

Health Policy Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 3

September, 1995

Article 6

Jefferson Cancer Center Officially Recognized

by the National Cancer Institute

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Suggested Citation:

Glick, JA. Jefferson Cancer Center officially recognized by the National Cancer Institute. Health Policy Newsletter 1995; 8(3): Article 6. Retrieved [date] from <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/hpn/vol8/iss3/6>.

Jefferson Cancer Center Officially Recognized by the National Cancer Institute

With the awarding on June 22, 1995 of a Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG), the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) officially recognized the Jefferson Cancer Center as one of only 54 NCI designated cancer centers in the United States. This grant was awarded for an initial period of three years in the aggregate amount of \$3,472,327. The CCSG is intended to provide an organizational stimulus for the highest quality interdisciplinary cancer research, and to take maximum advantage of scientific opportunities and institutional resources to accelerate the movement of basic research findings into applied research toward the reduction of cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality.

The Jefferson Cancer Center is one of the leading clinical cancer research institutions in the nation, with externally funded cancer research projects amounting to more than \$30 million per year. It is organized into five established basic science research programs: Cell Biology, Signal Transduction, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Structural Biology, and Immunology; three established clinical research programs: Developmental Therapeutics, Melanoma, and Leukemia/Lymphoma; and developmental programs in prostate, gastrointestinal and breast cancers. The Cancer Center also trains graduate students in cancer research in four programs: Genetics, Immunology, Microbiology and Molecular Virology, and Molecular Pharmacology and Structural Biology.

Carlo M. Croce, MD, Professor and Chairman of Microbiology and Immunology, is the Director of the Cancer Center, and its Clinical Director is Robert L. Comis, MD, the Ludwig A. Kind Professor and Director of the Division of Neoplastic Diseases, Department of Medicine. The interdisciplinary nature of the Cancer Center is demonstrated by the fact that its active faculty membership is drawn from the departments of Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dermatology, Medicine, Otolaryngology, Pathology, Radiation Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Radiology, Surgery, and Urology. While the majority of the research laboratories of the Cancer Center are located in the Bluemle Life Sciences Building, clinical trials and patient care activities are carried out in the University Hospital and in the participating Jefferson Cancer Network hospitals. Among the studies currently in progress are clinical trials of breast, genitourinary, gastrointestinal, gynecologic, lung, CNS primary cancers, melanoma, sarcoma, and studies of blood flow in tumors during local hyperthermia. Young scientists from around the world are also attracted to the Cancer Center, coming here for several years to learn the intellectual approaches and laboratory techniques of cancer research for application in their native lands.

There are two other designated cancer centers in the Delaware Valley: the Fox Chase Cancer Center and the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center.

About the Author

Jerold A. Glick, MS, is the Director of Administration at the Jefferson Cancer Center, Thomas Jefferson University.