

Overview of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i

Introduction

The Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i (CRCH) is a free-standing organized research unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa that was established by the Board of Regents in 1981. In its early development the Center was supported by National Cancer Institute (NCI) Planning and Support Grants and in 1979 a construction grant from the NCI together with local matching contributions supported the construction of a five-story building in downtown Honolulu. The Center became an NCI-designated cancer center on July 1, 1996, and receives funding from a Cancer Center Support Grant. The mission of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i is to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education, and service with an emphasis on the unique ethnic, cultural, and environmental characteristics of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Although research constitutes the primary responsibility of the Cancer Center, instruction, community outreach, and clinical service are integral components of Cancer Center activities.

The Center director has the authority of a dean and reports to the vice chancellor for Research and Graduate Education in the office of the chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a separate unit of UH Mānoa, the Cancer Center has its own faculty appointments and locus of tenure. In addition, UH faculty members with relevant research interests and primary academic appointments in other units of UH Mānoa or within the University of Hawai'i system are encouraged to become Cancer Center members. Currently, primary appointments for these "matrix" Cancer Center members are in the Departments of Chemistry and Botany in the College of Natural Sciences, in the Departments of Cell and Molecular Biology, Alternative Medicine, Anatomy, and Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, in the Pacific Biomedical Research Center, in the Department of Nutrition in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in the Department of Speech in the College of Arts and Humanities, and in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i Hilo. In addition, there are approximately 60 affiliate Cancer Center members, primarily oncologists and other physicians in the community who are associated with the clinical trial efforts and other community-based activities of the Cancer Center. Most of these affiliate Center members hold clinical faculty appointments in the Cancer Center and/or the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Center Organization

Research programs

Research activities at the CRCH are currently organized in four interdisciplinary programs, each headed by a program director. The **Epidemiology Program** consists of faculty with expertise in the fields of Epidemiology, Nutrition, Biostatistics, and Genetics. The **Natural Products and**

Cancer Biology Program has investigators in Chemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, Botany, Alternative Medicine, Biochemistry, Immunology, and Pharmacology. The **Prevention and Control Program** consists of both medical and social scientists studying clinical aspects of cancer including novel treatments and psychosocial interventions of patients, and the reduction of cancer incidence through community-based interventions in healthy populations. The developing **Thoracic Oncology Program** consists of faculty investigating how environmental and chemical carcinogens, viruses, and genetics interact in mesothelioma and lung carcinogenesis in order to develop novel preventive and therapeutic approaches for these malignancies. Shared technical and core resources support these programs. In addition, research training and community-service activities augment program research.

Administration

The Center director is responsible for all aspects of Center administration, strategic planning, and overall programmatic direction and development. He is supported in this role by the Executive Committee. Day-to-day operations of the Cancer Center are overseen by the Operating Committee and are supported by administrative, fiscal, building and maintenance, and information technology staff.

CRCH Facilities

The main Cancer Research Center building at 1236 Lauhala Street in downtown Honolulu provides approximately 33,000 net square feet of space for offices, laboratories, conference rooms and other research support space. This facility is adjacent to The Queen's Medical Center and near the Hawai'i state Department of Health. This building houses the office of the director, Epidemiology Program faculty and staff, research laboratories and offices for several of the Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program faculty and staff, the Clinical Trials Unit, Outpatient Clinic, and the Cancer Information Service (CIS), Pacific Region. Several shared resources, including the Analytical Laboratory, Nutritional Support, Genotyping, Informatics, Biostatistics, and Laboratory Support Services are also housed in this building. The Hawai'i Tumor Registry occupies space in the adjacent University Tower building on The Queen's Medical Center campus.

The Prevention and Control Program utilizes 3,500 square feet of space in the Biomedical Sciences Building, and the Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program occupies approximately 6,000 square feet of chemistry space in Bilger Hall and St. John Hall on the UH Mānoa campus located 2.8 miles east of the main CRCH building.

In early 2006, the CRCH occupied approximately 20,000 square feet of the second floor of the newly constructed Biosciences Building at the John A. Burns School of Medicine in Kaka'ako. The state-of-the-art facility houses

Executive Committee

Carl-Wilhelm Vogel, MD, PhD	Director
Carolyn Gotay, PhD	Associate Director for Cancer Control and Community Outreach Prevention and Control Program Director
Laurence Kolonel, MD, PhD	Deputy Director Epidemiology Program Director
Gertraud Maskarinec, MD, PhD	Assistant Director for Research Education and Training
Michele Carbone, MD, PhD	Associate Director for Basic Science Thoracic Oncology Program Director
Alan McClelland, PhD (July 2006 – present)	Associate Director for Scientific Administration
Robert Cooney, PhD (1999 – June 2006)	Associate Director for Scientific Administration
Kerry Kakazu, PhD (June 2002 – December 2006)	Assistant Director for Operations
Alexandra French, MPA	Senior Business Officer
Marcus Tius, PhD	Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program Director

Operating Committee

Carl-Wilhelm Vogel, MD, PhD	Director
Alexandra French, MPA	Senior Business Officer
Laurence Kolonel, MD, PhD	Deputy Director Epidemiology Program Director
Alan McClelland, PhD	Associate Director for Scientific Administration

Staff Members

Alexandra French, MPA	Senior Business Officer
Linda Kuriyama	Executive Administrative Assistant
Ricardo Gonzales, BSBA	Building Maintenance Manager
Sharon Shigemasa, MS, RN	Public Information Officer
Cecilia Kramer, MPH	Director of Development
Wendy Tica, BBA	Manager of Information Technology Services

the research laboratories of the Natural Products and Cancer Biology Program and the developing program in Thoracic Oncology, as well as the Laboratory Instrumentation shared resource. The Kaka'ako campus is located 1.2 miles from the main CRCH building, approximately five minutes by car.

The Fiscal Office responsible for financial management of CRCH operations is housed in rented commercial office space in the Ward Avenue district, approximately one mile or five minutes by car from the main CRCH building.

Planning is underway for a new, 360,000-square-foot research and clinical care facility on a 5.5-acre lot in Kaka'ako, adjacent to the newly constructed John A. Burns Schools of Medicine. On completion, this facility will house all CRCH staff and programs under one roof.

Advisory and Support Committees

The **Friends of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i** consists of professional leaders from all segments of the community, and assists the Center in community relations and fundraising activities. The Friends also advises the Center about cancer-related community needs.

The **External Board of Scientific Advisors** consists of leaders from NCI-designated cancer centers and major national universities, and represents all major research disciplines of the Center. The Board provides advice on

the scientific quality of research programs and makes recommendations about directions for further development. A listing of all Board members for the period 2005 to 2006 is in the appendices.

Affiliations

The Center's human research studies and community services are conducted through community-based health professionals and healthcare organizations. Most of the collaborations involve major community and military medical centers within a four-mile radius of the Center. Health centers and hospitals on Hawai'i's Neighbor Islands and in rural areas of O'ahu directly participate in Center research studies and community outreach services. **The Clinical Research Advisory Board** consists of community-based physicians who meet monthly to facilitate the Center's mission to improve cancer healthcare in Hawai'i. For the purpose of public education and Center awareness, the Center works closely with the **American Cancer Society, Hawai'i Pacific Division**. Center faculty and staff members are advisory members for the Center's public education activities and collaborate on research projects. The **Hawai'i Department of Health** and the **Hawai'i Medical Association** collaborate with the Center on cancer care projects and in operating the Hawai'i Tumor Registry.