHAMPIONS, pilot projects) will continue (without federal funding, if necessary)
- Neither UCI nor the CFCCC has changed any terminology or outward-facing language in this area

**CFCCC Senior Leadership**



**Stern Center Workforce**



# Philanthropy

---



# Philanthropy

- Dedicated Cancer Advancement Team (5 FTEs)
- Since 2015, total of \$32.7M added to CFCCC endowment
- New CFCCC gifts in FY25:
  - \$5M foundation gift
  - \$6.7M estate gift
  - \$9.0M foundation gift
  - \$2M endowed chair
- UCI Brilliant Future Campaign
  - \$26M for new Irvine CFCCC building
- Specific CFCCC fundraising priorities:
  - Cell Processing Lab naming
  - Cancer floor naming in FLF-MIB



**Executive Director of  
Development (Cancer)**  
Angelique Andrulaitis



## UCI Anti-Cancer Challenge

- **ACC 2024 raised \$1.51M**
- Eight-year fundraising total ~\$6.3M
- 100% dedicated to cancer research at UCI and CHOC
- Since 2021, overall ROI on pilot projects is ~15:1
- ACC grantees have received >\$60M in outside grants
- RFP for ACC 2024 funds issued Jan. 23, 2025
- **ACC 2025 date: October 11<sup>th</sup>**

# Research Initiatives

---

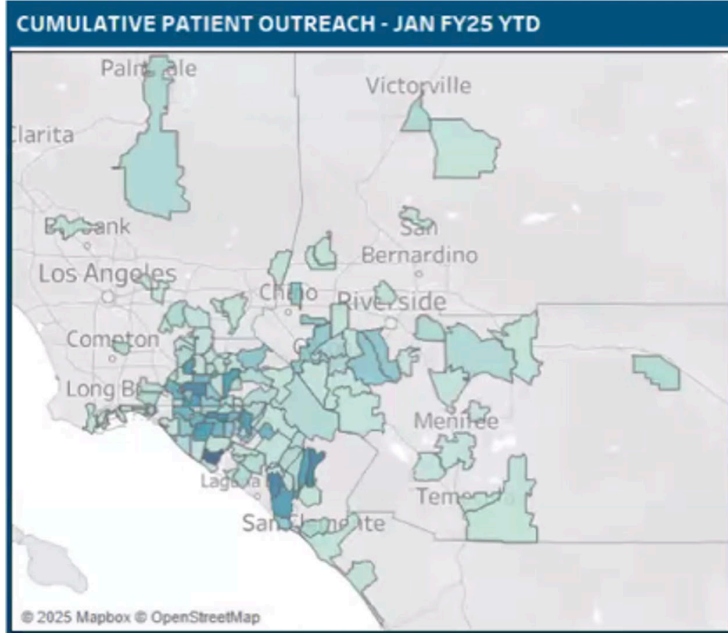


Dr. David A. Clark

- Stefan Ciurea, MD  
HSCT Program Leader



Yaya Chu, PhD  
Hematopoietic Stem  
Cell Lab Director



Polina Bellman, MD  
HSCT

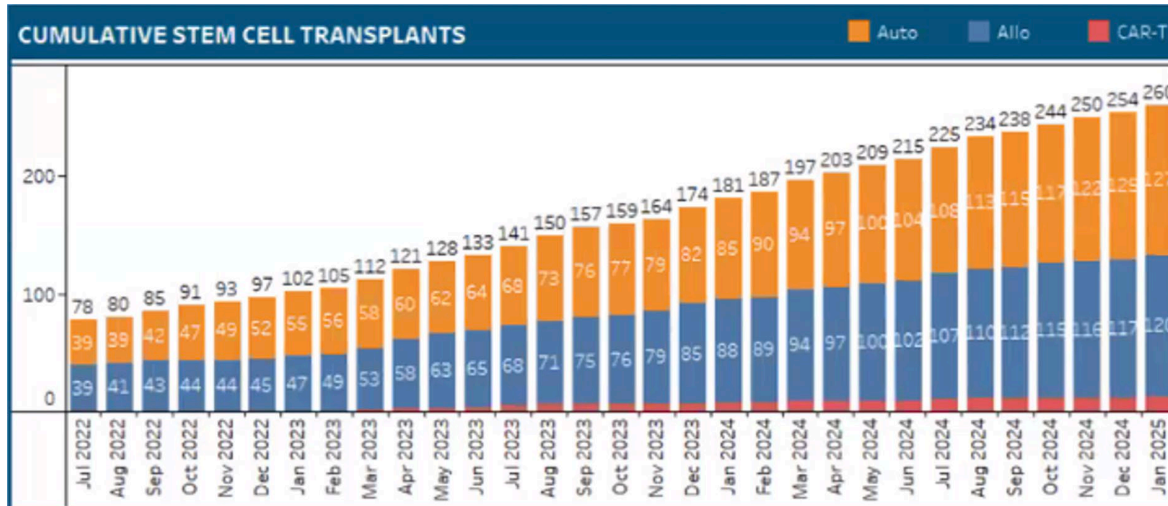


Nicole Foley, MD  
Lymphoma, HSCT



Jorge Ramos-Perez, MD PhD  
HSCT

- Continuing transplant volume increase towards 100-120/yr
- Obtaining COE designation from commercial payers
- Continuing faculty recruitments (HSCT, ALL, myeloma)
- 1st HSCT trial: ADAPT conditioning trial, 18 accruals to date



# Immuno-Oncology

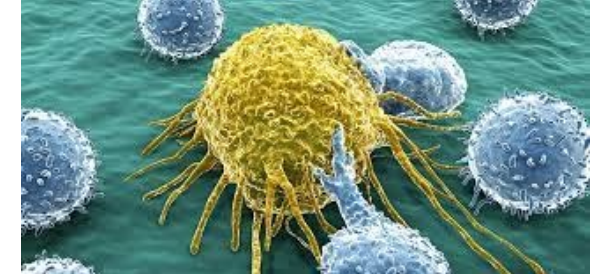
- Approved as commercial CAR-T site
- FACT-accredited for cell therapy
- cGMP cell manufacturing facility opened Q4 2023
- First CFCCC-developed therapy: novel chimeric antigen receptor targeting cancer-specific carbohydrates
- This therapy cures multiple cancers (TNBC, ovarian, prostate, lymphoma) in mice
- Accepted into **NExT NCI Experimental Therapeutics Program**
  - manufacture & testing clinical grade material for first-in-human studies
- Target phase I trial opening: Q4 2025
- \$4.6M CIRM grant awarded for GlyTR CAR T-cell development
- Next investigator-initiated immunotherapy trials: donor a-BK virus T-cells, modified NK cells in NSCLC
- Recruiting two additional immuno-oncology faculty



NOVARTIS



FOUNDATION FOR THE  
ACCREDITATION OF  
CELLULAR THERAPY

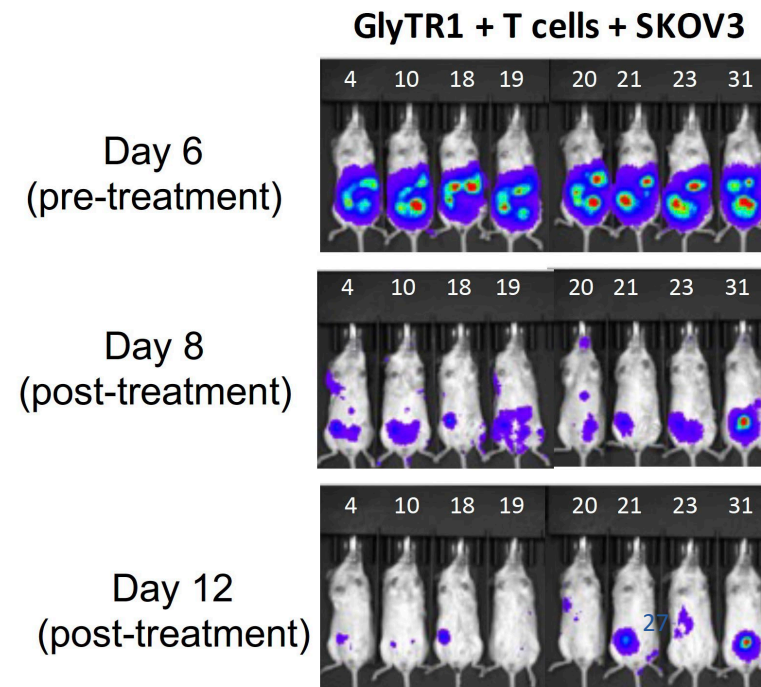


Mike Demetriou,  
MD PhD

 **GlyTR Therapeutics**



Jianhua Yu, PhD



# Precision Oncology



- CFCCC & UCI Health have the largest early phase clinical trials program in OC

- Member NCI ETCTN (with UPitt)



- Member of two industry networks



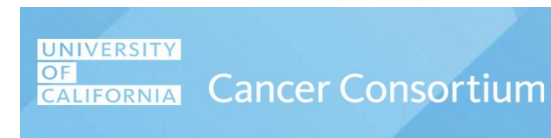
- Member of NCTN groups



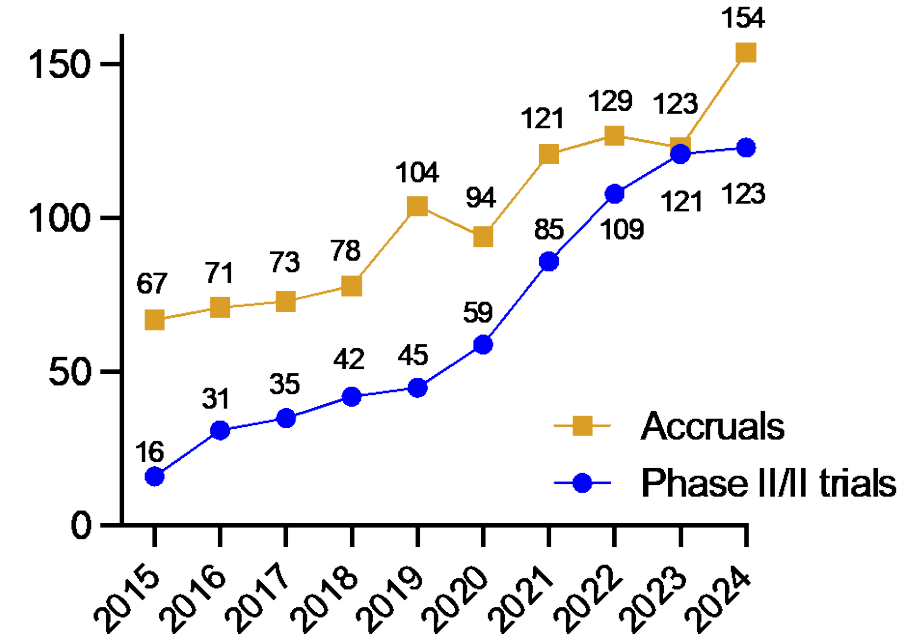
- Activating genomics functionality in Epic to allow tumor genetic data to be incorporated

- Recruiting a Precision Therapeutics Director (with Center for Clinical Research)

- Expanding interactions with UC Cancer Consortium



Early Phase Trials & Accruals



# Cancer Metabolism

- Long-term strategic initiative with numerous faculty hires



Mei Kong, PhD



Cholsoon Jang, PhD



Thomas Martinez, PhD



Chris Halbrook, PhD



Lauren Albrecht, PhD

- Cancer Metabolism Working Group

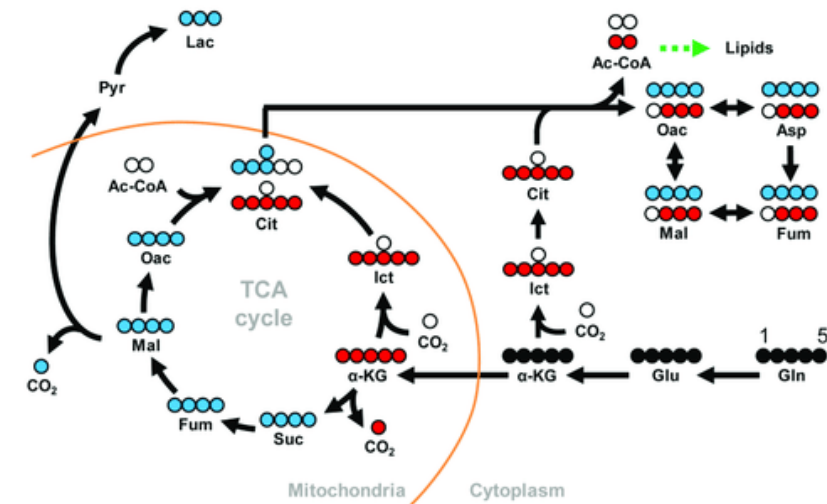
- State-of-the-art metabolomics MS facility launching (Dr. Jang)



- Multiple extramural grants awarded and planned

- R00 CA241357; R01 CA283575 just awarded (Halbrook)
- R01 AA029124, ACS TLC-22-190-01-TLC (Jang)
- R01 CA244360, R01 GM132142 (Kong)
- U01 (submitted; RFA *Mechanistic links between diet, lipid metabolism, and tumor growth*) (Kessenbrock, Jang, Lawson, Lee)

- Recruiting a translational oncologist to move discoveries towards the clinic



# Integrative Oncology



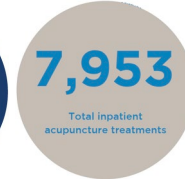
Susan Samueli | Integrative Health Institute



Shaista Malik, MD, PhD, MPH  
Director



- Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute (SSIHI) provides inpatient and outpatient integrative medicine services for patients with cancer
  - Acupuncture, massage, mindfulness, yoga, Tai-Chi, biofeedback, nutrition
- Expanded outpatient locations in Newport Beach & Laguna Hills
- Recruited a clinician-scientist leader for integrative oncology program
  - With the Samueli Institute
- Secured institutional commitments for supportive services
  - dietary/nutrition, psychosocial, spiritual
- **Launched interventional clinical research in integrative oncology**
  - ACC Pilot Project: UCI-21-33: Electroacupuncture for management of symptoms in AYA patients w/cancer
  - R01 CA276212 PIs Chan (**CC**)/Acharya (**BIDD**): Repurposing Riluzole for augmenting BDNF in chemobrain
  - UCI 21-173 PI Nabar: Benefit of *Lentinus edodes* extract for HPV+ head & neck squamous cell carcinoma



Gary Deng, MD, PhD  
Associate Director for Integrative Oncology, CFCCC

# Competition

---

## in the OC Marketplace



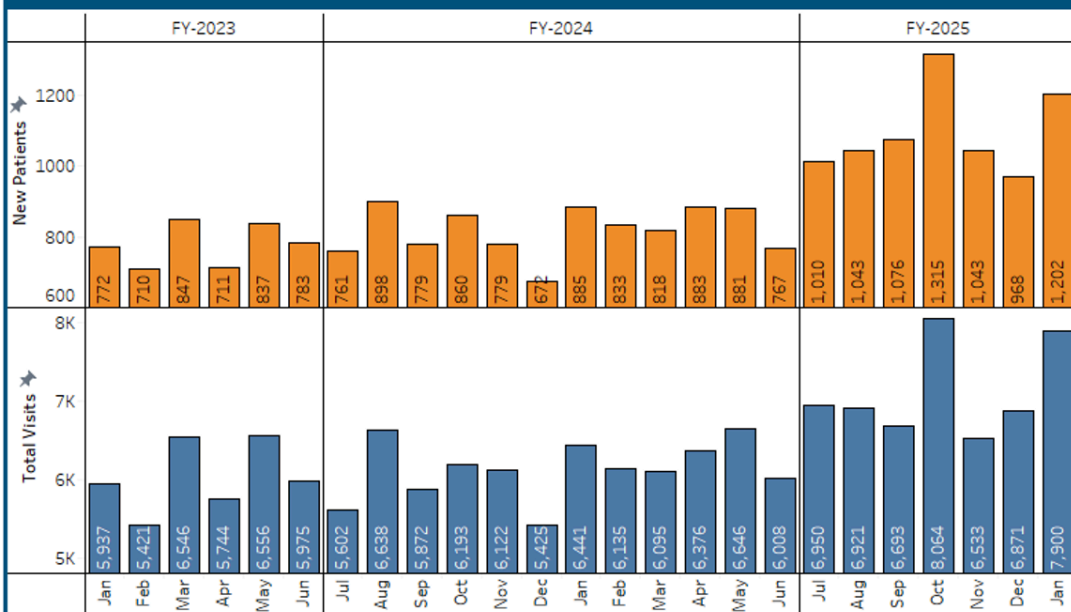
# City of Hope footprint across Orange County



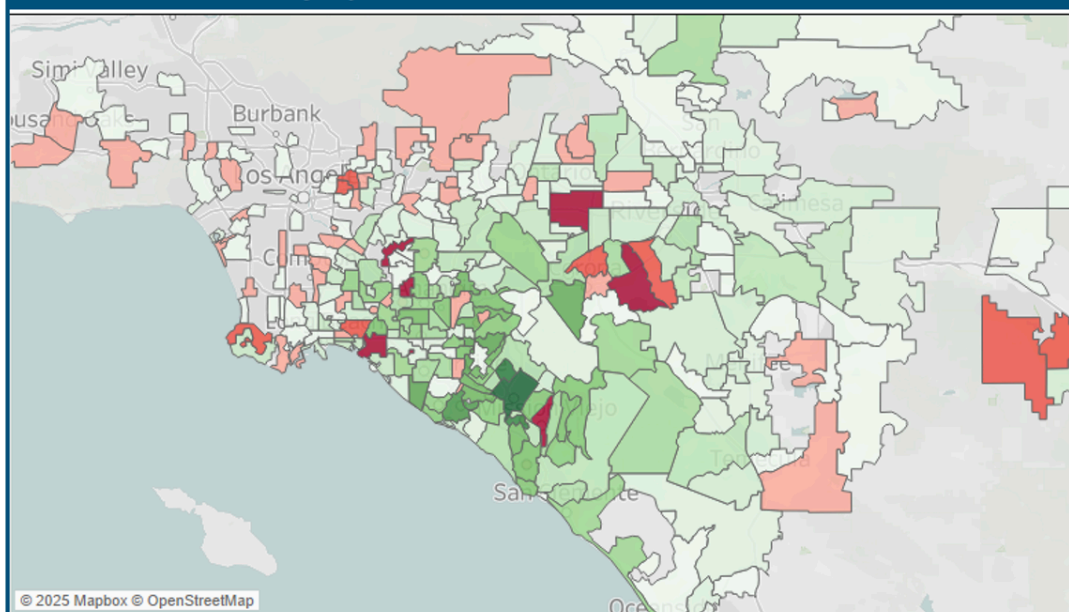
# Maintaining our clinical volumes and growth trajectory

## Chao Cancer Center | Clinics Summary (Jan FY25)

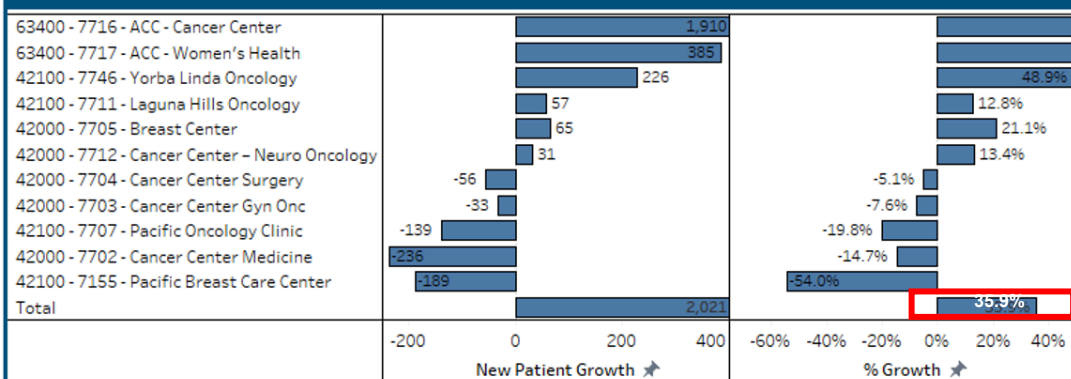
### Clinic Visits



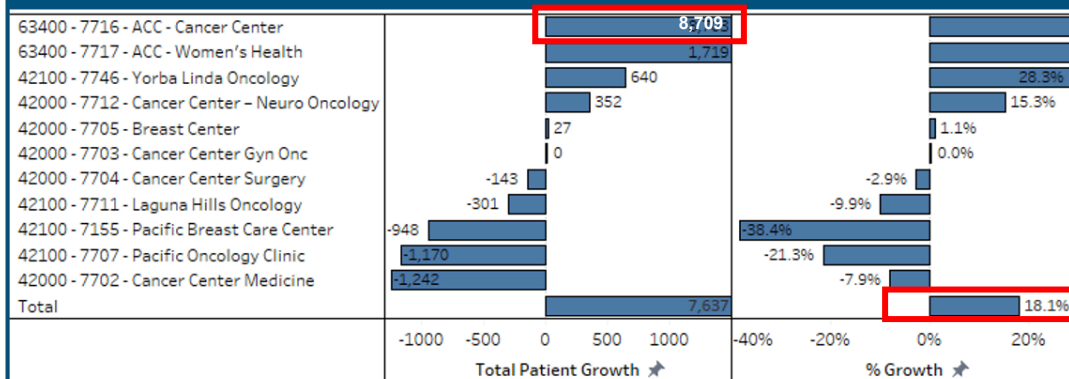
### New Patient Growth by Zip Code



### New Patient Growth



### Total Patient Growth



# Six Essential Characteristics

---

# Physical Space

---



## Response to Review



### STRENGTHS (2021 NIH Summary Statement)

“ The facilities have been improved massively from the time of the last renewal and Dr. Van Etten has increased control of present and future space. Enhanced facilities, including clinical space, provide state-of-the-art facilities for CFCCC activities and adequate space is available for future growth.

### EAB CRITIQUE

**Laboratory Space:** In the past year, CFCCC has received an additional 21,000 SF of research space, primarily in the new Falling Leaves Foundation building, which is sufficient to support strategic recruitments and research program expansion

**Clinical Space:** A new clinical cancer center will open later in 2024 and a new hospital dedicated to cancer, plus neurology/neurosurgery/orthopaedics will open in 2025

**Planned Recruitments:** The newly acquired space provides CFCCC sufficient bandwidth for its planned recruitments of additional scientists and clinicians over the next two years

### RESPONSE

- CFCCC received 20,500 sf of new laboratory research space in the Falling Leaves Foundation – Medical Innovation Building (FLF-MIB), scheduled to open in May 2025
- The new CFCCC-Ambulatory Care building on the UCI campus (200,000+ sf) opened in July 2024, transforming our cancer clinical care and research mission
- UCI Health acquired in 2024 four community hospitals (858 beds) from Tenet Health within its expanded service area, together with 5 associated IPAs representing 200 physicians
- Movement of some skin and brain cancer researchers from Sprague Hall to programs in FLF-MIB will free up additional space in Sprague

## CFCCC Basic-Translational Laboratory Space



### Sprague Hall (Irvine campus)

- 83,000 sf, basement vivarium
- 3<sup>rd</sup> floor: Genomics Research and Technology Hub (**GRTHub**)
- Current occupants: 25 CFCCC members



### Falling Leaves Foundation – Medical Innovation Building (Irvine campus)

- 200,000 sf, basement vivarium- **opening May 2025**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> floor: 20,500 sf cancer space
- 8 faculty: Precision and Immuno-Oncology

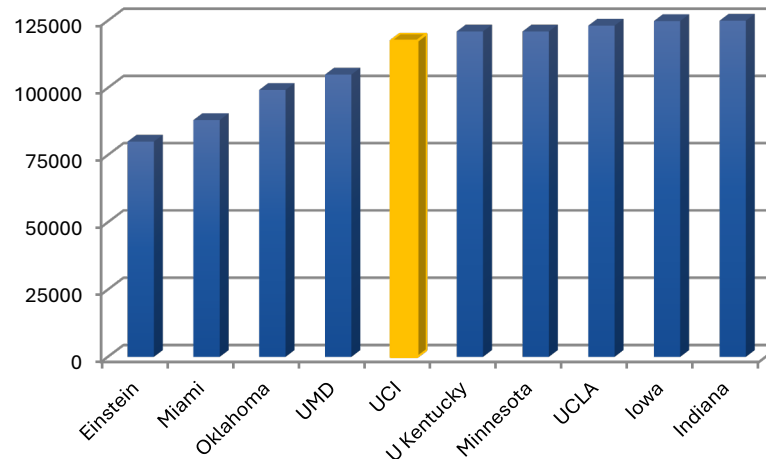


### Shanbrom Hall (Orange campus)

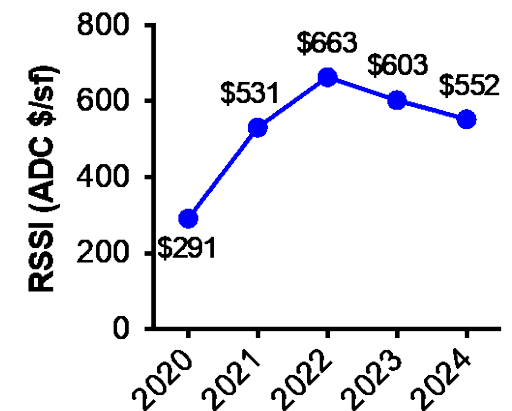
- Second floor assigned to CFCCC
- ~12,000 sf, basement vivarium
- **ETR**: TMA and histopath facility
- Cell Processing Lab for HSCT Program

- Current CFCCC space comparable to other NCI CCs
- Space managed by CFCCC Administration
- Additional lab space of CFCCC members ~140,000 sf
- **Commitment of additional 5,000 sf in the future**
- **Sprague Hall “backfill” space 36 bays, ~15,300 sf**
- **Total lab space for recruitments next 5 yrs ~20,300 sf**

Lab space under CC Director authority



CFCCC Research Space Support Index (RSSI)



# FLF-MIB Ecosystem

UCI Medical Center-Irvine  
HSCT & Cellular Therapy Program



In Vivo Functional  
Onco-Imaging



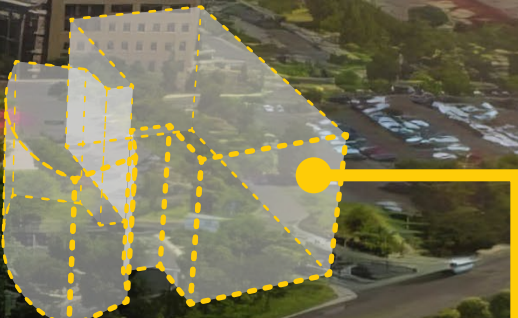
Genomics Research  
& Tech Hub

cGMP Facility

Alpha Stem Cell Clinic  
Phase I & Infusion Center

College of Health  
Sciences  
investigators

Samueli Integrative  
Health Institute  
Integrative Nutrition Center



Immuno-Oncology  
Precision Oncology

## FLF-MIB

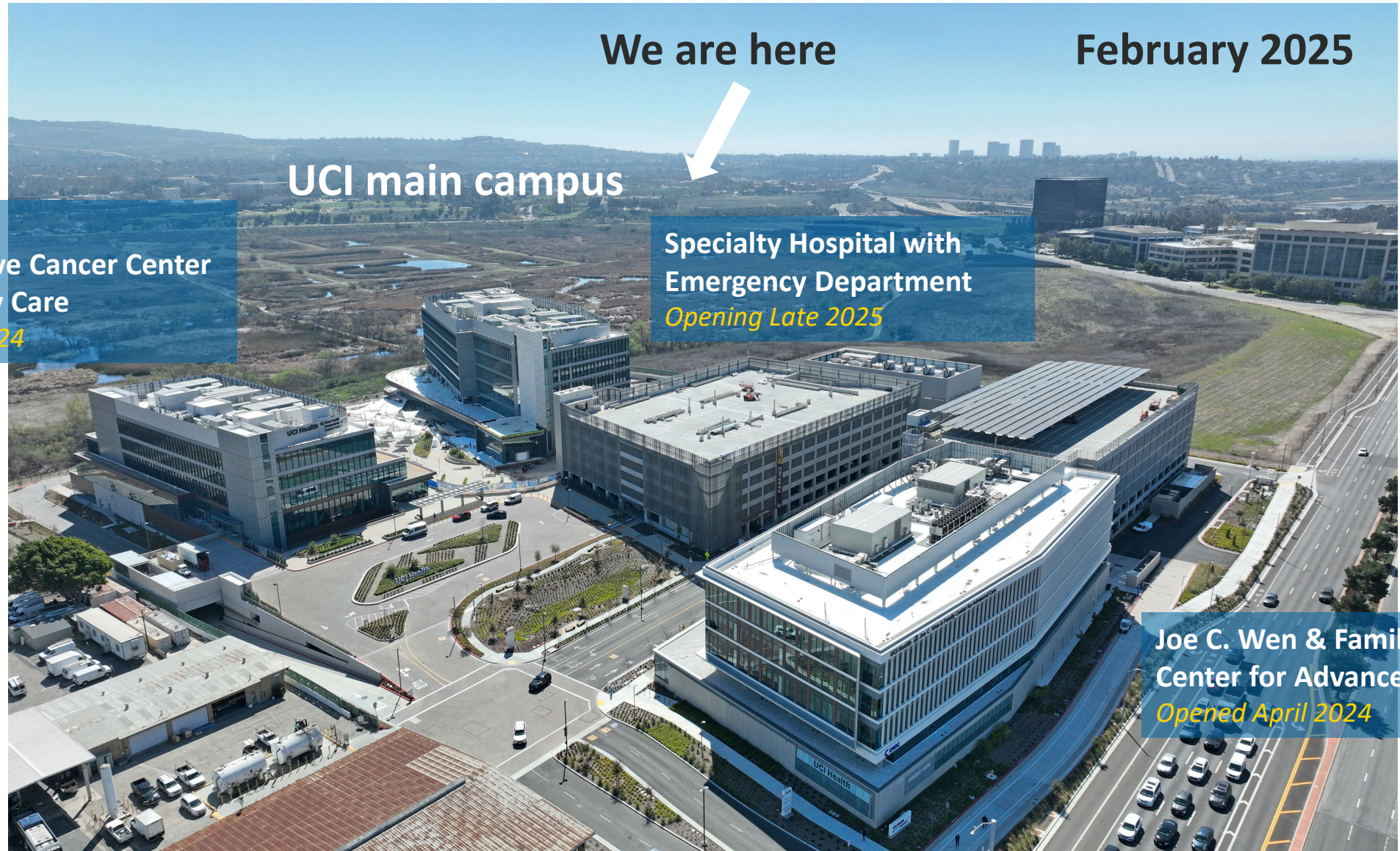
The Falling Leaves Foundation  
Medical Innovation Building

- Gross Stem Cell Center
- Translational Vision & Neuroscience
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Precision Omics
- Skin Biology Center

# Cancer Center clinical & research footprint across Orange County



## UCI Medical Center Irvine – construction progress



## UCI Medical Center Irvine – new Chao Cancer Center building



- 220,000 sf
- Radiation Oncology
- Advanced imaging
- Outpatient specialty pharmacy
- Multidisciplinary clinics
- 50 exam rooms
- Infusion Center (42 stations)
- Clinical research space
- Shelled floor for growth



# UCI Health – Tenet Healthcare Community Hospital Acquisition

Placentia-Linda Hospital (114 beds)



Lakewood Hospital (172 beds)



Los Alamitos Hospital (172 beds)



Fountain Valley Hospital (400 beds)



New Cancer Patients seen at UCI Health Community Hospitals

	FV	LA	PL	LW	total
Breast	145	257	111	23	536
Lung	129	71	31	60	291
Colorectal	113	58	38	38	247
Prostate	47	122	52	11	232
Gyn	31	51	8	62	152
CNS	36	37	10	20	103
Bladder	25	25	19	22	91
Kidney	19	44	10	14	87
Hepatobiliary	40	20	10	16	86
Stomach	26	18	15	15	74
Pancreas	27	16	7	15	65
Head and Neck	24	18	8	13	63
Melanoma	4	16	12	2	34
Other sites	65	48	27	43	183
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	34	40	14	23	111
Leukemia	20	18	11	10	59
Myeloma	13	19	8	4	44
Hodgkin lymphoma	7	1	1	1	10
				total	2468

## Integration Steps

- EHR Integration:  
Epic Reimagined
- UCI HO faculty rounders
- UCIMC referrals:  
Clinical trials  
HSCT  
Advanced care
- Full integration of clinical research at these sites:  
~2,500 – 3,000 new cancer patients/yr

# Organizational Capabilities

---

## Response to Review



### EAB CRITIQUE

**CFCCC Leadership Positions:** Senior leadership is appropriately transitioning, and the deliberate positioning of earlier career members into developing leadership roles is laudable. There is a need to fill vacated or soon-to-be-vacated leadership positions within the CFCCC; these include Deputy Director, AD for Shared Resources, and AD for DEI, as well as a new “Precision Therapeutics Director”, whose place in the CFCCC organizational reporting structure remains somewhat vague.

**CFCCC Membership:** Membership has grown by 19% since 2021, primarily from increased numbers of clinician members. While there was initial concern that the higher number of members could be perceived as not in proportion with the CFCCC’s peer-reviewed funding base, the EAB reassured Dr. Van Etten that in the current CCSG peer review era, such concern is not justified.

### RESPONSE

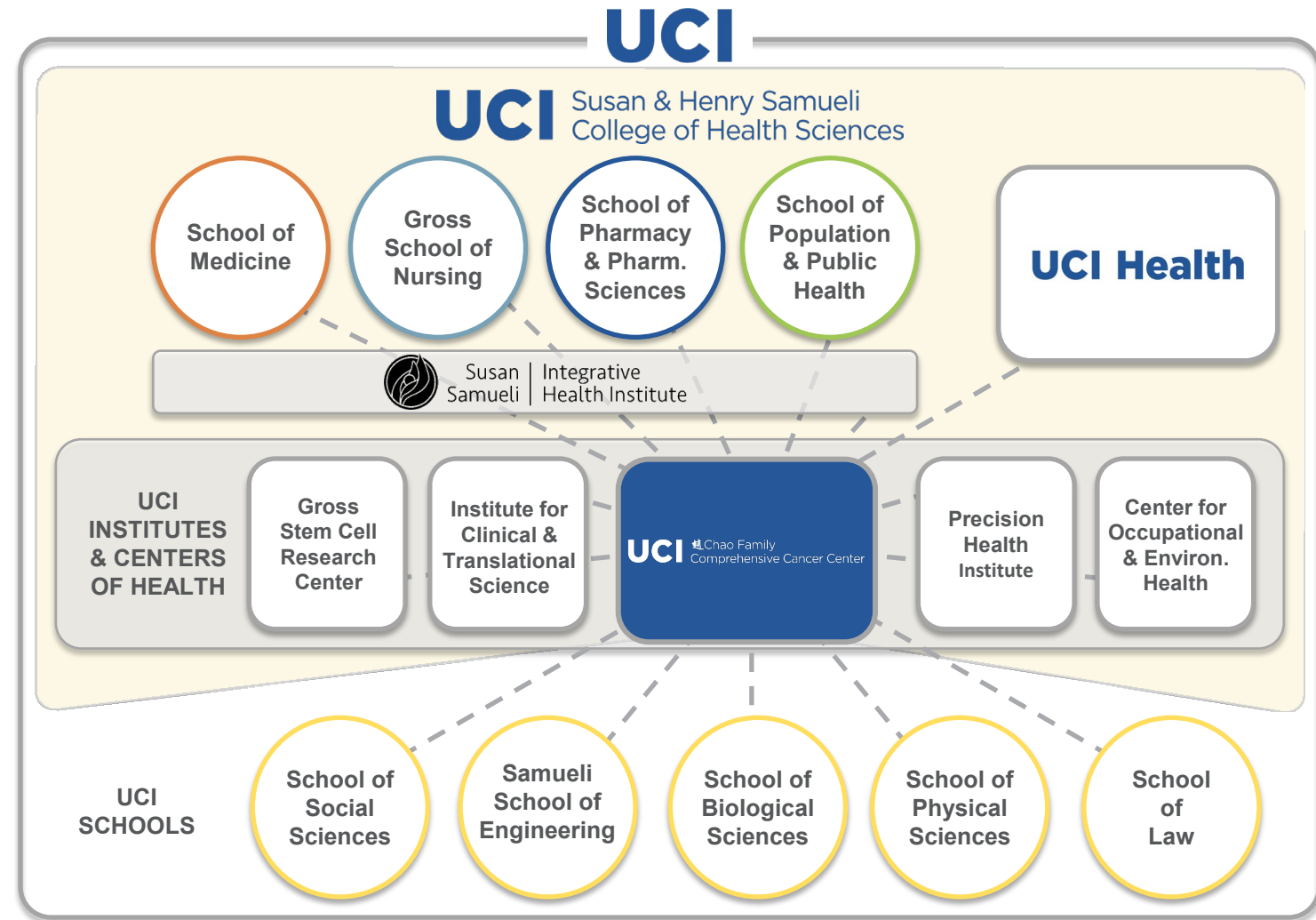
### STRENGTHS (2021 NIH Summary Statement)

“ Effective structure and processes have allowed the center to make significant progress in reorganizing programmatic structures. Future strategic planning is exceptionally well described.

- The positions of Deputy Director and AD for EDI have been filled, a new AD for Integrative Oncology has been recruited
  - The reporting structure for the position of Director of Precision Therapeutics has been defined and will be presented
- 
- Recruitments of new cancer basic, translational and clinical investigators has been ongoing, with recruitment of 33 new clinical faculty and 8 in-line faculty since 2023

## CFCCC Organizational Status

- A Center within Samueli College of Health Sciences
- Status superior to a Department
- CFCCC Director Van Etten serves as Associate Vice Chancellor for Cancer
- Many members in the four COHS Schools:
  - Medicine
  - Nursing
  - Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
  - Population & Public Health
- Cancer clinicians & clinical investigators practice within UCI Health
- Numerous members in five other UCI Schools



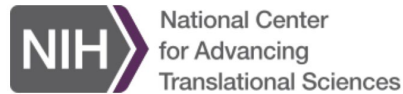
# CFCCC Interactions with other COHS Centers & Institutes



Shaista Malik,  
MD, PhD  
Director



- Integrative Oncology services & research
- Focus on exercise, nutrition, CAM
- Recruitment of Integrative Oncology Program leader



Eric Vilain, MD PhD  
Director

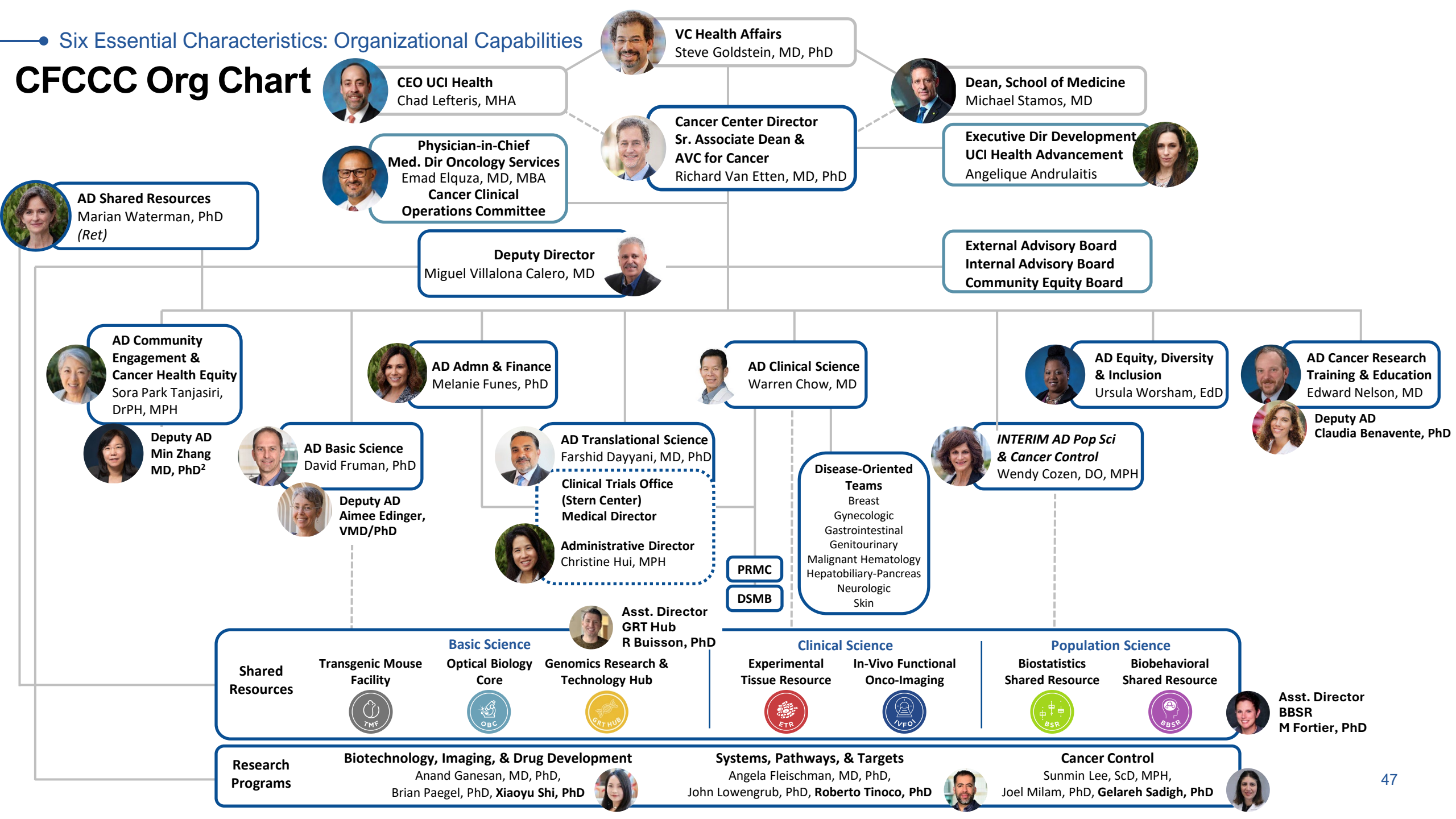


- CRC training & orientation
- Enhancement of Shared Resources
- Biorepository best practices
- Implementation of OnCore CTMS
- Team Science initiatives
- Pilot project awards

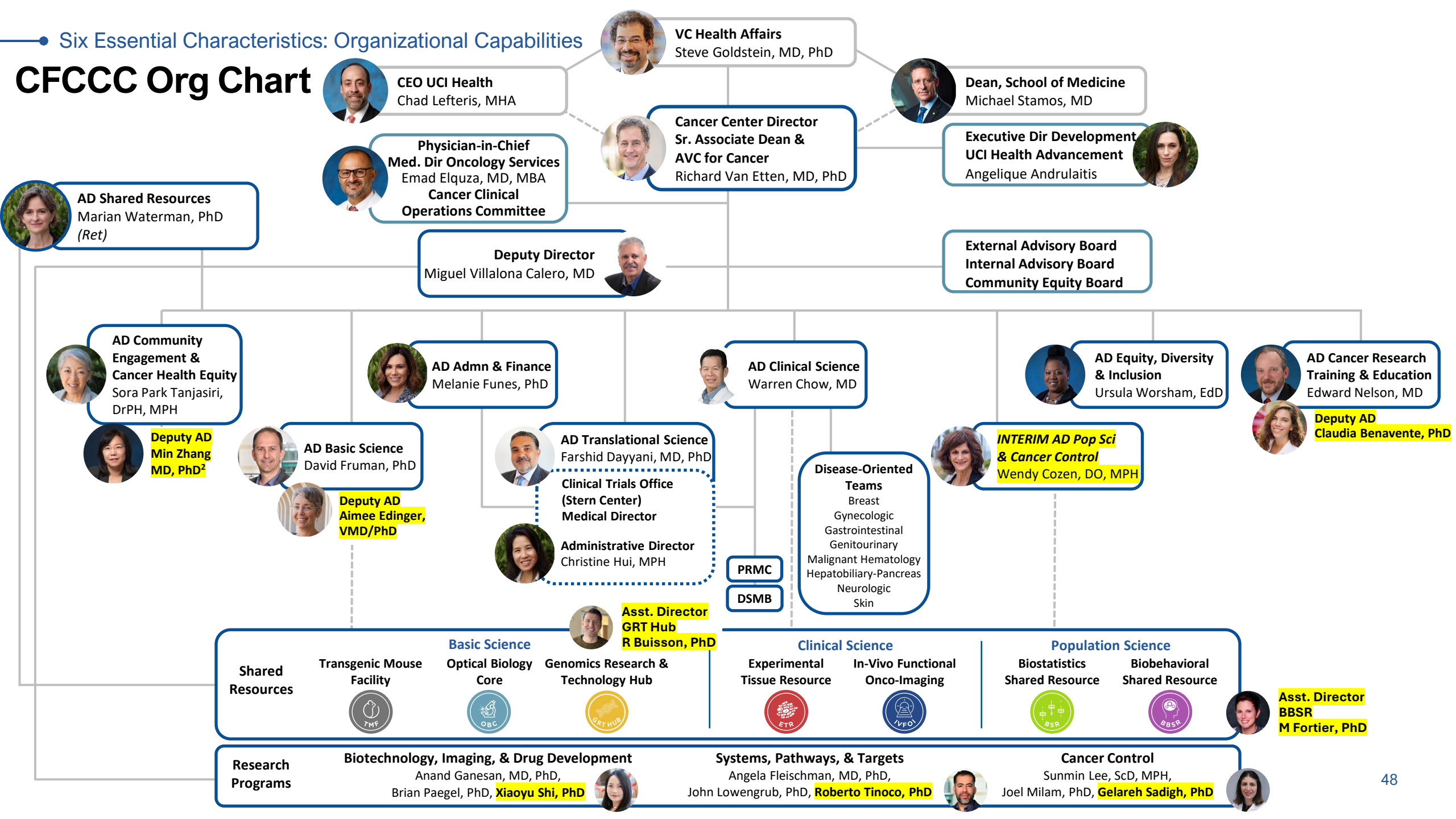


- Joint members and recruitments
- CyTOF – Optical Biology Core
- Construction and operation of cGMP facility

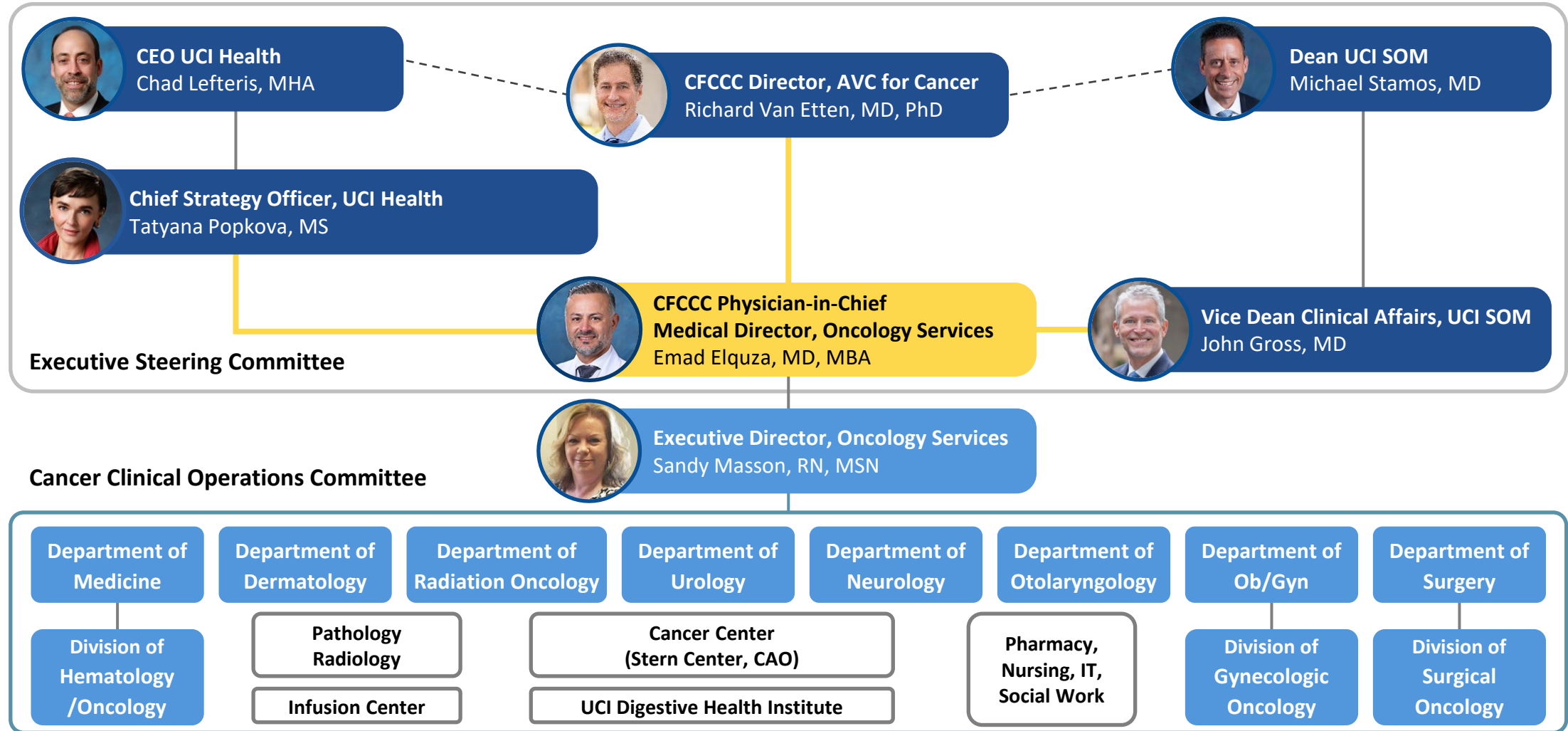
# CFCCC Org Chart



# CFCCC Org Chart



# CFCCC Shared Authority over UCI Health Cancer Service Line



# Clinician workforce recruitment for UCI Health network and Irvine campus

Estimated need for cancer clinicians/clinical investigators: ~36 faculty

Heme-Onc: 22

Surg Onc: 8

Rad Onc: 6



Ann Arter, MD  
HO/Thoracic Oncology  
UCI (fellow)



Reza Nabavizadeh, MD  
Urology  
Mayo (faculty)



Poorya Vaidya, MD  
HO/Melanoma  
UCSD (fellow)



Michael O'Leary, MD  
Surgery/Hepatobiliary  
Loma Linda (faculty)



April Choi, MD  
HO/GI cancer  
Tufts (fellow)



Quoc-Anh Ho, MD  
Radiation Oncology  
Stanford (faculty)



Sayeh Lavasani, MD MS  
Breast Medical Oncology  
City of Hope (faculty)



Jorge Ramos-Perez, MD  
Hematology/HSCT  
City of Hope (fellow)



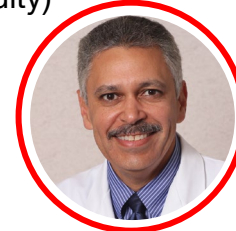
Jerica Lomax, MD  
Neuro-oncology  
UCI (fellow)



Brian Swarder, MD PhD  
HO/Lymphoma  
Stanford (faculty)



Nicole Foley, MD  
HO/lymphoma-HSCT  
Wash U (fellow)



Miguel Villalona-Calero, MD  
HO/Thoracic Oncology  
City of Hope (faculty)



Priya Mitra, MD  
Rad Onc  
USC (faculty)



Shynam Srinivas, MD PhD  
Interventional Radiology  
UPMC (faculty)



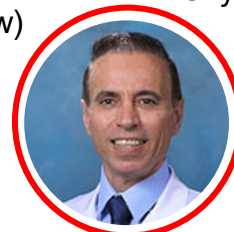
Holly Yong, MD  
Breast Surgical Oncology  
Kaiser Permanente



Shirin Attarian, MD  
HO/Head & Neck  
LI Jewish (faculty)



Kelly Fairbairn, DO  
Thoracic Surgical Oncology  
MSKCC (fellow)



Mohammad Ziari, MD  
Heme/Onc  
City of Hope (faculty)



Polina Bellman, MD  
HO/HSCT  
U Kansas (fellow)



Eric Chen, MD  
Rad Onc  
Case Western (fellow)

## Additional ongoing recruitments with CFCCC impact



Precision Therapeutics/Phase I Director



Cancer Control faculty member



GU oncology researcher



Immuno-Oncology researcher



Institute for Precision Health Director



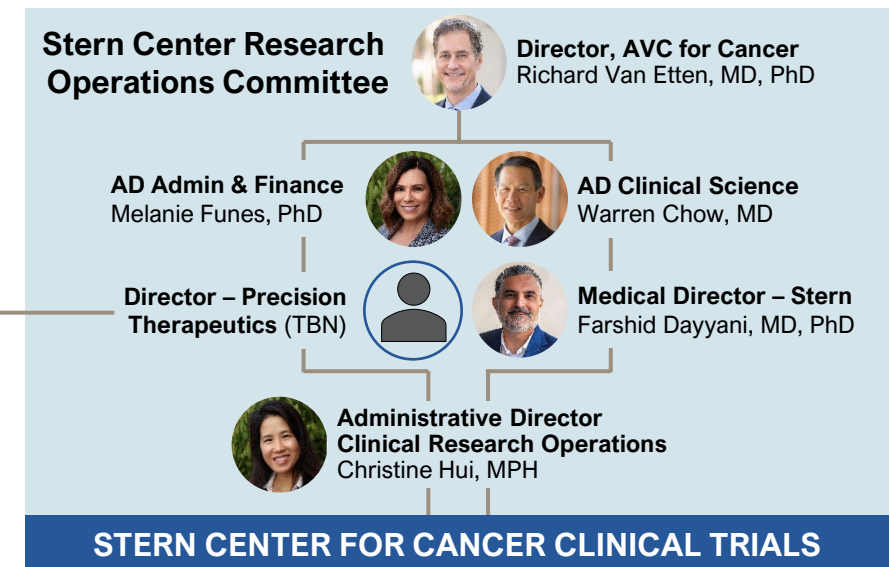
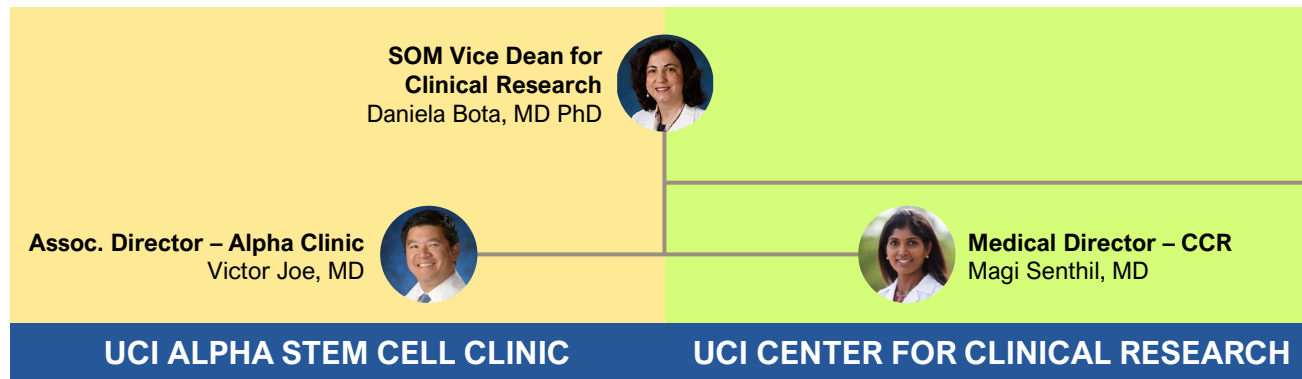
Pathology Department Chair



Rad Onc Department Chair

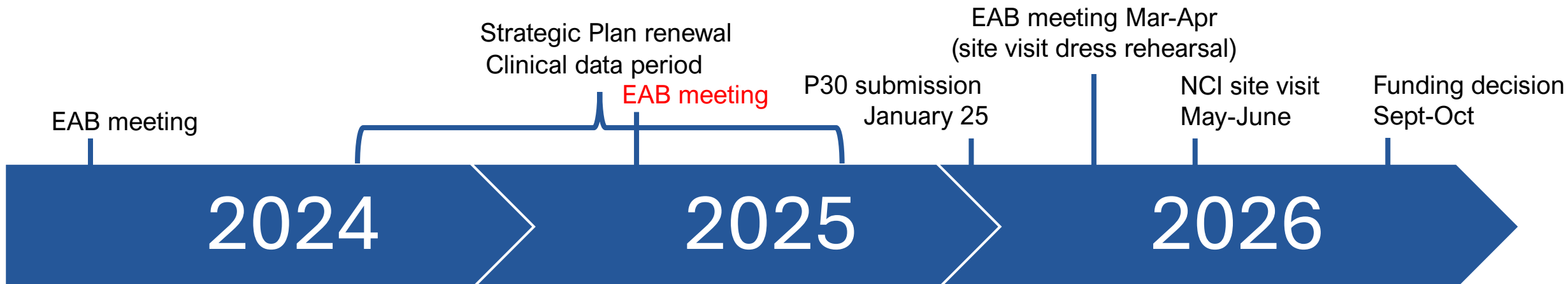


Otolaryngology Department Chair



## CFCCC P30 renewal status timeline

- Received official notification of renewal of CCSG on Feb. 25, 2022
  - *Outstanding* ratings in 4 of the 6 Essential Characteristics
- Five-year funding period is through Jan. 31, 2027
- We just finished our fourth year on the current grant
- Next competing renewal application will be due Jan. 25, 2026
- **New CCSG guidelines coming out September 2025**



# Transdisciplinary Collaboration & Coordination

---

## Response to Review



### STRENGTHS (2021 NIH Summary Statement)

- “ There has been a strong effort to improve collaboration and coordination across the center. Institutional pilot funds have supported new team science projects that have resulted in new investigator-initiated trials and intra-programmatic NCI funding. Inter- and intra-programmatic publications have shown improvements.

### EAB CRITIQUE

**Collaborative Mechanisms:** The actual mechanisms used by the CFCCC to foster collaborations and movement along the translational continuum need to be better defined

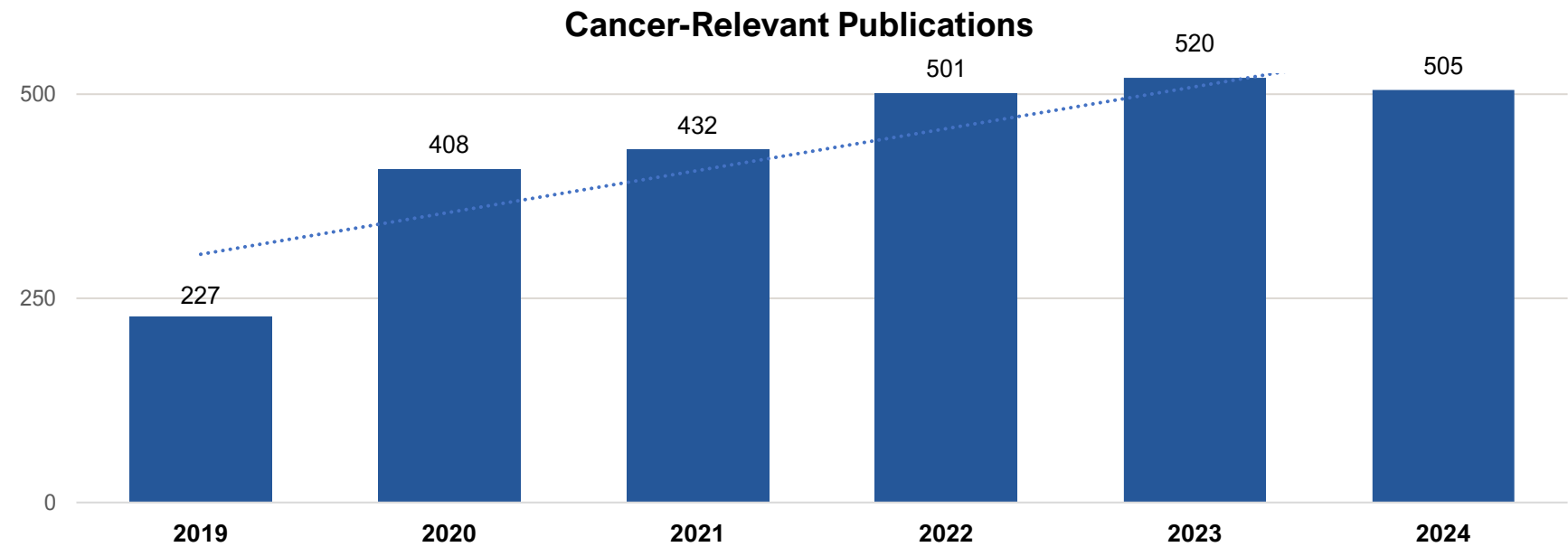
**DOT Functions:** The DOTs do not seem to function very effectively, and need to be more rigorous in selecting trials to be conducted, assuring that those studies are executed

**Interprogrammatic Collaborations:** While each program’s interprogrammatic collaborations are provided, reviewers will expect to see the actual overall percentage of CFCCC publications that are interprogrammatic.

### RESPONSE

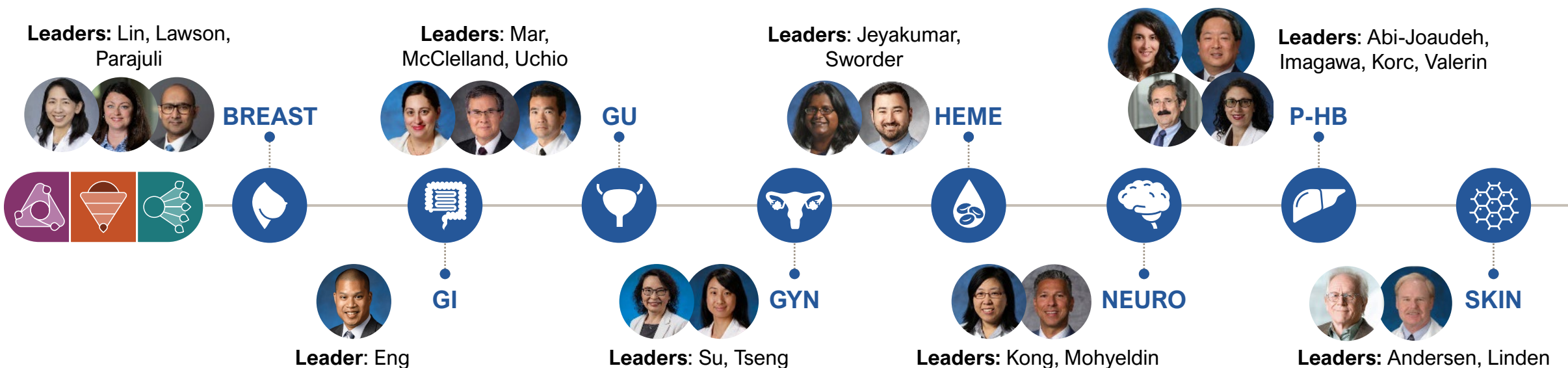
- We continue to promote intra- and inter-programmatic collaborations through Program Meetings, multiple research symposia, CFCCC Annual Scientific Retreat, and targeted pilot project awards. Examples: Successful renewal of UCI Skin Biology Resource Center P30 grant, new P01 to support the Cancer Systems Biology group
- The AD for Translational Science (Farshid Dayyani, MD PhD) oversees the translational role of the DOTs. There are currently five translational-clinical studies in the pipeline.
- Overall CFCCC publication metrics are now provided

# Interactive and High-Impact Publications (CY 2024)



Program	Total Pubs	High Impact	Intra-Programmatic	Inter-Programmatic	Inter-Institutional
BIDD	164	29 (18%)	11 (7%)	33 (20%)	78 (63%)
SPT	226	59 (26%)	45 (20%)	41 (18%)	131 (58%)
CC	179	27 (15%)	20 (11%)	34 (19%)	140 (78%)
Total CFCCC	505	106 (21%)	66 (13%)	56 (11%)	343 (68%)

# Disease-Oriented Teams: Interface between basic, population & clinical investigators



## MEMBERS

Multidisciplinary group of basic, translational, clinical, and population investigators collaborating on a specific cancer area

## FREQUENCY

- Monthly meetings
- Quarterly presentations by basic and clinical researchers

## FUNCTIONS

- Management of clinical trials portfolio
- Conduct 1<sup>st</sup> stage of scientific review
- DOT approval required for moving trial to PRMC/IRB stage
- Bring new trial concepts forward
- Foster investigator-initiated trials

## CFCCC collaborations

### CFCCC key collaborative grants

- P01 CA244091 FLASH radiotherapy in GBM
- P30 AR056439 Skin Biology Resource Center
- P01 CA288662 Cancer Systems Biology

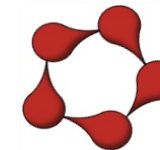
### CFCCC Affiliates

- CHOC Children's (**became Rady Children's Health**)  
Site of all pediatric cancer care  
COG member, pediatric HCST and Phase I site  
Active collaborative Working Groups in HSCT, AYA Cancers, Education & Training, Research  
**Possibility of transitioning to a consortium partner depending on NOFO**
- VA Long Beach Health System  
Joint faculty and CFCCC members  
Training & educational collaborations  
Research collaborations: NAVIGATE, Lung Cancer Precision Oncology, APOLLO

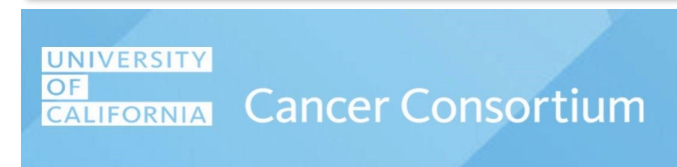


### Other NCI CCs

- UC Cancer Consortium  
Leverage UC Care: ~25,000 new cancer patients annually  
WGs on clinical pathways, precision oncology, virtual 2<sup>nd</sup> opinions, joint IITs  
Disease groups: heme, pancreatic, lung, melanoma  
**Director Van Etten assumed Deputy UCCC Chair position in Oct. 2024**
- Other NCI Cancer Centers  
Partnerships with 12 other NCI-CCs through NCI Cancer Systems Biology Consortium  
Several multi-PI grants with other centers, incl FLASH Radiotherapy P01



University of California  
Hematologic Malignancies Consortium  
UCD UCI UCLA UCSD UCSF

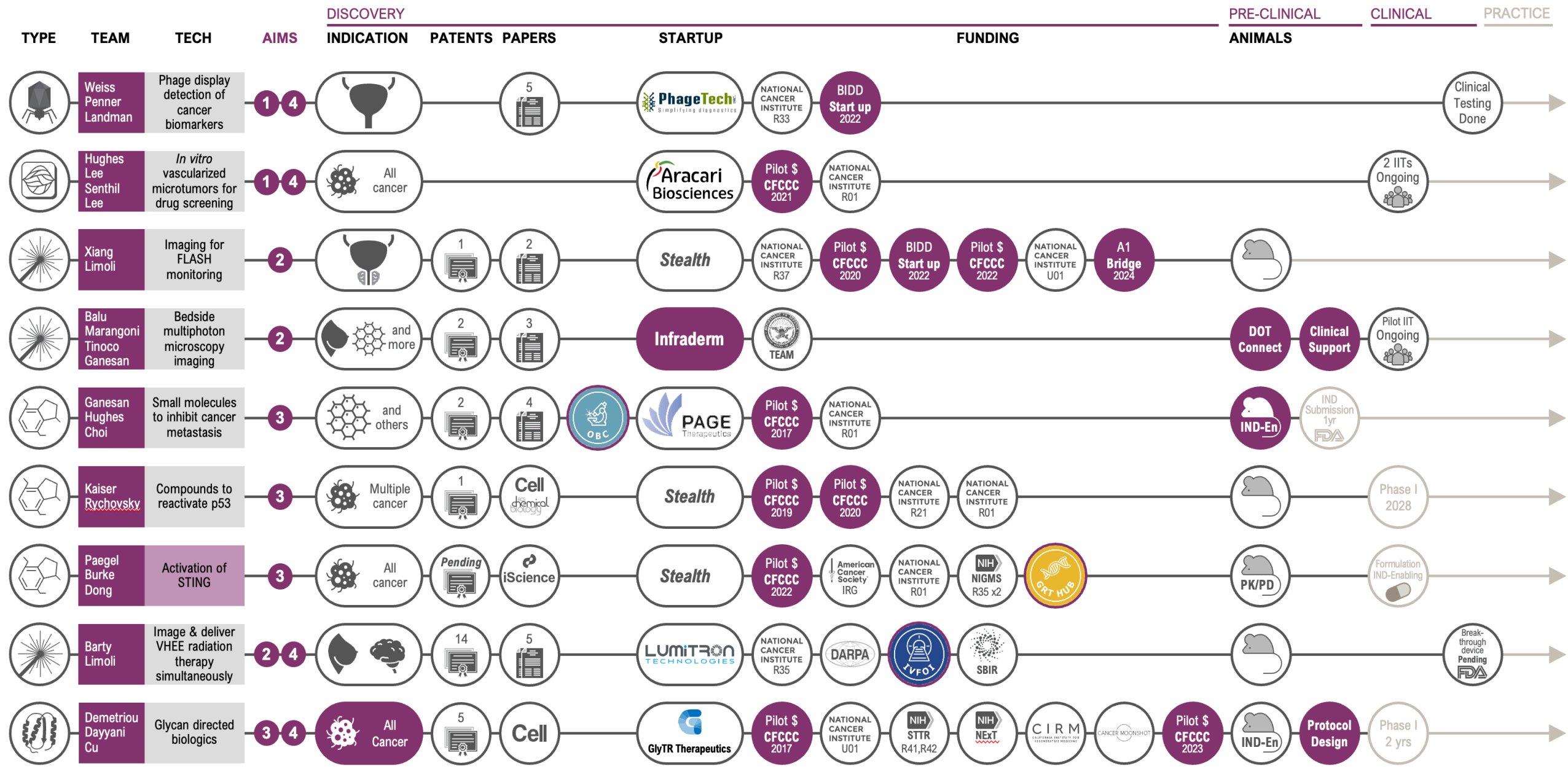


# CFCCC Entrepreneurship & Translational Pipeline



Farshid Dayyani, MD PhD  
Associate Director for  
Translational Science

**UCI Beall**  
Applied Innovation



# Cancer Focus

---



## Response to Review



### STRENGTHS (2021 NIH Summary Statement)

- “ There is better attribution of cancer focus to grants throughout the center as compared to the last review. The collaborations between laboratory investigators and the clinical enterprise have been facilitated by the development of Disease Oriented Teams.

### EAB CRITIQUE

**NCI Funding:** The CFCCC funding base continues to rise despite the headwinds of low NCI funding paylines.

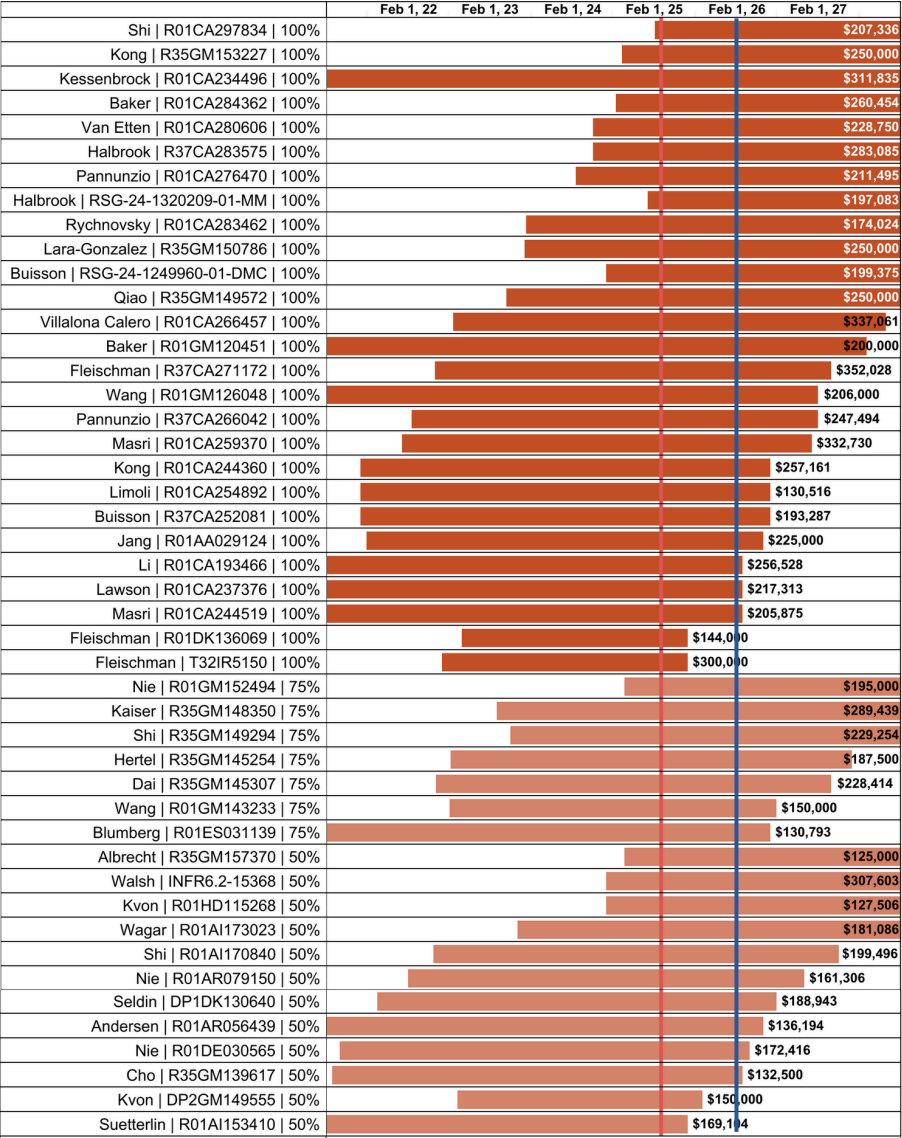
**Non-NCI Funding:** Since a majority of cancer-focused funding is not from NCI it is very important that cancer-related rubrics are appropriately rigorous, followed and documented for both funding and publications

### RESPONSE

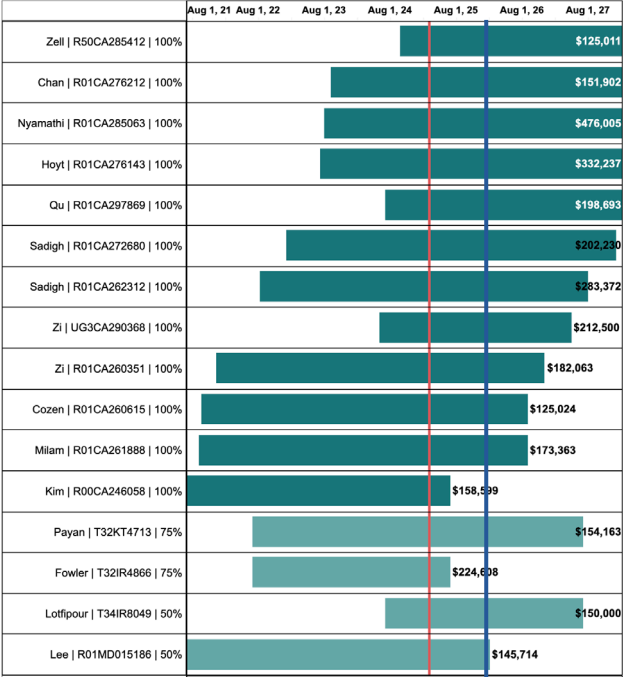
- Our NCI funding increased by **11%** this year in a very tough funding environment at the NCI (payline ~8%). We are continuing our efforts to increase NCI and other peer-reviewed, cancer-relevant funding through our substantial CFCCC pilot project program, ACS-IRG program, and a new A1 bridge funding program, as well as through mentoring of early-stage investigators (NIH Boot Camp).
- Our rubric for assessing cancer relatedness of non-NCI grants remains unchanged, is consistent with other NCI CCs, and is highlighted in the Program funding dashboards. We plan to proactively highlight and defend grants that may be particularly scrutinized in the upcoming P30 CCSG application.

# Robust extramural funding portfolios of CFCCC Programs

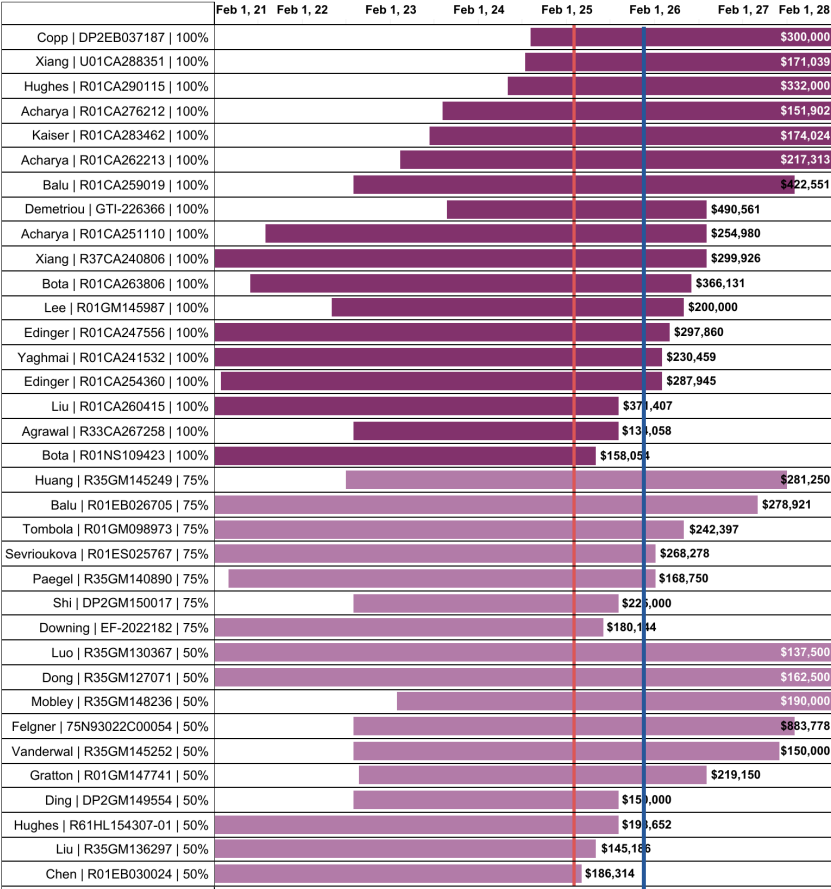
## SPT (46 projects, 33 PIs)



## CC (16 projects, 14 PIs)



## BIDD (35 Projects, 30 PIs)



## Strategies to increase extramural peer-reviewed funding

- Assist current faculty, particularly early state investigators, to get new extramural grants



Chris Hughes, PhD  
Chancellor's Professor  
Mol Bio & Biochem



NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE  
**R01 CA290115**



Nick Pannunzio, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Medicine (Hema/Onc)



NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE  
**R01 CA276470**



Thomas Martinez, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Pharmacy & Pharm Sciences



NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE  
**R35 GM157126**

- Hire new faculty with existing extramural grants



Nick Baker, PhD  
Professor  
Dev & Cell Biology  
**R01 CA284362**  
**R01 GM120451**



Ivan Marazzi, PhD  
Professor  
Biological Chemistry

**U01 AI150748**  
**UH2 CA271390**  
**R21 AI159409**



Jianhua Yu, PhD  
Professor  
Medicine  
**R01 CA266457**  
**SCON 00007334**

# CFCCC Extramural Funding, 2021 vs. 2025

Funding Source	2021		2025 ((YTD))	
	Direct Costs	No. of Projects	Direct Costs	No. of Projects
Peer-Reviewed Projects				
NCI	\$10.7M	65	\$15.0M	94
Other NIH	\$13.8M	81	\$16.2M	96
Other non-NIH	\$6.6M	52	\$6.5M	37
Subtotal Peer-Reviewed	\$31.1M	198	\$37.6M	227
Non Peer-Reviewed Projects				
Industry	\$10.5M	139	\$17.5M	212
Other	\$2.5M	31	\$2.7M	36
Subtotal Non-Peer-Reviewed	\$13.0M	170	\$20.2M	248
Grand Total	\$44.1M	368	\$57.9M	475

↑ 40% from 2021

↑ 21%

↑ 31%

(NCI P30 CCSG not included)

# Institutional Commitment

---

## Response to Review



### STRENGTHS (2021 NIH Summary Statement)

- “ There has been a consistent increase in financial support for the programmatic expansion of the CFCCC in terms of research space, funding and personnel.

### EAB CRITIQUE

**Annual Institutional Support:** The annual institutional support to the center was noted to be in excess of \$40M, which is excellent relative to the size of the cancer center. However, more detail should be provided to specify how these funds are being invested; what percentage of the funds are sustaining and being used to support recurring or continued investments and expenses in operations or faculty or staff; and how much of this annual institutional support is unencumbered to allow the Director to make new investments in recruitments or program building activities each year.

**Future Support:** Overall, a clearer breakdown of financial commitments would be beneficial, though the amounts seem to be well connected to the CFCCC strategic plan. Continued UCI leadership support of needed CFCCC changes (articulated above) will be crucial moving forward.

### RESPONSE

- Annual Institutional Support to the CFCCC remains strong, including Director discretionary funds and funds flow agreements with the SOM and UCI Health to support clinical investigators and the Stern Center (CTO). More detail on the use of discretionary funds is presented
- During the current funding period, discretionary funds (\$5M annual) were used for recruitments/retentions, administration, clinical investigator support, research development COE, SR support, and CRTEC. An increase in discretionary funds for the next grant period is necessary

## Summary of Institutional Commitments to the CFCCC

### Status of Cancer Center

- CFCCC has status superior to a department as a Center in the College of Health Sciences

### Annual funding commitments ~\$40 million (total >\$250 million since 2015)

- Additional \$5 million in annual discretionary funds for current funding period

### Space and Personnel commitments

- Commitment of additional 25,000 sf of laboratory space for current funding period
- Commitment of an additional 5 FTEs for CFCCC for current funding period

### Recognition of Team Science

- Contributions to team science recognized by UCI Council on Academic Personnel (UC Academic Senate, APM 201-1-d)

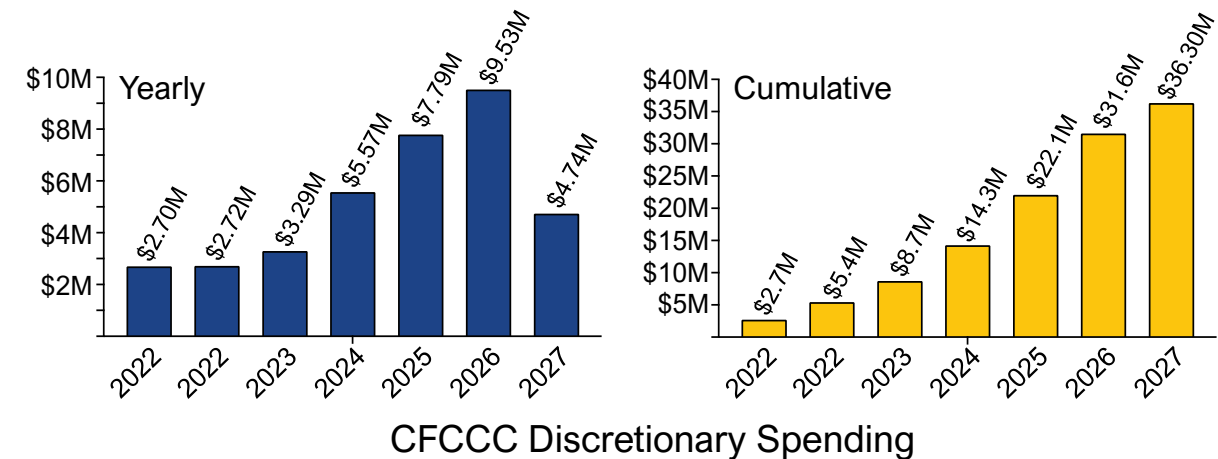
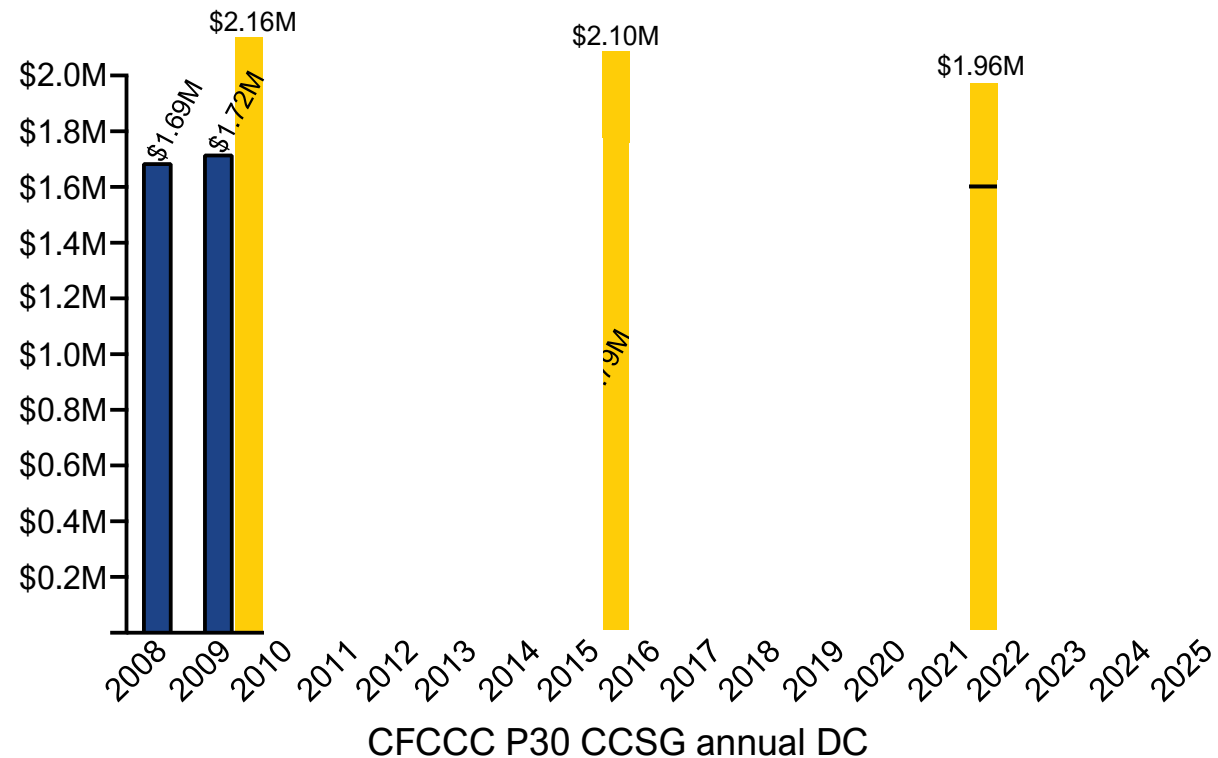
### Plan for change in Director

- CFCCC Deputy Director will become interim Director while national search launched

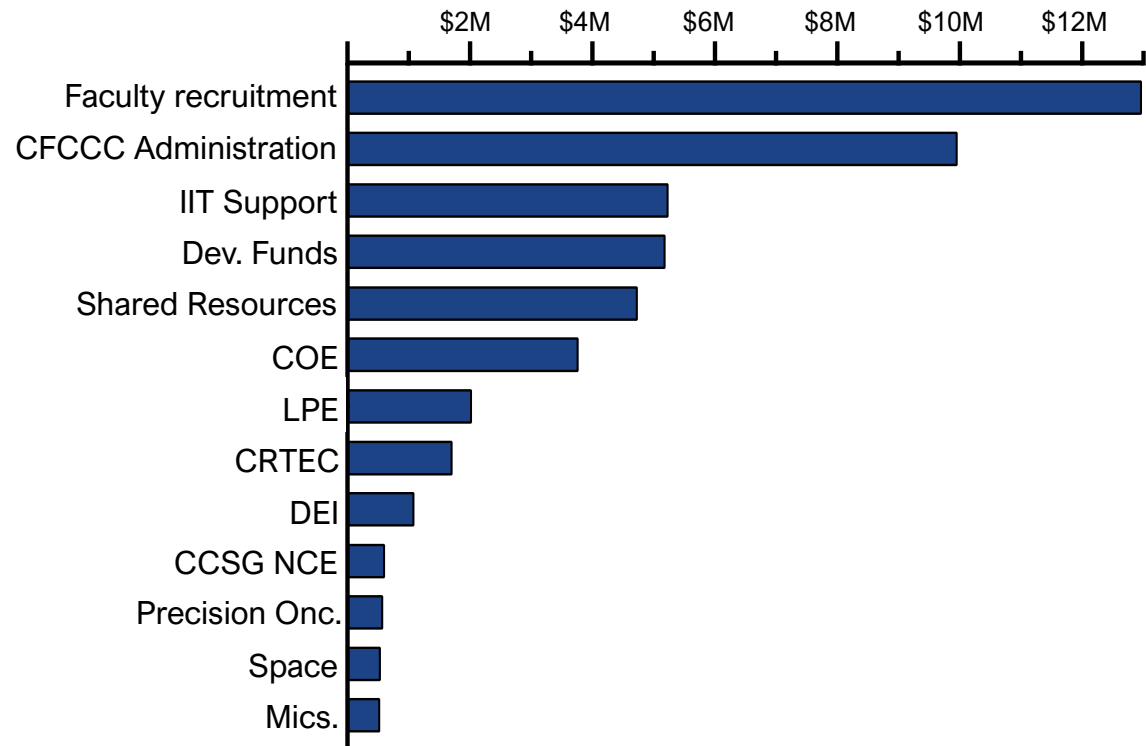
### Status & Authority of Center Director

- Director serves as UCI Associate Vice Chancellor for Cancer, Senior Associate Dean in SOM
- Authority over membership, philanthropy/endowment, joint responsibility for recruitments
- Membership on key decision-making committees, incl. Cancer Ops Exec Committee, Clinical Enterprise Leadership Committee

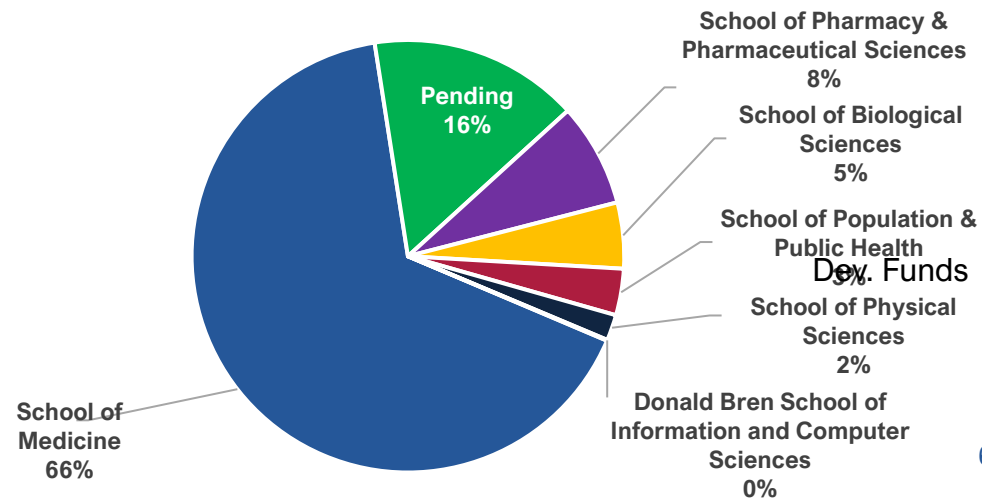
# CFCCC Discretionary Funds Summary



## CFCCC Discretionary Spending by category 2014-25



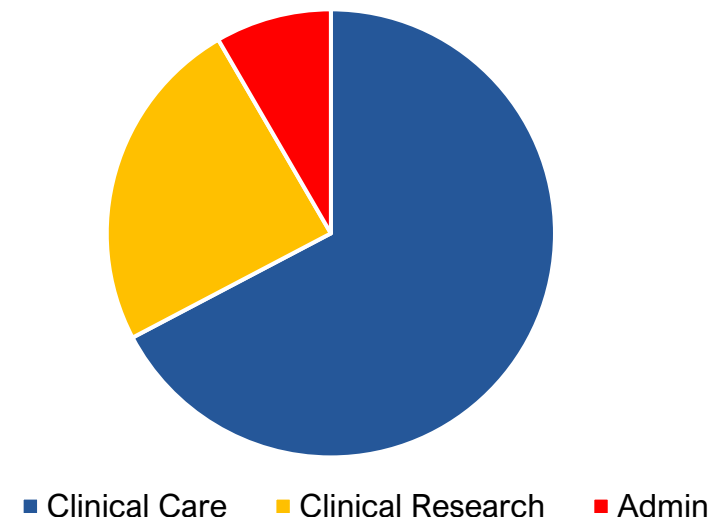
## Faculty Recruitment by School



## Funds Flow Mechanism to support Clinical Investigator time/effort

- Goal: provide revenue stream to “buy out” and protect clinical research time, reducing pressure to produce wRVUs
- Launched in FY 2020, applicable to Divisions of Heme-Onc and Neuro-Onc
- Parallel scale of 70-80% of clinical compensation for clinical research effort
- Represented ~\$3.08 million in salary support in FY2023
- Eligibility subject to achievement of performance goals, recalibrated for FY25
- >90% of faculty met their benchmark in FY23
- Additional bonus incentives possible from the Division based on clinical research productivity of individual faculty

Heme/Onc clinical faculty effort  
(total 37 FTE)



Metric	Points
Referral of new patients for enrollment on an interventional trial # of patients: year 1=5, year 2=7, year ≥3=10	20
Site PI on an industry trial	5
PI on an institutional trial	15
National PI on an NCTN trial	15
Attendance at >70% of DOT or tumor board meetings	20

# Center Director

---



# Center Director Summary



**Richard Van Etten, MD, PhD**

Director, CFCCC | Sr. Associate Dean & AVC for Cancer

## EXPERTISE

- Professor (Step IX) of Medicine & Biological Chemistry
- Chao Family Endowed Director's Chair in Cancer Research & Treatment
- 36-year academic career at Harvard/DFCI, Tufts, UCI
- Basic, translational, & clinical researcher in heme malignancy
- Continuously NIH-funded for >30 years (R01 CA280606)
- 15% clinical effort: outpatient/inpatient (heme malignancy/HSCT)
- 50% effort devoted to P30 CCSG
- Research interests: molecular pathophysiology of human leukemia and MPNS

## ROLES

- Associate Vice Chancellor & Senior Associate Dean for Cancer
- Reporting to VC Health Affairs, secondary reports to Dean SOM and CEO UCI Health
- Authority over CFCCC clinical/research space, Shared Resources, membership
- Authority over philanthropy and endowment funds, discretionary funds
- Shared authority over Cancer Service Line
- Member Clinical Enterprise Leadership Committee, Clinical Faculty Leadership Council
- Member of ASH, ASCO, ACP, AACI, AAAS, ECOG Leukemia Committee; past member of NCI Parent Committee
- Member of NCI-CCC EABs at UC Davis, UAB, OSU

## LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

- Chair AD Committee, Senior Leadership Council
- Weekly meetings with CFCCC central Administration, clinical research (SternROC), and CFCCC Physician-in-Chief
- Monthly meetings for PL, COE, and Cancer Ops Committee
- Monthly meetings with SOM Dean and CEO UCI Health
- Annual EAB, semi-annual IAB meetings

# Developmental Funds

---

## Response to Review



### STRENGTHS (2021 NIH Summary Statement)

“ Developmental Funds have been effectively used to support the recruitment of new faculty, funding of pilot projects, and two staff investigators. Overall, these funds have had a very positive impact on center science through faculty recruitment and seeding of new research projects that have led to increased cancer relevant funding.

### EAB CRITIQUE

**Pilot Project Funds:** The small size of the CCSG award means that only about \$135,000/year of developmental pilot awards are available to CCSG investigators. In general, the funds have been well used and continue to generate reasonable ROI.

**Institutional Commitment:** Institutional pilot funds dwarf the amount of the CCSG awards; Dr. Van Etten should use this fact strategically to demonstrate the power of institutional commitment to advance cancer research at CFCCC.

### RESPONSE

- We have limited Developmental Funds due to our P30 budget, but these are substantially enhanced by philanthropy and discretionary funds
- Based on the last NCI site visit, we have learned to provide more precise information about the categories of spending and source of funds for this component

## Developmental Funds CY 2024

	Developmental Funds	ACC/Philanthropy	Discretionary Funds
Staff Investigators	\$55,926		
Pilot Projects	\$1,492	\$1,176,390	\$458,819
ACS-IRG	—	\$15,000	
A1 Bridge Grants	—		\$140,000
Recruitments	—		\$2,069,487
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$57,418</b>	<b>\$1,191,390</b>	<b>\$2,668,306</b>

### CFCCC Staff Investigators



Edward Uchio, MD  
Professor of Urology  
GU DOT Co-Leader



Farshid Dayyani, MD, PhD  
Professor of Clinical Medicine  
Medical Director, Stern Center  
AD for Translational Science

### Funding Opportunities

- CFCCC Pilot Awards funded by Anti-Cancer Challenge
  - Track 1 (pilot projects) and Track 2 (IIT support)
  - Four distinct categories:
    - Early-Stage Investigator
    - Standard
    - Multi-PI (Team Science)
    - Re-entry after dependent care
- A1 Bridge Funding Program
- ACS-IRG pilot projects
- Cancer Health Disparity Research and Interventional Studies RFP

# Questions?

---

